

# Software News

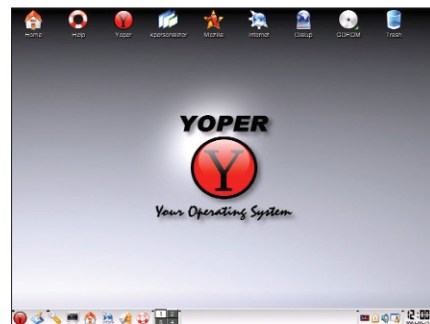
## ■ Yoper Races for Acceptance

The Yoper team announces the release of Yoper Version 2.0. Yoper is a Linux distro tuned for fast performance.

The Yoper team describes Yoper as follows: "Yoper is a multipurpose, high-performance operating system that has been carefully optimized for PCs with either 686 or higher processor types. The binaries that come with Yoper have been built from scratch using the original sources combined with the best features of major distros, measuring up to the demanding proliferation of network

communications and more the intensive multimedia, graphics, and audio capabilities that are ushering in a new era of business productivity enabled by a new generation of sophisticated multiprocessors and business application tools."

The Yoper team, which is far more inclined to superlatives than most open source development collectives, calls Yoper "the fastest out-of-the-box Linux system in the world," and the Yoper website provides comparison charts that, according to Yoper, support the claim.



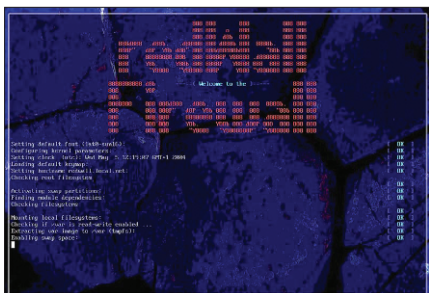
Yoper uses Linux kernel 2.6.7 and provides performance patches and "innovative prelinking". Yoper also comes with support for both VMware and Win4Lin virtual machines, as well as a CDRom Supermount feature and NdisWrapper.

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

## ■ A Free Linux Firewall

Redwall has released version 0.5.4 of the Redwall Open Source firewall. Redwall is a free, CD-based Linux firewall system supporting a range of features for VPNs, intrusion detection, traffic analysis, logging, web caching, mail relay, spam filtering, and virus scanning.

Configuration information for a Redwall system is stored on a floppy, memory stick, or hard drive, or it is sent by email. You can use a Redwall system as a central management console for logging data from other firewall systems on your network.



Release 0.5.4 is primarily a bug fix release. Perhaps the most important fix is actually one to the MySQL system included with Redwall. Most of Redwall's logging features depend on MySQL, so if you're using Redwall now, the upgrade is highly recommended.

<http://www.redwall-firewall.com/tiki-index.php>

## ■ Red Hat Serving Java

Red Hat announced the availability of Red Hat Application Server. Red Hat's entry into the Java application server market brings it directly into competition with vendors such as SUN and IBM that have centered their business plans around application services for years. This announcement is yet more evidence of the strong bonds that have been developing recently between Java and Open Source. (See also Business News.)

Red Hat's goal is to produce an open source application server that is fully compatible with the platforms of existing J2EE vendors so that customers can "...leverage open source where possible while protecting legacy investments." They will test Red Hat Application Server to ensure compatibility with BEA, Oracle, and IBM J2EE application platforms. Red Hat says its application server is tested and supported on all major commercial JVMs, and it will also be certified with the leading DBMS platforms, including Oracle, IBM DB2, and Sybase.

The system has many components – some common to the Open Source community and some unique to Red Hat. The Enterprise Application Server component is based on the Open Source JOnAS system. The Web application server is Tomcat, and the Web services infrastructure uses Apache's AXIS implementation of the SOAP protocol.

<http://www.redhat.com>

## ■ Luscious and Glossy

Linaire Corporation is releasing Linaire Linux Professional Edition. Linaire Linux is a desktop Linux operating system targeted at corporate and office users. Linaire uses Linux kernel 2.6 and KDE 3.2.2.

Linaire is one of those Linux systems that is tooled for reaching out to the mainstream Windows user. The product is positioned as a tool that "...makes it easy for companies to migrate from the Windows operating system." Part of the appeal is pure marketing. (The website says Linaire has a "luscious, glossy look." Can you imagine hearing that from Slackware?)

However, they have apparently tailored the system to provide some subtle but helpful benefits for corporate users. For instance, you can convert .doc files to .pdf format automatically.

The Linaire Linux 2.9 Professional Edition retails for US\$ 40 (EUR 33).

<http://www.linare.com>



## ■ Managing in Open Country

The new company Open Country Inc, has released OC-Manager, a system management tool designed to lower the total cost of ownership for organizations that manage groups of Linux computers.

OC-Manager is a browser-based management system that supports “remote Linux configuration and troubleshooting, remote administration and desktop takeover, asset management, and backup configuration.”

Designed for both outsourced IT and in-house IT departments, the product is distribution neutral and so supports Red Hat, Suse, Mandrake and other Linux environments, allowing staff to deploy software patches with precision.

Open Country says OC-Manager works for networks with anything from 5 to 5000 Linux nodes. ■

<http://www.opencountry.com/company/index.html>

## ■ VERITAS Finds Truth in Linux

VERITAS announced an upgrade to its Red Hat Linux-certified Storage Foundation suite. Version 4.0 of the Storage Foundation family, which includes Storage Foundation for Oracle RAC, Storage Foundation Cluster File System, VERITAS Cluster Server and Global Cluster Option, and VERITAS Volume Replicator. Storage Foundation includes a new feature called the Portable Data Container that lets users quickly migrate data to and from Linux.

The tools in the Storage Foundation family serve specialized roles in the Linux enterprise. The Cluster File System allows concurrent data sharing among Linux clusters. Cluster Server and Global Cluster Option provide wide-area failover and reduce unplanned downtime for Linux clusters. Storage Foundation for Oracle RAC provides a cluster file system and volume manager for interfacing with enterprise Oracle systems.

VERITAS argues that the industrial-strength tools of the Storage Foundation family reduce the risk of data loss, increase system efficiency, and enhance flexibility for heterogeneous environments. ■

<http://www.veritas.com>

## ■ Insert Offers Inside Security

Inside Security announces Version 1.2.14 of the Insert Rescue Toolkit. This one-year anniversary release of the Insert toolkit contains several upgrades and bug fixes. Insert is a bootable Linux rescue system on a credit-card-sized CD-ROM. The Insert system is based on Linux kernel 2.4.26 and Knoppix 3.4.

Included with the release are several useful tools for network diagnosis and recovery. Tools include the network analysis utilities nmap and tcpdump, computer forensics tools such as chkrootkit, and disaster recovery utilities such as gpart, partimage, and testdisk. Insert also provides support for Linux software RAID and LVM, as well as full read and write support for NTFS partitions. See this month’s Linux Magazine for the latest version. ■

[http://www.inside-security.de/insert\\_en.html](http://www.inside-security.de/insert_en.html)

## ■ Little Linuxes

As the Linux titans battle over which system is the biggest and most robust, a new generation of lean distributions is engaged in the task of making Linux little. Last month, you learned about DamnSmall Linux. This month brings yet another crop of the small ones.

Puppy Linux Version 9.2.2 runs in a 48-60 MB ramdisk. The Puppy system usually boots from a flash card, USB memory device, Zip disk, network drive, internal hard drive, or a set of floppies. Since the whole system runs in RAM once it is loaded, there is almost nothing to slow it down. Puppy comes with Linux kernel 2.4.22, XPaint, wavplay and Madplay for playing audio files, and four web browsers including Mozilla.

Feather Linux is another little Linux that boots from a USB pendrive or CD and takes up less than 64 MB. Feather is a stripped down version of Knoppix 3.4. The system includes Linux kernel 2.4.26, as well as features such as savplay, Dillo, Samba, iptables, Fluxbox, SSH, SCP, and DHCP client support.

## ■ A New Xandros

Xandros announced the release of Xandros Desktop OS Version 2.5. Xandros Desktop OS is a Linux desktop system based on Debian. Previous versions of Xandros have introduced a range of useful interoperability features, such as Active Directory client support and cross-platform file sharing with Xandros File Manager (XFL).

Version 2.5 offers an upgraded version of CrossOver Office (version 3.0.1) with support for Lotus Notes 6.5.1, Microsoft Project 2000/2002, and Microsoft Outlook XP. Xandros 2.5 comes with Linux kernel version 2.4.24 and version 1.6 of the Mozilla suite.

The Xandros Desktop OS is available in Standard, Deluxe, and Business editions. Xandros provides special upgrade pricing for customers who are currently using Xandros Desktop OS 2.0. ■

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

Yet another of the diminutives is Austrumi, a 50 MB business card CD based on Slackware. Austrumi provides a set of light-weight office applications, gimp and gqview for graphic image processing, network tools such as nmap, LinNeighborhood, telnet, ssh, and sftp, the Opera web browser, mplayer, RipperX audio, and an assortment of games. Another interesting addition to Austrumi is the MinGW developer studio, a cross-platform IDE for C and C++ developers. ■

<http://www.goose.com/puppy/>

<http://featherlinux.berlios.de/>

[http://cyti.latgola.lv/ruuni/index\\_en.html](http://cyti.latgola.lv/ruuni/index_en.html)

