

# TECH TOOLS

## AMD Launches New Single-GPU Graphics Card

AMD recently released the AMD Radeon HD 7970 graphics card for desktop PCs. The only GPU based on 28nm production technology, the HD 7970 scored greater than  $\times 2700$  in Futuremark Corporation's 3DMark 11 benchmark for DirectX 11.

With the Radeon HD 7970, AMD is launching its new Graphics Core Next Architecture, which enables new levels of gaming and compute capabilities – an improvement of more than 150% in performance per square millimeter over the previous generation, according to the announcement.

The Radeon HD 7970 also includes advanced power management features and can convert unused power headroom into extra performance by dynamically controlling clock speeds, thus giving gamers advanced performance inside the power envelope they specify. The AMD Radeon HD 7970 also includes AMD App Acceleration and AMD Eyefinity technology, which lets users connect up to six displays to one graphics card.

More information is available at: <http://ir.amd.com/phoenix.zhtml?c=74093&p=irol-newsArticle&ID=1642152&highlight=>.

## NetBeans IDE 7.1 Released

Version 7.1 of the NetBeans integrated development environment is now available for Windows, Mac, Linux, and Solaris. The NetBeans project is an open source IDE and application platform for developers to rapidly create web, enterprise, desktop, and mobile applications using the Java platform, as well as PHP, JavaScript and Ajax, Groovy and Grails, and C/C++.

According to the website, NetBeans IDE 7.1 introduces support for

JavaFX 2.0 by enabling the full compile/debug/profile development cycle for JavaFX 2.0 applications. The release also provides significant Swing GUI Builder enhancements, CSS3 support, and tools for visual debugging of Swing and JavaFX user interfaces. Additional highlights in-



## NetBeans

clude integrated Git support, new PHP debugging features, and various

JavaEE and Maven improvements.

NetBeans IDE 7.1 is available in English, Brazilian Portuguese, Japanese, Russian, and Simplified Chinese and offers extensive documentation and training resources. Read more at: <http://netbeans.org/community/releases/71/>.

## HTC Releases Tool for Unlocking Bootloader

HTC has released a tool to allow their bootloader to be unlocked for 2011 model devices going forward. The company, however, cautions that unlocking the bootloader is a technical procedure that could "necessitate repairs to your device that are not covered under warranty."

They offer several other disclaimers with the tool,

noting that the unlocking process may cause unexpected side effects – such as damage from overheating – or alter the behavior of the device. They state that some content on your device could be invalidated and become inaccessible because of invalid DRM security keys.

However, according to the website, all HTC Android de-

vices launched after September 2011 are now unlockable, and users are encouraged to check back often for the status of older devices. Phones currently supporting the unlocking tool include the Amaze 4G, EVO 3D, EVO View 4G, Design, Jetstream, Rezound, Thunderbolt, myTouch 4G Slide, and Sensation 4G (among others). To begin the unlocking process, visit: <http://htcdev.com/bootloader/>.



## Netrunner 4.0 Dryland Announced

Netrunner has announced the release of Netrunner 4.0 Dryland, a Kubuntu-based desktop distribution featuring default integration of Gnome and Wine.

Dryland, which is based on Linux kernel 3.0.0-14, runs KDE for easy setup and use of new applications and plasmoids. Core software components include: KDE 4.7.3; LibreOffice 3.4.4; Mozilla Firefox and Thunderbird 7.0.1; VLC media player, and Clementine.

For more detailed information, visit the features page of the website at: <http://www.netrunner-os.com/features/>.

## Gentoo Linux 12.0 Released



Gentoo Linux has released a new Live DVD for version 12.0. According to the website, the new version features packages such as: Linux kernel 3.1.5, X.Org server 1.10.4, KDE 4.7.4, Gnome 3.2.1, Xfce 4.8, Fluxbox 1.3.2, Firefox 9, LibreOffice 3.4.99.2, GIMP 2.6.11, Blender 2.60, Amarok 2.5, VLC 1.1.13, Chromium 16.0, and more. Special features include writable filesystems using Aufs and persistence for \$HOME.

The Live DVD is available in two flavors: a hybrid x86/x86\_64 edition and an x86\_64 multi-lib edition. Note that the Live DVD does not provide a hard disk installation program. To download, go to <http://www.gentoo.org/news/20120102-livedvd.xml>.