Software News

Enterprise workflow from Plexus

Recently released, Plexus FloWare claims to be the first industrial strength workflow engine available for Linux. With the enterprise user in mind, the main design criteria of scaleability and robustness for FloWare are of paramount importance.

Initially, Plexus FloWare is to be released on the SuSE version of Linux, with other versions to follow. The current release is designed for the Oracle 9i database, but there are plans to support mySQL by the 1st quarter of 2003.

FloWare fills the need for an enterprise strength workflow product, something that is required by the complex businesses running today. Plexus is well placed to fill this need, with their close involvement with industrial associations such as the Workflow Management Coalition and AIIM.

http://www.plx.com/

Balancing act of the gods

For mission-critical web server infrastructure and solutions, load balancing is a key component. Zeus Technologies has a successful track record with such products and have now released Zeus Load Balancer 1.6.

With their minds set on producing 'deploy-and-forget internet traffic management', the focus is firmly on easing the installation and maintaining the simplicity of traffic management. New features for this version include Automatic Session Persistence, Port Mapping and Connection Draining. The inclusion of FTP Load Balancing will greatly help those running file servers.

This release also sees updates to the user interface, improvements to the diagnostic tools and a revision of the documentation.

"Load Balancing has traditionally been thought of as a hardware application." said John Paterson, Zeus CEO, "but with the increase in performance and lower price of standard server hardware, load balancing can now be delivered by software, allowing far greater functionality and more flexible deployment options than from a hard-wired, dedicated box."

http://www.zeus.com/

Delegating power with PowerBroker

The recently released PowerBroker v3.0 is now available for download from the Symark website.

The product will provide you with the ability to delegate administrative privileges without having to disclose that all important root password. This means that administrative tasks can be passed to directors and managers without introducing any new security risks. PowerBroker also manages privileges and access to third-party applications and accounts (e.g. database, CRM, and ERP), including generic accounts.

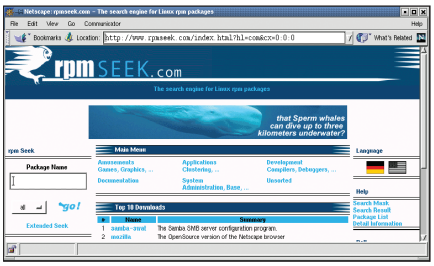
In addition, PowerBroker extends the limited logging capabilities of traditional UNIX systems by providing an indelible audit trail of all accepted and rejected user requests and session I/O to ensure a secure environment as well as user accountability.

http://www.symark.com/

Finding RPMs made easy

Rpmseek.com is looking to become the de facto standard for people searching for that elusive rpm.

This new Linux portal offers users a convenient search engine geared just



towards locating those convenient package applications and libraries. Packages can be searched for in a variety of ways, including package name, by file name in an individual package, by keyword or dependency, etc. The bugbear of dependencies is resolved by cross references.

http://www.rpmseek.com

Exchanging MS Exchange

The SCO Volution Messaging Server is a popular e-mail replacement for Microsoft Exchange. Known to be a reliable, easy to use and low cost solution, it provides small-to-medium businesses and replicated sites with secure and robust e-mail and collaboration tools.

A significant feature of the SCO Volution Messaging Server is its compatibility with popular mail clients, including full support for Microsoft Outlook products, other Internet mail clients, and Netscape Navigator and Microsoft Internet Explorer browsers.

To make the transition from legacy Exchange servers as simple as possible, SCO now offers their Insight Connector product, which runs on those machines still required to use Microsoft Windows.

When used in conjunction with SCO's Volution Messaging Server, the user will find they have access to all of the popular Outlook collaboration functions such as calendaring, shared folders, global address books and the meeting room scheduling.

http://www.caldera.com/products/volution/

Trolltech releases Qt 3.1

The new release of the single-source, multiplatform C++ software development toolset sees the introduction of the QMotif integration module.

Developers are now able to insert Qt-based code into existing Motif applications in a simple, step by step action. This therefore allows for a gradual transition path for single platform applications to reach much wider markets by using a variety of different platforms. The multiplatform approach enables IT professionals to spread investments and resources over time.

The benefits of this gradual process are reduced down time, ease of development and reducing the barrier which stalls many projects when trying to move to alternative platforms, This, in turn, translates into time and cost savings. Once your applications are fully migrated to Qt, the flexibility and freedom of platform choice is unrivalled.

"One of the biggest selling points to management was the ability to use the same code base across Linux, Windows and Mac," says Software Engineer Phil Brooks of Olympic Medical. "We ported our basic application to MS Windows in 15 minutes."

"With the QMotif module we are able to migrate the ASTRIX radio planning tool to Qt, without rewriting the entire application," said Senior Software Engineer Trond Hageseter at Teleplan. "Qt has been instrumental in the improvement of ASTRIX."

In addition to this, there are also many improvements made to the integration of development tools for Mac OS X, simplifying the multiplatform development process even further. Improvements include integration with the Mac Appearance Manager, anti-aliased text drawing, user setting and greatly improved OpenGL support. With Qt 3.1, Qt now supports Mac OS X v10.2 – code named Jaguar – the newest version of the Mac OS.

Qt 3.1 also enables users to implement their own Help Browser based upon Qt's own Documentation Help Engine, giving Qt users an up and running framework into which they can insert their own documentation libraries.

Other Qt 3.1 benefits include easier graphical user interface (GUI) design, enhanced documentation assistance, improved multi-threading and hundreds of improvements to the existing class library. ■

http://www.trolltech.com/

SQL power all Pervasive

Pervasive has launched their latest product, P.SQL V8 for Linux. This is a completely reconstructed version of its database management system. The new version offers users a completely re-engineered database architecture, with speed improvements up to 200%, in terms of transactional and relational elements. In addition to this, Pervasive's other unique selling points are little to no maintenance requirements, ease of installation and an affordable price.

Linux continues to be a key platform for Pervasive users because they know that applications running under Linux offer users inherent stability, higher security, very high up-time and availability plus excellent built-in logging capabilities. In some cases, existing Linux users have implemented Pervasive database engines instead of Oracle, because in addition to the huge cost savings, the Pervasive database also offers greater stability.

Two of Pervasive's most well known Linux users are US real estate company Century 21, and the Dutch Ministry of Traffic/Siemens, who are using Pervasive to manage an advanced motorway traffic management system around the city of Amsterdam. ■

http://www.pervasive.com/

SuSE Linux Enterprise Server and IBM DB2

IBM DB2 Version 8 database software is used all over the world with a proven track record in the enterprise market. SuSE is the first Linux distribution to have been validated for use on all of the hardware platforms that DB2 supports. This includes IBM zSeries mainframe computers.

The SuSE Linux Enterprise Server (SLES) has proven itself as a powerful Linux platform for IBM's DB2 Version 8 database software, proven by the SLES latest certification for DB2.

The story of success for SuSE and its enterprise products builds on the work done validating other distributions, including SLES 7, SLES 8 on Intel 32 and 64 bit, and SLES 7 on zSeries (and SLES 8 on zSeries when available). SuSE Linux assures enterprise customers running database workloads in a tested Linux environment. SLES is a proven Enterprise Solution and one of the most secure, affordable and reliable operating systems in the world.

"IBM's DB2 database software is a leader in database scalability, reliability, multimedia extensibility, and Web provisions which are needed for the most demanding e-business applications," said Boris Nalbach, CTO SuSE Linux AG. "This latest validation is proof of the successful co-operation between IBM and SuSE and our determination to deliver Linux-based Enterprise Solutions for the data center."

"IBM is committed to support the efforts of SuSE and UnitedLinux partners to enhance the scalability and reliability of Linux for the enterprise," said Lauren Flaherty, Vice President of Marketing, IBM Data Management Solutions. "The combination of DB2 and SuSE Linux enables enterprise customers easily to deploy both products right out of the box." ■

http://www.suse.de/en/business/products/sles/index.html