LINUX WORLD NEWS

May 18 the curtain rose for "Elephants Dream", formerly codenamed "Orange" (see Issue 57, p12), the world's first movie produced entirely with open source graphics software such as Blender, Gimp, Inkscape and Cinepaint, using the DrQueue distributed render queue. After dispatching all pre-orders of the DVD that helped finance the project, the movie, including production files and soundtrack, is now available on-line in several formats, under the Attribution-

OPEN MOVIE

NonCommercial-NoDerivs 2.5 Creative Commons license. An extra highlight is the karaoke version of the audiotrack by music and sound director Jan Morgenstern.

Work on the short film by the Orange Open Movie Project, Amsterdam, started in December, 2005, bringing together a diverse team of artists and developers from all over the world. According to Blender creator Ton Roosendaal, the producer of the film, more than half a million people had downloaded "Elephants Dream" by the end of May 2006.

The DVD edition (with subtitles in 34 languages) is still available for purchase. The revenue will be used by the Blender Foundation to finance further similar projects.

http://www.elephantsdream.org/
http://www.linux-magazine.com/issue/57/Linux_World_News.pdf

DISKLESS CLIENTS FOR UBUNTU

The Taiwan-based Diskless Remote Boot in Linux (DRBL alias Penguinzilla) project has announced its new release that now also supports Ubuntu 6.06 Dapper Drake, the latest Ubuntu Linux version launched June 1.

Developed by Steven Shiau and K. L. Huang at the National Centre for High-Performance Computing in Hsinchu, the software provides an environment for

diskless client machines. Similar to the Linux Terminal Server Project (LTSP), it uses a Pre-Boot Execution Environment (PXE) to allow workstations to boot from a server on a network prior to booting the operating system on the local hard drive. DRBL uses NFS to let clients authenticate, and share files and directories over a network. This approach means that DRBL can support more clients (usually 30 to 40) per server than LTSP (usually 20 to 30 clients).

Since packages are uploaded to the client machines which use their local CPU and RAM for processing, any desktop can be used as a DRBL server as its only tasks are to support file-sharing and authentication. The client machines will need to be powerful enough to run applications locally. Together with Clonezilla, a partitioning and disk cloning utility similar to Symantec Ghost by the same developers, administrators can simultaneously clone more than 40 Linux machines.

http://drbl.nchc.org.tw/ (Chinese)
http://drbl.sourceforge.net/
http://clonezilla.sourceforge.net/

WEBSITES FOR THE WOMEN'S MOVEMENT

The web design experience of Perline (France/Brazil), Joëlle Palmieri's (France) inside knowledge of the needs of women's NGOs worldwide, and an automation tool provided by Mathieu Lutfy (Quebec/Bulgaria) have turned a four-year-old dream come true. Automasites is a good example for how a team of three people can provide a sustainable solution for building a website with "several mouse-clicks". Based on the SPIP publishing system and other open source software, and hosted with non-commercial providers, the Automasites project provides independence for women's organizations.

"We have used our experience in a number of training sessions in Eastern Europe and Brazil to identify the most important feature of our project – to train people to be autonomous", says Joëlle.

The idea arose back in 2002 when it became clear that women initiatives

needed a forum if they wanted to be heard through the Internet. SPIP has made it easier to publish information efficiently, although the aim is not to teach organizations specific technical skills, but to emphasize on how to publish content with as little effort as possible.
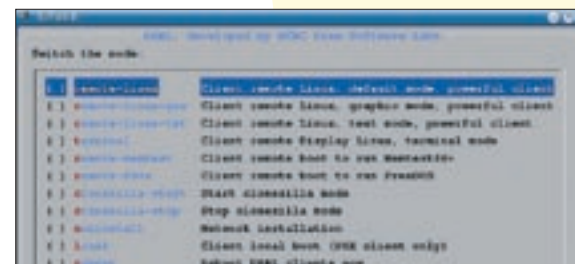
http://www.automasites.net/ (French)