

LINUX WORLD NEWS

BLENDER ROCKS EUROPE

On October 24 through 26, Blender community members gathered at the 7th Blender Conference in Amsterdam. At the 15th-century Waag building, they celebrated the success of Blender, as well as the release of Blender 2.48 and the bug-fixed version 2.48a. The new release contains the Blender Game Engine and the 3D game "Yo Frankie!"

The latter is the outcome of the Blender Institute's Project Apricot, which started February 1, 2008, with the aim of developing a cross-platform industry-quality open source game. Consequently, the new Blender version boasts better game logic editing, character animation, Blender material-based real-time shaders, and a bullet physics update with softbody support.



The 2008 Suzanne Awards Ceremony on October 25 revealed the conference delegates' favorite short film and character animation. Blender is doing so well that publications in different languages are being released (among others, *Blender Magazine Italia* and a French video tutorial DVD) and courses and workshops are happening throughout Europe.

A free Blender workshop in Zagreb, sponsored by the Croatian Ministry of Culture and the city of Zagreb, was part of the Creative Clusters project November 1 and 2. Another course held in Gijón (Spain) November 3 through 7 focused on video game creation with Blender's built-in game engine. Both events, organized by local Blender user groups, introduced basic concepts and taught practical skills.

<http://www.blender.org/>

<http://www.yofrankie.org/>

<http://cocc.pr0be.info/hr/> (Croatian)

<http://blog.venomgfx.com.ar/2008/11/01/blender-course-in-gijon-spain/>

<http://blendermagazine.altervista.org/> (Italian)

NORDIC DRUPAL CAMP

Denmark's capital, Copenhagen, played host to the first Drupal Camp in Scandinavia November 15 and 16. Using English as lingua franca, the organizers could attract not only visitors from Denmark and neighboring Norway, but also from Finland, the United Kingdom, Canada, Bulgaria, and Germany. The program featured two tracks: one for beginners and another aimed at experienced Drupal users, admins, and coders.

<http://drupalcamp.dk/>

EUROPEAN SOURCE CODE REPOSITORY

Public administrations that use open source software usually need special applications not necessarily found in the regular open software cosmos. The aim of the osor.eu portal, which was officially launched October 20 at the Open Source World Conference in Málaga, Spain, is to prevent individual administrations from re-inventing the wheel (which also means saving taxpayer money). Funded by the European Commission, this site provides an infrastructure aimed at re-using, sharing, and developing e-government applications for European public administrations.

It also hosts the European Union Public License (EUPL), likewise provided by the European Commission.

<http://www.osor.eu/>

GERMAN WEBSHOP SOLUTION

Web masters and webshop owners not quite happy with osCommerce now have an open source alternative: Highly acclaimed commercial webshop software Oxid eShop went open source at the end of October when its manufacturer, Freiburg, Germany-based Oxid eSales GmbH, after two years of development, released its new version eShop 4. The free community edition is licensed under GPL version 3.

In addition, the PHP-based shop system is available as an ERP-enhanced

professional version (price tag EUR 1,990) aiming at SMEs and an enterprise edition (from EUR 12,999) for high-availability environments.

eShop 4 claims to be much faster than its predecessor because of a leaner code base. This new code base makes it easier to write extensions and provides bleeding-edge search engine optimization and social features like wish lists, customer reviews, and tag clouds.

To download the software, you are not required to fill in the contact form.

<http://www.oxid-esales.com/download-oxid-eshop>

