TECH TOOLS

Peppermint Three Announced

The Peppermint Three development team recently announced the availability of Peppermint OS Three in both 32- and 64-bit builds. According to the blog post from Kendall Weaver, this edition is based on Lubuntu 12.04 and includes some features from Linux Mint. Both builds are available as free downloads and via Live CD/USB media.

In this release, the Chromium Stable repository is enabled by default, which means any updates will be immediately available as opposed to waiting on upstream maintainers to merge updates into the main repository. Peppermint Three also features a new look and feel that, according to the website, was designed around the new default desktop background created by an art student named Ilina from Bulgaria and Daniel Burke, who contributed to the menu theme.

This release will ship with fewer default web applications in the menu, allowing users to select the ones they prefer. Peppermint Three is the first distribution to ship with the lightweight GWoffice by default. And, according to the blog, this release reverts to Linux Mint's update manager from Ubuntu's because of issues encountered in Peppermint Two. Please refer to the release notes for full details.

You can download Peppermint OS Three now from: *http://peppermintos. com/download/*.

Zsh 5.0 Released

The developers of the Z shell for Unix and Unix-like operating systems have announced the release of zsh 5.0.0. This version is the first major stable release since version 4.2, which was released in 2004.

The announcement states that many changes have been made since the last stable release series, of which the most important is support for multibyte characters. Other new features of the 5.0 release include: support for highlighting and coloring on the command line, job control support in non-interactive shells and subshells, and an improved zshroadmap manual page. Additionally, improvements have been made to Posix compatibility when the shell is in a corresponding emulation.

A full list of new features is available in the NEWS file for the release, and the README file notes some incompatibilities with previous versions. Zsh 5.0 can be downloaded from the project's mirrors and FTP server. For details, visit: *http://zsh.sourceforge.net/*.

ActiveState Releases Komodo 7.1

ActiveState has announced the release of Komodo IDE 7.1. Komodo is an award-winning multiplatform integrated development environment (IDE) for Python, PHP, Ruby, JavaScript, Perl, and web development.

Bart Copeland, ActiveState President and CEO, says "Komodo has long been a hallmark of efficient application development. With its seamless Stackato integration, Komodo 7.1 makes it easy for developers to innovate using the language that's right for their enterprise and then – with Stackato – deploy effortlessly to the cloud."

Komodo IDE 7.1 offers improved performance to facilitate faster web application development, including: automatic variable highlighting; new Source Code Control push capabilities; debugging of cloud-deployed apps within the ActiveState Stackato Platform-as-a-Service environment; and support for PHP 5.4, Node.js 0.8, Python 3.3, Perl 5.16, and Ruby 1.9.3. Additionally, the language extension feature lets users add a new language or improve an existing one.

The Komodo 7.1 full release notes are available online at *http://docs.activestate. com/komodo/7.1/releases/ide.html*, and developers can download a free 21-day trial from *http://www.activestate.com/ komodo-ide/downloads*.

IPFire 2.11 Released

The IPFire development team has released the 61st core update for IPFire 2.11, a hardened Linux appliance distribution designed for use as a firewall. According to the website, IPFire offers corporate-level network protection for everyone from home users to large corporations and focuses on security, stability, and ease of use.

The latest version of IPFire features improved OpenVPN support. Now, static routes may be defined for OpenVPN clients, connections can now be renamed when importing them, and OpenVPN N2N connections are displayed with their status on the index page. Additionally, for security reasons, more than 30 bugs have been fixed for PHP 5.3.14.

According to the announcement, the Reiser4 filesystem will no longer be supported. The IPFire developers say that it has become too difficult to keep their kernels in sync with the Reiser4 development state. The developers recommend making a backup of your system and reinstalling it with one of the filesystems offered by the installer. The IPFire developers also state that the next major version of IPFire will come with an updated Linux 3.x kernel. The IPFire open source firewall solution is available for free download at: *http://www.ipfire.org/*.