

LINUX WORLD NEWS

LOBBYING FOR INDIC MOZILLA

Magnet Technologies organized a community event in July at the Homi Bhabha Centre for Science Education (HBCSE) in Mumbai, India. The purpose of the meeting was to share the road map for Firefox and discuss how to increase the community presence for Firefox and Thunderbird in India.

Mozilla Foundation's Community Program Manager, Seth Bindernagel, and its Head of International Marketing Efforts, JT Batson, spoke at the event.

Indic localization for the two projects has been patchy, with irregular publication of builds or language packs. Bindernagel's talk centered around localization, and Batson discussed how to increase the reach and extent of the community. The community is currently limited to practitioners of localization, but Batson wants the community to include quality assurance and testers, too.

The event also included a Firefox accessibility demonstration and discussion.

<http://www.mehtanirav.com/2007/06/29/join-hands-with-firefox/>



OSS IN AHMEDABAD

In mid-July, the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) organized a national conference on open source software in Ahmedabad, India. A mix of FOSS professionals, government officials, and policymakers attended, and speakers discussed why and where to deploy open source products and platforms.

A notable bird-of-a-feather discussion (BoF) focused on the topic of software patents, and IT officials from the state government participated alongside Dr. Nagarjuna G and other representatives from the Free Software Foundation of India. Another interesting BoF focused on how to create applications that are localization-ready and included active participation by the developers from the State Information Center.

<http://www.topseo.org/2007/07/11/open-source-conference-in-ahmedabad-india/>

NO TV ON DEMAND FOR LINUX

Despite protest from the Open Source Consortium (OSC), the BBC launched their TV on demand service, dubbed iPlayer, exclusively for Windows users in the United Kingdom. Viewers can watch selected programs on their PCs guarded by Microsoft's Windows Media DRM. The publicly funded British broadcaster agreed, however, to meet representatives of the OSC to discuss the issue of a platform-independent service. The BBC Trust, an independent body that oversees the BBC gave the green light for iPlayer in April, saying it would check every half a year that "members of the public not using Windows PCs would not be disadvantaged." The BBC claimed it couldn't make any commitment on this issue for the next two years.

<http://www.opensourceconsortium.org/content/view/full/55/>

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/technology/6245062.stm>

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/entertainment/6607083.stm>

A CARNIVAL OF FEMALE GEEKS

The Eclectic Tech Carnival (/etc), a gathering of women interested in technology, landed in Linz, Austria, July 11-15. Initiated by Gender Changers Academy in 2002, /etc has encouraged women from all over the world to help organize annual events via mailing lists, IRC, and real-life meetings. Gatherings have been held in Pula, Croatia; Athens, Greece; Belgrade, Serbia; Graz, Austria; Timisoara, Romania; and Linz, Austria.

The week-long event in Austria included workshops and BoFs on GIMP, Ubuntu, Drupal, Subversion, load balancing with Linux, and soldering; a hardware crash course; art exhibitions; performances; cultural discussions; and other presentations.

Biruktait Fekeremariam gave a brief presentation introducing a new initiative of

the Ethiopian Free & Open Source Software network (EFOSSNet) called Lucynix. Lucynix is an Ethiopian chapter of Linuxchix Africa created in July 2006, and its main activity so far was to organize the Software Freedom Day in September 2006.

<http://eclectictechcarnival.org/>

<http://drupal.eclectictechcarnival.org/>

<http://www.genderchangers.org/>

<http://efossnet.org/lucynix.php>

