LINUX WORLD NEWS

UNIVERSITY BUILDS OPEN SOURCE PAYMENT SYSTEM

Open source could be the solution for a Dutch transportation system that has come under fire because of security concerns. The problems started when security researchers found multiple ways to crack the encryption of the Mifare Classic Chip, the world's most-used RFID card. The tag is used for physical access control and electronic payment systems, such as the British Oyster Card, used for electronic ticketing in the Greater London area.

In the Netherlands, the technology forms a key component in a comprehensive public transportation system called OV-Chipcard. That system is intended to be comprehensive for all public transportation.

Now the issue has become political and Tineke Huizinga-Heringa, the country's Secretary for Transport, nearly lost her job during a motion of distrust regarding the handling of the issue. Despite all criticism and warnings about denial-of-service attacks, identity theft, and fraud, transportation companies are still moving ahead to introduce the system on a national level in 2009. When attackers actually abuse the system, a migration plan should save the day. Meanwhile, for access control in buildings, the Dutch department of Interior labeled the security issue a matter of national security.

Real help might come as soon as 2010, when the Radboud University of Nijmegen, the Netherlands, will introduce their OV-Chipcard 2.0, which is built on open standards and open source. The design will be open for public scrutiny and people can verify that the new payment system is secure and more privacy-friendly than it is now. Trans Link Systems, the company running the crippled payment system, seems to be interested but unsure whether they will end up using the system.

http://eprint.iacr.org/2008/166.pdf
http://www.cs.vu.nl/~ast/ov-chip-card/
http://nijmegen.marktgigant.nl/www/informatie/radboud-ontwikkelt-discrete-ov-chipcard-14038/radboud-ontwikkelt-discrete-ov-chipcard.html (Dutch)

OPEN SOURCE CITY LIVERPOOL

The June Open Source City event in Liverpool, organized by Folly and Sound-Network, was part of the 2008 European Capital of Culture Programme. The event explored open source practice in the production of media art and music.

With the participation of some of Europe's leading creative individuals in this field – including goto10, Mediashed, Polytechnic, Access Space, Simon Blackmore, Rui Guerra, and Daniel James – Open Source City featured talks that explained free software philosophy and copyright issues, hands-on workshops, video art installations, and experimental electronic music. For example, Rui Guerra taught participants how to connect several computers to create a wireless network using a tin can antenna. Rob Canning and Heather Corcoran of goto10 gave a tutorial on pure:dyne, a free operating system for free audio and video processing, featuring e.g. Ardour2, Hydrogen, Audacity, GIMP, Inkscape, and Blender.

http://www.folly.co.uk/opensourcecity, http://soundnetwork.org.uk/?q=node/48
http://devel.goto10.org/puredyne

NEW TINY BRAZILIAN LIVE DISTRO

Slackware isn't dead! The oldest living Linux distro has even produced offspring, such as the Brazilian GoblinX Live distro project that released the newest member of its family in July – GoblinX Micro 2.7.

Because it includes Fluxbox as the sole window manager and only Gtk/Gtk2-based applications, the ISO image is only 102,148 KB. However, the distro does include tools that allow users to add applications to the Live system to generate a corresponding GoblinX ISO image.

The slightly bigger Xfce-based GoblinX Mini 2.7, which features a more comfortable set of (Gtk) applications, was released June 26.

http://www.goblinx.com.br/en/index_micro.htm
http://www.goblinx.com.br/en/index_downloads.htm

NORWEGIAN FILM ARCHIVE EMBRACES OPEN STANDARDS

To connect with Norway's film heritage on the Internet, Windows is no longer a requirement. On June 20, the Norwegian Film Institute launched a pay-per-24 hours streaming service based on open standards, featuring star Kristoffer Joner's first movie as director, the short film "Cold and Dry." The new service provides access to 500 Norwegian short films, documentaries, animated movies, and motion pictures. For Linux, the VLC player and plugin of the VideoLAN project are recommended, although all players supporting MPEG-4 and the Real-Time Streaming Protocol (RTSP) should work.

To buy and see these movies, however, viewers need an IP address registered with a Norwegian ISP. Because of licensing issues, non-Norwegian movies are still restricted to Windows users.

http://www.filmarkivet.no/open/ (Norwegian)
http://www.nfi.no/english/
http://www.videolan.org/
http://www.nfi.no/english/norwegianfilms/show.html?id=935
http://www.odinfilm.no/html/news.html