

# TECH TOOLS

Professional users are always searching for an edge. Whether you work with Linux as a webmaster, programmer, system administrator, or security consultant, you know the best solution depends on finding the right tool for the job. We thought you might be interested in the following new products and updates.

## Doing Linux Backups Right: Time Drive 0.3

Although many Linux backup and restore applications are available, Time Drive seems to be getting a lot of attention on the web lately. This might have something to do with the fact that its compatible with the very popular Ubuntu and, in fact, uses the Ubuntu notification system.

The biggest change in the 0.3 release is the inclusion of notification and logging that allows Time Drive to let you know what it's doing every step of the way. Time Drive now logs all of its behavior and notifies you of errors, as well as providing backup statistics. The notification bars also make it easy to understand what task is being performed and see the progress of said task.

Time Drive provides incremental backups of files and directories by encrypting tar-formatted volumes into archives, which can then be sent either to a local drive or across the network, including the Internet, via FTP, SSH/SCP, rsync, or WebDav. You can also use Time Drive to back up remote drives mounted with a virtual file system.

Time Drive requires the open source library Duplicity and is available for Windows and Mac OS X as well as Linux. Find installation instructions and download Time Drive at <http://linux.softpedia.com/get/Adaptive-Technologies/Time-Drive-51090.shtml>.

## OLPC Moves to ARM-Based, Paper-Thin Netbook

Like many non-profits, One Laptop per Child (OLPC) has been struggling in the current economic climate. Yet OLPC continues to move forward and has announced plans to develop a version of the XO netbook based on an ARM processor. Version 3.0 or XO-3 is slated for release in 2012 and is said to be "paper-thin," completely unbreakable and waterproof.

Designs for the previously announced 2.0 netbook have been scraped as overly ambitious. With version 3.0 not scheduled to become available for another three years, an interim version, XO-1.75 is to be released, but no specific date has been set. Find out more by going to <http://www.laptop.org/en/>.

## Elastra Expands PHP 5.1.6 Support

Application infrastructure automation software provider Elastra has announced expanded support for PHP 5.1.6 for users of their Elastra Cloud Server. This update allows application architects and developers to create and configure LAMP (Linux, Apache, MySQL, and PHP) stacks very quickly on Amazon EC2 and on virtualization platforms such as VMware.

The current release of the Cloud Server software allows provisioning, installation, and configuration tasks of a company's application infrastructure to be automated, taking place in a fraction of the time as a manual setup.

Learn more about availability and pricing for the Elastra Cloud Server service at <http://www.elastra.com/>.

## R1Soft Releases Linux Hot Copy (HCP) 3.3.1 Beta

Until now, Windows Server 2003 has surpassed Linux servers worldwide in one particular area: the ability to perform online disk snapshots. Microsoft has its Volume Shadow Copy Service, which makes the job a snap. What do Linux servers have? Thanks to R1Soft, Linux Hot Copy fills the need for a universal volume snapshot tool. You might think Linux Volume Management Snapshots (LVM) would be the answer, but LVM doesn't directly support many storage configurations, such as basic partitions, virtual disks for Xen, and replicated block devices. That's where Linux Hot Copy comes in.

The latest release of the Hot Copy beta software supports multiple point-in-time snapshots of online disk volumes and can even detect corrupt file systems while the server is online. Snapshots are both readable and writable and can be used for backups, upgrades, testing system changes, and security audits.

Best of all, the price is right. Hot Copy HCP Beta Version 3.3.1 is an absolutely free download and is currently available. To start the download, go to <http://www.r1soft.com/tools/linux-hot-copy/>. You can find more information at <http://www.r1soft.com/>.

## CA Encryption Key Manager Runs on Linux

CA is now offering key-management software that automates the storage and distribution of encryption keys for multi-vendor tape encryption. Based on z/OS, the CA Encryption Key Manager supports IBM TS1120 and TS1130 tape encryption devices. It also will interface with such security systems as IBM RACF, CA ACF2 for z/OS, and CA Top Secret for z/OS for public/private key and digital certificate storage.

Currently available for Linux, Unix, Windows and Solaris OS platforms, pricing for the CA Encryption Key Manager starts at US\$ 16,000. Go to <http://www.ca.com/> for more.

## Ubuntu Powers Dell's Tiny Multimedia Powerhouse

The old cliché says big things come in small packages, and Dell makes it come true with its Inspiron Zino HD multimedia PC. Although measuring just 7.8x7.8x3.4 inches (197x197x89 mm), it offers full-scale multimedia services and can hardly be confused, except by size, for a lower power “nettop.”

The base model for the Zino HD comes with an Athlon 2650e processor, 2GB of RAM, and a 250GB, 7200rpm hard drive. The unit is perfect if space is limited and is a good fit for a home office or work cubicle environment. All versions can provide HD video playback and come with HDMI ports, but you can elect to upgrade to a DVD-RW or Blu-ray Disc drive.

Although the device is touted to run Ubuntu Linux, I had to dig a bit to find the evidence. The Tech Specs tab on the relevant page of Dell's online store shows that the Zino HD does provide OS options for Windows Vista, Windows 7, and Ubuntu 9.04. With that information confirmed, I also discovered that hardware upgrades are available for up to 1TB of SATA II storage and 8GB of DDR2 SO-DIMM.

Dell's Inspiron Zino HD is immediately available and, depending on the options you select, costs anywhere from US\$ 230 to US\$ 1024. To find out more, go to <http://www.dell.com/us/en/corp/desktops/inspiron-zino-hd/pd.aspx?refid=inspiron-zino-hd&s=corp>.

## Skype to Open Source Its Linux Client

Although it's no secret that Skype 2.1 Beta for Linux is currently available as a free download, it remains proprietary. Lately though, there has been buzz on a number of sites “announcing” that the Skype client for Linux will be open sourced. Although this doesn't necessarily mean any change in its availability for Linux users, it does mean that Skype is intending to allow the open source community to participate in future development of the Linux client. Unfortunately, as of this writing, there's no concrete information as to when the “future” will become the present. There's been speculation that, by the time Skype 2.1 for Linux leaves beta, it will be open sourced, but nothing is confirmed.

This is exciting news nonetheless, and I recommend that you visit <http://skype.com/> to get the latest.

## Use Open Source Campware for a Free Press

Media coverage of events worldwide in the era of Web 2.0 consists of a vast army of tools and utilities, including a number of social networking applications. Although the developed nations have a well-established press mechanism, emerging democracies have continued to struggle, at least until the advent of Campware.

Originally developed in relation to the Center for Advanced Media: Prague (CAMP), Campware products have been created to provide cost-effective, open source solutions for a variety of new media projects. Campware applications include Campsite for user-friendly online magazine publishing, Campcaster for radio, Cream for CRM, and Dream for newspaper distribution.

All Campware software is released as open source and under the GNU General Public License. To find out more and to download Campware products, go to <http://campware.org/>.

## Turnkey Linux New Appliances and Amazon EC2

Turnkey Linux, an open source project developing a free virtual appliance library, features easy-to-use, server-oriented software. The 2009.10 release batch has 25 new additions to the library, as well as Amazon EC2 support and native virtual appliance packaging. New features are integration with Windows domain controller, torrent server, file server, and revision control. Commercial enterprise-level software suites, content management apps, and issue-tracking software implementations are also supported; Turnkey core has been upgraded to Ubuntu 8.04.3. For more, see <http://www.turnkeylinux.org/>.

## Freescale Android Development Platform

Freescale Semiconductor has created a brand-new class of embedded devices for Google's open source mobile operating system with its Power Architecture development solution. “Power architecture” encompasses the RISC architectures used in chips from such vendors as IBM and Tundra, as well as Freescale. The Android OS implementation was originally developed by Mentor Graphics. Freescale combined its MPC8536E PowerQUICC III processor with a Power Architecture to establish their development platform. The port means that Android can now be used to run new types of embedded devices. Go to <http://www.freescale.com/> for the latest information.

## Red Hat Virtualization for Servers

The Red Hat Enterprise Virtualization for Servers suite includes a standalone hypervisor and a management platform, which should advance the adoption of virtualization and enable cloud computing infrastructure deployments. Red Hat previously focused on the Xen hypervisor but has switched to KVM-based virtualization. Unlike Xen, KVM is integrated with the Linux kernel, enabling Red Hat to provide more highly robust deployment and management options for customers. Red Hat Enterprise Virtualization for Servers became available with the RHEL 5.4 release. Find out more at <http://www.redhat.com/>.