

What's New In Linux | 20020205

Kernel Space Releases

Latest stable kernel is: 2.4.17

The latest prepatch version is: 2.4.18-pre8

The latest -ac patch to the stable Linux kernel series is: 2.4.18-pre7-ac3. Recent new features include ATA,/IDE code, sound, and a much smart O(1) scheduler.

User Space Releases

Postfix 1.1

The latest version of this Sendmail compatible mail server cleans up a lot of documentation, fixes one bug (postqueue -s dereferenced a null pointer when given a numerical domain argument), and adds one safety feature (when postmap creates a non-existent file, the new file inherits group/other read permissions from the source file).

www.postfix.org

(packages available separately from rhcontrib.beroz.org or Debian's default APT repository)

OggVorbis RC3 released

Double blind listening tests said 95% of participants found Ogg preferable over WMA. An in car stereo device which understands ogg, called the music keg, has just been released. Packages on site.

www.vorbis.com

KDE 3 Beta 1

Konqueror now has a sidebar media player and better javascript / animated GIF handling, better support for Windows / Mac specific keys on keyboards, regexps into various dialogs and other places, Noatun can use WinAMP skins and handle Icecast streams, Korganizer now handles group scheduling, dead sexy default themes, better handling of cut and paste (QT2 has some bugs in this area) + more. Should be out on Monday March 18th.

www.kde.org

Gnome 2 Alpha

Anto aliased text, a new GNOME control center, a generally cleaned up look and feel with new icons and more pleasant default themes, better dialog boxes for opening and saving files, gconf everywhere, and others. Should be out march 29

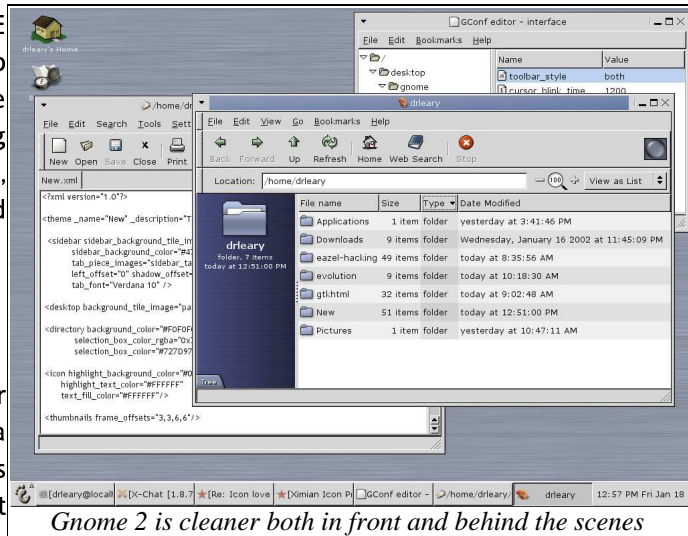
www.gnome.org

Chkrootkit

chkrootkit is a tool to locally check for signs of a rootkit. It contains a chkrootkit: shell script that checks system binaries for rootkit modification. New features: ifpromisc.c

checks whether the interface is in promiscuous mode, chklastlog.c checks for lastlog deletions, chkwtmp.c checks for wtmp deletions, check_wtmpx.c checks for wtmpx deletions (Solaris only), and chkproc.c checks for signs of LKM trojans.

Changes: strings.c was added as a quick and dirty strings replacement. The new tests, ldsopreload and lsof, were added. New ports were added to the bindshell test. The following new rootkits and trojans are now detected: RST.b trojan, duarawkz, knark LKM, Monkit, Bobkit, Pizdakit, HiDrootkit, and t0rn v8.0.



Gnome 2 is cleaner both in front and behind the scenes

CDBakeOven 2.8

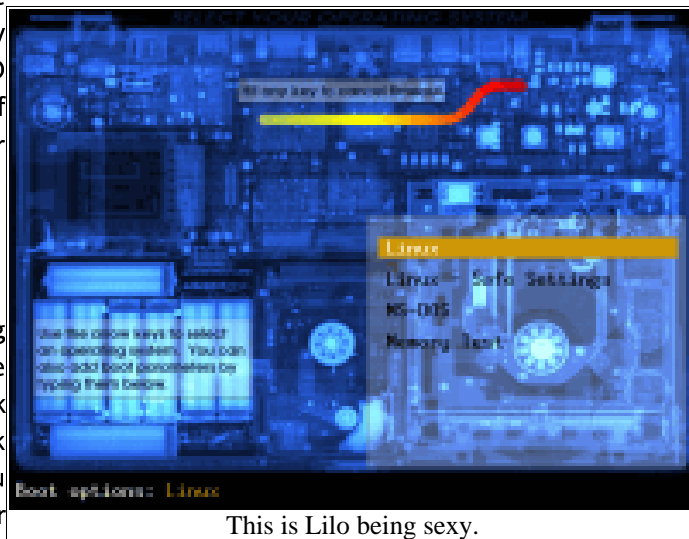
Well worth a look for beginner Linux users looking for a fast friendly CDR generation program. Drag and drop interface with a file manager / CD image split screen ,very similar to the Mac / Windows CD burning apps, and probably one of the nicest CDR tools for Linux yet for GUI folk

cdbakeoven.sourceforge.net

Sexy Animated Lilo

Someone made seksi looking animated themes for Lilo. Yay! The SuSE packages below seems to work on at least RH and should likely work on other Linux distributions. If you like looking at pretty things, and ever reboot your Linux machine (lots of us don't) its worth a play with.

<http://www.gamers.org/~quinet/lilo/index.html>



This is Lilo being sexy.

Mozilla 0.98 / Galeon 1.03

Out today / tomorrow respectively. Moz release is mainly bugfixes as far as Linux is concerned. Galeon is similar to Moz release, but doesn't suck.

www.mozilla.org

galeon.sourceforge.net

Security Vulnerabilities

There's a wide variety of new security alerts found in groff, mutt, sudo, pine, sendmail, rsync

Most distributions come with tools to automatically download updates for your system and their dependencies. Use them regularly.

News

There is a bug in the AMD Athlon CPU with 4k paging and AGP. Adding a line which reads
append ="mem=nopentium"
will fix it.

IBM has a tutorial on packaing Linux software.

<http://www-106.ibm.com/developerworks/library/l-rpm1/>

Paul Turrot has less of a grip on reality than he did yesterday. Based on the fact that the **amount** of Windows 2000 bugs **listed** on NTBugTraq are less than that of Red Hat Linux 7.0, he declared that Windows 2000 is more secure.

- The severity of the bugs reported wasn't mentioned
- There's a good chance the survey compared bugs for three releases of RHL as bugs in all
- He originally sourced securityfocus as the basis for is conclusions. They later denied any involve ment and the story was amended

Paul Thurrot's a pretty dodgy fellow. Upon the revelation that Microsoft, who now outsource their DNS to a third party, were using Linux to host part fop their DNS infrastructure, Thurror reported that Linxu advocates were wrong inclaiming that Linux was used for any critical system within Microsoft as the OS were ony handling DNS functions. **Sicne when is DNS non-critical? It sure seemed to matter a lot the last tiem Microsoft's DNS went down, which prompted them to change to a third party.** At least you didn't have to look at it for too long - Winiinformant went down from load soon after the sotry was posted.

Mono relicensed fro mGPL to X11 (a BSD like) license.

[Www.ximian.com](http://www.ximian.com)

Garner says 15% of companies in the Asia Pacific region are running Linux.

[Www.gartner.com](http://www.gartner.com)

Free Standards Group releases Linux Standard Base 1.1.

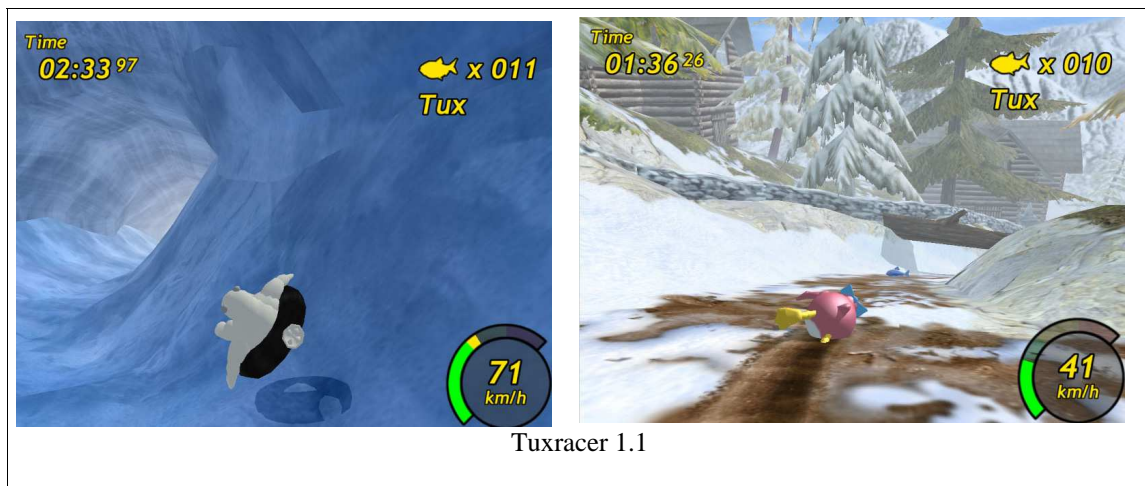
www.freestandards.org

Gaming

Return to Castle Wolfenstein 3D is out. First person, single player game set in WWII universe with some sci fi stuff thrown in. Levels are very beautifully designed and quite atmospheric. **Ze Enemy Is Weakened!**

TuxRacer 1.1 finished. **Better yet, the demo was released earlier today, so start downloading it because it rocks.** This ver is very different to 6.1 – multiple characters, split screen multiplayer, new hazards (building, logs, vehicles, spikes, ice tunnels, etc)

www.sunspirestudios.com



This Isn't Linux So It Doesn't Belong Here

Solaris for x86 canned. Free software on inexpensive hardware means no cash for Sun. It also means many smaller businesses and new systems administrators will shy away from Solaris.

www.sun.com

Darren Reed releases a modified OpenBSD with IPF rather than PF as the packet filter, also supplying ISO images – something the OpenBSD team doesn't do, as selling CDs is a major source of income for them.

www.ipfilter.org

QNX Realtime Platform version 6.2 is coming out real soon. Changelog when its released but be prepared – QNX is getting a real community of people around it now they've given access to the source code of chunks of the OS, and its well worth the download.

www.qnx.com