Norwegian Award for Linux in schools

BY PATRICIA JUNG

Scandinavia's Open Source scene has a new prize to celebrate: For the first time, the Norwegian Unix Users Group (NUUG) and Oslo University College "Høgskolen i Oslo" awarded the Norwegian Free Software Prize. After a ceremony held in Norway's capital Oslo on October 7th, the lucky winner "Skolelinuxprosjektet" took home a cheque for NOK 30,000 (approximately EUR 4,115).

The winning project brings together contributors from all over Norway and develops a Linux distribution for Norwegian schools aiming at easy installation and maintainance as well as availability in the two Norwegian literary languages (Bokmål and Nynorsk) and the Saami language. Amongst the nominees were well-known Unix "old-timers" like IETF's Harald Alvestrand, Stig S. Bakken of The PHP Group or GNUS-guru Lars Magne Ingebrigtsen as well as young DeCSS-hacker Jon Lech Johansen and Qt-company Trolltech AS. Exemplarily, coding was not the only reputation that counted: three of the 34 nominees, namely Gaute Hvoslef Kvalnes (who is also a member of Skolelinuxprosjektet), Kjartan Maraas and Roy-Magne Mo, have been translating KDE and GNOME, respectively, into either Bokmål or Nynorsk.

Last but not least, the Norwegian Secretary of Labor, Victor D. Norman, was nomininated due to his decision of no longer extending the state's purchasing deal with Microsoft.   ■

http://www.nuug.no/prisen
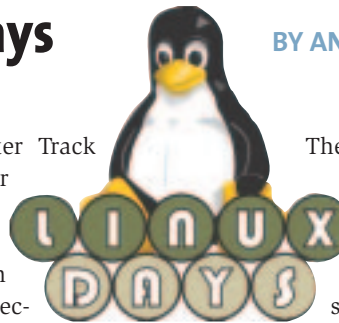*http://skolelinux.no*

Second Luxembourg LinuxDays

BY ANNETTE MERISTE

The second Luxembourg LinuxDays took place at the beginning of October, this year's venue being the IST (Institute Superiéur de Technologié). The conference was organized by a group of scientists from the Henry Tudor Institute in cooperation with the Linux User Group for Luxembourg and sponsored, among others, by the Ministery of Economy and Linux Magazine.

Luxembourg's Minister of the Economy, Mr. Henri Grethen, opened the series of lectures comprising a total of six topics. The Cluster Track included a number of interesting talks with Hubert Feyrer from NetBSD giving a lecture on a cluster project for rendering video material, and the sight of a cluster comprising 45 computers was quite impressive.

As usual, the Debian booth attracted quite a lot of attention. Andreas Tille from Debian also held two talks on the Project Track, one of which – Debian-Med – having been initiated to promote the use of Open Source Software in the area of medicine. But the highlight of the first day had to be the social event that took place subsequently in Luxembourg city center.

The second day saw the focus switch to security, embedded Linux and projects. The Security Track provided a platform for topics such as penetration testing, kernel security as well as high speed packet filtering.

The LinuxDays culminated in a footnote by Jon 'Maddog' Hall, the President of Linux International. In addition to a look back at the annals of history, Jon also presented a number of projects that relied on Open Source Software to guarantee cost-efficiency and discussed the potential for integrating free software into business models. He placed particular emphasis on the distribution of Open Source Software in government and provided some useful insights on putting the advantages of it across to a government audience.

One thing is for certain, the organizers definitely achieved their goal of promoting Linux amongst Luxembourg's enterprises while simultaneously keeping track of the latest Open Source projects.   ■

http://www.linuxday.lu