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Vendors push for wider Linux migration

Execs say that Linux is easier to deploy and maintain than most people perceive

By Nancy Weil, IDG News Service
February 16, 2005

BOSTON - Linux is easier to deploy and maintain than its reputation might suggest, IT company executives said at LinuxWorld this week.

"Together, let's work on the few remaining holdouts and get them working on their migration as well," Novell CEO Jack Messman said during his keynote speech.

Corporate executives who are considering Linux are concerned about tech support, whether Linux is really secure and whether it can easily be deployed and maintained, he said. While Messman and others who spoke at the show answered such concerns with optimism, they also did note that compatibility with other software is a key to deploying and using Linux successfully in corporations.

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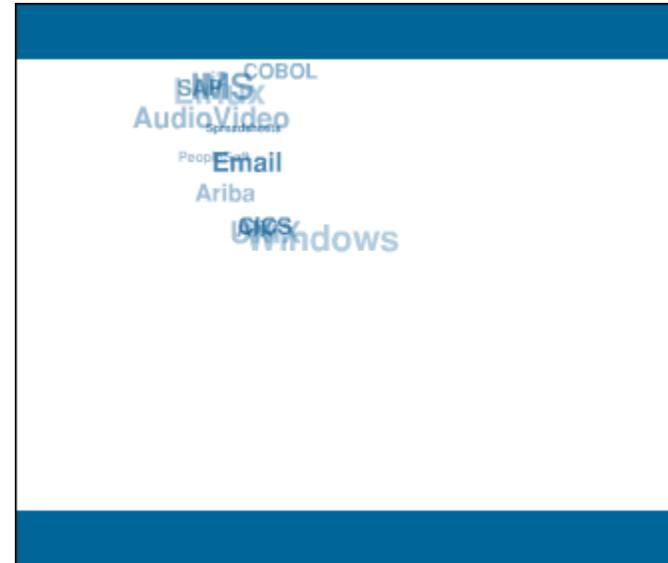
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Vendors making announcements at the show also covered those bases, demonstrating and releasing products for managing and securing Linux-based networks, as well as migration and intellectual property-tracking tools.

Announcements included:

-- Aldon's Application Lifecycle Manager 5.0 for Linux and Unix AIX will be globally available in the second quarter. The software will offer multitier management of source code, software development artifacts and application configuration and components, Aldon said. It also will support all major corporate development and production platforms and provide configurable multiphase lifecycle process automation, among other features. Pricing will be announced when the software upgrade is available.

-- BakBone Software Inc.'s NetVault data production software now supports **Red Hat** (Profile, Products, Articles) Enterprise Linux version 4. BakBone did not provide pricing for its backup and restore software.

-- Black Duck Software Inc. has enhanced its protexIP development software with a capability it calls Custom Code Prints, which supports proprietary and commercial source code. ProtexIP identifies, tracks and manages license compliance for software across internal business units and with external partners, suppliers and others. The new software with the added capability is available now. Pricing was not provided.

-- CryptoCard Corp. offered a preview of Crypto-Server 6.3 authentication software designed for use with Red Hat Inc.'s Enterprise Linux 3 server and **Novell** (Profile, Products, Articles) Suse Linux Enterprise Server 9. Crypto-Server's next version allows for easy creation of a token-deployment database and also is meant to let administrators easily distribute software tokens from any computer to any user, the company said.

-- Emic Networks' Application Clustering software now supports JSP and J2EE application servers, and Emic also said that it has adopted a more flexible product strategy. The updated Application Clustering software is available now, starting at $1,595.

-- MySQL AB released MySQL Network designed for large IT departments that use the MySQL open-source database and want to implement other open-source software. MySQL Network offers corporate-level production support and automated updates and alerts. MySQL is priced by annual subscription, from $595 to $4,995 per database server.

-- Palamida Inc. released its IP Amplifier version 3.0, which automatically detects, manages and reports on third-party open-source and commercial software components and licenses for code bases developed by companies. The software aims to make sure licensing requirements are followed to decrease the risk of development delays, audit problems and legal action related to intellectual property. The software is licensed on an annual subscription basis.

-- **Parasoft** (Profile, Products, Articles) Corp. released its memory error detection tool Insure++ 7.0 for Novell Suse Linux Enterprise Server 9. Pricing was not provided. The company also announced availability of Jtest 6.0, which does automated unit testing and static analysis, verifying more than 500 Java development rules with the aim of helping developers automate best practices into their Java code. Pricing for North American customers starts at $3,495 for a single-user, machine-locked license.

-- **Scalix** (Profile, Products, Articles) Corp. demonstrated version 9.2 of its e-mail and calendaring software, which includes a browser-based administration console adding functions for managing server processes, messaging queues and default settings. Another new feature is an installation wizard meant to guide administrators through diagnostic and installation steps.

-- SWsoft Inc.'s Virtuozzo 2.6.1 for Linux is available with a number of enhancements, including a Web-based administration tool for access to the software via the Internet, an auto update utility, improved firewall and VPN (virtual private network) support and power panel improvements that provide network traffic reports. Pricing was not provided.

-- **Veritas Software** (Profile, Products, Articles) Corp. will ship Linux bundles with its software on **IBM** (Profile, Products, Articles) eServer xSeries systems. Software related to clustering and storage will be part of the package, Veritas said.

-- Versora will release a Linux desktop migration tool in the second quarter. Progression Desktop will automatically migrate data, documents, e-mail, user settings, music and pictures, and convert settings from Office to OpenOffice.org and Outlook to Evolution and GroupWise.

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