

LINUX WORLD NEWS

RUSSIA'S BEST OSS SOFTWARE

Russia's best open source projects are an HTTP and reverse proxy server with email proxy functionality and an optical character recognition (OCR) software program. From among a hundred candidate projects suggested by the Internet community by November 15, 2009, an expert jury representing five Linux-supporting Russian companies and projects

chose the best individually driven and the best collectively driven open source projects. The authors of nginx and Cuneiform, Igor Sysoev and Moscow-based software company Cognitive Technologies, went home with 100,000 rubles (approx. EUR 2,360) each.

The second-place winners, the madwimax drivers for WiMAX devices that use the Samsung CMC-730 chip, and the vector graphics illustration program sk1, were awarded 80,000 rubles each. Third-place winners – the OTPD cross-platform print subsystem for pos, ticket, and label-printers and the Midnight Commander file manager – won 70,000 rubles each.

Because the sponsors donated a total jackpot of 600,000

rubles (approx. EUR 14,000), the organizers of the contest, the editors of Russian Linux Format magazine, allotted special editor's choice prizes. These went to Kalpa Cloud (a toolkit for developing distributed GUI applications) and to Free Dean's Office (a Moodle module adapted to the needs of the Russian educational system).

<http://linuxformat.ru/foss-contest/>
(in Russian)

<http://nginx.org/>

<http://www.cuneiform.ru/eng/>

<http://code.google.com/p/madwimax/>

<http://sk1project.org/>

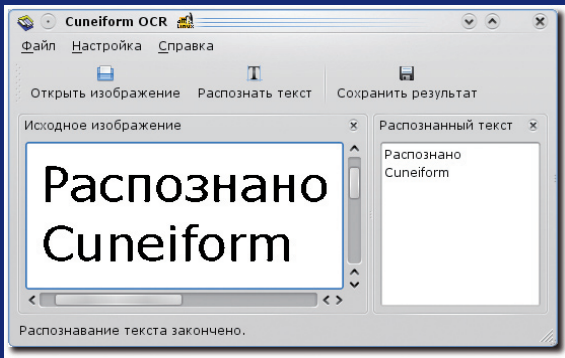
<http://developer.berlios.de/projects/otpd/>

<http://www.midnight-commander.org/>

<http://news.kalpa.ru/> (in Russian)

<http://freshmeat.net/projects/vedga>

<http://www.deansoffice.ru/> (in Russian)



A SOCIAL GEEK CONFERENCE

Mid-November 2009 was marked by an exciting event in Sweden, the Free Society Conference and Nordic Summit (FSCONS) at the IT department of the University of Gothenburg, with almost 250 participants and more than 50 speakers. Organized by the local free software community – among others, the FFKP (society for free culture and software), the free software co-operative Gnutiken, the free software syndicate Serengeti, and FSCONS united hackers – the conference bid welcome to researchers and activists from 16 countries, primarily Iceland, Great Britain, Finland, Norway, Germany, Austria, Denmark, and Sweden.

Along with software-specific topics such as content repositories, Debian packaging, PHP, Perl, and OpenBSD, the conference covered a broad range of freedom-related topics like how to organize hacker spaces, Linux in education, social movements and free software, women's participation in open source,

and open content licensing issues. The innovative influence of open source concepts shone through discussions of open math, open hardware, and the idea of an open source eco-village.

Despite a common view that hacker conferences are badly organized and chaotic, FSCONS had a strict agenda and well-planned off-conference activities. More than 30 volunteers took care of participants' and speakers' needs. Healthy vegetarian food, social evenings, and enthusiasm contributed to the friendly atmosphere. FSCONS gave a brilliant example of free software, hacktivism, and social practices acting together and demonstrated that IT experts, users, and amateurs can find common ground in discussions.

The conference also played host to this year's Nordic Free Software Award ceremony honoring Daniel Stenberg of the GnuTLS project.

<http://www.fscons.org>

<http://gnutiken.se/en/>

INNOVATION POTENTIAL OF OPEN DIGITAL MEDIA

The National Endowment for Science, Technology, and the Arts (NESTA), Britain's largest independent think tank on how to support economic recovery and solve social challenges in the country through innovation, is going to test six different intellectual property frameworks for publicly procured digital media with selected public sector organizations in early 2010. Framework No. 6 suggests that the participating organization commission a new website, animation, application, or piece of technology "with the explicit goal of making it open source."

The aim of this project is to see whether allowing digital media businesses to retain some or all of their intellectual property using a simplified contractual process opens up additional revenue streams.

<http://www.nesta.org.uk/library/>

[documents/Public-ipr-frameworks.pdf](http://www.nesta.org.uk/documents/Public-ipr-frameworks.pdf)

<http://www.nesta.org.uk/>