

LINUX WORLD NEWS

SUMMER MUSIC FROM THE NORTH



With lyrics by late André Bjerke (1918–1985), one of modern Norway's most acclaimed poets, on their Linux-produced new CD South-Norwegian band "Faun" is aiming to conquer the

national hitlists this summer. The musicians centered around composer, vocalist, and guitarist Rune Udal recorded and mixed their 3rd album "Pjolter" entirely with open source software.

A new experience not only for the band itself but also for producer Per

Sigmond (who also plays trumpet and flugelhorn). For his studio this was the first CD produced exclusively on Linux-based software, the Digital Audio Workstation (DAW) Ardour, the Jazz sequencer, and the LinuxSampler audio sampler running on Fedora Core spiced with multimedia packages from the PlanetCCRMA project.

By the way: Pjolter is a blend of soda and brandy, whiskey or similar – often cheap – spirits. Skål Linux!

<http://www.foun.info/pjolter.htm>
(Norwegian)

<http://www.foun.info/filer/pjolter-smakebiter.mp3>
http://www.persigmond.com/http://no.wikipedia.org/wiki/Andr%C3%A9_Bjerke (Norwegian)

BERLIN'S MIGRATION PLANS STAGGERING

Berlin's city administration refuses to comply with its parliament's Linux migration plans for both servers and desktops, and calls them "not market-compliant, technically, and especially economically, not justifiable" in a recent report, signed by Lord Mayor Klaus Wowereit and his Senator of the Interior, Ehrhart Körting. The report claims, only the co-existence of both proprietary and open source software would comply with the administration's aim of developing "open IT architectures".

The authors of the report justify their criticism with Munich's migration plans,

which they claim after four years of work have started to falter: a claim that LiMux project officials immediately refuted, pointing out that people in Munich had actually been able to try out the "base Client", Munich's setup for an open source-based desktop, May 29, during the LiMux information day at Munich's city hall.

Among the hundred city officials to take part in the LiMux pilot phase are both Lord Mayor Christian Ude, and Mayor Christine Strobl, who opened the event, confirming that "LiMux works". Ms. Strobl was happy to report that her new desktop very much resembled the old one. A compliment that excited the city administration's Usability working group, which is working hard to make the new desktops easy to use.

<http://www.netzpolitik.org/2006/hintergrundinformationen-zu-linux-in-die-berliner-verwaltung/> (German)
<http://www.muenchen.de/Rathaus/dir/limux/publ/164244/infotag060529.html> (German)

INDIC OPEN SOURCE IMPASSE?

Just a couple of years ago, localization initiatives for many of the languages on the Indian subcontinent were blooming, but today many of them seem deserted. Even projects launched recently, such as the Aksharbodh OCR project seem abandoned just a few months after their announcement. So what's going wrong?

Red Hat's Sankarshan Mukhopadhyay who has been following many of those initiatives closely, argues that there has been too much emphasis on translation, and too little on "the distributions (and their release engineers), the local bodies who set/consult for standardisation on the various component aspects (Unicode, Thesaurus), the parties involved in creating dictionaries and spellcheckers, the developers who work on stuff like OCR, TTS and STT (among other things) and perhaps even alternative input methods that complete the experience of an Indic Desktop."

In fact, most computer-literate people in current India have sufficient command of the English language to use English applications, but lack useable software to type, sort and search in their local script and language and to produce reasonable output, both, on-screen as on printers etc. Adds Sankarshan: "The tragic bits are that in most of the cases these issues are being worked upon and resolved (and tested), yet the information is not percolating fast enough and wide enough to get more folks excited and eager to test it out." The recent formation of the new IndLinux Society might add some momentum here.

<http://sourceforge.net/projects/aksharbodh>
<http://sankarshan.randomink.org/blog/>
<http://www.indlinux.org/wiki/index.php/Society>
http://www.linux-magazine.com/issue/49/Linux_World_News.pdf

