

LINUX WORLD NEWS

LINUX.CONF.AU ATTRACTS WOMEN

For Australian Linux users and their guests, the new year 2007 started with a get-together at the University of New South Wales in Sydney, at the traditional

Standing out from the crowd.



linuxchix miniconf @ linux.conf.au 2007

linux.conf.au January 15–20. Interestingly, the event attracted significantly more women than similar conferences. By December 22, 65 women had already pre-registered, which accounted for about 12 percent of the total number of pre-registrations. Many of the female attendees were drawn by the LinuxChix miniconf January 16, which included technical talks by Kristen Carlson Accardi (“Demystifying PCI”) or Akkana Peck

(“Bug Fixing for Non-Programmers”).

However, female speakers on the main conference program remained an exception, but with kernel hacker Valerie Henson’s talk about “Choosing and tuning Linux file systems” and a key-note by Java-book author and game developer Kathy Sierra, the organisers had more to offer in this respect than other open source events.

<http://lca2007.linux.org.au/>
<http://lca2007.linux.org.au/Miniconfs/Linuxchix>

EUROPE STUDIES OPEN SOURCE SOFTWARE QUALITY

Can open source software compete with proprietary software for use in European business? To answer this question, the European Commission approved a grant of 1.6 million Euros to the Software Quality Observatory for Open Source Software (SQO-OSS). This accounts for about half of the observatory’s total budget and will be used to develop a suite of BSD-licensed assessment tools including a GUI and web-frontend for analyzing and benchmarking the quality of software and its

source code.

The other half of the budget is financed by the consortium running SQO-OSS which consists of Athens University of Economics and Business, the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki (both in Greece), the KDE project, KDE founder Matthias “Kalle” Dalheimer’s company Klarälvdalens Datakonsult AB (Sweden), German-based ProSyst Software GmbH and Sirius Corporation (UK).

The project is scheduled to be completed within two years, but initial results and

questions that have already arisen during research will be presented in the research room of the FOSDEM 2007 conference to be held in Brussels, February 24–25, 2007.

<http://www.sqo-oss.eu/>
<http://ec.europa.eu/idabc/en/document/6269/194>
<http://people.fruitsalad.org/adridg/bobulate/index.php?categories/8-SQO-OSS>
<http://www.fosdem.org/2007/schedule/tracks/researchroom>
<http://libresoft.urjc.es/Activities/fosdem2007>

RUSSIAN TEACHERS TO LEARN LINUX

For the second time, Russian lecturers at institutions for higher education have been invited to share their knowledge and experience using open source software. The conference “Free software in higher education” will take place January 27–28, 2007 in the ancient city of Pereslavl-Zalessky in central Russia. It is followed by a five-day Linux winter course.

http://www.altlinux.ru/company_news/pereyaslavl_2007.html

PROGRAMMING AND EMAILING IN HINDI

Since the elements of most programming languages are English words, it is difficult for people without any command of this language to start coding – even if they are talented. Vernacular programming languages like Chinese Python (see Issue #65 p12) try to make up for this inequity.

With the “Hindawi Indic Programming System”, Abhishek Choudhary and Sweta Karwa provide a GPLed IDE

for DOS/Windows which allows for programming in Hindi and Bangla C (dubbed Shaili Guru), C++ (Shaili Shraeni), OpenJava (Shaili Kritrim), lex (Shaili Shabda), yacc (Shaili Vyaaka), x86 Assembly (Shaili Yantrik), BASIC (Shaili Prathmik) and Logo (Shaili Robot). It includes frontend compilers that translate this code into its “English” counterpart which in turn is compiled by the GCC compiler suite serving as

a backend.

Abhishek has just released a Linux version of the software which supports programming in Hindi and, in addition to the “Lekhak” IDE, includes a Hindi email client dubbed E-Dakia. http://www.linux-magazine.com/issue/65/Linux_World_News.pdf
<http://sourceforge.net/projects/hindawi/>

<http://www.indicybers.com/HindawiLinux/>

