

Business News

UK Government support for Open Source Software

The UK Government has announced its long awaited Policy statement on the usage of Open Source software within UK government. The announcement comes after a similar statement from the EC.

The EC published a paper on the pooling of Open Source Software by administrations and declared they should share costs on an open source licensing basis, to cut eGovernment IT costs. Graham Taylor, Programme Director for OpenForum Europe, said "The statement is essential and very welcome but it must be seen as a first step".

"Now is the time to rapidly develop best practice and ensure the UK can play its full part in the European opportunity. We are keen to bring the wide experience of our partners to assist in accelerating the use and adoption of OSS."

OpenForum Europe was launched in March this year and includes amongst its members major suppliers and user groups. It enables the government and private sector users to assess impartially the true viability and cost of ownership of the OSS Business Model, and gain real evidence of the commercial benefits that can be achieved. ■

SuSE groupware server supports 6,000 clients

SuSE announced the release of an updated version of the SuSE Linux Groupware Server which supports up to 6,000 clients per server. The interweaving of the Linux operating system with the newly released Lotus Application Server 5.0.10 makes the SuSE Linux Groupware Server the most powerful Lotus solution for Intel and AMD 32-bit processors.

The SuSE Linux Groupware Server combines the stability and security of the SuSE Linux Enterprise Server operating system with the functionality of Lotus Domino. With over 85 million Notes users, Lotus is undisputedly number one when it comes to both the groupware and messaging market.

SuSE Linux Groupware Server is built on the SuSE Linux Enterprise Server 7 operating system with the new kernel 2.4.18. Lotus Application Server 5.0.10 provides efficient tools for document management, workflow management, messaging, and scheduling. Furthermore, the Lotus Application Server constitutes a flexible basis for the development of its own web and messaging applications. As part of ongoing system maintenance, SuSE delivers all relevant patches, fixes,



and updates for the server operating system in a quality assured and well documented form.

SuSE Linux Groupware Server helps implement infrastructure inexpensively, reliably, and securely on a long-term basis; certifications of leading hardware and software providers keep their validity even after updates.

The recommended retail price of £2,239 plus VAT for one server includes extensive documentation, 30 days of product support and 12 months of system maintenance. For more details see www.suse.co.uk/uk/products/suse_business/groupware_server/index.html. ■

Manufacturing management with vision

Caliach, a developer of manufacturing management software systems for small and medium-sized enterprises, is maintaining its reputation for innovation with the launch of version 1.10 of its ERP software Caliach Vision on Linux. Caliach Vision brings to Linux users a fully integrated, state-of-the-art system which is easy to use and can be maintained without dedicated IT staff. It features a class leading user interface and integrated Internet capabilities and provides all required to automate the management of a manufacturing business.

Caliach's road to Linux began when it needed to replace an Apple Mac server with a Linux version. Managing director, Chris Ross, wanted the Mac server for development work and also wanted to

experiment with the Linux platform, especially as Omnis Studio on which Caliach Vision is based, has introduced their own Linux development suite.

So he called in Paul Nash, a Linux developer, to swap over the server to run the Mandrake 8.0 version of Linux. Paul transferred file serving and the Sendmail mail server and other functions including FTP server (for customers to download updates), Web server, Print server (on a mixed Apple and Windows network) and Majordomo (for users mailing lists). The server also runs programs such as Analogue, for gathering web statistics, and daily back-up to a removable disk. In addition, Caliach decided to load Linux on to a number of PCs in its training suite on a dual-boot basis with Windows.

Once Linux was up and running, Paul assisted Caliach with getting to grips with Linux, although he says this did not take too long: "Chris picked up Linux very quickly and he obviously feels very comfortable with its reliability, the low hardware requirements and flexibility. "Chris has developed the Linux version in response to customer enquiries and Caliach Vision represents another killer application by providing a comprehensive ERP suite on Linux."

Caliach Vision has been fully tested at Caliach's training centre using different versions of Linux including SuSE 7.3, Red Hat 7.2, and Mandrake 8.0. A fully functional Linux version of Caliach Vision is available for downloading at the Caliach web site at www.caliach.com. ■

■ Three year support

The Danish subsidiary of Telia, Telia Connect has agreed to a long term maintenance contract with SuSE for its IBM zSeries G7 mainframe systems.

In 2001 Telia Connect moved from using a 70 Unix server farm to one IBM S/390 to handle over 400,000 customers internet accounts. By using the virtual machine capabilities of the z Series, each customer has their own SuSE Linux Enterprise Server to operate on. As SuSE Linux Enterprise Server allows the modifications of the network and hard disk configuration while the system is active, Telia Connect customers are provided with an almost unlimited virtual server capacity which has a zero downtime.

"The combination of IBM zSeries machines and SuSE Linux Enterprise Server not only meets our high standards with respect to the stability and one hundred per cent availability," explains Arne Larsson, CEO of Telia

Connect. "In SuSE Linux Enterprise Server we have also found an operating system that allows us to react flexibly to our customer's demand for performance. Through the system maintenance and the production support, SuSE Linux AG gives us the security we need in order to meet our customers' expectations regarding the quality of our services." ■



■ Arkeia demonstrates new backup solutions

Arkeia Corp., a supplier of enterprise network backup software, will be showcasing its new beta version of its Arkeia 5 backup software and Virtual Backup Server Solution.

The new Arkeia 5 now features smooth network integration, including automatic hardware detection as well as a greatly improved new user-friendly interface. Arkeia 5 is now scalable from SME businesses through to large enterprises. Its new modular plugin structure can now simplify specialised tasks, such as the backup for open file databases and online servers. To simplify data security and reduce costs, Arkeia 5 can channel data from multiple servers onto a single tape library.

Arkeia's Virtual Backup Server solution provides a new array of local and remote data protection services especially adapted to ISPs, telecom specialists and cable operators. By using Arkeia's Virtual Server capacity, ISPs can now offer complementary services to current clients, plus the ability to attract new business from expanding companies that want to avoid the expense of their own hardware purchases. ■

■ In tune with Red Hat

Agnula turns to Red Hat Linux to develop a new distribution aimed at both professional and amateur musicians. Red Hat, Inc. is directly involved in Project Agnula (A GNU/Linux Audio distribution), which is being subsidised by the European Community. They will use this to create a new Open Source distribution based on the Red Hat Linux.

With its numerous professional and multimedia audio applications, this package will be distributed free of charge under the name ReHMudi, which stands for Red Hat Multimedia Distribution. Entirely designed within the concept of Free Software, this new version will at the same time be easy to install and update, and will also offer all the tools required for the musical creation and production, compilation and distribution.

This ambitious project, scheduled to run for 24 months, is now being implemented in close collaboration with acoustics and musical research centres as well as the Free Software Foundation Europe. By developing a release specifically designed for the professionals in the musical industry, Red Hat wants to enable authors and composers, as well as simple amateurs, to free themselves from technological and cultural constraints. By giving more freedom to artists, the company's aim is to expand the global nature of music even further and to extend the concept of Open Source Software to Open Source Music.

This distribution will be available as a download and on CD-ROM. The first Beta version will be released on the Internet by the end of 2002 at www.agnula.org. ■

■ Xandros brings life to Corel

Linux Global Partners (LGP), a NY based software investment firm with financial holdings in eight Linux desktop and server application companies, launched Xandros in August 2001.

Xandros is developing a customized Debian-based Linux distribution that is derived from version 3.0 of Corel Linux. It will support both the KDE and Gnome desktop environments. In addition to the features that Linux users expect, Xandros plan to distribute significant additions and enhancements. Xandros is also creating an enterprise management solution that will reduce the total cost of ownership. This solution is complete "off the shelf", but Xandros can customize and integrate the products and provide additions to legacy systems as needed.

Xandros will offer a support package. They acquired Corel Linux division late in August 2001. ■

■ Caldera partner Conectiva

Caldera International, Inc. announced a new comprehensive partnership with Conectiva, Inc. that will expand Caldera's presence in Brazil. Under terms of the agreement, Conectiva's sales force and reseller channels will sell all Caldera's products and services.

Specifically, Caldera will provide the Volution product and services family of messaging and systems management solutions, as well as the company's Open UNIX and OpenServer UNIX solutions into Brazil, with future possibilities of extending the relationship to the rest of the Latin American market. In addition, Conectiva and Caldera will partner to provide customer support, training and professional services for the companies' mutual customers.

"Expanding our relationship with Conectiva was a natural extension of the UnitedLinux initiative," said Darl McBride, president and CEO of Caldera. "With 70 per cent of the Linux market share in Latin America, Conectiva is in a better position to more economically and efficiently service the business customers in this important market. This will also facilitate business with customers and partners who need to seamlessly deploy business solutions throughout the Americas by facilitating a united product, service and support model." ■

■ Ensim software gives partners more control.

Dedicated Servers, announced that all of its Windows and Linux servers will be incorporating Ensim Corporation's WEBpliance software as standard.

As part of its ongoing drive to provide a high quality and innovative service that not only meets but anticipates its clients' needs, the large investment in Ensim's software is in order to allow customers even greater control of their servers. The wide range of features included with WEBpliance is of interest to resellers of hosting services, web designers and systems integrators as it is designed to allow these businesses to manage their clients effectively, and in turn, allow their clients to administer their sites with ease.

WEBpliance's customisation settings will let the partners offer private-label hosting with specially tailored control panels and layouts to help reinforce their own brand image and place their clients' focus solely on them. Support calls can be reduced by directing customers to context-sensitive online help pages via the control panel, monitoring and the managing of bandwidth usage is also simplified through the tools provided, and the software greatly simplifies the configuration and deployment of new customer accounts. For more information see www.dedicated-servers.co.uk ■

■ SixTRAK IPm Open Controller

The SixTRAK IPm is the ultimate process controller with the power of open Linux software. It's powerful communications and advanced programming capabilities make it the perfect solution for process control, SCADA, or DCS application. Though it is built on the open Linux operating system, no knowledge of Linux is required in most applications. Allowing you to get all the benefits of open Linux with no extra effort. The SixTRAK IPm is 100% compatible with SIXNET's legacy SixTRAK Gateways. All existing ISaGRAF user programs will load and run in an IPm without any changes.

IPm is the SIXNET trademark for a large family of flexible automation solutions based upon open-source Linux software. They have upgraded the firmware in the RTU and process controllers to run on a remarkable embedded Linux subsystem.

Now, in addition to all the powerful features of the pre-integrated SCS (Scalable Control Systems) technology, the systems have the power of open source Linux. These new capabilities includes a web server, advanced Ethernet services and the ability to add your own applications programs or share in the wealth of free software provided by the extensive Linux community. ■

■ NEC UK launches Data Storage Division

NEC UK has announced the launch of a new Data Storage Division and unveiled a range of floppy disk drives, optical and tape backup solutions, including new two-terabit capacity tape backup devices. The company has also announced its channel marketing strategy and future product roadmap.

NEC Corporation has a long 40-year pedigree in the design, manufacture and marketing of high performance, high reliability storage products, both in Japan and in other European markets. The company has now established a new UK operation to serve the storage market.

NEC tape drives use Linear Tape Open (LTO) technology to ensure high-speed backup, accuracy, longevity as well as reliability. All solutions are automated for

maximum ease of use and are field upgradeable for future technologies. NEC already has Mount Rainier-capable optical disk drives. Mount Rainier provides OS support for simple dragging and dropping of data. In addition, NEC's new DVD-RW drives will be among the first in the UK capable of writing both + RW and -RW formats.

Other new developments will include 50-Gigabit blue laser devices for data-intensive users; combination DVD-RW / CD-RW drives for the portable market; and Network Attached Storage (NAS)

and Storage Area Network (SAN) solutions for large businesses. ■

