

TECH TOOLS

NVidia Announces Project Shield Gaming Device

NVidia announces Project Shield, a new portable gaming device for open platforms. The Project Shield device, which features a 5-inch screen and a full-size ergonomic controller, lets users play both Android and PC titles. As an Android device, Project Shield provides access to any game on Google Play, and, as a wireless receiver and controller, it can stream games and access titles on its Steam game library from a PC powered by NVidia GeForce GTX GPUs. Project Shield comes with the latest Android Jelly Bean operating system from Google. "Project Shield was created by NVidia engineers who love to

game and imagined a new way to play," said Jen-Hsun Huang, co-founder and chief executive officer at NVidia. Project Shield features NVidia's new Tegra 4 processor, which delivers powerful gaming capacity from its custom 72-core GeForce GPU and quad-core Cortex-A15 CPU. According to the announcement, the Project Shield device combines the NVidia Tegra 4, high-bandwidth, ultra-fast wireless technology, and HD video and audio with a full-size, console-grade controller. It features an integrated 5-inch, 1280x720 HD retinal multitouch display with 294dpi.



Large-Scale Elastic Architecture Data-as-a-Service

Red Hat Inc. recently announced its participation in a European Union initiative to create a Large-scale Elastic Architecture for Data-as-a-Service (LEADS) for mining and analyzing data published on the entire public web. The LEADS consortium is composed of universities and research centers, as well as IT corporations with an interest in data mining and analysis techniques. The objective of LEADS is "to build a decentralized Data-as-a-Service (DaaS) framework that runs on an elastic collection of micro-clouds." LEADS will provide a means to gather, store and query publicly available data, as well as process this data in real time.

Qt Project Releases Qt 5.0

The Qt Project has announced the release of Qt 5.0, the latest version of the Qt C++ UI framework. According to the website, Qt 5 lets developers quickly create applications with intuitive user interfaces for multiple targets, and Qt's modular C++ class library and tools let developers create applications for one platform and easily build and deploy on another platform. According to the announcement, Qt 5 includes amazing graphic capabilities and performance. Qt 5 uses an OpenGL-based scene graph to accelerate the graphics of Qt Quick, making it possible to create user interfaces with animations, impressive graphical effects, and particle systems, even on mobile and embedded devices. The latest version provides enhanced developer productivity and flexibility, with improved support for JavaScript and QML in Qt 5, while maintaining the C++ foundation and Qt Widget support. It also provides easier cross-platform portability with the new structure of Essentials and Add-ons modules, along with the consolidation of Qt Platform Abstraction.

Qt 5.0 comes as a full SDK package with binaries for Linux (64- and 32-bit), Mac OS X (10.7 and 10.8), and Windows. The package also comes with Qt Creator 2.6, examples, and full documentation.



Splunk Announces SDKs

Splunk Inc. released new software development kits (SDKs) for Java and Python. Splunk previously released the SDK for JavaScript for Splunk Enterprise 5, and the Splunk SDK for PHP is in public preview.

According to the company, the SDKs for Java, JavaScript, PHP, and Python are built on a fully documented and supported REST API, and they include documentation, code samples, resources, and tools to help developers build on the Splunk platform. The SDKs allow developers to integrate Splunk data with other applications and create applications to index, search, visualize, and analyze data. They also allow developers to build enterprise-grade applications rapidly with standard programming languages and tools. "We want to empower developers to build big data applications on the Splunk platform and to understand that you don't need large-scale development efforts to get big value. That's a key driver behind the development of these SDKs, helping developers quickly get started with Splunk software, leveraging their existing language skills and driving rapid time to value," said Paul Sanford, general manager of the Splunk developer platform. You can download the Splunk SDK for Java, the Splunk SDK for Python, and the Splunk SDK for JavaScript immediately. To learn more, please visit <http://www.splunk.com/company>.

AMD Releases New APP SDK and CodeXL Tool Suite

AMD has released APP SDK 2.8 along with the CodeXL unified tool suite to help developers accelerate applications with AMD accelerated processing units (APUs) and graphics processing units (GPUs). The Accelerated Parallel Processing (APP) SDK 2.8 and CodeXL tool suite provide access to code samples, white papers, libraries, and tools for quickly and efficiently creating apps. The APP SDK is a complete development platform for developing applications accelerated by AMD APP technology. According to the announcement,

APP SDK 2.8 includes new and improved samples and documentation for OpenCL, C++ AMP, and Aparapi. APP SDK 2.8 also includes a preview version of AMD's new open source C++ template library, code-named "Bolt." The Bolt programming model is C++ template programming (similar to the C++ Standard Template Library), allowing developers to code in an environment similar to the one they use to program multicore CPUs.



Version 1.0 of CodeXL is a developer tool suite that allows developers to take advantage of AMD's high-performance CPUs, GPUs, and APUs across a wide array of computing platforms. CodeXL includes comprehensive GPU debugging, GPU and CPU profiling, static OpenCL kernel analysis, and a standalone user interface on Windows and Linux for enhanced accessibility and navigation. For more information about these tools, visit: <http://developer.amd.com/>.

USB 3.0 Will Increase Data Throughput

The USB 3.0 Promoter Group has announced a SuperSpeed USB (USB 3.0) enhancement that will add a much higher data rate, increasing data throughput performance to 10Gbps. Specifically, the 10Gbps SuperSpeed USB specification will define a 10Gbps SuperSpeed USB speed mode that extends the existing SuperSpeed defini-

tion to deliver twice the data throughput via enhanced, fully backward compatible USB connectors and cables. This supplement to the USB 3.0 specification is expected by the middle of 2013.

Features of the new SuperSpeed USB solution include: compatibility with existing cables, connectors, hubs, and de-

vices; improved data encoding for more efficient data transfer and improved I/O power efficiency; and compatibility with existing USB 3.0 software stacks and device class protocols.

The 10Gbps SuperSpeed USB update is targeted for a 45-day industry review period tentatively beginning February 7, 2012, and ending March 26, 2013.

Oracle Releases NoSQL Database 2.0



Oracle announces Oracle NoSQL Database 2.0 – a highly scalable, low-latency, key-value database for real-time big data workloads.

According to the company, Oracle NoSQL Database 2.0 has a powerful and flexible transaction model that greatly simplifies the process of developing a NoSQL-based application. The database scales horizontally with high availability and transparent load balancing. Oracle NoSQL Database 2.0 includes tighter integration with Oracle Database and Hadoop environments and is designed to fit seamlessly into an enterprise IT stack. Oracle NoSQL Database is designed to be highly available and extremely scalable, with predictable levels of throughput and latency, and it requires minimal administrative interaction. The latest version adds efficient support for storage and retrieval of large objects such as documents and images, as well as automatic rebalancing for allocating resources in response to changing production requirements. The database lets customers easily manage high-velocity transactional data generated by web-based applications, social media, sensors, smart meters, and communications services. It is built using Oracle Berkeley DB as the underlying storage engine. Oracle NoSQL Database 2.0 is available for download from the Oracle Technology Network www.oracle.com/technetwork/.

AWS Tools for Windows PowerShell 1.0.0 Announced

Amazon Web Services has released AWS Tools for Windows PowerShell 1.0, which lets developers and administrators manage AWS services from the Windows PowerShell scripting environment.

AWS Tools for Windows PowerShell comprise a set of Windows PowerShell cmdlets that are built on top of the functionality exposed by the AWS SDK for .NET. According to the company, the AWS Tools let you script operations on your AWS resources from the Windows PowerShell command line. More than 550 cmdlets are available for making quick AWS service calls from the command line or for creating scripts to automate AWS service management. The AWS Tools for Windows PowerShell support the same set of services and regions as supported by the SDK.

According to the company, AWS Tools for Windows PowerShell lets admins perform many of the same actions available in the AWS SDK for .NET. Additionally, the Windows PowerShell scripting language lets you compose scripts to automate your AWS service management.

To use the AWS Tools for Windows PowerShell, you must have an AWS account, Microsoft Windows XP or later, and Windows PowerShell 2.0 or later. More information is available from: <http://aws.amazon.com/powershell/>

