

# 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.

## Netbook Runs Android and Windows

A Taiwanese company, yet unnamed, is planning the release of a netbook capable of running both Android and Windows XP. Although the dual boot option has long been available, this computer has the advantage of letting Windows simply push Android aside at the touch of a button. More accurately, when Android is running, should the user open an application such as Microsoft Office Word, Windows will push Android to either side of the screen so Word can launch. The netbook runs Windows on a 1.6GHz Via C7 x86 chip located under the keyboard, whereas Android runs via a separate processor located in the detachable touch screen. Originally demonstrated at the Computex exhibition in Taipei, the government-funded Institute for Information Industry is looking for a local firm to begin manufacturing and marketing the device.

Time frames for availability are unknown, but more information can be had at <http://apcmag.com/netbook-running-windows-and-android-spotted-at-computex.htm> and [http://www.pcworld.com/businesscenter/article/166039/taiwanese\\_netbook\\_runs\\_both\\_android\\_and\\_windows.html](http://www.pcworld.com/businesscenter/article/166039/taiwanese_netbook_runs_both_android_and_windows.html).

## Roaring Penguin and Kaseya Fight Spam

Roaring Penguin, producer of the CanIt line of anti-spam software products, announced an alliance with Kaseya, a global supplier of automation solutions. Cooperation between Roaring Penguin software and Kaseya products allows managed service providers (MSPs) to monitor their anti-spam efforts more completely within their email infrastructures. The Kaseya solution, combined with CanIt, is in response to provider partner demands for the ability to monitor anti-spam appliances on a 24/7 basis.

The official announcement and additional information can be accessed at <http://www.roaringpenguin.com/node/577>.

## Linux Has First Ever USB 3.0 Driver

Sarah Sharp, an Intel kernel hacker and self-described "Geekess" caused quite a stir on the web in June by announcing the first driver for USB 3.0 supported by Linux. Sharp states that the xHCI-compliant driver is to be included in the 2.6.31 kernel and will be available in September of this year. As of this writing, Linux will be the first of the operating systems to support the USB 3.0 driver. Ideally, USB 3.0 transfer speeds will offer throughput up to 5Gbps; however, real-world speeds are anticipated to be more in the neighborhood of 500MBps, which is still quite a bit faster than USB 2.0's 25 to 35MBps throughput for mass storage.

See the original announcement from Sharp at <http://sarah.thesharps.us/2009-06-07-20-00.cherry>.

## New NETiON and CXC SmartClients

SmartFLEx Technology Inc., a thin client computing provider, is currently redeveloping its CXC and NETiON SmartClient products for a Q3 2009 release. The NETiON is based on SmartFLEx's FLEXiON design and will offer greater customization while retaining high integration and tight desktop concept design using the latest Linux technology in thin client modules.

CXC will be a NETiON sub-product, providing enhanced and extended technology over SmartFLEx's current CXC dual-mode network terminal, including an up-to-date X server system, printer engine, and integration with remote management. CXC can be upgraded to NETiON and NETiON can be downgraded to CXC if necessary.

Learn more by going to <http://www.smartflectech.com/>.

## GAP 2.6.0 Released

GIMP Animation Package (GAP) 2.6.0 is a stable release that has just become available for download. GAP is a collection of GIMP plugins that allow the creation of animations as sequences of individual frames. The animation can then be saved in AVI, GIF, or MPG formats with the use of external libraries. Version 2.6.0 has been optimized for GIMP 2.6 and contains updates for video encoding/decoding and undo support in the storyboard feature.

The git.gnome.org site has the original announcement at [http://git.gnome.org/cgit/gimp-gap/tree/NEWS?id=GAP\\_2\\_6\\_0](http://git.gnome.org/cgit/gimp-gap/tree/NEWS?id=GAP_2_6_0). Download GAP from <ftp://ftp.gimp.org/pub/gimp/plugin/v2.6/gap/>.

## Nagios NConf Version 1.2.5 GUI Available

NConf is an enterprise-class PHP-based web tool used to configure the Nagios network monitoring application over a large-scale, distributed Nagios server topology. The two major additions to this release are the ability to import entire Nagios monitoring configurations and a new view showing the parent and child dependencies of any host you select.

To find out more or to download NConf 1.2.5, go to <http://freshmeat.net/projects/nconf>.

## Elive 1.9.28 Development Version Released

Elive is a completely self-contained operating system built on top of Debian, designed as a replacement for proprietary high-end workstations, and is compatible with older hardware. Elive boasts a full suite of office and multimedia applications and performs equally well for work or entertainment. The 1.9.28 release offers better detection, listing of partitions, and RAID disk support. Whereas previous versions used LILO, this release is now using the GRUB boot launcher.

Learn more about Elive at <http://www.elivecd.org/>.

## Moblin is Everywhere

Moblin, an open source project created to build Linux-based platforms for the next generation of mobile devices, is being tapped by an ever widening circle of Linux distros for use on Acer and MSI netbooks. Canonical, Linpus, Red Flag, and Xandros have all thrown their hats into the ring, stating they anticipate developing versions of their distros based on the Moblin v2 stack for use on netbook platforms. A refresh of Moblin v2.0 beta for netbooks became available in mid-June for download and testing and includes a number of bug fixes and new features. Novell's openSUSE beta has already incorporated Moblin; however, both Canonical and Xandros have yet to announce when netbooks running their Moblin v2--based distros will become available. Although the Acer Aspire One currently uses Linpus Linux Lite, there is some question as to whether Linpus will be replaced with openSUSE or Acer will offer Linpus and Novell options. Beijing manufacturer Red Flag also announced Moblin v2 support in its Midinux 3.0 distribution. Information on Moblin v2 and what's in store for the future can be had at <http://moblin.org/>.

## Enlightenment E16 Releases Version 1.0.0

From the outside, Enlightenment is an X Window manager, but it can also be considered a desktop shell or an application development platform. This version of E16 offers only minor changes, such as exposing bevel properties for theming and fixing the Gnome/E16 session setup, while Enlightenment E17 is under development.

See what else is included in v.1.0.0 and perhaps what's in store for E17 at <http://www.enlightenment.org/>.

## Linux Makes Windows Faster

A small collection of Linux-based products are available to (ironically) allow Windows to "make the jump to light-speed" faster than the Millennium Falcon. That's right. Linux is making Windows faster. Each of these products offers a similar "instant on" service for the Windows PC as follows.

Phoenix Technologies introduced HyperSpace, providing instant on access to Windows PC web and productivity applications (e.g., word processing and spreadsheets). Hyperspace lets you start surfing the web before Windows has even booted and is available for a free 21-day trial.

Presto, based on Xandros, can also be used on Windows for instant on/off access and is available for both XP and Vista. Before Windows boots, you can access secure web browsing with Firefox, talk to friends with Skype, listen to music, watch videos, and edit Microsoft Office documents. The license key is a mere US\$ 19.95, but you can try it out free for seven days.

Finally, DeviceVM's Splash-top is available to provide the same instant on functionality and comes bundled with motherboards, desktops, and notebooks by outfits such as Asus, HP, Lenovo, and LG.

To learn more about each of these options, go to <http://www.hyperspace.com/> for HyperSpace, <http://www.prestomypc.com/> for Presto, and <http://www.splashtop.com/> for Splashtop.