

LINUX WORLD NEWS

LINUX TRAINING IN GEORGIA

Inspired by the Estonian “Tiger Leap” project, Georgia launched a new school computerization project dubbed “Deer Leap” (DLP). Financed mainly by the President of Georgia and the state, it aims to create modern computer classes with Internet resources in every Georgian school.

Thanks to Georgian Eriders, a grass-roots project supporting open source development in the country, a fully local-

ized Fedora Linux will be installed on these computers. At the end of July, two eriders, Taya Kharitonashvili and Valeri Chitaladze, held a one-week camp on the Black Sea beach teaching 16 school teachers how to install, maintain and use Linux.

<http://www.tiigrihype.ee/eng>

<http://www.dlf.ge> (Georgian)

<http://www.eriders.ge>

(Georgian)

<http://taya.convert.ge/ureki>



OPEN SOURCE TEACHERS FOR ASIA

Following a first open source software (OSS) Train the Trainers program in mid-March 2005, the Singapore office of the Center of International Cooperation for Computerization (CICC) organized a second session at the School of Information Systems (SIS) at Singapore Management University’s city campus, July 25–30.

42 students took part, bringing the CICC closer to its goal of helping a large num-

ber of teaching professionals to teach OSS in South and South-East Asia.

Successful participants are encouraged to launch OSS training related projects in their own countries. The Asia OS Trainers Network and its mailing list serve as a platform for exchanging ideas and obtaining further assistance.

<http://www.cicc.org.sg/>

aseanoss

<http://www.cicc.or.jp/english>

UNDER SCRUTINY FROM PARLIAMENT

Only hours after the Dutch government agency for the promotion of open standards and open source, OSOSS, published a report citing the financial benefits of migration to open source, a less flattering earlier version was revealed. The original report, written by the acclaimed Dutch professor Hans Strikwerda, was rejected by the OSOSS demanding changes.

Insisting that the researcher writes the study, and not the recipient, Strikwerda refused to apply them. Subsequently, the University of Amsterdam, as part of the original team, finished the report drawing on major parts of the “preliminary” report, while coming to slightly different conclusions.

In an unrelated incident the OSOSS decided not to release a study by legal IT-expert Victor de Pous. In it de Pous highlights an uncertainty with open source licenses that have never been tested in a Dutch court nor reviewed by lawyers. According to the OSOSS the study was not “suitable for the intended audience”.

After the Strikwerda case became public, members of the Dutch parliament questioned the minister in charge, Alexander Pechtold. The answers received during the summer recess conflict with statements from both Strikwerda and de Pous. Currently MPs are looking for more clarity.

A SUNDAY AFTERNOON IN CAFÉ UTOPIK

Are women represented enough in open source, both in Québec and world wide? What is it that creates gender discrimination in ITC, and how can we deal with it?

These were the main topics debated in Montreal’s café Utopik, July, 24.

The event was sparked off by the visit of Fernanda Weiden, the initiator of the Brazil Free Software Women Project, who opened a debate on why there are less women than men in ICT, and even less in open source. As an example Weiden named the Debian community with only 0.5 percent women. “Some of the reasons are cultural, and they

are based on traditions in our societies. Others are based on stereotypes. A family invests four times more in technologies for boys than for girls.”

Another guest, Christina Haralanova of the Free Software Association Bulgaria, drew a line between the open source and the women’s rights movements: “Both are fighting for the right of choice and independence in decision-making”. So why not use open source tools in projects related to gender discrimination, trafficking, and so on? Canadian women’s rights initiatives may have something to learn from their Brazilian and Bulgarian guests.