TECH TOOLS

SkySQL Merges with Makers of MariaDB

SkySQL announced that it has merged with Monty Program Ab, makers of the popular MariaDB open source database. According to the announcement, the newly formed company aims to develop MariaDB into a "truly interoperable, NewSQL open source database." Patrik Sallner, who will lead the merged company as CEO, said, "By bringing on board the talented MariaDB developer team, SkySQL proposes a comprehensive partnership to leading open source database users. We

are committed to developing MariaDB into the most versatile open source database." SkySQL plans to invest in the development of the MariaDB server, develop solutions to let MySQL and MariaDB users effectively manage their data in the cloud and enterprise, and enhance services for both MySQL and MariaDB users. SkySQL also announced that it has joined the MariaDB Foundation – the recently formed organization dedicated to promoting, protecting, and advancing MariaDB. For more information, visit: *http://www.skysql.com/* or *https://mariadb.org/en/*.

AMD Announces New Custom Chip Operation

AMD has launched a new business unit that will focus on providing custom system-on-a-chip solutions for customers with specialized needs. The Semi-Custom Business Unit will collaborate with customers on designing the systems. According to AMD, the new group will focus on "high-volume, high-value applications across a wide array of markets, including: gaming, set-top boxes, smart TVs, PCs, tablets, servers, high-performance computing, and infrastructure applications. According to AMD Senior Vice President Lisa Su, "Innovation in computing over the next decade will come from deep knowledge of hardware, software, and system expertise. The charter of the Semi-Custom Business Unit … is to provide OEM customers access to leading-edge IP to create tailored and differentiated solutions.

AMD's high-performance heritage, strategic investments in IP, and SoC design methodology enable customer-specific solutions that are truly one-of-a-kind."

SUSE Studio 1.3 Released

SUSE has released SUSE Studio 1.3, the latest version of the company's application image-building tool. According to the announcement, this release can help customers "more easily deploy and manage self-contained, portable workloads across virtual and cloud environments such as Amazon EC2, OpenStack, and SUSE Cloud." SUSE Studio 1.3 includes SUSE Cloud integration, support for Microsoft Hyper-V, enhanced cloud support for Amazon EC2, and improved lifecycle management, among other new features. The software is tightly integrated with SUSE Cloud – SUSE's OpenStack-powered cloud computing platform. With version 1.3, users can select SUSE Cloud as their predefined application image format. And, with the web-hooks feature, all SUSE Studio-built cloud images are automatically imported into SUSE Cloud. Studio 1.3 includes an improved interface for Amazon EC2 deployments and lets Amazon Web Services customers upload and launch Amazon EC2 instances directly from SUSE Studio. SUSE Studio now supports Xen, KVM, Hyper-V, and Amazon EC2, among other platforms.

New Supermicro Storage Solution

Supermicro has announced a new high-efficiency storage product. The 4U 72x3.5" Hot-Swappable HDD Storage Solution supports up to 288TB using 4TB enterprise drives. The unit, which the company calls SSG-6047R-E1R72L, provides 10GB/sec throughput and is designed for "extreme levels of concurrent data access…" According to Supermicro, the new storage solution reduces power consumption up to 60% and saves space by increasing rack density and operational efficiency. An optional battery backup power module helps prevent data loss in power outage scenarios.

Nginx 1.4

Version 1.4.0 of the free Nginx web server is now available. New features in the latest Nginx include WebSockets and the SPDY protocol. WebSockets, which is supported as a proxy, allow bi-directional links between web browsers and servers that once required polling and other workarounds. The SPDY protocol, which was largely developed by Google and is considered a contender for the HTTP 2.0 protocol, is still experimental; therefore, the module is not compiled by default. Download links to the latest source code can be found at the Nginx website: *http://nginx.org/*.