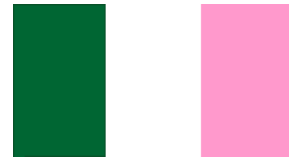


Technology News Headlines

- Red Hat settles lawsuit with Firestar.
- Western Digital unveils 1TB drive.
- SanDisk launches solid-state drives for low-cost PCs.
- Yahoo plans to sell display ads on Walmart.com.
- Google Sites offers free Web Site Hosting.
- Microsoft releases 7 security bulletins and patches.
- France urges ISP's to help block child pornography.
- Linux Mint 5 Elyssa R1 released.
- Russian President Dmitry Medvedev calls for Russia to be assigned an Internet domain name in the Cyrillic script.
- Firefox 3 Web browser scheduled for release tomorrow.
- Opera Software on Thursday released the latest version of its browser - Opera 9.5
- Yahoo Inc and Google Inc has reached a search and advertising deal, but talks between Yahoo and Microsoft about a similar deal have fallen through

Two Bit Press



“Two bits” is an expression meaning a quarter. It dates from the American colonial days, when the dominant unit of currency was the Spanish Doubloon. As a way of making change, these coins were cut into eight pie-slice shaped pieces, called bits, and two bits made a quarter of a Doubloon.



The Pink, White and Green

- Originated in St. John's in 1843.
- Oldest flag in continuous use in BNA.
- The only flag worldwide that uses the colour pink.

In This Issue

June 16, 2008 (Two Bit Press)

- Canada's New Copyright Laws
- Worlds Fastest Computer
- Newsgroup Round-up
- One Laptop Per Child
- Windows XP Maintenance
- Linux
- Open Source Software
- More

<p><i>Linux Mint Elyssa Arrives</i> <i>June 16, 2008 (Two Bit Press)</i></p> <p>I just downloaded the latest release from Linux Mint – one of my favorite OS’s. The install went smoother than even the last release. It was a breeze. Here are my notes:</p> <p>There is a new Mint tool called mintBackup added to Elyssa.</p> <p>The network autobrowsing feature was removed from mintDesktop.</p> <p>MintUpdate now makes better use of memory.</p> <p>All Mint tools now comply with the Gnome Human Interface Guidelines.</p> <p>The Linux Mint tools have been internationalized and are being actively translated by the community. There are now 11 languages supported.</p> <p>Linux Mint 5 Elyssa is supported by CNR.com, which features commercial services and applications, which are not available via the traditional channels.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Advertisement</p> <p style="text-align: center;"> <small>This space available for Advertising</small> <small>This space available for Advertising</small> This space available for Advertising This space available for Advertising <small>This space available for Advertising</small> <small>This space available for Advertising</small> </p> <hr/> <p><i>Worlds Fastest Computer</i> <i>June 16, 2008 (Two Bit Press)</i></p> <p>WASHINGTON (AP) – Monday, scientists unveiled the world's fastest supercomputer, a multi-million machine that can perform 1,000 trillion calculations – or flops – per second.</p> <p>Called Roadrunner, it is twice as fast as the IBM Blue Gene system.</p> <p>The computer also has a wide range of applications in civilian engineering, medicine and science.</p> <p>The processor is comprised of 6,948 dual-core memory chips and has 80 terabytes of memory.</p> <p>Housed in a 6,000 sq ft space, it has 57 miles of fibre optics cabling and weighs 500,000 lbs.</p> <p>Roadrunner cost \$100 million.</p> <p>The Roadrunner computer, now housed at the IBM research laboratory in Poughkeepsie, New York, will be moved next month to the Los Alamos National Laboratory in New Mexico.</p>
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Canada's New Copyright Laws*June 16, 2008 (Two Bit Press)*

Canadians would be permitted to copy legally acquired music to their iPods or computers but banned from getting around any digital locks.

Continue to exempt Internet service providers from liability for copyright violations but must pass on any notice of violation.

Allow consumers to record television and radio programs for playing back. It does ban people from keeping them as part of a personal library.

Reduces individual liability to \$500 from a maximum of \$20,000 for making illegal copies.

Penalties up to C\$20,000 per infringement would apply if digital locks were circumvented.

It illegal to provide, sell or import the hacking tools used to circumvent digital locks.

Linux Monitor**Linux Mint 5 Elyssa Light Edition**

The purpose of the Light Edition is to bring a version of Linux Mint, which doesn't contain any proprietary software, patented technologies or support for restricted formats. In some countries where the legislation allows software patents to be enforced distributors can be exposed to potential patent threats. The Light Edition provides a safer way to distribute Linux Mint by removing patent-encumbered components.

These components are not present: Macromedia Flash, support for encrypted DVDs, Windows codecs, support for restricted multimedia formats, Unrar and Sun Java is replaced by GIJ

Technical Corner*June 16, 2008 (Two Bit Press)***What is NAS?**

Network Attached Storage (NAS) is a term used to describe a disk storage system, which is designed to attach to a data network. Its purpose is to act as an inexpensive central file server.

This differentiates Network Attached Storage devices from SAN's (Storage Area Networks). A SAN is a **separate** network to which storage devices are attached.

In most cases, Network Attached Storage is less expensive to purchase and less complex to operate than a Storage Area Network. However, a SAN can provide better performance and a larger range of configuration options.

Protocols

NAS servers commonly support NFS (Network File System) and CIFS (Common Internet File System). CIFS is based on SMB developed by IBM and Microsoft to accommodate DOS.

They may also support other storage protocols, such as FTP, SCP and HTML.

NAS servers are typically attached to a network through an Ethernet connection. NAS devices can be connected to a Fibre Channel networks, as well.

NAS devices can utilize SCSI (Small Computer Systems Interface) internally, or can be designed around ATA disks.

Linux

June 16, 2008 (Two Bit Press)

Germany and Linux

The German government on Monday said it is moving to standardize on Linux and an open-source IT model at the federal, state and communal levels.

As part of this move it has signed a contract of support with IBM that will facilitate moving its agencies to Linux and help develop innovative IT solutions based on open standards.

"Linux offers the best potential as an alternative to Windows for server operating systems to reach more heterogeneity in the area of software. The fact that we have an alternative to Windows with Linux gives us more independence as a large software customer and is a major contribution to the economic use of IT in the administration," he said.

Big Blue has long been touting a Linux and open-source model to the German government, which expressed a desire to move away from proprietary solutions to open source, the spokeswoman said. This is, however, a non-exclusive agreement, she confirmed, declining to estimate its value or say how long it will be in effect.

The contract with IBM meets three key targets for the German government: "We raise the level of IT security by avoiding monocultures, we lower the dependency on single software vendors, and we reach costs savings in software and operation costs," he said.

The move will benefit not only the Federal Republic, but also the states and communities, which, for the first time, can now quickly and simply get hold of open-source systems, he said.

The IBM spokeswoman said the German government's move to Linux is just the latest of more than 75 government customers who are already using IBM Linux solutions.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture, the Federal Aviation Administration, the U.S. Department of Energy, the U.S. Air Force and Pinellas County, Fla., are all using Linux, as are agencies in the governments of China, Singapore and Australia.

"As part of a pilot using the Linux operating system, the FAA plans to use Linux for several key applications, including disaster recovery, network monitoring and troubleshooting, Web serving, file sharing, and data mining," she said. "These Linux applications are hosted by the USDA National Information Technology Center, with support from IBM Global Services, running on an IBM Linux mainframe and the WebSphere platform."

Pinellas County is using an IBM mainframe and WebSphere software running on Linux to create an index that houses more than 20 million entries for quick online searches, she said.

Monday's announcement follows just days after Linux developers Caldera International Inc., Conectiva S.A., SuSE Linux AG and Turbolinux Inc. announced they are working on creating a unified distribution that would herald a new era of standardization for the open-source operating system and could help drive it further into the enterprise.

- Two Bit Press

One Laptop Per Child

June 16, 2008 (Two Bit Press)

The Windows version of the OLPC XO will go on sale by September

Microsoft and the One Laptop Per Child (OLPC) initiative announced Thursday that the Windows operating system would soon be available on the XO. Executives remarked that this would be a shift in perception and market success for the laptop intended for the poor children of the world.

OLPC has for several years unsuccessfully attempted to get governments to buy the laptop. Governments have so far put in firm orders for a total of 600,000 machines, and several hundred thousand are now in use. The greatest number is in Peru, followed by Uruguay, Mexico, with fewer in Rwanda, Cambodia, Mongolia and Haiti, among other countries.

Following a series of conversations with Microsoft Chief Research and Strategy Officer Craig Mundie, Microsoft made a key concession. It will enable what's called a "dual boot," which means Windows will work alongside the XO's original Linux operating system.

To get Windows working on the XO took time, because it has a number of unique hardware features, like an e-book reading mode. Microsoft will include its super-cheap \$3 version of Windows and Office called the Student Innovation Suite with the Windows XO, which will thus be a full-fledged Windows NT computer.

With Microsoft applying its entire ecosystem to the task, the XO is far more likely to get traction in countries around the world. The company will recruit its system integrator partners, its own consulting unit, and involve the XO in its teacher

training programs, among other efforts.

Microsoft's Utzschneider says government technology ministers and other leaders have long been attracted to the XO's innovative design, but were also partisans of Windows. They worried, he says, that support would be a problem, and also wanted students to use software they would also be using later in life. These are clearly reasonable concerns.

For all Negroponte's, the innovator behind OLPC, enthusiasm for the new partnership with Microsoft, he admits it "comes at a price." His top deputy Walter Bender quit OLPC in protest, and the open source community, which has been very helpful to the development of the XO, is adamantly opposed to working with Microsoft. Negroponte says that if you accept that the real goal is to get computers into the hands of kids that will help them learn, then "this is a price worth paying."

Negroponte says that despite the project's slower than expected start; it is still generating "enormous" interest around the world. I want to believe him, though his predictions for hundreds of millions of laptops in the field by next year proved to have been far from the mark.

Next week OLPC unveils its plans for the next generation computer, to ship by 2010. Negroponte says it is as radical as the previous version, and will similarly spark imitators and inspire the industry.

There's no question OLPC has had a catalytic effect on the industry so far. With its partnership with Microsoft, it could finally start having the effect Negroponte has always wanted it to have on kids.

- Two Bit Press

Historic Persons

June 16, 2008 (Two Bit Press)

Bio

Bill Gates 1955

William Henry Gates III is an American businessman, philanthropist, the world's third richest man (as of 2008), and chairman of Microsoft, the software company he founded with Paul Allen. During his career at Microsoft, Gates held the positions of CEO and chief software architect, and remains the individual shareholder with the most shares, with more than 9 percent of the common stock.



Gates was born in Seattle, Washington and excelled in school. He enrolled at Harvard College in 1973, where he met Steve Ballmer, who would later become CEO of Microsoft. After reading the January 1975 issue of *Popular Electronics*, Gates contacted Micro Instrumentation and Telemetry Systems and provided them with the Altair BASIC, and thus Microsoft was formed.

This led to a partnership with IBM that required Microsoft to make the BASIC interpreter for the IBM PC. Later on, Gates struck another deal with IBM, allowing IBM to package Microsoft's PC-DOS software with IBM's personal computers in exchange for a fee paid to Microsoft for every computer sold. This deal established Microsoft as a major player in the software industry.

- *Two Bit Press*

Open Source Software

June 16, 2008 (Two Bit Press)

Four developing countries have appealed against the adoption of Microsoft's (MSFT.O) Office Open XML document format as an international standard, the International Organization for Standardization said on Monday.

ISO said in a statement the national standards bodies of Brazil, India, South Africa and Venezuela had appealed against the positive outcome of a vote it held in March after a controversial fast-track ratification process.

It gave no details of the substance of the appeals. At the time of the vote, several parties complained that the discussion and subsequent voting process was muddled and rushed.

Gaining the final ISO stamp of approval would help Microsoft win more public-sector contracts, as some government bodies are nervous about storing archives in a proprietary format.

The adoption of OOXML as an ISO standard will remain on hold until the appeals are resolved, which could take several months, ISO said.

Critics say OOXML is not fully translatable into other document formats, notably the open-source Open Document Format that is already recognized as an international standard.

ISO's secretary-general and the general secretary of the International Electrotechnical Commission are considering the appeals and will submit them to their respective management boards for consideration by the end of the month.

The boards will then decide whether to proceed with the appeals process.

Metro WiFi

June 16, 2008 (Two Bit Press)

OKLAHOMA CITY, Oklahoma (AP) -- When Oklahoma City firefighters received a report that a body had been buried in a shallow grave at Lake Overholser, they consulted detailed topographical maps from the field as they pinpointed where to look.

That wouldn't have been possible without access to the city's new WiFi mesh network, said fire Capt. Jim Kruta, who held a display of the network applications with police and other city officials outside City Hall.

"We pulled up a topographical map and were able to see where the water had receded and where someone might try to bury a body," Kruta said, adding, "We actually did find it."

The \$5 million WiFi network system covers a massive 555-square-mile area and was funded with money from a public safety sales tax and city capital improvement funds.

City officials say it's the largest city-owned and -operated WiFi network in the world.

The network, which is used only for public safety and other city operations, includes 1,200 nodes, or routers, attached to streetlights, utility poles and other spots across the city.

It's structured as a "mesh," meaning that if one node or router goes down, another fills its purpose.

- Courtesy Associated Press

Internet and Newfoundland*June 16, 2008 (Two Bit Press)*

The history of communications and the Internet begins in Heart's Content, Newfoundland and Labrador. The gala event held at the Crystal Palace in New York City marked the successful laying of a telegraph cable from Valencia, Ireland to Hearts Content, Newfoundland.” **Computers and Communications in Newfoundland and Labrador** ", ISBN 978-0-9809643-0-1 has brought the events of the last two centuries together to present a concise view of computers and communications in Newfoundland and Labrador, as well as around the world. The book illustrates the Newfoundland and Labrador experiences with the introduction of computers to the Island. The book has a concise list of advanced computers, research and design projects and clever computer innovations in the Province. Charts, pictures, code and multimedia bring this history to life. The book is complete, with behind the scenes stories of technology in Newfoundland and Labrador, and from the worldwide experiences of the authors of the book. Newfoundland business personalities bring their experiences and stories to this sometimes-humorous tome. The book includes anecdotes from television personalities such as Bob Lewis of CJON Newfoundland and Labrador fame. He spent part of his retirement working as a computer representative at Radio Shack in the Zeller's Mall in St. John's. He was a close friend of Oscar Heirlihy, who was a chief engineer with CJON Television of Newfoundland. Oscar operated a ham radio station in Chamberlains, Conception Bay South. He often had ham radio conversations with the NASA space stations and orbiters from his home there. The road on which he lived is named after him.

Keyboard Dirt*June 16, 2008 (Two Bit Press)***Where the real bugs exist in your computer**

A study has recently shown that the average computer keyboard is dirtier than a toilet seat.

Follow these cleaning methods:

- Tilt the keyboard to a garbage can and brush it so that you eliminate the bulk of the crumbs and dust.
- Use forced air to dislodge the remainder of the dust.
- Clean your keys using a solution of 90 per cent or more alcohol.
- Use a narrow straight edge to scrape any dirt between the keys.
- Use a disinfectant wipe to complete the job.

Question Queue

Why is this provinces ICT private sector not sharing more of the ICT GDP?

Answers to: TwoBitPress@yahoo.ca

Windows XP Maintenance

Here are a few things you can do to speed up your XP/OS up a bit:

Enable DMA


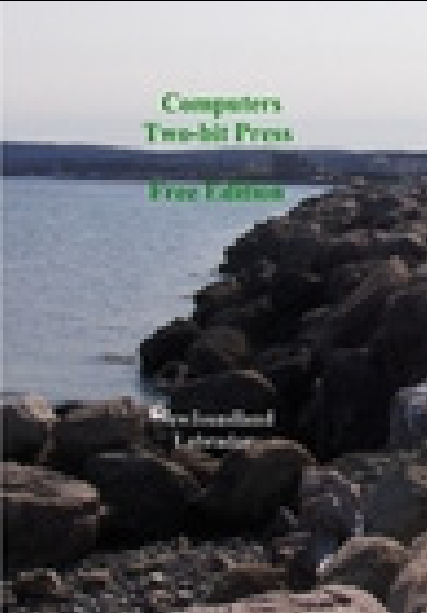



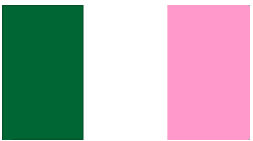
Some Windows XP systems are not configured to use DMA, a mode in which your hard drive bypasses the CPU and accesses memory directly from RAM. DMA enables the CPU to work less and therefore faster. Go to Device Manager (Control Panel | System | Hardware | Device Manager) and look for the IDE ATA Controllers section. Click the Plus sign, and then double-click Primary IDE Channel. Click Advanced Settings. Make sure the DMA option is selected for both Transfer modes. Click OK. Repeat for the Secondary IDE Channel. Click OK.

Convert to NTFS

NTFS (New Technology File System) is, as its name implies, a faster file access method than FAT (File Allocation Table). You can convert to the newer standard even if the hard drive you have is using FAT. Just go to Start, then Run, then type cmd. Type `convert drive_letter: /fs:ntfs` into the command line, where `drive_letter` is the letter for your primary drive. Press Enter. Warnings: Some DOS and older Windows apps can't read an NTFS drive, although there are utilities to overcome that problem. Also, you can't convert back to FAT. Finally, the conversion can take a while, so sit back and count ceiling tiles while you wait.

Disable COM ports

The less Windows XP has to think about, the better. You can disable COM, LPT, and USB ports that you don't use to give your PC a small boost, especially for boot-ups. Just go to Device Manager (Control Panel | System | Hardware | Device Manager), scroll down to Ports, and click the Plus sign. Right-click on a port and select Disable. The same applies to USB ports: Scroll down to the Universal Serial Bus section, click the Plus sign, and disable any ports you don't need..

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