

K-splitter

SAFE & FREE

Stefanie Teufel takes a look into the latest happenings in the world of KDE and shines a spotlight on some new projects, new prizes and new splash-screens

Better safe than sorry

IT security experts are increasingly devoting themselves – and their hardware – to email security, and now it seems that KDE is joining the party. A new project has been launched to develop Free software components for email encryption.

The contract for this project was awarded to three well known Open Source companies, namely g10 Code GmbH (Werner Koch), Klarälvdalens Datakonsult AB (Kalle Dalheimer) and Intevation GmbH (Bernhard Reiter), who are to work together on creating the basis for the initiation of free email programs. Kalle Dalheimer in particular may be a familiar name to one or two of you, as one of the KDE pioneers.

Specifically, the popular applications mutt and KMail are being expanded within the newly set up project. In particular, OpenPGP initiation and the address book of KMail are earmarked for improvement. The expansions will obviously be released under the GNU GPL. Interested developers can find out at <http://www.gnupg.org/aegypten> about the progress of the project. The results should be in by CeBIT 2002 at the latest.

Yet more prizes

No K-splitter comes without new prizes for KDE. In the readers' poll for the "Linux New Media Award 2001", Konqueror and KDevelop left the competition standing in the categories "Best client's Open Source software" and "Best development software". The two programs respectively won over 47 and 45 per cent of the Linux User and Linux Magazine readers and the Linux community who took part in the vote.

The readers of "Linux Journal" also had their say. In the "2001 Readers' Choice Awards" a number of KDE applications made it to the winners' podium. The KDE project itself swept to a landslide victory in the category "Favourite Desktop Environment". Second place prizes went to Koffice, in the category "Favourite Office Suite", and Kmail, for "Favourite Email Client". Third prizes were won by Kdevelop, in the category "Favourite Development Tool", the Konqueror, in the field of "Favourite Web Browser", and Kword, for "Favourite Word Processor". Many congratulations.

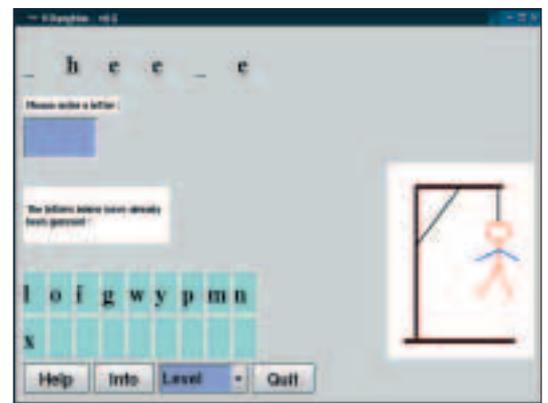


Figure 1: A real rogue

No playing around

The newly-founded KDE project "KDE Edutainment" wants to prove that learning can be fun, too. The aim of the project is to produce educational software based on the KDE platform, thus making up for the shortage of child-oriented software under Linux. The plan is to integrate the kdedu module into future releases of KDE.

Anyone who doesn't want to wait for that, but wants to show their younger relatives right now how entertaining it can be to work on a computer, should surf as fast as they can to the site <http://edu.kde.org>. The makers are currently offering over a dozen applications for download, including: KHangMan (Figure 1), a game whose name is self-explanatory; KEduca, with which multiple-choice tasks can be created and tested; KLatin, a training program for Latin; KLetres, a French language program for very young children; KTouch, with which little ones can practise ten-finger typing; KMessedWords, where one has to sort out letters to find the correct word (Figure 2); and KGeo, is an interactive Geometry program (Figure 3).

The site operators are also eagerly seeking more support. If you would like to make some kind of contribution, an email to kde-edu@kde.org is all it takes. If you would like to keep up to date with the progress and problems of the project, you can subscribe to the two newly-created mailing lists



Figure 2: Nicely sorted

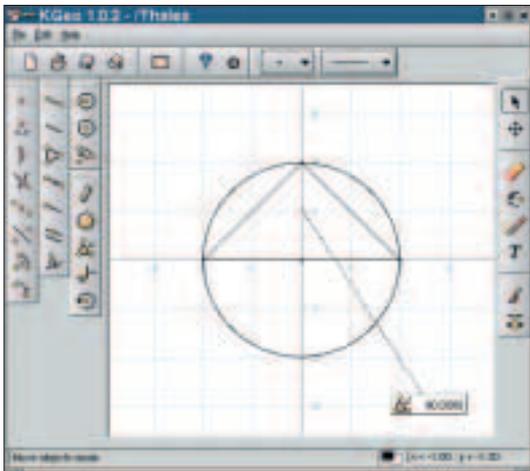


Figure 3: Going round in circles

<http://mail.kde.org/mailman/listinfo/kde-edu> and <http://mail.kde.org/mailman/listinfo/kde-edu-news>.

A sight for sore eyes

If you're looking for fun and games for a slightly older audience then look no further than the new site <http://www.kde-look.org>. Everything you need to make your own desktop twice as colourful can be found here. Even those who want to alter the KDE welcome screen will find something to please. To do so, simply download the KSplash packet <http://www.kde-look.org/content/files/230-ksplashml-0.20.tgz>, which, after installation, replaces the program originally responsible for the splash-screen.

After the usual `.configure` make you should always first make a back up copy of KSplash, before you swap it with a `make install`. You can easily find out in which directory the KSplash binary is located on your computer with a `which ksplash`.

The new splash screen is configured via the KDE control centre, where you will find the new entry "KDE Splash Screen" under the Display item. With

this you can change the greeting image (via the Splash Screen tab) and also the icons (by means of the Icons tab) at the click of a mouse.

Faked

If your boss wants you to use NT, but you would rather continue working with your Linux box, then help is on the way. At <http://www.shadowcom.net/Software/kss/kcad> you can find a new screensaver named KCAD (Control-Alt-Delete), which should help you fool your boss without too much effort (see Figure 4).

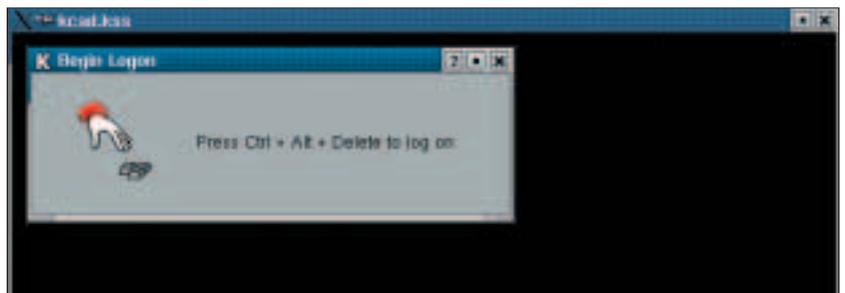


Figure 4: Sometimes appearances can be deceptive

Anyone who wants to play safe should make the following entry in the file `$HOME/.kde/share/config/kcad.kss`:

```
[Settings]
NtLike=1
```

According to the author, this will fool even the most suspicious of managers.

KDE Edutainment

Some of the Edutainment packages have been included on this month's coverdisc.