LINUX WORLD NEWS

PLURALITY IN VENETO'S IT INFRASTRUCTURE

The Italian Region of Veneto's New Year's resolution for 2009 takes the form of a regional law issued at the end of 2008, aiming to uphold plurality in its IT infrastructures, remove technological barriers to knowledge and innovation, contain public spending, and promote competition and transparency. The law encourages and prescribes the use of open formats and issues a preference for the use of open source software.

Also, the law demands that interoperability of electronic archives must not be hindered by technical and legal limitations derived from patents, licenses, or trademarks. The law says that all public and private agencies in which the region has power of decision making or supervi-

sion must provide a valid reason in case they choose software that is not free or not reusable.

The regional government also plans to issue a software development roadmap for developing software to be released as free software and will allocate an initial budget of EUR 230,000 to assist in the deployment of this law.
http://www.consiglioveneto.it/crvportal/leggi/2008/08lr0019.html?numLegge=19&annoLegge=2008&tipoLegge=Alr (Italian)

DUTCH EDUCATION MINISTRY PUSHES OPEN SOURCE

The Dutch ministry of education is not willing to finance the legalization of illegal software copies used in schools at the Netherlands Antilles. Instead, the administration of the Dutch autonomous outlying territory is asked to consider open source alternatives.

Members of the Dutch parliament received this answer from minister Ronald Plasterk at the end of January in response to an article in the in-house magazine of SLBdiensten, a service body with the aim of linking educational institutions with hardware and software suppliers. The minister quoted a sum of approximately EUR 100,000 for the years 2009 to 2011, which the educational authorities of the Netherlands Antilles planned to spend on proprietary software licenses. The Dutch open source action plans do not cover the outlying territory.

EUPL IN ALL OFFICIAL EU LANGUAGES

Exactly two years after the initial release of the European Union Public License (EUPL), the European Commission provides software developers with an open source software license that has been validated in all 22 official languages used in the European Union. Apart from

the new passage stating "All linguistic versions of this License, approved by the European Commission, have identical value. Parties can take advantage of the linguistic version of their choice," only minor clarifications have been applied to the text, none of them changing the

original meaning. The updated EUPL version 1.1 was released January 9, 2009. For software using version 1.0, upgrading is not mandatory. The old EUPL 1.0 was available only in English, French, and German.
http://www.osor.eu/eupl

VENEZUELA TRAINS IT WORKERS

The Venezuelan National Center of Information Technologies (CNTI), based in Caracas, hosted a workshop to promote Canaima GNU/Linux 2.0 and free software in general, January 22 through 24, 2009. Canaima 2.0 is the second version of a Debian-based Linux distribution developed to meet the needs of end users within the Venezuelan National Public Administration (APN).

Based on Debian 5.0 "Lenny," Canaima contains OpenOffice 2.4.1, GNU-Paint, OpenProject and Planner, Inkscape, Firefox, Thunderbird, Skype, and

tailor-made administrative applications that help to monitor and control government services.

The development of Canaima GNU/Linux echoes the free software law implemented by the Venezuelan government in January 2006 – Decree No. 3,390 – that mandates all government agencies migrate to free software over a two-year period. Three years after this law was passed, the Venezuelan government still struggles with having

enough IT staff familiar with open source technologies to support the migration.
http://canaima.softwarelibre.gob.ve/ (Spanish)
http://www.cnti.gob.ve/ (Spanish)
http://www.gobiernoenlinea.gob.ve/directorioestado/decreto_3390.html (Spanish)

CANAIMA
DISTRIBUCIÓN GNU LINUX