

Business News

Comdex 2004 Canceled

The massive Comdex trade show, once the greatest and splashiest event of the high-tech calendar, was abruptly canceled for 2004.

Comdex organizer MediaLive International announced plans to suspend Comdex because of falling attendance and reduced vendor support. According to MediaLive Vice President Eric Faurot, the company will attempt to revive Comdex in 2005 under a new format.

Comdex began in Las Vegas in 1979 under the name of the Computer Dealers Exposition. Its fortunes rose with the growth of the computer industry, and the recent contraction of the industry is perhaps the biggest reason for the cancellation. In the glory days of the dot.com bubble, Comdex had more than 200,000 visitors and used more than

100,000 square meters of exhibition space. Vendors paid dearly for floor space at the high-profile event. As the bubble burst, it became more difficult to find vendors willing to pay the rent. Comdex 2003 lacked many of important vendors that had once anchored earlier shows, and the trend appeared to be continuing for the 2004 show.

Many observers believe the very size of Comdex made it particularly unmanageable and less able to adjust to the changing economy. The big, general-purpose shows are gradually losing ground to more specialized events.

Other causes for the demise include competition from other trade shows and cost-saving by vendors, such as hosting events in off-site hotel suites. ■

<http://www.comdex.com>

Linux-Only Computer Stores

Linspire (the company that used to be Lindows) announced the opening of an all-Linux retail computer store in Toronto, Canada. Sub500.com, a walk-in store that also supports online sales through a commercial web site, provides computer hardware and software, including Linux-based games, graphics tools,



and business applications. The store will initially feature Linspire systems, but the web site states "We are building our software library and plan on being able to provide all of the various Linux distributions, free ones and non-free ones." ■

Concern about

Linux Magazine Brazil

We are proud to announce the launch of our new Portuguese-language sister publication. Linux Magazine Brasil, which is published by Linux New Media do Brasil Editoria, will be the only Linux-oriented publication in Brazil. The new magazine will offer around 30 percent local content.



The magazine was launched at Linux-Corp2004, an event that brings corporations together to talk about their experiences with open source. "There are lots of initiatives around Linux in Brazil, but a publishing instrument was missing," says Rafael Peregrino da Silva, Editor of Linux Magazine Brazil.

The first Linux Magazine Brasil will be available in early August. ■

www.linuxmagazine.com.br

installing Linux on an unknown system and getting all the components to work still limits the popularity of Linux among non-technical users. Stores such as Sub500.com that offer pre-configured Linux computers could be a major factor in bringing Linux into everyday homes. Given the number of Windows-only computer stores in the world, the presence of at least one Linux-only store has to be a good omen. ■

<http://www.sub500.com>

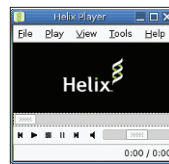
RealNetwork's Star Rises in a Helix

Red Hat and Novell announced that they will be including the open source Helix player in the next generation of their Linux desktop products. Helix forms the foundation for RealNetwork's RealPlayer 10 for Linux. Red Hat will offer a no-cost upgrade to RealPlayer 10 later this summer. RealNetworks also stated its intention to offer the GPL as a license option for the Helix player.

These announcements place RealNetworks in a strong position as a leader in open source multimedia. RealNetworks

was also a high-profile participant in the Microsoft proceedings before the European Commission, where they apparently demonstrated that it was indeed possible to remove Windows Media Player without damaging the operating system.

Lest you think their work with Windows was all vendetta, RealNetworks has also been at the heels of Apple, pressing for an end to the Apple monopoly on supplying music for the iPod music player through Apple's own



iTunes site. So far, Apple has rebuffed their efforts to open the iPod. Flamboyant RealNetworks founder Rob

Glaser gained attention when he forecasted doom for Apple, predicting that dissatisfied iPod customers would one day say, "I bought an iPod and can only shop at one store. What is this? The Soviet Union?" ■

<http://www.realnetworks.com>

<http://helixcommunity.org>

■ Grim Punishment

Their legal options swiftly dwindling, representatives from Microsoft paid the largest fine ever levied against a company by the European Union. The company placed a sum of US\$ 600 million in an escrow account pending their appeal of the EU ruling. European regulators ordered Microsoft to pay the fine in March for unfair business practices. Microsoft was also ordered to produce a Windows version that does not include the Media Player and to share proprietary information regarding their server software.

In order to pay this massive fine, Microsoft was forced to dip into its cash reserves. The US\$ 600 million debit will deplete the once-proud Microsoft cash account, which was estimated at US\$ 50 billion, to a mere US\$ 49.4 billion. We'll hope this grim lesson will teach them to play fair next time. ■

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/business/3565521.stm>

■ HP Certifies MySQL & JBoss

Hewlett Packard signed agreements with MySQL AB and JBoss to include the MySQL open source database and the JBoss open source application server as part of HP's open source Linux Reference Architecture. This announcement means that HP will not only support the Linux operating system but will, in fact, certify and support a complete open source ecosystem that includes tools such as JBoss, MySQL, Apache, and Open LDAP.

HP offers two Linux Reference Architectures. The commercial architecture includes software from BEA, Oracle, and other commercial vendors. The alternative open source architecture, which includes JBoss and MySQL, is intended as a high-end, fully supported equivalent to the commercial package.

HP states that the announcements make them "the first and only major vendor to offer its customers a complete, integrated, supported, and easily deployed open source software stack on

industry-standard platforms running Linux" and "the first to define, characterize, and comprehensively support specific Linux-based solution stacks." As part of the agreement, MySQL AB and JBoss have joined the HP partner program, and will receive testing and engineering support from HP.

The real news is that HP is promoting these open source tools for high-end, enterprise-level environments. This announcement brings JBoss and MySQL a step closer to the kind of universal acceptance enjoyed by open source products such as Apache and Linux.

Dennis Cromwell, Director of University Information Systems at Indiana University, states "HP's commitment to certify and support open source technology on its own products is a step forward in making open source a safe and cost-effective option..." ■

<http://www.hp.com/hpinfo/newsroom/press/2004/040601a.html>

Over 10,000 Red Hat Certified Engineers

The leading certification for Linux has reached another milestone: over 10,000 RHCEs worldwide, and over 3,500 RHCTs. RHCE certification includes both 'hands-on' and theoretical training. Students must 'prove what they can do' in order to be certified.



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- attach new systems to an existing network
- perform core system administration

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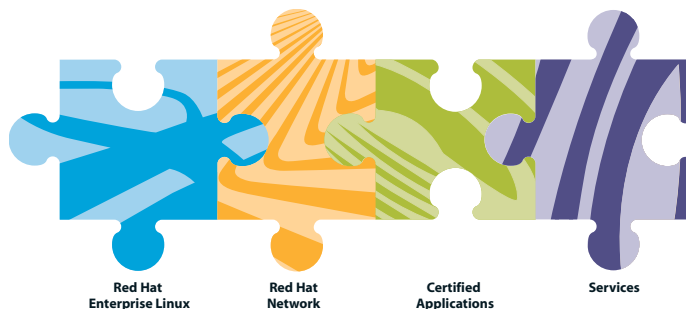


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Want to be a Linux guru? RHCE is the gold standard certification. According to Certification Magazine/Fairfield Research, RHCE is the #1 certification for overall quality of program, #1 for quality of tests and exams, and #1 for overall educational quality.



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