

Software News

■ GiantDisc

GiantDisc is a package of jukebox software tools. It provides some scripts to manage and play mp3s, flacs, and oggs. A Palm remote control application allows you to fully control the mp3 server without having to attach a screen or keyboard. Simply store your music files on one or more hard disks – track and album information are stored in a MySQL database. Other features include FreeDB (CDDb) support, lyrics management, a web interface, networking support and synchronization of independent GiantDisc servers. GiantDisc also allows you to record CDs and import/export mp3 and ogg vorbis tracks.

It's recommended that you use a large hard disk and a good soundcard, although most of the on-board sound chips are sufficient these days. Network support is optional, although this might become useful in case you want to upload the music tracks, make backups, and administer the system remotely. You will need a Palm handheld (PalmOS 2.0 or

higher) and to connect it to the GiantDisc server. Serial and USB cables have been tested, as well as TCP/IP over Bluetooth, WLAN, and GPRS.

You will need a running Linux system including MySQL (version 3.23.02 or better), Perl (at least version 5.005), some Perl MySQL interface modules and an mp3, ogg, or flac player. CD ripping tools, an audio mixer, and some packages for the Web interface, the LCD display, etc. are optional requirements. If you want to be able to shut down the server using your Palm, you will also need the *usershutdown* tool.

The GiantDisc homepage presents you with a list of tested configurations, describing various setups with different Palm models, communication setups, and server specifications. GiantDisc is available under the terms of the GPL license and can be downloaded from the project's web site. The website also has detailed documentation and links to various third party packages.

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



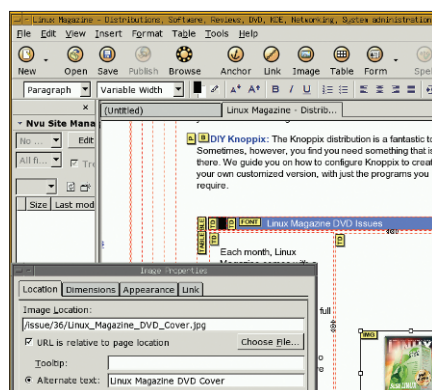
■ What You See Is What You Get

Lindows.com has published a first public beta version of Nvu ("N-View"), a complete web authoring system for Linux. Nvu is based on the Mozilla platform and its Gecko layout engine and combines web file management with WYSIWYG editing.

Nvu supports HTML, XML, CSS and JavaScript and provides you with enhanced handling of forms, frames and templates. It's possible to edit several documents at once. For every new document Nvu opens its own tab and creates its own history having separate undo/redo stacks.

Nvu offers an integrated FTP site manager and a CSS editor. The editor

provides you with a clear and intuitive graphical user interface, which makes it really easy to use – even for people without technical expertise, or knowledge of



■ Back to Basics?

REAL Software, Inc. announced the availability of REALbasic 5.5, a tool for creating cross-platform software. The Professional Edition allows you to develop Linux desktop and server applications on Macintosh and Windows systems, and provides a conversion utility to convert and migrate Visual Basic applications to Linux.

REALbasic 5.5 runs on x86 Intel platforms with either Red Hat Enterprise Linux 3 or Suse Linux 8.1 or better. REALbasic 5.5 should also work on other Linux distributions with the GTK+ 2.0 (or higher) and CUPS libraries installed.

The software supports standards such as SOAP, XML, SSL, HTTP, SMTP, POP and UDP. Additionally, REALbasic 5.5 includes a single-user database engine which is available for both the Professional and the Standard Edition. A new plug-in provides native access to Oracle 8i and 9i on Windows and Mac and also connects to Sybase and MySQL databases. REALbasic 5.5 offers full support for older versions of Windows and provides an integrated debugger which allows remote debugging from either Windows or Macintosh systems.

REALbasic 5.5 is available via the company's online store and costs \$99.95 for the Standard License and \$399.95 for the Professional License. It's also possible to download a free demo version, which is valid for 30 days.

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

HTML. Future releases will integrate the ability to call W3C's HTML and CSS validator from within Nvu.

Lindows.com has hired Daniel Glazman, the former chief architect for Mozilla Composer, to be the lead developer and maintainer for the Nvu project. The Linux distributor has also announced that the Nvu code will be merged back into the main Mozilla CVS tree.

Version 0.1 (for Linux and MS Windows) can be downloaded from the project's web site. Nvu is open source and published under the MPL/LGPL/GPL.

<http://www.nvu.com/>
<http://lindows.com/>

Burning down the House

The K3b team members have been working hard lately – the major release of 0.11 has been followed by several minor releases (current version was 0.11.6 as this item went to press) with lots of bug fixes and nice new features.

K3b is KDE's CD and DVD burning application and provides a clear GUI (graphical user interface) to programs such as cdrecord, cdrdao, and growisofs. It's a comfortable tool for beginners, and provides reasonable default settings for a quick start. For advanced users, it is possible to configure all the steps and

options, which is also great for troubleshooting.

K3b 0.11 has a new look designed by Everaldo, creator of KDE's Crystal icon set. Users who prefer the old look can switch back using the newly integrated theme manager. The new release includes a completely reimplemented CD Copy facility including multisession and enhanced audio CD copy. Audio decoding has seen major improvements such as generic resampling support for all decoder plugins and for mono files. Additionally, K3b 0.11.X supports 8bit

Wave files and has a FLAC decoding plugin.

DVD burning has improved as well. There is a new option to ignore the speed settings for DVD writing, since some writers have problems with that. Copying of bootable DVDs has improved, since DVD copy now determines the proper track size.

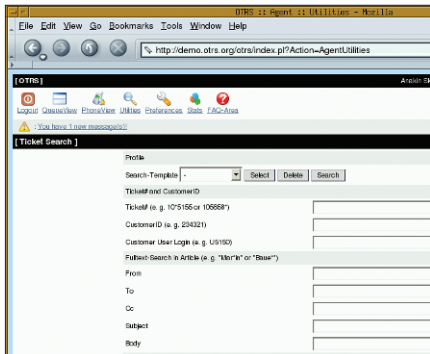
Follow the links in the download section of K3b's web page to find packages and the source code. There you can also find links to KDE 3.2 RPMs.

<http://www.k3b.org/>

Ticket on the Beach

Looking for an Open Source trouble ticket system? Version 1.2.2 (code-named "South Beach") of OTRS (Open Source Ticket Request System) has just been released.

OTRS collects incoming support requests, such as mail, telephone calls and faxes. For every inquiry, a so-called trouble ticket with a unique number is created and stored in a common pool. Members of the support team can pick the tickets out of this pool and handle



the request via a web interface. The system is highly customizable and can handle up to 20,000 tickets a day. It runs in several languages and provides a web interface which works well on many browsers.

OTRS is distributed under the GNU General Public License (GPL) and has been tested on Linux, Solaris, AIX, FreeBSD, OpenBSD, Mac OS 10.x and Windows. Various packages, the source code and an online demo version can be accessed via the project's homepage.

<http://otrs.org/>

Meet the Gnomes!

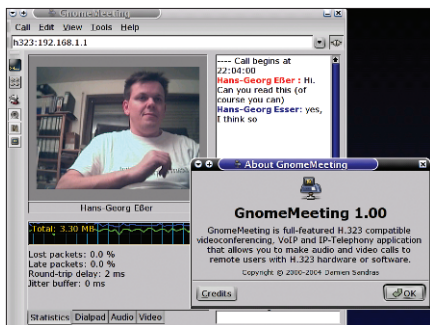
GnomeMeeting 1.00, also known as the "Thanks Fred Release", is ready. The video-conferencing and VOIP/IP-telephony application allows you to make audio and video calls to remote users with H.323 hardware or software such as Microsoft Netmeeting.

GnomeMeeting was launched by Damien Sandras back in December 2000 and has grown over the years. It supports modern video-conferencing features, such as registering to a directory, gatekeeper support, multi-user conference calls, using modern Quicknet telephony cards, and PC-To-Phone calls.

Included in version 1.00 are several new features, such as a redesigned configuration assistant and a redesigned preferences window. GnomeMeeting 1.00 also provides a new status support as well as audio and video device plugins with native ALSA support and a new manual.

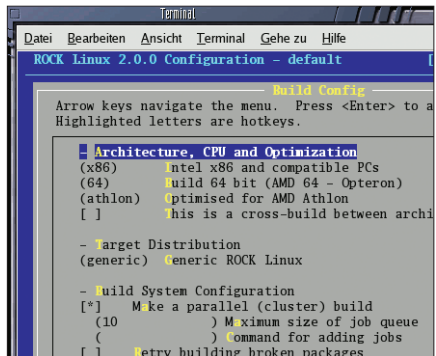
The download area of the project's website provides packages for all major Linux distributions, the source code and several audio and video plugins.

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



Rock 'n' Roll

ROCK Linux 2.0 (code-named "Rafaella") was released during the "Chemnitzer Linux-Tag" in Germany. The distribution build kit allows users to configure their personal build of ROCK and create their



own distributions. The new release reunites the two development trees, bringing the desktop ROCK Linux development series back into the ROCK Linux fold.

Following the 18th Chaos Communication Congress (18C3) in 2001, the ROCK Linux developers agreed that a redesign of many parts was necessary to produce a flexible build kit. ROCK Linux 2.0 uses the new GEM (GEM Elementary Module) package format to provide more meta-data for the end-user, as well as dependency resolution during the installation. It supports multiple architectures, embedded systems and clusters. Included are extra C libraries such as diet libc, a libc optimized for small size.

Binaries, source code and a handbook can be accessed via the homepage.

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