

Software News

■ TrollTech helps out Adobe

Adobe has built their Photoshop Album product using the Qt multi-platform C++ development framework, the libraries of which also lie behind the GNOME Linux desktop.

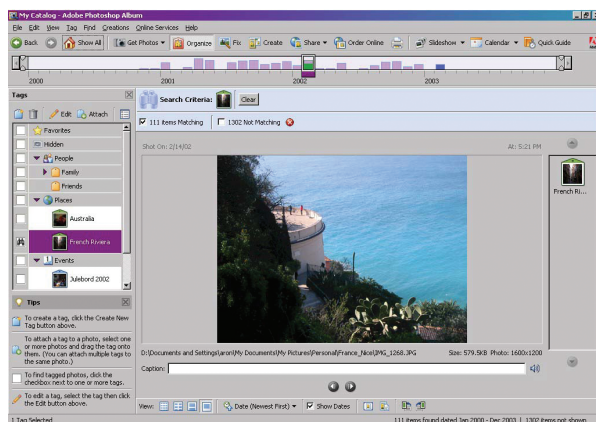
Adobe Photoshop Album helps users find, fix, share and protect their digital photos. The product received the Best of CES award in the photography and imaging category at this year's Consumer Electronics Show in Las Vegas, the world's largest consumer electronics trade fair.

The Qt libraries run on Windows, Linux, Unix and Mac, and have been used to create thousands of commercial and open source applications since 1996. Qt has been extensively used in imaging and visualization, oil and gas exploration, automotive, special effects, aerospace, and telecom industries. Qtopia(TM), which is based on Qt, is the mobile application environment

for the new IBM embedded Linux reference platform, and for four of Sharp's innovative Zaurus PDAs.

The use of the Qt framework by Adobe to build Photoshop Album is further validation that this set of libraries is suitable for world-class development. Maybe we can take hope that Adobe might be persuaded to more seriously investigate the cross-platform development of some of their other products. Maybe, one day, we will see Photoshop on Linux. ■

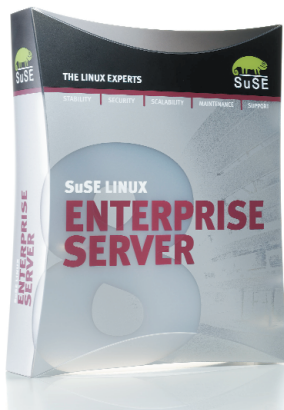
<http://www.trolltech.com/>



■ SuSE ships for Itanium

SuSE has announced the release of their Linux Enterprise Server 8 for Itanium processors. In partnership with IBM Global Services SuSE has won the right to a major installation at the NSF's Distributed Terascale Facility, "TeraGrid".

The deal for SuSE, estimated at several hundred thousand US\$, comes in partnership with IBM - who are deploying clusters of SuSE Linux systems at



the four DTF sites. The servers will be based on current and future Intel Itanium 2 processors. IBM supercomputing software - CSM and GPFS - will handle

cluster and file management tasks. Myricom's Myrinet interconnect will enable interprocessor communication.

The system will have a storage capacity of more than 600 terabytes of data, or the equivalent of 146 million full-length novels. A substantial portion of the grid's storage infrastructure will be enabled by IBM TotalStorage products and technologies.

The TeraGrid system demonstrates the stability, scalability and performance of SuSE Linux Enterprise Server and Itanium 2-based systems for complex implementations. ■

<http://www.suse.co.uk/sles/ipf.html>

■ MontaVista Linux shipping

Helping to maintain the grip that Linux is developing on the embedded market, MontaVista Software is now shipping version 3.0 of their Linux Consumer Electronics Edition software.

Making use of features now found in the more recent 2.4.20 Linux kernel, the new version is enabled to provide Dynamic Power Management and eXecute In Place, or ZIP.

Driver support is now broadened to incorporate peripherals much in demand in the mobile and embedded sector, such as IrDA, SD/MMC cards and USB2. CEE 3.0 includes the fully preemptive MontaVista Linux kernel and real-time scheduling, small footprint targets and flash-based journaling file systems.

The Consumer Electronics Edition targets consumer device-specific processors and the initial release will support TI OMAP1510 and OMAP5910 applications processors. Linux support packages for the IBM PowerPC 405LP and other platforms will be available in the future.

Linux can now be found in the heart of many of today's consumer electronic products, from mobile phones to PDAs, personal video recorders and HDTVs, musical instruments to games machines. ■

<http://www.mvista.com>

■ Arkeia Backup Updates

Updates have been made to the already popular Arkeia Network Backup solution - which now incorporates a Java User Interface for those users who want to have access to the backup server from a different machine.

With Arkeia's centralized supervision the sysadmin is able to monitor mission critical factors like like client system configuration, network cards, TCP buffer size, memory info, etc.

The new update has allowed for Arkeia to support some of the more recent tape technologies like DLT VS-160, LTO-2 and SAIT and can now boast support for more platforms including PowerPC and IA-64 platforms in both client and server guises and Mac OS X as a backed up client. ■

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

■ Enterprise Web Filtering

The Internet has many muddy backwaters and sys admins may be charged with the responsibility of stopping employees from straying or seeking them out. One such solution to this problem, especially geared towards the enterprise market, is the SurfControl Web Filter. Starting out as anti-virus software, developers have also enhanced the product to include web filtering as well.

SurfControl Web Filter VS 2.3 brings increased network security to enterprise customers through the command line support of third-party anti-virus products. Customers can now scan HTTP and FTP traffic for potentially damaging viruses and protect networks against costly outbreaks. By using LDAP user and group information as well as IP address management, this recently released version allows businesses to filter their Internet usage.

SurfControl Web Filter VS offers always-on filtering and proprietary Pass-Through technology to guarantee

round-the-clock coverage and fast performance. Secure remote administration capabilities let administrators create and edit filters globally and monitor server activity from anywhere on the network, with different permission levels for different management users.

The product can be configured to block annoying popup windows and banner ads before they can hijack a browser and clog the network. Some managers might consider it more useful to be able to filter out bandwidth-intensive data streams like Real Audio. ■

<http://www.surfcontrol.com>



■ ISV support from Red Hat

The Red Hat Ready program is a key step in the further establishment of Red Hat Enterprise Linux as a standard platform for enterprise computing.

Customers who choose to deploy Red Hat Ready applications will now have some assurance that the software has been through rigorous testing on the latest versions of Red Hat Enterprise Linux, and that vendors are compliant with Red Hat's stringent guidelines for interoperability.

Oracle recently launched the Oracle Unbreakable Linux Partner Initiative to offer sales, marketing, development, and support resources to partners delivering solutions on Oracle's Unbreakable Linux infrastructure.

Oracle and their partners are key members of the Red Hat ISV ecosystem, and as a benefit Red Hat is offering Oracle partners exclusive, limited time benefits, which include developer training courses and starter kits.

Certification is seen to be the key in persuading enterprise customers of the validity of Linux products being able to replace legacy products. ■

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

■ Open Source onscreen magic

Moving to an Open standard file format returns control of how that data is used back to the owner, something that has recently been seen in word processing documents. Now the film industry is moving to take advantage of OpenEXR, a new open source image file format developed by Industrial Light & Magic (ILM). The file format has been used by ILM in major productions including Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets, Men in Black II, Gangs of New York and Signs.

OpenEXR is a high dynamic-range (HDR) image file format used in computer imaging applications. In January 2003, ILM made the format specification public to encourage other studios in the visual

effects industry to adopt it. The 16-bit, floating-point file format has a greater dynamic range than existing 8- and 10-bit file formats. It also features lossless data compression for film frames.

Windows) that supports industry-specific file formats and workflows.

In contrast to traditional asset management systems that focus primarily on archiving completed assets, NXN alien-

brain VFX helps production teams manage their assets from creation to completion. With its next major release, NXN alienbrain VFX will offer native support for providing thumbnails, viewing and annotating image files in the new OpenEXR format.

Current NXN alienbrain VFX customers – including Pixar Animation Studios and Sony Pictures Imageworks – will receive

a plug-in for OpenEXR files before the summer. ■

<http://www.openexr.org>

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



NXN alienbrain VFX is a terabyte-scalable asset management system optimized for film industry hardware environments (Linux, Mac OS X and