LINUX WORLD NEWS

NEW FREE SOFTWARE COMPETENCE CENTER IN NORWAY

Norway's first National Competence Center for Free Software opened on August 15th. Bruce Perens spoke at the opening ceremony. The center started its operation with a public brainstorming session in an effort to define the center's 10 priority tasks for the upcoming year. The center's primary goal is to educate the public and the private sector about open source and free software. It's first issue of a GPLed magazine, *FriProg Magasinet*, is available online aswell as a printed paper version.

http://www.friprog.no/ (Norwegian)
http://www.regjeringen.no/nb/dep/fad/pressesenter/pressemeldinger/2007/Loyver-2-mill-kr-til-senter-for-fri-prog.html (Norwegian)

LINUX.CONF.AU WITH 15 MINI-CONFERENCES

The organizers of the 8th linux.conf.au had a hard job after the call for presentations closed, with more than 220 submissions to squeeze into fewer than 60 presentation slots. The conference will be held in Melbourne, Australia, from January 28 to February 2. Highlights include a keynote address by security expert Bruce Schneier and no fewer than 15 mini-conferences on topics such as wireless connectivity and communities, virtualization, gaming, Debian, Fedora and Gentoo, Gnome, MySQL, FOSS security, the Linux kernel, system administration, embedded Linux, and education. Other highlights include a distro summit and a LinuxChix mini-conf.

http://linux.conf.au/

LINUX FOR FEMALE IT STUDENTS

In honor of its 10th anniversary, the Informatica Feminale Summer University for Women in Informatics in Bremen, Germany, gave itself an interesting birthday present – an entire series of lecture modules on Linux. During the "Linux academy," students could choose from a variety of workshops that ranged from introductory courses to more advanced topics, such as embedded Linux practice, server monitoring with Munin, shell programming, and the Linux boot process, all led by female lecturers. Additionally, the regular course program featured many other courses on open source topics such as Zope/Plone, Perl, PHP, Apache projects, and PostgreSQL.

The summer courses were held September 3–14. Similar programs include the Ditact Women's IT summer studies in Salzburg, Austria (August 20–September 1), and the Computing Women Congress in Hamilton, New Zealand (early 2008), but without the emphasis on Linux and open source.

http://www.informatica-feminale.de/Sommerstudium/Sommer2007/Linuxakademie.html (German)
http://www.ditact.ac.at/ (German)
http://www.cwc.org.nz/

WIKIMANIA IN TAIWAN

Nearly 400 wikipedians from 41 countries attended the third Wikimania conference – celebrating free culture, open content, and open access – in Taipei, August 3–5. This first Asian Wikimania featured several newly created wiki projects, including WikiCreole, Wikiversity, Citizendium, Uncyclopedia, the San Francisco Homeless Resource wiki, and the Encyclopedia of Life. Well-maintained wiki projects, such as the Taiwan Baseball Wiki (founded in April 2005, with more than 10,000 articles and more than 800 contributors to date), also shared their experiences on how to manage wiki communities.

The One Laptop Per Child (OLPC) project used the conference to create awareness for the upcoming "jam sessions" to produce curricula and its Summer of Content 2007 project matchmaking program, encouraging creation of open content and organization of free culture events around the world. Despite the strong overlap between the Wikipedia and free software communities, many machines at this Wikimania were running on Windows, which caused much criticism.

http://wikimania2007.wikimedia.org/
http://twbsball.dils.tku.edu.tw/ (Chinese)
http://wiki.laptop.org/go/Curriculum_Jam
http://wiki.laptop.org/go/Summer_of_Content_2007