

LINUX NEWS



LINUX INSTALL DAY 2002

Linux wants YOU

If you're looking to do a Linux install for the first time, but have been put off by a fear of the unknown, then the Linux Install Day 2002 is just for you. Experienced Linux users around the country will be setting up workshops, giving new and inexperienced users the chance to go through Linux installations, even on their own hardware if they have managed to bring it along, or, at the very least answer questions and give encouragement for later.

Two big days have been planned, Sunday 19 May and Sunday 9 June, though some of the local Linux User Groups have chosen Saturdays or other days around that time. The UK has 60 or more such groups, just see our User Group pages in the back of the magazine, and most will be arranging something around the Install Day.

Info

Linux Install Day 2002: <http://www.linuxinstallday.org/>

SmoothWall – IPCop clarification

In last month's Linux Magazine we ran a feature on IPCop (Issue 19, pages 24-25). We failed to mention that the current version of IPCop (v0.1.1) is fruit born out of the SmoothWall project. IPCop started life as a fork from the SmoothWall project after disagreements over licensing.

The current IPCop is mainly the work of Laurence Manning, the principle author of SmoothWall, and Pierre-Yves Paulus also from SmoothWall. While the IPCop project is trying to move the project on in a different direction, we feel it is important to also

appreciate the history, time and commitments made.

If that wasn't not bad enough, when we ran an interview with Richard Morrell from SmoothWall in Issue 15 we managed to misspell the names of Ted Ts'o and Joe Arruda. Apologies all round.

Info

SmoothWall: <http://www.smoothwall.org/>

Slashdot discussion: <http://slashdot.org/articles/02/03/17/1332207.shtml>

IPCop: <http://www.ipcop.org/>

Secure console management



Minneapolis-based Digi International, which has offices in Bristol, has introduced the new PortServer CM – a product line focused on the demanding requirements of data centre managers.

The PortServer CM enables system administrators to monitor and control IT equipment such as UNIX and Linux servers, routers, network switches, intelligent power supplies and telephone switches, through serial console ports. Administrators can securely access any mix of these devices via TCP/IP connections over Ethernet LANs or dial-up modem

connections. Administrators will find the embedded Linux OS a comfortable and flexible environment from which to manage and monitor their IT equipment.

The PortServer CM incorporates Secure Shell (SSH v2 or v1), a robust, standards-based security protocol, to protect against unauthorised monitoring, i.e. sniffing, by unauthorized users. The PortServer CM also provides access to approved users on a per port basis. Access to the PortServer CM may be further restricted through the use of the firewall functionality of the IP filtering feature.

Additional features of the PortServer CM

include clustering, the ability to manage up to 512 console ports from one master PortServer CM. The radius client provides port specific access and moves all the user information to a central server on the network. For direct access to a specific port, the user can choose to Reverse Telnet or assign each port a separate IP address. The PortServer provides a Web-based GUI that supports HTTPS for those who prefer to securely manage the device through a browser.

Info

Digi International: <http://www.digi.com>



Programming with Qt

Qt remains one of the niftiest toolkits for building graphical user interfaces (GUIs) in Linux, Unix and even Windows. Its applications are environment-portable, it's included in most recent Linux distributions, it's much easier to use than the standard Motif toolkit for Unix systems, and it provides Windows users with native-looking interfaces.

Frustrated by the lack of a good tutorial-style manual when Qt made its debut, author Matthias Kalle Dalheimer crafted the first edition of "Programming with Qt," which has become a much thumbed-through tome on many a programmer's bookshelf. Dalheimer's motivation for updating "Programming with Qt" for Version 3 was the fact that "the Qt landscape has changed considerably since the first edition was published. It is no longer a niche product, but one that is widely used. Especially the embedded version, Qt/Embedded, has brought Qt into many new places, so the need of a good tutorial-style introduction (but also of some more advanced programming topics that I also cover) is even more pressing than before."

"Programming with Qt, 2nd Edition" shows how to use all of the Qt GUI elements, and covers advanced topics like 2D transformations and drag-

and-drop. The book contains exercises and fully worked-out answers to make learning easy, debugging hints, and instructions for reading and writing XML documents.

Among the many features adding value to the second editions a new chapter on network programming.

What's Dalheimer's prediction for the future of Qt? "This might seem pretty bold, but I believe that in one or two years from now, at least in the embedded space, Qt will be the most often used toolkit which in turn will also give its desktop (Windows, Unix/Linux and Mac OS X) versions another boost. Consequently, I would expect 'Qt programming experience mandatory' in job ads to be as common as the 'Java programming experience mandatory' or 'MFC programming experience mandatory' is today."



Info

O'Reilly (UK): <http://www.oreilly.com/catalog/prowqt2/>

Panasonic takes stake in MontaVista

Matsushita Electric Industrial (MEI) has, through its subsidiary, Panasonic Digital Concepts Center (PDCC), taken a stake in the embedded Linux specialist MontaVista Software.

"As embedded applications become more network-oriented, consumer electronics companies are looking to

Linux as a robust and cost-effective development platform," said Charles C. Wu, Managing Director of Investments for PDCC. "Panasonic Digital Concepts Centre recognises the tremendous traction that MontaVista has gained in the increasingly important area of embedded software solutions. We look forward to a strategic relationship that will meld MontaVista Software's strengths with Panasonic's global leadership in consumer electronics."

MEI joins a list of high-profile

investors, including IBM, Sony, US Venture Partners and others, who also invested in MontaVista Software in its third round of funding announced earlier this year.

"Consumer electronics and communications infrastructure are the two markets we believe hold the most opportunity for

Linux," said Jim Ready, MontaVista CEO and embedded industry pioneer. "Manufacturers of high-volume, competitively priced consumer electronics devices especially appreciate the non-proprietary nature of Linux, which does not lock them in to paying royalties and licensing fees."

Info

MontaVista Software: <http://www.mvista.com/>

Funding information: http://www.mvista.com/news/2002/MV_Fund.html



Dates announced for Linux Expo UK 2002

Clear your diaries now, as the 9-10 October see the return of the Linux Expo UK 2002 to Olympia in London, following on from the success of last years bash.

Now in its fourth year, Linux Expo is the UK's largest exhibition and conference dedicated to this open source revolution. It brings together all the major players in the Linux computing sphere to provide the definitive review of all the latest products and services emerging around this rapidly developing technology.

If you are evaluating the importance and impact of Linux technology on your IT infrastructure, you can meet over 80 international players who are leading the Linux revolution. From development tools, e-commerce, security and Internet tools to Linux-based training and support; this is your unique opportunity to discuss your Linux issues directly with the industry leaders.

Info

Linux ExpoUK 2002:

<http://www.linuxexpouk.co.uk/>



Fire and Lightning

Lightning, the Swiss-based network security appliances and solutions company, has introduced its MultiCom Enterprise Ethernet. This enterprise-level firewall appliance delivers stateful inspection firewall technology, unlimited node security, and IPSec VPN connectivity.

The MultiCom Enterprise Ethernet responds to the demands of medium and large businesses wishing to securely connect to the Internet and to remote sites through secure, extended networks.

Gilles Trachsel, Product Marketing Manager of Lightning said: "Lightning presents the MultiCom Enterprise Ethernet to the enterprise sector as a cost-effective alternative to current firewall appliances on the market. This product responds to the demands of our customers requiring a high-quality, cost-effective solution that offers maximum security, high performance, integrated switching and separate DMZ interface."

Info

Lightning Instrumentation:
<http://www.lightning.ch/>

Software Ag Linux commitment

Software Ag is showing off its Tamino XML Server, now that it runs on Red Hat Linux 7.2, SuSE Linux 7.2 and SuSE Linux Enterprise Server 7 for IA-32. This enhanced Linux support underscores its commitment to the popular Open Source operating systems. The IBM S/390 mainframe family has been supported by SuSE Linux Enterprise Server 7 and Tamino XML Server since last year.

Tamino XML Server is a high-performance platform for managing data via the Internet and Intranets. Software Ag's XML server manages information of all types – within and across organisations. In particular unstructured data, whose content was previously very difficult to standardise, can be managed efficiently with Tamino. XML enables the universal and platform-independent exchange of business documents and data between customers and business partners.

Info

Software Ag:
<http://www.softwareag.co.uk/casestudies/>

Wireless injection for the NHS

Remote heart monitoring, doctors given access to patient records and ambulances guided by satellite navigation systems, all from a single hand held device: according to Compaq, this is the future for the health care system in the UK. At Healthcare 2002, Compaq will deliver its vision of how the implementation of wireless technology will deliver a tangible and compelling return on investment (ROI) with the Compaq iPAQ at the core of communications and working methods throughout health care operations.

Illustrating how health care organisations can cut costs while increasing the time doctors are able to spend with patients, Compaq will outline how it is working with York NHS Trust. There, a wireless network is already giving health professionals fast, always-on access to essential information, such as electronic patient records, while they are on their rounds in wards and other clinical areas. Following the success of these initial steps, the hospital is now looking at ways that wireless technology can further transform the organisation.

Sue Rushbrook, head of systems and network services, York Health said, "One of the crucial elements to ensuring the successful implementation and real time usage of the Electronic Patient Record is the clinician's ability to access it at the point of health care delivery. The deployment of one single mobile device that is capable of delivering voice and data services to enable this ease of access is now a realistic option."

Info

Compaq: <http://www.compaq.com/>

Running weblogs with Slash

Visionaries have the ability to draw pieces together to reveal a broader vista than we might otherwise be able to see, but they are usually not the force for change that creates the vision. Invention itself is the work of one or more individuals who pause to look at the pieces of a puzzle

and ask, "Hey, what if?" Slash, the Open Source software that drives the popular <http://www.slashdot.org> site, evolved as the Slashdot creators asked this question while their site took shape: "What if you could build a program to manage a Web site, where people could organise and create things through a browser instead of HTML editors and FTP clients? What if you let readers publish their thoughts, and comment on stories and on the comments of other users?" Slashdot has subsequently triggered a revolution of its own, drawing hundreds of thousands of users and dozens of imitators.

In O'Reilly's just-released book, "Running Weblogs with Slash" co-authors Brian Aker and Dave Krieger show readers how to make this popular, powerful, and free system work for their own sites.

"Running Weblogs with Slash" was written for anyone who wants to get a weblog up and running. As Rob Malda, creator of Slash, writes in the foreword, "Hopefully, what we've learned over the years will make it easier for you to tell your story."



Info

O'Reilly: <http://www.oreilly.com/catalog/runblogslash/>

Turbo10 takes pole position

Turbo10 Search Engine has been ranked as the UK's number one engine by Search Engine Spy, the UK's leading search engine industry watchdog. According to Search Engine Spy, Turbo10 is a "refreshing change from many search engines mixing design, speed and content to create a truly superb search engine."

Nigel Hamilton, Turbo10's Co-founder and Managing Director said, "We are delighted to be ranked number one on Search Engine Spy. It confirms that our formula of speed, simplicity and relevant results is working."

Turbo10 Search Engine recently announced its launch into the Deep Net, enabling users for the first time to search specialist information sources previously overlooked by traditional search engines.

London based, Turbo10 is the first search engine to bridge the gap between the surface Web and the Deep Net. Crawler-based search engines like Alta Vista and Google only search static Web pages – the surface web. But the surface

Web only represents a small proportion of the information available on the Net.

Turbo10 has created unique search engine adapter technology, called the Turbo10 Trawler to connect to the Deep Net - a vast array of specialist databases that range from business associations, universities, libraries, and government departments.

"By delving into the Deep Net we are broadening the depth and range of search results for the online searcher. The Trawler connects in real-time, so unlike crawler-based engines, we search in the present not the past." Nigel Hamilton, a former Computer Science University Lecturer, said.

The Turbo10 Trawler can query up to 10 different databases, retrieve the results, rank and display them in a consistent interface.

Info

Turbo10: <http://turbo10.com/>

Search Engine Spy:

<http://www.searchenginespy.co.uk/>

Red Hat Linux Advanced Server

Red Hat Linux Advanced Server, the first enterprise-class Linux operating system, is designed for demanding enterprise environments that are migrating away from UNIX. In addition, Red Hat will unveil unprecedented enterprise application support for Red Hat Linux Advanced Server at a partner and customer launch event today in New York City.

Red Hat Linux Advanced Server products will enable large companies to accelerate their migration from costly, proprietary UNIX to far more cost-effective Linux running on Intel-based server systems. A recent total cost of ownership (TCO) analysis by IDC research showed that Linux reduces per-user costs by almost half in internet/intranet/extranet environments when compared to RISC/UNIX solutions. In collaborative computing these savings can exceed 75 per cent. Red Hat Linux Advanced Server now brings this breakthrough TCO to database and application workloads that are common in large enterprises.

Info

Red Hat Europe: www.redhat.com/