Business News

Coffee-time for Sun and SuSE

To broaden the reach of Java technology and SuSE Linux, Sun Microsystems, Inc. and SuSE announced a global alliance.

As a result of this alliance, SuSE Linux Enterprise Server 8 will now come with Java 2 platform, standard edition (J2SE), and on Sun and selected third-party SuSE certified hardware Java will be supported by Sun.

Sun has been looking for partners in the Linux community to provide expertise to allow wider deployment of the Java Virtual Machine (JVM). By embracing the Java licence, SuSE continues to show an inclusive attitude to a broad range of licenses.

Of course, Sun has already agreed to support Java on other Linux distributions such as Red Hat. The difference here being that SuSE are now source licensees, which puts them in a stronger position when it comes to fixing bugs etc. ■

http://www.sun.com/smi/Press/sunflash/2003-08/sunflash.20030801.1.html
http://java.sun.com/j2se/

Novell embraces Linux

Novell further strengthens its commitment to Linux as a platform with a future by announcing its intention to port its flagship product GroupWise to Linux both as a client and server.

GroupWise is a groupware suite that handles the expected functions of e-mail, calendaring, instant messaging, contact management, document management and workflow services.

The server component will not enter beta testing until late September while the cross-platform client is currently in testing. GroupWise client and server for Linux are expected in the first half of 2004.
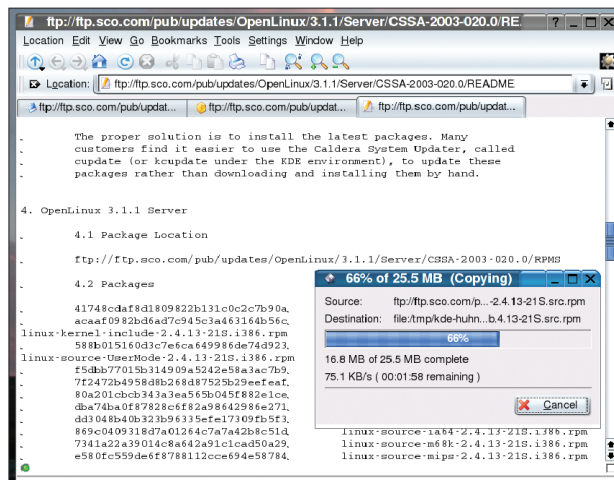
Also since the recent acquisition of Ximian, GroupWise can be expected to fully integrate with Ximian Evolution. ■

http://www.novell.com/news/press/pressroom/
http://www.novell.com/products/groupwise

Mandrake on HP desktops

Good news for HP customers who now have the opportunity to choose Linux to be pre-installed on the new range of HP Compaq Business Desktop d220 Microtowers.

Mandrake states that "it's the first time that an industry leader publicly announces the availability of Linux on a desktop PC." These systems are aimed at small and medium businesses (SMB).

In other news HP announces something of interest to enterprise customers as well, namely that teaming up with BEA to offer application infrastructur based on Java and Linux.

HP's servers and Linux know-how provide a platform for BEA to build on using their expertise in Java optimized for 32 and 64-bit Intel architectures. ■

http://www.mandrakesoft.com/company/press/briefs?n=/mandrakesoft/news/2426
http://www.hp.com/hpinfo/newsroom/press/2003/030702a.html
http://www.bea.com/framework.jsp?CNT=pr01100.htm&FP=/content/news_events/press_releases/2003

Red Hat strikes back

A fighting fund for the defense of GPL software developers has been established by Red Hat, who is pledging one million dollars to start it up. In response to SCO's wide ranging assault the Open Source Now Fund will cover legal exspenses arising from infringement claims brought against companies developing software under the GPL as well as non-profit organizations.

SCO prompted this response by initially suing IBM and now claiming that they will also persue Linux end users and charge 699 dollars for a "get out of jail free card" (per CPU).

Meanwhile both IBM and Red Hat are countersuing SCO. IBM's 45-page suit ranges from allegations of copyright infringement under the GPL, to four claims of patent violation. Red Hat's case seeks a declaratory judgment that the main thrust of SCO's claims are unfounded. Red Hat's million dollars seems to be safe given that SCO doesn't really have a case.

This opinion is reinforced by the fact that SCO, as of the 9th of August were still distributing the Linux kernel 2.4.13 from their ftp site. That being the case, any claims of copyright or trade secret violation seem difficult to justify. ■

http://www.redhat.com/about/presscenter/2003/press_sco.html

You can still download the Linux kernel from *ftp://ftp.sco.com*