

LINUX WORLD NEWS

LINUX WINS OVER CITY

“Schools who are using Linux and wish to continue with this may do so.” These words, spoken by IT director Bjørn Marthinsen in the education department of

Debian-based client-server distribution, tailor-made for schools, which is in use at ten Oslo schools. The city’s school authority had ignored requests to use Skolelinu so

far, saying it didn’t want schools to use Linux before it had evaluated several options. Three schools took part in this evaluation, and in the end all three of them were happy.

After the final report, stating Linux was a good and cheaper alternative to Windows, none of the three schools wanted to switch back to the previous Windows-only solution. While

Norway’s capital Oslo, ended a conflict between schools and local school authorities (see Linux Magazine issue #51 / February, p13) about the usage of Open Source solutions. The city authority’s previous veto against non-Microsoft installations in Oslo schools was due to its long-term contract with Siemens Business Services that will not end until 2008. The company currently provides a Windows-based solution that costs schools about 60 NOK (about 7.30 EUR) per user and month.

There are several schools who would prefer to invest this money in a more meaningful way and have therefore opted for “Skolelinu”, a

Holmlia school is happy with Linux on all its computers, the other two schools are still using both operating systems, thus following the recommendation of the education department. In terms of money, the best solution would be a Linux only one. But “in some subjects Skolelinu struggles”, says Claus Hageli, principal of Ulsrud Secondary School. http://www.linux-magazine.com/issue/51/Linux_World_News.pdf
http://www.skolelinu.org/portal/index_html
<http://www.utdanningsetaten.oslo.kommune.no/satsingsomrader/ikt/innsikt/linux/> (Norwegian)



NO MORE FREE ENTRY

When LinuxTag, Europe’s biggest Linux conference and expo, opens its doors for its 10th anniversary in Karlsruhe/Germany, June, 22–25, 2005, many visitors will not be happy with the birthday present. For the first time, entry to the exhibition and non-business talks will cost money. In the past years free entry required preliminary registration only.

In an open letter the LinuxTag organizers explain this move as follows. Whereas they had started out as student enthusiasts ten years ago, spending every spare minute on organizing exhibition and conference, they now have a career and need to balance their time between job, family and LinuxTag. This, and the growth of LinuxTag, require professional organization including full-time project management

and outsourcing tasks to commercial service providers.

One-day entry tickets will cost 15 EUR, two-day tickets 25 EUR and three/four days



35 EUR. There will however be discounts for students, and discounts or even free admission for members of open source projects.

The business and public authorities congresses which are part of LinuxTag have never allowed entry free of charge.

<http://www.linuxtag.org/typo3site/eintritt.0.html> (German)

<http://www.linuxtag.org/typo3site/8.0.html?L=1>

UKRAINIAN OPENOFFICE

Although most Ukrainians speak Russian as their second language – a legacy of a country that once was part of the

Soviet Union – the demand for native Ukrainian language software is growing. Hence it is no surprise that shortly after the “Orange Revolution” the Ukrainian company EMT and Russian-based “Infra-Resurs” (a company that actively contributes to the Russian OpenOffice version, too) announced a mutual,

non-commercial project to produce a Ukrainian version of the office suite OpenOffice.

A web-based translation tool has been set up in an

attempt to attract volunteers. At the time of writing, about 22 percent of all strings in OpenOffice had been translated.

<http://ootrans.openoffice.org.ua/>

<http://www.i-rs.ru/article/articleview/51> (Russian)

<http://openoffice.org.ua/> (Ukrainian)



BIGGEST EUROPEAN RAILWAY COMPANY TO RUN LINUX

Following Chinese Railway's move, introducing Turbolinux to shuffle parcels across the country (see issue #45 / August 2004, p13), Europe's biggest Railway Company, Germany's "Deutsche Bahn", is now set to follow suit. The company announced that Novell's "Suse Linux Enterprise Server" would be its new strategic IT platform now that its internal IT service provider, "DB Systems", has successfully finished the first phase of the migration project announced in October 2004. The first stage affects 55,000 users who had previously used Lotus Notes, and about half of the company's servers.

The second phase, which is currently being implemented, migrates Deutsche Bahn's

SAP services to Suse Linux.

By the end of the year, all remaining servers, among them the company's web, database, and application servers are expected to move over to Linux.

Deutsche Bahn has always had a certain sympathy for Linux. The railway company's reliable Linux-driven online timetable query system (*bahn.hafas.de*), which is popular beyond Germany, was one of the first known commercial Linux adopters in Germany.

http://www.linux-magazine.com/issue/45/Linux_World_News.pdf

<http://presse.vibrio.de/servlet/objecthandling?oid=34583> (German)

<http://reiseauskunft.bahn.de/bin/query.exe/e>



IBM'S LINUX TOP 1: MALAYSIA

No one would be surprised to hear that India was IBM's top business target in the South-East Asian Linux market. But according to Hemant Shah from IBM Singapore, responsible for strategic growth business for South and South-East Asia, "Malaysia is currently the biggest market for our Linux products in South-East Asia."

India comes in second, although the open source

system is being adopted in the business, government, and the academic sector throughout the country, while the dissemination of Linux in Malaysia is mainly driven by the public sector.

Hence there is an "if"-clause to Hemant Shah's Malaysia-first prediction: "With official support in place, we see more growth potential for Linux here than elsewhere in this region."