

Software News

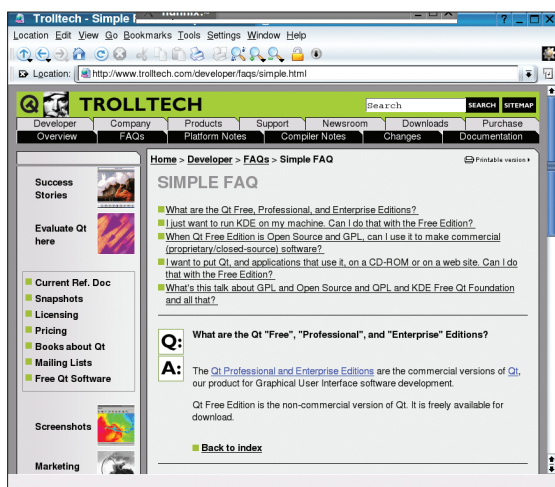
Font-astic new Qt release

Trolltech announces their new release: “We have added a few very important features, such as DB2 drivers and support for Indic writing systems, but Qt 3.2 is mostly about stability and performance.” The new Indic script input and rendering allows all major script-based languages to be supported, including advanced languages such as Hindi and Bengali. Additionally, Qt 3.2 comes with

a new re-written, faster font rendering engine. In Qt Designer you can now find a menu editor that allows direct editing of both menus and menu items. ActiveQt integration has also been improved.

Several new classes have been added to the Qt library, e.g. QSplashScreen (for adding splash screens to applications), QToolBox (provides a column of tabbed widgets) and QThreadStorage (supports thread data storage). The QLineEdit widget offers improved data validation through the addition of input masks. You can download the latest version from the Trolltech homepage. Qt 3.2 comes as a compressed tar-ball. You can expect the distributions to produce binary packages – please check their web sites. ■

<http://www.trolltech.com/>
<http://www.trolltech.com/download/qt/x11.html>
<http://www.trolltech.com/products/qt/index.html>



Let's do the Mambo!

Building your own web sites is like child's play with Mambo Open Source. The web based content management system provides modern features such as forums, galleries, guest books etc. Behind the scenes the work is being done by PHP, MySQL and Apache. You can administer user accounts, articles, news, stories, polls, banners, FAQs and links via a web interface. The layout is generated independently from the content with CSS templates. Several web sites provide templates for download that allow you to dress up your pages.

The new version 4.5 is being described as “a complete re-write of the code base” on the project's web site. This version depends upon PHP 4.1.2 (or above), MySQL 3.23.x (or above) and Apache 1.13.19 (or above). It is required that you have MySQL and XML support built into

your PHP. This update provides many new features. “Mass mail” allows you to contact all users at the same time. A new user type “editor” provides the ability for the administrator to delegate the power to edit some of the content to partially trusted users. Thus an editor can post news, write articles and many other things. Administration of components and modules has been improved by the provision of an “uninstall feature”. Last, but not least, you can present a “under construction” message to your visitors when you're working on the site at the flick of a switch.

The developer team expects a final version to be released in September. Unfortunately, the browser that works best with Mambo is still Internet Explorer, because only with this browser

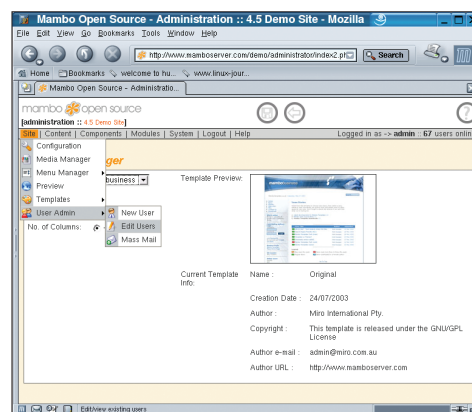
GNOME strides on

July saw the release of the latest stable version (2.2.2) of the popular GNOME desktop. While the development team is busy working on the 2.3.x development series (to be 2.4 when stable), everybody should upgrade to 2.2.2. Notable changes include improvements in libraries, the panel and Nautilus. A complete changelog is available on the [gnomedesktop](http://gnomedesktop.org) homepage.

A feature-frozen release of the development series is ready for testing and bug-hunting. The GNOME Development Series Desktop 2.3.5 “Jebe” requires basic packages, like image libraries, popt and freetype, Xft2 and fontconfig for superior font rendering and configuration (preferably from <http://fontconfig.org/>) and Docbook DTD 4.1.2, Docbook XSL stylesheets and a valid system catalog file for scrollkeeper.

GNOME Hacks presents a new forum for GNOME users and developers. The motto being : “If you've come up with something neat, submit it here so that other people can benefit from your experience.” A simple voting system allows users to express their opinion on the quality of each tip or trick. ■

<http://gnomedesktop.org>
<http://www.gnome.org/start/2.2/>
<http://www.gnome.org/start/2.3/>



can you use the WYSIWYG editor that helps you with creating HTML code. The only other supported browser is Mozilla. The Mambo team states: “We anticipate that the administrator interface will not function correctly in other browsers”. ■

<http://www.mamboserver.com/>
<http://www.mamboportal.com/>

Remote desktops with NX

With NX server and NX clients from the Italian software house NoMachine you can try a fast and secure alternative to remote X-connections. The main goal of the NX project was to develop X compression technology. It has since been extended to include support for VNC and RDP connections (from NX server to WinTS machines). Users are enabled to run unmodified versions of X or Windows desktops on a standard X or Windows display.

With the protocol compression techniques and an integrated set of proxy agents it is possible to run complete remote desktop sessions (even at full screen!) over very slow connections (i.e. a 9.6Kbps mobile phone link). Not only is the network traffic reduced through advanced caching techniques and image compression, the software also eliminates the majority of round-trips. On slow links round-trips are what contribute to the bulk of the delay experienced by the user.

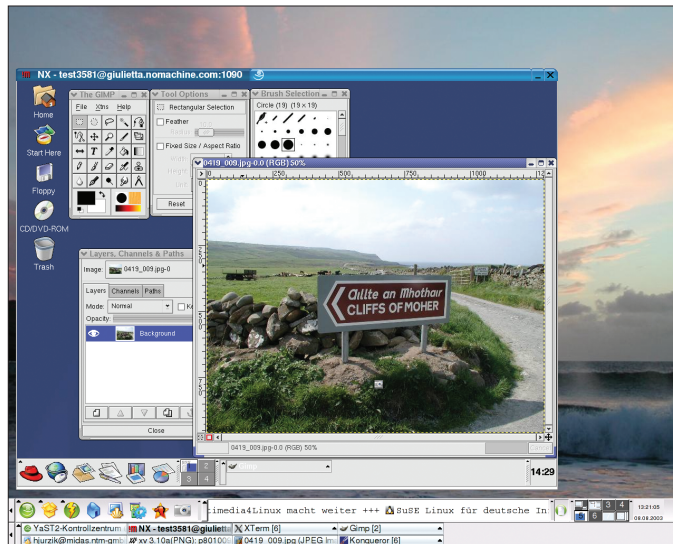
You can download clients (the current version is 1.2.2) for various Linux distributions, Windows 9x/NT/2000/XP, Apple OS-X, Solaris, HP-UX, SCO UnixWare, IBM AIX and embedded devices like the HP/Compaq iPAQ and the Sharp Zaurus, with more platforms expected to be supported in the near future.

While the clients are freely available on the NX homepage you have to pay for

the server license. That's a per-server license and servers are claimed to support up to 100 concurrent sessions. For testing you can download an evaluation version of the server from the NoMachine homepage or connect with your client to the NoMachine test server, which is in Italy.

Unfortunately, the server and client are distributed under a closed license, but the core libraries (e.g. the X protocol compression or the modified X11 transport libraries) are released under the GNU/GPL. The NoMachine team hopes that Open Source developers take this code and create their own versions of the client and server in the form of an OpenNX project. The Italians claim on their website: "NoMachine's aim is to create an open marketplace where companies and individuals develop on top of the same standards to build the network computing of tomorrow."

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



Get to grips with Boa Constructor

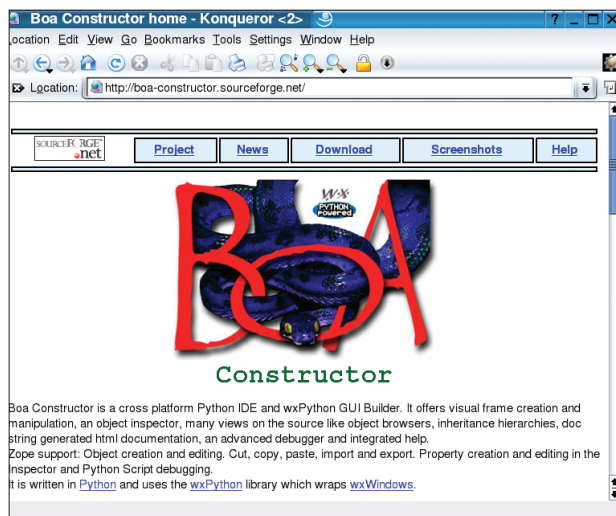
Boa Constructor is a portable Integrated Development Environment (IDE) for Python, which runs on Linux, Windows and soon to be available on Mac OSX. It's written in Python/wxPython and provides code editing and debugging support. The use of wxPython and Zope support results in a full-featured IDE.

Boa Constructor allows you to gain a broader perspective over your code by providing you with many views on the source like object browsers, inheritance hierarchies, doc string generated html documentation, an advanced debugger and integrated help.

An installation of wxPython 2.3.2 or

higher and Python 2.1 or higher is required. The project is hosted by SourceForge, which made it project of the month in August. Version 0.2.0 can be downloaded from the project homepage.

<http://boa-constructor.sourceforge.net/>



KDE Maintenance Release

KDE 3.1.3, a maintenance release for the third KDE-generation, is available for download. Numerous problems, which were reported using the KDE bug tracking system, have been corrected.

Binary packages are available for the following distributions: SuSE, Red Hat, Debian 'woody', FreeBSD and Conectiva Linux. Additional binary packages might become available and can be found on the download page along with detailed instructions on how to install them on your distribution.

You can also download the source code and build it yourself using the Konstruct tool (<http://konsole.kde.org/konstruct/>). This is a build system, which helps installing and building source tarballs by checking their integrity, decompressing the archives, applying patches, setting configuration options and subsequently building and installing the resulting binaries.

<http://download.kde.org/stable/3.1.3/>