

# LINUX WORLD NEWS



## FIRST NEW ZEALAND OPEN SOURCE AWARD

In October, more than 200 people – among them the country's Minister of Information Technology, Hon. David Cunliff – celebrated the achievements of New Zealanders in the development and use of open source at the Intercontinental Hotel in Wellington. The privately sponsored "New Zealand Open Source Award" was presented in eight categories.

Peter Harrison, the founder and former president of the

New Zealand Open Source Society (NZOSS), went home with the title "Open Source Ambassador," and Perlmonger Chris Cormack won the "Open Source Contributor" category. The New Zealand Open GPS project received the prize in the "Open Source Software Project" category for their community-developed auto-routing maps.

The Information and Communication Technologies branch of the country's State Services Commis-

sion won the prize for "Open Source Use in Government," and the category "Open Source Use in Business" went to Zoomin and ProjectX for online mapping of New Zealand.

New Zealand's own "Summer of Code" project received the prize in the category "Open Source Use in Education," and the not-for-profit VetLearn Foundation, which provides a successful Moodle portal for veterinarians, won the category "Open Source Use for Community Organizations."

Another portal, Julian Oliver's SelectParks, aimed at open source game developers and artists, went home with the award for "Open Source for Creativity." This category hadn't been planned at first, but was introduced when it became clear that many nomination entries fell into this field.

Additionally, the NZOSS honored the work of the Open Polytechnic and Michael Koziarski with two special awards.

The jury of seven, convened by Don Christie, the president of NZOSS, had to choose from 34 finalists, the essence of more than 130 nominations. The awards were presented for the first time.

<http://www.nzosa.org.nz/>  
<http://nzoss.org.nz/>  
[http://nz.youtube.com/results?search\\_query=NZOSA07](http://nz.youtube.com/results?search_query=NZOSA07)  
<http://www.gwprojects.org/forum/>  
<http://www.e.govt.nz/policy/open-source/>  
<http://www.zoomin.co.nz/>  
<http://www.smaps.co.nz/>  
<http://www.summerofcode.co.nz/>  
<http://www.vetscholar.org.nz/>  
<http://www.selectparks.net/>  
<http://www.openpolytechnic.ac.nz/>

## OPENDOC SOCIETY FOUNDED

In October, the OpenDoc Society was formed in the Netherlands to promote open standards for office documents. The group includes big companies like Novell, Sun Microsystems, and IBM, as well as organizations like OpenOffice.org and Ubuntu and smaller companies like RedNose. The group's main aim is to endorse the OASIS/ISO-standardized and vendor-neutral Open Document Format (ODF).

During the foundation meeting, not only members were present, but also the minister of Foreign Trade, Mr. Frank Heemskerck, on behalf of the Dutch Government. Heemskerck explained the importance of using an open standard in the government field and underlined the importance of his plan of action to move toward ODF rapidly.

The OpenDoc Society quickly formed after Microsoft lost the Sep-

tember vote in the ISO committee to standardize its Office Open XML file formats, supported by Microsoft Office 12 and Apple's iWork suite.

Meanwhile, the group has held workshops and informational gatherings aiming to convince businesses and governments to embrace ODF as their documentation standard. Later this year, the society will broaden its focus to Belgium, and other countries will follow in 2008. At the time of writing, Microsoft hadn't formally responded to the move.

<http://www.opendocsociety.org/>  
<http://www.iso.org/iso/newsandmedia/pressrelease.htm?refid=Ref1070>

## TESCO PRE-LOADING UBUNTU

Tesco, the UK's biggest and the world's third-largest grocery retailer, has started selling entry-level PCs with Ubuntu pre-installed in their latest Tesco Direct online catalog. An Intel Celeron with 256 MB memory is sold for UK£ 139.93, and an AMD3600 with 500 MB RAM goes for UK£ 189.93. Both PCs offer an 80GB hard drive. Tesco advertises the products as "less prone to virus attacks."

<http://direct.tesco.com/q/R.200-6129.aspx>  
<http://direct.tesco.com/q/R.200-3224.aspx>

The logo for the OpenDoc Society. It features the text 'OPENDOC SOCIETY' in a large, bold, white sans-serif font, with '.ORG' in a smaller font to the right. The text is set against a dark blue background. To the right of the text is a white icon of a laptop computer with a document coming out of it.