Fireworks

Dear Linux Magazine Reader,

November is here and fireworks abound not just in organized displays but in the world of Linux and computing.

The Fritz chip is causing one of the biggest bangs. Named after the US senator Fritz Hollings of South Carolina. It is already on sale in the form of Atmel's secure processor, the AT90SP0801. This is the Palladium in action. This is still one to watch as the dominant market players try to lock out all free and open source technologies.

The Indian Times reports that the Indian Department of Information Technology is in talks with IBM and HCL over setting Linux as the standard within all of the sub-continent's educational institutions. While this may just be a ploy to gain a better Microsoft licencing deal for the Department of Education, if true and they follow through Linux could become as dominant as in China. Having the majority of Asia's software and hardware engineers developing Linux could only lead to more innovation and better products for the community as a whole. Development in China is now so advanced that they can aim for other markets. RedFlag Linux of China is now aiming at partnering multimedia providers to produce set top boxes and car voice systems. Soon – Linux in an appliance near you.

On a lighter side Transgaming has not made much noise about its ongoing achievments. As you may remember, Transgaming is developing a version of Wine and aims at getting all MS Windows games running on Linux. By subscribing you get to vote each month on the next improvements that the team will work on. Certainly this caters for their paying users. Now at version 2.2 the number of games working is advancing at a rapid pace. It is quickly turning one of my Linux boxes into a dedicated games console, which is very embarrasing when it is supposed to be for serious development.

Knoppix 3.1 is certainly a bright light. A single CD Debian based distribution is available either by download if you have the bandwidth or from one of the usual vendors. Put the CD in the machine and reboot. Running from the CD it detects all of your hardware and leaves you running a KDE desktop so quickly and without any intervention that you will wonder why all Operating Systems cannot do this.

Once you get over the shock of the easy setup you can start to explore all the software supplied on the single disk. My favourite use is as a check for hardware. Throw in the disk and if it works you know it is your own configuration files that are wrong. If it does not work then the chances are it is the hardware and not the setup. It is great for copying configuration files for your own systems.

Happy Hacking,

John Southern
Editor

Linux New Media Awards 2002

An international jury has recently chosen the winners of the Linux New Media Awards 2002.

The winners are:
Mobile Devices – **Sharp Zaurus**
Network Hardware – **Axiom AX 6113**
Hardware – **Pioneer DVR-104**
Distributions – **Debian**
Development Software – **GCC**
Office Packages – **Open Office**
Internet Applications – **Mozilla**
Databases – **PostgreSQL**
Newcomer of the Year Linux – **Gentoo**
Linux Companies – **IBM**