

# LINUX WORLD NEWS

## BLENDER MASTERMIND AWARDED HONORARY DOCTORATE

Ton Roosendaal, Dutch chief developer of the open source 3D graphics applica-

tion Blender and producer of *Elephants Dream* and other animated films, may now call himself an Honorary Doctor of Technology. Leeds Metropolitan University, UK, awarded him this degree, issued by *Innovation North: The Faculty of Information and Technology*, during the summer graduation celebration July 16.

Innovation North has used Blender in the interactive computer model of King Henry VIII's tonlet armor currently shown in the exhibition "Henry VIII: Dressed to

Kill" at the Tower of London. To build the touch-based model, Blender was fed laser-scanned data. The exhibition will close January 17, 2010.

Roosendaal's recent project is an open movie called *Durian*, a five- to eight-minute 3D animation "targeted at adolescents" and featuring a female main character. Preproduction starts the end of August in Amsterdam, based on a script by Dutch cartoonist Martin Lodewijk.

[http://www.leedsmet.ac.uk/news/index\\_ton\\_roosendaal\\_160709.htm](http://www.leedsmet.ac.uk/news/index_ton_roosendaal_160709.htm)

[http://www.leedsmet.ac.uk/inn/news\\_dressed\\_to\\_kill.htm](http://www.leedsmet.ac.uk/inn/news_dressed_to_kill.htm)

<http://durian.blender.org/>



## OPEN FORMATS IN NORWAY

When the Norwegian government adopted the new IT standards for use in public administration and state authorities July 2, it was a victory for interoperability and open standards. Starting in 2011, the only document formats allowed in email attachments by public institutions are ODF version 1.1 and PDF.

From January 1, 2012, all pictures and graphics on government-operated websites must be published as SVG, PNG, or JPEG. For multimedia data published by public websites, the Ogg container format will be obligatory; Vorbis and Theora must be used for lossy compression of audio and video, respectively, and FLAC (in its own or an Ogg container) for lossless compression of audio data. To handle characters in the languages of the minority Sami people correctly, UTF8 will be the obligatory text format.

Regional and local authorities in Norway are not bound by these rules yet, but the Ministry of Government Administration and Reform plans to apply them to the municipal sector as well.

<http://www.regjeringen.no/en/dep/fad/press-centre/press-releases/2009/new-obligatory-it-standards-for-the-stat.html?id=570650>

[http://www.regjeringen.no/upload/FAD/Vedlegg/IKT-politikk/Referanse katalogen\\_ versjon2.pdf](http://www.regjeringen.no/upload/FAD/Vedlegg/IKT-politikk/Referanse katalogen_ versjon2.pdf) (Norwegian)

## POLISH SCHOOLS MIGRATING

School children in the Silesian city of Jaworzno, a municipality of about 100,000 inhabitants about 55 kilometers from Krakow, Poland, will soon learn how to use Linux. Driven by the national program to equip every pupil with its own school desktop computer by September 2012 and the monetary effects of the economic crisis, the city decided to migrate the existing 553 computers in its 27 schools to Linux. The money saved by not buying proprietary software is hoped to be sufficient to double the number of computers.

<http://osnews.pl/linuksowi-pionierzy-w-jaworznie/> (Polish)

<http://www.osor.eu/news/pl-jaworzno-moves-schools-to-open-source-desktops>

## OPEN SOURCE DEPLOYMENT IN RUSSIAN SCHOOLS STAGNATING

By the end of 2009, all Russian schools should be using Linux-based computers, but deployment of the ambitious program seems to have stagnated. Moscow-based Linux distributor Alt Linux warns teachers that two CDs of the open source software package sent out to the schools were modified without the consent of the developers and won't work properly. Additionally, schools who became part of the migration project in 2009

won't receive support because the corresponding proposal has not been declared yet; hence, there's no contractor. The 2,300 schools who migrated in 2008 are not affected.

<http://www.altlinux.ru/news/archive/2009/06/item/520/> (Russian)

[http://w3.linux-magazine.com/issue/87/Linux\\_World\\_News.pdf](http://w3.linux-magazine.com/issue/87/Linux_World_News.pdf)