

# Home page of Fred Rooks

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## Feed aggregator

### Some SIGTARP discrepancies

Richard Stallman - Tue, 20/10/2009 - 1:45pm

9 October 2009 ([Some SIGTARP discrepancies](#) )

The new head of the bank bailout program [rebuked various government agencies](#) for lying to the public about the situation when the bailout was started.

### Pakistan forces 'making progress'

Al-Jazeera - Tue, 20/10/2009 - 1:36pm

Military claims early victories as thousands flee South Waziristan fighting.

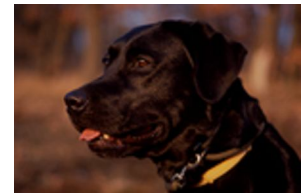
### Civilians hit in Pakistan offensive

Al-Jazeera - Tue, 20/10/2009 - 1:26pm

Al Jazeera has evidence of civilians suffering due to the military's S Waziristan operation.

## Patents Roundup:

## Gallery



## Boycott Novell

- [IRC: #boycottnovell @ FreeNode: October 22nd, 2009](#)
- [Banshee is Novell, Mono, and 'Forbidden' Microsoft Software Patents](#)
- [Sun, Oracle, and Microsoft Roles](#)
- [Seeds of Doubt in Bill Gates Investments](#)
- [Microsoft Employee Wants the Company to Fire 20,000 More Staff](#)

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## Al-Jazeera

- [Guantanamo music use condemned](#)
- [Quake shakes Pakistan, Afghanistan](#)
- [Anger at UK far-right TV appearance](#)
- [White House hits out at Cheney](#)

## Microsoft Patent Tax, FireStar-Red Hat Revisited, US Patent Crisis

Boycott Novell - Tue, 20/10/2009 - 12:46pm

**Summary:** *Microsoft uses ActiveSync to tax competitors; interesting details surface about FireStar's case against Red Hat; the USPTO is challenged for its poor performance*

**BITS** and pieces that appear in the news play a role in the adoption of Free software, even though they are legal issues rather than technical. This post takes an overview.

Microsoft

Microsoft has just found another [ActiveSync victim](#) from which to extract patent tax. With [new licensing deals](#), Microsoft hopes to extract revenue out of patents and other imaginary products. We gave some more ActiveSync examples in [1, 2]. Microsoft basically charges for the use of protocols and [even Android \(Linux\) is harmed by it](#):

DATAVIZ has made available a version of its Roadsync client for Microsoft ActiveSync via Android Market, allowing users of Android phones to link with Exchange email servers.

The Wall Street Journal has [this new article about the patent bill](#). From the opening:

Twelve Republican U.S. senators on Thursday sent a letter to Senate leaders criticizing pending patent legislation, saying the bill "threatens to diminish the value and enforceability of U.S. patent rights."

- [Pakistan fighting sparks exodus](#)

[more](#)



RopleTheme

### Poll

**Which of these females has the lowest IQ?:**

- Zita Červenková
- Tereze Klínerová
- Jana Zmeškalová

[Vote](#)

### Richard Stallman

- [Net Neutrality goes to FCC vote today](#)
- [Midway birds full of human garbage](#)
- [Nightmare in Iraq caused by depleted uranium](#)
- [Run-off to be held in Afghanistan](#)
- [Fake Press Conference leads to shouting match](#)

[more](#)

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The Oct. 15 letter backs criticism against the legislation being levied by independent inventors and academics who argue the bills favor major technology companies. If approved the legislation would be the most sweeping rewrite of federal patent law in 50 years.

Critics say two similar bills now in Congress would broadly make it harder for individuals, universities and start-ups to defend their inventions against companies with deeper pockets.

Microsoft too is mentioned in the full article, which states that "Microsoft and IBM are two of the most active companies involved in filing patents." IBM makes about a billion dollars per year from taxation of competitors and IBM is what the FFII calls a "fake" supporter when it comes to patents. IBM's actions [speak for themselves](#) .

Law.com has [this article about the Eastern District of Texas](#) , which is known as patent trollville. Microsoft is mentioned also:

The story, of course, is also bigger than Powers and Davis. There's the fact that Microsoft is signing off on both the trial strategy and the briefs being filed. That suggests that the big old software company is taking a more aggressive tack in the Eastern District these days, not just backing up its lawyer. After losing a couple of big cases there, it seems like the company is eager to show up a judge who it believes did it wrong. Sort of like in baseball when there's a questionable call and the manager runs out on the field to jaw with the umpire: The purpose is not only to get the call reversed, but to make him think twice the next time.

Red Hat

[\[ + \] Feedback](#)

The FireStar case [[1](#) , [2](#) , [3](#) , [4](#) , [5](#) , [6](#) ] may be old, but the Prior Art Blog

has [some interesting new details](#) about those who were involved:

\* In October 2006, in the lawsuit's early stages, FireStar told Red Hat it wanted \$100 million to settle its patent claims—and Red Hat said “there was nothing left to discuss.”

[...]

After the case was underway, FireStar apparently tired of the patent litigation game. The company was reluctant to make engineers available for deposition because, Foley's brief states, they “were focused on product development rather than the Red Hat case and as a result were not sufficiently responsive.” By December 2007, the bankers at Amphion had agreed to take the suit off FireStar's hands by creating DataTern, a shell company solely focused on patent enforcement that acquired the patent in early 2008. (Amphion also agreed to compensate FireStar for employee time spent on the litigation.) At about the same time, DataTern stopped paying Foley's bills, and turned to IP Nav and its lawyers to press the suit.

Those lawyers—Texas solo Dan Perez and Michigan-based Patrick Anderson, both of whom frequently work for Spangenberg and his patent companies—quickly hammered out the \$4.2 million settlement. The figure, Foley notes, was lower the total litigation budget it had agreed to with FireStar. If the plaintiffs were willing to settle for so little, Foley lawyers Michael Lockerby and Greg Neppi write, a deal could have been struck “without the expenditure of much in the way of legal fees.”

#### Patent Crisis

The following stories ought to speak for themselves:

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- [EFF Challenges VOIP Systems Patent](#)

As part of its Patent Busting Project, the

Electronic Frontier Foundation claims it has discovered a prior patent and published reference material that should invalidate a patent granted to Acceris for implementing VOIP using analog telephones as endpoints.

- [USPTO Removes Rule Changes](#)

The United States Patent and Trademark Office (Office) published a final rule in the Federal Register in August of 2007 to revise the rules of practice for patent cases pertaining to continuing applications and requests for continued examination practices, and for the examination of claims in patent applications (Claims and Continuations Final Rule). The Office is revising the rules of practice in this final rule to remove the changes in the Claims and Continuations Final Rule from the Code of Federal Regulations.

- [Bits and Bytes](#)

\* I am teaching obviousness this week in my introductory patent law course here at the University of Missouri School of Law. The Justice Douglas concurrence in the 1950 A&P case always gives me pause:

- o "The Constitution never sanctioned the patenting of gadgets. Patents serve a higher end—the advancement of science."

- [Are Technology Patents Lost on Jurors?](#)

Attorney Tucker Griffith brainstormed for months about how to best illustrate the inner-workings of his client's patented technology.

[...]

"I've seen judges ask questions that show they're confused," said Menard, who works in areas of electromechanical technology such as hydraulics and pneumatics. "You have 48 minutes of hearings and the judge asks a question that shows they have no clue. Then the

[ + ] [Feedback](#)

lawyers just look at each other and say, 'That was a waste of time.'"

Change is still needed urgently. Can Kappos deliver? ■

## Microsoft Recovers Sidekick Data? Not So Fast!

Boycott Novell - Tue, 20/10/2009 - 12:07pm

**Summary:** *Sidekick data cannot be recovered (not yet) and familiar Microsoft shill Andrew Thomas wrongly blames Linux for this disaster*

THE Sidekick fiasco is one that we covered in:

- [Microsoft Pink is Already Declared Dead and Danger Dies with Permanent Data Loss](#)
- [Microsoft Sued for Data Loss](#)
- [Lawsuits Against Microsoft Turn to Class Action Lawsuit While Microsoft Mobiles Become Dying Breed](#)

In order to dodge the lawsuits, Microsoft would have people convinced that data was rescued, but as The Register [points out](#) , such promises turn into a "farce".

Microsoft played spot the difference over the weekend with statements on Saturday and Sunday that hinted at "steady progress" for the recovery of data its Danger subsidiary lost for many Sidekick customers.

[...]

The fallout was huge and Microsoft scurried to paint a more optimistic picture for Danger's unhappy customers, at the same time some punters threatened legal action against Redmond

[ + ] Feedback

and T-Mobile.

According to the above, promises are everything that Microsoft has at this stage and people are meanwhile locked out of their mail, photos, and contacts. Kelly Fiveash writes that *"the software vendor hasn't actually delivered the goods yet. Instead it seems to be pinning its hopes on that old adage that if you say the same thing for long enough, it might eventually ring true."*

Known [Microsoft shill Andrew Thomas](#) is meanwhile attacking GNU/Linux and blaming it for this Microsoft failure. He uses TG Daily for his preposterous attack (he also attacks the FSF and Firefox from there). In response to the article of this shill, Groklaw points to [this page](#) and adds: *"Since folks have been putting out the idea that it was actually Linux's fault, heh heh, I thought you'd like to know the truth. Danger wrote its own operating system. Proprietary."* It is sad that The Register took the bait from Thomas yesterday.

Another British publication, the BBC, [writes about scareware](#), but 'forgets' that it's a Windows problem.

Online criminals are making millions of pounds by convincing computer users to download fake anti-virus software, internet security experts claim.

At the BBC, it is being assumed that [Windows problems are just "computer problems"](#). It's not so hard to see [why](#).

## Mono, Open Core, and Other Bizarre Forms of Open Source

[Boycott Novell](#) - Tue, 20/10/2009 - 11:39am

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*Free software is not the same as open*

*core*

**Summary:** *Why Mono fits the description of Open Core, which may make it "the New Shareware"*

A LOT has been said since Samba's Jeremy Allison published his opinion about Mono [1 , 2 , 3 , 4 ]. Jason from the Mono-Nono Web site [got around to commenting about it](#) and worth mentioning are the following bits:

In any case, I first started noticing Mr. Allison's responses directly addressing the fallacy of comparing Mono and Samba in the comments to an error-filled attack rant against RMS by Jason Perlow for ZD Net. Although it is certainly "pearls before swine" to attempt to correct Mr. Perlow, Mr. Allison does make his point:

Comparing Mono to Samba is incorrect. Samba has the PFIF agreements, see here for details:

[http://www.samba.org/samba/PFIF/PFIF\\_agreement.html](http://www.samba.org/samba/PFIF/PFIF_agreement.html)

To my knowledge Mono has nothing like this.

[...]

Mr. Allison has now taken the time to address Mono in more detail with a blog entry "Monomania". I encourage you to read it.

I also encourage you to consider all the hoops that Team Mono insists critics people must jump through to criticize Mono, and how Mr. Allison surely meets or exceeds all that I have seen. Yet, I do not see Team Mono accepting his criticism, nor do I see my mailbox filling with acknowledgement that it's not just crazy zealots that have a problem with Mono.

[ + ] [Feedback](#)

Why am I not seeing these things? Because Mono apologists are not honest in their arguments. They like Mono, and



will make any argument they think supports it, and ignore or attack anything that they think weakens it.

It's a song I've sung many times, and this latest wrinkle on Mono == Samba is just one more example of the sloppy reasoning and poor logic behind Team Mono's defenses.

What's interesting about Mono is that, as [the FSF warned](#) , it is divided into "legal" parts (core) and "illegal" parts (those that require Microsoft software patents, such that only Novell customers are covered). It makes Mono very much akin to "open core" rather than "open source". For those who have not followed the heated debate about "open core", Bradley Kuhn from the SFLC [calls it "the New Shareware"](#) and Simon Phipps from Sun Microsystems [commented about it](#) as follows:

Bradley Kuhn's analysis reflects the same conclusions I've reached myself about corporate-aggregated copyright. That's not to say it automatically disqualifies a project as non-Free, but it's the reason I included "diverse copyright ownership" as a criterion on the proposed open source scorecard. As a side-note, Given Bradley's critique of the GPL as "just a tool", surely it's time to see that open source is not the enemy of software freedom and to finally cut the antagonistic rhetoric.

Is it time to say that Mono uses the "open core" model, where only "core" packages are to be seen as legal or gratis? Banshee, for example, is a Novell project that uses some Mono parts that require patents. ■

*"The patent danger to Mono comes from patents we know Microsoft has, on libraries which are outside the C# spec and thus not covered by any promise not to sue. In effect, Microsoft has designed in boobytraps for us.*

*"Indeed, every large program*

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*implements lots of ideas that are patented. Indeed, there's no way to avoid this danger. But that's no reason to put our head inside Microsoft's jaws."*

—Richard Stallman, 2007

## Afghan body to rule on vote fraud

Al-Jazeera - Tue, 20/10/2009 - 11:32am

Election commission assesses findings of fraud in presidential poll amid reports of coalition talks.

## Monsanto: The Microsoft of Food

Boycott Novell - Tue, 20/10/2009 - 11:14am

*"The antitrust litigation currently in the federal courts in the U.S. against Monsanto will be the test case in the life sciences, just as the Microsoft case was the test case in the information sciences."*

—Jeremy Rifkin

**Summary:** *Monsanto's relationship with (and similarity to) Microsoft*

Monsanto is a notorious company which is funded and promoted by the [Gates Foundation](#) . We wrote about it in:

- [Bill Gates Takes His GMO Patent Investments/Experiments to India](#)
- [How the Gates Foundation Privatises Africa](#)
- [Reader's Article: The Gates Foundation and Genetically-Modified Foods](#)

A fairly recent [investigative report](#) looks at what Monsanto is doing and it looks eerily familiar: [via Glyn Moody]

Monsanto already dominates America's

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food chain with its genetically modified seeds. Now it has targeted milk production. Just as frightening as the corporation's tactics—ruthless legal battles against small farmers—is its decades-long history of toxic contamination.

Glyn Moody describes this as “worrying”, citing claims that “not content with trying to own all plant seed, Monsanto is now going after milk...”

Think along the lines of, “not content with trying to own all computers, Microsoft is now going after banking, media players, phones, and Internet services.” ■

*“The 10 largest antitrust law firms in the United States have gone into the federal courts charging Monsanto with creating a global conspiracy in violation of the antitrust laws, to control the global market in seeds.*

*Jeremy Rifkin”*

—Jeremy Rifkin

*“The insurance companies aren't covering that. Should Monsanto be liable for these losses? Should the state government? Who's going to cover the losses? The fact is, here's an industry with no long-term liability in place.”*

—Jeremy Rifkin

## **Tsvangirai aide faces terror trial**

[Al-Jazeera](#) - Tue, 20/10/2009 - 11:08am

Zimbabwe PM seeks regional intervention to help salvage unity government.

## **Dvorak Slams Vista 7, New Benchmark Shows It's a Hog, Kotaku Says It's Bad for Gaming**

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Boycott Novell - Tue, 20/10/2009 -  
10:46am

**Summary:** *A lot of bad publicity for Vista 7 arrives from many different directions just days before its release*

YESTERDAY we wrote about [the Vista 7 marketing blitz](#) , which intends to sell another new version Vista . John Dvorak, who [moved to Ubuntu GNU/Linux on at least one of his computers](#) , is far from dazzled by Microsoft's PR campaigns. The opening of his [latest column](#) states: "Microsoft's PR and marketing follies are symptomatic of a company-wide laziness."

Further he writes:

Having followed Microsoft's exploits since its inception, I can safely say the best anyone can hope for with Windows 7 is moderate success. For all of the fanfare surrounding the new OS, Win 7 is really just a Vista martini. The operating system may have two olives instead of one this time out, but it's still made with the same cheap Microsoft vodka.

This is an issue than runs deeper than mere OS programming. The cocktail analogy extends to other aspects of the company, including PR and marketing. You see, all Microsoft requires is some manner of moderate success that will help deflect Vista-like criticism and grief for the next four years. This, ultimately, won't have anything to do with what is in the actual OS. Rather it will be a reflection of the way the OS is perceived. Such perception is a function of Microsoft's marketing machine and PR, both of which are either AWOL or non-existent, seeming to have gone into a slumber the day Bill Gates left the company.

[...]

[ + ] [Feedback](#)

In the end, Windows 7 is a big deal—but it should be an even bigger deal. It will get a lot of attention for the next week, but the buzz will wane rapidly as people realize that there is no new paradigm here, just more cheap vodka that will inevitably be followed by the same old Microsoft hangover.

In other Vista 7 news, Apple squashes Microsoft's hype by [showing that Mac OS X is faster than Vista 7](#) . Actually, those tests were done independently.

Test Shows Snow Leopard is Faster Than Win 7

[...]

CNet's Dong Ngo took a late-2008 model 15-inch MacBook Pro and used it to compare Snow Leopard 10.6.1 and Windows 7 64-bit RTM (with native drivers from Boot Camp 3.0). The machine was equipped with a 2.5GHz Intel Core 2 Duo, 4GB of RAM, and a 512MB Nvidia GeForce 9600M GT video card – things that you could also find in a PC notebook.

Ngo found that Snow Leopard outperformed Windows 7 in nearly all areas except for graphics (likely due to better drivers from Nvidia).

As the above mentions graphics, worth mentioning is this [new article from Kotaku](#) , which shows that Vista 7 is bad for gamers, just like Vista.

The problem I have with Windows 7, though, isn't its failure to vastly improve the gaming experience, it's Microsoft's failure to take advantage of the attention brought by the launch of a new operating system to once more thrust PC gaming into the spotlight.

[...]

If Microsoft want its PC gaming platform to thrive they will need to do more than offer lip service in the future. But with

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the lasting success of the gaming console and PC gamers' ability to seemingly put up with anything, why should they?

Microsoft declined to comment for this article.

In order for people not to pay attention to Microsoft's bad financial results, the release of Vista 7 shall come on the same day. If rumours are true, Google will also [attempt to steal Microsoft's thunder](#) .

Google is doing its utmost to piss on Microsoft's chips ahead of the official 22 October launch of Windows 7, by expanding its "Going Google" campaign to lure customers away from the software giant.

Thus far, the hype around Vista 7 does not match the hype that preceded Windows Vista back in 2007. If that's not telling, what is? ■

## Somali groups urged to join talks

Al-Jazeera - Tue, 20/10/2009 - 10:22am

President says government ready for reconciliation dialogue to end fighting.

## Confirmed: Darl McBride Termination is a Sacking

Boycott Novell - Tue, 20/10/2009 - 10:18am

*"You're fired!"*

**Summary:** *Darl McBride was pushed or forced outside the company rather than him deciding to leave*

YESTERDAY we [wrote about Darl McBride's termination](#) , as shown in [SCO's very own filing](#) . We were careful not to jump to the conclusion that he was fired, but it turns out that he was.

According to [Slashdot](#) , it's possible that

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someone just [found the form](#) , which was already days old. Could SCO have kept *deliberately* quiet about it? Probably. Linux Today [is exceedingly happy](#) and GNU/Linux-oriented Web sites [give it special attention](#) . It's an important event for the [SCO timeline](#) and it was eventually covered in the mainstream press yesterday (in the late afternoon and onwards). Articles include:

**The Inquirer:** [SCO sacks Darl McBride](#)

The filing reads, "On October 14, 2009, The SCO Group, Inc.,... announced that the Company has eliminated the Chief Executive Officer and President positions and consequently terminated Darl McBride."

**Ars Technica:** [SCO fires CEO Darl McBride, architect of litigation strategy](#)

SCO CEO Darl McBride has finally been let go by the serial litigator. In an SEC filing published today, SCO reveals that the controversial CEO has been ousted as part of the latest reorganization plan.

**Heise:** [SCO vs. Linux: SCO trustee fires SCO boss Darl McBride](#)

The press release is more forthcoming, describing this as a clear signal that SCO is looking to continue to pursue its various lawsuits under the stewardship of the Chapter 11 trustee, "The company is also looking to raise additional funding and sell non-core assets to bolster working capital. These actions will allow the Trustee to preserve cash and the value of the business while enabling the Company to proceed with asset sales, pursue litigation against, among others, IBM and Novell, and to continue supporting SCO's loyal UNIX customer base."

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**ComputerWorld:** [SCO fires CEO Darl McBride](#)

No one has taken SCO's lawsuits against Linux-using companies seriously for years, but somehow or the other, SCO kept hanging on like a bad cold that you couldn't quite shake. That's because SCO CEO Darl McBride doesn't know the meaning of surrender. Time after time, McBride would come up with a new buyer or a re-take on a long dead anti-Linux legal claim, and SCO would stagger forward once more. Until now. This morning, October 19th, SCO filed an 8K with the SEC, which announced that the company had fired McBride.

**The Register:** [SCO boots boss McBride](#)

Unix code claimant SCO Group has jettisoned its controversial captain, Darl McBride, as part of the company's latest scheme to emerge from bankruptcy.

Groklaw [concludes](#) as follows: "So... I wonder what McBride will put on his resume?" ■

## Indonesia's Yudhoyono sworn in

[Al-Jazeera](#) - Tue, 20/10/2009 - 9:54am

Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono is country's first leader to be re-elected democratically.

## Talks set to test US-Japan ties

[Al-Jazeera](#) - Tue, 20/10/2009 - 8:37am

US defence secretary holds talks with new Japanese government on future military ties.

## Israel to discuss Gaza war inquiry

[Al-Jazeera](#) - Tue, 20/10/2009 - 8:31am

Two ministries reportedly back probe in order to mount defence against damning

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report.

## Guinea to co-operate with UN probe

Al-Jazeera - Tue, 20/10/2009 - 5:50am

World body to probe crackdown that left more than 150 opposition activists dead.

## No award for African leadership

Al-Jazeera - Tue, 20/10/2009 - 4:46am

Mo Ibrahim panel fails to find any deserving candidate for \$5m good governance prize.

## IRC: #boycottnovell @ FreeNode: October 19th, 2009

Boycott Novell - Tue, 20/10/2009 - 4:20am

[Read the log](#)

[Enter the IRC channel now](#)

To use your own IRC client, join channel #boycottnovell in [FreeNode](#).

## Links 19/10/2009: Uruguay's GNU/Linux Deployment, Monty Wants Independent MySQL

Boycott Novell - Tue, 20/10/2009 - 4:15am

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## GNU/Linux

- [Linux is just too open](#)

The Problem with Linux is that it is forthright, open and honest.

Now I know how much the editors here hate when I anthropomorphize an operating system, but it is fundamentally true.

Linux, in my view, remains almost too honest and too open.

[...]

Thus, they return to their old love and never really find out why so many open networking connections occur mysteriously in the background, beneath attire that they will never probe. And thus they will routinely be exposed to vulnerabilities that they could have potentially avoided with Linux.

Sadly, perhaps Linux is just for those who can appreciate what's underneath.

- [A math teacher with his students bring Desktop4education to austrian schools](#)

This is an introduction to a case study that was published recently, this case study is a good example for everyone of us, if we need to extend the use of opensource and especially Linux we need to start from the basic, that are our

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children, and the best place where to start , are the schools .

- [Tom's Definitive Linux Software Roundup: Communications Apps](#)

In this segment, we will be focusing on communications applications. While these apps still rely on Internet access to function, their focus is to allow the user to communicate with other individuals using the Internet simply as a transit medium. We will go over Personal Information Managers (PIM), email clients, Instant Messengers (IM), Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) software, and Internet Relay Chat (IRC) clients. That means replacements for Outlook, Outlook Express, Trillian, and mIRC are to be found within. Many of these apps you may already be using in Windows. Mozilla Thunderbird, Skype, Pidgin IM, and others have native Linux installations available, too.

- [Everything Linux store set for opening on Friday](#)

Open Source and web development consultancy Babel Com Australia has announced plans to open online retailer Everything Linux Store (ELS) as a bricks and mortar shopfront in Crows Nest, Sydney on October 23.

- [Nanorobot Invention and Linux: The Open Technology Factor – An Open Letter to UNO General Secretary](#)

Abstract: This is an open letter, which discloses an outline on the current status of nanorobotic cutting edge technology trends in software development, bioinformatics, proteomics, nanotechnology, and

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manufacturing integration. It provides a layman's description of a practical platform to effectively boost the development of nanobiotechnology, and to manufacture nanorobot hardware architecture for medical defense that will benefit humankind. The core description of the present initiative is based on Linux strategies. The basis and key advantages of such an approach are clearly described next.

Nanotechnology should be used for peaceful purposes based on ethical practices to provide a human heritage. The nanorobot invention has an impact on current history and provides a legacy for coming generations.

- Desktop

- [KELLNER: Ubuntu Linux powers up](#)

I haven't played with 9.10 yet, but I have used the most recent "stable" release, Ubuntu 9.04. It's a very nice operating system: graphical, easy to learn, and equipped, out of the gate, with a Web browser, e-mail client and productivity suite. It loaded on my system without crashing the main OS, and it ran well. I could connect to the Internet without hassle, and thus had a world of options open to me

- [Migration from Mac to Linux](#)

When in OS X (and in Windows) the default action is a very predictable beast. You want to make sure this is mimicked in Linux. In GNOME you can right click a

[ + ] Feedback

file, select Open With, and then set that as the default application for that type of file. As much as this might seem second nature, for OS X users this is simply not an issue. Having everything so well integrated is not a feature on OS X, it's a requirement. So make sure everything works exactly as expected BEFORE the OS X user touches their Linux box.

- [Two ways Linux can win market share from Windows](#)

Ways I believe Linux can become the dominant operating system on desktop computers:

1. Kids need to get used to it in school. As long as teachers accept free software from Microsoft and shun Linux in school, there is NO way Linux will become mainstream.
2. Games! There needs to be a range of good quality easy to install mainstream commercial games that can work on Linux. There are a few, but too few and far between.

- Server

- [IBM plans big hardware upgrade next year](#)

IBM has tried to cut user costs in the current mainframe line by using specialty processing engines, such the Linux IFL processor.

- Kernel Space

- [Linux drivers for Visioneer & Xerox DocuMate Scanners](#)

JFL Peripheral Solutions has

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announced the availability of new Linux drivers, for Visioneer and Xerox DocuMate scanners.

- [Kernel Log: Coming in 2.6.32 \(Part 1\) – Network subsystem and network drivers](#)

Between Thursday evening and Friday morning, Linus Torvalds released the fourth release candidate of Linux version 2.6.32, although, due to the typing error in the first release candidate (RC1 was mis-labeled RC2), it is called 2.6.32-rc5 instead of 2.6.32-rc4.

- [NVIDIA GeForce GT 220](#)

To Linux users these graphics cards are also interesting in that they fully support all of the current features of VDPAU for Linux video decoding, including MPEG-4 support. We picked up an XFX GT220XZNF2 GeForce GT 220 1GB graphics card for this round of benchmarking on Ubuntu Linux.

- Applications

- [10 of the Best Free Linux Relational Databases](#)

A relational database matches data using common characteristics found within the data set. The resulting groups of data are organized and are much easier for people to understand. In such a database the data and relations between them are organised in tables. A table is a collection of records and each record in a table contains the same fields. Certain fields may be

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designated as keys, which means that searches for specific values of that field will use indexing to speed them up.

- [Articles : Platinum Arts Sandbox Free 3D Game Maker 2.4 Release!](#)

The Platinum Arts Sandbox Free 3D Game Maker 2.4 Release has arrived! Platinum Arts Sandbox Free 3D Game Maker is an open source game design program for kids and adults featuring in game map/world creation! The focus is to make the process of creating games and worlds easy enough for kids but powerful enough to create full game projects. Supports Windows, Linux, Mac (we someone to compile the binary!).

- [Stumbling and Sniffing Wireless Networks in Linux, Part 1](#)

Do you need to stumble or sniff networks? Do you need to do a Wi-Fi site survey, troubleshoot network annoyances, or make sure your employees (or children) aren't misusing the Internet? Sure you can spend hundreds or thousands of dollars on commercial network analyzers—usually for Windows—but Linux and the open source community offer some great tools.

- Distributions

- [Review of iMagic OS 2009.9](#)

[ + ] [Feedback](#)

In September, the iMagic team released iMagic OS 2009.9. The iMagic OS

distribution has a lot of strong selling points. They offer a modern, easy-to-use desktop with all the common media codecs and plug-ins an end user would expect from a desktop OS. The iMagic distribution also claims the additional bonus of being able to run Microsoft Windows applications out of the box. The iMagic project leader, Carlos La Borde, was nice enough to provide a copy of the project's latest release for me to test drive.

- [Is there a best distro?](#)

What is the best Linux distribution? Not what is the best distribution for a server or what is the best distribution for a netbook, but what is the best general distribution. This made me step back and think for a couple of seconds. All of the distributions start from the same point. The kernel is essentially the same in every distribution, so that is not a differentiator. All of the distributions contain a selection of rich applications, and many distribution contain the same selection of applications, so that is not a clear discriminator.

- [Red Hat Family](#)

- [Hilal Computers to make GITEX debut](#)

- Hilal Computers was appointed a Red Hat Advanced Business Partner (ABP) for IT infrastructure in August 2009. It is the only Red

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Hat-certified partner in Bahrain with the technical and business capabilities to deploy Red Hat open source solutions and support in locally.

- [Open source, free software and Linux – How does Red Hat make money?](#)

Red Hat is the leading software company using the open source model. We're a member of the S&P 500 and one of the fastest growing, most profitable public software companies. We're best known for the Linux operating system where we have 80+% share of paid Linux. But we also have a full suite of enterprise infrastructure software and basically open source software is a development model where source code is open and freely redistributable.

- Debian Family
  - [Review: Parsix GNU Linux 3.0 Kev!](#)

It's a beautiful Sunday afternoon here in BC Canada. What a better day to look at Parsix GNU/Linux 3.0 "Kev" for my first time. A little background about this distro from Parsix.Org.

- [Ubuntu Weekly Newsletter Issue 164](#)

Welcome to the Ubuntu

[ + ] [Feedback](#)

Weekly Newsletter,  
Issue #164 for the week  
October 11th – October  
17th, 2009. In this issue  
we cover: Archive  
frozen for preparation  
of Ubuntu 9.10,  
Unseeded  
Universe/Multiverse  
Final Freeze Schedule,  
Ubuntu Open Week:  
November 2-6, 2009,  
LoCo News, New lpx  
project group for  
Launchpad extensions,  
Launchpad's status  
page, Ubuntu Forums  
Tutorial of the Week,  
Stefan Lesicnik: Debian  
2 Ubuntu – Security  
FTW, Ubuntu-UK  
Podcast: Beautiful  
Chaos, O A.D. Promises  
Real Gaming for  
Ubuntu, and much,  
much more!

- [Top 5 New Things in Ubuntu 9.10](#)
- Devices/Embedded
  - [MontaVista rev's carrier grade distro for 4G](#)

MontaVista Software announced a new release of its Carrier Grade Linux (CGL) 4.0 compliant Linux distribution for networking customers, adding support for 4G wireless networks including LTE and WiMAX. MontaVista Linux Carrier Grade Edition (CGE) 5.1 also integrates OpenSAF High Availability (HA) capabilities and is the first to offer virtual routing and forwarding, says MontaVista.
  - Phones

[ + ] [Feedback](#)

- [Moto Android 2.0 smartphone revealed](#)

Motorola's upcoming Android smartphone has finally been revealed in a set of front-and-back pictures published online.

- [Android based e-reader tips up](#)

SPRING DESIGN has taken the wraps off the Duet Navigator, a dual-screen e-book reader that runs the Android OS and offers both a text reader and a web browser.

- [Quick guide to webOS](#)

webOS itself is a Linux-based operating system but with Palm designed components on top of it. It gives it a rather curious mix of open source foundations and very effective proprietary guts at the same time, and the result is an agnostic way of integrating your social networks and other forms of communication. It's the default and entirely locked-in operating system for the Pre and will also be at the heart of the Palm Pixi which we'll probably see before the end of the year.

[ + ] [Feedback](#)

- [Carrier goes negative on iPhone in Droid ads](#)

Verizon Wireless has tipped details about an upcoming Android phone in TV ads that hype a “Droid” phone while bashing Apple’s [iPhone](#), says eWEEK. Meanwhile, the Boy Genius Report has published a first-look preview of the Motorola Droid (previously called the “Sholes”) and calls it “the Android device to beat.”

- [Droid TV ad pulls no punches in attacking the iPhone](#)

The Motorola Droid smartphone that will ship in November from Verizon Wireless could well be the game-changer supporting analyst forecasts that the Android operating system will dominate those from the [iPhone](#) and the BlackBerry by 2012.

- Sub-notebooks/Tablets

- [CrunchPad to launch by Christmas?](#)

Popular Mechanics magazine crowns the unreleased Crunchpad tablet as its ‘Breakthrough Product’ for 2009 – a sign that the affordable Linux tablet could be released by year’s end.

[ + ] [Feedback](#)

- [Uruguay government gives every student a laptop](#)

The laptops in question go by the name of the XO, and are brightly coloured, very basic netbooks which run on a Linux operating system called 'Sugar'.

- [OLPC in hands of all Uruguay's primary kids](#)
- [Uruguay becomes first nation to provide a laptop for every primary school student](#)

Uruguay's been a huge fan of the One Laptop Per Child initiative for quite some time, and while we're still unsure if it's the entity's biggest customer, the aforesaid nation is certainly doing some serious business with Nicholas Negroponte and Company.

## Free Software/Open Source

- [Opening my Eyes to Another Advantage of Openness](#)

It was chaired by Michal Tsur from Kaltura. It was a company I'd already come across, but it was a good opportunity to learn a little more:

Kaltura's platform includes an easily customizable set of widgets that seamlessly integrate into video applications on web platforms of any kind. Publishers can deploy existing widgets and apps or take advantage of Kaltura's open architecture in order to develop new ones.

[ + ] [Feedback](#)

Whether you need a basic online video platform or one with a robust set of advanced features – Kaltura has a solution for you. Our open framework provides everything you need to design, develop, and deploy rapid and cost-effective video applications on any site.

Interestingly, Kaltura does not employ the currently-fashionable “open core” approach of providing some of its code under a free software licence, and add-ons under proprietary ones.

Instead, it’s a pure dual-licensing set-up: the same code is available under free (GNU Affero GPL) and non-free licences, for all the usual reasons.

- [OpenBSD 4.6 release ships new services, eases installation](#)

The OpenBSD project has announced the availability of release 4.6, which debuts a new mail server and an easier installation among many other feature enhancements and bug fixes for the open source operating system.

OpenBSD founder and release manager Theo de Raadt announced the installer has “almost been rewritten, primarily with a focus on simplifying the installation process”.

- [On Mobile Phones, Firefox’s Big Bet Is Nokia & Android](#)

With little or no chance of ever being able to make it through the draconian approval process of Apple’s iTunes App Store, Mozilla, the not-for-profit organization behind the Firefox browser, is betting on two major, if emerging, mobile operating platforms:

[ + ] [Feedback](#)

Maemo, Nokia's new Linux-based operating system, and Google's Android OS. But don't count on Mozilla supporting RIM's BlackBerry OS anytime soon.

- Sun

- [MySQL cofounder says Oracle should sell database](#)

Oracle should resolve antitrust concerns over its acquisition of Sun Microsystems by selling open-source database MySQL to a suitable third party, its cofounder and creator Michael "Monty" Widenius said in a blog post on Monday.

- [NoSQL: Distributed and Scalable Non-Relational Database Systems](#)

Non-SQL oriented distributed databases are all the rage in some circles. They're designed to scale from day 1 and offer reliability in the face of failures.

- [Sun tunes its VirtualBox](#)

The most popular virtualization tool distributed by Sun Microsystems – and one whose future as an Oracle product is in question – is VirtualBox, and the software was just updated with a new 3.0.8 release.

- FSF/GNU

- [An Interview With Mako](#)

My name is Benjamin Mako Hill. I am 28 years old, male, and I live in Somerville, Massachusetts just outside Boston. My day job is doing research at MIT. I am a fellow at the MIT Center for Future

[ + ] Feedback

Civic Media and am currently doing work on a PhD somewhere between the Sloan School of Management and the MIT Media Lab.

- Licensing

- [GPLv2 clause 6](#)

This week I was in Grenoble for the Embedded Linux Conference Europe. On the second day of the conference — Friday — I was one of the few people wandering around in a suit. Even the guys who normally wear suits had dressed down to deal with the nitty-gritty of kernel threads, time sources, and boot time optimization.

[...]

PS. Thanks to Saul Goode for some very careful and relevant comments to my previous writing on the GPL version 2; in particular pointing to the US Copyright Code and how it doesn't restrict running the program at all — as indeed the GPLv2 itself writes "The act of running the program is now restricted."

## Leftovers

- [Silvio Berlusconi's TV company filmed bribery case judge](#)

Italian magistrates and the opposition have complained after a TV channel owned by Silvio Berlusconi secretly filmed a judge who ruled against him in a bribery case.

- [Details On the Raj Rajaratnam SEC Insider-Trading Case](#)

Today, billionaire hedge fund

[ + ] Feedback



manager Raj Rajaratnam was arrested on insider-trading charges. The SEC filed a formal complaint in court alleging that Rajaratnam tapped into his network of friends and close business associates to obtain insider tips.

- [How Wall Street is making its billions](#)

Wall Street banks have had profitable quarters. JPMorgan Chase reported \$3.6 billion in profit (more than \$1 billion per month). Goldman Sachs was only slightly behind, at \$3.2 billion. These profits supposedly came from "trading." I asked a friend who has worked in the money business how this was possible. "For someone to make money trading, there has to be someone on the other side of every trade who is losing money. Where does each bank find someone who can lose \$1 billion every month?"

- [Former Goldman Sachs Exec Named SEC Enforcement Division COO](#)

Robert Khuzami and the Securities and Exchange Commission's enforcement division have a new chief operating officer, according to Bloomberg News. Adam Storch, a 29-year-old former Goldman Sachs manager, joined the SEC staff Tuesday, and the agency announced his new post in a statement Friday. His primary task will be to make the division more efficient.

- [VisiCalc turns 30 and SocialCalc turns 1.0](#)

According to my notebook from 1979, 30 years ago today Dan Fylstra, head of Personal Software, our Bay Area publisher, told me

[ + ] [Feedback](#)

that he had the first production VisiCalc packages in hand. I received mine the next day (Saturday delivery). So today, for argument's sake, is the 30th anniversary of the shipment of VisiCalc 1.0. (Well, actually, we called it version 1.37, but it was the first packaged version produced and sold in volume.)

- Internet/Censorship/Web Abuse/Rights

- [UK.gov back to the drawing board on DNA retention](#)

The government has dumped a heavily-criticised plan to retain the DNA profiles of innocent people for up to 12 years, after the researchers behind evidence it was based on disowned the policy.

- [UK.gov convinces just 2,000 Mancunians to join ID card trial](#)

The government's ID card pilot scheme in Manchester has failed to capture the North West's imagination with just 2,000 volunteers coming forward to date.

Digital Tipping Point: Clip of the Day

Internet Video Celebrity Caitlin Hill 24 (2007)

Digital Tipping Point is a Free software-like project where the raw videos are code. You can assist by [participating](#) .

[ + ] Feedback

## Fraud pushes Karzai to poll runoff

[Al-Jazeera](#) - Tue, 20/10/2009 - 3:40am

Afghanistan election watchdog says widespread fraud invalidates thousands of votes.

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last »



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