LINUX WORLD NEWS

NEW DUTCH FOUNDATION FOR OPEN STANDARDS

Nearly 500 participants attended the first international HollandOpen Software Conference (HOSC) held in Amsterdam

May, 30 to June, 1. The aim of this non-profit conference was to "provide a platform allowing diverse people from governments, business, academia, and the free software community to discuss and debate a broad range of topics concerning open systems in today's changing world", said main organizer Jo Lahaye, the director of MMBase Foundation (which backs the open source content management system MMBase) and initiator of the newly founded HollandOpen Foundation.

The HollandOpen Foundation was established dur-ing the conference to act formally on software patent and open standards issues in the Netherlands and Europe. One of its first supported projects is a petition concerning promoting open source software and open standards in the public domain.

During the conference, Wikipedia founder and director of the Wikipedia foundation Jimmy Wales formally announced collaboration with Dutch KennisNet Foundation in the field of education. As a non-profit organization KennisNet offers content, services and infrastructure for primary, secondary and adult education.

http://www.mmbase.org/
http://www.hollandopen.nl/
http://opensource.petities.nl/
http://www.kennisnet.nl/

CUBA LIBRE

According to "Juventud Rebelde", the newspaper of the Cuban Communist Party's youth organization, the Cuban government made a groundbreaking announcement at the "Convención Internacional Informática 2005", a Havana-held IT conference, and will be bidding farewell to Windows. Roberto del Puerto, the director of the state office of information technology, announced that all PCs used in public administration are to be migrated to Linux in a gradual process.

Although the announcement certainly caused a stir, this is not the first time that Cuba's government has flirted with Linux; in fact, the Ministry of IT and Communication published its free software strategy back in 2002. The migration will be directed by a national task-force, consisting of del Puerto's office, the Ministries of Justice, of the Interior and of IT and Communication, the national Health Network Informed and two academic institutions.

http://www.jrebelde.
cubaweb.cu/2005/abril-
junio/mayo-17/impulsara.
html (Spanish)
http://www.informatica
habana.com/
http://www.linux.cu/
documentos (Spanish)

ORANGE, THE OPEN MOVIE

In Hollywood productions, Linux is frequently used as a platform for render farms and the like. But have you ever thought of creating an entire movie with open source software only? The Open Movie

project launched by the Blender Foundation and the Netherlands Media Art Institute May, 23 aims to create a 3D animated short film code-named "Orange" using open source tools such as Yafray, Python, Verse, Gimp, Cine-paint, and the 3D suite Blender, which just went to version 2.37 May 31.

The project provides a collaboration platform for artists and software developers, production will be executed on the premises of the Media Art Institute in Amsterdam between September 2005 and March 2006. In contrast to Hollywood blockbusters the resulting film – including all the production files and software – will be published under open source and open content licenses.

http://orange.blender.org/
http://www.blender.org/
http://www.montevideo.nl/
en/

GNOME IN SPANISH

The Gnome project has often been criticized for being US-centric. Truth is though that although English may be the dominant language, Spanish-speaking developers and users form a fairly large minority. They even have a conference of their own, GUADEC-ES, the Spanish-speaking equivalent of the Gnome User and Developer European Conference GUADEC (which took place May 29–31 in Stuttgart/Germany).

This year's event was organized by the Faculty for Computer Science at the University of Coruña ("Facultad de Informática de la Universidade da Coruña"), May 19–21. The schedule not only included technical talks and workshops, but also activities like a Celta music evening (Celta is Celtic-derived Galician folk music) with the Tiruleque folk group.

On the technical side the event featured topics like "Guadalinex project and Ubuntu", "Gnome and free software for Spanish companies", "Application integration in Gnome", "How to become a member of the Gnome community" and "Developing embedded applications using GTK +".

Among the speakers were university teachers as well as members of the Gnome project and professional developers.

http://2005.guadec-es.org/
http://2005.guadec.org/

SWAHILI SPOKEN

How do you use computers when they speak another language than you do? The predominance of the English language in software remains a huge problem – for example in East Africa. To do something about this, the computer department of the University of Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, and the Swedish IT consultancy company IT + 46 joined efforts in fall 2004 and started a Swahili localization project for OpenOffice, nick-named "KiLinux".

A Swahili spellchecker featuring 70,000 words was released by the end of 2005, and Jambo OpenOffice 1.1.3 for both Linux and Windows became available in spring 2005. As its next project, the team started working on localizing Firefox, and the team recently launched a Swahili version of the project's website.

http://www.kilinux.udsm.ac.tz/
http://www.it46.se/