LINUX WORLD NEWS

OPEN LINUX LECTURES IN RUSSIA

Moscovites eager to get free hands-on training on Linux had one destination on Thursday evenings in March and April – Moscow's State Pedagogical University. The faculty of mathematics, together with the Russian Linux company, ALT Linux, offered seven evening classes on Linux for the desktop March 15 through April 26, open for all, but tailor-made for (future) teachers and instructions.

With the use of freely available course material from these classes (including a live CD), spin-off courses also were held in St. Petersburg, Saratov, Tambov, and Nizhniy Novgorod.
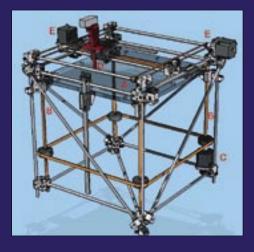
http://heap.altlinux.ru/ engine/Edu/Courses/ OpenLectory (Russian)

OPEN RAPID PROTOTYPING MACHINES

Rapid-prototyping machines appearing in the Star Trek series or in various Hollywood films such as the Terminator series are no longer science fiction – instead, they are open source. Led by senior lecturer Adrian Bowyer from the Biomimetics Research Group at the University of Bath, England, the RepRap project has created a GPLed rapid prototyper, a printer able to fabricate 3D artifacts from a computer-based model. A time-lapsed video released on YouTube at the end of April shows Bowyer assembling the mechanical parts of the first RepRap Version 1.0 "Darwin" machine by following the assembly instructions published online by one of his students.

A RepRap spinoff, Tommelise, constructed at the end of January 2007, can make nearly everything that can be made from plastic. To build a Tommelise now costs about US$ 175.

Similar machines include fabbers, another open source 3D-printer rapid-prototyping machine developed by FabLab at MIT, available for about US$ 2400 for the parts (compared with around US$ 400 for materials for a Darwin RepRap). To build, modify, and improve a fabber at home, you can follow the open source kit on Fab@Home.

http://reprap.org/
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Mo5Hp_ 6uD-E
http://reprap.org/bin/view/Main/Assembling DarwinMachinery
http://www.3dreplicators.com/
http://cba.mit.edu/projects/fablab/
http://www.fabathome.org/wiki/index. php?title=Main_Page

NORWEGIAN CITIZEN PORTAL TO BECOME OPEN SOURCE

"Min side" (in its English version "My page"), the citizen portal of the Norwegian public services, offers Norwegian residents access to information and services provided by the central government, regional and local agencies, and authorities at all levels of public administration. It allows its users to create a personalized portal page using the PIN codes on their tax deduction card and a self-selected password.

According to *Linux-Magasinet*, this portal will become open source to give others (in particular other public institutions in Norway and worldwide) a head start with similar services.

No actual release date has been set so far, but a release in Fall 2007 can be anticipated.

http://www.norway.no/ minside/

NO LINUX-KONGRESS THIS YEAR

The annual Linux-Kongress conference in Germany, traditionally a gathering of Linux kernel developers, takes a break in the 14th year of its existence.

The reason is the Linux Kernel Developer Summit that takes place in Europe this year in Cambridge, England, September 4-6, which coincides with the time of year when Linux-Kongress traditionally meets.

Unlike Linux-Kongress, the Kernel Developer Summit is by invitation only. To make up for this, the UK Unix User Group and the German Unix User Group (organizers of the Linux-Kongress) are organizing LinuxConf Europe 2007 from September 2–4 in Cambridge.

http://www.linux-kongress.org/