

Software News

Life is Live!

Long expected version 3.4 of the popular Linux Live-CD has been released. KNOPPIX is a live filesystem CD with a collection of GNU/Linux software, automatic hardware detection, and support for many graphics cards, sound cards, SCSI and USB devices and other peripherals.

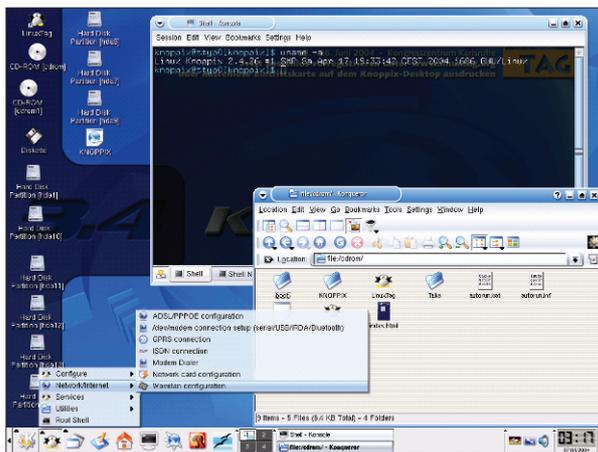
You get a choice of Linux kernels on the new release: The default is the 2.4.26 kernel, however, you can select the newer 2.6.5 kernel via a boot option. Both are ACPI-enabled. Other updates include KDE (version 3.2.2), the GIMP (version 2.0) and OpenOffice.org (1.1.1).

At boot time, you will notice that the hardware detection has improved, and that there are new boot options. Support for wireless cards has been extended with drivers for cards including IPW2100, MadWiFi and HostAP.

Another new feature is Fabian Franz's "live-

installer", which allows you to install add-on packages, either to the ram-disk, or to your persistent home directory on the hard drive. There's also a new IRDA/Bluetooth setup and a GPRS connection tool.

In order to accommodate all these new features, room had to be made available by dropping LaTeX and KOffice. KNOPPIX 3.4 is available for download via FTP (follow the link to a mirror from the KNOPPIX homepage) or via BitTorrent. ■ <http://www.knoppix.org/>



Mono ships Beta

Novell has recently launched the first Beta version of its Mono project.

This is an Open Source implementation of the .NET framework and is designed to run on Linux, Unix and Windows systems.

Mono Beta 1 includes a C# compiler and two stacks of APIs. The first of these is a Linux, Unix, GNOME, Mono stack. The second is compatible with Microsoft .NET Framework 1.1, and provides support for ASP.NET, ADO.NET and other components.

The Mono Beta 1 is being used internally at Novell to develop a number of projects such as iFolder for peer-to-peer sharing, Nautilus extensions and F-Spot for photo management. ■

<http://www.go-mono.com>

KOffice 1.3.1

The KOffice team has released their first bugfix version of KOffice 1.3.

The bug fixes are varied and numerous. They are the result of considerable effort by the KOffice team.

The fixes include changing the .desktop file setup so that any changes in the KMenu structure do not stop KOffice from starting, and allowing template icons up to 64 x 64 rather than 60 x 60.

Within KWord, the fixes concentrate around the bookmark feature, while KPresenter has improvements made for the showing of slides.

The filters within KOffice have also been improved with this release. These are mainly for OpenOffice compatibility and RTF formats. ■

<http://dot.kde.org/1083663167/>

Smooth Filtering

SmoothWall Ltd., a UK based internet security software provider, has released version 3.1 of its SmoothGuardian Web Content Filter. The new version includes more than 30 new and improved features, and provides more effective web content filtering.

The new version includes a number of major enhancements: improved performance means that a single system (i.e. 2 GHz Athlon or Pentium IV based) can now support up to 2000 concurrent users; time based controls allow users to access non-work related sites outside their working hours; and better page caching ensures that recently checked sites don't have to be scanned again if requested by another user.

SmoothGuardian 3.1 is available immediately, with a starting price of £200 to protect a 10 computer network, rising to £2000 for an unlimited computer license. Customers with "Upgrade Assurance" for SmoothGuardian 3.0 will automatically receive the new Version 3.1 module. ■

<http://www.smoothwall.net/>

Desktop Future

Red Hat has announced that they intend to release a new client based version of their Linux distribution.

Red Hat Desktop is targeted at providing a client strategy suitable for the developing market trends.

Back in March, Red Hat formed a partnership with Wind River to produce solutions for the device market. This partnership has now produced its first fruit in the Red Hat Desktop.

Hoping to target the Governmental, Academic and Enterprise markets, Red Hat is planning to use the Open Source office applications to convince organisations to switch.

Already, one of the largest insurance companies that is currently using an in-house developed Linux desktop for over 8,400 machines has expressed a strong interest in moving to the new offering.

The Desktop version will also be available in Network Proxy and Satellite server formats. ■

<http://www.redhat.com>

