

# 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.

## Xandros Tool Administers Red Hat Servers

The Xandros BridgeWays Management Console for Red Hat Enterprise Linux was just released, according to Xandros, and is available as a free download from their website. This product allows system administrators to use a graphical management tool to manage Red Hat servers, which should be particularly attractive to Windows administrators without any prior experience with Linux who need to work with Red Hat servers. The all-in-one remote management console does not require that admins be at all familiar with bash shell commands and organizes multiple servers and services into a single interface. The Management Console is available to be used under Red Hat, Windows XP, and Windows Vista desktops.

The Xandros product provides Windows system administrators a pain-free way to move into the Linux management space, without the necessary ramping up of Linux command-line and management skill sets. Windows admins can now manage DHCP, DNS, firewall, file and print, and web services, all running on Linux. More information is available at [http://home.xandros.com/products/business/bridgeways\\_xmc.html](http://home.xandros.com/products/business/bridgeways_xmc.html).

## Wine Is Now Stable

After 15 years, the open source application that allows Linux computers to run Windows software natively has reached its first stable release with Wine 1.0. Although application compatibility still isn't perfect, Wine was heavily tested and optimized with the Windows gamer in mind.

Wine works by implementing Windows APIs on top of X, OpenGL, and Unix, which means that a Windows desktop isn't required for you to run Windows applications. Microsoft has continued to make the .NET Framework somewhat elusive, resulting in "gaps" in compatibility, particularly with newer Microsoft products; however, thousands of Microsoft applications seem to be working and playing well together on Linux computers (<http://www.winehq.org/>).

## Scalix 11.4

Scalix, a subsidiary of Xandros, announced the release of the Scalix 11.4 messaging and collaboration system. Scalix is an enterprise-grade email and calendaring solution. The latest release marks what the company calls "the first stage of a new, flexible workgroup technology," with a new Proxy Folder feature. According to Scalix, the proxy folder feature, which lets the admin channel external data feeds to Scalix-supported clients, represents a major shift for the product away from a back-end email system to "a central collaboration platform and management hub."

Other improvements include upgrades to antivirus integration, integrated instant messaging, and enhanced social networking features. More information is available at <http://www.scalix.com>.

## Sourcefire Launches Free Security Tool

Sourcefire has just announced the availability of OfficeCat, a free security tool that lets desktop users easily identify Microsoft Office files that could pose a threat to their computers. The greatest advantage of OfficeCat is that it can detect these threats before the Office file is ever opened. Because the majority of desktop users worldwide are typically using some version of Microsoft Office, OfficeCat is a real open source-based boon to these people. OfficeCat is designed to detect threats often overlooked by the usual software protection applications, including anti-virus and anti-malware. This product is freely available for download at <http://www.officecat.org>.

## Linux and nVidia GeForce 9800GTX 512MB

The nVidia GeForce 9800GTX high-performance graphics card was recently benchmarked under Linux. Testing was performed under Ubuntu with the most recent nVidia driver release. Although still lacking open source support, the card is becoming more affordable and developing a competitive Linux edge. nVidia also produces a proprietary driver for FreeBSD and Solaris platforms. In most benchmarks, the nVidia GeForce 9800GTX was noticeably faster than most competitors, including the ATI Radeon HD 3870. However, the Radeon HD series has the advantage of being much more open source-friendly than the GeForce series. The full results of testing done on the nVidia GeForce 9800GTX under Linux can be found at [http://www.phoronix.com/scan.php?page=article&item=nvidia\\_9800gtx&num=1](http://www.phoronix.com/scan.php?page=article&item=nvidia_9800gtx&num=1).

## NetVault 8.1

BakBone Software announced the release of NetVault: Backup 8.1. The latest version of this well-known backup tool comes with enhanced virtualization support, including several new features for backup and disaster recovery in VMware virtual environments. NetVault 8.1 also offers some new integration features for connecting with supported devices, including VTL, SAN, NDMP, or locally attached drives. For more information, visit: <http://www.bakbone.com/>.

## CrossOver 7.0

CodeWeavers Inc., a major contributor to the Wine project, has released CrossOver 7.0, a Wine-based application for running Windows applications in Linux. Version 7.0 includes support for Microsoft Office 2007, as well as support for the Quicken accounting program and Adobe's CS and CS2 products, including the very popular Photoshop. CrossOver also supports a variety of Windows games. Find out more at <http://www.codeweavers.com/>.

## SourceGuardian Encryption Protects Software

Cube Evolution's Web Content Management System was vulnerable to any customer who purchased their system. Customers could easily see the source code and take any of the programming language. Worse, any of Cube Evolution's customers could also modify the source code, with the potential to cause the product to malfunction. To solve this problem, Cube Evolution selected SourceGuardian PHP Encoder to protect all of their products. SourceGuardian protects PHP scripts by compiling PHP source code into a binary bytecode format that is supplemented by encryption and encryption layers. SourceGuardian provides protection both from source code theft and malicious modification. This product runs equally well under Linux, FreeBSD, Windows, and Mac OS X. For more information about SourceGuardian, or to download a free trial of its advanced PHP encoder, visit <http://www.sourceguardian.com>.

## HD Surveillance Camera Runs Linux

France-based NexVision has announced the release of their network IP video camera design that incorporates the Texas Instruments DaVinci TMS320-DM6467 processor and Linux-based CamHD hardware/software design. The NexVision CamHD supports 30 frames per second (fps) HD video using the H264-MP codec and either full 1080P (2 megapixels at 30fps) or X-HD (5 megapixels at 12fps or 8 megapixels at 7fps). The built-in Altera Cyclone III FPGA comes with two DDR2 SDRAM banks and is dedicated to 3D video enhancement and a picture noise reduction algorithm. The DM6467 processor is available with a development board and software stack that are based on MontaVista Linux; however, NexVision has developed its own specialized Linux distribution for their product.

Pricing and additional information about the CamHD is available at <http://www.nexvision.fr/>.

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