

Business News

■ HP Aims for the Desktop

HP has decided to tackle the need and market for Linux on the desktop. In doing so it has launched a new mini tower system aimed at the small and medium business (SMB) market. The HP Compaq Business desktop d220 Micro tower has now a choice of either the usual MS Windows or Mandrake 9.1 as its shipped operating system.

The new worldwide deal with MandrakeSoft has resulted in HP agreeing to

offer a range of desktop systems with Mandrake's version of Linux.

The range offered by HP starts with the d220 which has a 2.4GHz processor and is \$52 cheaper than the MS Windows version and will extend to the ultra slim d530 desktop model with 3.2GHz and hyper threading technology. ■

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

<http://www.hp.com/hpinfo/newsroom/press/2003/030702a.html>



■ Red Hat Supports Itanium 2

Red Hat has announced that their new versions of Enterprise Linux AS and Enterprise Linux WS now support the Intel Itanium 2 processor.

The latest Red Hat version which was released in May 2003, has had the new processor support added to provide performance scaling benefits. By using a standards-based platform for computer-intensive business applications, Red Hat hopes to capture more of the Enterprise server market for data centers and any mission-critical departments.

Intel and Red Hat have worked closely to optimize the Advanced server and WorkStation versions of Red Hat Linux

to take into consideration the benefits of scaling and performance that the Itanium 2 processor, built on the Madison family, offers.

Intel is openly delighted to have satisfied Red Hat's rigorous testing and validation and has already begun shipping the new servers. HP was first to ship the new Itanium 2-based servers with Red Hat Enterprise Linux.

The Advanced Server Premium Edition sells for US \$2,499 and includes High Availability Clustering and IP Load Balancing to give more performance and availability for network infrastructures. ■

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

■ OpenPDA Launched

The OpenPDA Platform is a fusion of community and commercial software into a standardized, predictable and commercially-viable mobile computing platform supported by world-class development tools, integration services, and a certification process. OpenPDA brings together a wide variety of components from respected vendors and available applications for Linux and Java, along with the assurance that a solid partnership stands behind all products and services.

The OpenPDA platform reduces time-to-market for the device manufacturer by providing a configurable and tested integration of embedded Linux, Java, GUI framework and browser. All components are optimized for small footprint devices and each offers full-featured functionality and excellent performance. With support for a wide variety of boards and native Linux and Java applications, developers can now develop with pre-tested, pre-integrated, and flexible components from one source, saving the time and resources required to assemble these components individually. ■

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

■ Employee Workplace Portal

IBM's new Integrated Platform Express for Employee Workplace, a new Linux-based server portal solution, is aimed at increasing the productivity of mid-size companies. Organizations will improve employee effectiveness by allowing them to access, communicate, customize and manage all their business information and collaborative workplace applications, all via a single Web browser.

It uses an eServer xSeries 255 server and a WebSphere Portal Express to enable customers to reduce costs and enhance workplace efficiency by affording them the opportunity to consolidate business management tools such as document processing, e-mail, calendaring, and instant messaging onto a single portal. With this, employees have a unified desktop upon which critical business applications and information can be presented in a simple, easy-to-use, and customizable interface. ■

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

■ SuSE Monitors US Nuclear Stockpiles

Cray Inc. has chosen to use SuSE to drive key aspects of the U.S. Department of Energy's new massively parallel processing (MPP) supercomputer called Red Storm at Sandia National Laboratories, California, which, when completed, will be the fastest supercomputer in the US.

Red Storm is expected to become operational in late 2004 and will use AMD Opteron processors featuring HyperTransport technology in conjunction

with Red Storm's high-bandwidth, low-latency internal switching architecture. Red Storm will be used for computer simulations of the U.S. nuclear stockpile and other applications.

Cray will be using SuSE Linux Enterprise Server for AMD64 technology with SuSE providing developer support. ■

<http://www.sandia.gov/news-center/news-releases/2002/comp-soft-math/redstorm.html>

■ Rackspace Racks'em up with Red Hat

Joining forces with Red Hat, Rackspace is now able to offer its customers a fail-safe environment from which they can run enterprise-class operations. They are the first to offer such a managed hosting solution.

Forming this partnership will allow ease of adoption of Red Hat Enterprise Linux for customers seeking a hosted

environment. Enterprises that know they have a problem that would be easy to solve in an open source arena but have no experience or knowledge of how to proceed further to reach this goal will be able to make the maximum from this offer. ■

<http://www.rackspace.co.uk/>
<http://www.redhat.co.uk/>

■ SmoothWall Corporate Server 3.0

Security is always an issue, firewall security more so. So it is good to see the new version of SmoothWall Corporate Server v3.0 released. This new version has some 50 new features and enhancements allowing it to keep a check on all of the security risks that have been developed.

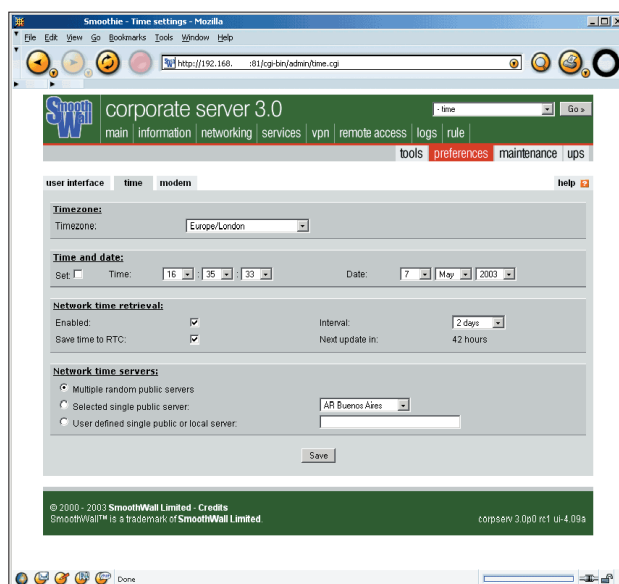
Staying close with the tradition it has built up, version 3.0 calls on its modular design to help put its users in control of their security and, with the the help of add-on modules, the budget and reach that their security system can cope with. Such modules include VPNs and web content filtering. Enhanced reporting allows you to keep an eye out for suspicious activity.

Control is by GUI, from any web browser and allows for the configuration or monitoring of the firewall or any of the add-ons implemented. Its simplicity to install, sometimes taking as little as 10

minutes for the simplest of systems belies the fact that it is a feature rich alternative, offered at a fraction of the price of hardware products that do the same job.

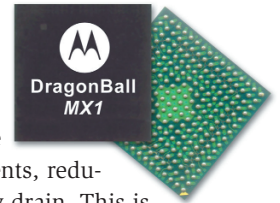
It is suitable for a broad range of customers and supports systems connecting to the Internet via Ethernet routers or cable modems, dial up modems and even USB ADSL. ■

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



■ Motorola i.MX for Linux

No longer is speed the primary issue with processors, especially those that are used in the embedded sector. Now the concerns are for power consumption and heat dissipation. The Motorola i.MX processor range uses a technique called 'Smart Speed' to provide the best performance for the least power. Based on ARM core technology, the i.MX processors offer a high degree of on-chip integration with features such as multi-media extensions, allowing wireless devices to be made with fewer components, reducing cost and battery drain. This is the next incarnation of the DragonBall processor range.



MontaVista has added the Motorola i.MX processors to its list of supported CPUs. It supports a range of enhanced interactive features in advanced consumer electronics by offering high performance, real-time capability and service reliability that consumers expect.

Support for the i.MX, as well as the MXL processor with its media extensions, will feature in MontaVista Linux Professional Edition 3.0 during the 3rd quarter of 2003. Subscription customers will get the MontaVista kernel, utilities and development tool, along with access to shared knowledge resources. ■

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

■ LinuxWorld postponed

The LinuxWorld Conference & Expo that was to take place in Birmingham in September has been postponed until next year. A new date has not yet been fixed but initial proposals suggest that it might be held in February 2004.

Such a date would compliment the already established Linux Expo which is still to be held in London on the 8th-9th October 2003.

At one point there was the prospect of 3 expos being held in the UK within 4 months of each other. Such a concentration of effort and finance would have put a great strain on the resources of some of the Linux companies. ■

<http://www.linuxworld2003.co.uk/>

■ Sun Pushing Prices Back

Sun is obviously committed to Open Standards, this can be seen from their efforts with StarOffice and with kernel development. They know that through the deployment of Open Source code their customers can make maximum capital out of the systems they buy.

When times are tight, options are what attract potential sales, not being corralled into groups, being made to buy 'solutions' that have been designed for that sector, whatever it may be. Restraining this free will is frustrating for customers, especially for those who fall at the lower end of such a sales sector.

Then there is the potential for lost sales from that group who inhabit the top end of their sales sector. They could be very tempted to spend just a little more to take advantage of their current situation, but not if the next tier is a quantum leap above the one they have been classified for.

So it is flexibility that is the key to being able to provide services and packages to customers who have such a broad

range of needs, something that Sun feels it has a good grip on.

Because of their broad range of hardware platforms, along with the range of operating systems, they have many variables with which to play with, to develop systems that fit the needs of their customers. Total Cost of Acquisition and the Total Cost of Ownership can be balanced to suit a solution deployment.

Sun now offers servers from £1k up, with modular systems that will allow customers to start small and to build on to wherever their business takes them. ■

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

■ Neoware Acquires Pericom

Neoware has bought Pericom Software for US \$9.8 million in cash.

Pericom Software markets a broad range of host access products that enable global enterprises to provide employees, vendors and customers the ability to run applications on mainframes, midrange, UNIX and Linux systems and is the leading supplier of terminal emulation software to the thin client appliance market. The acquisition of Pericom Software broadens Neoware's software product offerings by providing its customers with desktop connectivity software for PC and mobile platforms, as well as for thin clients. The new operation is expected to be profitable immediately.

The Neoware software products will be marketed under the existing teemtalk, teemX and teemworld brand names. ■

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

■ AMD 8-Way Way Ahead

AMD Opteron processors now offer customers long-term solutions for their computer needs with the recent release of the 800 series, which paves the way for 4-way or 8-way servers. This allows customers with legacy 32-bit code to run with those systems while they can buy hardware that they can make full use of at some future point in time.

This is made more impressive with the release of new AMD Core Math Library (ACML), which will allow the High Performance Computing community to start developing scalable applications. ACML is composed of highly-optimized numeric functions for mathematical, engineering, scientific, and financial applications. The library, initially available with FORTRAN, will support 32-bit and 64-bit Linux as well. ■

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

■ Slow Down on Patents

UK Labour Member of the European Parliament (MEP) of Manchester, Arlene McCarthy has had her request to bring forward the date of the vote on Software Patents rejected. Initially scheduled for a September 1st vote, McCarthy and supporters tried to bring forward the vote to 30th June, just ten days after the request for change and more importantly just twelve days after publication of a highly controversial report. EU MEPs complained that they would be unable to react within the revised time frame.

Within the socialist group, a large opposition group gathered around Michel Rocard (FR), Luis Berenguer (ES), Evelyn Gebhardt (DE), Olga Zrihen (BE) and other MEPs who had played a prominent role in resisting software patentability.

Many software professionals have been contacting their MEPs in recent days. A letter by Tim Jackson, operations manager for Internet Assist Ltd in Chelmsford, UK, reflects the mood:

"Almost all involved in software in Europe, bar a select few large corporations, and law firms who make money from litigation and legal complexities, are opposed to software patenting. There is a huge groundswell of opinion amongst the real software engineers (who understand the complex process and history of software development) which favors strong and unambiguous prohibition of patents on software.

Copyright is the right tool to protect software, not patents. By using grossly misleading and emotive language such as "giving software innovators the protection they deserve" the proponents are trying to give the appearance that software developers and businesses are crying out for "protection" by patents, when quite the opposite is true – we (and society at large) actually want and need protection from software patents!"

The groundswell of public sentiment, together with a concerted lobbying effort by a group of 2000 software companies co-ordinated by FFII/EuroLinux, has undoubtedly helped to raise awareness among MEPs. ■

<http://swpat.ffii.org/news/03/plen0626/index.en.html>