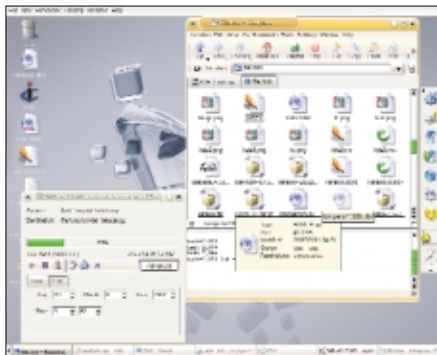# Software News

Qt C# binding make new version

Qt# has released version 0.4. This is a collection of cross-platform C# bindings for Trolltech's Qt GUI toolkit that is aimed at both the Mono and Portable.NET projects. There is now some preliminary support for Microsoft.NET along with object tracking, support for events and multiple custom slots. Interested parties should visit *qtcsharp.sourceforge.net.*

Sight for sore eyes

KDE 3.1 Alpha is a new development branch that has been announced. This release sports everything from wonderful new eye candy to tons of popular new features including new and exciting "Easter eggs" (aka bugs) just waiting to be discovered.

KDE 3.1 alpha showing Tabbed browsing, ToolTip file previews and enhanced file downloads in Konqueror

Those wanting a more stable life should be using KDE 3.0.2. For more info see *dot.kde.org/1026405852.*

Quick Fish

Sherman's Aquarium is a window maker and gnome applet. It draws an aquarium with some randomly positioned fish. The fish are done by Jim Toomey, the author of the "Sherman's Lagoon" comics. The temperature scale on the right side shows the CPU load.
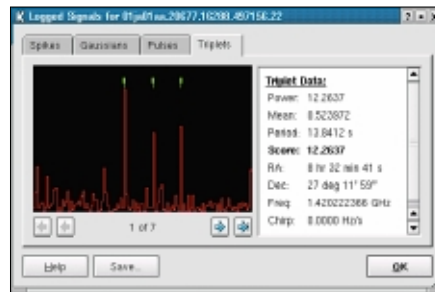
It can also be configured to display the time and show the status of numlock, capslock and scrollock. It can be downloaded from *aquariumapplet.sourceforge.net.*

Virtual Atoms

With the ability to edit molecules and compile under Qt 3.x, the Kmovisto molecular viewer is developing fast. KMovisto imports Gaussian 94 or 98 files and can handle XYZ files. For viewing of images KMovisto exports to POV-Ray files for rendering high quality presentations. If you need to produce a 3D presentation then KMovisto can export VRML output for browser manipulation.

Calling home

KSetiwatch is now at version 2.50. In an attempt to eliminate all the sorts of

Logged signals dialog

configuration problems with the latest release, an updated source package has been made available. This package should now be preconfigured for KDE3 and configurable with older versions of autoconf. If you had problems with the previous package, you can get the new one from *ksetiwatch.sourceforge.net.*

GnomeICU 0.98.3 Released

GnomeICU 0.98.3 has been released. This is the latest version of GnomeICU for the Gnome 1.4 desktop platform, and probably the last release for this desktop platform. You should only get this if you are still running Gnome 1.4 instead of Gnome 2, as we are going to have a Gnome 2 preview release soon. Within GnomeICU 0.98.2 you can now create new users perfectly.

Fixed user info receiving, and the UI of it. Better user authorization support. Stable server side contacts list support. User interface cleanups..
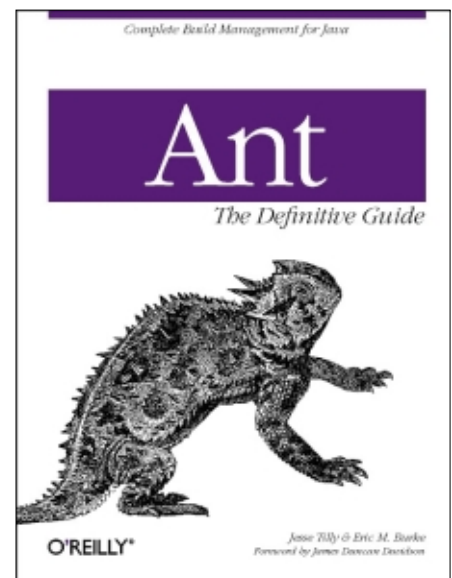
SVG in GTK+

With the release of Gnome2 the developers are now setting sites on features for Gnome 2.2. A suggestion has been made to incorporate the SVG graphics support library (rsvg) into GTK+. One obvious advantage would be the use of scalable interfaces for those with high resolutions rather than the standard bitmap themes. See *developer.gnome.org/news/summary*

O'Reilly releases Ant

"I have to confess that I had absolutely no idea that Ant, the little build tool that could, would go as far as it did and make such a mark on the Java developer community,"James Duncan Davidson said, the creator of Ant, in the new book "Ant: The Definitive Guide". "It might be that the key to Ant's success is that it didn't try to be successful. It was a simple solution to an obvious problem.

In 1998, frustrated by his efforts to create a cross-platform build of Tomcat using the tools of the day (GNU Make, batch files, and shell scripts), Davidson threw together his own build utility on an aeroplane flight. Named Ant because it was a little thing that could build big things, James's quick-and-dirty solution to his own problem of creating a cross-platform build has evolved into the most widely used build management tool in Java environments.

Ant: The Definitive Guide
Complete Build Management for Java
By Eric M. Burke, Jesse E. Tilly; ISBN 0-596-00184-3;
288 pages; £24.95; www.oreilly.co.uk
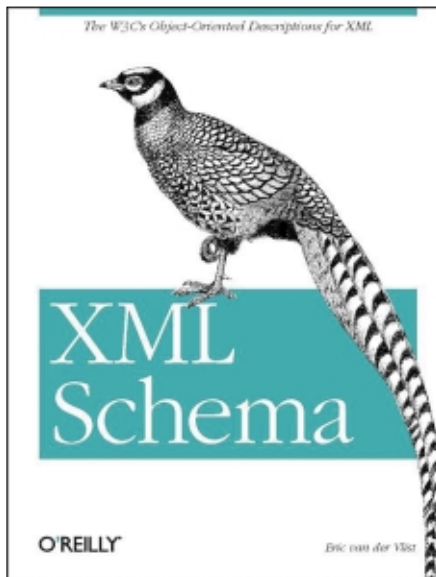
Moving to Linux?

■ O'Reilly releases XML Schema

Many developers see W3C XML Schema as the principal language for defining the content and structure of XML documents, while others resist the specification as unnecessarily complex, preferring to use tools such as DTDs, Schematron or RELAX NG. Eric van der Vlist, the author of the newly released "XML Schema: The W3C's Object-Oriented Descriptions for XML", approaches this controversy with a sober and objective view: W3C XML Schema, he says, is both essential and potentially dangerous for XML.

"XML Schema is the most complex specification ever published by the W3C" van der Vlist says. "The technology itself is complex, and the specification was written in a way that's very difficult to read. Many experts lack the objectivity necessary to show the limitations and pitfalls of the technology. My book is an honest attempt to provide a description of W3C XML Schema that is neither bashing nor praising."

Involved in developing ISO standards as the editor of the DocumentSchema Definition Languages Part 5 specification, which describes "Object Oriented XML Schema languages", van der Vlist is an XML consultant and developer, creator and chief editor of XMLfr.org, as well as being a regular contributor to XML.com and xmlhack.com.

XML Schema – The W3C's Object-Oriented Descriptions for XML
By Eric van der Vlist, ISBN 0-596-00252-1,
400 pages, £28.95, www.oreilly.co.uk

■ Helping others

Following on from a letter 'Computing For The Disabled' on page 17 of issue 2, Barry Coates, an Access Technology Trainer at the RNIB kindly wrote with some helpful news.

The first link he gave was *http://www.braille.uwo.ca/speakup/* which is helpful, certainly if the person in question is primarily a speech user. OK, it does mean no X Windows – which isn't too big a deal given that neither KDE or Gnome environments are fully accessed from the keyboard – but you still have full access to the substantial number of command line applications especially Lynx, Pine, EMACS etc.

Basically, the Speakup project provides a customised version of Red Hat for download, and, if the PC user has an external synthesizer, this is probably the most accessible Linux system around for now. Speakup support has also been bolted on to Zipslack, the 100Mb version of Slackware. This is called Zipspeak and again it will run with an external synth such as a Dectalk or an Apollo.
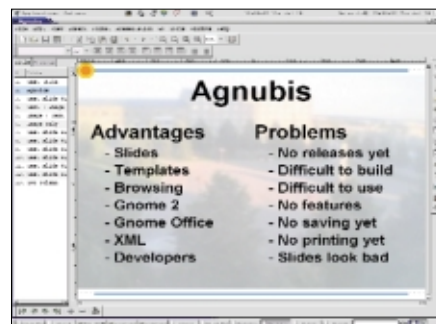
Last but not least, there is also the Emacspeak project which again might be worth checking out:
- *www.linux-speakup.org/ftp/disks/*⇒ *slackware/zipspeak*
- *www.cs.cornell.edu/Info/People/*⇒ *raman/emacspeak/emacspeak.html*

He is hopeful that with Gnome 2 and importantly the Section 508 legislation in the States the incentives will be there to put accessibility and usability issues higher in the agenda!

■ Presenting projects

Agnubis is the GNOME Presentation Program comparable to such programs as Microsoft PowerPoint or Corel Present. It has been developed and designed for the
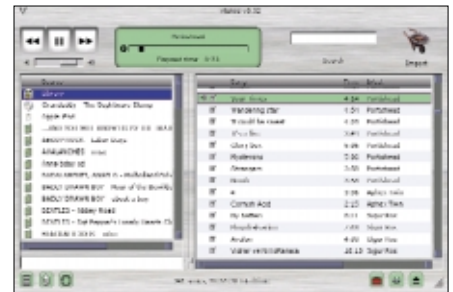
Agnubis showing its own summary

GNOME 2 platform and is created to integrate well with the rest of the components in the GNOME Office suite.

The Agnubis team is currently working hard to get the first release (0.1) out on general release. The application is now starting to take shape in the CVS tree. For more information see *www.gnome.org/projects/agnubis.*

■ Apple iPod support for Linux

tex9 announced the public release of their software that provides full operation of the Apple iPod on the Linux operating system. tex9's software is a plugin for the xtunes program (see *www.tex9.com/software/xtunes.php*), a popular tex9 free software product.

xtunes now linking the Apple iPod to Linux

The plugin allows simple drag-and-drop of songs and playlists from the xtunes library onto an iPod. It is currently priced at $10.00 per copy and can be purchased at www.tex9.com.

■ Kylix 3 by Borland

Borland has launched Borland Kylix 3, a Rapid Application Development (RAD) solution for C++ on Linux. Linux developers can quickly create GUI, database, Web, and Web Services applications in C++. Kylix 3 includes expanded support for Web Services development.

Kylix 3 extends RAD for Linux to the more than two million developers in the C++ community world wide. "With Kylix 3, Borland has brought industry standard, and powerful enterprise tools to the Linux development community. The addition of C++ support in Kylix means that any class of Linux application, from GUI to database to Web Services, can be created quickly" said Jeff Bates, co-founder of Slashdot.org and director of OSDN Online..