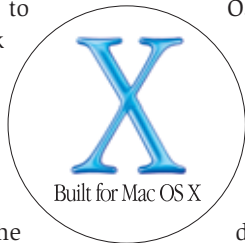


Software News

■ Arkeia now supports Mac OS X

Users of Mac OS X can now call upon the services of Arkeia to help them with their network backup solutions, good news for those that are already taking advantage of this software to meet their other Unix backup needs.

Still in a beta version, the Arkeia client performs backups of all files, including documents and applications, as well as important system files such as the Netinfo database. In addition, users can preserve privilege information and special file system features, like Mac OS resource forks and Finder attributes. The backup solution is



compatible with 10.1 and above Mac OS X and Mac OS X server operating systems.

Additionally, Arkeia is also providing protection for MySQL operating on Mac OS X computers, for both offline and online databases. Arkeia developed this plug-in to enable users to protect information on MySQL's widely-used open source database which is pre-installed on Xserver machines.

Both the Mac OS X client and MySQL plug-in are available for download at the Arkeia web site.

<http://www.arkeia.com/macosex.html>

■ Game Engineering tool

NXN alienbrain Engineer is designed to make software development for media and entertainment projects more efficient. It offers offers special branching, merging and sharing functionality, including pre-configured branch types to facilitate the creation and maintenance of new language or platform versions. NXN alienbrain Engineer provides clients for Windows, Linux and Mac OS (9, X, Jaguar) as well as integration for leading development environments (IDEs), such as Microsoft Visual Studio, .Net and Metrowerks CodeWarrior.

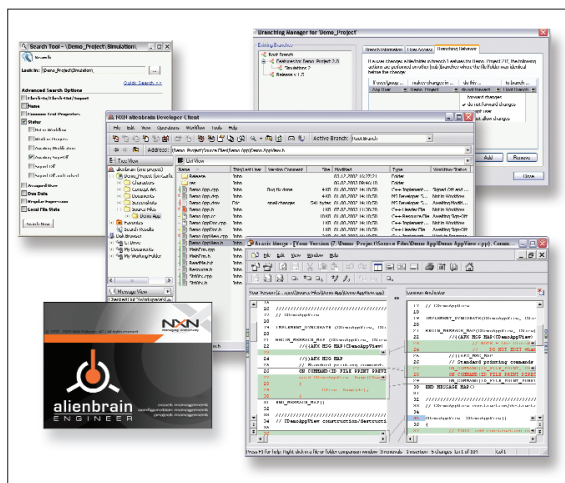
Developers can enjoy scalability, performance and customizability benefits. The system can support millions of file versions and several hundred users per server. Clients and servers have been optimized to ensure that version control does not slow down the developer – no matter how large the project.

Well documented, open APIs will allow users to further customize the system to meet their specific needs. Features like

integrated messaging and file exchange and advanced search facilities, including keywords, regular expression searches and quick search for frequently-used file set go to aid in productivity.

Released at the Game Developers Conference 2003 in San Jose in March, this new system extends the NXN alienbrain product line and is based on the proven version control technology, complimenting other products like VFX, a powerful asset and production management system for CG film and complex visual effects productions.

<http://www.nxn-software.com/>



■ Installation made easy

Autopackage is a new project underway to try and overcome the unfriendly way software is installed on Linux platforms. Currently software is packaged in several different formats, RPMs, .deb files and tarballs, none of which seem to be a complete solution. Systems can become confused when more than one type of packaging system is used, which sometimes is unavoidable as the format in need is just not supported.

Designed to be a distribution-neutral package framework, Autopackage will allow you to install software on many different versions of Linux. It also tries to answer that other major bugbear with software installation in that it automatically verifies and resolves dependencies and it will do this regardless of how previous software was installed. It was the reliance on one type of packaging system that often led to problems and this is precisely what Autopackage tries to answer.

It is still fairly young in development terms. The current version 0.2.1 can build, install, verify and uninstall simple packages, with a basic terminal front end. Version 0.2.5 is the milestone, by which time Autopackage should be in position to automatically resolve the local dependency issues of a system.

<http://autopackage.org/>

■ Trust in Apache

TrustWay Apache is a high security and high performance system that protects Internet transactions on Apache servers, which will allow businesses and government agencies to protect themselves against external attack without a reduction in system performance. Users can integrate encryption hardware onto Apache web servers, enabling them to create secure, high-performance Internet and extranet environments.

Developed by Bull, TrustWay is a hardware solution and is based on the TrustWay Crypto PCI card, an encryption card that can be integrated into existing Apache environments quickly and easily. It manages and stores encryption keys securely, and adheres to the most recent security standards.

<http://www.bull.co.uk/>

■ ELC spec for Linuxworks

ELCPS, the Embedded Linux Consortium Platform Standard draws upon widely used Linux and Unix standards, including Linux Standards Base (LSB) 1.2, IEEE POSIX 1003.1-2001, and the Single UNIX Specification v3. Standardizing the application programming interface (API) layer of embedded Linux applications enables the interoperability of various competing distributions of the Linux operating system and provides an alternative to proprietary embedded solutions for emerging applications such as handheld devices, set-top boxes and Internet connected devices.

The introduction of the ELCPS represents an important milestone in moving the industry towards an open, unified platform for embedded operating systems. Open software solutions have always been available, but there was no uniform standard for embedded Linux. Now with the ELCPS, there is a standard.

BlueCat and LynxOS offer a standards-based embedded Linux platform for initial development and deployment, and a path for real-time use. LynxOS is binary compatible and supports the same standard APIs. From this, manufacturers should be able to benefit from broader choices in compatible software; both Linux and POSIX software applications can run with a broader set of operating systems. Markets such as military and aerospace are also migrating to open standards to facilitate software reuse and interoperability. ■

<http://www.embedded-linux.org/>
<http://www.linuxworks.com>

■ Qtopia for a mobile world

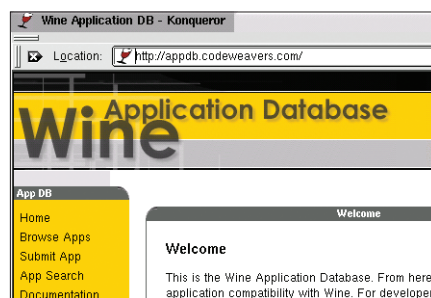
Trolltech, the company behind the Qt libraries that help make the KDE window manager such a success, also produces Qtopia, an embedded Linux application environment that includes a comprehensive development environment and a set of PIM applications.

This makes it an excellent candidate for any new embedded products, especially when you factor in the growing set of third-party applications that are quickly becoming available.

Qtopia fosters hardware choice by minimizing hardware dependencies. It

■ Windows equivalents

When trying to promote Linux as an alternative to Windows, inevitably the question of support for the packages a customer is using will be brought up. New users will want to know what comparable software is available for them on a Linux system. This is a problem because many of those now doing Linux promotion have left the Windows world behind and so are no longer familiar



with much of the software that is being asked about.

Help is at hand from an initiative set up by *linuxshop.ru* who has drawn up a very comprehensive table of comparable software between the two platforms. The list is dynamically updated, so users are encouraged to add their own selections of software.

This list works well in conjunction with the 'Wine Application Database' which lists all of the Windows applications, 1,000s of them, which have been proved to work successfully under Wine emulation. ■

<http://linuxshop.ru/linuxbegin/win-lin-soft-en/>
<http://appdb.codeweavers.com/>

■ No Red Noses

Zeus Web Server software is a fast, scalable, robust and secure server software and can boast about being the world's leading commercial web server. Zeus currently has over 800 blue chip customers and as many as one million sites over six continents.

During Comic Relief's Red Nose Day in 2001, Zeus Web Servers helped process over 100 million hits and at the busiest times over 3000 secure transactions per minute, making the site one of the world's busiest e-commerce sites at the time. Zeus Web Server was chosen again for this year's event to underpin the site at *www.rednoseday.com*.

The website needed to provide for a huge e-commerce event, where people donated online and via interactive television. This installation was custom built, designed to be specifically capable of managing the huge increases in traffic during the evening of the Red Nose Day event in March.

New figures, compiled by Zeus, show the high ongoing costs of keeping web servers secure and the huge difference in the annual cost of applying security patches to the three leading web servers – Microsoft IIS, Apache and Zeus.

Estimates for the year 2002 suggest that it cost Microsoft IIS users around GB£30,000 annually to apply security patches to 10 servers, whereas it cost Apache users around £7,000 and Zeus users around £120, based on figures taken from *http://www.securityfocus.com*. ■

<http://www.zeus.com>

allows user interface innovation because it is based on Qt, which can be and has been used to build a broad array of user interfaces, both on the desktop and in embedded applications. In addition to the early acceptance by leading vendors, Qtopia has been chosen as the application environment for a number of new mobile devices.

The usefulness of Qtopia has now been increased because it is being validated and enabled for use with MontaVista Linux Consumer Electronics Edition development software, allowing

easy integration for particular processors, video chipsets and reference board configurations.

Hundreds of products are already in both production and development using MontaVista Linux, including mobile phones, PDAs, advanced remote controls, high definition televisions, HDTV PVRs, set-top boxes, digital receivers, automotive telematics, musical instruments, gaming machines, karaoke systems, and others. ■

<http://www.trolltech.com/>
<http://www.mvista.com>