

Business News

■ Password control

Passwords remain a critical issue for both UNIX administrators and UNIX support techs charged with ensuring 99.99 percent uptime with diminishing budgets and reduced staff. IT administrators also face the ongoing threat of unauthorized information access not only by external hackers but by internal users.

PowerPassword from Symark secures these inherent weaknesses of multi-vendor UNIX environments by giving administrators full control of UNIX logins and passwords as well as a centralized audit trail of all login activity.

PowerPassword provides security that meets DoD-defined C2-level password policies, including specific character set requirements, longer password lengths, password aging, and password-checking against desired lists such as dictionaries and personal information. It also enables granular login policies, detailing which users may log in to which hosts using which methods as well as when they may log in and from which hosts or IP

addresses they may log in. PowerPassword integrates with SSH Secure Shell to offer a complete solution for secure access across heterogeneous UNIX networks.

PowerPassword 2.8 offers new password policy capabilities to augment the security of UNIX environments. In addition to restricting password length and preventing users from simply adding or changing a single character when resetting a current password, version 2.8 prohibits users from selecting their username as their password, thereby securing one of the most common password weaknesses through which hackers gain unauthorized network access.

PowerPassword 2.8 adds support for Debian GNU, Linux 3.0, HPO-UX 11, and SuSE Linux 7.3 and 8.0. As a result, PowerPassword now supports more than 30 UNIX/Linux flavors, including systems from leading vendors Compaq, Digital, IBM, Red Hat, SGI, Sun, and more. ■

<http://www.symark.com/>

■ Grid developments with SuSE and IBM

IBM encourages businesses to implement Grid computing as a compelling choice for organizations running Linux on IBM eServer zSeries. IBM and partners, SuSE Linux and a number of grid software providers, are announcing a range of products and tools, which will enable the powerful Linux platform to participate in grids.

Grid middleware provider DataSynapse has announced the availability of its LiveCluster 3G software for Linux on the eServer zSeries. LiveCluster is designed to solve compute- and data-intensive bottlenecks and scalability constraints by harnessing the power of servers, clusters and desktops anywhere on a network. LiveCluster allows applications running on zSeries

to participate in the LiveCluster workload prioritization environment.

The porting of DataSynapse's LiveCluster to support Linux for zSeries servers enables the platform to behave as an application server that delivers optimal load balancing, resource efficiency and high availability. Grid software provider Platform Computing



■ Linux training from Trustix

The long term trust that enterprise companies will want to put into their computer systems is invariably linked to the amount of technical knowledge they feel is generally available to them. Which is why training programs with an orientation towards Linux are so important.

Trustix is well known as being a vendor of solutions and tools for security and systems management on Linux. They have also realized the importance of training and have gone into partnership with Prima IT Solutions to provide technical training and certification, which is important to all types of organizations.



Prima IT has been providing one stop IT solution since 1984. The training will cover the entire Trustix Linux Solutions range, including the installation and correct configuration of firewalls and the various implementations of mail server, web server, LAN server and proxy server. ■

<http://www.trustix.com/>

<http://www.prima-it.co.uk/>

announced availability of three of its products for Linux on the zSeries mainframe:

- Platform LSF, which is designed to provide on-demand access to an organization's global compute resources and balances workloads across the entire organization;
- Platform JobScheduler, a software solution that accelerates batch processing by integrating, automating and grid-enabling silos of applications, jobs and process flows across distributed computing clusters;
- Platform MultiCluster, which allows enterprises to create a single, cohesive computing environment with easy-to-manage resource sharing policies across geographies. ■

<http://ibm.com/servers/eserver/zseries/announce/grid/>

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

■ Red Hat / HP partnership

Reducing the points of contact needed to broker a deal reduces overall effort and speeds up the implementation of a product. Those looking to take Linux enterprise solutions can now do so simply and quickly due to a recent partnership.

Red Hat has recently signed an agreement with Hewlett Packard, making them a preferred vendor for delivery of single-point fulfillment and service of the complete Red Hat Enterprise Linux product line on Hewlett Packard Industry Standard hardware.

With this agreement HP becomes a global services provider for the entire Red Hat Enterprise Linux line of certified solutions, which includes Red Hat Enterprise Linux AS, Enterprise Linux ES and Enterprise Linux WS. The new agreement also details further collaboration between the two companies across their respective global services organizations.

As one of the main forces behind Linux server placement, Hewlett Packard will support the Red Hat Enterprise Linux family of solutions on both 32-bit Intel architecture and Itanium platforms. HP is working to integrate Linux solutions with services by offering customers greater flexibility.

Red Hat and Hewlett Packard will also work together to be able to provide single-point-of-contact service-level agreements for their customers. ■

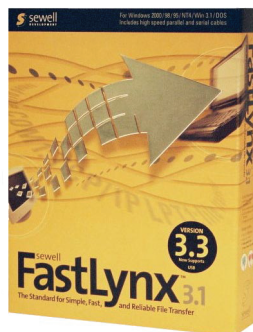
<http://www.europe.redhat.com>

<http://www.hp.com/>

■ FastLynx file transfers

Sewell Development has pioneered new technology that makes it possible to transfer files between Linux and Windows computers over a serial or parallel cable connection. The added Linux feature simplifies the transition from Windows to Linux and allows users who use both systems to synchronize their files.

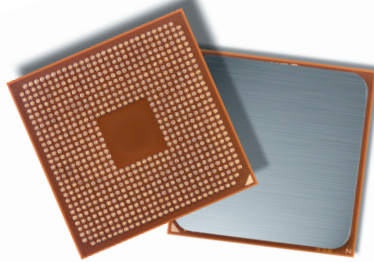
This new feature adds to the robust file transfer capabilities of FastLynx.



■ 64 bit future?

What will the future hold for 64-bit computing? To help prospective buyers see the future according to AMD, you can take some time to see their collection of text, audio and video quotes, articles, and white papers from global thought leaders on 64-bit computing. Industry visionaries, technology and science luminaries, and opinion leaders paint a picture of the 64-bit computing future.

The 64-bit market is dominated by



high-end proprietary systems. This will change dramatically over the remainder of the decade. Industry-standard 64-bit architectures will move down to the low-end of the market and up into the mid-range and high-end segments as well. People who understand this, and who adapt their applications for these industry standard 64-bit boxes, will have the advantage when these systems become available.

Initial contributors to the frequently updated compilation include several editors-in-chief of technology publications, CEOs, technology engineers, international academic leaders, and esteemed industry analysts. ■

<http://www.amd.com/studio64>

■ Rows and columns in Grids

A new study points to organizational politics as a key barrier to commercial acceptance of grid and shared computing. According to this study of global Fortune 2000 firms, organizational politics – not technology – stands in the way of widespread commercial acceptance of Grid computing.

With Grid computing, enterprises can reduce IT costs by collaborating, sharing data and software, and accessing vast amounts of processing power – without making additional IT investments.

Despite the significant benefits from Grid computing, such as cost savings and increased performance, the survey revealed that 89% of respondents feel that internal politics, such as ‘server-hugging’, create significant barriers to widespread Grid adoption.

Commissioned by Platform Computing Inc., the study is the first to investigate the non-technical obstacles to Grid computing, with a view to helping organizations gain internal support by educating people within all levels of an organization about the business benefits of Grid computing.

According to survey respondents, the top non-technical obstacles to Grid computing include:

- Perceived loss of control or access to resources (44%),
- Perceived risks associated with enterprise-wide deployment (40%),
- Perceived loss or reduction of budget (33%).

<http://www.platform.com/barriers/>

FastLynx 3.3 is a software package that transfers files and folders from one computer to another using either a serial, parallel or USB bridge cable. The USB bridge cable allows the user to transfer files up to ten times faster than with a parallel cable.

The program can also transfer files over the Internet or a local area network using TCP/IP.

FastLynx is convenient for those who need to upgrade their computers, trans-

fer files between a laptop and a desktop, or transfer data between home and office.

FastLynx 3.3 advanced scripting capabilities allow multiple file transfer tasks to be automated in a single script, and also allows other programs to build FastLynx scripts on-the-fly.

FastLynx supports transferring files between computers running different Windows operating systems, including XP, 2000, NT 4, ME, 98 and 95. The program distinguishes itself by continuing to support DOS and Windows 3.1. ■

<http://www.sewelld.com/>