Software News

■ KD Executor

Klarälvdalens Datakonsult AB has released a first beta version of KD Execu-tor 2.0, an automatic testing tool for Qt and KDE applications.

With KD Executor it's possible to test graphical user interfaces automatically. The tool can record scripts for running the application. The Klarälvdalens Datakonsult team says that those scripts are more stable than scripts recorded with toolkit-independent tools, because they "know" about the internals of the application – "even if the layout changes the script will still work." Qt properties can be selected during recording and printed while doing the playback to ensure that the GUI works correctly.

KD Executor can be used for internal testing as well as for recording auto-mated demos of applications to present them to customers. Another possibility is to ship KD Executor-enabled versions of programs and ask customers that are reporting a bug to send an Excecutor script demonstrating the bug where pos-sible.

KD Executor requires Qt 3.0.6 or higher. It will not work with either the older Qt 2.x versions or the Professional Edition of Qt. Since KD Executor is plat-form-independent, it is possible to record a script on Linux and reuse it for other platforms which support Qt (and vice versa).

The tool is available under a commer-cial licensing scheme, based on the number of platforms and developers. Holders of such a commercial license will have access to both the source code package and, upon request, prebuilt binaries. One year's support is included in this offer, but the support contract can be extended. A special KDE community edition, which only works with KDE applications, is also available and can be downloaded from Klarälvdalens Datakonsult's website. ■

http://www.klaralvdalens-datakonsult.se/

■ Perfect Word by Corel

Corel returns to the Linux arena with its announcement of plans to publish a Linux-native version of its productivity software suite, WordPerfect. Version 12 of the office tool is said to offer similar features as those found in Microsoft's Office.

Back in 1998, Corel was selling a Linux native version of its WordPerfect 8, which was soon followed by a Linux-translated version of Word-Perfect 9 in 2000.
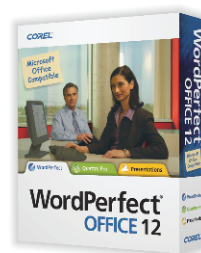
Since then, the company has allowed its Linux focus to slip a little, to the extent of even selling its rights in Corel Linux to Xandros. The company is now planning to conquer the Office market by offering alternatives to Sun Microsys-tem's StarOffice and its popular Open Source variant OpenOffice. It is expected that the new WordPerfect version 12 will be available soon from Corel's own online store. ■

http://www.corel.com/

■ Open Doors

After collecting vulnerabilities in both software and hardware for the past two years, the results are now publicly acces-sible via the Open Source vulnerability database (OSVDB). It is planned to update the database with at least one new item every day and collect data on all kinds of software and operating systems.

"Getting reliable and complete information on security vulnerabili-ties is typically a hunt among dozens of websites and mailing lists, not to mention dealing with proprietary and copyrighted infor-mation," said OSVDB founder Tyler Owen in a statement.

According to CERT, who collected statistical data on this subject, the number of new computer security vulnerabilities found each year has risen over two thousand percent since 1995. While other vulnerabil-ity databases exist, they are not freely available. OSVDB is an open pro-ject that aims to provide an unbiased, vendor neutral vulnerability database freely to everyone. "The overall goals of the project are to promote greater, more open collaboration between companies and individuals, eliminate redundant work, and reduce expenses inherent with the development and maintenance of in-house vulnerability databases."

New entries for the database are col-lected from numerous security mailing lists. After determining a vulnerability to be valid, it is then added in a pending mode to be reviewed and edited by a project member. There are also plans to include a web form for submitting new entries or updat-ing existing vulnerabilities.

The OSVDB team plans to release several other services in the upcoming months; such as making database access easier for end users as well as offering better support for specialized tasks per-formed by software developers and security analysts. The team is still looking for security experts to help the with project. For contact details, visit the OSVDB website. ■

http://osvdb.org/

■ Gentoo Linux 2004.0 released

The Gentoo team has announced the release of Gentoo Linux 2004.0 for the x86, AMD64, PowerPC, Sun SPARC, and SGI MIPS architectures. The new version includes several bug-fixes and security updates and provides Linux kernel 2.6.3, GCC 3.3.2, GLIBC 2.3.2, KDE 3.2, GNOME 2.4.2, and xfce4.

Included in Gentoo Linux 2004.0 is Catalyst, Gentoo's new release meta-tool. Catalyst allows developers and users to create and customize every aspect of the Gentoo Linux system – "from installation stages, to bootable LiveCDs, to customized binary packages for the Gentoo Reference Platform (GRP)."

To download installation stages, LiveCDs, and GRP sets, go to the Gentoo website and select one of the FTP mirrors. Gentoo Linux LiveCDs with installation handbook (included on the CD-ROM) and optimized pre-compiled binary packages are also available at the new Gentoo Store. It's also possible to purchase a subscription that offers shipments of the quarterly 2004.x releases. ■

http://www.gentoo.org/
http://store.gentoo.org/

■ GNOME 2.6 ready

The new GNOME 2.6 dekstop has been published and offers several interesting new features as well as numerous bug fixes. Also included are improvements in the user interface, general stability and speed.

GNOME's file manager Nautilus provides a new feature called "spatial browsing". It works in a similar way to the finder or query function provided by MAC OS X. For each file directory, Nautilus opens a new window and remembers its location and size. When Nautilus needs to reopen such a folder, the window will appear as it did before or, if it's already open, it will be quickly brought back to the front.

Other new features include FileRoller's new handling of RPMs (Red Hat Package Manager). GNOME's equivalent of Winzip is now able to deal with archives in RPM format. GPDF, GNOME's default PDF viewer, provides new features, such as support for Yelp, GNOME's help viewer. Release notes and a changelog are available on the project's homepage.

To test the new GNOME dekstop, you can download the source code from the project's website and build it from scratch, or simply wait for the next release of your favorite Linux distribution, which will most likely include GNOME 2.6. ■

http://www.gnome.org/

■ Free X!

Back in January, members of X.Org and various companies announced the formation of the X.Org Foundation, a community to "maintain and enhance the existing X Window System code base". The foundation has now announced its first official X Window System release.

X11R6.7 (X Window System Version 11 Release 6.7) is based on the last XFree86 version that was released before XFree86 changed the license under which its code is published. Distributors such as Gentoo, MandrakeSoft, OpenBSD, and Debian GNU/Linux have rejected the new XFree86 license, largely on the basis that it is GPL incompatible, meaning that the new X.Org code tree will likely become the new default X11. In addition, Red Hat announced that it will to work with the new X.Org foundation to include X11R6.7 in the upcoming release of Fedora Core 2 along with future Red Hat Enterprise Linux products based on Fedora.

There are plans to periodically release X Window System updates and provide them to the general public free of charge. "The X.Org Foundation will govern the evolution of the X11R6 specifications, working with appropriate groups to revise and post updates to the standard as required."

More information about the foundation and its plans along with the X11R6.7 release can be found at the X.Org website. ■

http://www.x.org/
http://freedesktop.org/Software/xorg

■ And the winners are...

Thanks to all of you who participated in our recent reader survey. Your input is valuable, and we appreciate the time taken to give us your opinion.
Our special thanks to Sophia for drawing the winners and to O'Reilly for providing book prizes.
The winners of a 1-year Linux Magazine DVD subscription are:
Geert Anthonis, *Kaomsiung, Taiwan*
Michael Crees, *Walsall, United Kingdom*
Sinisa Dumanic, *Split, Croatia*

Liam Egan, Kingston, *Canada*
Raymond Holilgrave, *Liverpool, United Kingdom*
Laurent Julliard, *Biviers, United Kingdom*
Mika Lundell, *Vaasa, Finland*
Paul Mobbs, *Banbury, United Kingdom*
A. G. Nichols, *Ripley, WV, USA*
Michael Zouridakis, *Brussels, Belgium*
Enjoy your free subscription!
All other winners will be receiving their prizes in the mail soon.