

LINUX WORLD NEWS

SPANISH DEBIAN DEVELOPERS MEET AGAIN

Not so long ago, sound working knowledge of English was a serious installation prerequisite for the Debian distribution. Ironically, this very distribution has now developed into the distribution with the strongest momentum in Spain, as a base for local offshoots such as MoLinux, Gnu/LinEx and Guadalinex.

As a consequence DebConf-es, the meeting of Spanish Debian and Debian derivative developers, went into its second round at Guadalajara, December 16-18, 2005. DebConf-es II featured talks about the new features of upcoming Debian versions and included a great bug-squashing party, with many a patch uploaded to the Debian package repository. New and would-be Debian contributors learned a lot at workshops that covered topics such as “Debian’s infrastructure” or

“How to become a Debian developer”, and the “Debian GNU/kFreeBSD” workshop offered new information for the advanced audience.

The developers were not only given “food for thought”, but also free accommodation and meals, thanks to the generous sponsors and organizers at Hispafuentes and Caja de Guadalajara, the Castilla-La Mancha authorities (the people behind MoLinux) and Hispalinux, the association of Spanish Linux user groups, who also provided Wi-fi access and computers with Debian preinstalled at the venue.

<http://www.debian.org.es/debconf-es2/> (Spanish)

<http://www.guadalinex.org/> (Spanish)

<http://www.linex.org/> (Spanish)

<http://www.molinux.info/> (Spanish)

http://www.linux-magazine.com/issue/40/Linux_World_News.pdf

<http://www.hispalinux.es/> (Spanish)

<http://www.hispafuentes.com/> (Spanish)

<http://cajaguadalajara.biz/> (Spanish)



RINGING IN THE NEW LINUX YEAR

We don't know how many Linux user groups world-wide threw parties on New Year's eve 2005, but Taiwan's capital Taipei definitely saw one of the more noteworthy. It was a new year count-down party, with Linux users using different clock applications to count down.

Now for your New Year's resolution (if you haven't made one): find out how many different clock apps exist in 2006 (and tell us by the end of this year)!

YES TO COMMERCIALIZATION

According to a survey of the Norwegian bi-monthly magazine “Linux magazine”, Norwegian Linux users are in favor of the growing commercialization of the Linux and open source sector. 70 percent of the answers were positive, about 20 percent were dissatisfied with this development.

The same survey inquired about the Linux distributions people work with. Based on the response, Ubuntu (25 percent) seems to dominate Norwegian Linux machines, followed by Suse and Debian with 20 percent each. Mandrake/Mandriva, Red Hat/Fedora and Gentoo share the remaining 35 percent.

<http://www.linmag.no/article/articleview/103/1/17/>

2006: THE YEAR OF DESKTOP LINUX IN TAIWAN

The Taiwanese Research, Development and Evaluation Commission (RDEC), the department in charge of defining standards for governmental procurement of hardware and software, emphatically announced at the end of year 2005 that they would be pushing the OASIS consortium's Open Document Format for Office Applications (OpenDocument) as a global standard format for government documents.

Currently, Linux is mainly deployed in server markets, but desktop usage is ex-

pected to skyrocket in 2006, particularly with the much more robust CJK input and font display support provided by the OpenPower Information Company (Red Hat's Taiwanese master distributor) and the Tainan County Educational Network Center, the home of B2D GNU/Linux, whose latest desktop and server version, Jacana, was released December 31, 2005.



Spurred in part by a highly publicized proposal in Massachusetts mandating OpenDocument compliance for government documents, Taiwan aims to extend

the OpenDocument format from the government-to-government (G2G) stage to the government-to-business (G2B) stage in 2006.

<http://www.rdec.gov.tw/dp.asp?mp=4>

<http://www.openpower.com.tw/products.php> (Chinese)

<http://b2d.tnc.edu.tw/> (Chinese)