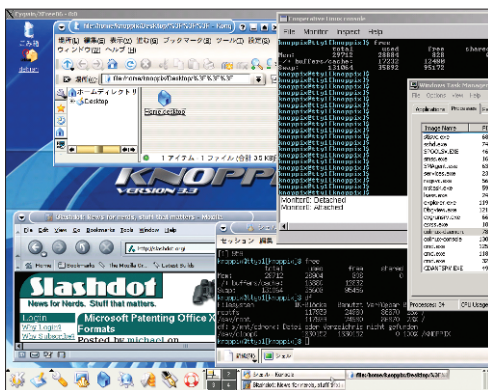


Software News

■ Cooperative Linux

"If Linux runs on every architecture, why should another operating system be in its way?" asks the coLinux team and provides a port of the Linux kernel which allows Linux to run on an unmodified Windows 2000/XP system.

It's the first working, free & open source software method for running Linux on Microsoft Windows natively without hardware emulation. It only requires very minimal changes in the architecture dependent code and causes almost no changes in functionality.



coLinux implements a Linux-specific lightweight VM with I/O virtualization.

coLinux relies upon special driver software on the host operating system to execute the coLinux kernel in a privileged mode. coLinux is given full control of the physical machine's MMU (memory management unit), with the machine being constantly switched between the host OS state and the coLinux kernel state. Since coLinux is able to act just like a native kernel, it achieves almost the same performance and functionality as a stand-alone Linux system on the same machine.

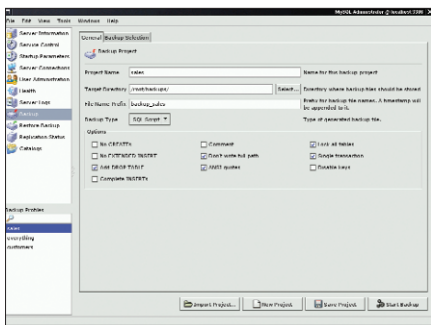
The coLinux team says that with minimal porting efforts it would be possible to run it under Solaris, Linux itself, or any operating system that supports loading kernel drivers. To demonstrate that it works, screenshots of the Japanese Knoppix Edition running on Windows have been published on the project's website.

<http://www.colinux.org/>

■ One Click MySQL

MySQL AB has announced MySQL Administrator, a new open source tool with a graphical user interface designed to provide easy management and monitoring of MySQL database servers.

The new graphical front-end integrates database management and maintenance into a single environment and provides a clear and intuitive graphical user interface. MySQL Administrator enables de-



velopers and DBAs to easily perform all the command line operations visually, including configuring servers, administering users and dynamically monitoring database health. The graphical console of MySQL Administrator will also help with other administrative tasks such as monitoring replication status, backup and restore, and viewing logs.

It will be available for download sometime in April/May. The software will be published under a dual-license business model, which means that it will be provided at no cost under the free software/open source GNU General Public License (GPL) and also under a commercial license aimed at software vendors and other commercial MySQL customers.

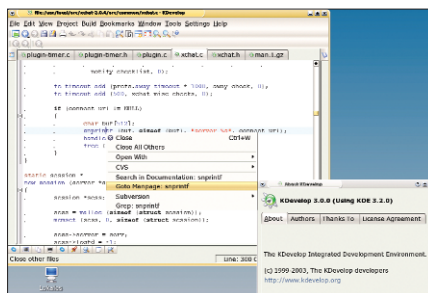
<http://www.mysql.com/admin>

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

■ KDevelop 3.0

Along with the release of KDE 3.2 comes a new version of KDevelop, completely rewritten and supporting more than 15 programming languages, numerous version control systems, debuggers, documentation formats, and build tools.

KDevelop is an integrated development environment (IDE) and suitable for tasks from system programming to RAD development. It is available for Linux, Mac OS X and Windows/Cygwin.



The release offers a wizard for creating projects with a wide range of user interfaces, in both C & C++, and offers features such as a syntax-highlighting editor, an internal debugger, and CVS support. A HTML-based help system offers access to manuals, with class-referencing and search mechanisms to browse sources and documentation.

<http://www.kdevelop.org>

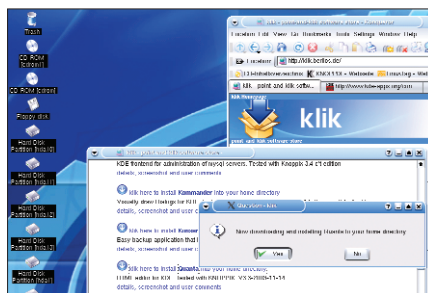
■ Point and Klik

Klik (KDE-based Live Installer for Knoppix) offers to install software on Knoppix (even when running from CD).

Klik uses a client server approach and installs the software in your home directory.

The klik website offers the ability to install programs such as Apache Web-server, Macromedia Flash Plugin, Webmin, RealPlayer8 and more.

<http://klik.berlios.de/>



■ Home Cinema

Last month saw the publication of a new version of DVD Slideshow: a set of scripts which help you with producing a DVD slideshow video, with menus.

The dvd-slideshow script reads a text file, which includes a list of pictures for the slideshow. It then produces a DVD-compatible MPEG movie. A soundtrack can be added by specifying that you want one or more audio files to be played, relative to the slides. dvd-mainmenu lets you create a top level DVD menu for the slideshow. It produces a simple DVD menu with buttons that link to MPEG2 files, either generated with dvd-slideshow or created by other means.

If you are already using Gallery to create and maintain albums of photos, you can use gallery2slideshow to make the input file for dvd-slideshow from your Gallery album. gallery2slideshow not only lists all the images of an album, but also puts each picture's description into the "comments" field of the dvd-slideshow input file.

DVD Slideshow requires dvdauthor, the mjpegtools, ImageMagick and NetPBM. Version 0.5.2 is available from the project's homepage, which has links to the required software and HOWTOs. ■

<http://dvd-slideshow.sourceforge.net/>

<http://gallery.sourceforge.net/>

■ Resistance is Futile

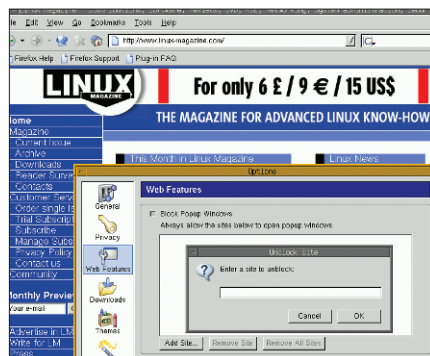
In January, Guillem Jover announced the first public beta release of his script *debtakeover* – a tool to convert other distros to Debian GNU/Linux on the fly. The script will install a clean base system, but backup the old system configuration and leave user data untouched.

debtakeover backs up */etc* and doesn't touch */home* at all. It does not convert the whole system to Debian GNU/Linux since it "will not map all previous installed programs to the Debian counterparts". The script was originally designed to migrate remote servers running Red Hat Linux and is as unintrusive "as it can be", said Guillem Jover on the Debian-devel mailinglist. *debtakeover* doesn't touch the bootloader or the kernel and has been tested on Suse Linux and Red Hat Linux systems. Guillem Jover says he's interested "in creating

■ Fox rising from the Flames

The Mozilla Foundation has announced the release of a new preview of its web browser, Mozilla Firefox. The browser, previously known as Mozilla Firebird, is now called Firefox to avoid overlapping with the Firebird Relational Database.

Version 0.8 includes a new download manager, several improvements for bookmark handling and a new default theme for Mac OS X. With only a few mouse clicks it's possible to add search



engines, include add-ons that remove banners, or add spell-checkers. Firefox provides tabbed browsing and shields you from unwanted popup advertising, while allowing sites to open popup windows, if required to operate. It can be downloaded from the Mozilla website. ■

<http://www.mozilla.org/products/firefox/>

rpms, ebuild and any other distribution native packages, to be able to do something like: `rpm -i debian-woody.rpm`". He is also interested in extending support for all GNU/Linux distributions, and later exploring the possibility of cross-installs from for example a FreeBSD to a Debian GNU/KFreeBSD or a GNU/Linux system. There was also some discussion on the mailing list of doing cross-installs from commercial Unix systems, although this would be a much greater challenge.

Version 0.6.3 of *debtakeover* is available as a compressed tar archive from the author's website. Keep in mind that it is still only a beta release, so use it at your own peril (although it's clearly worked nicely for some people). ■

<http://www.hadrons.org/~guillem/debian/debtakeover/>