

LINUX WORLD NEWS

FEMINIST TECH EXCHANGE

Before the international forum organized by the Association for Women's Rights in Development (AWID) in Cape Town (South Africa) November 14 through 17, more than 100 of the 2,200 attending women from all over the world took the chance to join the Feminist Tech Exchange (FTX) organized by several international not-for-profit organizations November 10 through 12.

The Exchange attracted women interested in technology with five training tracks: audio, video, wifi and mobile, social networking, and digital stories. Open source, its philosophy, available software, and security considerations were key issues.

Each day, thematic dialogs raised topics related to women's participation in the development of technologies, communication rights, and the strategic use of computers and the Internet for campaigning and rights protection. Open source video and audio solutions, content management systems, web browsers and mail clients, instant messengers, and many other tools were discussed, tried out, and installed.



The keynote by a Lebanese speaker covered the opportunities open source opens up for Arab lesbian women. Among this group who suffers from gross injustice, regularly culminating in homicide, the use of open source online solutions provides a singular opportunity for personal information protection, publishing, and mirroring websites through different servers.

The newly obtained skills were used in setting up Ubuntu desktops for the so-called FTX Hub at the AWID Forum. A meeting space for FTX trainers and participants, the hub was also a place for consulting and learning about the use of technologies and for blogging and exchange, all with the help of FOSS.

<http://ftx.apcwomen.org/>
<http://www.awid.org/eng/Forum-08>

LIBERATE YOUR FILM!

Filmmakers and media artists at the Cinecity Film Festival in Brighton (UK) made use of the opportunity to take part in a two-day workshop dubbed "Liberating Your Film: Editing with Free Software" November 29 through 30. In the course of this workshop, Rob Canning and Barbara Kukovec introduced their audience to pure:dyne, a Linux Live distro based on Debian and Debian Multime-

dia and featuring a complete set of tools for real-time audio and video processing.

Participants were intrigued by the idea of being able to boot a complete artist's workbench from a USB stick, CD, or DVD without the need to install anything: pure:dyne contains a range of FLOSS programs, such as Pure Data, Supercollider, Icecast, Csound, and Fluxus, for recording and manipulating sound, mak-

pure:dyne

CUBA AND RUSSIA COOPERATE IN THE FIELD OF OSS

At the beginning of November, the Russian minister of communications, Igor O. Shchyogolev, and his Cuban colleague, the minister of informatics and communications, Ramiro Valdés Menéndez, signed a memorandum in which they agreed to collaborate in the fields of technologies and innovations.

One of the key issues will be the introduction of open source solutions in Cuban state and public institutions. Both countries see FOSS as a means to guarantee sovereignty.

By the end of 2008, Russia finished its pilot project on Linux in schools, using a home-grown, state-sponsored distribution dubbed "Free Software Package," and Cuba's ministry of higher education is also said to be developing its own Linux distribution.

The results of Russia's pilot project will most certainly dominate the 4th conference on "Free software in higher education" held in central-Russian city of Pereslavl-Zalessky, January 30 through February 1, 2009.

<http://spo.cnews.ru/news/top/index.shtml?2008/11/07/326766> (Russian)
http://w3.linux-magazine.com/issue/87/Linux_World_News.pdf
<http://linux.armd.ru/> (Russian)
http://www.cubaheadlines.com/2007/08/02/4878/cuba_embraces_open_source_software.html

ing live visuals, and creating interactive media. The distro, supported by Arts Council England, can be used on many types of hardware. This workshop demonstrated an active move away from Apple's Final Cut Pro/Avid's Media Composer toward free software.

<http://goto10.org/liberating-your-film-editing-with-free-software/>
<http://www.cine-city.co.uk/2008/>
<http://www.artscouncil.org.uk/>