

Mainsoft To Support Solaris 10

Mainsoft, the .NET-to-Java tools merchant and close friend of Microsoft, is about to announce a deal with Sun Microsystems in support of Solaris 10.

It's going to certify its Visual MainWin product suite for x86 Solaris 10 for both 32-bit and 64-bit and help ISVs quickly port C++ apps to Solaris 10.

It's part of Mainsoft's vision of letting developers write enterprise-class applications once, and deploy them natively on Unix and Linux.

Mainsoft's software porting platform now supports 15 Linux and Unix platforms, including versions of Sun Solaris 8, 9 and 10 for Sparc, AMD Opteron and Intel-based architectures; HP-UX on PA-RISC and Itanium 2, AIX, Red Hat and SuSE.

The Visual MainWin product suite lets C++ developers write enterprise-class applications in the Visual Studio development environment, and deploy them

Siebel says it intends to use Visual MainWin to put Siebel eBusiness Applications on Solaris 10.

HP's New Software Throttles Viruses

Hewlett-Packard has released proprietary new software, developed by HP Labs, that it swears will control the spread of viruses across corporate networks and limit the damage they do.

Dubbed Virus Throttle, it is designed to detect virus-like behavior and slow down the number of connections an infected machine can make until an administrator determines if it's a virus and takes action.

HP says the faster a virus tries to spread, the faster Virus Throttle will react – in milliseconds – without waiting for human intervention.

It's not supposed to interfere with normal system or networking operations and only affects the viral process while all normal traffic continues unimpeded. Throttle's ability to choke the virus and stop it from making network connections and propagating is what gives it its name.

By looking for and detecting abnormal behavior, Virus Throttle takes a different tack than traditional virus scanning products that rely on virus signatures but are ineffective against new viruses.

Virus Throttle is available for HP's ProLiant servers and BladeSystems via an enhanced ProLiant Essentials Intelligent Networking Pack.

The pack costs \$149 and provides an extra layer of protection against virus attacks that are not detected by firewalls or anti-virus software.

Besides Virus Throttle, the pack includes features to boost network performance and availability.

Throttle is also being offered with the ProCurve Networking by HP 5300 switches.

HP also released a Security Containment suite for the HP-UX 11i v2 operating system to prevent compromised applications from having unauthorized access to other applications or files.

The folks at HP Labs are working on software for Windows XP so that applications launch in a restricted environment and only have the permissions needed for their primary purpose. It means that applications would be given the least authority required to operate and would be prohibited from accessing files they don't require. HP is piloting the software with George Mason University and the US Navy.

Nokia Suddenly Turns Microsoft-Friendly

Cell phone biggie Nokia, never exactly what you would call friends with Microsoft, is going to use Microsoft's formats to transfer music between PCs and cell phones.

In a potentially iPod-trashing move, Nokia is licensing Microsoft's EU-scooped Windows Media Player. Nokia rival Motorola is in bed with Apple and its iTunes store.

Nokia, which has always been leery of Microsoft and its designs, has been using either homegrown or RealNetworks technology, Real being the firm with the most to gain from getting Windows Media Player outlawed in Windows.

Mary McDowell, who used to run industry-standard servers at Compaq and left HP to become head of Nokia's enterprise unit, told inquirers that Nokia hasn't exactly beaten its sword into a ploughshare as far as Microsoft is concerned.

The Finnish company resigned from the

Computer and Communications Industry Association (CCIA) after it settled its differences with Microsoft and ceased pressing its antitrust complaints with the European Commission.

But now Nokia is also licensing Microsoft's ActiveSync e-mail synchronization system so corporate customers can get to their e-mail and access to their address books from their phones when they're traveling.

It intends to use Microsoft compression, digital rights management and synchronization techniques in future phones. And Microsoft has apparently agreed to make its Media Player compatible with Nokia's alternatives.

Nokia's Microsoft-scoffing cell phones embed the Symbian operating system. Nokia owns the lion's share of Symbian.

As it turns out Microsoft has just persuaded Nokia rival Flextronics International to use its Symbian-competitive Windows Mobile OS.