

Software News

■ Astaro Security Linux V4

Launched at the recent InfoSecurity Europe conference in London, Astaro Security Linux V4 can provide its users with a fully-integrated software solution to defend their network against the evils of the outside world. It is a cost-effective way to provide security for the SOHO user and scales well up to enterprise level.

Astaro has taken a hardened version of Linux and tuned it to make best use of the open standard protocols like SSL, PPPoA/PPPoE and IPSec VPN. What you get, once you have gone through the simple installation and configuration routines, is a Firewall system that also offers value-added protection against Email Spam, inappropriate Web access and virus protection, either from Email or Web contamination.

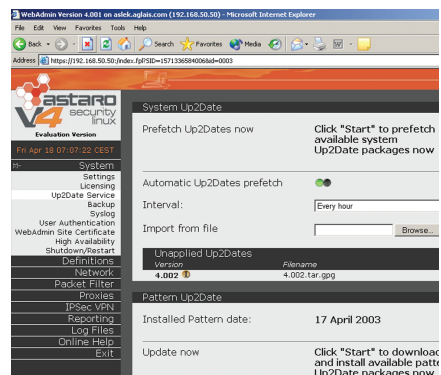
IPSec virtual private networks, or VPNs, will allow you to access remote clients securely, even allowing you to connect remote networks so that they

appear as one larger local network. With this comes high level data encryption including Blowfish and 3DES.

Email virus scanning applies to both inbound and outbound messages and functions for both POP3 and SMTP protocols. As an option, the virus scanner can regularly update its knowledgebase of 'suspicious looking code' from a global array of servers, leaving you little to do in the way of maintenance.

Astaro also calls upon the services of its Up2Date feature which automatically maintains security patches so that your Firewall system is as solid as possible.

Employers are charged with the responsibility of making sure that their employees do not come across 'inappropriate material' while using the Internet. Astaro can also help here with their optional extra of 'Surf Protection' which calls upon the services of daily updated Black and White lists to control access to the Web. Web sites are categorized, so



that access to all porn-related sites, for example, can be denied at the click of a mouse. Exceptions to these bans can be made where necessary, on a per user basis.

Managing the system is very straightforward, all of the administrative processes can be dealt with via a web browser in an intuitive menu-based system. This would also allow for remote management should that be necessary.

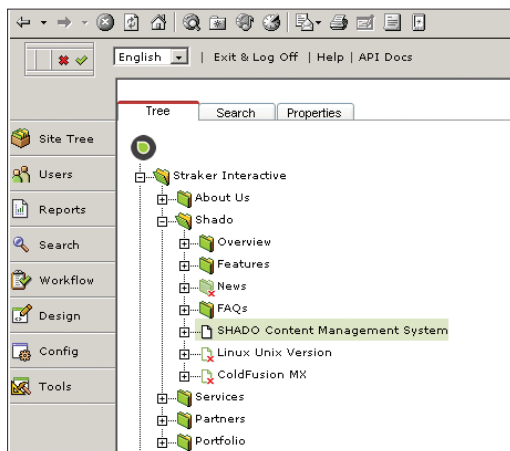
Check the website for a full range of license costs. As a guide, a 10 IP Office Edition license for 1 year will cost 390 Euros, while a 250 IP 3 year contract will cost 3,350 Euros. ■

<http://www.astaro.com>

■ Straker launches CMS in Europe

The aim is to bring webpages to life, to make the data they display sing and dance or, at the very least, pay its way.

Taking the display functionality from ColdFusionMX, ShadoMX mixes in some back-end magic aimed at improving the control webmasters have over their data. This uses applications like Java and MySQL to wave its wand.



Presenting your information on the Web is one thing, having some guarantee that it is being read by your target audience is quite another. With this suite you get a comprehensive reporting package that allows you to monitor more closely those who are viewing your site so that you have the opportunity to tune it better for their return visit.

The minimum system requirements call for a Pentium 400MHz. You will also need to have access to a ColdFusion Server. Apache and MySQL probably came with your distribution, so these other requirements you don't need to worry about.

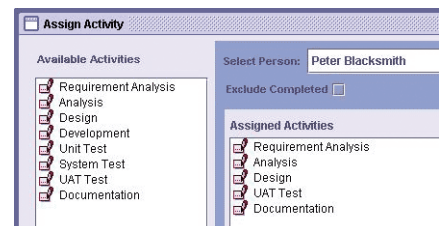
Even though ShadoMX was only released in May, there are European sites already using this software, e.g. the London Metropolitan University. ■

<http://www.straker.co.nz>

<http://www.londonmet.ac.uk/>

■ Web apps with Linux

Development of web-oriented applications could well be sped up with the use of MT Studio. With the help of the supplied wizards you should be able



to develop web-based applications in one day, claims the manufacturer Mart Technology.

This IDE calls upon the functionality of Java J2EE and XML to help you design applications that will be served to clients via a web browser. A Single Developer license will be around £395, or £595 for the 'Plug and Play' option bundled with Sybase's SQL Anywhere. ■

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

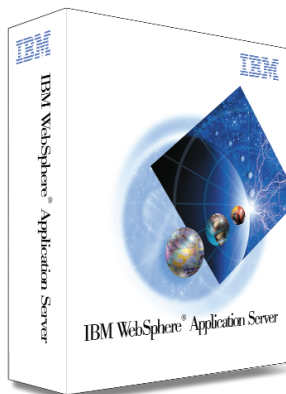
■ WebSphere and embedding Linux

This package will ease and simplify the development and deployment of solutions for embedding Java applications into those devices that are running MontaVista Linux. IBM brought its knowledge and experience with Java to this joint development.

To meet the latest J2ME specifications designed for the wide variety of consumer device solutions based on Java, WebSphere Studio Device Developer incorporates the WebSphere Micro Environment, a certified J2ME runtime environment. Maintaining the need for flexibility, also included in the package is the WebSphere Custom

Environment, a customizable environment which can be configured to match the specific needs of embedded devices, giving developers access to functional test beds in which their working designs can be rigorously proved.

With this joint effort, the MontaVista Linux Professional Edition 3.0 can now help to build, test and support a very broad range of embedded platforms including x86/IA-32, PowerPC, MIPS,



Hitachi SuperH, ARM, and Intel Xscale and StrongARM.

WebSphere Studio Device Developer boasts having complete support for the key features of Java development, compiler optimization with JIT and AOT compilers, native system access with a full JNI implementation, RMI for remote method services in networked applications and OSGi support for post-deployment remote device updates. Extensions also allow for access to databases, Java Beans control and development of Java Real Time. These meld with the

platform dependent functionality that bring ease of development to graphics, flash memory management and serial I/O control.

The WebSphere Studio features will come pre-built into MontaVista Linux from the second quarter of 2003. It can be additionally purchased by users of the Consumer Electronics Edition. ■

<http://www-3.ibm.com/software/>

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

■ LynuxWorks Enhances RTOS tools

SpyKer 2.0 has just been released and now has new features that help developers to visualize the execution of projects being developed for Real-Time embedded platforms. It provides the role of a system trace analyzer enabling developers to gather valuable data about the security and stability of their projects. This in turn will help to reduce development costs since projects can be realized faster.

SpyKer will attract a broad range of users, application programmers, technical support professionals, etc. System managers can even collect trace data describing the execution of an application being developed for Linux.

SpyKer 2.0 also has a powerful capability that allows users to understand relationships between events using histograms. With the histogram capability, both the length of time spent in interrupt

context and the timing information between two event points can be displayed as a histogram of timings over the entire trace. This allows users to easily visualize any event relationship and timing data.

VisualLynux 5.0 is another tool to help in the development of embedded Linux applications. This time it targets those already developing on Microsoft Visual Studio, allowing them to transparently develop for LynxOS and BlueCat embedded Linux system. This new release allows for the support and development of .NET and Visual C++ code.

VisualLynux installs on top of an existing Visual Studio installation. Developers are then given access to all of the commands and standard tools they need to streamline the design and for the creation of applications. ■

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

■ SCO suspends Linux sales

In March, SCO announced that it was filing a billion dollar law suit against IBM for the 'misappropriation of trade secrets', claiming that intellectual property belonging to UNIX, which SCO now owns, can be found in some Linux distributions. If proved true, it would cause major repercussions for the Linux world. The Free nature of Linux would disappear if it were to contain property licensed under less free terms than the GNU license.

On the 14th May, just as we were going to press, SCO warned that Linux is an unauthorized derivative of UNIX and that legal liability for the use of Linux may extend to commercial users. SCO went on to say that until the attendant risks with Linux are better understood and properly resolved, the company will suspend all of its sales of the Linux operating system.

This would include SCO Office Server, an alternative to Microsoft Exchange, which we review in detail in an article this month. Obviously, this position is a very fluid one and who is to say where we will be by the time this magazine reaches your mailbox. We decided to keep the article in the magazine in the hope that it will still be useful and not become obsolete because the package is no longer available to new users. ■

<http://www.sco.com>

<http://www.ibm.com>

■ CodeForge new version

Recently released, CodeForge version 3.0 will give you a multi-platform IDE capable of multi-lingual development. It has an integrated GUI Makefile builder and support for 30+ programming languages.

The new version makes many improvements on its access to breakpoints, facilities like a live view of local and watched variables and the ability to edit variables in a display panel. The debugger now displays Stackframe prototypes and thread states as floating hints to aid development.

Version 3.0 costs from US \$75 for a private version. ■

<http://www.codeforge.com>

