

# LINUX WORLD NEWS

## OPEN SOURCE DEVELOPERS FOR THE DEVELOPING WORLD

Although Linux and open source “will find their biggest markets in developing nations, particularly in China, East Asia, Brazil and South America”, these countries are missing out “on what essentially is the power of open source: technological self-determination” and on the opportunity to foster new local businesses due to the low number of native open source developers. As a consequence, the United Nations University’s International Institute for Software Technology (UNU-IIST) in Macau has



initiated the “Global Desktop Project”, consisting of a research and engineering program, a partner program for institutions of higher education in these regions and a community outreach program mainly aimed at western open source contributors such as companies and universities, as well as at the western dominated open source communities. The program is focusing on increasing the numbers of open source developers in developing countries and on improving the Linux desktop.

<http://www.iist.unu.edu/globaldesktop/>

## KERNEL PROGRAMMER SUSPECTED OF MURDER

The Linux community now has its first big criminal scandal: A month after his estranged wife and the mother of two, Nina, disappeared, ReiserFS developer Hans Reiser was arrested on October 11 without bail and accused of murder. The charge was filed on October 12 at the Alameda County Superior Court in Oakland/San Francisco Bay Area after police found blood stains in his home and car that “could not be excluded” in belong-

ing to Nina Reiser, along with other evidence. Her body, however, is still missing at this point.

When Nina Reiser filed for divorce in 2004, she put on record that their children “hardly knew their father” since Hans Reiser traveled abroad most of the time, e.g., attending open source conferences. According to the Oakland Tribune, Hans Reiser “had physically assaulted Nina Reiser and has made verbal threats of causing her bodily harm ‘for the rest of her life’” in the process of separation.

In this light, Suse’s ReiserFS maintainer Jeff Mahoney’s decision to no longer use ReiserFS3 as Suse’s default filesystem due to continuing performance and scalability problems, as published on September 27, seems sort of prophetic.

[http://www.insidebayarea.com/oaklandtribune/ci\\_4486527](http://www.insidebayarea.com/oaklandtribune/ci_4486527)

<http://www.ninareiser.com/>

<http://linux.wordpress.com/2006/09/27/suse-102-ditching-reiserfs-as-it-default-fs/>

## GERMAN COURT BACKS GPL

Netfilter developer Harald Welte has gained a victory in his struggle against GPL violations. On September 6, 2006, the district court in Frankfurt/Main ruled that the German sales branch of Taiwanese hardware and network appliance manufacturer D-Link had lost the right to use `msdosfs`, the `initrd` and the `mtd` kernel driver when it decided to not comply with the obligations the license imposed on the use of this software. If parts of the GPL were indeed incompatible with anti-cartell regulations (as D-Link claimed), the company would not have had the right to use the software at all. The court ruling granted Harald financial compensation for the costs he incurred in tracing this GPL violation and for formally demanding the company stop it (which D-Link complied with).

According to the German IT magazine c’t, D-Link does not intend to fight the ruling.

[http://www.jbb.de/urteil\\_lg\\_frankfurt\\_gpl.pdf](http://www.jbb.de/urteil_lg_frankfurt_gpl.pdf) (German)

<http://gnumonks.org/~laforge/weblog/linux/gpl-violations/>

## LINUX DEPLOYED

On September 19, 2006, the official deployment phase of the “Linux base client” started in the city of Munich. By the end of this year, most of the computers used by the board of directors will have migrated to a Linux desktop based on Debian, KDE 3.5 and OpenOffice 2. Along with FAI and the web-based LDAP administration tool GOSa, GPLed software will be used to maintain this process. Mayor Christian Ude has been serving as a pilot user for quite a while and is very satisfied with Linux.

<http://www.muenchen.de/Rathaus/dir/limux/ueberblick/175149/windowsabloesung.html> (German)  
<http://gosa.gonicus.de/>



Hans Reiser, the developer of ReiserFS.