

LINUX WORLD NEWS

ENGLISH VCS MIGRATE TO UBUNTU

In a Microsoft dominated world, some voluntary and community sector (VCS) organizations from the English countryside are trying to break with their dependency on Microsoft Windows. A new East of England ICT project was launched November 21. The project is aiming to promote and develop free and open source software (FOSS) alternatives for their desktops.

This first pilot project, implemented by the Cambridge Independent Advice Centre (CIAC), is the second FOSS project funded by the "ChangeUp" government program in the UK.



Ubuntu-powered machines were distributed to ten representatives of VCS organizations working in the region. After initial training, the representatives all took a new computer back to their own offices to further explore its potential.

The participants came from several fields and age groups and had different project aims. Some will be using the machines experimentally for common office tasks, in order to reduce their dependency on proprietary software later on. Others intend to train people with disabilities and evaluate the accessibility support of the Linux desktop. A local organization that works with blind persons showed huge interest in the project.

Exploring the opportunities the new computer provides an engineer stated, "I will be a much better administrator when we switch from Windows to Linux. Even though I use the graphical interface rather than the command line, which many would expect of a blind user, it will allow me to be more efficient in my work."

<http://foss.ciac.org.uk/>

SWEDISH CITIES VOTE FOR SUSE

Sweden's capital Stockholm has signed a three-year contract worth approximately 50 million Swedish crowns (about 5.7 million euro) with Novell. The contract will give the city's 46,000 administrative workers secure network access, e-mail, and groupware facilities based on Suse Enterprise servers. In addition, the city is evaluating Linux on the desktop at dedicated workplaces.

Interestingly enough, Novell Sweden at the time of writing had not published a press release about this important change, but they have revealed information on the migration plans of the much smaller administrative unit of Jönköping, which has a population of about 119,390 and an administrative taskforce of around 11,000.

The consolidation of the town's server infrastructure, formerly based on Microsoft Windows and Novell Netware, will save the local authorities about 3 million Swedish crowns. This latest move is in line with Jönköping's new overall IT strategy, which outlaws proprietary solutions.

ITALIAN LINUX DAY

Nearly 100 Italian cities celebrated Linux Day November 26 2005. The Linux Day event was coordinated by the Italian Linux Society (ILS) and organized by local LUGs. Events held in big cities such as Rome each attracted more than 500 participants. And although there was a snow storm in Bologna, more than 200 people attended the Linux Day event there.

The subjects discussed on Linux Day ranged from development tools to socio-economic and legal issues of free software. Unlike previous events, this year's Linux Day attracted coverage in mainstream print media such as "La Re-

pubblica". The LUGs in charge of local organization were very excited about the success, hoping that that this might indicate a trend towards more widespread acceptance of Linux in Italy.

<http://www.linux.it/LinuxDay/programma.shtml> (Italian)

http://www.repubblica.it/2005/i/sezioni/scienza_e_tecnologia/software/linuxday26/linuxday26.html (Italian)

<http://www.linux.it/LUG/> (Italian)
<http://trends.newsforge.com/article.pl?sid=05/11/28/0850255>

