LINUX WORLD NEWS

ENTERING A WEBSTAGE

March 31 ended the call for participation at the first UpStage Festival of cyberformances that will celebrate the launch of UpStage version 2 on July 7, 2007. UpStage is an open source server software for online theater, presentations, and performances. UpStage is based on the Python framework Twisted, the text-to-speech synthesizer Festival, SWFTools, and other open source tools.

The new version is the result of a collaboration between the original UpStage developer and software development students at Auckland University of Technology. It has entered alpha stage and fixes many bugs of its predecessor. Among the new features are whispering, animated avatars, and a restructured player interface. The beta version is due to be available on Sourceforge after April 30.

The festival will include several web-based performances that were created with and staged by UpStage. In addition to being shown in cyberspace, the festival will be screened at the New Zealand Film Archive in Wellington, New Zealand, at 9pm New Zealand time. To display the performances, web browsers must be equipped with the Macromedia Flash plugin. Online tutorials are held each month for anyone interested in using UpStage.

http://www.upstage.org.nz/
http://sourceforge.net/ projects/upstage/
http://upstage.org.nz:8084/

GREEN OPEN SOURCE

Did you know that open source software can save you not only license fees, but also electricity bills? The UK Government has evaluated servers with Linux installed and found that these servers are greener than those running Windows. Apart from the significant savings in hardware and software costs for infrastructure implementation and licensing, the Office of Government Commerce (OGC) also reports that open source software avoids unwanted PC upgrades and reduces hardware refresh requirements for desktop implementation.

Open source software usually is friendlier to older computers and is perfect for thin client systems that are cheaper than PCs and use less than 10 watts of electricity, which is much less than a PC. The reduction in hardware demands brings environmental benefits because it translates into lower energy requirements and less waste.

George Osborne, the UK's shadow chancellor, recently called on the British government to make open source software part of its procurement strategy and redrew attention to an OGC report published in October 2004 that contains important information about the environmental benefits of open source software.

http://www.arb.ca.gov/oss/ articles/Report-v8d.pdf
http://ec.europa.eu/idabc/en/ document/6718/469
http://www.techworld.com/ opsys/news/index. cfm?newsid=8226
http://www.arb.ca.gov/oss/ green/greencites.htm

WHY DON'T THEY DEPLOY OPEN SOURCE?

EU-sponsored project tOSSad (toward open source software adoption and dissemination) has been entering the second (and probably last) year of its existence with the publication of several documents describing the "current state of F/OSS" in Europe. The most interesting of the documents analyzes the "barriers against wider F/OSS adoption," as seen by public administrators in Turkey, Spain, Slovenia, the Ukraine, Norway, Malta, Italy, Germany, Sweden, Bulgaria, France, the Netherlands, Belgium, Estonia, and Austria.

The survey shows that – among others – the following opinions are significantly prevalent: "Expertise and support accessibility is not a significant factor as a F/OSS adoption barrier." A major obstacle is "a legal one which stems from previously signed contracts. Along with technological, service, and acquirement costs, 'political influence' is a sharp determination factor in F/OSS deployment within public administration."

Other interesting reports can be expected for this year – among them, more information about F/OSS usability, which is one of tOSSad's major work fields.

http://www.tossad.org/ publications/
http://www.tossad.org/con- tent/download/1385/6894/ file/tOSSad_D18_V2.3.pdf