Software News

■ Novell Unveils Suse Linux 9.2 Professional

Novell announced the impending arrival of Suse Linux 9.2 Professional. This flagship Linux product contains more than 3500 packages. Version 9.2 ships with the KDE 3.3 and GNOME 2.6 desktop environments. You'll find enhanced support for Linux kernel 2.6.8, as well as several enhancements to security and hardware support. Development tools include Kdevelop, Eclipse, and the Mono open source framework for .NET development.

Version 9.2 is designed for advanced hardware environments, such as the Athlon 64 chip and Intel Extended Memory 64. You'll also find better Bluetooth and wireless support.

Suse Linux 9.2 advances the gradual integration of the Suse distribution with the rest of Novell's expanding open source portfolio. The suggested retail price for Suse Linux 9.2 is US$ 89.95 (EUR 89.95). The price includes 5 CDs, two DVDs, a user guide, and 90 days of software support. Student versions and Suse update versions are also available. ■

http://www.suse.com

■ SpamAssassin Version 3.0

The SpamAssassin team announces the release of Version 3.0 of the popular anti-spam tool SpamAssassin. The newest version of SpamAssassin includes a more modular design that makes it easier to add new features. Another new feature of SpamAssassin 3.0 is Sender Policy Framework, a framework that traces the origins of email messages.

Perhaps the most important change to SpamAssassin is its new license and new organizational affiliation. SpamAssassin used to be distributed in two versions under the GPL and the Perl Artistic licenses. However, the SpamAssassin project recently joined the Apache Foundation, and Version 3.0 is now released under the Apache license. To accomplish the change in the licensing arrangements, the project team apparently had to contact 100 contributors and get their permission to switch to the new license. In some cases, the contributors couldn't be found, and their code had to be removed from the code base. ■

http://spamassassin.apache.org/

■ Kanotix Bug Hunter

A new release was announced for the Live Linux distribution Kanotix, which is in turn based on Knoppix, which is based on Debian. The Kanotix Bug Hunter release comes with KDE and "Kernel 2.6.8.1 with many patches."

Kanotix was developed by Kano Schirottke, a Knoppix contributer who wanted a more up-to-date version of Knoppix. Kanotix uses a newer kernel and newer software than Knoppix, and it is optimized for i586 and above processors.

The Bug Hunter edition includes a new Captive NTFS driver that apparently does a better job of writing to NTFS. (The Kanotix documentation warns against writing to NTFS partitions using the standard NTFS driver included with the kernel.) Kanotix also comes with Eagle USB DSL support, the Memtest86+ memory diagnostic tool, and OpenOffice 1.1.2.

Knotix's Live CD format makes it easy for the user to try out Kanotix without permanently changing your system. Simply boot from the CD and see what you think. For more on Kanotix, see the article "Duel of the Distros:" on page 38 in this issue. ■
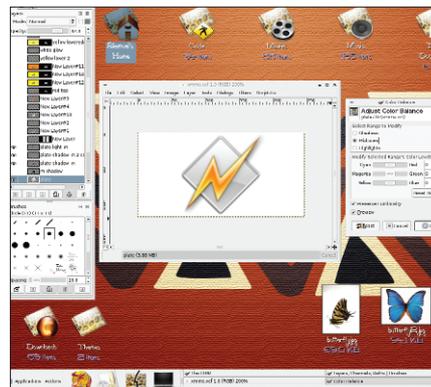
http://www.kanotix.com

■ A New GNOME

Version 2.8 of of the GNOME desktop environment is now available. GNOME 2.8 includes several improvements to the desktop. The GNOME file manager, for instance, has an improved MIME file-type system, which allows the user to open a single file with multiple applications.

Gnome 2.8 also supports a DNS-based service discovery. The new GNOME also automatically recognizes removable storage devices such as CDs, DVDs, and USB memory sticks. The file manager provides a new CD burner preferences dialog and allows access to password-protected FTP sites.

Version 2.8 also contains some new applets and user interface themes. The user interface offers an improved method for choosing panel applets, as well as a new calendar view for managing appointments. The network monitor tool has been improved to support wireless interfaces, and the battery monitor has also received an upgrade.

GNOME 2.8 also includes improvements to the GNOME Epiphany web browser, which is based on Mozilla. Epiphany's improvements include several enhancements to the bookmark feature. Also, popup windows can be blocked for specific web sites, and Epiphany offers a new offline mode.

One of the more interesting new features of GNOME 2.8 is a new virtual network computing client, which allows remote control of a user's desktop. Users can define how much remote control they wish to allow through a convenient Remote Desktop Preferences control panel. ■

http://www.gnome.org/

■ Mandrakesoft Releases Mandrakelinux 10.1

Mandrakesoft announced the release of Mandrakelinux 10.1 Community. The Community distribution will precede the release of the Mandrake 10.1 Official, which is expected soon.

For release 10.1, Mandrakesoft has placed a strong emphasis on hardware support. Mandrakelinux version 10.1 includes enhanced support for mobile devices and other wireless technologies. Mandrakelinux officially supports Wi-Fi roaming and Bluetooth. You'll also find expanded support for PDAs and smartphone synchronization, as well as a more user-friendly power management system.

Mandrakesoft has also stressed usability for version 10.1, and they have expanded and enhanced their set of system configuration tools. Also included are some new and enhanced tools for developers, including new versions of GCC, Kdevelop, and the GDB debugger.

The 10.1 release comes with KDE 3.2.3 and GNOME 2.6. Package management is courtesy of Mandrakesoft's own tool for managing packages, urpmi version 4.5.

Mandrake 10.1 Community is available immediately as a download for Mandrakeclub members and contributors. ISO images are available for Silver and above club members.

Mandrakelinux 10.1 Offical is expected to be available in November. The retail version will include several license and support levels.   ■

http://www.mandrakesoft.com/

■ Yellow Dog Unleashed

Terra Soft Solutions announced the release of Yellow Dog Linux 4.0. Yellow Dog is a leading Linux distribution for the PowerPC. Yellow Dog Linux version 4.0 offers support for USB-G3s, G4s, and G5 Power Macs. This version of Yellow Dog also includes expanded USB support, as well as built-in FireWire, dual-monitor support, and better wireless connectivity.

According to Owen Stampflee, Terra Soft's lead engineer, "This development effort was perhaps the most challenging in the history of Terra Soft, with a completely new code foundation, several mid-stream Apple product releases and revisions, and our own desire to achieve a product better than we have offered…"

Yellow Dog 4.0, which is built upon Fedora Core 2, includes KDE 3.3, GNOME 2.6.0, and Linux kernel 2.6.8. Also included are OpenOffice 1.1.1, Rhythmbox 0.8.3, Mozilla 1.7, and GCC 3.3.3.   ■

http://www.yellowdoglinux.com/