

LINUX WORLD NEWS

BBC OFFERS DRM-PROTECTED PROGRAMS TO LINUX USERS

Linux users in the United Kingdom can now catch up on missed BBC TV programs by downloading them, DRM-protected, via the BBC iPlayer website. Before the new release of the BBC iPlayer Desktop just before Christmas 2008, this service was restricted to Windows.

The new version of the now truly multi-platform software uses the Adobe AIR download manager when run on Windows XP and Vista, Mac OS X (10.5 and 10.4), Fedora Core 8, Ubuntu 7.10, and openSUSE 10.3. Viewers can download programs equipped with DRM from the last seven days, watch them offline, and store them on their computers for up to 30 days.

The new version uses http instead of Adobe's proprietary Real Time Media Flow Protocol (RTMFP), which allows

peer-to-peer communication. The BBC iPlayer Desktop is currently in beta phase and available via the iPlayer Labs. Interested users will have to sign up as a Labs tester to try out this new feature.

The trial period for the new AIR-based download manager will last until, roughly, February 2009. Non-UK residents unfortunately are excluded from the service.

The release of the service for Linux and Mac users was just in time: When the BBC iPlayer Desktop was released for Windows only in July 2007, the BBC claimed it wouldn't be able to meet the request by BBC Trust and Open Source



Consortium for a platform-independent solution within the next two years.
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/labs/>
http://www.bbc.co.uk/blogs/bbcinternet/2008/12/introducing_iplayer_deskto.html
http://w3.linux-magazine.com/issue/83/Linux_World_News.pdf

VIETNAM STATE AGENCIES GO OPEN SOURCE

The Vietnamese Ministry of Information and Communications instructed all IT departments of ministries and gov-

ernment agencies, as well as the provincial and municipal Departments of Information and Communications, to stop using closed source software on servers

completely by the end of July 2009 and to train their staff accordingly.

By the end of 2009, 70% of the servers in ministries' agencies and local state agencies in general must run open source software exclusively.

By December 31, 2010, the entire personnel at these agencies are required to be able to use open source products like OpenOffice, Mozilla, and the UniKey input tool for Vietnamese (all available for both Linux and Windows).

In his instruction, the Vietnamese Minister of Culture and Information, Le Doan Hop, also demanded that computer traders pre-install open source software instead of cracked software.

The instruction is seen to be an effort by the Vietnamese government to fight wide-spread software piracy. Already in 2003 it was decided that the way to go would be to ban Microsoft products.
<http://english.vietnamnet.vn/tech/2009/01/822425/>

BAVARIAN GOVERNMENT COOPERATES WITH OPENSTREETMAP

The Bavarian State Office for Surveying and Geoinformation ("Landesamt für Vermessung und Geoinformation") is providing the OpenStreetMap project with official high-resolution aerial photographs of the administrative region of Upper Palatinate in a pilot project ending March 31, 2009. During a period lasting three and a half months, OpenStreetMap users will be allowed to copy geographi-

cal details like streets, railway tracks, power lines, rivers, lakes, forests, and settlements of an area of almost 10,000 km. The aerial photographs provided via a Web Map Service (WMS) server have a resolution of 2 meters.
[http://wiki.openstreetmap.org/wiki/DE:Luftbilder_aus_Bayern_\(in_German\)](http://wiki.openstreetmap.org/wiki/DE:Luftbilder_aus_Bayern_(in_German))
[http://oberpfalz.geofabrik.de/\(in_German\)](http://oberpfalz.geofabrik.de/(in_German))

