TECH TOOLS

Professional users are always searching for an edge. Whether you work with Linux as a webmaster, programmer, system administrator, or security consultant, you know the best solution depends on finding the right tool for the job. We thought you might be interested in the following new products and updates.

BarracudaDrive 4.2 for Debian

BarracudaDrive is an electronic document management application that provides easy access to documents stored on your computer from anywhere, allowing remote management of your files via your web browser. The Debian release of BarracudaDrive 4.2 is specifically designed for organizations, such as schools and universities, that require a high number of concurrent connections. The BarracudaDrive Debian startup script configures the application to allow up to 2,000 simultaneous socket connections.

BarracudaDrive 4.2 also includes a new user interface, although it is hidden from normal operation to avoid confusing the typical non-technical BarracudaDrive administrator. Adding users is as simple as uploading a CVS file, and the batch upload script is ideal for large organizations that need to add or remove a large number of users quickly.

Interestingly, although the BarracudaDrive Debian release is delivered without the license manager, BarracudaDrive is a commercial product and requires that you purchase a license if you plan to use the product after the 45-day trial period. BarracudaDrive (which also comes with GetMyLAN) license pricing for personal and academic use is US$ 69, and commercial pricing starts for one to five users at US$ 125. The maximum price for 41 or more users is US$ 1,500.

Learn more about BarracudaDrive for Debian at *http://barracudadrive.net/ blog/2009/08/BarracudaDrive-for-Debian*.

Seagate Introduces NAS Storage Solution

Seagate Technologies, known for producing desktop, enterprise, and mobile computing storage solutions, has entered the Network Attached Storage (NAS) space with the introduction of the BlackArmor NAS 420. The Seagate BlackArmor device supports NFS, CIFS, FTP, RAID 0/1/5/10, and JOBD and includes two 1TB SATA drives. It also provides up to 8TB of total storage, with four drive bays allowing expansion of drive capacities. BlackArmor utilizes a 1.2GHz processor and 256MB of RAM and employs an external brick power supply for temperature reduction.

The Seagate BlackArmor NAS 420 Network Storage Server is currently available at US$ 799.99. Find out more about BlackArmor at *http://www.seagate.com/ www/en-us/*.

nVidia Releases 190.16 Linux Beta Driver

nVidia has announced the release of its first 190.xx Linux beta driver for their GeForce and Quadro graphics cards, providing a number of fixes, enhancements, and extensions. These include various VDPAU fixes and several OpenGL extensions receiving GLX protocol support. Historically, nVidia has eagerly supported OpenGL 3.0 and 3.1 revisions, and the current driver release continues this pattern by supporting OpenGL 3.2. Any graphics hardware compatible with OpenGL 2.1-3.1 will support the 190.16 beta Linux driver.

The driver became available in late July. To learn more, point your browser to *http://www.nvidia.com/page/home. html*.

Qt GUI Framework Runs on Wind River VxWorks

The Qt cross-platform application and UI framework now runs on Wind River's VxWorks real-time operating system (RTOS). Qt lets you write applications once and deploy them across multiple platforms, such as desktop, mobile, and embedded systems, without rewriting the source code. VxWorks RTOS is an optimized, scalable platform that takes advantage of hardware performance, provides reliable communications, and enforces safe and secure measures.

The VxWorks RTOS requires a separate X11 server to be installed for the Qt framework, and each version of Qt needs to be customized for each particular VxWorks version. Older versions of the QNX RTOS have been integrated with the Qt Window System (QWS), removing the requirement for an X11 server. Previously, QWS was only available for Linux.

Written in C++, the Qt framework is available for Linux, Windows, Mac OS X, and related operating systems and offers the same functionality on all platforms.

More information about Wind River's VxWorks can be found at *http://www. windriver.com/ products/vxworks/*. Qt Developer news is available at *http://qt.nokia. com/products/*.

Protect Your Network with Untangle Network Gateway

The open source Untangle Network Gateway is a service that installs on an average PC and provides network protection for home and small business infrastructures. Untangle focuses on protecting the Internet browsing experience, rather than offering enhanced network functionality, and acts to replace the traditional router, providing DHCP and Internet sharing services.

Other services available with Untangle include a firewall; OpenVPN; ad, spam, and virus blockers; and reporting capabilities. The minimum requirements for a PC running Untangle are an 800MHz processor, 512MB of RAM, 20GB of dedicated hard drive storage, and a bootable CD/DVD drive.

Once the ISO image is downloaded and burned to a disc, you can use the Untangle installation wizard to set up language, password, registration, and so on.

The Untangle Network Gateway is available in both free and paid versions. The paid version is also available as a 14-day trial download. Learn more by going to *http://www.untangle.com/home.*

Bordeaux for OpenSolaris 1.8.2 Now Available

Bordeaux for OpenSolaris 1.8.2 is currently available with support for Microsoft Office 97, 2000, 2003, Visio 2003, Project 2003, Internet Explorer 6, Adobe Photoshop 7, and Adobe Image Ready 3. The release also includes several small bug fixes and tweaks that improve speed and reliability. New features offered with 1.8.2 are QuickTime 6.5.2 Player support, IrfanView 4.25 support (image support only at this time), and Bundle *cabextract*, *wget*, and *unzip* support.

Bordeaux for OpenSolaris 1.8.2 can be purchased for US$ 25 from *http://www.bordeauxgroup.com/store/bordeaux-for-opensolaris*.

Linux Server-Based Virtual Desktop

Virtual Bridges, IBM, and Canonical have joined forces to release Virtual Bridges VERDE 2.0, the latest version of a Linux server-based virtual desktop. The VERDE 2.0 is a combination of IBM's Smart Client desktop software, Canonical's Ubuntu server and desktop platforms, and Virtual Bridges' VERDE Virtual Desktop Infrastructure (VDI) product.

This solution goes beyond just virtualizing the desktop and provides users software access when disconnected, with the use of a lightweight client-side hypervisor based on the SMART protocol. The SMART protocol synchronizes a replicated cache running on the hypervisor with the managed image on the server, which is used to populate VDI sessions. New and significant services and features from VERDE 2.0 include the ability to address both private and public cloud requirements, the capacity to manage both Linux and Windows desktop sessions, and the ability to offer services to both connected and disconnected users.

VERDE 2.0 licensing is priced at US$ 50 per seat for 1,000 seats or more. Learn more at *http://vbridges.com/wp/*.

Eclipse Version 4.0.9 Development Environment Released

Eclipse 4 (e4) is a community effort for constructing the next generation of the Eclipse development platform. The goals for the current project include simplifying the Eclipse programming model, enabling the platform for use on emerging web-based run-time technologies, and broadening participation in the development of the platform. One of e4's new offerings is Cascading Style Sheets (CSS) for designing SWT widgets, allowing the appearance to be directly modified with a CSS editor. Also included is the ability to add namespaces to the script language, which allows programmers to write large applications in JavaScript. Bundles, using JavaScript Object Notation (JSON), are used to describe the metadata.

More information can be found at *http://wiki.eclipse.org/E4.*

Open-Xchange Touts Improvements in Contact List Management

Open-Xchange, an open source email and collaboration software maker, has recently set up a test website to let people bring in their contact information from various social networking sites, such as Facebook and LinkedIn, and manage all of their contact data on one platform. This approach is different from a bulk transfer of contact information from a source site into Outlook. Instead, Open-Xchange states they can create a continuous stream of updating contacts, importing all contact info from all sources into one location and into a single format.

As of this writing, the Open-Xchange test site could only import LinkedIn and Xing contacts (as well as Germanplaces.com), so those of you who have been dying to integrate Facebook, MySpace, and Twitter data into your contacts list will be disappointed. However, the promise is there, and Open-Xchange suggests an eventual solution that will be much more flexible than those offered by Cisco, IBM, and Microsoft.

You can experience the test website at *http://ox.io/* and learn more about Open-Xchange by visiting *http://www.open-xchange.com/*.