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MUUGlines

The Manitoba UNIX User Group Newsletter

December 12, 2000: Xmas Fun

This month, Kevin McGregor will be demonstrating some of the fun things (i.e. games and other toys) available for Linux. Kevin will discuss the gaming market for Linux and where it might be going, and why it is important to the future of Linux.

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.

Get JBuilder 4

Inprise Corporation (a.k.a. Borland), announced the immediate availability of Borland® JBuilder™ 4 Foundation at the Linux Business Expo. JBuilder 4 Foundation is a pure Java® development environment supporting the latest Java 2 platform standards and cross-platform development. The product is available for free download at Borland's Web site, http://www.borland.com/jbuilder/foundation/.

"JBuilder 4 Foundation's pure Java development environment, including an integrated editor, debugger, compiler, visual designers, and wizards, provides developers on Linux® with an ideal basis for developing Java applications," said Bill Claybrook, research director, Aberdeen Group. "Furthermore, JBuilder 4 Foundation's sample applications, tutorials, multimedia training, and support for the latest Java standards help developers on any platform learn Java easily."

"This is not just a trial or demonstration version but a production-quality tool that Java developers can use now to benefit from the power, performance and productivity of JBuilder across multiple platforms, including Linux, Solaris™ and Windows® operating systems," said Tony de la Lama, vice president of Borland's Java business unit. "We are confident that JBuilder Foundation customers will find the environment highly productive, and in the future, will choose to upgrade to our Professional and Enterprise editions."

JBuilder 4 Foundation is a complete development solution that allows users to build, compile, debug and deploy Java applications. With the increased performance as a result of the Java 2 JDK™ 1.3 Hotspot Client Virtual Machine; significant productivity enhancements like the Two-way visual designers, AppBrowser™, CodeInsight™, context sensitive help system and configurable keyboard layouts; and new source code management, JBuilder 4 Foundation eases and speeds the development process. Other new features include the XML-based project manager and Visual Studio® and Brief® editor keymaps. "The response to JBuilder Foundation has exceeded our expectations in every way," continued de la Lama. "With JBuilder's unmatched capabilities and open and extensible architecture, we are clearly emerging as the leader in the Java development space."

In addition to the key features, JBuilder Open Tools™ allow users to customize their development workspace, change the look-and-feel and add new features to meet their needs by seamlessly adding third-party components to the environment. Users can gain access to these components through the JBuilder Open Tools community. For more information about the Open Tools community, please visit http://www.borland.com/jbuilder. JBuilder's success continues to grow dramatically, as it recently won major awards from Java Pro, JavaWorld and Software Development Magazine, three leading industry publications.

More on JBuilder™ 4 Foundation

JBuilder 4 Foundation is ideally suited for Java technology developers who want a high productivity integrated development environment (IDE) to more easily create cross-platform Java applications. JBuilder 4 Foundation allows users to rapidly develop, compile, run and debug applications using JBuilder visual tools, as well as through traditional coding methods.

Key product features include the AppBrowser, to simplify code management; CodeInsight to reduce syntax errors and speed coding; the Java 2 platform graphical debugger; and Two-Way-Tools™ for Pure Java. Additionally, users can customize and extend the environment to suit their development needs using the Open Tools API, which aims to enable easier integration of tools and components from third party vendors. A detailed list of features included in JBuilder 4 Foundation is located at http://www.borland.com/jbuilder.

EnFuzion Demo

Turbolinux, Inc., the leader in high-performance Linux for Internet infrastructure solutions, demonstrated the power of its EnFuzion software by breaking Microsoft NT passwords at product demonstrations during Linux Business Expo at Comdex in Las Vegas in November.

EnFuzion, deployed at major sites worldwide, including global financial institutions, national laboratories, telecommunication companies, semiconductor firms, consumer goods and biotechnology companies, is a new technology based on harnessing idle CPU cycles on workstations and servers in a network to deliver supercomputing performance. Customer typically use EnFuzion to speed up applications 100 times and more to solve massive computational problems in fields such as risk management, biotechnology, semiconductor research and financial modeling without the need to buy more computers. EnFuzion runs on Linux, Windows NT and all major Unix operating systems.

At Comdex in Las Vegas, Turbolinux demonstrated the power of EnFuzion by "cracking" five-character NT passwords in less than a minute using an application freely available on the Internet. The demonstration was run on a small network of computers in the Turbolinux booth. EnFuzion can easily scale to solve much larger computational challenges and is already deployed at customer sites running on networks of more than 1,000 computers.

Turbolinux does not endorse breaking passwords on Microsoft software or any other products. *[We don't endorse breaking passwords, either, but we note strictly for comparison that a 700 MHz Athlon can go through all 5-character passwords using a combination of 26 letters and 10 digits in 46 seconds. This includes lowercase and uppercase, as NT servers tend to also store LANMAN-style uppercase-only passwords. –Ed.]*

Test Eazel

Eazel Inc., the developer of software and services to make computers easier to use, announced in early November that it is unveiling its Network User Environment, which includes a "sneak preview" of its Internet-based Eazel Services integrated with the company's new preview of the Nautilus software environment. This unveiling brings computer users significantly closer to a new era of computing that naturally extends the user environment by embracing and leveraging the possibilities of the Internet. The sneak preview is available for the GNOME environment on Linux and is available for free download at http://www.eazel.com.

With this announcement, Eazel has reached a key milestone in delivering on its mission to make computers easier to use. The integration of the Nautilus software environment with Eazel services is a major first step towards improving the way people maintain their systems, manage information, and interact with others.

"A decade ago most people used computers to write papers and build spreadsheets," said Mike Boich, chief executive officer of Eazel Inc. "Today we're using them to send e-mail and instant messages, shop on-line and hold virtual business meetings. This shift in mainstream computing towards the network has provided Eazel with an opportunity to deliver an entirely new and much richer experience to the user. With the delivery of Eazel Services and the Nautilus environment, we have taken the first step towards achieving that goal."

The release of Eazel Services signals a new wave of innovation in computing by providing users with an enriched computing environment. Eazel is providing users with a sneak preview of the first two of these services today, the Eazel Software Catalog and Eazel Online Storage. Both services are free and available to Linux users.

The Software Catalog provides users with easy, one-click installation of applications from a comprehensive Linux software library. The Catalog includes free software that has been certified by Eazel Labs, Eazel's software installation certification group.

Unlike traditional download sites, when an Eazel user clicks the download button for software listed in the Catalog, the installer reviews the user's distribution, version and current system and automatically installs the chosen program as well as any necessary dependencies. Not only does this service make installing upgrades dramatically easier, it also ensures continuity and stability across the entire system.

Eazel's Online Storage makes Web storage transparent to the user by integrating it with the user's local desktop allowing the user to safely back-up files online and access them from any computer with a browser. Eazel is offering each Nautilus user 25 MB of free online disk space. This storage space allows users to seamlessly move files, folders or even entire directories of information smoothly between their desktop environment and external storage areas hosted by Eazel.

Nautilus is the window to a network user environment that integrates access to files, applications, media, Internet-based services and the Web to deliver a dynamic and rich user experience. Nautilus is an open source project being developed under the GPL (GNU Public License) and is a core component of the GNOME desktop project. Eazel is a member of the GNOME Foundation.

As opposed to other static user interfaces that only give glimpses of information content through icons associated with their file type, Nautilus "thumbnails" most file types by displaying the content of a file in the file icon. For example, if the file contains an image, the icon is a miniature version of the image, if the file contains a document, the icon displays the first few lines of text; or if the file contains music, the music is played when the user passes the cursor over the icon.

Nautilus also helps users manage and organize their files more easily by letting them "zoom in" to see more file detail, such as name or type. In addition, the Nautilus environment makes locating items an easy and intuitive process by employing a browser-based navigation and search system for both local and remote files. The comprehensive customization features of Nautilus allow end users to personalize their system to their individual preferences.

Nautilus allows users to simplify their user environment by adjusting the amount of system and file detail that Nautilus displays. For example, while computer professionals or hobbyists may be interested in seeing detailed system and file data, novice users may prefer to view basic information only.

Additionally, for users to further personalize their computing environment, Eazel has created a polished look and feel for Nautilus by providing users with high quality fonts and graphics and enabling them to customize their desktop by allowing simple drag and drop customization for color and design.

Users who download the software at http://www.eazel.com/download will also be given a sneak preview of Eazel Services. Eazel encourages end users, system administrators and developers to download the software and provide their feedback. Eazel also welcomes developers who want to help contribute to Nautilus to join the Nautilus project at http://www.eazel.com/developer.

Eazel (http://www.eazel.com) develops software and services to make computers easier to use. Eazel Services and its Nautilus environment provide a superior user experience that embraces and leverages the possibilities of the Internet. Eazel is a private company headquartered in Mountain View, California, and is backed by Silicon Valley venture investors Accel Partners. In May of 2000 Eazel was listed as one of Red Herring Magazine's "Ten Companies To Watch."

IBM Suite

IBM announced the industry's first Linux®-based integrated software solution for small businesses. The IBM Small Business Suite for Linux delivers the tools necessary to help customers with messaging and collaboration, productivity, Web site creation and design, and data management. IBM also includes a fully integrated install program that allows customers and business partners to deploy, quickly and easily, the key software featured in the suite on both servers and desktops.

According to IDC, small businesses represent 48 percent of all Linux server installations. With a suggested retail price of only $499 (US), the IBM Small Business Suite for Linux includes IBM's DB2 Universal Database, WebSphere Application Server, and Lotus Domino. This suite gives growing companies the opportunity to utilize IBM's industry-leading software at a significant cost savings.

The Small Business Suite for Linux includes:

Lotus Domino: A leading messaging and collaboration solution that allows customers to get e-mail and Web sites up-and-running rapidly with a unified, easy-to-manage administrator interface. This solution provides desktop and mobile e-mail, Web access, calendaring, group scheduling, bulletin boards/newsgroups, workflow and database access.

IBM WebSphere Application Server: This delivers an open and flexible Web application runtime environment for internal and external Web pages by allowing Java™ servlets to run on top of an HTTP server. The WebSphere Application Server makes it easy to build security-enhanced, individual Web sites providing Web access to credit, delivery, order processing or other business-critical information.

IBM DB2 Universal Database Version 7: Award-winning relational database management system with the ability to handle the ad-hoc structured queries for a wide variety of data types including text, data, voice, image or any binary object.

Web Design and Productivity Tools:

IBM WebSphere Homepage Builder: Includes the necessary templates, tools and multimedia tutorials for creating and publishing Internet and intranet Web sites and pages in minutes.

IBM Suites Installer: Assists in the distributed installation and configuration of the suite components and other applications, providing a quick and easy way for customers to install the software.

WebSphere Studio: A complete set of tools integrated and designed to support all Web development levels, permitting content authors, graphic artists, page scripters, Web programmers and webmasters to work on the same projects simultaneously. WebSphere Studio features automated Web site building, Java applications and a host of other design and publishing capabilities.

Domino Designer: This rapid Web site design and development tool is used to bring back office data to the Web and implement e-business processes using HTML authoring, site/page design, frameset design and application preview.

Sending Us E-Mail?

Due to the amount of e-mail MUUG receives, we've set up an auto-reply to give you immediate feedback, and 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. 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. And while I'm at it, send me some interesting articles! Submit personal anecdotes, stories of your use of Unix, Linux, BSD or related operating systems to editor@muug.mb.ca. We really appreciate everything you send in!