TECH TOOLS

Wind River Boosts Support for Multicore Processors

Intel's second generation of core processors is getting support from Wind River. The company is aligning its product roadmap with Intel's processor roadmap to provide board support packages for the second generation Intel Core processor line.

Wind River has expanded its suite of tools for embedded development, as well as hardware support to the VxWorks and Wind River Linux platforms and the Wind River Hypervisor. This suite includes Workbench and Workbench On-Chip Debugging. The company provides a complete embedded development kit delivered on a USB flash drive that can be booted to provide a fully integrated development environment (IDE) with no installation or setup required.

Besides development software, Wind River also ships a set of development tutorials and documentation to speed the development process for embedded Linux, including step-by-step videos for development. For more information on Wind River tools, check out *http://www.windriver.com/*

VMware Unleashes Zimbra 7

From independent to Yahoo! to VMware, Zimbra has had quite a corporate journey. It's next stop? VMware's first official major release of Zimbra since it acquired the project from Yahoo!. VMware launched Zimbra 7 on February 8, with a full version of the Zimbra Collaboration Suite Open Source Edition and Zimbra Collaboration Server 7, as well as beta releases of Zimbra Desktop 7 and the Zimbra appliance for virtualized instances of the suite.

This release provides updates in file sharing with *Briefcase*, which provides cloud file sharing and storing and lightweight collaboration features with "check-in" and "check-out" features for documents. Meeting scheduling should be easier – sorry cubicle dwellers – thanks to a scheduling wizard that suggests times that work for all attendees – including taking time zones into account.

Zimbra 7 also boosts communication tools for large companies with People Search, so users can hunt through contact lists and organization charts directly from the web client. Administration has been beefed up as well, with improved role-based delegation and the ability to lock down distribution lists to prevent overzealous users from "spamming" lists.

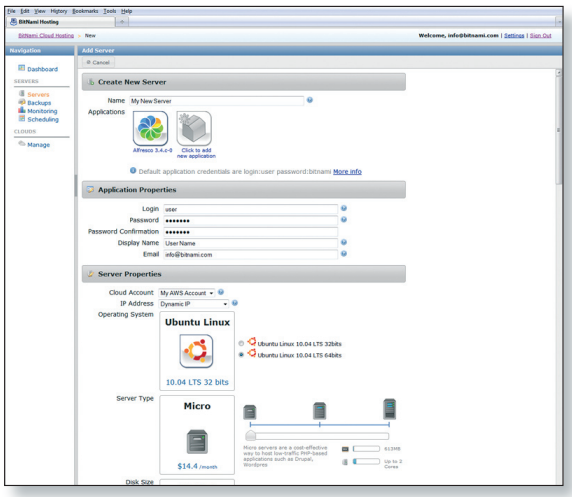
That's just the tip of the iceberg, though. Zimbra 7 also comes with better mobile support, recovery for deleted items, email and SMS reminders, and much more. Zimbra 7 is available for immediate download, with pricing based on the level of support, number of users, and so on. Zimbra 7 Network Edition starts at US$ 399 per year for 15 seats. See the Zimbra website *http://zimbra.com/* for more.

BitNami Cloud Hosting

Open source solutions like Alfresco, MediaWiki, and Moodle are easy to use once they're installed, but installation and management are another story, especially for small businesses that don't have dedicated IT staff. BitNami's Stacks have provided an easy way to get simple-to-install "stacks" of popular open source solutions (like WordPress, Alfresco, and Joomla) or frameworks (like the ubiquitous LAMP stack) to deploy on any Linux distribution without hassle. Now the company is taking the next step to remove the need for a server with BitNami Cloud Hosting.

BitNami Cloud Hosting lets you launch a server with one or more applications in one click, which is appropriate because the instances are hosted on Amazon EC2. But, this isn't just a drop and run service – BitNami provides the ability to scale servers to any size necessary, even at a predetermined schedule to help reduce costs. BitNami also provides monitoring out of the box and automatic backup and restore services, which means the entire machine, data and application configuration, can be backed up and restored from incremental backups.

Pricing for BitNami's Cloud Hosting service starts at US$ 24 a month for the Basic plan, with three "micro" instances, and continues up to enterprise plans for 50 servers at US$ 1,199 per month. Note that this pricing does not include fees through Amazon Web Services (AWS), which will incur further charges on top of BitNami's management offerings. For more info and the full selection of apps that are offered, see *http://bitnami.org/cloud*.



Big Linux in a Little Package

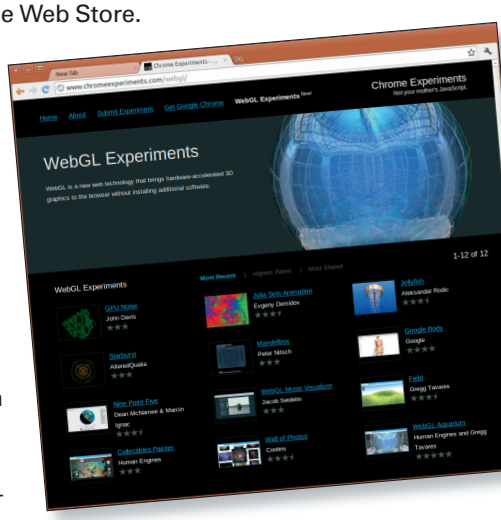
So, you think your netbook is tiny? Take a look at the DreamPlug from GlobalScale Technologies. GlobalScale has been working on a family of "plug" computers – small wall-wart machines that take up little space and consume less power – and the latest is the DreamPlug.

The DreamPlug, which measures 4.25 inces long, 2.28 inches wide, and less than 1 inch thick, takes up less space than an average paperback book and doesn't consume a lot more power. The DreamPlug sips 5V of power at max usage. Despite the minuscule package, however, the DreamPlug packs a 1.2GHz Marvell Sheeva CPU, 512MB of DDR2 RAM clocked at 800MHz, and 1GB of flash storage for the kernel and root filesystem. All of this processing power is no good without ports, of course, and the DreamPlug has plenty of those as well. It has two Gigabit Ethernet ports, two USB 2.0 ports, one eSATA 2.0 port, an SD socket for storage expansion, 802.11b/g WiFi, and Bluetooth. Want a miniature music machine? The DreamPlug also has analog and SPDIF digital out and up to 48K/44.1KHz playback for audio.

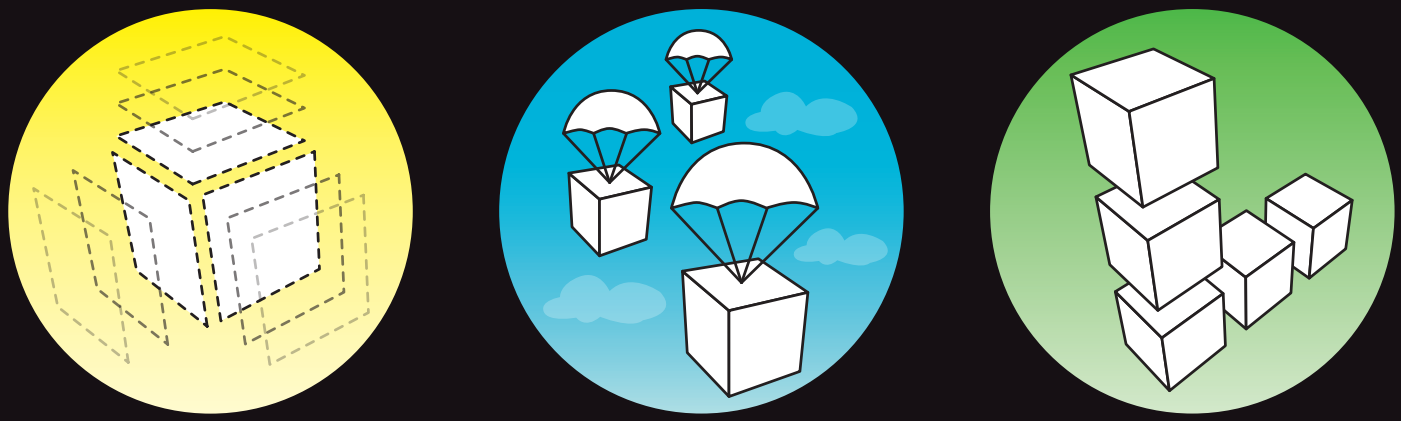
The basic DreamPlug costs only US$ 149, or you can get a model with the Joint Test Access Group (JTAG) port for development. If you're looking for a tiny system, you can get one from GlobalScale now at *http://www.globalscaletechnologies.com/*.

Google Chrome 9 Released

Google has caught up with Internet Explorer … at least as far as version numbers are concerned, if not market share. Google released Chrome 9 stable on February 3 with major updates, including 3D support, Google Instant, and the Chrome Web Store.



The Google Instant search enhancement preloads web pages you visit frequently, so pages start loading as soon as you begin to type the URL. Instant does need to be enabled. The Web Store includes a number of applications like King.com Games, Marvel Comics, and TweetDeck for the social media mavens. Find out more about Chrome on Google's Chrome Blog at *http://chrome.blogspot.com/*.



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