

Subscription CD

The CD ROM with your subscription issue contains all the software listed below, saving you hours of searching and downloading time. On this month's subscription CD ROM we start with the latest groupware software to hit the servers. Included, alongside the Kolab server, we have all the files that we mention in the magazine, in the most convenient formats.

Kolab server

The companies Erfrakon, Intevation and Klarälvdalens Datakonsult have been contracted by the German Federal Agency of IT-Security to provide a Free Software groupware solution accessible with Windows running Outlook and GNU/Linux running KDE clients.

These companies carry out, as much as possible, the development in an open manner. Kroupware is the name for the activities done by this group under the contract.

The server component is called Kolab and is based on already mature Free Software components such as Postfix and Cyrus IMAPD.

You can make Outlook talk to the Kolab Server with a Plug-in called InsightConnector from <http://bynari.com>. This is proprietary software and you will need to acquire a license. Demo versions are available.

As the proprietary plug-in already exists and can be used right away, the development group are not expecting to develop a Free Software plug-in for Outlook. On the cost side it is expected that operating a Kolab Server will save significantly more than the cost for the proprietary plug-in licenses.

Kervin L. Pierre has recently announced to work on a Free Software plug-in and the development work can be found at sourceforge.net/projects/otlkcon.

The Kolab server is designed with maximal scalability in mind. This means targeting possible installations with many thousand and maybe up to millions of users. In order to achieve this they have tried very hard to avoid introducing too much complexity.

Scalability techniques employed are:

- make it possible to distribute the Kolab components across multiple servers. E.g. separate the MTA and the IMAPD
- make it possible to cluster functionality in order to gain high performance and high availability. E.g. use several Postfix MTA's and MX records for HA and HP
- Don't put unnecessary processing on the Kolab server but use the clients instead
- Optimize the architecture for I/O
- Allow for distributed clustering
- Use latency hiding techniques.

Amaya

Amaya is a browser/authoring tool that allows you to publish documents on the Web. It is used to demonstrate and test many of the new developments in Web protocols and formats. Given the very fast moving nature of Web technology, Amaya has a central role to play. It is versatile and extensible.

Amaya is a complete web browsing and authoring environment and comes equipped with a "WYSIWYG style" of interface, similar to that of the most popular commercial browsers. With such an interface, users can easily generate HTML and XHTML pages, as well as CSS style sheets, MathML expressions, and SVG drawings (full support of SVG is not yet available, though).

Amaya includes a collaborative annotation application based on Resource Description Framework (RDF), XLink, and XPointer.

Red Hat 8.0 Updates

This month we have included a directory containing all the update files necessary to make your Red Hat 8.0 system more secure with the latest security fixes. It also includes package updated and bug fixes to give your applications the latest features.

Games

For our games selection we have included Vega Strike. This is a 3D OpenGL Action RPG Space Simulator that allows you to options to trade and bounty hunt in a vast universe. You start out the game in a small ship but can trade and work your way to owning a whole fleet. The graphics are stunning and the playing universe is huge.

Vega Strike is a fully functional, commercial quality space simulator under the GPL. You can edit you own missions and code the AI. To explore the region of space around you would take many playing hours so you can use the autopilot feature and F9 and F10 to compress time. Can you face the dangers and decisions that await...



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