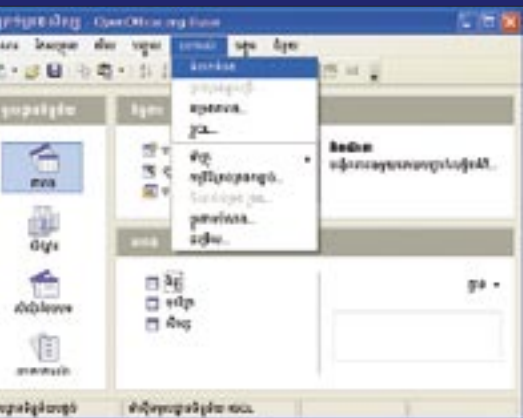


LINUX WORLD NEWS

NATIVE OPEN SOURCE SOFTWARE FOR CAMBODIA

Based on the principle that people should learn and use computers in their own languages, the Cambodian National Information Communication Technology

drivers are available for both Linux and Windows. The introduction of the Unicode standard Khmer script paved the way to start developing support for Khmer across



multiple platforms. Not only has much free software been modified and adopted, documentation and various training materials have also been translated into the local language. School teachers and government officials have been trained to use open source software so

Development Authority (NiDA) and the Open Forum of Cambodia have been working on a project called KhmerOS since February 2004, providing fonts, documentation and applications localized in the Khmer language. The finished products include cross-platform versions of Firefox and Thunderbird, and version 2.0 of OpenOffice, which was awaiting release as this issue went to press. Despite what the name suggests, KhmerOS is not a full-fledged operating system at present; in fact the strategy is to first distribute on the Microsoft platform to raise acceptance. A desktop Linux distro, which will probably be Debian-based, is due for release the end of this year, though. Standardization has already been completed, and Unicode fonts and keyboard

that they can teach the use of the Internet in Khmer language around the country, thus reducing the digital divide.

The biggest problems are a lack of funding and native programmers. To overcome the issues, the Cambodian government is seeking foreign aid to provide scholarships for training Linux programmers. This would be of great importance for the open source community. Says KhmerOS coordinator Javier Sola: "We are the first country to have a full set of basic FOSS programs translated to the local language, while MS has not translated any software. This gives us the huge advantage of the language, and acceptance of the programs is based on the fact that they are in Khmer." <http://www.khmeros.info/> <http://www.forum.org.kh/eng/>

ONE MILLION LINUX LAPTOPS FOR BRAZILIAN PUPILS

One million Brazilian children from low-income families have something to look forward to: a Linux-powered laptop capable of connecting with global networks via WLAN or cell-phone.

The so-called "\$100 laptop" is currently being developed by the MIT Media Labs, and after a meeting of Lab founder Nicholas Negroponte with the Brazilian president Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva chances are good that the Brazilian government will

order two million laptops: one million for export and one million as free gifts to schools, where one laptop will be dedicated to one child. A government working group has been set up to evaluate the case.

According to Mr Negroponte, "the biggest hurdle will be manufacturing" on such a large scale. Production of the laptops themselves is expected to be completed the end of 2006 or early 2007.

<http://laptop.media.mit.edu/>

WITH LINUX, SOLAR AND PEDAL POWER

The villagers of Nyamiryango in West-Uganda's Kabarole district would certainly never have dreamed of finding themselves at the most progressive edge of technology. But in fact they are using both open source software and regenerative power sources for telephone and Internet communication.

At the beginning of June, the first VoIP telephone call was made using the new pedal and solar powered communication system installed at the village's Community Knowledge Center. It is based on the Asterisk open source PBX system and is one of five stations installed in five villages that are

interconnected via WLAN links. Apart from Nyamiryango, none of the villages has access to conventional electricity or phone-lines, but now they all have their own extensions and voice mailboxes, and calls between them are free of charge. The Nyamiryango installation serves as a hub to the outside world, connecting to the GSM network and the Internet.

<http://www.inveneo.org/?q=uganda>



CHINA'S PROTECTIONISM HELPS LOCAL LINUX COMPANIES

When Beijing's city administration ordered Microsoft software worth 3.5 million US dollars in late autumn 2004, this caused a stir within the Chinese software industry. Their representatives claimed that a public tender had not taken place, and Beijing radio stations attacked the local government for supporting a US monopolist.

In reaction to this, central government introduced a directive forcing state agencies to prefer local companies. According to the Chinese news agency Xinhua this is starting to show results: Citing the Vice Minister for Information Industry, Lou Qinjian, it claims that government institutions

ordered more than 60 percent of all office software and 97 percent of all security related IT services from Chinese companies last year, which shows a significant increase. But Microsoft is still a major contractor: only 25 percent of all orders related to operating systems went to local software companies.

Nevertheless companies like Linux distributor Red Flag Software and office software creator Evermore Software, with its Java-based office suite EOffice for Linux and Windows, look likely to benefit from this directive. <http://www.redflag-linux.com/eindex.html>
<http://www.evermoresw.com/weben/index.jsp>

LINUX DELAYED

Bavarian capital Munich seems to be four to five months behind schedule with its ambitious project to migrate the city offices to Linux. According to the German weekly "Focus", deputy project manager Florian Schießl admits that "the existing IT structure is far more complex than expected."

No less than 17 IT departments are in charge of the city's PCs, and they have been setting up partly individual Windows configurations in their respective spheres of influence. The Windows machines are often equipped with special software that needs to be rewritten for Linux. This explains why Schießl does not expect

to see the first Linux desktops in action before mid-2006. Despite this, he announced that the pilot project for the desktop machines would be starting in the first quarter of 2006 in his presentation at the LinuxTag conference and fair (see report on p90).

To avoid soaring costs, and prevent further delays, the city has sought help from external advisors.

<http://www.muenchen.de/linux> (German)
http://www.muenchen.de/vip8/prod2/mde/_de/rubriken/Rathaus/40_dir/limux/publikationen/20050622_LinuxTag2005_Behoerdenkongress_lu_en.pdf
http://www.linux-magazine.com/issue/47/Linux_World_News.pdf

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