

# LINUX WORLD NEWS

## GRAND LINUX-WINDOWS COALITION IN GERMAN PARLIAMENT

The outcome of the general election on September 18 in Germany indicates that voters appear unwilling to back either the Social Democratic or the Christian Democratic party, and their preferred coalition, a so-called "grand coalition" now seems likely. But behind the scenes, another grand coalition has become part of daily life at the German Bundestag (parliament). In the run-up to the recent German election, the Bundestag IT service department finished migrating the Bundestag to an IT infrastructure in which Linux and Windows co-operate, based on a plan announced by the Council of Elders in March 2002.

The introduction of an OpenLDAP-based directory service back in July paved the way for Linux and Samba, which have replaced Windows NT 4 on over one hundred file and print servers. However, this still leaves about 5000 desktop PCs used by members of parliament and staff running Windows XP, which are not subject to change. The press-release proudly points out how smoothly the migration process went and goes on to state that Germany is the first European country to comply with Europe's self-imposed objective of using open standards. [http://www.bundestag.de/bic/presse/2005/pz\\_0509023.html](http://www.bundestag.de/bic/presse/2005/pz_0509023.html) (German)

## NEW LUG IN GHANA

Thanks to the help of the One Village Foundation, Ghana saw the launch of the country's third tertiary LUG, the Winneba Linux Users Group (WILUG), September 27. Kafui Prebbie, the head of this project and administrator at the University of Education's ICT Center, has gathered a critical mass of 15 students to start this chapter. In conjunction with the Linux Africa User Group (LAUG), five computers were prepared as demonstration units for the WILUG launch.

Located at the University of Education Winneba, the

primary training post for teachers in this African country, WILUG will prepare its members to promote Linux and other open source solutions in the rest of the country. As students are expected to teach countless young people all over Ghana after graduation, the project, if successful, will establish a full service multipurpose learning and small business incubation center promoting best practices relevant to local needs.

<http://www.onevillagefoundation.org/ovf/WILUG.html>

## PERUVIAN ADMINISTRATION REQUIRED TO PRIORITIZE OPEN SOURCE

Following a huge majority vote by members of the Peruvian Congress (61 out of 66 with no votes against) in favor of a new law that regulates the usage and acquisition of software in public administration, state authorities are now required to consider and prefer open source software and open standards to proprietary solutions.

Although the law does not ban proprietary software, it demands a publicly available cost-benefit analysis and technological neutrality. This means that hardware requiring proprietary software must not be acquired, and data storage must comply with open formats certified as industrial standards.

<http://apesol.org.pe/news/199>

## FREE SOFTWARE WEEK IN BOGOTÁ

In order to offer computer science students information about Linux, and to promote open source software in Colombia, the Faculty of System Engineering of the Politécnico Gran Colombiano, a private university in Bogotá, and Pollux, a local LUG, organized an event called "6th research and technology week" September 28 through October 1.

Several Spanish-speaking free software developers, including Enrico Zini from Italy, and Sandino Flores Moreno from Mexico, were invited to lecture, and the expectations were high: coordinator Professor Pablo Montes believes that "this event in one way or another will change the way our students think about their studies and future careers".

<http://semanait.poligran.edu.co/>



Deutscher Bundestag/ELDEPRESS/SyVIA Bohn