LINUX WORLD NEWS

LINUX-BASED CLASSROOMS IN BOLZANO

When school pupils in the Northern Italian province of Bolzano/Bozen return to their classrooms after the summer break, they will be welcomed not only by new schoolbooks but also by an entirely new Linux-based computer infrastructure. In a summer migration effort, technically supported by a Florentine free software company, Truelite srl, 70 servers and 2460 classroom PCs have been migrated to a customized, multi-language Debian-based system, FUSS-Soledad GNU/Linux.

In addition, 20,000 live-CDs will be given away, allowing students, teachers and their families to enjoy the same software environment, which includes all the applications used in the computer classes, at home.

The entire initiative is funded by the Italian school authority of the Province of Bozen, the European Social Fund, and the Centro di Formazione Professionale Commercio, Turismo e Servizi "Luigi Einaudi" (an educational institution for professionals in the fields of economics, tourism and services). When the school term starts in September, several training courses will help the teachers and technicians involved to work more efficiently with the new system.

http://www.fuss.bz.it/ (Italian)
http://www.provincia.bz.it/intendenza-scolastica/ (Italian)
http://www.provincia.bz.it/europa/esf/ (Italian)
http://www.cts-einaudi.it/ (Italian)
http://www.truelite.it/ (Italian)

RUSSIAN INDUSTRIES TO EMBRACE LINUX

Aircraft engines and printing machinery – these are just two product categories in which Russian engineers are switching to Linux for development, construction and controlling purposes.

For example, the Rybinsk and Moscow based scientific corporation "NPO Saturn" has announced that it will design its civil and military aircraft engines under Linux. To do so NPO has just purchased an IBM eServer Cluster 1350 supercomputer consisting of 64 dual Xeon-processor servers and two four-processor servers using the Itanium 2.

The biggest printing company in East Siberia, Irkutsk and Tomsk based "OAO NPO Oblmashinform", is switching to Linux to control its printing machinery. The company hopes to reduce industrial waste and improve quality. The main arguments in favor of Linux were quality and ease of use.

The Russian government has gotten on board the Linux train and announced a grant worth about 440,000 euros for Linux quality assurance. The money will be used to develop a precise set of standards on how Linux software should behave and an open source test system to check those parameters, and to establish a Linux verification and testing center.

http://www.npo-saturn.ru/press/releases/2005_8_3.html (Russian)
http://www.omi.ru/news/index.php?cmd=show&newsid=44 (Russian)

WIN A PRIZE FROM THE FIRST AFRICAN IN SPACE

When the Norwegian Unix Users Group and the Oslo University College "Høgskolen i Oslo" announces the winner of the annual Norwegian free software award for the fourth time, October 4, the lucky winner(s) will receive their prizes from none less than Mark Shuttleworth, founder of Thawte, multi-millionaire, the first (South) African in space and the mastermind behind Ubuntu. When Mark attended the Skolelinux developer meeting in Bergen in June, he spontaneously agreed to take up this job.

The current nominees not only include software developers and open source software protagonists but also musician Per Platou or the organizers of the annual Piksel festival for artists and developers working with open source software for real-time video and sound processing (see Issue #48, p11). Nominees must be Norwegian or live in Norway.

http://www.nuug.no/prisen/ (Norwegian)
http://www.skolelinux.org/portal/contribute/gatherings/0605_bergen/

Mark Shuttleworth, the first African in space.