

Maldives IT Industry

challenges for the next 2 years

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WELCOME

We proudly present you the second issue of MOSS: Your Monthly FLOSS Magazine - the online publication for Free Libre Open Source Software (FLOSS) by Maldives Open Source Society.

MOSS: Your Monthly FLOSS Magazine will be published on the 7th of every month, each issue can be downloaded for free on our website moss.org.mv. Enjoy your time! We are looking forward to read your feedback. Thank you and happy reading!

WHAT IS MOSS?

Maldives Open Source Society (MOSS) is a not for profit organization registered in the Republic of Maldives to support, advocate, oversee and promote the use, implementation and development of Free Libre Open Source Software (FLOSS) within the country. The name MOSS was coined after a long debate on finalizing a name for the organization.

MOSS is an initiative of the Maldives Linux User Group (MLUG) and had it's early history and projects run under MLUG's resources, although ironically, MLUG is now a member of MOSS and oversees it's operations and developments.

Thus the name of this magazine as MOSS: Your Monthly FLOSS Magazine, indicates this as the voice of MOSS. All articles are contributions of MOSS members and the spirit runs at heart. Our aim is to empower all people to freely connect, create and share in a digital world that is participatory, transparent, and sustainable. For more information on MOSS and it's activities visit moss.org.mv

HOW TO CONTRIBUTE!

= How to contribute =

Everyone and anyone is welcome to contribute to the MOSS Magazine. You can email articles to magazine@moss.org.mv. Our editors will moderate the articles for the magazine and contact you if needed.

In addition to articles you can also submit news, comments, your FLOSS experiences, hardware/software reviews, questions, screenshots, photos or interesting links to the email address.

= Article Submission Guidelines =

The only condition for contribution of articles is that they must be related to Free Libre Open Source Software (FLOSS).

= Rules for articles =

1. You can use any software to write your articles, preferably OpenOffice.org
2. All images can be in JPG, PNG and SVG, images should be good in quality and full-size.
3. Articles for now must be in English, don't worry if your English is not too good, we will proof read it for you.
4. You can use a pen-name, your nickname or use your real name, whichever you are comfortable with, but each article must have a writer identity (Important for reader feedback!). If you want your email address publicised along with the identity, indicate it too.



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Maldives IT Industry: Challenges!

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2010 is an year of drastic change. The new government stepped in just before the start of an economic recession; now it is the time to recover and this will come with rather important and demanded changes. We all know there is not much of an IT Industry in the Maldives; in addition to that we are faced with political instability and new restrictive government policies.

Global IT Industry is changing way too fast to make any predictions beyond 5 years. Said that, year 2010 will be a hard year for any business but I am expecting high usage of Free Libre Open Source Software (FLOSS) that will create a foundation for our IT Industry. Among the changes that will facilitate this include, introduction of an IP Law, increase cyber-crime and attacks, wide spread of new and disastrous viruses, the need to reduce cost, the need to attract new customers and force to rethink the old way of doing things.

Of course all these that are highlighted are challenges that our IT Industry will need to face; anyone who do not see these challenges as opportunities will be a victim of an economic downfall. However, those who can see that for every challenge there are solutions and remain optimistic, can take the best use of these opportunities and succeed. So let me highlight these challenges and possible solutions that we all can embrace for an IT Industry in the Maldives.

Intellectual Property (IP) Law

Maldives has to come up with an IP Law; there is no doubt about this. Though the new government choose to stay rather silent about the fact, there is an international pressure that we just cannot avoid. With an introduction of an IP Law, first and foremost, the Government has to use legitimate software, which is estimated to cost more than 12 million US dollars. Here we are faced with a crisis and in need to spend a healthy amount of tax money. Even with increased layoffs and cutbacks, even at the expense of a lot of unhappy faces, we will not be able to raise such an amount. Now the businesses and general public are simply not in the mood to even distinguish the differences between legitimate to illegal pirated software.

Solution

We are forced to move slow as we recover from the impacts of the global recession. The future looks brighter for people with hope and this is the right time to boost the IT Industry. With the introduction of IP Law, businesses, government and the public sector will have to budget for software, which will create an influx of money from all other sectors into IT. As of current status, like all other major industries in the country, more money will flow out of the country than inside. However, if we look at FLOSS solutions and embrace them as the heart of our IT Industry, paying locals for the development, customization, installation and support, the local IT Industry will have to come out of the grave.

High Rate of Virus Infections and Cyber Attacks

The current global virus penetration is constantly accelerating, but today one thing is different, internationally the cyber-crime expenses and losses are increasing more than that of abusive drugs. Today's cyber-criminals are well organized groups targeting individuals as a way of life. This sounds scary, especially when the Internet and computer usage in the Maldives is increasing exponentially. Every student that leaves from schools know the basics operation of a computer and every start-up has a computer network connected to the Internet. Internet Banking and money transfer is already becoming common place. International money transfer, credit cards and online payment gateways are also locally available. These are services born out of pure need and popularized purely based on ease of use. Virus infections, notably Trojans, will be a major risk for anyone who is looking at Internet seriously. The scenario worsens when using illegal pirated software, as with those applying security patches and updates are almost always disabled. It is safe to say that from all the illegal pirated software that is available in the market, one in every three is infected with a Trojan or key-logger. Even recently one of our Internet service providers, Dhiraagu, was hit by a serious DDOS attack, rendering many customers, who depend on the Internet, with great losses. More of these kinds of attacks will be seen in the coming years.

Solution

First of all educate yourself and others on the risks of using the computer and the Internet. A good and regularly updated virus scanner is a must if you are on Microsoft Windows environment. Also avoid illegal pirated software at all cost, the solution is to buy legitimate software and lock-down the systems along with proper usage policies. This can be done fairly easily. For example, if you do online banking, be careful of your password policy, how often you change it, restrict daily transaction limits and check the balance on a daily basis. In addition hiring trained and skilled individuals for constant maintenance and security is a must. Subcontracting the IT support is a viable option, but do not expect low cost service providers to do a good job. Things could be made easier and safer with the introduction of FLOSS like Ubuntu and/or OpenOffice.org in both the professional and home environment. FLOSS is known for its high security, stability and virus resistant nature. FLOSS can both save money and provide a safe and reliable working environment.

Server Implementations with Data Backup

Computers are like any machines that can crash or break at any given time. While each and every office is jumping on installing file servers to store their data, very few concentrate on backing up this data. Computer data is intangible; hence, it is rather volatile and needs to be stored elsewhere as backups so you will have a copy of your important data when something goes wrong. Today major stores have their stock to warehouse data on servers, government agencies have important information of the citizens and national security stored as data,

and almost all companies use Quickbooks to manage their financial transactions, and all these data are stored in a server or a local computer. In most cases, all these data have non to minimal implementation of a backup system. One single server hard disk failure can lose years of data.

Solution

Reliable Data Backup Systems does exist, but the cost of implementation and maintenance vary. We are habitually not ready for a data loss disaster and the initial cost is a hindering factor. When it comes to data backup, the setup depends entirely on the amount of data that we are talking about. If it is a personal home business or a small business, one or two external hard drives would be more than enough. However for large companies, who handle many customers and transactions, need a proper implementation of a backup system. Most probably automated tape backup system. To reduce the software cost, one can always look into the world of FLOSS, where there are industrial standard reliable backup software solutions. Follow the trend, invest on one before it is too late.

Customer Oriented Business Practices

One can only stay in business if the customers are loyal and happy. We have just passed a global recession, people are very cautious to spend. We have seen few businesses closing down, but it seems that we always have time and money for a cup of coffee. Anyway, we are recovering and still going through hard times, and if you have survived last year, it would have been basically by cutting cost, layoffs, using your reserve and/or cutting down on operations. Additional financing options are minimum to

null. Whichever is the case, the only factor that is inflexible and need to grow are customers. If you can hold on to and manage your customers, you will be safe in the recovery.

Solution

In this day of technology, when customers are the most important asset one can have, the best way to hold onto and manage them is to use a Customer Relation Management (CRM) system. However, for a traditional business, implementation of a CRM system goes with a cultural change, the whole process needs to be managed and relearned. Implementing a CRM can streamline customer related operations, reduce work time, provide sound information for decision making and help in future planning and marketing. There are well known FLOSS based CRM systems that are capable of doing practically anything that one wants. In addition, all FLOSS solutions come with the benefit of being able to customize when needed.

Amateurs and Freelancers

Since we are in the initial stages of recovering from a recession, the government and private sector is concentrating on cutting down cost along with many layoffs. This can only lead to people who need work, many have little to no business experience, amateurs and most will turn to freelancers. This can mean cheap website designers to software developers to maintenance service providers. Most importantly they will offer low rates that can make people wonder of its quality.

Solution

Among this herd of amateurs and freelancers there will be good talents and thus this is the best



opportunity to invest low on projects like websites and software development projects that you have been putting off. People need projects and they will offer dream rates, but it is always advisable to check background, past projects and portfolio before you commit to anyone. Businesses can insist on getting FLOSS based solutions, as the low cost and security FLOSS provide justifies this.

On the other hand this is the best time for these amateurs and freelancers to invest their time and effort in FLOSS solutions. In FLOSS the time to market; entry cost to service provision is only limited in how fast one can learn and catch up with the technology. FLOSS can liberate and empower these amateur freelancers with the correct focus.

Staff layoff

In the recession and while in the recovery process staff layoff is inevitable and it is predicted that this will carry on for next year and beyond. Even the government is working on, with a lot of disapproving pressure from the parliament, to cut down the

government head count. Many businesses have layoffs, many of their staff, even some valuable and irreplaceable staff are sent off. This is a challenge, as it would be hard to function as normal without some of these staff.

Solution

The only viable solution would be to outsource specific functions. Most preferably the IT functions can be outsourced with ease. If you are a Small to Medium Business (SMB) outsourcing can keep you alive and stabilize some of your functions. The benefit of outsourcing comes with the fact that you do not have to invest in research and development, or in building and maintaining your own local expertise. However, the primary concern in IT outsourcing should be the confidentiality of your business information and data. So trust is as important as technical knowledge and know how.

All in all, a software company based on providing FLOSS solutions can be more flexible when it comes to cost and more reliable in the solution that they

provide.

New Laws and Political Instability

With an active parliament, laws will be passed on a regular basis, this is a must and something that I predict will happen in this year. The citizen's concern would be in the complying with these laws. While the enforcement and maintenance of these laws will fall under the hand of the government. The current political instability will continue for few more years.

Solution

In the making of laws, make your best effort to get yourself heard. This is the right opportunity to shape the laws in ways you want to improve for the benefits of many. Today, the government's senior officials and the parliament members are more accessible than ever before. So make your voice be heard. In addition, it is always better to voice as a crowd than an individual.

As for the political instability, the political parties has to work things out. The recovery from the recession would help in stabilizing things a little. More importantly competent people are working hard to make things right, so there is not much you can do if you have no political power. If you are like most people, trying to run a business, it is advised to concentrate this period to work on your business continuation plan. Plan for the worse and build a contingency plan that can run for the next 5 years.

Conclusion

This is going to be a year of dramatic change, few who can act to see the challenges as opportunities in this period of recovery from the recession will succeed. As far as the IT Industry is concerned, globally it is a multi-billion dollar industry, and this is the right time and opportunity for us to tap into it. The most easiest and feasible way to tap ourselves in creating an IT Industry would be for us to take FLOSS as a friend.

FLOSS Programs I Use

Disciple

Free Libre Open Source Software

(FLOSS) is an advanced software development method where organizations, companies or volunteers work to create software that you can use, share, copy and modify, for any purpose you choose. You can do this on as many computers as you want.

I use FLOSS for two reasons, one because it is free and the other because it is more secure. FLOSS is all about freedom. The word 'free' in the English language can mean different things to different people. FLOSS is free because unlike other software where the maker says how you can use it and for what purpose (example: Cannot make duplicates, Student use only, etc) FLOSS give you the freedom to use the software anyway you want. FLOSS is also free because, with some exceptions, most FLOSS only cost you the download bandwidth. So it is practically free.

Second, FLOSS is exceptionally secure and reliable because of the open nature of the software development process. Unlike the proprietary way of developing software, there is no "Red Tape" to hinder the development process, especially bug fixes. Security fixes never take more than a day or two to be fixed and rolled out.



So I have decided a year ago to be loyal to FLOSS. Today I use FLOSS for my daily tasks. For the Operating System I

use Ubuntu, Karmic Koala. Ubuntu is arguably the most popular Linux distribution. Personally I like it because it is easy to use, and has a huge helpful community behind it offering free support, which I can tap in when in need. So far the forums and real-time IRC is more than enough to find whatever I wanted to know.

(<http://ubuntu.com>)



Firefox is the perfect FLOSS web browser. Before the switch to FLOSS, the world of Internet on Windows platform was a sure way to get infected with virus. Now I have found Firefox to be both fast and secure, I use it both for my Internet banking, online shopping and casual browsing. In addition, the numerous extensions has made me a Firefox addict, just can't live without Firefox.

(<http://mozilla.org/firefox>)



Thunderbird Email Client is brilliant FLOSS, which I have become to love using. Especially I love the Thunderbird's intelligent spam filtering technology, eliminating the most annoying part of my email experience. In addition like Firefox the numerous extensions has made this Email Client my ideal choice.

(<http://mozilla.org/thunderbird>)



OpenOffice.org Productivity Suite is the FLOSS that competes with Microsoft Office. It is free and a feature rich office suite. It includes a word processor, spreadsheet management software, slide presentation software, a database and many more. I personally like the way OpenOffice.org handle the PDF export.

(<http://openoffice.org>)



GIMP Image Editing Software is my choice of FLOSS based photo editor; it is a bit bulky for me, as it is as feature rich as the Adobe Photoshop. I do not have to edit images on a professional level, but looking at the features of GIMP I am sure it can meet a wide range of image editing requirements. Personally I like the filters and the scripting (macro or actions) that automate repetitive tasks. In addition to this, with GIMP I can save images to most of the popular formats, including PSD.

(<http://gimp.org>)



For the casual vector based drawings, like making name tags, I use Inkscape Vector Illustrator. This FLOSS can both create, edit vector images and the work-flow is a bit similar to Adobe Illustrator. Then again I am not a professional designer but I like the fact that it can handle CorelDraw files, the most common format used in the Maldives. In addition, like GIMP, it can also save files to different formats, notably, .ai, .cdr, .eps, .svg, .pdf, .psd and more.

<http://inkscape.org>



I do not have much time for gaming, but there are times I just can't help but bring out the child in me. There are many FLOSS based games, and one I have personally become to love is Battle for Wesnoth. It is an exciting turn-based strategy game with a medieval fantasy theme. The many adventure to choose keeps me entertained for days.

<http://wesnoth.org>

Online chatting is how I keep in track and connected with my family and friends who choose to cross the sea. Empathy Instant Messenger is now the default chat client that comes with Ubuntu Karmic. I personally love this FLOSS for the fact that it can use



multiple messengers at once. From a single program, I can log-in to my Google Talk, MSN, IRC, Facebook and Yahoo! Account. In addition it supports both video and voice for some



accounts.
<http://live.gnome.org/Empathy>)

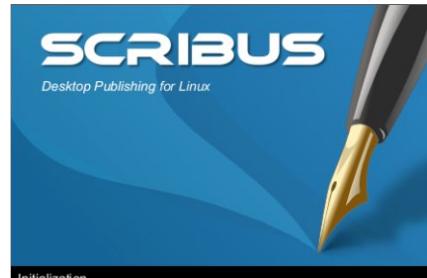
I am not a professional web designer, but my daily tasks do require me to update some websites. For those minor changes I use NVU Website Editor. This FLOSS is the most simple to use web editor I have found. As I not need to edit HTML, as my HTML knowledge is limited, but this get the job done. It is said that it is as feature rich enough as to replace products like Dreamweaver. Don't take my word here as I have limited knowledge to compare both.

<http://nvu.com>)



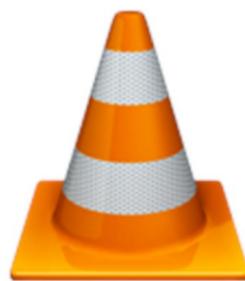
I also do a bit of audio editing using Audacity, something that got me started purely for the kick of it. This

FLOSS can record, edit and mix your own music. In addition it can also add effects to the music. It is really fun playing with this neat software.
<http://audacity.sourceforge.net>)



I use Scribus for Desktop Publishing. A FLOSS similar to the Adobe InDesign. Easy page setting using templates, automatic text flow from column to column and many more features make this FLOSS my ideal choice. In addition Scibus supports CMYK, ICC color management and the creation of PDF. In the hands of people who know what they are doing, Scribus can be a powerful tool. I guess the proof is in the pudding for this MOSS: Your Monthly FLOSS Magazine's layout is created using Scibus.

<http://scribus.net>)



Well, in this day and age nobody can live without a media player. VideoLan VLC player has been my favourite for so many reasons. It is another FLOSS that is both popular in many platforms and most probably something you already know about. VLC help me get over with the frustrations of not being able to play some video formats and struggle with some codecs, just install VLC and sit back and enjoy any movie.

www.videolan.org/vlc/)

Desktop Environments - KDE

Adolf



If you are a Windows user you are accustomed to My Computer, start button and trash. There are various new stuff you will get to know when you start using Linux. One very personal one to an end-user is a desktop environment. Lets discuss about that one today.

So what is a Desktop Environment?
There are two ways a user can play around with an OS. One is through a terminal shell where he/she types commands to do stuff. Weather it is to copy, move, delete files, chat, text edit or even web browse (though there are no pictures of course) everything is done through commands which are instructions given to the Operating System. a Command Line Interface is only in text, on the other hand a Graphical User Interface enables a user to give instructions to the Operating System through mouse clicks, or by pressing buttons, clicking menus, and dragging about stuff. Now how a GUI relates to a Desktop Environment is in that a Desktop Environment is a complete GUI solution. It is a set of programs which control how information is displayed on the screen and how the user interacts with the computer.

A desktop environment typically consists of icons, windows, toolbars, folders, wallpapers and desktop widgets. On the whole, a desktop environment is an intuitive way for the user to interact with the computer using concepts which are similar to those used when interacting with the physical world, such as buttons and windows. While originally a Desktop Environment was used to refer to

styles of GUIs, it has also come to describe the programs that provide the metaphor itself. This usage has been popularized by the Common Desktop Environment and the K Desktop Environment. This means Desktop Environments like KDE and Gnome provides Word processors, Spreadsheet applications, Vector and bitmap drawing applications, System Administration tools and even games. It is a whole bundle of software applications in addition to the icons, windows, toolbars, folders, wallpapers and desktop widgets that is used to describe a Desktop Environment.

We will have a look at K Desktop Environment in this article.

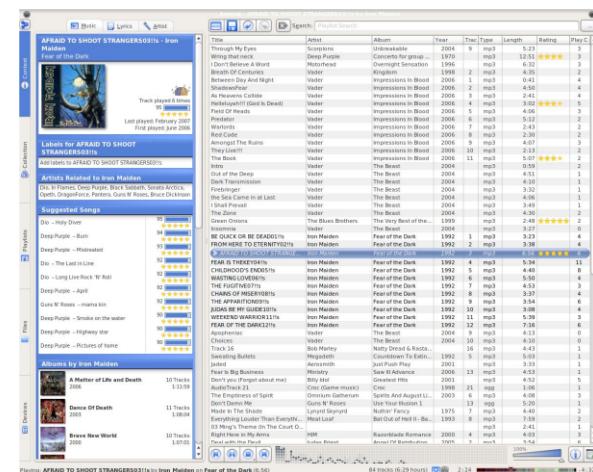
KDE is a free software project based around its flagship product, a cross-platform desktop environment designed to run on Linux, Windows and Mac OSX systems. KDE provides desktop functions and applications for daily needs as well as tools and documentation for developers to write stand-alone applications for the system. In this regard, the KDE project serves as

an umbrella project for many standalone applications and smaller projects that are based on KDE technology. These include KOffice, KDevelop, Amarok, K3b and many others. KDE software is based on the Qt GUI toolkit which is most notably used in Adobe Photo-shop Album, Google Earth, KDE, Opera, OPIE, Skype, Qt Extended, VLC media player .With the release of Qt 4, GPL versions are available for all platforms. This allows KDE software based on Qt 4 to also be distributed to Microsoft Windows and Mac OSX. Together with a free implementation of UNIX such as GNU/Linux, UNIX/KDE constitutes a completely free and open computing platform available to anyone free of charge. Source code is available for anyone to look at, learn from, modify and improve. Whilst there is always room for improvement, KDE today delivers a viable feature packed alternative to the more commonly found commercial operating systems/desktops combinations available.

Applications

Amarok – music player

Music Player for Linux/Unix is known for its innovation. Amarok's tag-line is "Rediscover Your Music", and its development is based around this ideology. Amarok's core features such as the unique "context browser", integrated Wikipedia lookup and lyrics download help users to find new music, and to learn more about the music they have. Amarok also features integration with last.fm, giving users suggestions about what to listen to next and which artists may fit their mood, as well as with Magnatune integration, allowing no-cost full listening of all the music in their catalog and DRM-free purchasing.



Here are the primary functions or uses for Amarok:

Playing media files in various formats including but not limited to (depending on the setup) FLAC, Ogg, MP3, AAC, WAV, Windows Media Audio, Apple Lossless, WavPack, TTA and Musepack. Amarok does not play digital music files embedded with DRM.

Tagging digital music files (currently FLAC, Ogg, WMA, AAC, MP3, and RealMedia).

Associating cover art with a particular album, and retrieving the cover art from Amazon

Creating and editing playlists, including smart and dynamic playlists. The dynamic playlists can use such information as the "score" given to a song by an Amarok script, and the play count which is stored with the song.

Synchronizing, retrieving, playing, or uploading music to the following digital music players: iPod, iriver iFP, Creative NOMAD, Creative ZEN, MTP, Rio Karma and USB devices with VFAT (generic MP3 players) support.

Displaying artist information from Wikipedia and retrieving song lyrics.

Last.fm support, including submitting played tracks (including those played on some digital music players) to Last.fm, retrieving similar artists and playing Last.fm streams.

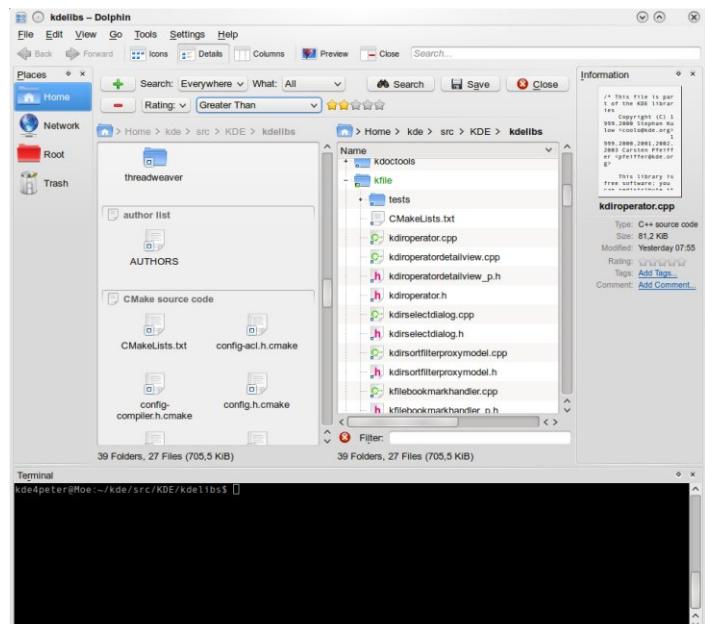
Podcast.

Dolphin – File manager

Dolphin is the default file-manager used in KDE 4.x the developing-goals of which is usability and simplicity. In earlier KDE versions Konqueror was blamed for being an all in one (File browsing, Web browsing, Document Viewer) behemoth too complex for average users, as a response, in KDE4 Dolphin was streamlined for browsing files, while Konqueror features primarily as a web browser.

Primary features of Dolphin file manager.

Breadcrumb navigation bar - each part of the URL is clickable, 3 view modes (Icons, Details and Columns), remembered for, each folder, File Previews, Split views (for copying and moving files), Network transparency - using KDE's KIO slaves Undo/Redo functionality, Tabbed navigation, Renaming of a variable number of selected items in one step, NEPOMUK integration .

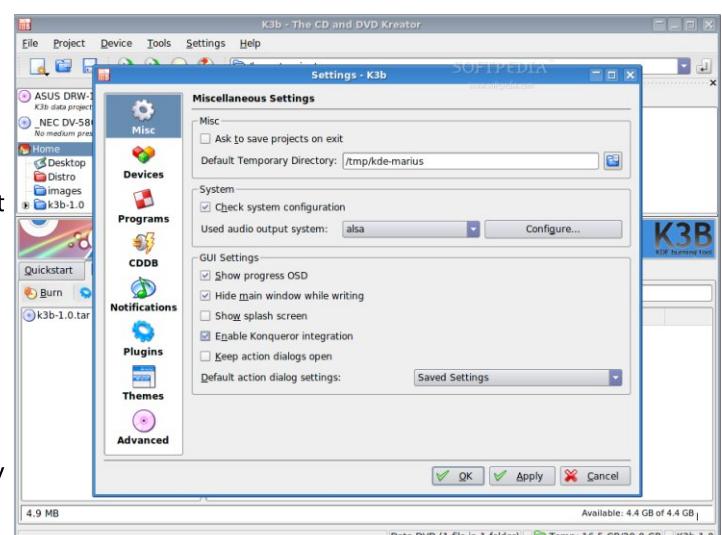


K3b - Optical disc authoring software

K3b or KDE Burn Baby Burn, is the feature-rich default CD/DVD burning application in KDE.

K3b features

Data CD/DVD burning , Audio CD burning , CD Text support , DVD-R/DVD+R/DVD-RW/DVD+RW support , CD-R/CD-RW support , Mixed Mode CD (Audio and Data on one disk) , Multisession CD , Video CD/Video DVD authoring , eMovix CD/eMovix DVD , Disk to Disk CD and DVD copy , Erasing CD-RW/DVD-RW/DVD+RW , ISO image support , Ripping Audio CDs, Video CDs, Video DVDs , K3B can also burn data CDs that support Linux/Unix based OS, Windows, DOS, Very Large Files (UDF), Linux/Unix + Windows, Rock Ridge, Joliet file systems.



Kdenlive - Non-linear video editing

Kdenlive is a non-linear video editor for GNU/Linux and FreeBSD, which supports DV, AVCHD (experimental support) and HDV editing. Kdenlive relies on several other open source projects, such as FFmpeg and the MLT video framework. It was designed to answer all needs, from basic video editing to semi-professional work.

Features:

Some features included in version 0.7 include: interface based on KDE's Oxygen style, capture from FireWire cameras, webcams and Video4Linux devices, grab video from your screen (screen capture), support for jog shuttle devices, independent rendering processes, interactive timeline operations, high definition editing, lossless formats and clip organization / location tools.[7]

Kdenlive makes use of a number of frameworks to provide a range of audio and video effects and transitions, including MLT, Frei0r effects, SoX and LADSPA.

Audio effects include normalization, phase and pitch shifting, limiting, volume adjustment, reverb and equalization filters amongst others.

Video effects include options for masking, blue-screen, distortions, rotations, colour tools, blurring, obscuring and others. Kdenlive also provides a script called the Kdenlive Builder Wizard or KBW that compiles the latest developer version of the software and its main dependencies from source, to allow users to try and test new features and report problems on the bug tracker.

KDevelop - Integrated development environment

KDevelop is a free software integrated development environment for the KDE desktop environment for Unix-like computer operating systems. KDevelop does not include a compiler; instead, it uses an external compiler such as gcc to produce executable code.

The current version, 3.5, supports many programming languages such as Ada, Bash, C, C++, Fortran, Java, Pascal, Perl, PHP, Python and Ruby. Released under the GNU General Public License, KDevelop is free software.

Features:

KDevelop uses an embedded text editor component through the KPart framework. The default editor is KDE Advanced Text Editor, which can optionally be replaced with a Qt Designer-based editor. This list focuses on the features of KDevelop itself. For features specific to the editor component, see the article on Kate.

Source code editor with syntax highlighting and automatic indentation (Kate).

Project management for different project types, such as Automake, qmake for Qt based projects and Ant for Java based projects.

Class browser.

GUI Designer

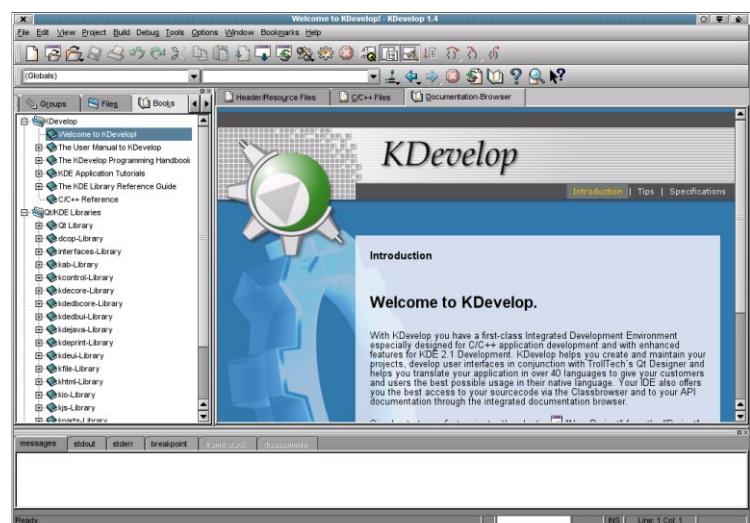
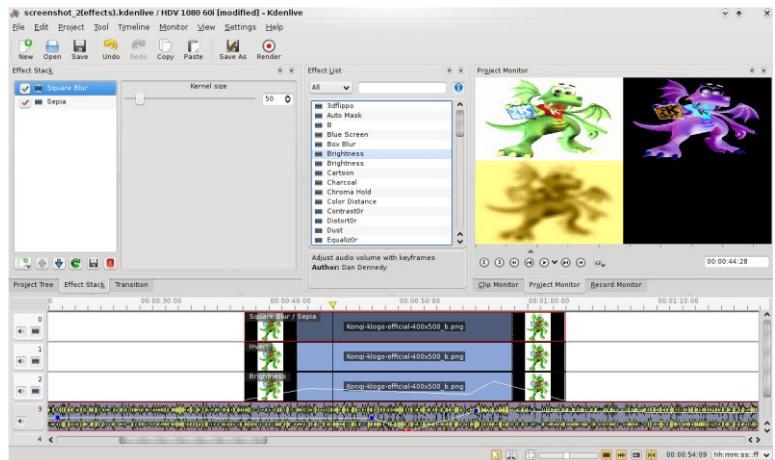
Front-end for the GNU Compiler Collection.

Front-end for the GNU Debugger.

Wizards for generating and updating class definitions and application framework.

Automatic code completion (C/C++).

Built-in Doxygen support.



Revision control (also known as SCM) support. Supported systems include CVS, Subversion, Perforce and ClearCase.

KDevelop 3 is a completely plugin-based architecture. When a developer makes a change, they only have to compile the plugin. There is a possibility to keep several profiles each of which determines which plugins to be loaded. KDevelop does not come with a text editor, but instead uses a plugin for this purpose as well. KDevelop is programming language-independent and build system-independent, supporting KDE, GNOME, and many other technologies such as Qt, GTK+, and wxWidgets.

KDevelop has a variety of supported languages, including C, C++, Perl, Python, PHP, Java, Fortran, Ruby, Ada, Pascal, SQL, and Bash scripting. Supported build systems include GNU (automake), cmake, qmake, and make for custom projects (KDevelop does not destroy your own Makefiles if that's what you want to use) and scripting projects which don't need one. Code completion is available for C and C++. Symbols are kept in a Berkeley DB file for quick lookups without re-parsing.

KDevelop also offers a developer framework which helps to write new parsers for other programming languages.

An integrated debugger lets you graphically do all the debugging with breakpoints and backtraces. It even works with dynamically loaded plugins unlike command line GDB.

Quick Open allows quick navigation between files.

Currently, 50 to 100 plugins exist for the IDE. Major ones include persistent project-wide code bookmarks, Code abbreviations which let you quickly expand text, a Source formatter which reformats your code to a style guide before it is saved, Regular expressions search, and project-wide search/replace which helps with refactoring code.

Kontact

Kontact - Personal information manager featuring an e-mail client, a news client, a feed aggregator, To-do lists and more.

Kontact suite unites mature and proven KDE PIM applications under one roof. Thanks to the powerful Kpart technology, existing applications are seamlessly integrated into one.

The components of KDE Kontact are tailored to work well with each other. This results in features like intuitive drag-and-drop between appointment handling, task lists and contacts. KDE Kontact supports various groupware servers. When using these servers your workgroup has access to features like shared email folders, group task lists, calendar sharing, central addressbooks and meeting scheduling.

In short: KDE Kontact delivers innovations to help you manage your communications more easily, organize your work faster and work together more closely, resulting in more productivity and efficiency in digital collaboration.



Kontact embeds the following

Email

KMail is the e-mail client of the KDE desktop environment.

It supports folders, filtering, viewing HTML mail, and international character sets. It can handle IMAP, dIMAP,[2] POP3, and local mailboxes for incoming mail. It can send mail via SMTP or sendmail.

KMail uses two special filters to provide a modular access to spam-filtering programs:

Send this e-mail to a program allows any program to be specified, and when that KMail filter is activated, the program will be run and supplied with the contents of the e-mail as its standard input.

Pipe this e-mail through a program not only sends the e-mail to a specified program, but replaces the e-mail with the output of that program. This allows the use of systems such as SpamAssassin which can add their own headers to a piece of e-mail.

These modular filters can be combined with text filters to detect (for example) e-mail which has been flagged by SpamAssassin by looking for the special headers it added.

KMail allows manual filtering of spam directly on the mail server, a very interesting feature for dial-up users. Emails that exceed some threshold size (standard is 50 kb, but it may be set any value) are not automatically copied to the local computer. With "get, decide later, delete" options, KMail lists them but does not download the whole message, which allows the deletion of spam and over-sized messages without wasting time.

Cryptographic support

KMail's built-in encryption and signature support

KMail supports the OpenPGP standard and can automatically encrypt, decrypt, sign, and verify signatures of email messages and its attachments via either the inline or OpenPGP/MIME method of signing/encryption. KMail depends on GnuPG for this functionality. As a visual aid, KMail will colour verified email messages green for trusted signatures; yellow for untrusted signatures; red for invalid signatures; and blue for encrypted messages.

KMail also supports S/MIME messages as well as Chiasmus,[3] a proprietary cryptographic system created by the German Federal Office for Information Security (BSI).

Address Book

KAddressBook is a graphical interface to organizing the addresses and contact information of family, friends, business partners, etc. It integrates with KDE, allowing interoperability with other KDE programs, including the e-mail client KMail – allowing one-click access to composing an e-mail – and the instant messenger Kopete – showing the online status of and easy access to instant messaging contacts. It can be synchronized with other software or device using Kitchensync and OpenSync.

A contact may be classified into customizable categories, such as Family, Business, or Customer. Many of the fields can have multiple entries, for example, if the contact has several e-mail addresses. A contact's fields are separated into four tabs and one tab for custom fields.

Features

Exports and imports cards to and from vCard format., Uses DBUS to interface with other applications., Interoperable with KMail and Kopete, as well as Kontact., Customize fields and categories., Automatic formatting of names., Filter ability, to search for addresses., Capability to query an LDAP database, containing person information.,

KOrganizer

KOrganizer is the personal organizer of the KDE desktop environment. It has the ability to manage calendars, journals, and a to do list.

News Feed Aggregator

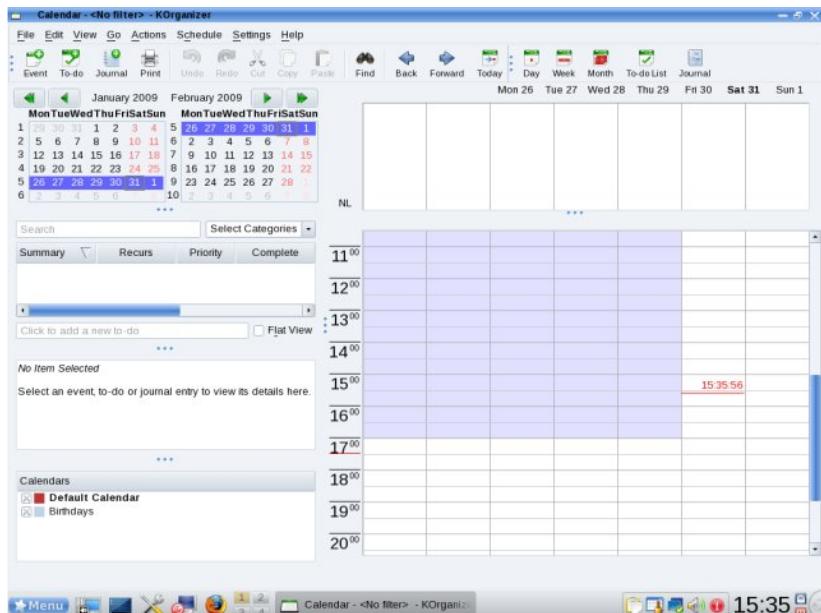
Akregator

Akregator is an open source feed aggregator which is part of KDE. It supports both RSS and Atom. Feeds can be sorted into categories.

Akregator will aggregate all feeds in a particular category into a single list of new entries so that, for example, all news in the category "Politics" can be shown in one list. It has an incremental search feature for the titles of all the entries in its database.

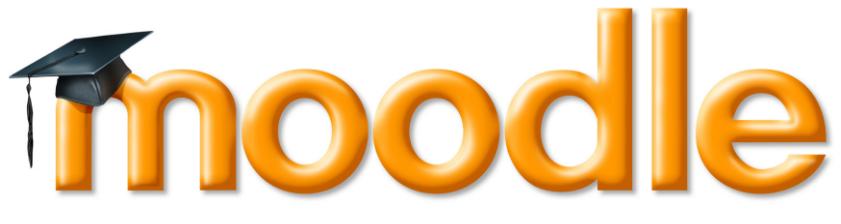
Akregator can be configured to fetch feeds within regular intervals. The user can also manually request to fetch all feeds, individual ones, or those in a selected category. It supports feed icons and embeds KHTML as an internal, tabbed web browser. Any external browser can also be called.

Akregator is part of KDE since the 3.4 release, and it is distributed with the kdepim module.



Moodle Localization to Dhivehi

5T4LkER



By the year 2007, Maldives College of Higher Education (MCHE) had an e-learning and management system implemented in its faculties, in a service called Gateway to E-learning at MCHE (GEM). GEM is a Moodle academic system. And Moodle is an open source web application; an open source academic software.

With its implementation, GEM allowed lecturers to upload their study resources (such as lectures, tutorials and assignments) on to the application so that these resources are always available to their students for download. Students could conveniently submit their assignments and tutorials online through GEM. The lecturers then give respective feedback and grades to the students according to their work. GEM also features messaging and forums through which students and lecturers could discuss their lessons. There are more features of Moodle that are made available to its users through GEM.

Up until October 2009, GEM (Moodle) was used in English and Arabic in the faculties of MCHE. For instance, in Faculty of Management and Computing (FMC), GEM was used in English and it was used in Arabic in Faculty of Shariah and Law. By this time, GEM was in need of a more local touch.

Unlike other faculties of MCHE, Faculty of Arts (FA) offered Dhivehi courses (like Dhivehi Degree) that were taught in Dhivehi. The lecturers and students of FA were eager to use GEM, but they found it difficult to use it in English; they wanted GEM to be able to run in Dhivehi. And that is exactly what was done.

In July 2009, the final semester students of Bachelor of Information Technology (BIT) in

FMC were doing their final year projects. One of these projects was Dhivehi Moodle. The project was initiated by the Centre for Open Learning (COL) and was to be implemented in FA. The objective of this project was to develop a Dhivehi language pack for Moodle, integrate that language pack in GEM and implement Dhivehi GEM (Dhivehi Moodle) in FA. The project team consisted of three students of the BIT course – Amir Hussein, Ahmed Shareef and Moosa Ali.

Moodle, from the very beginning, was developed to support multiple languages. All the text in the Moodle interface and help files are packed into language packs. In order to enable Moodle's use in Dhivehi, the project team had to translate the default English Moodle language pack into Dhivehi. The language pack contained PHP files which stored the Moodle interface and help text in several text or string variables. Some of these strings were as short as a "No" and others as long as huge paragraphs. The project team translated these English texts into Dhivehi, thereby completing the Dhivehi Moodle language pack.

Once the language pack was completed, the team performed several tests to check whether the language pack worked in Moodle as needed. They corrected all the problems they found and finalized the language pack. On 13th October 2009, the Dhivehi Moodle language pack was integrated in GEM.

After this successful integration, the project team moved on to train the lecturers and students of FA to use GEM in Dhivehi. Once these training sessions were completed, it was approved by the lecturers and students of FA and they started using Dhivehi GEM in their academic processes. As for COL, they were very happy with the outcome.



The Dhivehi language pack was approved by Moodle and is made available for download on the Moodle website. This language pack could be used by anyone who wishes to run their Moodle applications in Dhivehi.

There are currently 4 Moodle websites (service sites) active in the Maldives. Moodle is used worldwide in universities, colleges and high schools. It is also used by businesses to train their staff and also their customers.

More About Moodle...

Moodle is an Open Source Course Management System (CMS), also known as a Learning Management System (LMS) or a Virtual Learning Environment (VLE). It has become very popular among educators around the world as a tool for creating online dynamic web sites for their students. To work, it needs to be installed on a web server somewhere, either on one of your own computers or one at a web hosting company.

The focus of the Moodle project is always on giving educators the best tools to manage and promote learning, but there are many ways to use Moodle:

- Moodle has features that allow it to scale to very large deployments and hundreds of thousands of students, yet it can also be used for a primary school or an education hobbyist.
- Many institutions use it as their platform to conduct fully online courses, while some use it simply to augment face-to-face courses (known as blended learning).
- Many of our users love to use the activity modules (such as forums, databases and wikis) to build richly collaborative communities of learning around their subject matter (in the social constructionist tradition), while others prefer to use Moodle as a way to deliver content to students (such as standard SCORM packages) and assess learning using assignments or quizzes.

The screenshot shows a Moodle-based website for 'EdNA Groups Game Maker'. The left sidebar includes links for Participants, Sub-Groups, Edit profile, Chats, Choices, Forums, Glossaries, Resources, and Wikis. The main content area displays several course sections: 'Welcome' (with a cartoon character icon), 'News forum', 'Digital Games Chat', 'Open Social Forum', 'Background Survey' (with a person icon), and 'Get started'. A calendar for April 2005 is shown with specific dates highlighted. The footer indicates the user is Roland Gesthuizen.

Requirements

Moodle is primarily developed in Linux using Apache, MySQL and PHP (also sometimes known as the LAMP platform). It is also regularly tested with Windows XP/2000/2003 (WAMP), Solaris 10 (Sparc and x64), Mac OS X and Netware 6 operating systems. Support for PostgreSQL, Oracle and Microsoft SQL Server is also available.

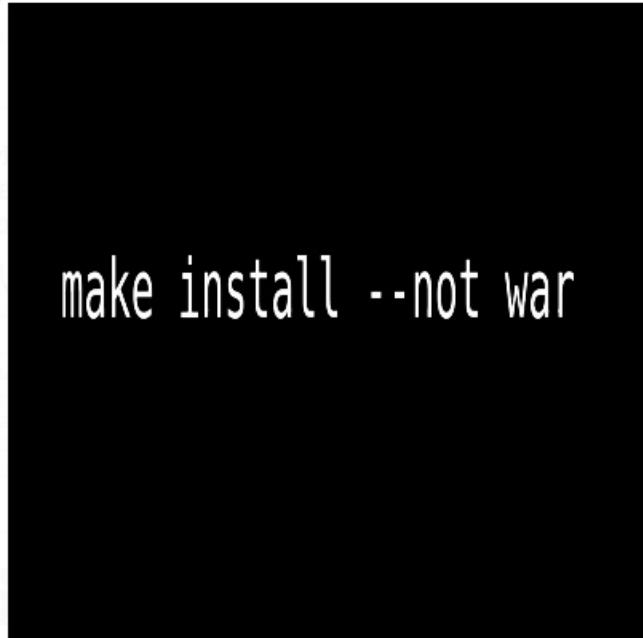
Disk space: 160MB free (min). You will require more free space to store your teaching materials.

Memory: 256MB (min), 1GB (recommended). The general rule of thumb is that Moodle can support 50 concurrent users for every 1GB of RAM, but this will vary depending on your specific hardware and software combination.

<http://moodle.org/>

Building From Source Tar Files

Inash Zubair



This how to shows how ".tar.gz" files are used in general and what they are. We received an email request from one of the readers asking for an article on how to work with ".tar.gz" files and how applications distributed in tar files can be installed and made use of.

Basically ".tar.gz" files or simply called a "tar file" or "tarball" is an archive format. It usually comes compressed in a format available generally on a GNU/Linux system such as gzip, bzip2 or lzma. A command line program called "tar" exists for the purpose of creating and handling tar files. Simply put, a ".tar.gz" file serves the same purpose as the ".zip" archive format.

Typically GNU/Linux programs are distributed in this format. Most follow the convention of using "program-name_1.0.1_src.tar.gz" for the source code archive and "program-name_1.0.1.tar.gz" for the binary compilation.

Let's begin with using these files on the latest version of Ubuntu. We'll also download a small tool as a sandbox to have a look at how programs are built on these platforms from source code. At this point, it is necessary to know how to distinguish source tar files from binary tar files. That way, it would be convenient to learn earlier if a binary package is already generated for the distribution you're using. For example, on Debian and Ubuntu derivatives, programs are packaged as ".deb" files. Which means that you do not need to download the source tar ball, extract it, configure and build it from scratch.

Let's download a small utility that let's you test the performance of websites. The tool is developed and provided by HP systems. You can download the source code at

<http://httpperf.googlecode.com/files/httpperf-0.9.0.tar.gz>.

Once done navigate to the downloaded folder from the command line, eg: /home/user/Downloads/. Issue the following commands to extract it and going about building it. Note that this is a very primitive way of building most programs on GNU/Linux and it should almost be the same for most programs out there.

```
tar -zvxf httpperf-0.9.0.tar.gz  
cd httpperf-0.9.0  
mkdir build  
cd build  
../configure  
make  
sudo make install
```

Let's go through what's happening above. The first line runs the "tar" program which handles tar files. The second part "-zvxf" are command line options which tells the tar program what to do. The third argument is the name of the tar file to perform the actions on. You can do the same by right clicking on the file with the Gnome file browser (Nautilus) and selecting "Extract Here".

The command line options are:

z: filter the archive through gzip. Since the tar file is compressed with the gzip compression format, which is indicated by the second file extension of ".gz".
x: extract files from an archive.
v: verbosely list files processed (optional). This displays a list of the files that are in the archive and which were extracted.
f: use archive file or device. The argument following the options. In our case, the third argument, name of the file.

A screenshot of a terminal window titled 'yusuf@yusuf-desktop: ~'. The window displays the usage and options for the 'tar' command. The text includes examples like 'tar -cf archive.tar foo bar' and 'tar -xvf archive.tar'. It also lists main operation modes (-A, -c, -d, -r, -t, -u, -x) and operation modifiers (-A, -c, -d, -r, -t, -u, -x). The terminal window has a standard Linux-style interface with a title bar, menu bar, and scroll bars.

Now if you do an "ls" or browse to the Downloads folder on your system through Nautilus, you will find a folder named "httpperf-0.9.0".

The second command "cd" changes the current working directory to the newly extracted directory. We then create a folder named "build" with the third command. We change into that newly created "build" directory with the fourth command.

The fifth command is special, in that it configures the source code to be built for your specific distribution. Since different systems have different types of file system standards and different environments, the configure script knows much about the differences and prepares things appropriately.

The sixth command actually tells the system to start compiling the source code to create binary files that can be executed on the system. At this point if you view the "build" directory you will find new files and a "src" folder. If you navigate to the "src" folder, you will find different intermediary build files used by the "make" program and the actual executable named "httpperf". We can run the program here by issuing "./httpperf -help". It will run and display the help information for the program.

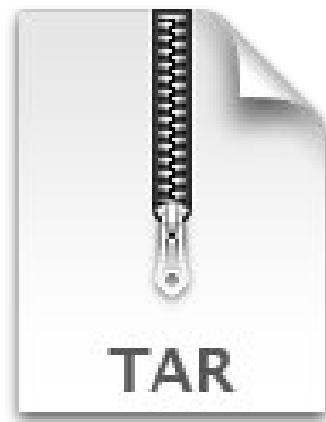


The last line is also special in that it actually copies the necessary files to the system paths. It installs the executable in the system's locally built binaries directory "/usr/local/bin/", same for the "idleconn" program and finally installs the man (manual page) in "/usr/local/share/man/man1/", which can be viewed by executing "man httpperf" on the command line.

There you have it. You've successfully built and installed a program on your system. Now at anytime, you can run the "httpperf" program from your command line. This is a typical program build process as mentioned before. It can simply be uninstalled by executing "sudo make uninstall" from the same build directory ("~/home/user/Downloads/httpperf-0.9.0/build/").

Now for the difference between a binary tar file. You can extract any type of ".tar.gz" file with the first command as mentioned above. If you list the files extracted with the command "ls -l" it will display the directory in a list fashion with the file permissions, owner, group, file size and the date modified as columns. If there are any files that are in bold or with the an "x" in the file permission block, the file can be executed. All you have to do is type in the command "./program-name" and the program will get executed. A none source tarball will not have the "configure" script and files like "install" or "Makefile.*".

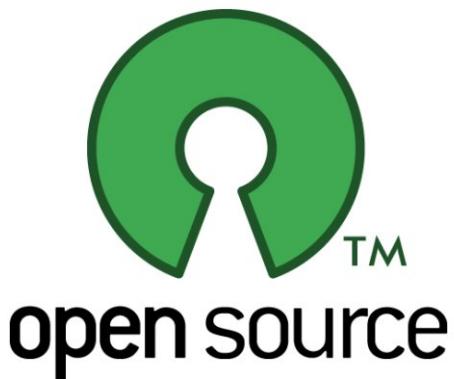
You can find more about working with tar files by doing a search on the web, which will land you with different sites and weblogs which shares on how you can go about working with tar files as well as building and running programs distributed in tar files.



Top 5 Open Source Applications

Haris

Open Source organizations are non-profit organizations made up of volunteer developers who release free software. In general open source refers to any program whose source code are available for free to modify and use them. Open Source developers believe that the users should have the freedom to control the data. Even though Open Source roots are in UNIX Operating Systems, there are many Open Source Software available for Windows as well. There are thousands of Open Source Software which can replace commercial ones. In this Article I will include my favorite Open Source applications.



Why Open Source?

Access to code

Better Software Secure

FREE Open Standards

Stability Community Effort

because

Open Source Matters!



OpenOffice.org

OpenOffice.org is the alternative for Microsoft Office. It's developed by Sun Microsystems with contributing developers. OpenOffice is available for Windows & Linux Operating Systems.

The primary applications of OpenOffice consist of Writer (word processor), Calc (spreadsheets), Impress (presentations), Base (databases), Draw (vector graphics editor) and Math (mathematical formula editor, similar to Microsoft Equation Editor).

Download: <http://openoffice.org/>



Mozilla Firefox

Firefox is the most light-weight and unique web browser available in the market which is available for Windows, Linux & Macintosh.

Firefox is unique on its own way, over thousands of themes and extensions are available. There is no reason not to use Firefox. It's painless and most configurable browser. Use Firefox to experience the real web.

Paid-for version: Microsoft Internet Explorer.

Download: <http://mozilla.com/firefox>

**Pidgin (Instant Messenger)**

Pidgin is an open source IM Client which supports multiple IM Networks. Pidgin is a all-in-one lightweight instant messenger which supports popular IM Networks such as MSN, Yahoo, AIM, IRC.

Pidgin can be used very effectively on computers with limited RAM and Storage.

Commercial Versions: Windows Live Messenger, Yahoo Messenger!, AIM

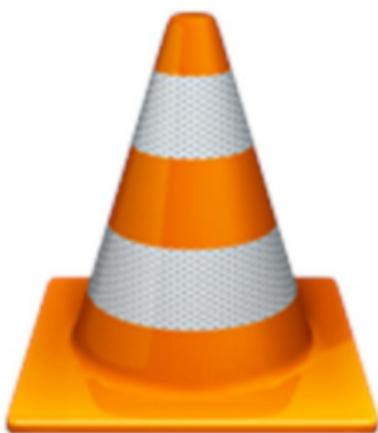
Download: <http://pidgin.im>

**GIMP (Image Manipulation Tool)**

GIMP is an Image Manipulation Tool and a great software to create Digital Images, Edit Photos etc. It's the open-source alternative for Adobe Photoshop. GIMP is available for Linux & Windows Operating Systems.

Commercial Version: Adobe Photoshop.

Download: <http://gimp.org>

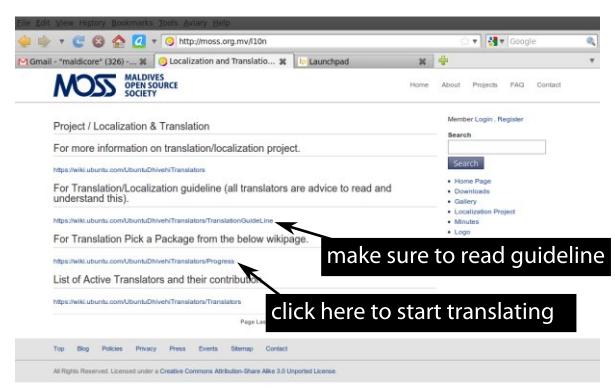
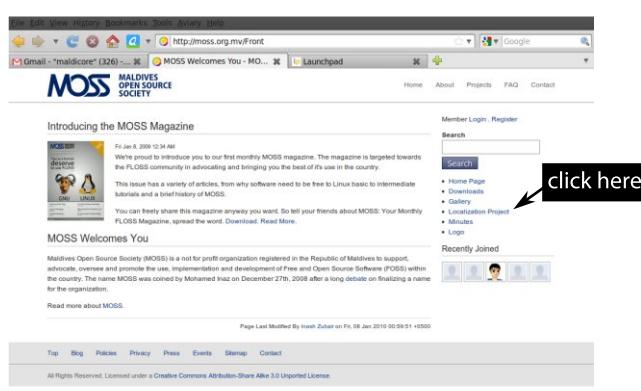
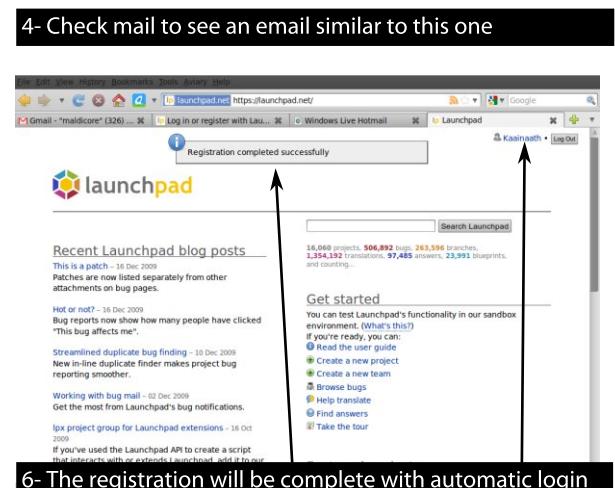
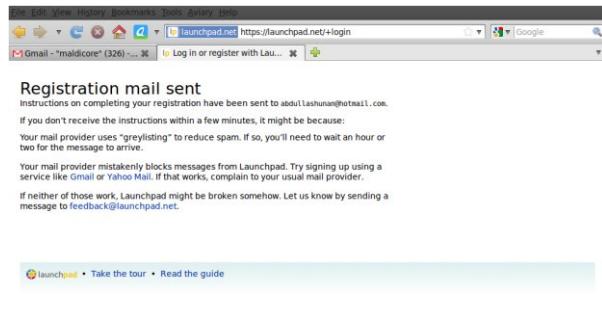
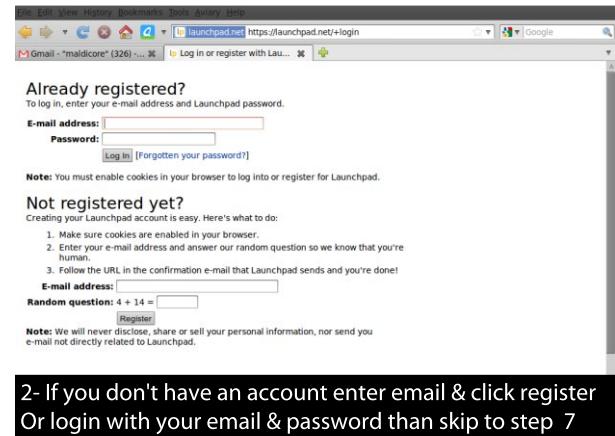
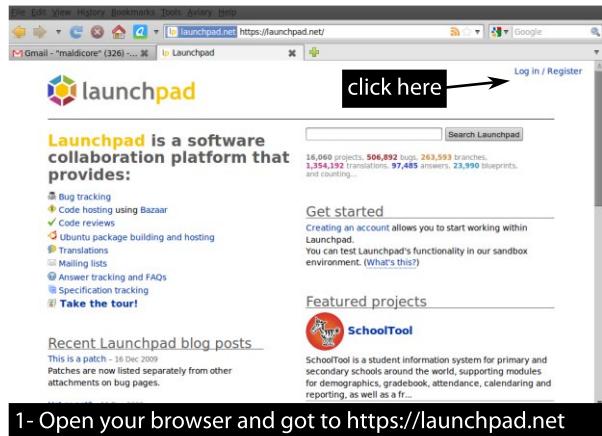
**VLC Media Player (VideoLAN)**

VLC Player is one of the most popular media player on the market which is available for Windows, Linux & Mac OS.

VLC is lightweight (Highly Portable), It doesn't require any other codec to run and It supports most audio and video formats. Most of the people use VLC as their movie player and It's one of the best player to watch HD/HQ (High Definition/High Quality) Files.

Download: <http://videolan.org>

Join the LaunchPad for Translation



Ubuntu Dhivehi Localization Progress

Package	Location	untranslated	updated
alacarte	https://translations.launchpad.net/ubuntu/karmic/+source/alacarte/	Completed	18-Jan-2010
brasero	https://translations.launchpad.net/ubuntu/karmic/+source/brasero/	975	18-Jan-2010
Deskbar Applet	https://translations.launchpad.net/ubuntu/karmic/+source/deskbar-applet/	351	18-Jan-2010
ekiga	https://translations.launchpad.net/ubuntu/karmic/+source/ekiga/	667	18-Jan-2010
Eye of GNOME	https://translations.launchpad.net/ubuntu/karmic/+source/eyeog/	298	18-Jan-2010
Evince	https://translations.launchpad.net/ubuntu/karmic/+source/evince/	325	18-Jan-2010
evolution	https://translations.launchpad.net/ubuntu/karmic/+source/evolution/	4473	18-Jan-2010
evolution-data-server	https://translations.launchpad.net/ubuntu/karmic/+source/evolution-data-server/	1039	18-Jan-2009
evolution-exchange	https://translations.launchpad.net/ubuntu/karmic/+source/evolution-exchange/	197 of 197	08-Jun-2009
evolution-webcal	https://translations.launchpad.net/ubuntu/karmic/+source/evolution-webcal/	30 of 30	08-Jun-2009

9- Just pick a package

Translations for brasero in Ubuntu Karmic

Language	Status	Untranslated	Need review	Changed	Last Edited	By
Divehi	97%	—	—	—	2009-06-09	[Choose Preferred Languages... — View Template & All Languages...]

click here to start translating

10- Here I am about to translate package 'brasero'

Translations licensing by Kaainaath

When you make a translation in Launchpad, it's available for use by all projects that use Launchpad.

To let the maximum number of projects benefit from this, we ask that you agree to license all your translations under the **BSD license**. If you change your mind later, you can return to this page ("Translations licensing") at any time.

If you do not agree to the BSD license, you will not be able to make translations in Launchpad.

For more about why we ask this from you, see our [translations licensing FAQ](#).

I would rather:

- License all my translations in Launchpad under the BSD license
- Not make translations in Launchpad

click here

11- If it is your first time, agree to the BSD license

12- Just go ahead and translate...

click here to start translating

text to translate

translated text

click here to save

13- When done, scroll to bottom of the page to save...
If you enjoy translating consider joining the team...

join the team

14- If you enjoy translating, consider joining the Team

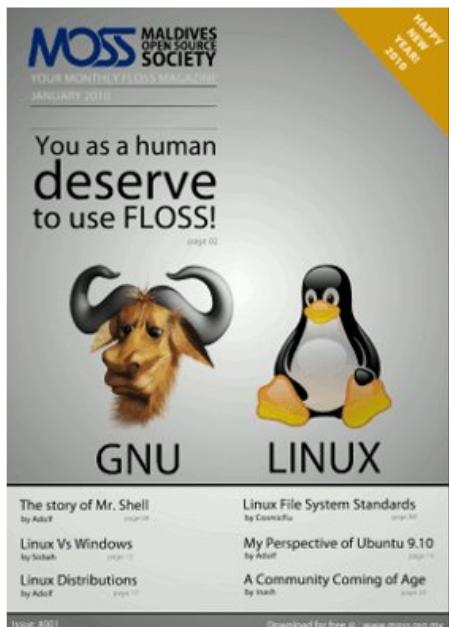
join or Cancel

15- click the Join button to join the team

happy Translating!

16- welcome to Ubuntu Dhivehi Translators Team

The Magazine



This is an idea sprung out from one of our casual coffee meetings. Before I delve into the details of how we came about conceiving this idea, I would like to clearly mention the purpose and goals of the Magazine.

First, the main objective is advocacy and getting the community involved, at least in sharing articles and bits and pieces of information related to free and open source software as well as getting technical articles targeted towards potential developers in the open platforms arena. In this way, the community will slowly begin to grow from self-help to a more community oriented knowledge sharing model. That is when we'll be able to see actual local expertise kick in and which will eventually pave a way for commercial support bases.

The second objective of the Magazine is as a window for MOSS to generate a revenue as a funding source for its various operations. Although we have not held a major public event, I

can proudly say that as much as MOSS have thrived, it has without any financial support. Through selective advertising on the Magazine, we intend to open a window for entities which support FOSS in some way to expose themselves. Not just any entity, as of currently, we're looking for commercial support companies who will or who're looking into embracing open source products and services as a business.

Coming back to the original idea, we were brainstorming about a possible way for MOSS to derive as little as much a revenue for its operations. One of our regular members proposed the idea about the Magazine and was pouring his ideas in about how we'll go about doing it, the kind of advertisements we'll support, etc. After a short while, when the rest of the members started to get the picture, the conversation was bloated off the scale. We then went on to discuss about it for a couple days more, and the topic was finally brought up in one of our weekly meetings which made it initially into the minutes, on 13 December, 2009.

Starting onwards from that specific moment, key members were able to stir up some articles and work on the layout and design of the magazine which came out on 8 January, 2010. It was a huge excitement for us when we first received the draft compilation to glance over the arrangements of what will come out on the final date.

As we speak, some of the dedicated members of the community are still working on writing articles, how-tos,

interviews and experiences to bring together more about FOSS here in the Maldives. The Magazine has become sort of a catalyst for us in our main mission as advocating FOSS.

The Magazine has a guideline on submission of articles from the community. We're yet to work on detailing the policies and processes involved with compiling the Magazine for the community as well as the Magazine committee. We're also looking for editors who might be willing to professionally work with us in doing an editorial for the Magazine as well as who understands or is interested in understanding the FOSS concepts. We're having wild ideas running here and there and would very much like the support from the community to take those ideas to the test.

We're also doubtful about whether we can sustain the Magazine release cycle monthly. It is quite a bit of work, and if we do not receive adequate number of articles by the deadline (end of the month), we just might have to wait another month before releasing one. But we really want to stick to a solid periodical release cycle; monthly, bi-monthly or quarterly; monthly at best.

So in this rant, I wanted to mention about the Magazine and say that this has been one of our very successful projects so far, and it is yet to be seen how far this goes. We're very positive about it and we're giving it our all.

By Inash Zubair
21st January, 2010 01:33 AM

Monthly Summary of MOSS Meetings

January 2010

January 09, 2010

Shared brief views about the launch of the magazine and a bit of success stories that we have heard from the community. Went on discussing about a better framework for managing the magazine work flows and methodologies. How the editorial board show better function, limiting articles for an issue, putting others on queue for following issues, etc. Although much have not yet been finalized, work will be carried on by the magazine team in coordinating in developing a methodology and framework for the magazine.

Discussed on the highlights of the meeting with Mr. Faig of NCIT regarding the Incubator project. New methodology ideas were proposed and shared with Mr. Faig. He mentioned that no parties proposed for the project. He also mentioned that they have to go into a rebid.

Civicom meeting postponed to this week. The meeting is regarding wrapping up the pilot project and preparing a final report on the results of the test migration. A very general consensus that we arrived at was regarding document standards in the government. Civicom had trouble in exchanging documents with other government offices, which was caused by the incompatibilities with the open document formats with other applications. Provided that the parties involved comes to a general understanding of the benefits of open document formats as a standard, an immediate solution would be to adopt an application suite such as open office government wide.

Other ideas that were discussed:

Identify potential good IT departments in the country and connect with them. Advocate FOSS and open standards of constricting to Linux and variants. Introduce Linux Mint to general users instead of just Ubuntu, reasons being it comes bundles with restricted drivers, codecs, etc which needs to be activated and downloaded in Ubuntu and general variants. Take Civicom pilot project experience to lobby MP's. Conduct workshops to educate IT departments about open technologies. Create and share success stories. Get foreign speakers to conduct workshops.

January 16, 2010

Advocacy Presentations

Discussed about preparations needed for the advocacy presentations. Decided that mostly the presentations will be focused towards: advantages of open source developments, and principles of openness and open standards. The presentations targeted towards potential developers will focus on tools and development environments. Presentations needs to be prepared, co-ordinated and kicked off by Sobah and team. Free CDs could be given away after the presentations. Provide leaflets on the localization project.

Presentation proposal has been discussed with Dharumavantha school and they are willing to arrange a presentation during school hours. Weekend events cannot guarantee the attendance of students. Target audience is students who're doing computer science and who're interested in the field. Villa college said they will get back after the 24th when their computing courses resumes. Decided that we'll go ahead in preparing for the Dharumavantha school presentation.

ARC (Advocating the Rights of Children NGO)

Sobah shared about meeting with another NGO called ARC (Advocating the Rights of Children), and have discussed about the requirements of their administration as well as about what MOSS can do for ARC. Sobah has proposed about providing a setup and maintaining systems with Edubuntu collection/gcompris and stuff, at "Kudakudhinge Hiyaa", K, Villingili which ARC supports for fostering the children there. Prepare for an event at Kudakudhinge Hiyaa with Edubuntu boxes, etc.

Other

Civicom meeting postponed for this week. Enable donation through the website. Dedicate 10pm – 11pm for collaborating on the localization project. Collaborate on #moss at freenode.net IRC network. Work on the Language support pack.

January 23, 2010

Reviewed previous meeting minutes. Civicom meeting postponed for this week.

Raised the issue with prioritizing work on developing SOPs (standard operating procedures) and why it's important to do so. We need to have a clearly developed policy on governance and a community code of conduct, like that of which Ubuntu has.

Moodle translators Moosa and Amir joined us. Discussed and shared about their experience about moodle localization. Only the front-end screens have been translated in moodle, leaving the back-end and documentation untranslated.

Meeting with Expertnet Pvt. Ltd on the 21 January, 2010, Ihsan mentioned about Expertnet's support towards FOSS and their willingness to support MOSS in the future in advocating open source in the business community, as well as commercial open source.

Briefed on how MOSS currently operates to the Moodle translators. This indicated that we need to prepare a document detailing a little history about MOSS and how it operates so far.

UNICEF is willing to meet regarding OLPC style idea Jaau proposed for Kudakudhinge Hiyaa, Villingili.

January 30, 2010

Meeting time changed from 9:30 pm to 9:00 pm.

Finalize logo on the 6 February, 2010.

Get some concepts by the day to vote on.

We were joined by Asneem and Hamid from Azimuth Pvt. Ltd who provides integrated business solutions.

They're looking forward for a mutual partnership.

They're looking to adopt FOSS and migrate as much of their infrastructure to FOSS.

Their willing to provide systems for MOSS's public events.

Hamid indicated that the best way to advocate FOSS is through demonstration; side by side demo with Windows.

They proposed to sponsor a small lab.

Their purpose is to adopt Linux and provide their solutions on top of it.

MOSS to provide consultancy, eg: with migration, etc.

Proposed they're ready to sponsor a event as soon as mid march, to showcase FOSS.

Include a Q&A section in the magazine.

Feedback column. Feedback policy, which will be indicated in the columns as well:

Whether the comment should be included in the magazine or not.

Show source. Whether the fields: name, email should be shown or anonymous altogether.

Limit comments to 500 characters.

If a comment is targeted towards an article, the article author should reply, if not the magazine will try to answer.

Author feedback will be published through the magazine.

We don't enforce the above, we encourage.

Main article for an issue will be chosen by the magazine committee.

Shakir mentioned about Maldives Blood Donors requirement to integrate their database with their website and SMS to create a small information system to allow people to retrieve possible candidates for donation. This was a proposal for the members of MOSS. Anyone who's willing to take up on this is welcome to contact Shunam.

Our Mission

MOSS is an initiative to provide a collaborative platform and forum to promote and facilitate Linux and FLOSS. Its members are from the community, civil society, students abroad, professional bodies and businesses who promote the FLOSS concepts. It is aimed to help policy makers, commercial enterprises, and users to take advantage of the benefits of FLOSS. It also facilitates and administers FLOSS based projects like localization and translation of various FLOSS to Dhivehi.

MOSS thrives to promote the use of FLOSS everywhere. By everywhere we mean at Homes, Offices and Businesses. We believe that the use of FLOSS will bring great benefits such as:

- Elevate education and the overall experience by use of open educational systems.
- Increased sharing and collaboration within the community.
- Reduce overall software costs related to purchase and licensing.
- Reduced support costs.
- Empower developers and increase technical expertise.
- Reduce the boundaries that lie between software vendors and users.

Our Vision

Our vision is to empower all people to freely connect, create and share in a digital world that is participatory, transparent, and sustainable.

MOSS Needs Your Help!

This magazine is a result of lot of helping hands and contributions, thank you for it. To keep this alive we need your Articles, Opinions, Open Letters and Stories. We also need Reviews (games, apps & hardware), How-To articles (on any FLOSS subject) and any questions, or suggestions, you may have.

Send them to: magazine@moss.org.mv

**Deadline to send articles for the next release
Sunday, February 28, 2010**

How to Contribute to FLOSS

1. First give a try to FLOSS, see the beauty of freedom.
2. Create awareness with your friends, relatives and interested people.
3. Help others to learn how to use FLOSS.
4. Join MOSS and offer your help.
5. If you are up for it and got the skill you can help in development:
 - 5.1. Contribute by coding.
 - 5.2. Help find bugs and report them.
 - 5.3. Suggest new features, options and improvements.
 - 5.4. Help write documentation and corrections.
 - 5.5. Join the Ubuntu Localization Project.

Mailing Lists

Maldives Linux User Group/MOSS Mailing List
<http://groups.google.com/group/mlugmv>

Launch Pad Dhivehi Translators Mailing List
<http://groups.google.com/group/divtranslators>

Our Steering Committee

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This Magazine was created using FLOSS

GIMP

<http://www.gimp.org/>



GIMP is an acronym for GNU Image Manipulation Program. It is a freely distributed program for such tasks as photo retouching, image composition and image authoring.

It has many capabilities. It can be used as a simple paint program, an expert quality photo retouching program, an online batch processing system, a mass production image renderer, an image format converter, etc.

GIMP is expandable and extensible. It is designed to be augmented with plug-ins and extensions to do just about anything. The advanced scripting interface allows everything from the simplest task to the most complex image manipulation procedures to be easily scripted.

OpenOffice.org

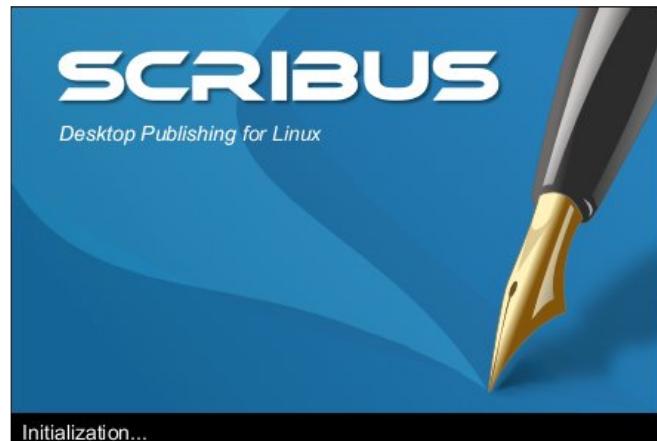
<http://www.openoffice.org/>



OpenOffice.org 3 is the leading open-source office software suite for word processing, spreadsheets, presentations, graphics, databases and more. It is available in many languages and works on all common computers. It stores all your data in an international open standard format and can also read and write files from other common office software packages. It can be downloaded and used completely free of charge for any purpose.

Scribus

<http://www.scribus.net/>



Initialization...

Scribus is an Open Source program that brings award-winning professional page layout to Linux/UNIX, Mac OS X, OS/2 Warp 4/eComStation and Windows desktops with a combination of "press-ready" output and new approaches to page layout. Underneath the modern and user friendly interface, Scribus supports professional publishing features, such as CMYK color, separations, Spot Colors, ICC color management and versatile PDF creation.

Ubuntu 9.10 Karmic Kola

<http://www.ubuntu.com/>



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