

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.

GroundWork Open Source Announces New Monitor 5.3

The updated GroundWork Monitor 5.3 has been released and is currently available. The network management software is offered in three separate versions, including a free community edition. This latest product includes the Nagios 3.06 monitoring tools as well as updated MySQL, RRD-tool, PHP components, and the BIRT reporting tool. The 5.3 version is superior to its predecessor in providing easier integration, better intelligent reporting, and simplified installation on Linux servers.

Complete details are presented at <http://www.groundworkopensource.com/products/whats-new-5.3.html>.

Texas Instruments Mobile Development Platform Supports Linux

Texas Instruments announced the release of their OMAP3430 System-on-a-Chip (SoC) platform, available with a Linux Board Support Package. The device targets Smartphone and Mobile Internet Device (MID) application developers. SoC can run Linux, Windows Mobile, and Symbian operating systems on a 800MHz ARM Cortex-A8 core and includes a 4.1-inch multitouch display, 8-megapixel camera, GPS, and HDMI output. The Zoom OMAP34x-II MDP will become available this April and is offered for US\$ 1,400 if the 3G modem option is selected. The cost is US\$ 1,150 otherwise. More information is to be had at <http://www.ti.com/>.

HP ProCurve Open Network Ecosystem Launches

HP has signed up partners Microsoft, Avaya, McAfee, F5, and Riverbed to “blur” the distinction between networking hardware and application servers by offering an application server on a network blade. The Linux 2.6 kernel is the core operating system of the new ProCurve product, which provides numerous application solutions. Linux sits on top of the new HP ProCurve ONE Services zl Module, a blade that plugs into the ProCurve Series 5400zl and 8200zl switches. Although the Linux OS is used to provide application installations, diagnostics, and license credential checking, the applications themselves provide their own OS, just like any appliance.

To find out more, go to <http://www.procurve.com/one/index.htm>.

Linutop Updates Its Mini-Linux PC

Linutop has just released version 2.4 of its tiny, silent, energy-efficient Linux PC. Running on a mere 8 watts and ideal for use with Internet kiosks, network monitoring, and digital displays, the Linutop 2.4's new features include simplifying remote connection setup, USB backup, and a network management feature that makes it easier to use WiFi USB antennas. The 2.4 operates with an AMD Geode LX800 (x86) processor and 1GB of internal flash memory and offers RAM options of 512MB and 1GB.

Visit <http://www.linutop.com/linutop2/index.en.html> to find out more.

Linux Powers PureWave WiMAX Base Stations

PureWave Networks is creating the next-generation WiMAX base stations with Linux. This solution is designed to close the gap between macro and pico WiMAX stations. The PureWave WiMAX/LTE base stations do so by fusing the smaller footprint and lower pricing of pico base stations with the functionality typically associated with macro stations. This includes the ability to be mounted in such outdoor locations as poles, towers, and walls. Adaptive beamforming is at the heart of this system, which uses a signal processing technique employed by sensor arrays to provide directional signal transmission or reception. The small form factor system uses a Freescale Linux distribution and is likely to ship with the Linux 2.6.24 kernel.

Pricing and a firm release date have yet to be disclosed, but the WiMAX/LTE base station is predicted to go on the market later this year. Find out more by visiting <http://www.pwnets.com/>.

BitDefender Offers Improved Malware Protection

Although Linux and FreeBSD users don't suffer anywhere near the same level of risk from malware that Windows users face, viruses for open source operating systems are not unheard of. Certainly with the growing presence of Linux in both the desktop and server space, it's attracting enough attention that the risk to Linux users is growing and will continue to grow.

With that in mind, BitDefender is offering both free home user and commercial versions of its on-demand virus and spyware scanner product. Mail clients such as Pine and Evolution are supported, as is mail server scanning. File system plugins are available for KDE's Konqueror, Gnome's Nautilus, and Xfce's Thunar. Supported distributions include Red Hat Enterprise, SUSE, and Debian (no mention of Debian-based Ubuntu on the BitDefender site).

The BitDefender Antivirus Scanner for Unices product is currently available. More information at: <http://www.bitdefender.com/PRODUCT-80-en--BitDefender-Antivirus-Scanner-for-Unices.html>.

Seagate Hard Drive Crashes the 2TB Barrier for the Enterprise

Seagate's new Constellation 2.5-inch and Constellation ES 3.5-inch drives are offered in both Serial-Attached SCSI (SAS) 6Gbps and Serial ATA (SATA) 3Gbps models for enterprise-level storage. The Constellation and Constellation ES models use four-platter drives rotating at 7,200rpm and come with a 32GB cache on the SATA unit and a 16GB cache on the SAS unit.

Seagate's Constellation drives target Tier 2 applications or near-line storage, which operates one level below the 15,000rpm Fiber Channel and SAS drives and will sit in disk arrays and servers between primary storage and tape archive systems. These drives also offer the unique feature of powering down when not in use, which Seagate predicts will save up to 54 percent in power consumption.

Learn more about features, pricing, and availability by going to <http://www.seagate.com/www/en-us/>.

Xandros Netbook Edition Ports to ARM

Xandros has ported its desktop distro to two ARM-based netbook platforms as part of a broader effort to support ARM-based technologies. Specifically, the ports are to Qualcomm Snapdragon and Freescale i.MX515 and include a number of user applications, such as instant messaging, a media player, a Microsoft Office--friendly office suite, personal information management (PIM), a photo viewer, push email, and a web browser. Both keyboard and touchscreen input are also provided.

Additionally the distributions support an "always-on" 3G networking solution, high-performance multimedia, location-aware content, and full Internet productivity. Other advantages include the distros' capacity for quick boot times and extended battery life.

Expect to see these Xandros distros appearing in commercially available products in the second quarter of this year. Find out more details by visiting: <http://www.xandros.com/index.html> and <http://www.freescale.com/>.

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