

## TECH TOOLS

**Citrix Optimizes XenServer for the Cloud**

Citrix Systems announces XenServer 6, the most recent edition of its server virtualization product line, which features improved scalability and performance for cloud infrastructure, desktop virtualization, and networking. New features in XenServer 6 include optimizations for cloud and service delivery



networking and full integration of Open vSwitch, a core technology used to build next-generation cloud networks based on the innovative OpenFlow standard.

XenServer 6 also includes XenOptimizations for desktop virtualization. According to the announcement, with this release, physical GPUs can be centrally pooled

and assigned to a virtual desktop, enabling direct access and optimal graphics performance. The “Ten to Xen” feature simplifies management requirements for XenServer and allows customers to install the product and be up and running in a matter of minutes. XenServer 6 also incorporates Xen 4.1 hypervisor.

XenServer 6 is available now for download on the XenServer downloads page: <http://www.citrix.com/english/ss/downloads/results.asp?productID=683148>.

**Arkeia Announces New Backup Appliances**

Arkeia Software, a leading provider of backup and disaster recovery products, recently announced a new generation of all-in-one backup appliances.

New features include increased usable internal disk capacities from 1TB to 20TB, which allow more backup sets to be retained on-site for faster data recovery. The appliances employ RAID-1 and RAID-6 for secure storage of deduplicated data.

Upgraded network connectivity (10Gbps LAN and 8Gbps Fibre Channel SAN) permits faster backups and shorter backup windows. Additionally, integrated solid state drives (SSDs) shorten backup windows by accelerating updates to the backup catalog. Lower cost, sequential-access hard drives are ideal for storing backup sets.

The Arkeia Network Backup Appliances also support virtual platforms, including VMware’s vSphere, Microsoft’s Hyper-V, Citrix’s XenServer, and Red Hat’s RHEV. More information can be found at: <http://www.arkeia.com>.

**Sabayon 7 Released**

The most recent release of Sabayon 7 includes many new and updated features, such as an ultra-optimized Linux kernel 3.0, with Sabayon’s experimental “Fusion Kernel” available after installation.

The latest version natively supports the Btrfs filesystem (besides ext4, aufs, and others), the Gnome 3.2.0 Visual Environment, and the KDE 4.7 Desktop Environment. An improved Xfce 4.8 out-of-the-box experience is also included (for those missing Gnome 2). More details, including a list of important fixes, are available at: <http://www.sabayon.org/release/press-release-sabayon-linux-7-gnome-kde-and-xfce>.

**Acer Debuts Aspire S3 Ultrabook**

Acer announced its first Ultrabook at the IFA consumer electronics show in Berlin, Germany. According to the press release, the Acer Aspire S3 integrates features of both notebook and mobile devices, offering powerful performance and ultra-fast responsiveness for content consumption.

Along with fast response time, the company says Acer Green In-



stant On technology provides energy efficiency and enhanced power management, while Acer Instant Connect provides access to the Internet in just 2.5 seconds.

Acer Green Instant On also provides two sleep modes from which the Aspire S3 quickly responds: From Sleep mode, the Aspire S3 will resume in a mere 1.5 seconds; from Deep Sleep, it will resume in 6 seconds. According to the press release, with these energy-conscious innovations, the Aspire S3’s battery life lasts up to 50 days.

The Aspire S3 has a 13-inch thin, metal case with innovative airflow design to enhance the user’s comfort. From the press release, “The Aspire S3 features a vent-free bottom so the notebook rests comfortably on the user’s lap. Warm components are smartly placed away from the palmrest and touchpad area, so users won’t feel any heat discomfort.”

The Aspire S3 also features Intel Core i3/i5/i7 processors and a choice of 240GB SSD or 320/500GB HDD with embedded SSD for ultra-fast access and ample room for media and data storage.

Priced at US\$ 899, the Aspire S3 is available now in the United States and Canada.