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.

Seagate Hard Drive Announcements

Seagate Technology announced the industry's first 1.5TB desktop hard drive, as well as half-terabyte notebook hard drives based on PMR (perpendicular magnetic recording) technology. The Barracuda 7200.11 1.5TB drive's release marks the single largest capacity jump in more than 50 years of hard drive history – a 500GB leap over the previous 1TB capacity limit. Alongside this advancement in PC desktop HDD storage, Seagate's Momentus 5400.6 and Momentus 7200.4 hard drives are the fourth generation of laptop hard drives to use PMR. The Momentus 5400.6, a 5400rpm drive, combines a Serial ATA 3GB/sec interface with capacities ranging from 120 to 500GB with an 8MB cache. Find out more at *http://www.seagate.com/www/en-us/products/*.

Mandriva Introduces Gdium

Mandriva has entered the netbook space with the Gdium system, produced by Emtec. The first Gdium netbook will sport a 10-inch display with 1024x600 resolution, has a four-hour battery life, and weighs 1.1kg. The Mandriva operating system and all of the data are stored on a USB key called the G-Key. The Gdium will be available in starting in September 2008. For more information, visit *http://www.gdium.com/*.

New Red Hat Solutions

By expanding its security portfolio with the addition of Red Hat Enterprise Identity, Policy, and Audit (IPA), Red Hat intends to extend administrator control and to increase user productivity in increasingly demanding IT environments. This process relies on the opening of the Red Hat Network Satellite code base to facilitate community-driven enhancements for systems management.

According to Red Hat, the use of Enterprise IPA provides centrally managed identity capabilities, single sign-on services, high-availability directory services, an easy-to-use access control framework, and synchronization with LDAP (lightweight directory access protocol), Microsoft's Active Directory, and other data stores.

Red Hat also announced that the Red Hat Network (RHN) Satellite code base is now available under the GPLv2. The undertaking is also known as Project Spacewalk. Additional information is available at *http://www.redhat.com/*.

JasperForge v2 Unveiled

JasperSoft's new business intelligence community platform features tools to enhance community project developers as well as business users. JasperForge v2, developed in partnership with Essentia, uses a social networking approach to provide an intuitive experience for users to join or start a project, interact with the community around it, and move that project forward. JasperForge is free to individual members.

Full details are available at *http://www.jaspersoft.com/*.

AMD Releases Faster Linux Drivers

AMD has just released new and faster ATI Catalyst drivers for Linux users of the ATI FireGL professional graphics cards. The 8.49.7 Linux driver provides 33 percent faster OpenGL performance than the previous driver, according to AMD. The drivers support both the ATI FireGL V3600 professional card and the high-end ATI FireGL V8650, which offers a 2GB framebuffer memory configuration. The driver is also supposed to be compatible with the consumer-level ATI Radeon graphics card.

More information can be found at *http://ati.amd.com/support/driver.html*.

GPS Runs Gnome Linux

Garmin announced that its Nuvi 880, Nuvi 860, and Nuvi 5000 navigation devices, designed primarily for long-haul truck drivers, run embedded Linux. The Nuvi 8xx series offers a 4.3-inch, 480x272 display and is likely based on a Marvell PXA-3xx processor, Gnome Mobile Linux, and GeoClue location technology platforms.

The Nuvi 880 offers voice recognition for hands-free interaction and can recognize shortcut phrases such as "Find address," says Garmin. The unit's Bluetooth radio enables users of compatible Bluetooth phones to make hands-free cellular calls by using the 880's speaker and microphone.

The Nuvi 880 and 5000 models are available now. The source code can be found at *http://developer.garmin.com/linux/*, and consumer information is located at *https://buy.garmin.com/shop/shop.do?cID = 134*.