

## Linux New Media Awards 2005

## TREND SETTERS

Linux New Media put together an international jury to recognize outstanding contributions to Open Source. We'll tell you who brought home the prizes when the 2005 Linux New Media awards were presented at Linux World Frankfurt. **BY MATHIAS HUBER**



Figure 1: Each year, the Linux New Media awards are presented to projects, companies, and people who have contributed to the success of Open Source. Mark Shuttleworth won a special award for his "Outstanding Contribution to Linux and Free Software."

Linux New Media invited an international jury of some 200 members to acclaim outstanding contributions to free software. Besides developers, authors, and industry experts, the 2005 jury also included representatives from public administration, an area in which Open Source software is steadily gaining momentum.

### Trend to VoIP

The award categories reflect current trends. The free PBX application, Asterisk (<http://www.asterisk.org>), attracted a majority in the new "Best Voice over IP software" category, followed by Skype, <http://www.skype.com>, for many the first program to bring Internet Protocol-based communication to the home.

Groupware tools that integrate email, address management, and calendar functions are an essential part of the modern workplace. Open Source group-

ware solutions are ousting MS Exchange in many companies. Kolab, <http://kolab.org>, came up on top in the "Best Groupware server" category, followed closely by Open-Xchange, <http://www.openexchange.com>.

Corporate environments have very specific requirements for Linux operating systems. More than half the jury agreed that Novell's Suse products offer the best Enterprise Linux solution. The classic Enterprise contender, Red Hat, attracted about one third of the votes.

Although industry giant IBM has sold its PC business, it still consistently uses Linux for servers such as the OpenPower series. The jurors awarded first prize for the "Most Linux-friendly hardware vendor" to IBM.

### Ubuntu, the Shooting Star

A retrospective of the 2004 Awards clearly shows another trend. Last year,

Ubuntu (<http://www.ubuntulinux.org>) was a promising newcomer that took second place in the "Best Newcomer Distribution" category behind Skole Linux, which is also Debian-based. The trust the jury put in Ubuntu was not misplaced: Ubuntu, the self-acclaimed "Linux for human beings," kept to the promised release cycles in 2005, was well-represented at community events such as Linuxtag, and built up a considerable following in the course of the year. All of this led to Ubuntu taking the category of Best Debian Derivative with 43.5 percent of the votes. A KDE variant of Ubuntu called Kubuntu came in third. 25 percent of the votes went to the popular Live distro Knoppix.

### Outstanding Contribution

Against the backdrop of the Ubuntu success, it comes as no surprise that Ubuntu founder Mark Shuttleworth will

take home a personal trophy in acknowledgment of his entrepreneurial spirit. Mark takes the Special Award for “Outstanding Contribution to Linux and Free Software,” not only for his work with Ubuntu, but also for the commitment he has shown to many other Open Source projects in his home country, South Africa, as well as in other parts of the world.

Mark will be sharing the “Outstanding Contribution” award with someone without whom neither Linux nor any free software would exist: “the anonymous developer.”

This year’s jury was really excited about the idea of acknowledging the contributions of all software developers who have played a part in the Open Source movement. As a result, a Linux New Media Award for 2005 goes to everyone who contributes to free software, whether as a volunteer, a full-time employee, or a part-time contract worker: “the anonymous developer” is truly the heart and soul of the Open Source community. ■

**Table 1: Linux New Media Awards 2005**

Hardware	
<b>Most Linux-friendly Hardware Vendor</b>	
1. IBM	23.5 %
2. HP	16.3 %
3. AMD	11.3 %
Software	
<b>Best Groupware Server</b>	
1. Kolab	22.2 %
2. OpenXChange	21.5 %
3. OpenGroupware	15.3 %
<b>Best VoIP Software</b>	
1. Asterisk	42.4 %
2. Skype	18.8 %
3. Gnomemeeting	15.8 %
<b>Best Debian Derivative</b>	
1. Ubuntu	43.5 %
2. Knoppix	23.7 %
3. Kubuntu	9.6 %
<b>Best Enterprise Server Distribution</b>	
1. Novell / Suse	53.3 %
2. Red Hat	36.7 %
3. Mandriva	8.3 %
Special Award	
<b>Outstanding contribution to Linux / Open Source</b>	
1. Mark Shuttleworth	12.1 %
1. The anonymous developer	12.1 %
2. nosoftwarepatents.com / Florian Müller	9.6 %
3. City of Munich	8.9 %

## The Jury

For truly inspired results, you need experienced jury members – and the best place to find them is wherever Linux and Open Source products are in use. The jury for this year’s Linux New Media Awards included experts from all parts of the Linux community. In cooperation with the editorial staff of Linux Magazine and the eight other non-English mags published by Linux New Media AG, around 200 people from all walks of Linux life cast their votes this year. In a two-stage voting process, the jurors chose Linux products, people, and organizations that deserve special notice for innovation and originality over the past twelve months. The jury included:



**Alan Cox** is a long-standing kernel hacker who has never been one to mince words. Alan works for Red Hat, lives in Wales, and keeps a diary in Welsh.



**Hans-Georg Eßer**, the author of several Linux books, has been the editor-in-chief of the German EasyLinux magazine from day one.



**J.D. Frazer**, who is better known by the name of **Illiad**, is the creator of UserFriendly – a cartoon series that takes a poke at the world of Unix and Open Source.



**Oliver Frommel** was a sysop and programmer at Ars Electronica Center in Linz/Austria for several years. Today he is head of the Editorial Competence Center for Software and Programming at Linux New Media AG.



**Bdale Garbee** works for Hewlett Packard, where he is developing a Linux distribution. He also holds the position of Debian Project Leader.



The “Linux Evangelist” **Jon “Maddog” Hall** preaches for the free OS all over the world. He is the Executive Director of Linux International and one of the community’s most outspoken voices.



**Heike Jurzik** starting working with Linux in 1996 and writes as a freelance correspondent for English and German language computer magazines



**Klaus Knopper** is a teacher, programmer, author, and consultant. He is best known as the creator of the Knoppix live Linux distribution.



**Yuwei Lin** researches the social and economic aspects of free software at the universities of York and Amsterdam.



**Jon Masters** is a UK-based Linux consultant and system administrator who is also involved with embedded Linux and FPGAs.



**Florian Schießl** works for the City of Munich, where he migrates municipal desktops to Linux.



**Franz Schmid** knows the Postscript and PDF formats by heart, which only makes sense, since he is the developer behind the free Scribus DTP program.



**Tom Schwaller** was one of the founding fathers of Linux Magazine and the first editor in chief of the German language version. Tom now works on Linux clusters for IBM.



**Ralf Spenneberg** is a freelance Unix/Linux trainer and author. Ralf has also developed various training materials.



**Marcelo Tosatti** became the kernel 2.4 maintainer at the age of 18. He works for the hardware vendor Cyclades.



**Andrew Tridgell**, also known as “Tridge,” is the founder of the Samba project. Andrew comes from Australia and is a Fellow of the Open Source Development Labs (OSDL).



**Luis Villa** is a member of the GNOME Foundation board. His special subject is quality management, and his most recent project was managing the development of the Novell Linux Desktop.



**Scott Wheeler** started using Linux back in 1996 and became a KDE project member in 2001. Scott, who is from Texas, works for SAP’s Linux lab.