

Software News

■ Desktop Diversions

By building upon the Linux kernel, Athenyx is a new operating system with designs on the multimedia and productivity sector. With the release of Athenyx 2003, which is the first full release from its beta stages, you get an OS with some unique virtualization, of which there are two smaller systems running on Linux and Windows.

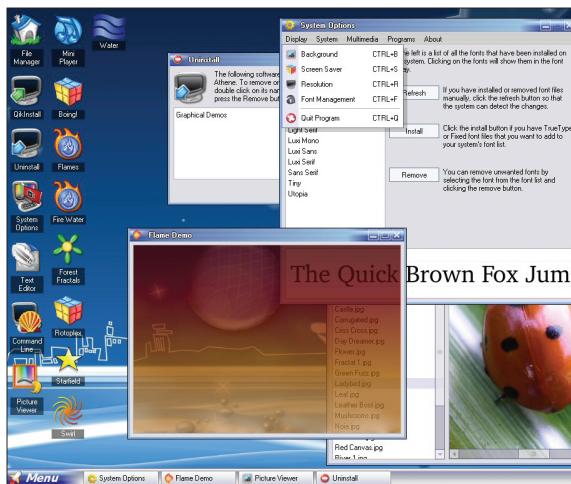
Athene has its own range of applications which can be downloaded from the Rocklyte site, though the choice is a little disappointing at the moment. The 'Athene for Linux' package is available as a 3Mb download. A full version is available on CD, which will give you the advantage of running the system as a Live CD, without the need for any installation on the host system.

The main advantage of running Athenyx is to get access to a graphical system that doesn't rely on XFree. While the graphical server

does excellent work, some believe it to be a little outdated with features that no longer apply. Athynix is built around SNAP graphics, from SciTechSoft, which gives out of the box plug and play support for all modern graphics cards and rock solid stability. It is limited to accelerated 2D graphic support though, leaving XFree ahead on that score, for the moment. ■

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

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



■ LinuxWorld Birmingham in September

Split into streams so that visitors can make maximum use of their time there, the LinuxWorld Conference & Expo 2003 will allow you to find out all you could want to know about the way the Linux world is developing, from the perspective of both the user and the implementor. The streams 'Linux in Business', 'Integration, Co-Existence and Migration Issues and Strategies', 'The Open Software Development Environment' and 'Linux Financial Summit', cover the range of issues important today.

The Small to Medium Enterprise sector is where cost saving makes the most difference, a cost saving that Linux usage can bring about. To cater specifically for this market you will be able to visit the 'Linux SME Experience', sponsored

by Oracle and Business Link. With a particular focus on business solutions, there will be a series of educational sessions focused on just what technology is available and this will include case studies based on real world solutions presented by the sponsor and their rich network of partners.

The whole event will highlight how easy and straightforward solutions can be implemented to bring about the benefits of reliability, flexibility, and that all important cost saving. Because of this it will be of most interest to company decision makers and management executives.

LinuxWorld Conference & Expo 2003 will take place at the Birmingham NEC from 3th to 4th September. ■

www.linuxworld2003.co.uk/

■ Visions of back-ups

Making the most of its modular design philosophy, BakBone has seen strong growth in the sales of their products of backup software, being among the market leaders for 2002. The makers of NetVault focused on Network Data Management Protocol (NDMP) support throughout the first half of 2003, which led to the expansion of its base NDMP support to include application plug-in modules for snapshot-to-tape and snapshot management. BakBone seems to have the ability to realize new innovation and build them into their product line without delay. This is something that Gartner has recognized by describing them as Visionary.

NetVault 7.0 has been released and can now boast some new features including backup Policy Management via easy to create, and so use, templates. User Level Access allows the responsibility of maintaining backups to be shared in a secure fashion. Event Notification is a cornerstone of automated backup, providing the administrator with advanced warning of looming problems, before they become critical.

NetVault is available in WorkGroup, DataCenter and Enterprise editions giving you only the tools you need to meet the tasks you have at hand. ■

<http://wwwbakbone.com/>

■ TextMaker 2002 released

TextMaker 2002 is just out, giving you access to another word processor. It is a small yet fast word processor that retains full compatibility with .doc files.

TextMaker 2002 is available for Windows and Linux, as you would expect. More surprisingly, it is also available for Pocket PCs and Handheld PCs. This will then allow you to make use of the features of the application, whether you are in the office or out and about.

TextMaker is the first step in the SoftMaker Office project, other office applications like spreadsheets are to be added shortly.

To encourage you to download the release version, Softmaker has allowed a 30-day free trial period in 'snagware' format. The snag is saving in Word and RTF formats is disabled. ■

<http://www.softmaker.de/>

■ Helping to help others

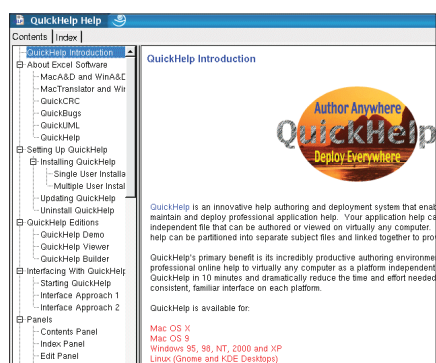
QuickHelp, whose version 11 has just been released, is a development tool for creating and deploying application help to Mac OS 9, Mac OS X, Windows 95 through XP and virtually all Linux distributions. One of the things that gives a software project the feeling of completeness is fully available, context sensitive help and user documentation. HowTos make for a fine start but are by no means the end of the story. QuickHelp would help to bring professional application help to Linux KDE and GNOME desktop projects.

QuickHelp consists of a QuickHelp Builder for authoring help systems and a QuickHelp Viewer for deploying them to end-users. For the end-user, QuickHelp supports a table of contents, an index with automatic search field, word searches across topics, color highlighted topic text with hypertext links, formatted images and context sensitive help from application menus and dialogs. For the developer, the Edit panel is used to add,

edit, delete or move topics within the Contents tree. Formatted text, images and links between topics can be added quickly. Each topic has fields for defining index words and context sensitive identifier strings that link topics to application menus and dialogs.

QuickHelp Linux at \$195 includes Builder and Viewer executables for Linux, a license to freely distribute the QuickHelp Viewer, a printed manual, online help and PDF manual on CD. ■

<http://www.excelsoftware.com>



■ Dealing a blow to desktop dominance

A year ago very few would have given any credence to Linux having any great chance in the desktop market.

SuSE believes that it is possible for Linux to make inroads into this market now and has released SuSE Linux Desktop, which, when combined with their Enterprise Server 8 product, will allow users to share a common code base ranging from workstation to server. This will help to simplify system administration. SuSE's advice to desktop users is to 'Just Change', which you will see in their new SuSE logo, when it is fully launched in August. This is aimed at encouraging users to take a different approach to their desktop systems.

Most of the fare on offer does not make an outstanding difference from the products that you would get with a SuSE Personal boxed set. However, it is the extras over and above this that make for interesting reading.

The biggest requirement for the whole package to work is seen to be compatibility between the currently undisputed desktop leader Microsoft. Therefore, with this in mind, with SuSE desktop

you get a full version of Codeweaver's CrossOver Office 2.0, which will allow you to run any versions of MS Office that you already have a license for, as well as Outlook, Visio 2000 and IBM Lotus Notes.

Should you not have access to such Microsoft products you will also find a copy of Sun's StarOffice 6.0 which is already very good at coping with any files presented to it in a Microsoft file format. The compatibility is further bolstered by SuSE making available AGFA Monotype fonts which are the same, in all but name, to the fonts used by Microsoft Office, for instance. This then guarantees the compatibility in rendering documents regardless of which application they were originally created on.

The other critical aspect that Enterprise customers will look for, is that of the long term support required in the corporate world. The SuSE Linux Desktop gives them a package with 5 years of support, complete with any fixes and new feature upgrades. ■

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

■ UKUUG in Edinburgh

Thursday 31st July to Sunday 3rd August sees the UK Unix User Group's Linux technical conference visiting Edinburgh this year. It is at this conference that you are most likely to meet the cream of the Linux crop, out of those who are in or able to get to the UK at any rate.

On the opening day you will be able to see full day tutorials:

- Inside the Linux Kernel – Stephen Tweedie
- Python for Programmers – John Pinner & David Chan

The Conference programs starts on the Friday and runs over the weekend with over 30 events listed provisionally, broken down into groups like Business and Applications, Embedded Systems, GUI Development and Applications, and Project Management to mention just 4 out of the 11 listed. These will include speakers from IBM, Novell, Red Hat, SuSE, HP, SGI and Gbdirect.

Space only allows us to list a few of the more eye catching talks:

- The Government Gateway and Linux
- Real Time/Embedded C on Linux: An Introduction
- Simple, Robust Software RAID for Linux 2.6, and
- Using GNU/Linux to Deliver Windows XP to the Desktop.

You will need to check the website for full details. ■

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

■ Notes about peace of mind

Arkeia has been safeguarding data since 1999, data which is thought of as priceless. A plug-in is now available for Arkeia v5 which enables the hot backup of Lotus Notes and Domino servers, for versions v5 and v6 operating on Linux, AIX, Windows and Solaris. This plugin compliments the range that includes Oracle and MySQL databases, with PostgreSQL and DB2 support built in.

All networks, every type of server, are susceptible to crash or data integrity problems, not to mention outright physical disasters. The Arkeia plug-in provides peace of mind about the security of your data and can complement Arkeia Disaster Recovery module. ■

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