

TECH TOOLS

Wolfram|Alpha Pro Now Available

Wolfram Alpha LLC has announced the immediate availability of Wolfram|Alpha Pro, a new service that builds on the widely used Wolfram|Alpha computational knowledge engine.

According to the website, the new Wolfram|Alpha Pro emphasizes closer interaction between the user and the Wolfram|Alpha computational knowledge engine. A key feature is the ability to upload virtually any common kind of file or data for automatic analysis. Raw

tabular data, images, audio, XML, and dozens of specialized scientific, medical, and mathematical formats are among the more than 60 formats currently supported.

Free trial access to Wolfram|Alpha Pro is available immediately, with subscriptions starting at US\$ 4.99 per month or US\$ 2.99 per month for students. Educational

and site pricing are also available. The “standard” Wolfram|Alpha will remain free to everyone, but only subscribers will have access to the new Pro-level features and functionality. More information is available at <http://www.wolframalpha.com/media/>.



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Red Hat Virtual Storage Appliance

Red Hat Inc. has announced the availability of the Red Hat Virtual Storage Appliance for Amazon Web Services (AWS). The storage appliance is built on the former Gluster technology that the company acquired in October 2011.

According to the press release, the enterprise-ready Red Hat Virtual Storage Appliance lets organizations extend their datacenter storage to the cloud. With the appliance, users can aggregate both Am-

azon Elastic Block Storage and Amazon Elastic Compute Cloud instances, creating a highly available virtualized storage pool.

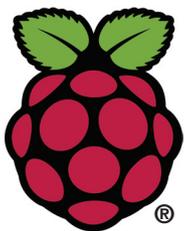
Red Hat Virtual Storage Appliance for AWS features both synchronous and asynchronous file replication, assuring data availability across AWS Availability Zones. Synchronous replication provides users with redundancy and protection within a single datacenter or multiple

datacenters and availability zones in a region, whereas asynchronous geo-replication offers data availability across all AWS Regions. Red Hat Virtual Storage Appliance is POSIX compliant, so no application modifications are required for data access in the cloud.

For more information about Red Hat Virtual Storage Appliance for Amazon Web Services, visit: <http://www.redhat.com/products/storage/virtual-storage/>.

Raspberry Pi Units on Their Way

The Raspberry Pi Foundation announced that its US\$ 35 Linux computer has entered the manufacturing stage. The Raspberry Pi system is an open board with a 700MHz ARM11 CPU and 256MB of RAM. According to the company blog, the first boards will be finished on February 20.



Raspberry Pi plans to offer two separate models with different hardware specifications. The initial manufacturing run focuses on the “B” model, which is the US\$ 35 configuration and is being built in China. The company will follow that up with an “A” model for US\$ 25, which will have half as much memory and lack

hardware features like an Ethernet controller. Possible UK manufacture of the “A” model is currently being investigated.

The board is built around the Broadcom BCM2835 chipset, the specifications of which can be found at: <http://dmkenr5gtnd8f.cloudfront.net/wp-content/uploads/2012/02/BCM2835-ARM-Peripherals.pdf>. For updates on the availability of Raspberry Pi, visit: <http://www.raspberrypi.org/>.

Sabayon Linux 8 Released

Fabio Erculiani has announced the release of Sabayon Linux 8, a modern Gentoo-based distribution with a choice of Gnome 3, KDE 4, and Xfce desktops. According to the website, this distribution aims to deliver the best user experience “out of the box” by providing the latest open source technologies in an elegant format.

Linux kernel 3.2, Gnome 3.2.2, KDE 4.7.4 (4.8.0 available in the testing repository), Xfce 4.8, LibreOffice 3.4.4 are just some of the things you will find in the latest release. Other features include: the first “Extreme-Rolling Release” distribution, with automated repository package version bumping; full Gentoo Portage compatibility; GCC 4.6 with Graphite



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Loop Transformation infrastructure and Link Time Optimizations enabled; and native support for the Btrfs filesystem.

For a complete list of features and bug fixes with this release, visit: <http://www.sabayon.org/release/press-release-sabayon-linux-8>.