LINUX WORLD NEWS

OPEN SOURCE DESKTOPS IN JAPANESE SCHOOLS

Sponsored by the Information-Technology Promotion Agency (IPA), some schools in Japan have been experimenting with open source desktops since 2004. In the

reduced management costs for existing IT systems, vendor independence, and open standards, Mr. Jun Iio, the research professional at the IT Research Department of Mitsubishi Research Institute, observed that only a few schools and educational organizations have migrated to Linux in Japan so far. This might be due to issues such as web pages with embedded multimedia content that aren't handled well

course of an open source software utilization development program for the educational sector, 300 Linux computers at four primary schools and one junior high school in the Tsukuba district, three schools in the Gifu district, and Jumonji University have been set up so far. They are used by about 3,000 students for their coursework and by teachers for their paperwork.

Although the program offers advantages like

by Linux browsers, the fact that much educational software runs only on Windows, and non-intuitive handling of printing and peripherals by the Linux desktop. Some of these problems have been solved; the results have been fed back to the OSS communities, and will be reflected in future versions of Turbolinux and the Sun Java Desktop.
http://oss.mri.co.jp/osds/en/
http://www.ipa.go.jp/
software/open/forum/
TitlePageEnglish.html

CAMPUS PARTY 2005

From July, 25 to 31, hackers, developers, gamers and other ICT enthusiasts will be gathering in Valencia (Spain) to celebrate a "Campus Party" (CP) titled "We unit talent. We create future".

This year more than 5000 participants (1000 more than last year) are expected at the "Arts and Science City", a giant area of 15.000 sqm. The arena will be divided into several areas including a "Free Software" area.

Linux has been featured since the first CP in 1996, and this year's focus will include Gnome, KDE, Apache, PHP and FreeBSD. A special zone will be dedicated to Spanish distros like "Linex" and "Guadalinex". Apart from massive translation and debugging efforts, people are welcome to add content to Wikipedia, work with the liberation of audio-visual content or participate in Debian certification courses.

The entry ticket can be acquired from the website: the "no meal" option for EUR 92.80 offers a place at the computer hall and at the camping area, free entry to all activities and a "welcome pack". The "Full board" option (EUR 162.40) adds three meals.
http://www.campus-party.org/

PAYING INCOME TAX ON-LINE

Often criticized for pushing Microsoft sales, the Taiwanese government added support for Mac OS X (Safari 1.2 or better), Red Hat Linux 9 (Mozilla 1.7.x) and Fedora Core 3 (Mozilla 1.7.x) to its on-line income tax payment system May 1. To access the system, prospective taxpayers using Linux or Mac OS must keep to the suggested distributions because the Java Embedded Plug-in (JEP) that supports 1.4.1 and above versions of Java is not compatible with all browsers. This has put many people off, as has the fact that many other on-line tax payment applications are still restricted to Windows. Even so, this move towards cross-platform e-government is widely considered a step forward in promoting free software.
https://rtn.tax.nat.gov.tw/
ircweb/index.jsp (Chinese)
http://javaplugin.
sourceforge.net/

CROSSING FEMINISM AND FREE SOFTWARE TECHNOLOGY

Aiming at feminist ICT advocates from Central and Eastern Europe, a new web portal opened its doors this spring: The "Women's Information Technology Transfer" (WITT) Project's new website seeks to bring women's actions, activities and struggles into the spotlight and to promote the use of free software as a way to highlight women's voices. Unsurprisingly, site creators Natasa Stevanic and Milica Gudovic from Belgrade decided to use an open source content management system for this purpose: SPIP.

The WITT Project helps women to acquire new technology skills, provides information about free software philosophy and practice, and helps to share information, such as howtos, research and articles. The new website is only one of the tools to achieve this goal: WITT also supports women ICT activists who wish to share and exchange experiences through annual meetings and local training.
http://www.witt-project.net/
http://www.spip.net/en