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.

Via Artigo A2000 Mini-Server Runs Linux

Via Technologies announced that its Artigo A2000 home storage server is now available. The heart of the A2000 is a Linux-compatible custom nano-ITX form factor mainboard, optimized for system stability for "always-on" home storage availability.

System specs include a 1.5GHz VIA C7-D processor, VIA VX800 Unified Digital Media IGP chipset, and 1 DDR2 SO-DIMM Socket. Memory can be upgraded to 2GB.

Although the A2000 could run headless – its primary function is as a server – the VX800 chipset allows access to Via's Chrome9 2D/3D graphics engine with DirectX 9 compatibility, in addition to hardware acceleration of MPEG-2, MPEG-4, VC1, and DiVX video playback. Two 3.5-inch SATA-II hard disk drives provide up to 1.5TB of storage apiece and have data transfer rates of up to 3Gbps. This home storage device is available now.

For more information, visit *http://www.via.com.tw/en/products/embedded/artigo/a2000/index.jsp*.

HSPA for "Theft-Proof" Laptops

Ericsson, a leader in mobile telecommunications, and famed chip maker Intel have joined forces to provide better protection for stolen laptops with the use of HSPA (High Speed Packet Access) technology. The two companies combined their talents to make Ericsson's mobile broadband modules interoperable with Intel's Anti-Theft PC Protection Technology, which is part of the Intel Centrino 2 with vPro package. Simply put, the protection works by sending an SMS to the stolen device, rendering the laptop completely useless to thieves. Although this doesn't take the motivation for such thefts out of the picture, it does guarantee that any sensitive data stored on the laptop will be completely inaccessible to anyone who steals it.

A system called a theft management service is required to make this protection package work. When a laptop is reported stolen, the service sends an SMS to the mobile broadband module inside the device, securely transferring the data to Intel's Anti-Theft function contained inside the processor. This then renders the laptop totally inert. The service also is able to use built-in GPS support in the Ericsson mobile broadband module. This allows the location function to lock down a compromised mobile unit when it is taken outside a predefined area, such as a business campus or a city.

To learn more about this technology and how to take advantage of it, visit *http://www.ericsson.com/* and *http://www.intel.com/index.htm*.

Linux Devices in the "Arms" of Multimedia "Octopus"

Movial, together with the Khronos Group, have released the Movial Octopus Media Engine (MOME) under the LGPL, which is designed for Linux devices like MIDs and netbooks that include players, voice and video call applications, and a variety of other media applications.

MOME is the central point of contact for all of the multimedia applications on the Linux device and has an API for the management of local or network-based media. It works with either GStreamer or OpenMAX IL components for transporting and rendering media files.

Based on D-Bus, the Octopus client API provides a standard method for media applications to use the media acceleration hardware built into the system-on-a-chip (SoC) processors. The Khronos Group developed the OpenMAX standard, which is the foundation for Octopus. The OpenMAX API allows library and codec developers increasing access to the media acceleration technologies. This allows for the development of accelerated streaming media codecs that are more portable across a greater number of operating systems and processor environments.

Movial has made a wiki available to provide more information about Octopus at *http://sandbox.movial.com/wiki/index.php/Octopus*.

Mini-Linux PC Offers GPS and GPRS

Round Solutions, a distributor, designer, and solutions provider for M2M applications, has announced the release of their AarLogic C10/3 breadboard, a platform that offers a complete Linux PC on a surface of just 104 x 63mm. This matchbox-sized surface area also contains quad-band GPRS and SiRF3 GPS modules, as well as interfaces for USB, RS232, and Ethernet. The AarLogic C10/3's 192-pin socket allows a wide variety of connectivity options, including WLAN, Bluetooth, and GPS. Keyboards, digital cameras, and reading devices are also compatible peripherals.

Primary uses for this diminutive Linux PC include expanding self-sufficient positioning and monitoring systems. Because of what is referred to as "Linux Intelligence," this expansion would enable the use of complex pattern recognition applications when employed with a camera or other environmental sensors. Wireless transfer of geo-coordinates makes this unit ideal for mobile users.

Discover the rest about this tiny, mobile Linux solution at *http://www.roundsolutions.com/*.

Intel's Atom Uses Linux

Adlink Technology, manufacturer of state-of-the-art CompactPCI platforms and boards, announced the release of a Linux-compatible ETX computer-on-module (COM) that uses Intel's Atom N270 and is especially designed for fanless hardware platforms and embedded systems. The module boasts up to 2GB of memory, 10/100 Ethernet, dual IDE/PATA channels, two SATA ports, and four USB ports, as well as serial, parallel, PS/2, and audio interfaces.

The two SATA ports, visible on the top left of the ETX-AT, are the only physical connectors on the device. All of the ETX-AT's other interfaces connect to the external environment by way of the ETX connector itself. This allows connections to then be made to the available dev board or any consumer-designed baseboard or carrier board.

The ETX-AT includes support for Linux 2.6.x, Windows XP and XP Embedded, Windows Vista, Windows CE 5.0 and 6.0, and VxWorks.

For more information, visit *http://www.adlinktech.com/*.

Bordeaux Technology Group Releases Version 1.6

Bordeaux, developer of "Windows Applications on FreeBSD," recently released Bordeaux 1.6 for Linux, which allows Linux users to run Windows application software without the need to run Windows. The 1.6 release makes available such improvements as support for Google's Chrome web browser, Google Earth, Google Picasa, Trillian, and Apple's Safari web browser. Other supported software includes Microsoft Office 2000 through 2007, Microsoft Office Visio 2003, and Adobe Photoshop CS and CS2.

The cost of Bordeaux is modest at US$ 20 and is available for purchase at *http://www.bordeauxgroup.com/*.

Network Security Scanner OpenVAS 2.0.0 Released

The Open Vulnerability Assessment System developer team has released OpenVAS 2.0.0, the "next generation" network security scanning system. A fork of the Nessus security scanner, OpenVAS utilizes tools such as a graphical user front end. The core component of the scanner is the server system that employs a set of network vulnerability tests (NVTs) designed to detect security problems in remote systems and applications. The current version includes 64-bit support.

Learn more about the latest release of OpenVAS at *http://www.openvas.org/index.html*.

JumpBox Releases Virtual Appliances OVF Format

JumpBox, a virtual computer that bundles an entire server-based application stack into a single unit, has just released 38 open source applications in the Open Virtualization Format (OVF). OVF is a software standard used for packaging and distributing virtual appliances. The value being realized here is in JumpBox's ability to deploy pre-built and configured virtual appliances in just a few minutes. Adding OVF to the mix allows for even simpler JumpBox appliance deployments. This release targets VMware ESX hypervisor-based virtualization users, allowing them greater ease of use when employing their JumpBox Open subscriptions.

To find out more about JumpBox and the benefits of OVF for VMware ESX users, go to *http://www.jumpbox.com/*.