What's New In Linux | 20011002

Kernel Space Releases

Latest stable kernel is: **2.4.10**

The latest prepatch (alpha) version appears to be: 2.4.11–pre1. If you know better then you gotta ask yourself a question. Do you feel lucky? **WELL DO YA PUNK?**

The latest –ac patch to the stable Linux kernel series is: 2.**4.10–ac1**

The latest FOLK (Functionally Overloaded Linux Kernel) is : 2.**2.5**
http://folk.sourceforge.net/

The latest when–I–was–a–boy–we–had–it–tough kernel is **2.0.40–pre1**, the first prepatch for a 2.0.40 stable release.

User Space Releases

KDE 2.2 and 2.2.1
*   Xrender goodness with lots of transparency
*   A faster Konq that's much more capable of dealing with bad HTML – Konq can render a much wider variety of sites now
*   Many more supported languages
*   Previews in the Open dialog
*   KDE Print system
*   Kpersonalizer

If you're installing on Red Hat, use the unofficial packages from ftp.kde.org cause the official ones are for 7.2

KDE 2.2.1
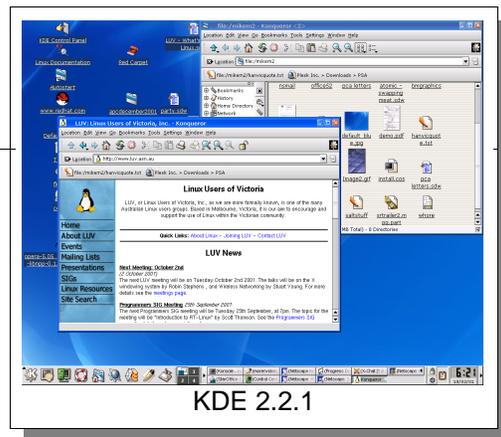
Tora goes stable
Tora is what will replace every installed copy of SQL Navigator. If you use Oracle get it. Scheme editing, performance analysis, reporting, configuration, etc.
http://www.globecom.net/tora/

OpenAntivirus alpha
First open virus scanner released. The OpenAntivirus Project has been announced, and has produced an open source anti virus scanner.

Xine 0.91
Xine now has support for DivX and OpenDivX, as well as Quicktime encapsulated 3ivX. Nav and encrypted DVD support has been updated as well. Check out xine.cjb.net for more info, or www.freshrpms.net for RPM packages.
Http://xine.sourceforge.net

Gnome News

A new beta of the Evolution has added Palm Syncing support and calendaring. There's also a new beta of the enhanced GNOME Control Center. New features:

- It doesn't suck
- It doesn't work either

www.ximian.org
www.gnome.org

Galeon 0.12.1

Its better and faster and shinier. Lots of new options for dealing with canner ads and cookies. Support for newer Mozilla gecko HTML engine (0.94).
http://galeon.sourceforge.net

Netscape 6.1

Its out, and sucks much less than 6.0x did.
www.netscape.com

VIM 6.0

The latest Vim includes even more 'better than Emacsness' than the previous release
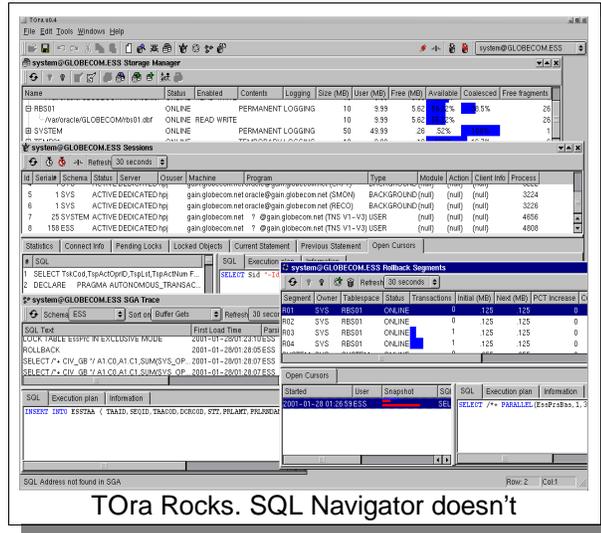www.vim.org

RealOne 9 beta

There's a Linux version of this new app which replaces RealPlayer and RealJukebox. Nicer interface heavily inspired by WMP. Haven't used it yet.
www.real.com

TOra Rocks. SQL Navigator doesn't

Rdesktop 1.1

The only non–Microsoft client for the Remote Desktop Protocol allows Linux machines to be clients for Windows Terminal Services, just like they can with Citrix Metaframe. The long awaited 1.1 release includes Windows 2000 support and works with high color displays. Open Source too :-)
http://www.rdesktop.org/

Security Vulnerabilities

PHPNuke 5.2 has an embarrassing vulnerability in its file manager function that can allow the creation and overwriting of arbitrary files on the server system. The advisory contains a quick source–level fix; a simpler fix was also posted. Note that PostNuke 0.63 appears not to be vulnerable.
Http://phpnuke.sourceforge.net

The ancient **slrn** news reader executes shell code. slrn will execute any shell code it finds within an article, on the theory that the article is a self–extracting archive. Debian has produced an update, most other distributions don't include it.
Www.debian.org

Minor DOS problem with **squid**. A malformed FTP PUT command can cause the server to restart. The problem has been fixed in version 2.2.5.

www.squid.org

Format string problems in **HylaFax**. The HylaFax package has some format string vulnerabilities. On some systems (i.e. FreeBSD), the affected binaries are installed setuid uucp, and could thus provide unauthorized access to the system. Most Linux systems seem to not install HylaFax with added privileges, however.
http://www.hylafax.org/

Filename vulnerability in **Red Hat's serial init** script. *Red Hat has issued an alert warning of a potential vulnerability with the setserial package. This one is obscure: you must have installed setserial, copied the init script from the documentation directory over to /etc/rc.d/init.d, and built your own kernel with serial support installed as a module. If you've done all those things, there is a potential problem with predictable temporary file names. Most users, it is expected, need not worry about this one.*
www.redhat.com

There is a vulnerability in IBM's **WebSphere 4.0** session ID generation. Session IDs are generated in a predictable way, meaning that an attacker could obtain access to another user's session. A fix is available from IBM.
www.websphere.com

The **Informix–SQL** application has a vulnerability which allows local users to create any file with root privileges.
www.informix.org

Bugzilla unauthorized user access. There are security problems with bugzilla, in which valid users can obtain confidential data without authorization. A problem also exists where parameters are not checked properly. See the September 13, 2001 LWN security page for the initial report.
www.bugzilla.org

Buffer overrun vulnerabilities in **fetchmail**
www.fetchmail.org

Denial of service vulnerability in **OpenLDAP**
www.openldap.org

Input validation problem with **sendmail**. An input validation error exists in versions of sendmail prior to 8.11.6 (or 8.12.0Beta19) which may be exploited by local users to obtain root access.
www.sendmail.com
www.sendmail.org

Multiple vulnerabilities in **xinetd.** Fixed as of latest patch.
http://www.synack.net/xinetd/

If you're still using **UUCP** or **Telnet** servers, everyone's too busy laughing at you to tell you about the latest vulnerability is.
http://www.goatse.cx

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

Distributions

Mandrake 8.1 is out. This distribution is fairl widely agreed to be the most user friendly Linux distro.
- Support for every JFS, DiskDrake support for Samba and NFS
- New Network and Printer configuration tools, harddrake, and software manager automatic update application with automatic dependency handling.
- Special version of SAMBA: combined with XFS and our latest kernel, Samba 2.2.1 allows Windows file sharing with NT–like ACLs (Access control lists).
- Webmin
- Auto deploy tools
- Server config wizards, for web mail, firewall, file and printer sharing, and more
- KDE 2.2.1
- GNOME 1.4.1

www.linuxmandrake.com

SuSE came out the DH Brown Associates comparative review of various Linux and Unixes, who looked at scalability, Reliability / Availability /Servicability, performance, and various other factors for a general business app server.
www.suse.com

SuSE and **Mandrake** have recently announced CDROM based firewalls.
www.suse.com
www.linuxmandrake.com

Red Hat is now available from newsagencies
www.redhat.com

News

Some nasty person produced a patch for the 2.5 Loadable Security Modules file restricting use of the . This is likely in violation of the GPL and

Progeny NOW has been canceled, focusing on professional services and devel
www.progeny.com

Slashdot is using an updated version of Slash. However, the site is still filled with the same ranting idiots it always was.
www.slashdot.org

Forte 3.0 is available from Sun. IDE for Java development.
www.sun.com

The founder and CTO of **Akamai** was on flight 11 that crashed into the New York WTC, and died. A longtime **Sun** engineer also died in the blast.
www.akami.com
www.redcross.com

New US security law threatening to make much security (penetration testing, vulnerability proof of concepts, etc) work illegal

Dimitri Skylarov now has a very good lawyer working pro bono on the case (one of the prosecutors from the Iran Contra scandal for some time ago)

Gaming

Kohan: Immortal sovereigns was released
www.lokigames.com

Rune and **Kohan** is now available from Everything Linux. **Rune** is a third person game where you can be a Viking and attack people with axes and swords and hammers and maces and their own disembodied limbs.
www.everythinglinux.com.au

Quake 3 1.30 patch, includes new automatic update mechanism and anti–cheating measures.
www.idsoftware.com

Axes. Hammers. Swords. Horns. Rune.

Tribes2 Patch has been released.
• No camp on flag
• Physics changes
• cg fixes and performance increases
www.lokigames.com

Soul Ride, an awesome 3D accelerated extreme snowboarding game, is coming out on Linux sometime around the new year.
http://www.soulride.com/

Linux in the movies

Captain Corelli's Mandolin was drawn, composited, and rendered with Linux systems running Alias|Wavefronts Maya and Nothing Real's Shake.
www.aliaswavefront.com

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

Solaris 8 July Update is now available for free download, KDE 2.20 packages for Solaris have finally come out. Solaris 9 beta starts today. *Linux APIs, commands and utilities that should permit most Linux applications to be recompiled to run on Solaris 9. In addition, the new release will include a Linux compatibility mode, which will make Linux applications built around the IA–32 architecture from Intel Corp. run on the operating system without any changes.* Plus other goodies.

Sun released their **StarCat** Its VERY, VERY fast. The SunFire 15K based on this chip (or up to 106 of them) is also available. If you ask Santa nicely...he still won't give you one.
Www.sun.com

FreeBSD 5.0 delayed until November 2002
www.freebsd.org