LINUX NEWS

IBM donate Eclipse to open source

IBM has created a new open source community, codenamed 'Eclipse'. The Java-based open source software, derived from WebSphere Studio Workbench, will enable developers to use software tools from many suppliers. This will enable developers to combine business tasks used to create e-business applications, such as those for Web services.

With more than 150 software tool suppliers working together it will be available free-of-charge to developers. More than 1,200 individual developers from 63 countries have already participated. The community will be managed by a multi-vendor organisation and will include IBM, Merant, QSSL, Rational, Red Hat, TogetherSoft and others.

By using software tools that easily plug into the Eclipse software, developers can create higher-quality applications in less time and inherit technology developed by other vendors. Developers no longer need to create e-business applications in Windows and port them to Linux, since they can work directly on Linux. It will also enable the abundance of Windows software tools to be more easily supported on Linux, accelerating the establishment of Linux as an application development environment. Since Eclipse is open source, Linux developers can participate in the community evolving the software itself, as they do with Linux.

http://www.eclipse.org

Mandrake to work magic with the Sims

The Sims on Mandrake Linux Gaming Edition

Mandrake is to launch a gaming edition of its distribution. Expected to cost around £70 the Linux distribution will contain the 3D-simulation game, The Sims from Electronic Arts. To achieve this Mandrake has used TransGaming Technologies' innovative and unique portability technology layer, where cutting edge games operate seamlessly on the Linux platform.

The Sims, is a popular virtual simulation game that lets players create a neighbourhood of simulated people known as "Sims" and control every element of their lives. Linux players will be able to fully interact with the Windows-based Sims world. They will be able to download Sims' household furnishings, clothes and accessories from the same sites as their Windows counterparts and then post their story lines on hundreds of existing fan sites.

TransGaming's portability technology and subscription services also enable Linux users to play many other popular Windows games. The portability technology, in collaboration with the Wine community, allows games and business software applications that were originally designed for other platforms to function on Linux in a completely seamless and transparent manner.

SuSE Linux Enterprise Server 7

SuSE Linux Enterprise Server 7 for IBM S/390 mainframes, has been released. Based on the kernel 2.4, it now supports S/390 servers as well as IBM eServer zSeries z900 giving the ideal solution for running mission-critical applications such as the administration of complex e-business transactions.

"By means of the consolidation of large server farms, customers enjoy a lower level of administration expenses due to uniform server structures," explains Dirk Ott, Head of IBM Linux Marketing, EMEA Central Region. "This not only reduces system administration costs during the integration of new Linux servers, it also hosts a great savings potential for locality and energy costs".

As the host operating system z/OS also supports HiperSockets, data exchange between SuSE Linux and z/OS is possible with maximum bandwidth and near-zero latency. The Logical Volume Manager allows the runtime integration of dynamically attached storage devices into existing virtual volumes of almost arbitrary size, delivering practically unlimited disk space without downtime. The rail freight company Transtar successfully runs a real-time tracking system on SuSE Linux Enterprise Server for S/390, and thus, provides online freight information to employees and customers.

http://www.suse.co.uk/s390

Texas Instruments licences HyperTransport

AMD announced it has licensed its high-speed interconnect HyperTransport technology to Texas Instruments Incorporated (TI). HyperTransport is an innovative solution that moves information faster, enabling the chips inside of PCs, networking and communications devices to communicate with each other up to 48 times faster than some existing bus technologies.

Texas Instruments will use HyperTransport technology in devices in computers, telecommunications and other equipment. HyperTransport technology is a high-speed, low-latency bus that can interface with today's buses like AGP, PCI, 1394, USB 2.0, and 1Gbit Ethernet as well as next generation buses including AGP 8x, Infiniband, PCI-X, PCI 3.0, and 10Gbit Ethernet.

"HyperTransport technology is being driven by the HyperTransport Consortium as a free and open industry standard aimed at removing system design bottlenecks and dramatically increasing the performance of the next-generation computation and telecommunications systems. The licensing of this technology by an industry leader like Texas Instruments increases the momentum of HyperTransport as the future connectivity standard. It is gratifying to see a leader like Texas Instruments join the growing list of companies such as Cisco Systems, nVidia, PMC-Sierra, and SGI, who have incorporated HyperTransport technology into their future product plans," said Gabriele Sartori, president of the HyperTransport Technology Consortium. More information concerning the HyperTransport Consortium can be found at *www.hypertransport.org*.

da Vinci takes off

South Coast software development company da Vinci is combining its official launch with the announcement of significant new business at Southampton company iInventory. da Vinci will assist iInventory with the next phase of development of its LANauditor software, due for release in the first quarter of 2002, as well as a unique rocket direct mail piece.

da Vinci, which was formed earlier this year to serve the growing demands for UK-based teams of software developers, has had a successful year resulting in a 25 per cent increase in development staff. LANauditor automates hardware and software asset tracking for networked and standalone computers.

"The iInventory project is very exciting for us, as it allows us to use our skills across several areas of expertise", comments Andy Eakins Managing Director of da Vinci. "After locating several suitable partners in the US we were recommended to da Vinci by Apple itself and we are very pleased to be able to source the development expertise required so close to home. iInventory approached us hoping for a Macintosh solution but, after seeing the experience that da Vinci could offer in other areas, extended their requirements to include Linux and Web development".
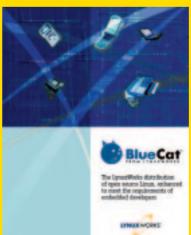
LynuxWorks unveils BlueCat 4.0

LynuxWorks Inc. unveiled the latest version of its popular BlueCat Linux distribution. Using the new 2.4 Linux kernel and tool chain, the new distribution empowers developers to select the best-suited development platform for their needs by providing support for multiple microprocessors. Offered in professional bundled solutions, BlueCat is packaged with a range of host/target combinations, commercial grade tools, integrated development environments (IDE) and support programmes.

"BlueCat 4.0 professional tools bundles for Intel's microprocessor platforms provide developers a comprehensive embedded development environment," said Inder Singh, CEO of LynuxWorks. BlueCat tools benefit developers by providing unique gdb extensions for kernel debugging and a simple time-saving graphical interface to trace, debug and tune kernels and application functions for increased performance. By including simple utilities for controlling boot, flash programs, disk, connectivity and display functions, this enables the loading and using of tested application components such as boot routines, Web servers, application shells, demo programs and more.

BlueCat 4.0 supports the Intel XScale microarchitecture, Intel IXP1200 Network Processor and Embedded Intel Architecture. Other platforms will be available later in the year.
http://www.lynuxworks.com/products/whatisbcl.html

Oil rigs running on Linux

Varco International Inc. has announced it will standardise on MontaVista's Hard Hat Linux embedded operating environment, for its full line of oil rig floor equipment controllers. Varco made the selection after the company had exhausted its search for an off-the-shelf next generation industrial controller that would meet its complex needs and had tested several major embedded operating systems for its own custom controller product.

Varco International produces equipment and automation systems for the Oil and gas drilling industry. Varco's next generation oil rig controller, its e-Drill product, promises equipment that has a far higher level of automation and functionality (through sophisticated robotic algorithms); is simpler to set up and maintain (through thin-client, Web browser-based "screens"); and leverages the Internet to allow remote diagnostics, monitoring and control of these systems.

The first systems using MontaVista's Hard Hat Linux are operational today in the North Sea and the Gulf of Mexico. Many additional systems have already been shipped and will be commissioned later this year. Reliability is critical in these applications, with operator's liability often exceeding a quarter of a million dollars a day for any downtime of this equipment.
http://www.varco.com/ edrill.htm
http://www.mvista.com

Windows software on Linux

Lindows is a version of Linux specifically designed to run Windows applications. It uses Wine, the open source project that Corel used to port many of its applications during Corel's Linux venture. PCs running Lindows OS require no additional software to run both Windows and Linux software. For more information see *http://www.lindows.com/*.

SNARE catches the market

SNARE (System iNtrusion Analysis and Reporting Environment) from InterSect Alliance Pty Ltd. is a kernel module-based auditing system that has a core goal of reducing the "cost of entry" for host-based intrusion detection and system auditing on Linux. This makes system event logs less of a chore, and more of a resource.

One of the key components that has been missing from the Linux operating system, is a comprehensive auditing and event-logging facility. The lack of such security functionality, and the fact that it exists in commercial operating system rivals such as Windows NT and Solaris, has been reported as a significant reason why organisations and government departments have been reticent in taking up Linux, despite the significant cost savings that would otherwise have resulted. Hopefully, SNARE will go a little way to removing such reluctance. For more information see *http://www.intersectalliance. com/*.

Red Hat expands its consulting groups

A core team of open source consulting and implementation experts join Red Hat from VA Linux. The consulting professionals joining Red Hat will operate from locations around the US. "By supplementing our high-end networking and security experts with these experienced and talented open source engineers and consultants, Red Hat is well prepared to meet the needs of our current and future Global 2000 clients as they migrate from UNIX to open source computing," said Kevin Thompson, Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer of Red Hat.

"In many cases we were already working with Red Hat Linux," said Marty Larsen, former Vice President with VA Linux and one of the experts now joining Red Hat, "so we know the tremendous benefits this powerful new way of computing can bring to enterprise class companies in all types of business."

The expansion of the consulting practice enhances Red Hat's ability to offer a full range and depth of services and support, including the assessment and security analysis, network infrastructure analysis, cost-benefit analysis, and code and application analysis. They also gain additional expertise in Infrastructure and large-scale implementation expertise and open source graphic engineering and consulting

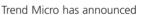## EMC Fastrax gets Time Navigator

Atempo, Inc. (formerly Quadratec Software) announced that its Time Navigator software platform for high-performance backup and restore services now supports the EMC Fastrax data movement platform in an Oracle environment. Time Navigator for EMC Fastrax is one of the most advanced solutions on the market for backup of active online data to secondary storage. EMC Fastrax accomplishes this without LAN or SAN (Storage Area Networking) bandwidth or application processor resources to move the data. Time Navigator reduces backup administration and provides an advanced approach for restoring Oracle databases. The combination of Time Navigator and EMC Fastrax reduces the database backup window to its minimum, resulting in the optimal solution for large and critical database backup.

This integration demonstrates EMC's commitment to leverage open application programming interfaces and product strengths to deliver infrastructure solutions that help customers meet current business challenges, such as backup and recovery of critical business information. The product runs on IBM AIX, Sun Solaris and HP-UX. Benefits include server-less backup solutions, maximising network performance with minimal impact to users and application performance. Time Navigator can seamlessly share the same library for backup and restore operations for maximum hardware and software investment protection.

Trend Micro now protects Linux-based servers

Trend Micro has announced ServerProtect for Linux 1.0, which protects Linux-based file servers from computer viruses and other malicious code. It offers all the standard ServerProtect benefits, such as remote management via Web browser, real-time virus detection, time-controlled virus searches and flexible messaging. Trend Micro's MacroTrap is also an integral part of the antivirus solution, detecting and removing unknown macro viruses.

The importance of the Linux operating system is steadily increasing in the corporate marketplace, with the open source environment considered to be particularly stable and secure. The Linux system is based on the philosophy that each user contributes to the improvement of the system according to his or her area of expertise. The disclosure of the source code means that errors and omissions can be identified and resolved by all programmers who are involved with the system.

With ServerProtect for Linux 1.0, Trend Micro is now offering comprehensive protection from computer viruses to organisations that base their networks on Linux servers. As the use and popularity of the Linux platform expands, so too will the need for Linux-based virus protection. A test version of Trend Micro's ServerProtect for Linux 1.0 can be downloaded from *http//www.trendmicro.co.uk* for a limited period.

Embedded Linux apps in the palm of your hand

The Sharp SL-5000D is a PDA with a difference; it is the first PDA from a major power in consumer electronics to ship with the Linux operating system. "Sharp believes that consumers are just waiting for the kind of power and flexibility this operating environment brings to palmtop computing," said Steve Petix, Sharp's Associate Vice President, Mobile & IT Solutions Group.

Sharp is accepting pre-orders from the developer community for the SL-5000D developer unit. The SL-5000D uses the Embedix Plus PDA solution, which contains: Lineo's Embedix Linux; Trolltech's Qt/Embedded and Qt AWT GUI technologies; Insignia Solution's Jeode PDA Edition; and Opera Software's embedded Web browser. Running on top of Embedix Plus is Trolltech's Qt Palmtop, an application environment based on Qt that provides a full range of applications for business productivity, handheld games, personal information management, and synchronization across multiple desktops. "The SL-5000D shows that when you combine slick hardware with a cool application environment, you end up with a product that pushes the limits of what a PDA can do," said Haavard Nord, Trolltech's CEO.

Zeus Web Server cuts hardware requirements in half.

Zeus Technology Limited, announced the launch of Zeus Web Server Version 4.0, which enables twice as many people to access a Web site simultaneously, and over a continued period, compared with competitive products. This is because version 4.0 can handle more simultaneous connections from the Internet, and responds to each individual connection much faster than competitors. This enables the number of hardware servers to be halved.

Version 4.0 is also the world's fastest Web server when delivering dynamic content such as PHP – 45 per cent faster than the competition. Web servers are traditionally optimised to deliver large volumes of traffic out from the server to the Internet. The advent of Web services will require Web servers to handle huge volumes of inbound traffic. Zeus Web Server Version 4.0 has been optimised for traffic travelling in both directions, making it the only Web server designed for the next generation of the Internet. For a free 30-day evaluation see *http://www.zeus.com/downloads/*.

Rackspace managed hosting

Rackspace is launching its managed hosting services in the UK and across Europe. Operating from a new, state-of-the-art data centre outside London, Rackspace Managed Hosting deploys and manages entire Internet hosting platforms, ranging from single managed servers to complex managed server clusters that need advanced firewall security, load balancing and data storage. Rackspace is the second largest managed hosting company with over 4,000 managed Web servers.

"Business is booming," says Dominic Monkhouse, newly appointed Managing Director of Rackspace Europe. "Rackspace's sole business is doing managed, dedicated hosting. They have doubled their business over the past year while most hosting companies were retrenching or going out of business. I came from the hosting industry and had to compete with Rackspace's legendary Fanatical Customer Support". Monkhouse was previously the Managing Director of Interliant UK and joined Rackspace in September 2001.

Rackspace boasts a fully redundant, Class A data centre in the UK and in Texas, USA and offers a 99.999 per cent uptime guarantee. Another key to Fanatical Support is its 24-hour Rapid Deployment guarantee. Further information on Rackspace Managed Hosting is available from the company's Web site, which can be found at *http://www.rackspace.co.uk*

Hansa Business Solutions launches new software

Hansa Business Solutions has launched its next-generation suite of fully integrated CRM, financial and logistics software. Hansa Business Solutions is one of the few companies that can deliver true multi-platform capabilities to its customer base. In addition to the availability of its software on Linux, the company is also able to support implementations on Apple's latest OS X operating system, Windows, UNIX, IBM iSeries (formerly AS/400), IBM pSeries (formerly RS-6000) and mixed networks.

In addition to the core financial and logistics functionality of Hansa Version 3.9, the new release incorporates a suite of integrated customer relationship management features, which includes an interactive task manager and calendar that can share relevant data with other employees and other modules of the software, such as purchase ordering, sales ordering and stock control. Alternatively, if companies do not wish to implement the full suite of Hansa software, they have the option of purchasing First Contact, a bundle of CRM modules that is sold as a stand-alone system.

Keyhaven Systems Team with LinuxIT for support

Keyhaven Systems Ltd, a UK specialist in networking, Internet and email solutions, has reached an agreement with LinuxIT for support of the Concera range of systems. Keyhaven manufacture the Concera, which is a rack mountable unit, intended to solve customers IT problems by providing a fully featured server with secure Internet services and an easy to use interface based upon the Linux operating system. The Concera is designed either to integrate into an existing network or operate on its own, providing for all the network needs. Each Concera is pre-configured to meet individual customers requirements before delivery.

LinuxIT (*http://www.linuxit.com*) provide unlimited email, telephone and remote diagnostic support during either business hours or 24/7 for mission critical systems. The LinuxIT-Concera support lines are manned by experts in the underlying Linux operating system and the range of applications preinstalled.