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MUUGlines

The Manitoba UNIX User Group Newsletter

February 8, 2000: Caché

Caché is a post-relational database that provides both an Object and Relational view of your data, which is then accessible through Java, COM, ODBC, C++, Corba and more. InterSystems' Steve Ober and Andre Cerri will be demonstrating Caché from both the developer's and system manager's perspectives, as well as discussing InterSystems Corporation (http://www.intersys.com/).

As always, we're open to suggestions for meeting programmes, not to mention presenters! Feel free to convince someone you know to give a talk at on of our meetings, and be sure to mention that it's very informal. We're not expecting professional public speakers here. Contact any of the board at board@muug.mb.ca or in person at our meeting if you have an idea!

We will also have a round-table discussion, in which anyone can raise questions regarding their experiences (or lack thereof) with all things Unix. We realize that it can be a little intimidating, but please be assured that no question is too easy (or "dumb")!

Please note **our meeting location this month: the ISM building at 400 Ellice Avenue, behind Portage Place**. Meet in reception before 7:30 P.M. to be escorted up to the meeting room.

Parking is available either on the street, in the lot across Ellice from ISM, or indoors in the Portage Place parkade.

Playing DVD

One of the big news items lately was the arrest of a 16-year-old Norwegian boy for his part in the reverse-engineering of a piece of DVD-playback software. This is alarming, as his work did not appreciably ease the copying of DVDs; it was done in order to enable the writing of a Linux-based DVD player. The following quote typifies the current reactions to the situation:

"...the DVD Copy Control Authority (a name straight out of a James Bond movie if you ask me) attempted to sue the ENTIRE INTERNET. It's like a class action lawsuit in reverse. Even for Hollywood, this has to set some kind of record for sheer bulk corporate idiocy. "

The work he did was also said to be not terribly difficult:

"When DVD players started appearing in computers, no company was willing to spend thousands of dollars to get a license to write a DVD player for Linux. So the Linux people wrote their own CSS descrambling program (deCSS), and posted the source code on the Internet. They reverse engineered the encryption algorithm, and then spent the rest of the afternoon finding (and posting) every possible decryption key that would play existing DVD disks."

For the full story, please see the Motley Fool website: http://www.fool.com/portfolios/rulemaker/2000/rulemaker000127.htm

More CA News

Computer Associates International, Inc. (CA) and Red Hat, Inc. (RHAT) announced a far-reaching distribution, marketing and support agreement in which Red Hat will distribute CA's comprehensive enterprise management solutions with its Red Hat Linux Enterprise Edition series, delivering a seamless out-of-the-box management solution tightly packaged for the midmarket customer. In turn, CA's direct sales organization will sell Red Hat's comprehensive enterprise support agreements to Unicenter TNG clients.

As a result of the agreement, the companies' clients will achieve full functionality and integrated support of CA's extensive mission-critical IT applications running on Red Hat Linux Enterprise Edition series, one of the industry's fastest-growing operating systems. The agreement reflects CA's and Red Hat's commitment to maximize the manageability and reliability of the Linux operating system, which is emerging as a leading technology platform for mission-critical applications and Web-based commerce.

"As the world's premier supplier of IT management solutions for eBusiness, CA recognizes the crucial role that the Linux operating platform has assumed within today's highly competitive business landscape and technology infrastructures," said CA President and COO Sanjay Kumar.

"This partnership provides our mutual clients with the ability to gain maximum value from their Linux-based technology investments and leverage advanced CA solutions to capitalize on increasingly important Web-based business opportunities. CA is pleased that Red Hat chose to work with CA to offer Linux clients the first integrated enterprise management solution that will be used by clients throughout the world."

A recent MERIT survey revealed that 48 percent of enterprise customers view Linux as an important component to their enterprise IT strategy for 2000. The agreement between CA and Red Hat reflects the strong desire by both companies to deliver a solution that combines open source with a sound management infrastructure integrated across diverse operating system platforms with 24x7 premier enterprise support.

"Red Hat maintains a definitive commitment to deliver superior technology that maximizes the functionality and reliability of open source, while helping maintain the low total cost of ownership associated with this dynamic platform," said Matthew Szulik, president and CEO of Red Hat. "Red Hat Linux has become a strategic solution for systems management, and we are excited to team with CA to deliver another powerful solution for Red Hat users. We believe that the collaboration of Red Hat and CA will deliver a seamless, integrated and supported IT solution to our enterprise customers."

"The combination of Red Hat Linux and a full implementation of CA's technology bring new levels of data protection to the Linux operating system," said Pascal Wattiaux, vice president of technology at Quokka Sports. "CA and Red Hat are working together to clearly demonstrate that the Linux platform can provide the basis of an industrial-strength eBusiness solution."

According to the agreement, Red Hat will fulfil orders through its Web site, channel partners and through telesales campaigns. CA and Red Hat will collaboratively market the solution and conduct training through joint product seminars, channel programs and education courses. CA's direct sales force will promote and offer Red Hat enterprise support agreements to Unicenter TNG on Linux customers.

CA has also extended its Express Delivery Service for Linux through its Global Professional Services organization. This offering automates the installation and deployment of Linux throughout the enterprise, reducing the cost and time to reap the benefits Red Hat Linux has to offer.

"One of the major requirements for expanding Linux into the enterprise is improved system management solutions, especially solutions that integrate with existing enterprise management products," said Bill Claybrook, Aberdeen Group research director, Linux. "Linux needs the same level of system management capabilities as Unix if it is to emerge as a leading platform for mission- critical applications. With CA's industry-leading expertise in enterprise management solutions and Red Hat's leverage as the leading Linux distributor, Linux users will now be able to expand their portfolio of enterprise applications."

The new distribution arrangement with Red Hat is the latest in a series of CA initiatives designed to support its clients' migrations to Linux-based eBusiness platforms. The CA solutions that are a part of Red Hat's new solution for the enterprise include:

ARCserveIT for Red Hat Linux, a complete storage solution that delivers the ultimate data protection, management and automation required by critical eBusiness applications in both pure Linux and mixed environments

InoculateIT for Red Hat Linux, which provides complete protection for Linux machines deployed as components of the eBusiness infrastructure from all kinds of virus threats

MasterIT for Red Hat Linux, which offers complete Linux-based Web management capabilities, providing clients with the high performance and reliability required for today's diverse eBusiness activities and other business-critical Web services

NetworkIT for Red Hat Linux, which delivers a powerful centralized management solution for today's eBusiness networks by aligning service levels with business objectives and services, ensuring availability, optimal performance and management of Linux-based networks and heterogeneous systems used to deliver eBusiness

Playing DVD, Part II

Marshall Goldberg, the director of marketing for Sigma Designs, Inc., recently announced the development of a Linux DVD player:

Over the past several months, we have received hundreds of e-mails from Linux users who have asked us to support DVD under Linux. We're happy to announce that very soon, Linux users will be able to play DVD's using the new REALmagic NetStream 2000 card. We have created this newsgroup so that Linux enthusiasts can share ideas and learn with us as we begin the process of testing and shipping our Linux DVD products.

While we have ten years of Linux experience behind us, Linux is something very new for us. This newsgroup will be the source of official support from Sigma Designs for Linux. We hope to work with many of you over the coming months. We look forward to your comments.

See the newsgroup REALmagic.linux at news.sigmadesigns.com for more developments.

Still More Linux Fun

Tux Games has announced pre-release prices for four upcoming Loki titles. All are due out first quarter this year. Heavy Gear II ($37), SimCity 3000 ($49), Alpha Centauri (including the expansion pack, Alien Crossfire) ($49), and Soldier of Fortune ($49). All prices include shipping worldwide. Tux Games is also continuing to support the Linux gaming community with the Linux Games Porting Petitions Site (http://www.tuxgames.com/petitions), where they are trying to prove the market exists for Linux games, thereby giving incentive for development companies to port to Linux and even develop for Linux first!

Offical OpenGL On Linux

NVIDIA(TM) Corporation, SGI and VA Linux Systems, Inc. announced their collaboration on the industry's first professional-level OpenGL(R) graphics subsystem for workstations running Linux.

This planned platform would be the first 100% OpenGL 1.2-conformant hardware-accelerated graphics solution to bring professional workstation graphics standards to the Linux market. Developers using Linux desktop systems equipped with the new graphics subsystem will be able to utilize the depth of the OpenGL graphics application programming interface (API) to create professional quality 2D and 3D graphics applications. The first public demonstration of the collaborative effort will be shown during LinuxWorld, February 2-4, 2000, in New York City.

The triad's unique technology will bring to Linux desktops many of the capabilities typically associated with UNIX(R) systems. This technology will enable Linux systems to process rich graphics as fast, or faster, than their Microsoft(R) Windows(R)-based counterparts. The solution leverages SGI's extensive 3D graphics and OpenGL expertise, VA Linux Systems' 2D graphics and multi-monitor work and NVIDIA's proven 3D graphics hardware and software architectures. The resulting NVIDIA-based desktops will be the first to provide hardware 3D transform and lighting, hardware 2D and video acceleration, video overlay, multi-monitor capability and full native OpenGL conformance under Linux. The project will give Linux developers the ability to seamlessly integrate their applications with the industry-leading OpenGL graphics API. This graphics processing power and compatibility is a fundamental step in enabling the development of professional Linux applications such as those for manufacturing, digital content creation, electronic business, education and entertainment.

"This is a breakthrough for the Linux market," stated Jen-Hsun Huang, president and CEO at NVIDIA. "For the first time, developers will have access to a high-performance, fully native Linux graphics platform."

"It has always been a goal of Silicon Graphics to drive the pervasiveness of 3D graphics," said Drew Henry, vice president and general manager at SGI. "Developers will soon be able to leverage OpenGL as the enabling foundation for 3D acceleration on all flavors of UNIX including Linux. This technology further enables both hardware and software developers to enjoy the creative freedom of utilizing a single graphics API across all computing systems."

"We believe that exceptional graphics acceleration, with standard programming interfaces and tuned Linux driver support, could be integral to the success of Linux on the desktop," said Brian Biles, vice president of marketing at VA Linux Systems. "We are excited to collaborate with NVIDIA and SGI to help create high performance, standards-compliant products in the Linux workstation space, complementing the work we contribute to the open source community in the Mesa and XFree86 projects."

"The Linux workstation market is poised to take off quickly, as long as the number of applications continues to grow," said Pia Rieppo, principal analyst for workstations at Dataquest/Gartner Group. "One of the critical factors limiting Linux applications development thus far has been the lack of OpenGL graphics support for Linux."

Citrix MetaFrame To Be Available On Unix

Citrix(R) Systems, Inc. unveiled its plan to provide enterprise and application service provider (ASP) users access to UNIX(R) and Java-based applications, in addition to Windows(R) applications, from a single application portal. The company announced it will make its flagship MetaFrame(TM) software available on UNIX platforms in order to extend the reach of UNIX applications to users on a broader array of devices, including terminals, desktop PCs and held-hand PDAs, and over a variety of network connections, including wide-area networks and dial-up connections. Citrix MetaFrame for the Solaris(TM) Operating Environment is the first supported UNIX platform in the expanded MetaFrame product line.

The newest addition to the MetaFrame product family addresses the typical UNIX application deployment problems found in today's emulation products, namely performance overhead, device type restrictions and bandwidth constraints. With Citrix's MetaFrame for UNIX Operating Systems, users can access UNIX systems applications (X/11, Java and text) without worrying about the computing platform or access method any more than they worry about the kind of handset or network used when making a phone call.

A key advantage MetaFrame brings to the UNIX platform is the Citrix Independent Computing Architecture (ICA(R)) protocol. ICA technology enables access to UNIX applications from virtually any device while improving network efficiency through better bandwidth usage. With MetaFrame, the 15 million current users of ICA-enabled desktops and devices will now have access to UNIX applications without the overhead and device challenges of an X/11 emulator.

"With ICA, users will, for the first time, have the same kind of access to UNIX applications that they have come to expect with Windows applications without the need for any software upgrades or changes to their devices or environments," said Edward Iacobucci, senior vice president of strategy and technology and chief technical officer for Citrix.

"Our customers have told us they need an integrated, seamless and easy-to-manage means of accessing UNIX system-based applications along with their Windows and video applications from one place," said Mark Templeton, president and chief executive officer of Citrix.

"By expanding MetaFrame to the UNIX platform, we are responding to customers' requests for simple access to this wider variety of applications. We are also enabling IT departments to publish applications to users through a single portal, thereby increasing the ability to deploy and manage applications while improving overall service-level management."

Leading players in the industry, including Caldera Systems, Inc., Compaq Computer Corporation, Hewlett-Packard Company, Sun Microsystems, SuSE, Inc., and TurboLinux, have announced support for Citrix's MetaFrame UNIX strategy.

MUUG Contact Information

To contact the MUUG board for membership information or anything else, send e-mail to board@muug.mb.ca. We have a Web presence as well, at http://www.muug.mb.ca/, where you can find all kinds of information, including details of upcoming and past meetings and presentations and references related to them. We're always interested in article submissions. Submit your articles and ideas to editor@muug.mb.ca.