LINUX WORLD NEWS

NEWS FROM MELBOURNE

Large-scale migration to Linux restlessly continues around the world. At the linux.conf.au 2008 conference in Melbourne, Australia, January 29–February 2, Manila-based open source consultant Ricardo Gonzalez said that 23,000 Linux PCs are going to more than 1,000 Filipino schools.

The PCs for Public Schools (PCPS) program, which was launched by the Filipino Department of Trade and Industry and the Department of Education, was funded by the Japanese government. 13,000 Fedora Linux PCs have been deployed, and the plan also calls for another 10,000 Ubuntu PCs.

In other news from linux.conf.au, the only OSS conference regularly attended by Linus Torvalds, Australia's "One Laptop per Child" (OLPC) organization will launch soon. Also, Stuart Cunningham, from BBC research, talked about Ingex, a BBC homegrown, Linux-based GPLed solution for tapeless TV production, which might eventually replace the time-consuming copying process for digital tapes.

Next year's linux.conf.au will be held in Tasmania's capital city Hobart on January 19–24, 2009.

http://www.linux.conf.au/
http://ingex.sourceforge.net/
http://www.olpc.org.au/
http://marchsouth.org/

Paul Fenwick

CHEAP LINUX PC

The Ubuntu-based Linspire distribution continues its entry into US retail stores. Sears now offers two Celeron-based desktop systems with Linspire's community version Freespire. The systems come in US\$ 300 and US\$ 500 versions. A rebate offer worth US\$ 100 is currently available.

http://www.sears.com/shc/s/search_10153_12605?vName=Computers+%26+Electronics&keyword=Linux

MORE THAN A TINY NICHE

A telephone survey of 400 Norwegian IT managers, conducted last autumn on behalf of Linpro, IBM, and Norway's free software competence center, the NUUG Foundation, reveals that the Linux desktop has its biggest market share (6 percent) in companies with 20 to 49 employees.

Furthermore, 45 percent of all companies already use a mix of OSS and proprietary software, and 25 percent are strongly considering exchanging a proprietary solution with open source software in the near future. Although OSS isn't a common choice on Norwegian desktops yet, it already has a total market share of 10 percent. This figure is close to the 12 percent market share Linux has in the country's market for server operating systems.

Five percent of the respondents to the survey work in public administration, 24 percent in the service sector, 13 percent in the retail, hotel, and restaurant business, and the remaining 58 percent had a background in fields such as education, construction, transport, and communication.

http://www.linpro.no/no/nyheter_og_events/2007/tre_av_fem_vurderer_fri_programvare (Norwegian)

OSS HANDBOOK FOR DIGITAL ARTISTS

Folly, a non-profit digital arts organization based in northwest England, announced the completion of the first edition of the new Digital Artists Handbook. Edited by Marloes de Valk and Aymeric Mansoux of GOTO10, a collective of international artists and programmers, this edition focuses on OSS tools related to digital art. The handbook is available for download in PDF format.

The Digital Artists Handbook introduces resources for working with graphics, videos, and sounds. Topics include social networking, publishing, and hardware hacking. With the financial support from Arts Council England, the handbook includes articles written by artists and specialists. Folly's Creative Director Kathryn Lambert explains, "FLOSS is an

empowering, cost-effective, and democratic way to introduce digital art technologies to artists."

http://www.folly.co.uk/
http://www.digitalartistshandbook.org/