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Linux Applications Hosting Service Launches

by Stuart Zipper - Fri, 24 Nov 2000 07:32:25am

WorkSpot, one of the horde of start-ups that's been offering a free "desktop" on the web using StarOffice or some lesser homebrewed software, has revealed its real game plan - a hosted Linux or Unix applications service to be followed by the release of a complete framework so people can host software by themselves if they choose to.

The Palo Alto, California company has had its free desktop pretty much in continuous beta for almost a year. To all intents and purposes the operation has looked like lots of other little companies trying to break into the ASP business by giving away a basic productivity suite, then renting other applications. The gambit has been protective coloration while the 37-man company worked on what it's now calling AppSpot.

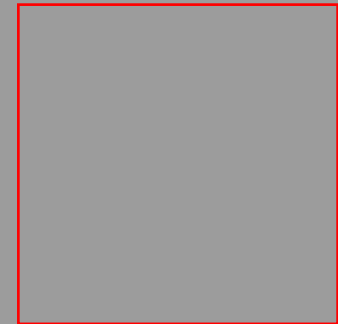
AppSpot is initially a service, with WorkSpot running its clients' programs on WorkSpot's own servers. It's got its first two clients, Sonics Inc, for whom WorkSpot is going to host the Socworks application, and Wolfram Research, which hired WorkSpot to host its Mathematica program.

Users access AppSpot-hosted programs through a standard browser or VNC-enabled thin clients such as Wyse Technology's. They can choose to access just their own application, or meld their application into a complete desktop like the one that WorkSpot has had in beta.

The AppSpot hosting package is an amalgam of open source software, such as the Apache web server and the Postgres and MySQL databases together with WorkSpot-authored code like the load-balancing software that's running the WorkSpot server farm. WorkSpot's currently running that farm on Red Hat and Debian but says that AppSpot will run on just about any distribution.

WorkSpot co-founder, president and CEO Kathy Giori says the idea is to eventually open source AppSpot and have WorkSpot earn

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Sun & Microsoft Reportedly Settle Java Suit

Wed, 20 December 2000

Knowledgeable sources say that Sun and Microsoft have settled the historic and inflammatory lawsuit over Java that Sun lodged against Microsoft in 1997. The tantalizing settlement terms are still unclear.

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Linus Savages Red Hat 7.0

Fri, 15 December 2000

Linus Torvalds, the father of Linux, trashed Red Hat 7.0, the market leader's latest rev of its Linux distribution, as "basically unusable" in a posting he made to the Linux kernel mailing list yesterday.

money selling support. It will also continue hosting for companies that don't want to do the job themselves.

Giori says that the only reason AppSpot hasn't been open sourced yet is simply that "we haven't had the time and resources to get it that far." She estimates that the documentation and other work that's needed will be done as part of the Mathematica hosting contract, and that it will take at least another three or four month before AppSpot's in shape to be open sourced.

Meanwhile, like any start-up, WorkSpot is out sniffing for more cash to grow its business. It's been living on \$1 million in angel financing, \$2 million in bridge financing and some cash it brought in doing consulting engineering on wireless projects. Now it's out looking for serious VC funding, "upwards of \$5 million-\$10 million" says Giori, in a round it hopes will close in the next few months.

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Selloff Possible,
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Fri, 15 December 2000
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**Intel Says It Will
Have 10GHz MPUs
in 2005**

Mon, 11 December 2000
Intel says it will be able to produce 10GHz microprocessors in 2005 that operate at less than a volt because it's figured out how to make tiny little transistors that are only a billionth of a meter wide and three atomic layers thick. The transistors are as small as DNA.

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