

LINUX WORLD NEWS

BBC BACKSTAGE

By 2011, the BBC will move five London-based departments – including BBC Backstage, as part of BBC Future Media & Technology – to a new BBC center at Salford Quays in Greater Manchester. In July, Backstage head Ian Forrester paid a visit to Manchester Free Software, a local

group of free software enthusiasts.

Backstage allows users to build sites and projects that meet their local needs and to repurpose BBC content in flexible ways. Also, it provides data, resources, and support for users wanting to build prototypes and proofs of concept using BBC material for non-commercial purposes.

People can submit their ideas or prototypes on the site, although contributors must provide their own hosting. Once approved, BBC will link to it from Backstage.

BBC's newest service is a set of data feeds (XML, JSON, YAML, and even some plain text), including one for schedule views and genre aggregations, as well as some iCal views of BBC programs.

<http://backstage.bbc.co.uk/>
<http://manchester.fsuk.org/blog/>
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/developers>



NEW RUSSIAN DISTRO FOR CHILDREN

Moscow-based Linux distributor Alt Linux launched a public beta version of the newest member of its distribution family in July. This Live CD, Alt Linux 4.0 Children, is aimed at children, starting at the age of four years.

Among other things, it includes drawing programs, video and audio tools, games, and the Open Clipart Library of free graphics works.

Not included are web browsers, email clients, or office-related software, and Internet access is restricted by default.

The Live CD was also given to the participants of the second Linux summer school for children in the Chelyabinsk province, which opened its doors August 1.

http://www.altlinux.ru/company_news/alt_linux_4.0_children_beta.html (Russian)
<http://ftp.altlinux.org/pub/beta/children/>
<http://www.altlinux.com/>

LINUX CAMP ON THE RIVERBANK

Summer is camping time, and for Russian Linux enthusiasts, the place to go was the 10th annual “Linux Fest” near the city of Balabanovo in the province of Kaluga.

This traditional – yet somewhat unconventional – gathering, held July 25–27 as part of the “Linux week at the River Protva,” did not feature a pre-organized agenda. Instead, there were invited round tables, free information exchange, and outdoor sports and leisure activities.

<http://www.linuxfest.ru/>
<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Balabanovo>



POITIERS TO HOST OSS MEETS ART FESTIVAL

The French city of Poitiers will host an international festival focused on the encounter between open source software and digital arts November 24–30, 2008. This third edition of the “Make Art” festival is dubbed “OpenOS” and excludes all performances, installations, presentations, and projects based on proprietary software such as Windows, OS X, MaxMSP, Reaktor, or Ableton Live from its call for projects.

Because the call does not explicitly focus on artistic works, visitors might also expect to be presented with artistically crafted scripts and programs and innovative suggestions for the technical expression of ideas and works focusing on user empowerment.

<http://makeart.goto10.org/call/index.en.html>
<http://goto10.org/>
<http://goto10.org/make-art-festival/>