

NWCLUG News For July 2006

- Picasa and Google Earth released for Linux
- FSF launches anti-DRM campaign at WinHEC
- Trolltech goes public
- Linux-based mobile phone consortium
- Microsoft works with Creative Commons and ODF

- Description: Google has released versions of Picasa and Google Earth that work on Linux. The “Linux” version of Picasa uses Wine, but is available in .tar, .rpm and .deb packages. The Linux version of Google Earth was ported over to the platform by Ryan “Icculus” Gordon (ex-Loki guy) and is a native port. Both programs work pretty well, but have certain features that are disabled (CD burning being one example).
- Link:
 - <http://picasa.google.com/>
 - <http://earth.google.com/>

- Description: The Free Software Foundation has launched a massive anti-DRM campaign at the Windows Hardware Engineering Conference. Several FSF volunteers donned radioactive suits and marched around the entrance of the conference advocating the elimination of DRM technology. Is this something the FSF should be doing?
- Link:
 - <http://defectivebydesign.org/>

- Description: The company behind QT has gone public on the Oslo Stock Exchange. How will becoming a public company (with stockholders to consider) influence the way the company interacts with the OSS world (KDE, embedded development)? Is KDE/QT's loss GTK's gain?
- Link:
 - <http://www.trolltech.com/>

- Description: A set of cellular phone companies (Motorola, NEC, NTT DoCoMo, Panasonic, Samsung, and Vodafone) has established a group to create "the world's first global, open Linux-based software platform for mobile devices." Does Linux have a chance in a world dominated by Symbian, Microsoft?
- Link:
 - <http://tinyurl.com/m3bnu>

- Description: Microsoft has recently made some moves to better interoperate with other formats. First off, it has released a tool to help users identify and tag their Office documents with a Creative Commons license. Second, it has started a project on sourceforge to provide a ODF-Office XML converter tool. Some have questioned the motives behind these moves, but for now it seems to be a step in the right direction...
- In related news: Martin Taylor, the man behind the “Get the facts” campaign at Microsoft, has left the company.
- Link:
 - <http://tinyurl.com/jhhl7>
 - <http://sourceforge.net/projects/odf-converter>