

LINUX NEWS

Red Hat 7.2 for Compaq AlphaServers

Compaq has announced that Red Hat 7.2 will be ported to the Compaq Computer Corporation's Alpha processors. According to Paul Cormier, Vice President of Engineering at Red Hat: "Compaq's AlphaServer platform is a

popular RISC 64-bit platform in the Linux community, and Red Hat is glad to be continuing its long-time collaboration with Compaq with this upcoming release. We see this association as an integral part of our strategy to deliver capabilities for the most challenging computing applications in the enterprise and in high performance computing". The release is expected to take place in the first quarter of the year.



"Compaq is committed to coupling our high-availability AlphaServers systems and industry-standard ProLiant servers with leading software, such as Red Hat 7.2, to offer our customers a broad range of server and software

solutions that support the right Linux operating environment for their business," said Bill Blake, Vice President of High Performance Technical Computing for Compaq Computer Corporation. "Red Hat Linux 7.2 delivers the latest kernel enhancements for performance and stability valued by the high performance cluster customers that run Compaq's AlphaServer-based Linux clusters".

New VP at MontaVista

MontaVista Software, Inc. has appointed Cees Boshuizen as Vice President for the company's European operations.



An industry veteran with more than 25 years experience in hardware and software sales and management, Boshuizen has helped several American companies penetrate various international markets. He will be based at MontaVista's European headquarters in the Netherlands and will report to Trent Winegar, MontaVista's Vice President for worldwide sales.

Prior to joining MontaVista, Boshuizen held senior sales and management positions with Sybase and EFI (Electronics For Imaging), both US companies. He has held assignments in the US and in various European countries with blue chip companies such as Digital Equipment Corp., Apollo Computer/HP and NeXT Computer.

MontaVista Software, Inc. powers the embedded revolution by providing Open Source systems software solutions for embedded developers. Founded in 1999 by real-time operating system (RTOS) pioneer James Ready, MontaVista's principal products include Hard Hat Linux, a Linux-based embedded source and binary distribution and cross development platform and a set of tool kits for x86/IA-32, PowerPC, StrongARM, MIPS, SH, ARM, XScale and other microprocessor architectures.

Open Source not fully exploited in UK

Open Source technologies should soon be able to stand shoulder to shoulder with their more restrictive brethren as a result of the UK's Department of Trade and Industry report "Open Source: the UK Opportunity", for which we are indebted to the National Computing Centre for their efforts.

The report provides a uniquely authoritative and independent overview of the issues surrounding Open Source Software (OSS). It details the views expressed by IT professionals on the future of, and the opportunities offered by, Open technologies and identifies actions necessary to convert potential business benefits into reality.

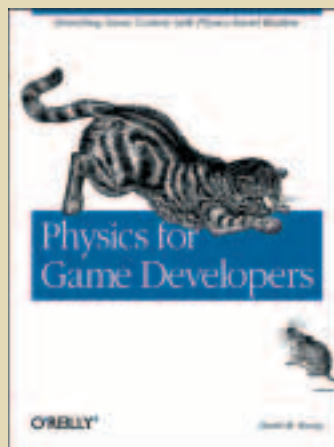
The report records heightened interest in OSS in light of recent increases in proprietary software licence costs. Current use of OSS is patchy and the potential benefits are not being fully exploited. There is much work to do before OSS becomes a viable alternative to packaged software products. Respondents who come from a cross-section of UK industry sectors identify their prime concerns as:

- Uncertainty over what Open Source actually is.
 - Uncertainty over support and what the risks are.
 - Lack of clear marketing positioning for Open Source products
 - Difficulties in identifying the right OSS for a given requirement
- NCC believes the UK would benefit greatly from the establishment of a stable alternative to the use of proprietary software, both in terms of business effectiveness and competitiveness. NCC are already engaging with users and government and given that they have a "not for profit" status and expertise, it is hoped that they are ideally placed to turn these suggestions into reality.

Physics for Game Developers

Physics-based realism is not new to gaming; in fact, many games on the shelves these days advertise their physics engines. By applying the laws of physics – specifically mechanics – game developers can realistically model nearly anything that moves to create compelling, believable content for computer games. David Bourg's new book, *Physics for Game Developers*, uses the example of designing a hunting game, complete with first-person 3D, beautiful textures, and an awesome soundtrack to set the mood.

According to Bourg, knowledge of physics-based realism will be crucially important for programmers who want to compete in developing ever more sophisticated games.



"It's important for game developers to realise that there is an awful lot of information available that will help them add physics to their games," Bourg explains, "but this information won't necessarily be found in 'traditional' game development

sources. Sure, you can scour the Internet, trade journals and magazines for how tos or fish out an old physics text and start from scratch, but you'll likely find that the information is too general to be applied directly or too advanced." In *Physics for Game Developers*, Bourg pulls together the information game developers need to enrich their games' content with physics-based realism, but don't know where to start.

For more information visit <http://www.oreilly.com/catalog/physicsgame>.

Author	David M. Bourg
Publisher	O'Reilly
Price	£18.50
ISBN	0-596-00006-5

Red Hat Certified Engineer program takes first place

Red Hat is proudly telling the world that their Certified Engineer (RHCE)



program received first

place rankings in three out of eight quality categories in Certification Magazine's January 2002 Salary Survey. In five other categories RHCE ranked in the top three programs in IT, making RHCE the quality leader overall in the survey.

In the survey, conducted by Fairfield Research, Inc., nearly 4,000 IT professionals were asked to rate their training and certification experiences in terms of quality of learning materials, instructors, comprehensiveness of programs and related tests, overall educational quality, perceived price and value, quality per dollar, and overall quality.

The 2002 rankings for quality are just the latest in a series of independent reviews and surveys released by Computer Reseller News, CertCities, Certification Magazine, and TechRepublic, all of whom rank RHCE as one of the top 10 IT certifications for quality, value, salary increase, and/or level of interest among IT professionals.

"For the RHCE program to receive the most top rankings and place first for overall quality in only its third year of existence is an enormous accomplishment," said Pete Childers, vice president of global learning services at Red Hat, Inc.

XFree86 4.2.0 is out

XFree86 4.2.0 is the fifth full release in the XFree86 4 series. XFree86 release 4 is a major re-design of the basic architectural underpinnings of XFree86's implementation of the original X Consortium's Xserver. This redesign allows for a modular interaction between the hardware drivers and the XFree86 core X server.

With 4.x, upgrades to the Xserver with new and unsupported hardware can be easily done and installed without undergoing the previous process of rebuilding an Xserver. All that is required is installing the new driver module and updating the configuration file.

The road to XFree86 release 4 began as an architectural concept in mid-1997, with the serious framework being implemented in code in the beginning of 1998. There were several snapshots on the road to 4.0, which are now part of the 4.0 base release. The 4.2.0 version is an upgrade to 4.1.0, which include more hardware ports, code enhancements and bug fixes. While some driver available in the old 3.3.x release series have not been converted over to the 4.x series, those required for most modern video hardware are available. Further video driver enhancements include support added to the ATI radeon driver for Radeon 7500 (2D and 3D), Radeon 8500 (2D only), and Rage128ProII, support added for the Matrox G550, including dual-head support and the nVidia nv driver now has preliminary powerpc support for the NV11 and NV20. Input driver enhancements include replugable mouse events for PS/2 mice, USB keyboard access is fixed when no PS/2 controller is present and added support for calcomp, DMC and hyperpen input devices. See <http://www.xfree.org/4.2.0/>.



Embedix in bed with Motorola

Lineo, Metrowerks and Motorola Broadband are to join forces and form Triarc Content Labs, which will help with the design and development of Linux-based, advanced-interactive television software applications on Motorola's DCT5000 family of advanced-interactive digital set-tops.

Contributing to the joint venture, Lineo will provide its Lineo Embedix Digital Media core: an embedded Linux system software platform for set-top terminals that enables delivery of advanced interactive digital content. Metrowerks will supply CodeWarrior development tools, which are widely used in the wireless and consumer products industries to create applications and content. Motorola, in addition to its DCT5000 family running the Embedix platform, will also provide its expertise in advanced-interactive digital cable technology, systems integration, and deployment.

The companies are forming Triarc Content Labs to provide the broadband industry with an independent source for development, testing and integration of Linux-based content and applications. This resource is expected to speed time-to-market of new and interactive services such as pay-per-view (PPV), video-on-demand (VOD), games, Web browsers, program guides, personal video recorders (PVR), home networking and streaming media.

"The broadband industry is migrating toward Linux as the software platform for games, interactive content, programming guides, personal video recorders and video on demand," said Matthew Harris, CEO of Lineo. "Content and application providers require seamless compatibility between their products and the Lineo Embedix Digital Media core integrated with the Motorola DCT5000 family. Triarc will have the expertise to facilitate the development of robust solutions in this environment, thereby ensuring a user-friendly and feature-rich offering for the cable operator".

Triarc Content Labs is expected to be operational in mid-2002. Additional information about Triarc Content Labs and availability of products and support will be released later this month. Customers interested in receiving immediate information may send an email to info@triarclabs.com.

LINEO™
Embedix™

ALL THE FREEDOM YOU NEED

SUSE LINUX 7.3
SECURE - STABLE - SUPERIOR

Personal 7.3 for beginners: **£35**

Professional 7.3 for professionals: **£59**

Yes, please send me my copy of SuSE Linux ...

... because Linux users enjoy the power and stability of SuSE Linux. No licensing activation. No compromises.

SuSE Linux 7.3 – no limits.

- StarOffice – the Microsoft-compatible Office package
- Scanning made easy with the KDE tool Kooka
- Protect your data with Soft-RAID
- Watch TV on your PC
- Surf safely with the Personal Firewall
- Professional installation support by phone, fax and e-mail
- etc.

Please invoice us at the following address:

Company _____ Personal 7.3 £35

Surname/Name _____

Phone _____ Professional 7.3 £59

Street _____

Zip-code/Postal-code _____

Order Online Today! www.suse.co.uk

@ info@suse.co.uk ☎ +44 (0)20 83874088 📠 +44 (0)20 83874010

SuSE Ltd.
The Kinetic Centre - Theobald St.
Borehamwood - Herts. WD6 4PJ

Logical PARTitions in practice

Churchill China, plc. recently entered the world of e-commerce with Wizz400. Their customer-focused system has been a great success and will now be significantly extended. Wizz400 will run in an LPAR environment (Logical PARTitions), dynamically interacting with Churchill's ERP system, behind a Linux firewall on a new iSeries model 820, supplied by Byford. All three elements will run under the covers of one iSeries server.

Demonstrating its product quality and customer service, Churchill China has added a licence to produce Warner Brothers Harry Potter chinaware. This follows Jeff Banks' Ports of Call, Looney Tunes and Tom & Jerry; the Royal Horticultural Society; and Historic Royal Palaces. Churchill China has always invested in information technology believing this to be a key factor in managing the business and meeting customer expectations. To meet these challenges the company needed a robust and scalable e-commerce and e-supply chain management system – and chose Wizz400.

Churchill China has already delighted its trade customers with an innovative CRM system built with Wizz400. The new project will support:

- Trade outlets placing orders directly into Churchill's systems via the Internet, whilst allowing monitoring and visibility by the customers' central purchasing departments.
- Credit card processing.
- XML document exchange for orders, invoices, and other documents that require interaction with the Customer.

According to David Garnett, IT Director of Churchill China, "Wizz400 is very powerful and very closely integrated into our existing systems. The key factor in e-commerce is accuracy. We offer 24-hour delivery and Wizz400(tm) on iSeries guarantees that we get orders right every time".

A unique feature of the new installation is the use of a LINUX logical partition to run the firewall.

LPAR allows separate applications to use the full resources of the iSeries, and therefore eliminates the need for multiple servers. Churchill has consolidated down from three servers to a single IBM iSeries.



DaimlerChrysler choose AMD-based Linux cluster

DaimlerChrysler AG has implemented a server powered by the AMD Athlon MP processor 1800+ in its Mercedes-Benz Technology Center (MTC) in Germany. The company uses the strength of several hundred AMD Athlon MP processors in one of the largest high-performance Linux clusters in the German automotive industry, to run state of the art crash simulations for Mercedes-Benz vehicles.

DaimlerChrysler's crash simulation team selected the AMD Athlon MP processor-based solution because it delivers superior performance and stability on single and dual processor-based servers for enterprise class applications.

The AMD Athlon MP processor is a seventh-generation x86 processor designed for high-performance multiprocessing servers and high-end workstations. A key advantage of AMD's multiprocessing platform is Smart MP technology, which greatly enhances overall platform performance by increasing data movement between the two

CPUs, chipset and memory system. Smart MP technology features dual point-to-point, high-speed 266MHz system buses with Error Correcting Code (ECC) support designed to provide up to 2.1Gb per second per CPU of bus bandwidth in a dual-processor system.

"We evaluated many solutions and concluded that the AMD Athlon MP processor-based server was the best choice in terms of performance and stability," said Dr. Johannes Luginsland, Manager of IT infrastructure for Safety and Comfort Simulation, DaimlerChrysler. "The AMD Athlon MP processor's extraordinary floating point capabilities coupled with AMD's Smart MP technology deliver the superior performance we need for mission-critical supercomputing. Shortened product development processes made possible by gains in computer aided engineering require increasingly demanding simulations that must be carried out in less time. This demands the appropriate computer processing capability".

SuSE Linux Enterprise Server 7 for Itanium

SuSE Linux Enterprise Server 7 for the Intel Itanium Processor Family is now available. Described as having high scalability and extreme failsafe features, this is a product that should be considered as a choice for mission-critical applications.

In addition to an operating system optimised for stability and security, this mature server solution provides all server services relevant under Linux. Systems based on Itanium processors are designed for use with high-profile applications in the enterprise or the technology sectors that require maximum performance. This includes the management of large databases as well as complex e-commerce transactions or scientific/research applications that consume massive amounts of computing power.

The development of the SuSE Linux operating system for the Intel Itanium processor family was a process that started a long time ago. Over a period of 30 months, SuSE developers and Intel engineers, who provided the latest prototypes and hardware specifications, worked on this Linux version. As a result, in May 2001 SuSE was the first Linux provider to present a Linux solution for application developers that enabled rapid ports of application software to

the 64-bit platform.

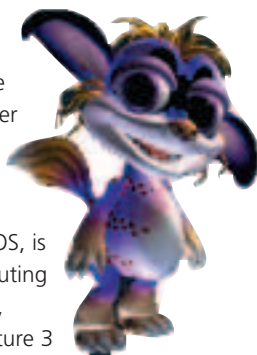
"The close technological collaboration between SuSE and Intel started more than two years ago and goes back to the early stages of Itanium Processor development," said Steve Chase, Director Business and Communication Solutions, Europe, Middle East and Africa at Intel Corp. "Through SuSE Linux Enterprise Server 7 for IPF, enterprise customers benefit from a technologically trend-setting complete solution, in which hardware and software are perfectly tuned".

"Our cooperation with Intel is based on the joint goal of providing professional users with the best solutions for mission-critical deployment," added Gerhard Burtscher, CEO of SuSE Linux AG. "We will continue to pursue this objective in the future and further intensify our joint projects".

SuSE Linux Enterprise Server 7 for IPF is based on kernel 2.4.7 and the program library glibc 2.2.4 and includes XFree86 4.0.3. The Logical Volume Manager, the journaling filesystem ReiserFS, and Large File System Support comprise part of the package that could be considered as a platform for mission-critical e-business transactions.

Creature comforts

Linux Game Publishing, which aims to bring top quality Linux games to the market by providing reseller channels for games ported to Linux, as well as for games especially written for our favourite OS, is well on the way to distributing Creatures Internet Edition, which includes both Creature 3 and the Creatures Docking Station expansion.



LGP were also pleased to tell us that they have recently signed a deal with Cyberlore Studios in which they obtained the rights to complete a Linux version of Majesty, along with its expansion pack, The Northern Expansion. Majesty is a groundbreaking Fantasy Kingdom Simulation, which won several awards with the Windows 2000 version. The game sees you as the leader of a medieval kingdom, which you must defend from rampaging magical creatures and entice heroes to join your cause. Unlike other games where you simply control what happens, in Majesty you have to make your minions WANT to do what you ask! [A bit like me and a Shell prompt – Asst. Ed]. For more information see <http://www.linuxgamepublishing.com>.



Another hat thrown in the ring

From the house of PomPom comes Space Trippler, described as "the ultimate" [what, another one – Ed.] in shoot-em-up arcade action, is now available for Linux. With more than 10 years experience in the games industry, PomPom feel that the time is now set for the re-emergence of classic games, where playability not complex plots are the order of the day. Retro gameplay is on the way back!

Space Trippler takes for its inspiration Williams' Defender – a classic in a league of its own. The delicate gameplay of Defender is brought bang up to date with exotic enemies and diverse environments, visualized in a state-of-the-art 3D engine.

Check out PomPom and Space Trippler at <http://www.pompom.co.uk/>.