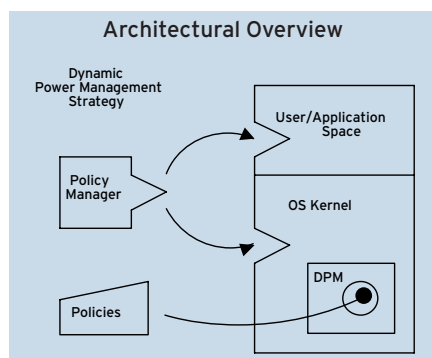# Software News

■ Don't drain that PDA

MontaVista have announced a combination of technologies, which allow up to 50% reduction of the power drain for PDAs and mobile phones.

By bringing together the IBM PowerPC 405LP embedded processor and Monta-Vista's Linux Consumer Electronics Edition a dramatic reduction on the draw of current from a battery can be achieved, estimated to be in the region of 20%. The link between MontaVista and IBM is an ongoing effort to find ways in which to reduce battery consumption in a wide range of mobile products. With batteries remaining as the stumbling block, being heavier, larger and more expensive than the rest of a mobile product, this is only to be applauded.

Dynamic Power Management is not a new field of research, so, it is only with recent processor developments that software, such as CEE, has been able to take full advantage. With much to know and consider about this technology, for those interested, IBM have produced a white paper which gives plenty of detail, including delights such as dynamic voltage and frequency scaling. ■

http://www.research.ibm.com/arl/projects/papers/DPM_V1.1.pdf

Architectural Overview

Dynamic Power Management Strategy

Policy Manager

Policies

User/Application Space

OS Kernel

DPM

■ Gnome 2.2

The Gnome 2.2.0 Desktop and platform is now available for download, offering improved usability, performance, appearance and accessibility support.
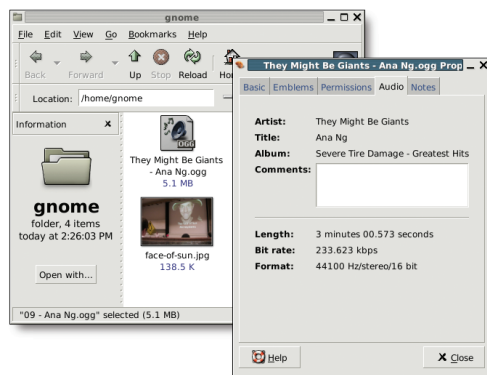
The by-word for the Gnome development team is that "It just works" for everyday users, without excess complexity, while at the same time providing the rich flexibility experienced developers demand. GNOME developers see standards compliance as one of their key features, working closely with groups such as *freedesktop.org*. They also value their users, making a co-ordinated effort to see how people use a desktop. They have drawn up their own 'Human Interface Guidelines,' with the help of a team of professional user interface designers, to try and ensure that the user is best catered for.

Nautilus, the GNOME file manager, has been reworked and now includes some very useful features, like context relevant tabs providing information about specific files, like audio files. Improvements have been made to the various themes available, especially good news to those users who are visually impaired.

Good news on the font front, the GNOME Foundation Board have built up a relationship with Bitstream Inc. and have arranged for them to donate the Vera font family to the Free Software community. These fonts should be available to all users in the very near future.■

http://www.gnome.org/

■ A vision of Version Control

Version control is a critical tool in software development, pandering to every want and desire of your code, your most valuable asset, is not too much too ask, if you have been bitten by the loss of code before. Seapine Software has released its latest version, 1.2, or its version control software, Surround SCM.

Surround SCM runs on Windows, Linux, Solaris and Mac OS X which allows for ease of cross platform development, has built in functionality for branching, allowing for parallel track development and support for remote development teams.

If you have experience of the previous version, you will be pleased to see some of the improvements made. Most usefully, security restrictions can now be applied at the repository level. The administrator can apply these options globally across all branches or individually at each specific branch. Other changes include performance improvements and some bug fixes. ■

http://www.seapine.co.uk/

■ Open Source and eGovernment

Organised specifically to discuss best practices, raise awareness and the share experiences among policy makers, the 'Open Source for National and Local eGovernment Programs in the U.S. and EU (EGovOS) conference will draw participants from local, national and international organizations from the public, private and academic sectors.

The Cafritz Conference Center at The George Washington University in Washington, DC, will be the venue for this important meeting, to be held on 17–19 March.

The conference is broken up into a series of tracks, ranging form eHealth, Legal, Security and Federal Enterprise, etc., which will allow attendees to focus on their field of interest but allow for enough crossover, to make sure that all of the valuable information relayed during the conference is disseminated to all corners of the Open Source community, hopefully even further. ■

http://www.egovos.org/

Red Hat Framework for the Enterprise

To date, Red Hat Network has been been well received with many enterprise subscribers relying on the service for automated software delivery and management, normally tedious and manual process. Additionally, enterprise-class subscribers using Red Hat Network Satellite Server have reaped the benefit of faster, more secure updates while utilising less bandwidth.

With the latest platform development, customers will have reliable, secure systems management for every aspect of their enterprise Linux deployment. This was outlined by Michael Tiemann, CEO of Red Hat, in his keynote speech at LinuxWorld in New York, where the enterprise systems management framework, provides software delivery, monitoring and maintenance and reporting, relieving the system administrators of this chore.

Unlike other enterprise systems management applications, Red Hat Network's monitoring tools require no agent based probes and is a complete system that includes a robust fault management engine. The system was designed from the ground up to address distributed computing environments that are currently being used in a large number of enterprises. Access to these tools is driven from a browser-based environment from anywhere, available at anytime. ■

http://www.redhat.com/europe/

Summer in Edinburgh with UKUUG

Dates have been finalised for this years UKUUG meeting. The 31st July sees a tutorial day, with the 1st–3rd August

being devoted to the conference proper. All of this will take place in George Watson's College in Edinburgh.

There is a Call for Papers for the event, where the UKUUG asks for contributions of talks, to come from all areas of Linux development, with any subject of interest to *nix users and developers being considered. Should you be interested in giving a talk you will need to submit a 250–500 word abstract to the organisers by the 16th March.

The topics presented in recent years have included: ARM Linux, Benchmarking, Clustering, CORBA, Debian Package Management, Enterprise Filesystems, Exim, Flightgear, GNOME, Heartbeat, I20, JFFS, KDE, Mail Servers, Memory Management, Performance Programming, Powertweak, Pymmetry, Samba, Security, SMP, VMware, Zerocopy and Zope. ■

http://www.ukuug.org/events/linux2003/

KDE 3.1

It had to happen eventually, the release of KDE 3.1 has, at last, just made it from the servers to its expectant userbase.

KMail has had its security systems enhanced, so that it now incorporates S/MIME, PGP/MIME and X.509v3 support. KOrganizer can now make use of calendar data from Exchange 2000 servers, so, even if you don't take our advice in this months issue about finding alternatives to Exchange, at least you can make better use of Linux based clients.

Konqueror now has tabbed browsing and will use a new download manager capable of handling multiple files in one session. Keramik, adds a fresh look to KDE, making best use of some of the KDE features that lie under the hood, like the smarter thumbnail generation code.

RPMS and source code tar balls are already freely available as we write and it is likely that all of the major distributions will have updates available by the time you read this. ■

http://promo.kde.org/

Managing RAID

For business applications, or anywhere where cost is less significant than the security of your data, you will want to be running a system that, at least, relies on RAID disk storage. O'Reilly have recently produced "Managing Raid on Linux".

If you need a book which covers everything a system administrators would need to know about putting together a system that can support RAID, then this might be just what's needed.

From the initial introduction to the principles of RAID, the book will bring you to more advanced subjects like Performance related issues and tuning to increase it.

RAID technology is becoming a standard feature of computer systems that support mission-critical services such as file sharing, mail exchange, and web servers. Even non-Linux users will find this book full of valuable material ■

http://www.oreilly.co.uk/