LINUX WORLD NEWS

A SOCCER MATCH DECIDES IT ALL

Bulgaria has been known to be quite Microsoft-centric in its IT decisions, so it comes somewhat as a surprise that the fourth WebTech conference, held in the coastal city of Varna at the shores of the Black Sea from June 29–30, will feature Microsoft's .Net technology only as a minor topic. Instead, open source technologies such as Ruby, Perl, PHP, MySQL, Postgre-SQL, Firefox, and the Google Web Toolkit dominate the list of talks, which will be held at the premises of Varna's Technical University. Visitors will also have the opportunity to take LPI exams.

Whether OSS or proprietary software will finally win will be decided once and for all on the soccer field – users of PHP, Linux, and other open source software are asked to join Team 1, whereas users of Microsoft technologies should join Team 2. You are, however, expected to be familiar with the rules.
http://www.wtconferences.com/2007/?q=node/1

ONE LAPTOP PER CHILD GETS MOMENTUM IN URUGUAY

Children at the Villa Cardal in Uruguay had their first experience with the OLPC's (One Laptop Per Child) XO laptops in mid-May. This is a milestone for the Uruguayan Ceibal project, which aims to improve basic IT connectivity for on-line learning.

One million of these XO laptops, produced by the Taiwanese PC manufacturer Quanta, will be distributed to children living in remote villages in developing countries, including: Argentina, Brazil, Libya, Nigeria, Rwanda, Thailand, and Uruguay. Collaboratively designed by experts from both academia and the IT industry, the XO laptop is a low-cost and power-efficient machine running Linux and other free software, and it also serves as a game device and an e-book reader for children. The current cost of one XO is about US$ 175, US$ 75 more than the ideal selling price.
http://www.laptop.org/
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ceibal_project
http://picasaweb.google.es/pflores2/EntregaDeLaptopsEnVillaCardal

OPENOFFICE IN THE SKY

Travelers with Singapore Airlines destined to Paris, Zurich, Seoul, San Francisco, Milan, Barcelona, and Hong Kong should not forget to carry a USB stick with OpenOffice documents they're working on. If they are lucky enough to board the airline's new Boeing 777-300ER, travelers will find that the in-flight entertainment system provides them with StarOffice Writer, Calc, and Impress, i.e. commerical variants of the OpenOffice tools.

DEVELOPER CONFERENCE IN RUSSIA

Open source contributors from Russia and abroad have been invited to join the 4th International Conference of Free Software Contributors at the River Protva from July 23–25. The conference will take place at the State-run Central Institute for Advanced Training (GCIPK) in the city of Obninsk in the Kaluga region and can also be attended remotely. You can register via email at *conference@lists.altlinux.ru* before July 14.

An admission fee of 2,000 rubles (~ US$ 77) must be paid in advance; private persons are charged 1,000 rubles, speakers have free access. The main aim of the conference is to establish personal contacts between developers of open source software and to exchange experience.

Talks will introduce open source projects, with an emphasis on open source software developed within scientific projects and for state and governmental institutions, and will also cover cultural, philosophical, and legal aspects of OSS. There will also be a round table discussion on free software for schools.

The conference is organized by the Department of Logic at the Institute of Philosophy of the Russian Academy of Sciences and – almost inevitably – the Russian Linux company ALT Linux.
http://www.altlinux.ru/community_news/developers_fourth.html