# TECH TOOLS

## PuTTY is Alive!

After what seems like years, PuTTY 0.61 finally sees the light of day on July 12. Did I say "seems" like years? That's because it has been. It's been more than four years since the last PuTTY release (0.60) and, in the release announcement, Simon Tatham said that the team has had a *lot* of email asking whether PuTTY was still under development (and whether the team was still alive).

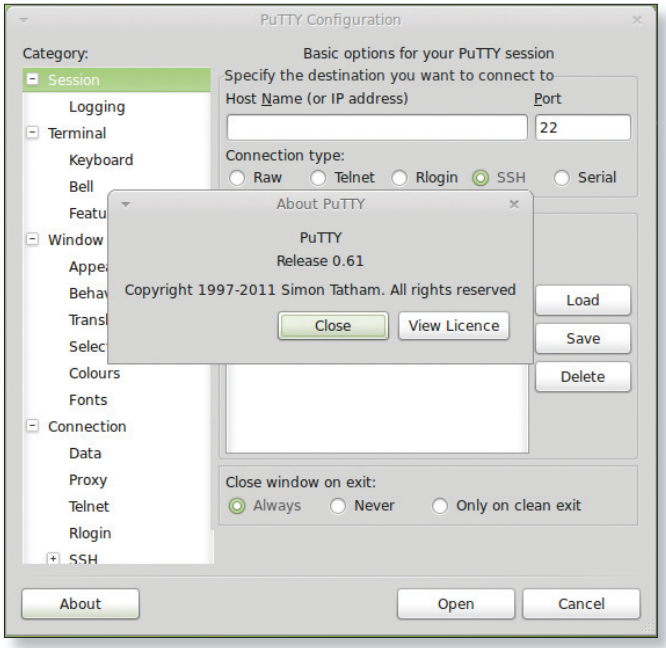
Rest assured, they are alive, and so is PuTTY. What does the latest release bring? Linux users will be glad to know that PuTTY now supports Gtk 2, just in time for Gtk 3 shipping. Don't worry, though – Gtk 2 should be supported for some time yet. If you've seen a release in the wild with Gtk 2 support, that's because several distributors have been shipping a pre-release with the support compiled in.

PuTTY also supports manual hostname setting, so if you're connecting through port forwarding, it won't throw off the client.

Naturally, the new version also includes a lot of speed-up work and optimization so that it's in sync with the latest developments of OpenSSH.

Tatham says SSH key exchange should be faster "by about a factor of three" over 0.60, SSH2 window management has been improved, and 0.61 bundles in support for SSH2 authentication using the Generic Security Services Application Program Interface (GSSAPI) for Kerberos users.

You can grab the latest PuTTY at: *http://www.chiark.greenend.org.uk/~sgtatham/putty/*.




## WordPress 3.2 Adds Full-Screen Editing

WordPress 3.2, dubbed "Gershwin" in honor of composer and pianist George Gershwin, was released on July 4 with a slew of new features for users and developers. Big on the list for new developers? A new full-screen editor that provides a "distraction free" writing experience. The release also means that stragglers will finally need to upgrade to modern PHP and MySQL.

WordPress 3.2 is the first release to require support for PHP 5, and it also bumps up the MySQL requirement to 5.0.15. If you have PHP 5.2.4 or later, you're golden. The requirements haven't changed since WordPress 2.5 for PHP and since 2.9 for MySQL. Note that very, very few modern and supported Linux distributions fail to ship PHP 5, with Red Hat Enterprise Linux 4.x being the obvious exception. While they were at it, the WordPress folks also decided to drop Internet Explorer 6, which shouldn't be very upsetting for Linux users at all.

On the new and interesting side, along with full-screen editing support, there are lots of improvements for the WordPress Admin Bar and a brand new theme dubbed "Twenty Eleven" that makes use of WordPress's latest theme features. Naturally, WordPress 3.2 is a free upgrade and download. If you're running WordPress now, just head to your admin dashboard to run the upgrade (after a backup). If not, visit *http://wordpress.org* to grab the latest release. Happy blogging!

## New Shuttle Mini-PC

Shuttle Computer Handels GmbH has released the XG41 thin PC. With more performance and a smaller footprint than a nettop box, Tom Seiffert, Head of Marketing and PR at Shuttle Computer Handels GmbH, says the new compact system is "… ideal for versatile applications … as a powerful workstation PC, for HD playback at home or in … automation and control. With its two network cards, it easily becomes the heart of your network."

The XG41 also sports six USB, two COM, and S/PDIF and audio (front and rear) ports. On the mainboard, the CPU LGA775 socket allows for Intel Core 2 processors, with two memory slots for up to 8GB of DDR3 RAM, a mini-PCIe, and up to three SATA 3Gbps drives. And it's all yours for EUR 159.

For more, see *http://www.shuttle.eu/*.

## Zarafa Collaboration Platform 7.0 Released

Looking for an Exchange alternative? Zarafa is one of many drop-in replacements for Microsoft Exchange. It provides email, calendaring, collaboration, and task management running on Linux. If you're looking for a Linux-based replacement to get off of Microsoft Exchange, Zarafa will provide support for your Outlook users and folks on Linux as well.

The latest release of Zarafa comes with Zarafa Archiver, a tool that helps move email onto cheaper storage so companies can help reduce primary storage costs. The Archiver still provides access to email for users, but gives admins a way to reduce storage costs. The Archiver is compatible with Professional and Enterprise editions of Zarafa. Note that Zarafa also offers a community edition without all the features of the Enterprise and Professional editions. The open source edition is licensed under the Affero GPLv3, and the company offers a "free as in beer" edition that lets you serve up to three users on Outlook. Pricing for versions of Zarafa differ depending on which edition you choose and the number of users you want to support. For more on Zarafa and its offerings, see *http://zarafa.com*.

## Red Hat Beefs Up Performance with MRG 2.0

Hot on the release of Red Hat Enterprise Linux (RHEL) 6.1, the company is dropping the latest release of its Messaging, Realtime, and Grid (MRG) offering. Red Hat Enterprise MRG 2.0 has support for RHEL 6.1 and provides advances in performance, management, and scalability.

The latest release brings improved drivers for 10Gb Ethernet, and the company promises "up to" a 100 percent improvement running on 10Gb Ethernet. The MRG Grid product now has better scheduling performance, with the ability to schedule and complete more than 100 jobs per second using a single scheduler. MRG 2.0 should be able to handle hundreds of users and millions of jobs with a large deployment.

MRG 2.0 also includes lower level control for some environments and has support for priority queues and alert thresholds in AMQP. It also has new features for monitoring, diagnosing, and reporting on grid jobs.

Last, but definitely not least for those worried about the power bill, MRG 2.0 is more energy efficient, allowing users to turn off unused servers and concentrate workloads on fewer physical systems.

For more on MRG 2.0, schedule a visit to the Red Hat homepage at *http://www.redhat.com*.