

Software News

■ Inspired by the Muse 0.6.3

The new version of the Linux Music Editor Muse is available for download. Muse provides sequencing of both midi and audio and, among other things, also implements support for LADSPA (Linux Audio Developer's Simple Plugin API), Jack and ALSA (Advanced Linux Sound Architecture).

Muse allows the import and export of midfiles, organizes songs in tracks and parts, which can be arranged with the part editor. Editing can be performed in real time (i.e. while playing), while both real-time and step-recording are possible. Users can also configure up to eight midi ports.

The latest version is mainly a bugfix release, but since some bugs were considered relatively

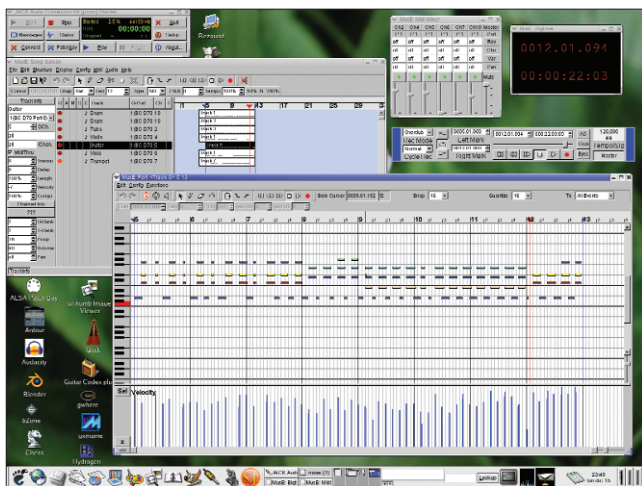
serious by the developers, "all users are encouraged to upgrade". Muse is published under the GPL. The source code can be downloaded from SourceForge.

<http://lmuse.sourceforge.net/download.php>

<http://www.ladspa.org>

<http://jackit.sourceforge.net>

<http://www.alsa-project.org>



■ Happily ever after

In December last year, the KDE Integration Project was launched by Jan Holesovsky. This follows on from Jan's work on KPart Cuckoo, which allows OpenOffice.org to be an embedded viewer capable of displaying OpenOffice.org and Microsoft Office documents in a Konqueror window. His work on the Integration Project is now starting to pay off in the form of the KDE Native Widget Framework (KDE NWF), a development version of which is available for downloading.

The KDE Native Widget Framework is "a way to get the look of the host platform in OpenOffice.org". Instead of real KDE widgets, it uses the QStyle API to draw its widgets the same way KDE/Qt would. The current development version can draw KDE-style push buttons, radio buttons, check boxes, and list boxes.

The new QtGTK library marks another step in the integration process. Until now, it has been impossible to mix Qt and GTK+ in the same application, because Qt and GTK+ rely on different event loops. It was therefore impossible to use dialogs from one toolkit while building the GUI in another. To address this problem, Zack Rusin and Daniel Molkentin wrote QtGTK, which "integrates the Qt event loop in the Glib event loop". It has now become possible to use any KDE technology (i.e. dialogs, DCOP, KDE IO) in any GTK+ application, which will allow easy integration of any GTK+ application with KDE. "Those projects emphasize KDE's ongoing focus to be the integrative

■ Easy Install

People often complain about the Debian Installer, but "Which one?" asks Rick Moen. Rick's new website describes all the known ways of installing a Debian system and rates all the known installers of the current Debian-based distributions including run-from-CD variants, unofficial installer images, installation from a USB memory stick, and many more.

The standard Debian installer was mainly designed to be flexible on "multiple architectures from a range of media with minimal assumptions as to graphical support", as well as being "modular, usable over any and all network transports and other console access mechanisms and resistant to hardware problems".

However, some users would prefer an easier approach to setting up a new Debian system with a "preferably graphical installer that aggressively probe[s] hardware (which they know little about)".

The page so far describes and links more than 70 different ways to install a new Debian GNU/Linux setup and offers useful hints and tips about how to "roll your own".

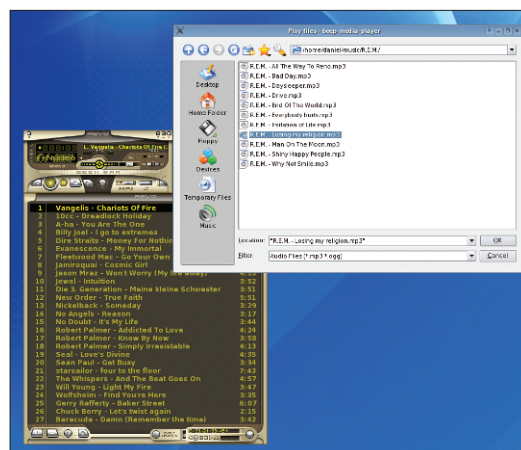
<http://linuxmafia.com/faq/Debian/installers.html>

<http://www.debian.org>

desktop that finally consolidates the situation", says Ralf Nolden, a member of the KDE e.V. executive board.

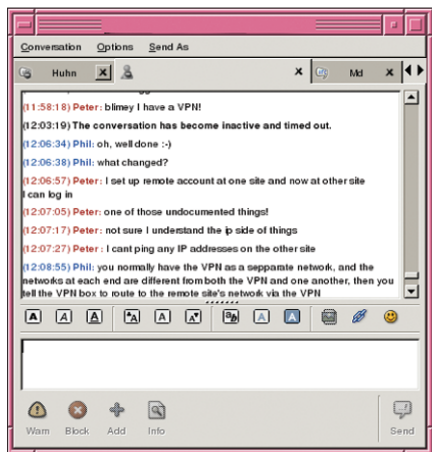
<http://kde.openoffice.org>

<http://developer.kde.org/documentation/tutorials/qtgtk/main.html>



■ Gaim on for Yahoo!

Version 0.75 of the multi-protocol instant messaging client has been released. The developer team announced that this release contains several bug fixes, the most important being that it now works with Yahoo! again.



■ Lindows Calling

LindowsOS 4.5 has been released. The new version of the distribution ships with Session Initiation Protocol (SIP) technology, which allows its users make high-quality free phone calls over the Internet, to anyone with a SIP phone or SIP-enabled computer anywhere in the world.

Although SIP users will only be able to call other phones that use the same technology, which is sure to grow in the coming months, Lindows' CEO Michael Robertson is convinced "there's a real parallel here to MP3. That was about the digitization of music, while this is about digitization of voice calls. The same reverberations that went through the music industry are going to go through the telecom industry."

Other exciting features which can be found in this new version of LindowsOS 4.5 include improved hardware support, such as for laptops, integrated translations of web

Gaim is GTK2-based and compatible with AIM, ICQ, MSN Messenger, Yahoo!, IRC, Jabber, Gadu-Gadu, and Zephyr networks. It's even possible to log in to multiple accounts and networks at the same time. Some of the program's features are away messages, typing notification, and MSN window closing notification. So-called Buddy Pounces notify the user, send a message, play a sound, or run a program when a buddy comes online, is away, or returns from being idle.

Gaim 0.75 features Yahoo! file transfer and chat joining fixes, Mozilla Firebird support and various translation updates. RPMs of the program are available for several Linux distributions, as are a Debian package, Windows binaries, and the source code.

<http://gaim.sourceforge.net>

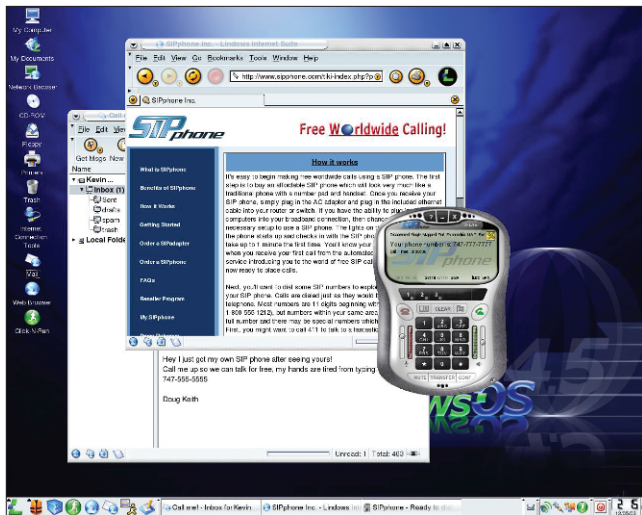
content from or into six different languages, a full office suite and integrated multimedia tutorials that cover everything from simple desktop navigation to setting up a wireless internet connection.

While you can download LindowsOS for \$49.95 or purchase the packaged version for \$59.95, KDE developers can download LindowsOS for free. Michael Robertson thanked the KDE community for "the effort, skillful programming and good organization".

<http://lindows.com>

<http://www.sipphone.com>

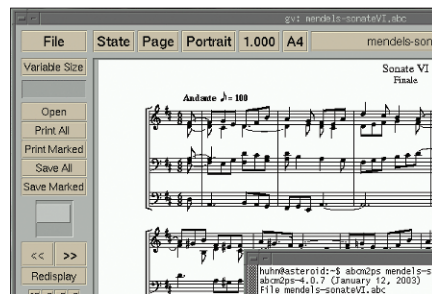
<http://dot.kde.org/1073932908>



■ The ABC of Music

A new development version of abcm2ps has been made available. The command line tool, which converts abc files to PostScript format, is an extension of abc2ps and can handle many voices per staff.

The musical notation language abc was originally designed to notate folk and traditional tunes in ASCII format. Since 1991, when work on abc started, several tools for different platforms have been developed. It's possible to play abc files on a computer using tools like playabc or abcMIDI. There are several programs that allow abc to be rendered into PostScript, and even a program that



creates MusicTeX or MusiXTeX from abc.

abcm2ps by Jean-François Moine was designed specially for music with more than one voice per staff, i.e. organ music. Sources for the last stable version (3.7.17), the development version (4.0.7) and several abc organ pieces can be downloaded from the author's website.

<http://moinejf.free.fr>

■ Mandrake 10.0 Preview

MandrakeSoft has released two Mandrake Linux Cooker snapshots. The new pre-beta-version of the distribution features kernel 2.6.0, KDE 3.2 beta and XFree86 4.4 beta and new versions of Mozilla, Xchat, Gaim and Samba.

Since this is only a pre-beta snapshot, bugs and missing packages are to be expected. Users who want to test the new look of Mandrake 10.0, can report bugs via MandrakeSoft's Bugzilla. The two ISO images are available for download from the worldwide network of Mandrake ftp mirrors.

<http://www.mandrakelinux.com/en/cookersnapshot.php3>

<http://qa.mandrakesoft.com>