

Business News

■ Chinese Debut for Linux Smartphone

Samsung Electronics reports the launch of the SCH-i519 smartphone, which runs embedded Linux. The phone is initially being distributed in China, and supports both, Chinese and English interfaces.

The Samsung SCH-i519 offers several PDA and smartphone features, including sophisticated voice-control capabilities. It's shipping with Voice Signal's Embedded Linux Voice-Activated Phonebook (VAP) software, which lets users launch applications by voice ("open browser"). Additionally, you can automatically voice-activate all the names in the user's phonebook by just saying the name instead of having to "train" the

phone beforehand. Voice recognition is available in English and Chinese.

Behind the scenes the phone is running on MIZI Linux 2.0 by MIZI Research, a Korean software company. MIZI's smartphone operating system offers applications similar to Microsoft's "Windows Mobile" smartphone, including a web browser, media player, world time, remote control (for consumer devices), voice recorder, and even editors for Microsoft Office formats.

The phone has a 240x320 pixel TFT, measures 132x71x15.4 mm and weighs 183 grams. It is based on the same processor as the latest Sharp Zau-

rus (Intel XScale running at 400 MHz), boots from 64MB flash ROM and has 64MB of RAM. The Linux smartphone is presently only available in China and costs around \$ 750.

<http://linuxdevices.com/articles/AT4481058519.html>

http://www.samsung.com.cn/products/mobilephone/cdma/sch_i519.asp

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

<http://www.mizi.com/en/>



■ Free Giraffes and Positive Z

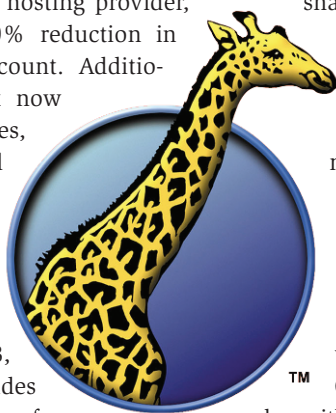
The Positive Internet Company Ltd., a London based web hosting provider, has announced a 50% reduction in the cost of its Z account. Additionally, the Z account now offers improved features, such as an increased space allowance (up from 100MB to 1000 MB), and protection against both spam and viruses.

Founded in 1998, Positive Internet provides web hosting solutions from shared hosting accounts to fully man-

aged servers. Z is the company's only shared (or 'virtual') hosting account and offers full shell and FTP access, no data transfer limits, a massive 300Mb/s backbone and much more.

Not only has the annual rate for Z been slashed from £ 250 (EUR 360/US\$ 460) to £ 125 (EUR 180/US\$ 230); if you sign up for Z, Positive Internet will give you a free, wooden Gerald the Giraffe mascot to play with into the bargain.

<http://www.positive-internet.com>



■ New SGI Linux Server

SGI has released a new midrange Linux server. The Altix 350 ships with between one and sixteen 64-bit Intel Itanium 2 processors and up to 192GB of global shared memory in a single system.

After introducing the Linux server line with the 64-processor Altix 3000, SGI

now offers a solution for customers who want more than just a fast PC, but can't afford a mainframe. With a US list price of \$ 12,199 (£ 6,590/EUR 9,530) for the minimal configuration, and per processor list price of \$ 5,400 (£ 2,920/EUR 4,220) for an average configuration, these systems should appeal to those who need something more than a high-end commodity server, as well as providing the reassurance of knowing that there is room for future growth.

<http://www.sgi.com>

■ Ka-Ching!

IBM has announced a new Linux-based point-of-sale (POS) solution for retailers. The software is based on Suse Linux and delivers a complete operating system and management solution for POS systems. It's designed to work with IBM SurePOS and IBM eServer hardware, as well as IBM middleware.

IBM, who already offers POS solutions based on Red Hat Linux, says: "With IBM providing the support around Suse Linux at the POS, retailers can focus on their core business rather than having to take over management of their POS operating systems." The new software is a turn-key solution designed specifically for retailers that features simplified installation and configuration via four optimized Linux OS images for point-of-sale terminals.

Retailers, already running IBM POS systems, and equipped with compatible IBM terminals, will be able to take advantage of this new software on their existing hardware thus protecting their existing investment. The new POS solution is aimed at retailers who are currently using older DOS operating systems and need to add new applications and services.

<http://www.ibm.com>

<http://www.suse.com>

