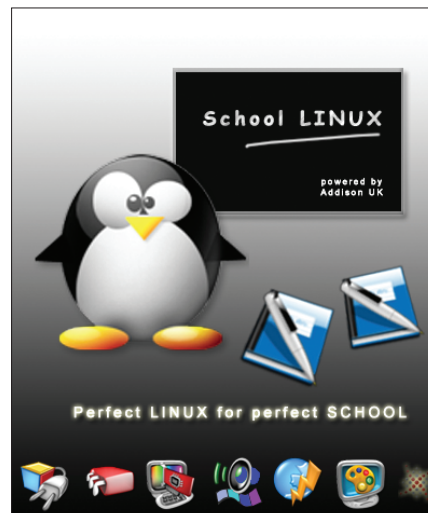# Business News

Linux for Schools

UK Linux solutions provider Addison UK has announced the launch of a new educational domain, SchoolLINUX.Com. SchoolLINUX.Com offers Linux powered solutions to UK schools, which can be integrated with possible existing Microsoft Windows environments.

The offer includes products such as SchoolCACHE, a web caching box and URL blocker, SchoolSERVER, a simple server solution which can be used as a domain controller or a network attached storage device, and SchoolLINUX OS, a fully featured Linux operating system, with office suite, web browser, etc. This Linux distribution features special locking down software, Authentication and easy networking through Windows environments.

Addison also announced the upcoming releases of a couple of additional products: SchoolWIN-SERVER, a Linux terminal server that delivers complete Windows 95/98/ME desktop operating systems to thin clients, and SchoolFIL-TER, a complete web filtering solution in a box, providing blocking, filtering and access control, among other things.

SchoolLINUX has partnered with Spire Technology to distribute their products throughout the UK and the rest of Europe. More information on SchoolLINUX and its product price list can be found on their website.   ■

http://www.schoollinux.com/

Go Open Source

The Shuttleworth Foundation (TSF), HP, the CSIR and Mark Shuttleworth, have jointly announced the commencement of the Go Open Source Campaign. A coalition of Open Source friendly companies and institutions have united to "promote Open Source software within the households and small businesses of South Africa". The campaign will run for the next two years and be advertised on television, radio, print, out-door, and online – "educating and enlightening computer users, and making the software available to everyone".

The Go Open Source website not only offers general information on Open Source and its impact on South Africa, but is also distributing a customized version of The Open CD, a collection of Open Source software for Windows. For those who cannot download the CD image from the website, Go Open Source offers to send them a free copy of the CD by post.

"Our goal is to ensure that in two years time every South African who uses a computer, or who wants to use a computer, knows that they can get all the software tools they need for computer literacy and computer mastery free of charge, together with the right to share those tools and to improve them as they see fit", says Mark Shuttleworth.

The Shuttleworth foundation was set up by Mark Shuttleworth soon after he sold his Internet security company, Thawte, in 2000. Mark, a long time Free Software enthusiast, having been a Debian developer in the 90s, is also famous for being the first African in space.   ■

http://www.go-opensource.org/
http://www.tsf.org.za/
http://www.hp.com/
http://www.csir.co.za/

All in One

Wiscore Inc. has introduced a new All-in-One Linux-based Internet server. The TENON uses Linux to provide functionality such as email, web, and FTP servers. The specialized hardware platform includes a, built-in broadband router and hub, with Linux providing firewall capabilities between the two.

The server has a WAN and a LAN port (both 10BASE-T/100BASE-TX Fast Ethernet) and includes a 128MB CompactFlash card to store email, Web pages and other data. An upgrade with larger CompactFlash cards is possible. Wiscore says

that users can derive an additional level of confidence about security issues because of TENON's embedded architecture.

The server is based on LEAF ("Linux Embedded Appliance Firewall"), an embedded Linux network appliance, which is primarily used as a router/firewall. The server boots from read-only media and can therefore be returned to its original state easily. While this does not of course remove all risk of attack, it does ensure that attackers are physically unable to corrupt the main components of the system, so that if any attack does become viable, it is limited in its effect to the next reboot, at which point users know that they are booting a trusted system.

The TENON server is available via the company's online store and costs US$ 249 plus transport charges depending on where you live.   ■

http://www.wiscore.com/en/
http://leaf.sourceforge.net/

■ Selling Mandrake: A Reseller's Guide

Linux vendor Mandrakesoft, creators of Mandrakelinux, has concluded a business deal with publisher O'Reilly Media, whereby O'Reilly Media is to become a reseller for Mandrakesoft in the U.S. and Canada.

O'Reilly will offer the English-language versions of Mandrakelinux Discovery 10.0 and Mandrakelinux PowerPack 10.0. Both products are available at bookstores nationwide and can be ordered directly from O'Reilly. O'Reilly's upcoming book "Test Driving Linux: A Desktop User's Guide" by Phil Lavigna, will also include a Live CD of Mandrake-Move, a bootable CD-ROM, which runs "on the fly".

"We're excited to team [up] with O'Reilly, since they are one of the most influential open source supporters", says Francois Bancilhon, Mandraksoft's CEO. ■

http://www.mandrakesoft.com/
http://www.oreilly.com/

■ StarOffice in Canada

Sun Microsystems has announced that it has signed a contract with the Ontario Ministry of Education providing licenses for StarOffice 7 for 72 public and parochial school boards in Ontario and covering 2.5 million students.

StarOffice offers word processing, spreadsheet, presentation, drawing, and database capabilities and has become one of the leading competitors to Microsoft's Office suite. No financial details have been disclosed, but Ontario school officials are rumored to have said the cost was "minimal". The deal is part of Sun's education and research program, which allows for the provision of copies of StarOffice to qualified academic institutions for the cost of the distribution media. ■

http://www.sun.com/

■ The Oracle at Linux

Oracle plans to switch over to Linux for all in-house development by the end of this year. Oracle started by moving its 5,000 applications developers, a move that was completed in October 2003. Having assessed the success of the applications developers move to Linux, it is now the turn of the database developers. "By the end of the year, (Linux) is our core platform", says Wim Coekaerts, director of Linux engineering.

Oracle said it would be switching from Sun Microsystems computers to new systems provided by multiple computer manufacturers. The company is also planning to use different Linux distributions including Suse and Red Hat Linux. One reason for the choice is that Oracle needs the fruits of its labour to be portable, whereas software written to target the Windows platform is difficult to port. Another factor is that Linux systems are cheaper and run faster on the same hardware. ■

http://www.oracle.com/