

LINUX NEWS

Loki closed for business

Loki, who helped bring to the Linux community games such as Railroad Tycoon and QuakeIII, regrettably filed a Chapter 11 petition back in August last year and finally closed for business on 31st January 2002.

Concern was raised about what would happen with regards to the support and maintenance for the whole range of Loki products, so the Loki team were keen to point out what steps they had taken to try and minimise people's fears:

- All patches, FAQs, newsgroups and other online support services will continue to operate with a

third party host, like www.icculus.org/lgfaq/. The Loki domains will be redirected to point to the new host, so there should be no need to make any changes to continue to use these services.

- All source code has been returned to the respective licensers. Although we cannot guarantee that each licenser will continue to support the Linux versions of their titles, we have made certain that they have all the necessary tools to do so. The Loki team suggest that the Linux community should not be shy about letting any of them know, respectfully, our thoughts on this subject.

Tim O'Reilly receives award



Congratulations to Tim O'Reilly, who has been selected

to receive the 2002 RIT Isaiah Thomas Award in Publishing, which is sponsored by the Xerox Corporation. This award, which was presented in New York by the Rochester Institute of Technology's School of Printing Management and Sciences (or SPMS) on the 20 February 2002, recognises outstanding contributions made to the publishing industry.

According to Frank Romano, SPMS chair, "Tim O'Reilly has truly documented the digital revolution. Programmers, IT professionals, and many other users have learned and applied new electronic tools through his company's books. If there is a foundation for the digital age, it rests with O'Reilly publications".

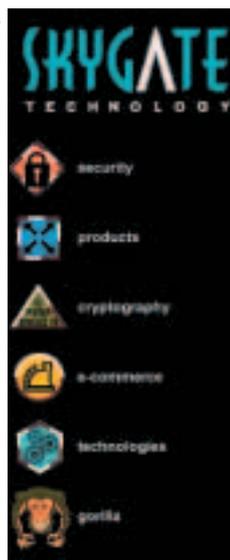
Often regarded as the first and most trusted source of technical information, the books from O'Reilly & Associates occupy a treasured place on the shelves of the developers building the next generation of software. O'Reilly books are probably best known for the regular animal motifs on the covers, allowing readers to relax and not get into a hump while reading about Perl or go batty over SendMail.

Skygate SpamDecoy

Spam, or unsolicited email, has emerged as an ever-increasing drain on everyone, wasting both time and money. To combat this drain, Skygate has developed SpamDecoy. At best spam wastes network bandwidth, productivity and resources, and is a very real security threat disseminating malicious code in its body. Skygate Technology's SpamDecoy is the most effective tool available for protecting against the numerous threats inherent in email spam.

"We started research into the spam threat a year ago," says Skygate director Pete Chown. "As a security consultancy we were only too aware of how serious and underrated a security threat spam was. We also felt that the handful of products designed to block spam were less than satisfactory for at least two reasons.

"They didn't actually prevent spam from penetrating a network in the first place and secondly, because they relied



on lists of known spammers which quickly become obsolete. Our objective was to develop an effective, technical solution that would stop spam before it entered the network. The result is a simple, largely automated solution that in tests, has stopped 90 per cent of spam".

SpamDecoy is currently available for Linux mail servers, though builds can be made available for Unix systems running on Enterprise scale installations. Skygate Technology, based in

south London, is an independent consultancy, specialising in the field of cryptography, security, e-commerce and the Internet. The company provides international organisations with strategic consultancy and software development capabilities.

Info

sales@skygate.co.uk
www.skygate.co.uk

MandrakeSoft ships Linux for IBM eServer xSeries

Linux MandrakeSoft, has announced that it will deliver a fully-supported Linux distribution for IBM eServer xSeries, IBM's Intel-based server targeted at small businesses through to large enterprises.

Mandrake Linux 8.1, is a complete operating system that provides both fully configured, easy to use desktop solutions plus advanced professional solutions for powerful servers providing for both business and personal needs. As part of their leading-edge support for Linux, MandrakeSoft offer customer services such as MandrakeExpert, which enables Mandrake Linux users to benefit from community technical support and top-level support, offered by MandrakeSoft's experts within a 48-hour response time.

MandrakeSoft successfully tested the Linux Mandrake 8.1 release on IBM xSeries servers at IBM's Solution Partnership Centre in Essone, near Paris. Mandrake Linux 8.1 currently supports eServer xSeries models x300, x330, x340, x370, x200 and x220 and the Netfinity 6000R, Netfinity 4500R and Netfinity 5100. Testing is also currently underway on IBM's 64-bit Itanium based server the eServer x380.

"I'm extremely pleased that customers can now take advantage of the high availability, low cost IBM eServer xSeries systems running the Mandrake Linux operating system", said Marc Joly, Linux Business Manager, IBM France.

Netkonect, a UK-based business to business ISP looked to IBM and MandrakeSoft to provide them with a stable and reliable solution to run their business. The company installed IBM x340 and x330 servers running Mandrake Linux. Stuart Henderson, Business Development Manager with Netkonect said, "As many of our customers' entire business depends on the high availability of their servers, a stable and reliable platform was of paramount importance. Our users are continually developing applications on the latest scripting technologies and therefore an up-to-date OS release that does not compromise stability was essential. In choosing this solution, support from IBM and stability of the product was vital. After looking around at the different Linux distributors, we choose the Mandrake Linux OS because it offered the highest level of functionality in an integrated, ease-to-use package."

Info

www.ibm.com/servers
www.mandrakesoft.com

IBM Introduces new dedicated Linux Servers

IBM today announced plans to deliver two new dedicated Linux servers, including a first-of-its-kind Linux-only mainframe that requires no traditional mainframe operating system experience.

The IBM eServer zSeries allow for the consolidation of between 20 to 200 stand alone servers, bringing the superior total cost of ownership and bullet-proof performance and security of the IBM mainframe to an entirely new class of customers. The announcement follows a year of remarkable growth and interest in Linux on the mainframe at IBM, as the eServer zSeries became the fastest growing platform in the industry and the only server platform to chalk up five consecutive quarters of growth.



IBM also announced plans to deliver an aggressively priced, easy-to-manage Linux server specifically for small and medium-sized businesses. The IBM eServer iSeries offering for Linux uses IBM's advanced "partitioning" technology to help customers to reduce cost and complexity by consolidating up to 15 standalone Linux and Windows servers onto a single physical server. It supports the SuSE and Turbolinux distributions of Linux and includes an installation wizard for rapid deployment. Both servers are intended for infrastructure applications such as firewall, Web serving, file and print serving, and mail serving and are expected to be available in the first quarter of this year.

"These new Linux servers answer the call of every customer who is serious about reducing server sprawl and dramatically improving their total cost of ownership," said Bill Zeitler, senior vice president and group executive of IBM eServer. "Companies large and small are turning to 'virtual' Linux servers to save 'real' dollars as they gain better control over their e-business infrastructure."

Running IBM's industry leading z/VM virtualisation technology, the eServer zSeries for Linux offers an ideal platform for server consolidation, utilising the mainframe's ability to create as few as 20 and up to hundreds of virtual Linux servers on a single physical box, saving customers substantially on energy, floor space, and maintenance expense.

Info

www-1.ibm.com/servers/eserver/zseries/
www.turbolinux.com
www.suse.com

Dreamworks and HP to use Linux for more film entertainment

Dreamworks used Linux servers for much of the brute work to help render many of the images in the box office success 'Shrek'. But that was two years ago. Since then, though, Linux has taken over almost completely in the role of helping to make Dreamworks new feature "Spirit: Stallion of the Cimarron," or so they told the world at the recent LinuxWorld Conference and Expo in New York.

Hewlett-Packard took up the strain to help add and improve on some of the holes Linux has for this type of development, helping to produce a system that was 50 per cent cheaper than the system used to produce 'Ants' two to three years ago, while, at the same time giving a 400 per cent power improvement.

"We're in the process of shifting away from specialised high-end computing hardware and software to Intel-based PCs running Linux," said Ed Leonard, Dreamworks' chief technology officer.

"We worked very hard with our third-party software partners and convinced them why we believed this was interesting. We brought most of those key partners on board," Leonard said. With HP's help, the Dreamworks translated to Linux its own in-house animation tools, millions of lines code long.

HP Chief Executive Carly Fiorina announced the deal in a keynote address at the LinuxWorld Conference and Expo.

Compaq ProLiant email servers thanks to Sendmail

Sendmail helped define how Internet email operates and is considered the benchmark for Open standards and Internet email innovation. Now, Sendmail, Inc., has joined forces with Compaq Computer Corporation in announcing the availability of the first enterprise-class, Linux-based email solutions for industry-standard Compaq ProLiant servers. These customisable solutions combine ProLiant servers with Sendmail's Mailstream Manager and Sendmail's Integrated Mail Suite (IMS). These highly available, secure email systems are ideal for organisations and service providers that are looking to reduce the costs associated with deploying and maintaining their current RISC-based email infrastructure, and extend email access to additional users.

These email solutions take advantage of industry-standard software and server platforms to provide maximum availability and a superb price performance ratio. Performance testing indicated that Sendmail, Inc. software running on Compaq ProLiant server clusters significantly surpassed more expensive RISC-based



servers in message throughput.

"Cost-effectiveness is a top priority for email and messaging solutions," said Mark Levitt, research director for Collaborative Computing at IDC.

"The combination of Sendmail, Inc.'s software with Compaq's Linux-based servers is designed to deliver highly available systems that can grow easily and cost-effectively to support rising email volumes and expanding user populations."

"Compaq's leadership in the Linux server market combined with the strong management capabilities of Compaq's products, make ProLiant an excellent platform for delivering enterprise-class email solutions," said Greg Olson, chairman and co-founder of Sendmail, Inc. "Our lab tests have shown the price/performance ratio to be stunning."

The Compaq and Sendmail, Inc. solutions

can stand alone or enhance existing messaging and groupware platforms with additional security and availability. The high availability offered in these solutions is ideal for enterprise customers and service providers who consider email to be a critical



component of their 24x7 business operations. The solutions provide additional mail security filters, directory services, secure mail routing and centralised administrative tasks into a single secure SSL-based management interface.

Early adopters of the Compaq and Sendmail, Inc. package include a leading GSM mobile telephony provider and one of the most respected health care companies in California.

Info

www.compaq.com/products/software/linux/mailmsg/

www.sendmail.com

Caldera Volution Manager 1.1 receives industry accolade

Volution Manager 1.1 is Calderas' secure, Web-based management and administration solution. This new version, which has been available since February, now supports the latest versions

of all major Linux distributions as well as Caldera OpenServer and Open Unix products.

In addition, Caldera has introduced several new system management features in Volution Manager to help system administrators and solution providers save time, scale resources, and ease deployments cost effectively.

The Aberdeen Group, a leading industry research firm, recently released a competitive analysis white paper by Dr. Bill Claybrook on Linux management solutions. The Aberdeen Group claimed Caldera provided the best Linux management solution, saying, "Today, the leading overall Linux software management solution is an integration of Caldera Volution Online and Caldera Volution Manager. Caldera has the potential for large amounts of



success with the integrated product solution both within its large installed base and outside its installed base because it has brought cross-platform management into one interface for several

distributions of Linux, OpenServer, and Open UNIX with future plans for Solaris and Windows."

Some of the enhancements to Caldera Volution Manager include:

- Multiple platforms management via one interface.
- New install options that simplify reviews, evaluations and deployments.
- New Wizards that simplify common tasks and reduce the initial learning curve.
- Integration with Volution Online providing an Internet delivered, proactive software management service for Linux and UNIX systems.

Info

www.caldera.com/products/volutionmanager

Linux on the PlayStation 2

Sony Computer Entertainment America Inc. announced the availability of "Linux (for PlayStation 2)" Release 1.0, targeted towards the Linux development community. Designed as a hobbyist development environment, users can not only run the wide variety of computer applications written for the Linux operating system, but also create original programs and applications designed to run on "Linux (for PlayStation 2)". The company expects the kit to sell for about £200 when it is made available in May 2002 exclusively through its Web site,

The release of "Linux (for PlayStation 2)" will, for the first time, allow developers access to the PlayStation 2 runtime environment and system manuals, though rumours abound as to how full and detailed that access will be.

"The Linux (for PlayStation 2)" Release 1.0 kit includes:

- Internal hard disk drive for PlayStation 2 (HDD) with 40 Gb capacity.
- Network adaptor (Ethernet) (for

PlayStation 2) with 100 Base T Ethernet interface.

- Computer monitor adaptor (for PlayStation 2) (with audio connectors).
- USB Keyboard and mouse (for PlayStation 2).

The software, which is expected to be supplied on two DVDs, will contain:

- Linux kernel version 2.2.1 (with USB device support).
- gcc 2.95.2 and glibc 2.2.2 with VU assemblers.
- XFree86 3.3.6 with PlayStation 2 GS support.

Linux use is growing at unprecedented levels and according to IDC, a leading market research firm, the Linux operating system marketshare is expected to reach 38 per cent world-wide by 2004. In response to many requests from the Japanese Linux society to enjoy Linux programming on PlayStation 2, Linux Beta Version Kit was made available to approximately 7,900 enthusiasts in Japan in July 2001. Since then, more than 28,000

people have expressed interest in the "Linux (for PlayStation 2)" development kit to date.

This led the company to release a new version as release 1.0 to support users of the worldwide Linux community. The company responded to feedback received from the beta test program in Japan and modifications were incorporated for "Linux (for PlayStation 2)" Release 1.0. Customer support and other community-based features will be handled through the North American PlayStation 2 Linux Web site.

More details regarding the "Linux (for PlayStation 2)" release, FAQs and related news will be disseminated through this Web site, as it becomes available.



Info

<http://playstation2-linux.com/>

AMD introduces new mobile ATHLON 4 1500+ Processor for Notebook PCs

AMD's new mobile processor, the Athlon 4 1500+ features QuantiSpeed architecture, AMD PowerNow! technology, joining the AMD Athlon XP and AMD Athlon MP processors. The new mobile processor will be identified with model numbers,



as opposed to clock speed in megahertz. In October 2001, AMD announced the True Performance Initiative (TPI), through which AMD will assist customers in understanding the benefits of PC performance.

The mobile AMD Athlon 4 processor features QuantiSpeed architecture, which incorporates a nine-issue, fully pipelined superscalar micro-architecture, a superscalar floating-point unit, hardware data pre-fetch, exclusive and speculative Translation Look-aside Buffers (TLB). Other features of the mobile AMD Athlon 4 processor include support for AMD's 3DNow! Professional instruction set for enhanced multimedia capabilities, and AMD PowerNow! technology for extended battery life.

The new mobile processor, delivers the highest notebook PC application performance matches the demands of today's mobile business professionals. Systems based on the mobile AMD Athlon 4 processor 1500+ are expected to be immediately available from Compaq Computer Corporation.

"Going forward, AMD continues to listen closely to end users that are calling for a better measure of performance," said Patrick Moorhead, AMD vice president of Customer Advocacy who is driving the TPI. "AMD is working diligently to drive these discussions in a positive manner and devise an improved measure embraced throughout the PC industry."

Compaq will feature AMD mobile processors in its Compaq Presario 700 notebook series. The Presario 700 can be ordered immediately from the Compaq Web site.

Info

www.athome.compaq.com

MontaVista to strengthen Linux ties to IBM PowerPC Processors

MontaVista has announced a technological agreement under which MontaVista's embedded Linux platform will expand its support for the IBM PowerPC microprocessor.

The agreement is designed to help ensure that the IBM PowerPC microprocessors are fully supported by MontaVista Linux for embedded system and networking applications. IBM and MontaVista also plan to pursue joint sales and marketing activities.

"Linux has become a requirement for many embedded and networking applications, so we're strengthening our relationship with MontaVista Software to build on the strong enabling of Linux in IBM products," said Scottie Ginn, vice president, Pervasive Computing Group, IBM Microelectronics. "IBM continues to invest in the hardware and software technology essential to meeting the needs of our customers. We believe that MontaVista Linux, along with the IBM PowerPC and IBM PowerNP can provide a consistent, scalable environment for everything from cell phones to routers."

MontaVista Software was one of the first embedded software companies to develop a Linux-based platform for the IBM PowerPC family of processors, a focus that the company has maintained during its two years of successful commercial operation. The two companies had previously announced that they are collaborating to make the Linux operating system available for IBM PowerPC-based set-top box chips and IBM PowerNP NP4GS3 network processors.

"Embedded systems developers have long valued the stability and performance embodied in the PowerPC architecture," said Jim Ready, CEO, MontaVista Software. "Now these same developers can couple next-generation IBM PowerPC and IBM PowerNP hardware platforms with the openness and performance of MontaVista's embedded Linux environment. MontaVista Software joins IBM in delivering the software and hardware foundation for the next wave of networking systems and consumer devices."

The scalable IBM PowerPC architecture provides a common Linux programming

platform across the e-business infrastructure. The IBM PowerNP and IBM PowerPC processors and cores are suited for data storage devices and servers that feed the network; wired hubs, routers, and switches that make up the network; and the hand-held communications devices and other pervasive computing products that access the network.

MontaVista Linux Professional Edition is available direct from MontaVista and MontaVista distribution channels worldwide as a product subscription, providing the MontaVista Linux kernel, software updates, utilities, development tools and one year of technical support. It is Open Source, royalty-free, and built from 100 per cent pure Linux sources. Also available from MontaVista Software are expanded technology add-on products, including embedded Java, High-Availability technology, and powerful graphical toolkits.

Info

MontaVista – www.mvista.com/
IBM – www-3.ibm.com/chips/

NEC adopts NetVault as its Linux backup software

BakBone Software is an international storage management software company that develops and globally distributes high-performance storage management solutions to the open systems markets, especially well known is NetVault.

The NEC Corporation has announced the addition of NetVault to its Linux backup solution product line-up. This enables NEC to sell NetVault as a backup software for NEC's "Express 5800 Series" IA server products.

NetVault is the de facto standard for Linux backup software in the Japanese market. NEC adopted NetVault based on capabilities not currently supported by other Linux backup solutions including support of single files greater than 2Gb when using a 64-bit Linux 2.4 kernel,



RAW Device plug-in enabling backup of character devices and block devices, handling of Japanese file names, and support of a variety of Linux distributions such as Red Hat, Turbolinux, Miracle Linux, Caldera, VA Linux, and Vine.

"Our adoption of NetVault backup software enables NEC enterprise customers to use our Linux-based system products more reliably. We aim to further expand our market share by using our experience in the market and providing Linux solution consulting and support services to our customers," said Takayuki Okada, from the NEC Corporation.

Info

www.nec-global.com/
NetVault – www.bakbone.com