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MUUGlines

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November 10: Cable Modems; Shaw@Home!

This month, we have arranged for Mike McComb and Alan Churney from Shaw@Home to provide us with a technical overview of another option for highspeed residential data communications that is being deployed in Winnipeg, the Cable Modem.

Cable Modems promise a significant increase in data transfer rates over the conventional 28.8Kbps or 56Kbps modems. The presentation will include a description of how a cable modem works, what happens at the subscriber and the provider ends, and the services provided by Shaw@Home.

Next month (the December 8th meeting), we'll have a more "fun" oriented meeting, with demonstrations of games running on Unix. Featured will be MAME (Multi-Arcade Machine Emulator) and as many more as we can squeeze in.

As usual, 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: 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.

Red Hat Linux 5.2 Released!

Red Hat Software Eases Installation, Promotes Efficiency With Red Hat Linux 5.2

Research Triangle Park, NC — November 2, 1998 — Simplified installation, Apache 1.3 , GIMP 1.0, and the Application CD are among the features that mark Red Hat Software's November 9 release of Red Hat Linux 5.2, a rock-solid update of Red Hat Software's award-winning Red Hat Linux Operating System.

The release of Red Hat Linux 5.2 builds on the momentum generated by the support of such key industry players as Intel and Netscape. Technology leaders like Oracle, Sybase, Informix, Computer Associates and Corel Computer Corporation also lend instant credibility to the Red Hat Linux Operating System.

Said Bob Young, President and CEO, Red Hat Software, Inc., "The ease-of-use features of Red Hat Linux 5.2 coincide with the incredible support by industry leaders of the Linux development model. Right now, our momentum is absolutely contingent on our ability to best advance the technology according to the demands of the industry. With Red Hat Linux 5.2, we are bringing to market an installation class that is the answer to enterprise-level demands."

A feature of Red Hat Linux 5.2's new and improved installation is the ability to automatically partition the hard drive by selecting either a workstation or server install. All of the power of the Red Hat Linux OS is still available via "custom" install. Back buttons DHCP, boot floppy creation, enhanced rescue mode and countless other tools that made 5.1 a success are all still there.

In addition, Multiple SCSI support during install ease installation of systems with more than one SCSI adaptor. The Red Hat Linux 5.2 release also includes Apache 1.3, the world's most popular web server, and the long awaited GIMP 1.0 graphics package . Kernel traffic shaping utilities and kernel support is great for ISPs who need to do bandwidth limiting, and when the Linux 2.2 kernel is ready, 5.2 is prepared for install. Updated PCMCIA support for some of the latest cards and better sound support mark this release as well.

Red Hat Linux 5.2 comes with 3 CDs, including the software application disk, and an Installation Manual. Real Audio and BRU provide an additional value. Red Hat Software continues to support installation support up to 90 days. Red Hat Linux 5.2 can be purchased from Red Hat Software for $49.95 or from local resellers worldwide.

Corel Pledges Official Support for the WINE Project

Here is an e-mail sent to a lead WINE developer by Gavriel State of Corel. For those unfamiliar with WINE (WINE Is Not an Emulator), it is a library of routines that allow one to run off-the-shelf programs for Microsoft Windows on an Intel-based PC running various versions of Unix and the X Windowing System.

WINE folks,

Myself and several other folks at Corel have been following the development of Wine for some time, and we've reached a few conclusions that I hope you'll be interested in. Before I get into too much detail, let me give you a bit of my background: I've been the engineering lead for our Macintosh graphics software team for the last few years, most recently shipping CorelDRAW 8 for the Mac (http://www.corel.com/draw8mac/). Since Draw consists of millions of lines of code written to Win32 APIs, we developed our own Win32-on-MacOS library that provides both excellent performance and native UI look-and-feel. I'm currently in charge of our efforts to port applications software to Linux and other free Unix variants. Other members of my team include engineers familiar with the inner workings of our jBridge product (http://www.corel.com/jBridge).

We've been exploring the Wine code for the past few weeks, and we've done some experimentation (read: hacking) that's allowed us to get an impressive proportion of Quattro Pro running under Linux. The fact that we were able to get this far is a testament to the phenomenal efforts of the Wine community over the past several years.

This demonstration was enough to convince myself and others that Wine is an excellent choice for getting our applications ported. Aside from the technical aspects, there are a number of other compelling reasons for us to consider Wine: licensing isn't an issue, as it is with other Win32 emulation libraries; the fact that Wine is Open Source means that there's more peer review of code; and most importantly, efforts to improve Wine so that it runs our applications well will spill over to other software, helping to make Wine a more viable solution to run other Win32 apps on Linux. That, in turn, makes Linux a more viable platform for users considering the switch from Windows.

We also contacted Alexandre Julliard and Douglas Ridgway via e-mail, and they were both very supportive of our participation.

For all of these reasons, we've decided to put our support into the Wine effort. We are actively committing engineering resources to the Wine project. Once our exploration and evaluation has settled down a bit (read: we've cleaned up our hacks), we'll begin submitting patches to Alexandre to review and commit to the CVS tree. We'll be spending some effort on getting the WordPerfect Suite 8 applications running under Wine, but our primary focus will be on porting our WordPerfect Suite 9 applications using WineLib. We'll also begin participating publicly on the WINE newsgroup and mailing lists, so that we can contribute our ideas as well as our code. You should be seeing a lot more of us in the future.

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The Big IDG Launch

Launch of LinuxWorld Conference and Expo and LinuxWorld Online Addresses Fastest-Growing Operating System Environment

Boston, MA -- International Data Group (IDG), the world's leading IT media and information company, today unveiled plans to launch a global product line of events and publications to address the needs of the rapidly growing Linux market. IDG World Expo, the world's leading producer of IT-focused conferences and expositions, will produce LinuxWorld Conference & Expo, the first international exposition addressing the business and technology issues of the Linux operating environment. IDG's Web Publishing unit, one of the first online-only IT publishers, will launch LinuxWorld, an online-only magazine for the more than seven million technologists requiring in-depth information on implementing Linux and related technologies in diverse environments.

"With an annual growth rate exceeding 100 percent, the Linux market is one of the most noticed new technology areas today," said Kelly Conlin, IDG president. "By launching LinuxWorld Conference and Expo and LinuxWorld Online, we are able to leverage IDG's industry-leading ability to provide customers with the most tailored and relevant IT information for this distinct audience."

"I'm pleased to see IDG get so deeply involved in the Linux community with a new online magazine and global event. The audience of Linux professionals will be well served by these new information initiatives," said Linus Torvalds, developer of Linux.

First International Exposition to Address Linux

Addressing the needs of both the Linux business and development communities, LinuxWorld Conference and Expo, headed by Charles Greco, President of IDG World Expo, features a high-level, technical conference program led by industry luminaries offering advice and solutions on the industry's fastest growing operating systems technology. An exhibit floor highlighting leading service providers, solutions integrators, and development organizations -- Pacific HiTech, Enchanced Software, Linux Journal, Knock Software, and Oracle among others -- will also include customized event areas such as Start-up City, Developer Central and Developer Greenhouse, which will spotlight the latest developments and emerging companies in the Linux arena.

The first LinuxWorld Conference and Expo will be held March 1-4, 1999 at the San Jose Convention Centre and is expected to attract more than 8,000 key influencers and adopters of Linux technologies. The target audience includes Linux developers, Fortune 1000 business leaders, enterprise managers, CIOs, service providers, system administrators, software solution providers, computer consultants, and solutions integrators.

"We are eager to participate in this international event dedicated to raising the level of dialogue in the Linux arena," said Bob Young, president of Red Hat Software. "With over seven million users today and growing, there is certainly an increasing demand for Linux-based products and services, but also for knowledge, information and resources. IDG's LinuxWorld is poised to provide a strong foundation for knowledge exchange and information sharing."

First Online Publication for the Linux Community

LinuxWorld (www.linuxworld.com) is the first online publication dedicated to providing an open discussion forum where members of the Linux community can further their understanding of the technical and business issues. Led by Michael McCarthy, President of Web Publishing Inc., LinuxWorld fills the technical and strategic needs of this rapidly growing market with a mix of in-depth technical information, real-world scenarios of Linux in the enterprise, features, reader forums, product reviews, reader-submitted links, and guidance for making purchasing decisions. LinuxWorld will go "live" in mid-October, but a portion of the site is currently available for reviewing ad rates, requesting subscriptions to e-mail alerts, and finding editorial contact information. "The expansion of our global product line with the new LinuxWorld initiatives today in the US, and, later, in other countries is further testament to our ability and commitment to reach customers around the world with powerful information resources in every prominent IT segment," said Kelly Conlin.

About IDG

Headquartered in Boston, International Data Group (IDG) informs more people world wide about information technology than any other company in the world. With annual revenues of $2.05 billion, IDG is the leading global provider of IT media, research, conferences and expositions. IDG publishes more than 290 computer newspapers and magazines and 700 book titles in 75 countries, led by Computerworld/Infoworld, Macworld, Network World, PC World, Channel World, and the ??For Dummies? global product lines. IDG offers online users the largest network of technology sites around the world through IDG.net (http://www.idg.net), which comprises more than 225 targeted web sites in 55 countries. IDG is also a leading producer of 168 computer-related expositions in 35 countries, and its research arm, International Data Corporation (IDC) provides computer industry research and analysis through 49 offices in 41 countries world wide. Company information is available at http://www.idg.com.

Microsoft Targets OSS Model

There has been a great deal of fuss in the last few days over a Microsoft memo leaked to Eric S. Raymond which focuses on the Open Source Software (OSS) model of software development. The full memo can be found at http://www.tuxedo.org/~esr/halloween.html, along with commentary by Eric.

He wrote to Slashdot.org, "The Wall Street Journal called me less than an hour ago to quiz me about the Halloween Document.

I gave them the sound bites they were looking for. In the process I found out that they've already talked with Microsoft — and Microsoft has officially admitted that the memorandum is genuine!

This fact should become public knowledge no later than tomorrow evening (Nov 3) when the WSJ story runs.

As you peruse your WSJ tomorrow, the distant noise you hear will be me — laughing my butt off at the people who leapt to accuse me of having been hoaxed, or even of perpetrating the hoax myself."

For those that can't wait, news.com is also confirming it.

Informix and Apropos Deliver Solution to Retailer Jay Jacobs

MENLO PARK, Calif.—(BUSINESS WIRE)—Nov. 3, 1998—Informix(R) Corporation (Nasdaq:IFMX - news), the technology leader in enterprise database-powered solutions, and Apropos Retail Management Systems, a leading provider of software for chain retail management for small and mid-size retailers, today announced an agreement to install an in-store, Linux-based retail management system for Jay Jacobs, a leading fashion retailer targeting young men's and women's fashion.

Each Jay Jacobs retail outlet will utilize a Linux version of the Apropos Store Manager(TM) and Apropos Intranet(TM) developed with Informix Dynamic 4GL and running on a Linux version of the Informix-SE database. The system installation will begin immediately at the company's headquarters and continue in more than 105 Jay Jacobs stores during 1999.

"Informix and Apropos have partnered on a full suite of solutions that help establish Linux as a commercially viable, enterprise-quality platform," said Janet Smith, director, product management Informix. "Informix, with our partners, is committed to maintaining our market leadership position by delivering powerful commercial applications on Linux."

"Linux represents an excellent solution for our in-store systems," said Kent McNall, president of Apropos Retail Management Systems Inc. "We place heavy demands on our store systems, including not only speed and reliability, but 24-hour availability, scheduled tasking, and remote support ability as well. Linux provides all this and more, with far better performance and at a much lower cost to our customers. We've been working on our Linux offering for quite some time, and Informix's excellent support and commitment to the Linux platform has dramatically improved our rollout schedule."

"The Informix/Apropos/Linux solution provides us with a significant competitive edge," said Bill Lawrence, Jay Jacobs CFO. "The technologies that the solutions bring to our company over the next year will allow our management and staff to react faster and better to our customers needs — at an unbeatable price. Informix, Apropos and Linux give us a robust, reliable and scalable environment that is exceptionally affordable."

About the Solution

Jay Jacobs stores will install the complete Linux suite of Apropos software including Point of Sale (POS) systems, Store Manager, Inventory and Purchasing Management, Sales Audit, Loss Prevention, Sales Analysis, and Merchandising. The retail system will utilize the Informix-SE database on Linux and was developed using Informix Dynamic 4GL.

The Linux-based retail system will be supported at the Jay Jacobs corporate offices with a Unix and Windows NT-based solution comprised of the Apropos Retail Management System(TM) and Apropos^3 Retail Data Warehouse(TM) which runs on Informix Dynamic Server(TM). Apropos^3, based on Informix MetaCube(R) ROLAP Option, provides an easy-to-use, extensible and customizable business analysis environment for the Retail Data Warehouse.

"Informix products are an excellent foundation for both our in-store and corporate solutions," said McNall, "because they provide the reliability, ease of administration, and performance that our customers demand.

"Our Retail Data Warehouse and Apropos^3 products offer tremendous advantages for retailers that want to consolidate and analyze data from their stores. The key to winning Jay Jacob's business was being able to deliver a compelling business solution on industry leading technology."

About Jay Jacobs

Jay Jacobs Inc, founded in 1941, currently operates more than 115 store locations throughout the U.S. and is expanding to more than 130 locations with new openings in several areas of the country. Jay Jacobs' stores provide young men's and women's fashions.

About Apropos Retail Management Systems

Founded in 1989, Apropos Retail Management Systems has become the leading supplier of advanced technology retail software and system solutions to the growing market of small to mid-size chains, from 5 to 250+ store locations. Apropos provides complete software systems for growing chain retailers who want to be more profitable and productive.

Apropos is a suite of retail applications built on the advanced SQL database environment. Apropos provides a complete, one-stop solution from POS to Back Office to Accounting and Data Warehousing — all built on the most advanced technology, and tied together with full professional services. For more information visit the Company Web site at http://www.aproposretail.com.

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. E-mail the editor at editor@muug.mb.ca.