In the Footsteps of Knoppix

Software

NEWS

Not only for testing new hardware or demonstrating Linux without the need to install a complete Linux system first, but also a nice way to carry your favorite OS in your pocket – Knoppix has always Version 0.5-3 was released in August and uses Gnome 2.2 as its desktop environment. You can download ISO images from the project's website. As in Knoppix, it's based on



GNOPPIX takes another step towards a stable release

been a reliable choice, assuming you like KDE. GNOPPIX works on the same basis: It is a Linux live CD, but includes a complete GNOME desktop environment instead of KDE. Debian GNU/Linux 3.0 (woody). The GNOPPIX team has added some unofficial packages including a more recent XFree version. For future releases it is planned to switch to Gnome 2.4 and create a new GNOP-PIX look. The developers

The developers have announced a "design contest" on their site – if you have ideas for a *gdm* greeting theme, a

Gnome splash screen or icons and background pictures, get in touch.

http://www.gnoppix.org/ http://savannah.nongnu.org/projects/ gnoppix

Opie Version 1.0 Released

Initially a fork of Trolltech's Qtopia, the Open Palmtop Integrated Environment announced its first stable release (1.0) in August. The free and open graphical user interface for Linux based embedded devices and PDAs features

a personal information framework and several applications, such as extended multimedia capabilities, and document model, networking



and communication tools – it's everything you need to run a PDA.

While it should run on any Linux based platform, pre-compiled packages and installable images are available for iPAQ, Sharp Zaurus, and SimPad. It has also been tested on Psion5, Ramses, Tuxphone and Simputer.

Opie provides a comprehensive suite of functions and programs, including: Xine based opieplayer2 (with streaming audio and video) and an image viewer, Palmdoc compatible ebook reader, shell access to the operating system, network based installation and setup management, a PDF reader based on xpdf, an IRC client, Konqueror web browser and full network setup support through plugins (WLAN, Ethernet, PPP, IrDA).

http://opie.handhelds.org/ http://www.kde.de/news/news.php#450

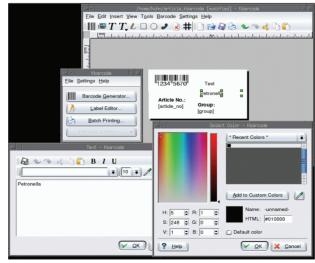
Perfectly Labelled – KBarcode

Printing business cards, complex labels with several barcodes and descriptions has now become a lot easier with KDE's KBarcode. There is an easy to use WYSI-WYG ("what you see is what you get") editor, predesigned labels and tools to work with databases. There are also functions that allow you to integrate KBarcode with your accounting system so, for example, labels could be produced directly from delivery notes. The program supports common barcode formats such as EAN, UPC, CODE39 and ISBN.

The latest release (1.5.0) is the first in the development series 1.5.x – the next stable version

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x labelswill be 1.6. It requires KDE 3.x, an instal-
articlearticlelation of GNU Barcode and, if you want



Designer Labels

the program to work with databases, the Qt SQL tools and a database such as

MySQL or ProgreSQL. This development version includes many new features, such as support for TBarcode, which renders barcodes in the background.

TBarcode also provides support for almost every important 1D and 2D barcode format.

KBarcode uses an on-diskcache to optimize the generation of barcodes, resulting in much better performance.

KBarcode is published under the GNU/GPL and can be downloaded from the project's website.

http://www.kbarcode.net

The Right Choice – apt-iselect

Debian's APT (Advanced Packaging Tool) is a front end to the package manager dpkg and helps you obtain and install software. Included in the APT tools are programs like *apt-get* and *aptcache*. With *apt-cache* you can search

the package database. Unfortunately, it is not particularly intuitive or userfriendly.

If, for example, the search term is not precise enough, you get too many matches, so that the results scroll out of the window and make it really difficult to choose the package you wanted. Tools like *aptitude* or *gnomeapt* can help with this, but the *apt-iselect* script's interface is much faster.

The apt-iselect script was

written by Dobrica Pavlinusic and is available from his homepage. Simply download it from the website, put

it in */usr/bin/* (where the other APT tools are) or */usr/local/bin/* and make it executable using *chmod* +x *apt-iselect*.

The script needs *iSelect*, but you don't need to worry about that, because

<pre>Back to search results Package: linuxcookbook Priority: optional Section: doc Installed-Size: 5148 Maintainer: Michael Janssen <jamuraa@debian.org> Architecture: all Version: 1.2-1 Filename: pool/main/l/linuxcookbook/linuxcookbook_1.2-1_all.deb Size: 268650 MD5sum: d4b49cb/23454bd347af6b9c2f87cf08 Description: Tips and techniques to help the busy modern computer user This is an online version of a book written by Michael Stutz and published by No Starch Press. This book covers geting started with linux for the average user. ranging in topics from how to move files to sound to networking. Back to search results </jamuraa@debian.org></pre>	X huhnix:~ <5> 🧕 💷	. 🗆 X
Priority: optional Section: doc Installed-Size: 5148 Maintainer: Michael Janssen <jamuraa@debian.org> Architecture: all Yersion: 1.2-1 Filename: pool/main/l/linuxcookbook/linuxcookbook_1.2-1_all.deb Size: 2680650 MD5sum: d4b49cb723454bd347af6b9c2f87cf08 Description: Tips and techniques to help the busy modern computer user This is an online version of a book written by Michael Stutz and published by No Starch Press. This book covers getting started with linux for the average user. ranging in topics from how to move files to sound to networking. Back to search results</jamuraa@debian.org>	Back to search results	
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Package pick 'n mix - apt-iselect

if it's missing, the script will install it for you when you first run *aptiselect*. A nice feature of *apt-iselect* is that it checks if you're trying to install a package as "normal" user, and uses the sudo command to become root, if you've forgotten to. So you can just start the script as a "normal" user and sudo will prompt

you for your password. You'll need to make sure that your username is in the */etc/sudoers* file first.

The script runs on the console or xterm, as a frontend to *apt-cache*. To search for a package run *apt-iselect "searchterm"* ... which gives you the results that *aptcache search* would have done, but in addition lets you scroll around them, look at the package descriptions, select a package and even install it using *apt-get*.

http://www.rot13.org/~dpavlin/ apt-iselect.html http://www.engelschall.com/sw/iselect

KOffice Drinking at the OASIS

During the Kastle event in Nové Hrady this summer, a lot of KOffice developers met up to discuss their future plans for KOffice. Version 1.3 is scheduled for release at the end of September and is expected to be full of new features.

One important decision, which will probably be greatly appreciated by KOffice fans, is the switch to the OASIS file format. OASIS is the format which is used by OpenOffice.org. All major KOffice applications will switch to this format resulting in the following advantages: Files can easily be shared with OOo users and KOffice will be able to drop its own import filters while the export filters will still be used as a compatibility layer for exchanging documents with older versions of KOffice. This also means that the KOffice team can actively participate in the definition of the file format standard, especially for applications like Kexi and Kugar, which are currently missing in Open Office.org.

Another decision being made at the same time is to switch to a new naming scheme for the MIME types to fall in line with those used in the rest of KDE. By dropping the KOffice-specific file extensions it will be possible to exchange files created by KOffice with OpenOffice.org users, even if they run Windows. After the 1.3 release, the KOffice team intends to clean up libraries such as *kofficecore* and *kofficeui*, which will involve breaking binary compatibility.

Talking about libraries, there will be some more changes in the upcoming KOffice version. Resulting from the move to Qt 4.0, a better rich text engine will be available. The text library *kotext* will be redesigned as a thin wrapper around this engine. Furthermore, it is planned to rewrite the scripting library *koscript* from scratch to provide a new light-weight formula parser.

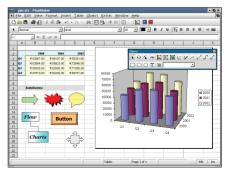
The spellchecking system will be given a complete overhaul resulting in a three layer architecture: backends, a core library and dialogs. Changes to the scripting system will result in the ability for users to do things like create their own wizards, interactive forms or scripts using JavaScript and Qt designer forms. http://dot.kde.org/1061919133/

New Spreadsheet

SoftMaker is finalizing PlanMaker, a fully Excel-compatible spreadsheet for Linux, Windows and Pocket PCs.

PlanMaker, expected to retail for around US\$50 (EUR 50), offers all the features you would expect from a spreadsheet package – and then some, including a presentation-quality charting engine, over 300 calculation functions (including matrix calculations and complex numbers), outlining and data analysis capabilities, goal-seeking, and full roundtrip conversion of all Microsoft Excel files, starting with Excel 5.0 and going up to Excel 2003.

http://www.softmaker.com



PlanMaker in action