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# MUUGlines

The Manitoba UNIX User Group Newsletter

## September 12, 2000: Go Wireless or Go Home

This month, Dolores Pirrie, Information Technology Specialist with CDS Technologies, will present the company and the capabilities it has. CDS Technologies specializes in wireless network connectivity. What that means for the public and private sector, is there is no longer a need to cable offices! For example, if a company is highly mobile, they would normally have to cable an office every time they move.

This can become extremely costly. With CDS, a company could go wireless and if they move they would simply take the equipment with them and set up in the new surroundings! It really is that simple. The other facet of this business is the building to building connectivity. They are capable of connecting two or more sites together, wirelessly, for distances up to 25 km apart! All of this is achieved at speeds of 11 Mbps per second.

Please note our meeting location: IBM Canada's offices in the TD Centre, at the corner of Portage and Main. We gather in the lobby on the main floor — please try to be there by about 7:15 PM. Steve Moffat will then take us up to the meeting room just before the meeting starts at 7:30. Don't be late, or you may not get in.

Parking is available either in the parkade behind the TD building, off Albert Street, or in the ground level lot just north of the TD building. Entrance to the lot is from Albert Street, behind the parkade. Either way, parking is a $1.25 flat rate for the evening. You purchase your ticket from a dispenser, so make sure you've got exact change - a loonie and a quarter, or 5 quarters.

## SGI Sponsors RoboCup

SGI announced August 21 that it has entered a worldwide sponsorship agreement with the RoboCup Federation (www.robocup.org), a non-profit organization based in Berne, Switzerland that promotes state-of-the-art robotics and artificial intelligence research. SGI will provide the RoboCup Federation with computer equipment and technical support, primarily on the Linux(R) platform, for three years beginning with RoboCup 2000, the fourth world robot soccer championship in Melbourne, Australia on August 28, 2000.

RoboCup recently decided to shift its platform for research and development from UNIX(R) OS-based systems to the open source platform of Linux, and in doing so, landed the SGI sponsorship. The federation's switch to Linux was a prime motivating factor for SGI, which is fully committed to developing the ascending operating system.

RoboCup, an international research and education initiative, is an organization that promotes state-of-the-art robotics and artificial intelligence research and provides a platform for integrated, project-oriented education. RoboCup chose soccer as a way of showcasing advances in robotics technology. RoboCup's ultimate goal is to develop a team of robotic players that will be able to defeat the human world soccer championship team by the year 2050.

In addition, RoboCup-Rescue has been started with the intention to adopt the breakthrough technologies developed by the RoboCup Federation to aid in worldwide relief efforts for disasters.

The idea of RoboCup was initiated in 1993 by Japanese researchers with the intent to research artificial intelligence and robotics as well as to create key technologies for future generations through the development of related devices and new materials. The first worldwide Robot Soccer Game and Conference was held in Nagoya, Japan in July 1997. Currently, thousands of researchers and students from 36 countries such as Japan, the U.S., the U.K., France, Germany, China, Canada, Australia, Russia and Italy are participating in various projects organized by the RoboCup Federation. National committees have been established in more than 10 countries, including Japan, the U.S., Scandinavia, France, Germany, Italy and Singapore.

# Open Source Initiative Rejects DVDCCA Defamation

The DVDCCA states in its brief at <http://cryptome.org/dvd-v-521-opq.htm>:

"Defendant Pavlovich is a leader in the so-called "open source" movement, which is dedicated to the proposition that material, copyrighted or not, should be made available over the Internet for free."

This claim is both incorrect and defamatory. The Open Source Initiative, a 501(c)3 non-profit organization that is the custodian of the Open Source Definition and widely recognized in the open source community for its educational and advocacy work on behalf of the that community, takes the strongest possible exception to it.

We in the open source movement respect copyright; in fact, we use copyright law to underpin the licenses that define the social contract of our community. The basis of Matthew Pavlovich's work, and of our community's opposition to the DVDCCA lawsuit, lies in that social contract; a belief, founded in both engineering pragmatics and ethical conviction, in the *voluntary* sharing of program source code and the *voluntary* renunciation of secrecy.

The core principles of open source are transparency, responsibility, and autonomy. As open source developers, we expose our source code to constant scrutiny by expert peers. We stand behind our work with frequent releases and continuing inputs of service and intelligence. And we support the rights of developers and artists to make their own choices about the design and disposition of their creative work.

The results of this policy of openness can be seen in the enormous public benefit that has come through the open-source movement's works: the World Wide Web, the core software of the Internet itself, and the Linux operating system.

While we advocate the full disclosure of code, and we support Matthew Pavlovich's right to reverse-engineer proprietary technology in order to permit Linux users to play DVDs that they legally own on machines they legally own, we oppose piracy and reject as a prejudicial falsehood the DVDCCA's attempts to tie the open source community to copyright violation.

Issued by and for the Board of Directors of OSI
by Eric S. Raymond, President
28 August 2000

# Caldera and SCO: First Steps

*A Linux and UNIX Marriage?*

Caldera Systems, Inc., a "Linux for Business" leader and the Server Software Division of SCO (Nasdaq: SCOC) announced a joint initiative to combine and offer Linux and UNIX server solutions and services worldwide.

The new offerings, announced August 21 at Forum2000, include the Linux Kernel Personality for UnixWare 7 — the first technology developed to bring UnixWare 7 into the Linux business market. Also announced today is Enterprise Support Services, SCO's worldwide support program designed to meet the business and time-critical requirements of enterprise customers.

These offerings fall under the umbrella of the Open Internet Platform (OIP) which combines Linux and UNIX server solutions and services. The OIP provides commercial customers and developers with a single platform that can scale from the thinnest of clients to the clustering needs of the largest data centre. The Open Internet Platform combines the robust scalability of the UNIX system with the low-cost, developer-accepted Linux operating system.

"With Caldera's pending acquisition of the SCO Server Software and Professional Services divisions, we already see some progress in the integration of our technologies," said Ransom Love, CEO, Caldera Systems, Inc. "We believe that the combined strengths of Caldera and SCO are key in offering powerful Linux and UNIX solutions to the enterprise."

# New Bynari Tradeserver

Bynari Inc, a relative newcomer to enterprise messaging and supplier of software for e-mail application service providers (ASPs), has announced the availability of its TradeServer product, based on Linux and Internet Standard Messaging and Collaboration tools.

The new Server joins Bynari's line-up of mail clients for Linux and UNIX workstations. Bynari designed its client line to unify enterprises using diverse platforms such as Linux, Sun's Solaris(TM), HP UX, IBM's AIX and Microsoft NT(R).

TradeServer provides another Linux alternative to costly proprietary software such as Microsoft Exchange(R), moving Linux another step closer to challenging Windows for the Corporate Desktop.

Bynari's TradeServer enables enterprises to enjoy the advantages of an enterprise messaging and collaboration system without high up-front hardware and software capital expenses. For example, TradeServer Application Providers can seamlessly and rapidly migrate clients from their current platforms to a hosted platform. The new Linux Server extends a provider's ability to help customers overcome the challenges of installing, operating, maintaining and managing comprehensive messaging systems.

"Our business model allows small to medium size ISPs the ability to host Outlook(R) clients for a minimal cost while providing robust, scalable and reliable service found in the Linux server line," says Tom Adelstein, CEO of Bynari Inc. "Anyone can download the server from an Internet site and purchase it after a 30 day trial from Tucows for less than $600 without any per seat charges. Meanwhile, Outlook(R) users can enjoy messaging and collaboration as usual but with the addition of the Linux and UNIX workstations."

Another Bynari product, TradeXCH, provides UNIX and Linux users with access to Microsoft Exchange(R) services. TradeXCH allows those users to access the global address book, calendars and various e-mail protocols previously open to Windows clients only.

Bynari bundles TradeServer with an Open Source client which can be compiled on any UNIX, Linux, Windows or Macintosh workstation. Bynari includes the client in the Server's $600 price. The Client may be used freely. Bynari developed their Open Source TradeClient at VA Linux's (Nasdaq:LNUX) Sourceforge.net where thousands of Linux developers have joined together to create the largest known Open Standards laboratory in the world.

# Fun With BSD!

*Loki and BSDI Partner for FreeBSD Games*
*Loki to Certify Games for Use with Linux Compatibility Features*

Loki Software, Inc., the leading publisher of best-selling games for the Linux operating system, recently announced a strategic alliance with Berkeley Software Design, Inc. (BSDI), the foremost supporter of the FreeBSD Project.

Loki introduced fully-supported, shrink-wrapped commercial games to the Linux community in 1999. While Loki has released Alpha and PPC versions of their games whenever technically feasible, FreeBSD users had been left to their own devices to make the games function on their open-source operating system of choice.

Through this new partnership, Loki and BSDI will work together to ensure Loki's gaming titles are compatible with FreeBSD using the Linux-compatibility features. Certified games on this configuration will be fully-supported by Loki.

"Many people do not take games seriously, and this is a mistake," said Jordan Hubbard, Vice President, Open Source Solutions. "Availability of Loki's industry leading line up of Linux games is a huge win for us, as we realize full well that games drive a large part of the overall acceptance of any operating system, even a serious operating system like BSD."

"We are excited to be announcing our official support of FreeBSD's Linux compatibility libraries," said Scott Draeker, President of Loki Software. "FreeBSD users have been enjoying their Open Source operating system for years, and many of them have been playing our games."

Loki is now preparing several A-one titles for certification, including the highly-anticipated SimCity 3000 Unlimited and Sid Meier's Alpha Centauri with the Alien Crossfire expansion pack. Other popular programs to be certified soon include Quake III Arena, Soldier of Fortune, and Descent3.

Specially-marked certified games will be available from The FreeBSD Mall (www.freebsdmall.com) in addition to Loki's website store (www.lokigames.com).

## Informix on SuSE Linux/ Alpha

Informix(R) Corporation, the technology leader in software infrastructure for the i.Economy, announced that the Informix Dynamic Server.2000(TM) (IDS.2000) database engine running with SuSE Linux on Compaq Computer Corporation Alpha processor is now available for customer shipments.

This new release of IDS.2000 is the result of a three-way relationship between Informix, Compaq, and SuSE to bring the power and memory capacity of Compaq's 64-bit Alpha system to the Linux market place.

IDS.2000 is the database server at the heart of Informix Internet Foundation.2000(TM), a 24x7, high-performance, fully extensible database management platform designed for Internet capable applications. "The availability of IDS.2000 on the Alpha processor is another indication of our full commitment to the Linux environment," said Jim Foy, senior vice president, database business operations, Informix. "The availability of our IDS.2000 database management system on Linux Alpha gives users the power, scalability, and flexibility they need to compete in the new i.Economy at a very favorable price."

"Informix Dynamic Server.2000 on Alpha Linux provides tremendous power for Linux-based sites who need scalability and speed for e-business applications," said Glenn Johnson, director of the Linux Program Office, Compaq Computer Corporation. "This joint solution is the first database engine to fully exploit the large memory, 64-bit capabilities of the Linux kernel, and provides an excellent upgrade path for our Linux customers needing a high-performance, Internet-scalable data management system."

Compaq and Informix and SuSE, through an arrangement reached earlier this year will provide joint cooperative technical support for customers using this new powerful Linux platform. This new three-way relationship builds on the existing cooperative technical support process between Informix and Compaq.

"The combination of Informix products and SuSE Linux on the Compaq Alpha platform gives users a solid, fast, reliable, and economical foundation for all business applications," said Volker Wiegand, president, SuSE Inc. "The resulting solution will be an ideal platform for companies who want to take advantage of the Compaq Alpha/SuSE Linux computing environment to create the reliable, scalable, performance-oriented applications needed to be competitive in today's economy."

## Sending Us E-Mail?

Due to the increase in the amount of e-mail MUUG receives, we've set up an auto-reply filter to give immediate feedback, and hopefully redirect some of the e-mail to the appropriate places. We will try to personally respond to your e-mail promptly, but please note that our group has a very small board of directors, consisting of a few very overworked volunteers.

In order to make our job easier, and save yourself unwanted delays, please make sure you have used the right address, and are requesting information that is not found on our web site (www.muug.mb.ca).

For a full list and description of the addresses, see http://www.muug.mb.ca/pub/muuglines/pdf/muug0004.pdf.