

Keyboard & Mouse

Electronic Newsletter of the Hobart Computer Users Group Inc

ZoneAlarm goes Vista
Thunderbird email client
Freespire 2.0 released
SCO loses in court
Dell offers XP
Free security suite
... and more!



Vol. 2 Issue 1 – July-August 2007

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Produced using StarOffice 8.0 from <http://www.sun.com> running under Xandros Linux 4.0 from <http://www.xandros.com>

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Our cover: Thunderbird email client offers anti-spam and anti-phishing features (see feature article "Thunderbird email client")

ZoneAlarm goes Vista

ZoneAlarm for Vista has finally arrived. Although not available when Vista was released, ZoneAlarm Internet Security Suite 7.1 and its companion free ZoneAlarm Firewall are not only Vista-compatible, but are the first third-party security products to rely on Vista's new Windows Filtering Platform (WFP) to track network behaviour.

Windows XP and 2000 use Microsoft's Transport Device Interface (TDI). Vista retains support for TDI for now, but introduces WFP as the preferred alternative.

Check Point Software representatives say that, while they could have ported to Vista using TDI and this would have been easier, Microsoft will stop fixing problems with TDI in the future, making WFP the way to go to protect users from future Vista threats.

The ZoneAlarm Security Suite includes antivirus, anti-spyware, anti-spam and anti-phishing, identity theft protection, firewall and much more.

Version 7.1 has a new antivirus engine which delivers, Checkpoint claims, significantly enhanced detection and removal capabilities. There are hourly signature updates, expanded coverage, and faster detection to find and remove

even the most recent and aggressive viruses.

The suite's anti-spyware features more robust detection and removal functions to perform deeper scans at every level and purge spyware from your PC.

In addition to the usual anti-spam and anti-phishing protections, the suite also has additional measures to stop identity theft.

The renowned ZoneAlarm firewall protects both networks and the operating system and includes spyware and rootkit protection.

Windows 2000/XP users also get spy site blocking, privacy protection, instant message protection, quarantining of suspicious email attachments, and parental control.

More details are available from ZoneAlarm's website:

<http://www.zonealarm.com/store/content/home.jsp>

The personal firewall remains a free download, while the full ZoneAlarm Security Suite 7.1 retails for \$USD49.95 including one year's updates and can be used on up to three computers.

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Thunderbird email client

Meet Thunderbird

Mozilla Thunderbird is an email client (program) intended to replace Outlook Express. Used with the Sunbird calendar program, it can also replace Outlook. Mozilla's engineers are now working with Qualcomm engineers to create a new, totally free version of Eudora. It is distributed by the Mozilla Corporation, the commercial arm of the Mozilla Foundation.

Thunderbird is an open-source program. That means that anyone can have access to the source code of the program and can modify it to suit their requirements. Under an open-source licence, the modifier is then required to make the modified source code available under the same licensing arrangements. Thus, each new release of Thunderbird is a community effort, and everyone is welcome to participate in further development.

Thunderbird is free, in the best sense of the word: no nagging advertising screens, advertising-supported features, or registration requests. It's free to distribute to other people, free to amend (should you have the skills and need to), and totally free of charge.

When compared with Outlook Express 6, Thunderbird has more features, including junk (spam) filters and anti-phishing

filters. These features are available in Windows Mail, the Outlook Express replacement in Windows Vista. If you want them, you have to upgrade your operating system, or use an alternative, such as Thunderbird.

System requirements

Before downloading Thunderbird, make sure that you meet the minimal "System Requirements" (the minimal software/hardware combination needed to run Thunderbird).

Operating Systems

- Windows 98
- Windows 98 SE
- Windows ME
- Windows NT 4.0
- Windows 2000
- Windows XP (Recommended)
- Windows Vista

Minimum Hardware

- Pentium 233 MHz
(Recommended: Pentium 500MHz or greater)
- 64 MB RAM
(Recommended: 128 MB RAM or greater)
- 52 MB hard drive space

If your system doesn't meet the **recommended** specification, you should probably upgrade it, as it will also be unable to run many other modern software programs. Remember, too, that, now Microsoft has terminated support for pre-Windows XP versions, new software is increasingly being written in such a way that it requires a well-patched Windows 2000, Windows XP or Windows Vista operating system to run. Linux, Unix, and Mac users will also notice a similar trend.

Obtaining Thunderbird

Thunderbird is available from <http://getthunderbird.com> most file download sites around the world. If your Internet service provider has a file mirror, look there first, as downloads from your ISP's servers may not count as part of your monthly quota.

Installing Thunderbird

Once you have downloaded the file, follow the normal installation procedures for your operating system. For Windows users that involves double-clicking on the file *Thunderbird Setup 2.0.0.4.exe* (as 14 June 2007). Choose the en-gb language option if your supplier offers it and that is the British English one and is a better match to Australian spelling. You can also add an Australian spelling dictionary to Thunderbird, which we will deal with later when we get to

Extensions.

If you need detailed instructions to guide you through the initial installation process, these can be obtained from:

<http://tinyurl.com/yvnnvos>

Provided you left “Launch Mozilla Thunderbird now” ticked, Thunderbird should now start and you can set up your email account.

Take it with you

If you pop across to <http://portableapps.com> you will find a portable version of Thunderbird that you can install on a USB stick, USB drive, or MP3 player (e.g. iPod). This is installed in the same way, but make sure you have your device attached **before** you start and the installation process will automatically install the portable Thunderbird on the device ready to plug into any Windows computer.

You may need to log on to the USB device to start Thunderbird. If you've used the complete portable application suite (obtainable from the same source as portable Thunderbird) start the portable applications menu instead.

Portable Thunderbird works completely from the device on which it is installed, leaving no trace on the host computer.

Now you really can take it with you!

Setting up an email account

Importing settings into Thunderbird

If you already have an email account and have been using Outlook Express, or another email client, importing the settings is the easiest way to go ... no finding that missing piece of paper that the Internet Service Provider sent you, no trying to remember that saved password, and no looking up the server names ... just import them from your old email program.

When Thunderbird is installed, it will automatically look for Outlook Express, Outlook and Eudora, and offer to import the settings. If you choose not to import the settings as part of the installation process, you still have the option of using the import wizard later. You'll find it on the Tools menu.

Setting up a new account

When you run the installation program as described earlier, Thunderbird should open, and display the Welcome Screen. The default "Local Folders" will have been created in the left pane: Inbox, Unsent, Drafts, Sent, and Trash.

Before you proceed with setting up the account you will need

some information from your Internet Service Provider. This includes your email address, your login ID/user name (which may be the first part of your email address – before the @ symbol – or may be the whole email address), the name of their mail servers (both incoming and outgoing), the email account type, and the dialup phone number (if you don't have broadband). If you don't have the information, you can look it up on the provider's website by using another computer.

Once you have the information in front of you, you can click on the "Create a new account" link to associate an email address with Thunderbird. You can also add email accounts later on, if you need to.

You can use Thunderbird as reader for RSS feeds or Newsgroup accounts. However, in this article, we will only look at setting up an email account:

- Choose "Email account"
- Click Next.
- Under "Your Name," enter your name as you would like it to appear when people receive emails from you.
- Enter your actual email address in the second field.
- Click Next.
- Choose POP3 for the email account type, unless the information you have from your

Internet Service Provider says otherwise.

- In the Incoming mail server field, you should enter the mail server to which Thunderbird must connect to check your emails. In most cases, it will be of the form "mail.ispname.com.au". (Some ISPs use pop.ispname.com.au and there are a number of other possibilities.)
- The checkbox "Use global inbox" is ticked by default. You should untick it if you think that you may add more email accounts later, and you want to keep them separate in Thunderbird. *If you use only one email address, it makes sense to leave the box checked.*

Note: If you have multiple accounts, you will usually need to use the same outgoing server for all of them. Thus, even though your mail comes in from, say, mail.internode.on.net and mail.hobartpcgroup.org.au, it will usually have to be sent through mail.internode.on.net – your main account – or you will get a message about relaying not being allowed and have your outgoing mail blocked. This is done to make the sending of spam more difficult.

- Enter your email account user name. This user

name will vary depending on your email provider: it usually is the part that comes right before the "@" character. In some cases, however, the user name may be the entire email address.

- Click Next.
- "Account Name" is the user friendly nickname you want to give to the email account you just setup. Choose something that tells you what that particular account is used for.
- If you are connected to the Internet (leaving the checkbox checked will make Thunderbird check for email on your provider's server as soon as you click the Finish button.
- Thunderbird should prompt you for your email account's password.
- If you are the only one using your computer's current user name, you will probably want to leave the checkbox checked. Otherwise, Thunderbird will ask you for your password each time it needs it.

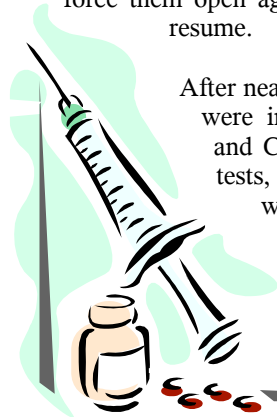
And that's it. Your email account is set up and Thunderbird should download any mail that is waiting for you to log on. Next time, we will look at how to customise Thunderbird and how to use it to manage your mail, filter out spam and sort it into different folders.

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Personal from the Editor

As those readers who also subscribe to the mailing list would know, production of this issue was disrupted when I had a sudden trip to hospital with a full-blown case of jaundice.

Jaundice is a yellowing of the skin caused by a build up of bilirubin (discarded red blood cells). It shows itself when the body is no longer able to excrete the bilirubin. It can have several causes: various strains of hepatitis, cirrhosis of the liver, blocked bile ducts etc. In my case a lesion on the liver blocked the bile ducts and the first step in treatment was to force them open again so that normal excretion could resume.



After nearly three weeks, during which stents were inserted to open the blocked ducts, and CT scans, X-rays, bone scans, blood tests, liver biopsies and more were done, I was discharged and now face chemotherapy.

Chemo can have quite severe side effects, but I won't know how I will be affected until it starts in a few weeks' time. It has

been delayed until I am completely over the jaundice that landed me in hospital. To do otherwise, I am told, could lead to severe side effects.

As there is no deputy editor to step into the breach, I don't anticipate that there will be another issue of this newsletter until late September. The Committee are looking in to how assistance can be provided and I will naturally be doing my best to keep the newsletter going, health permitting. If you can help, contact Colin von Bibra and he will explain what is needed.

During my stay in the Royal Hobart Hospital, I was looked after by many nurses and there was only one that I would run a mile to avoid. Another was too much of a dictator for my liking and a third was just coming back into nursing and admitted to being a bit rusty. The rest were very dedicated and extremely competent and a resource that this state cannot afford to lose.

If you can help get it across to the Minister that salary parity with other states is essential to retaining our valuable nurses, then please do so. Surely, instead of rejecting the nurses' claims out of hand, the Minister should be putting forward a plan that the Government can afford, even it takes several years to achieve parity. After all, it won't be much use building a new hospital if there is nobody left to staff it.

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Freespire 2.0 released

There are two schools of thought when it comes to what should be included in a Linux distribution. The first is that it should be purely open source and the user should be totally free to modify the contents, including logos and drivers, to meet their requirements. Ubuntu is an example of this approach.

The second school is what I would call the Pragmatic or Realist school. They know that Canon, nVidia and Hewlett Packard, for example, want their hardware to work with Linux but they are equally determined to protect their hardware secrets by not making their drivers open source. So they make compiled drivers available that can be freely distributed but which cannot be readily modified.

Freespire 2.0 straddles the divide between these two schools of thought and builds on Ubuntu by optionally making licensed proprietary drivers available to improve the user experience.

To obtain Freespire, go to <http://www.freespire.org> and download it, either directly or as a torrent. What you download is an ISO file. From this you need to burn a CD. Check the instructions for your particular burning software as to how to do this. Otherwise you may finish up with a copy

of the ISO file instead of the installation CD.

Once you have made the CD, boot from it and choose the second option from the menu which appears. This is “Run from the CD”. Running Freespire from the CD allows you to check its suitability for your computer. In my case it setup my desktop machine requiring only a little manual configuration of time zone etc. I then had to tell it to connect to the wireless network and it was up and running.

On the other hand, it would not run or install on my laptop at all, despite trying a number of different options. This was a disappointment as I had hoped to give it a thorough workout on the laptop and report in a future newsletter how well (or otherwise) it performed.

Freespire is a free version of Linspire. If you prefer the supported version, go to <http://www.linspire.com> and buy Linspire 6.0 for \$USD49.95. Linspire includes all the necessary proprietary drivers and codecs to make it a good substitute for Windows, even more so than Freespire 2.0.

Freespire 2.0 was released on 8 August and the following is the press release from Linspire, sponsors of the Freespire community desktop Linux operating system. It explains just what proprietary components are included and why. If you are looking for a free, state-of-the-art Linux distribution, sufficiently similar to Windows to enable you to get to grips

with it quickly and easily, then Freespire 2.0 is highly recommended.

San Diego, CA - August 8th, 2007 - Linspire, Inc., developer of the Linspire commercial and Freespire community desktop Linux operating systems and CNR.com, a free Linux software delivery service, today announced the immediate availability of Freespire 2.0, the latest version of the free desktop Linux operating system. Building on the best of open source software using Ubuntu as its baseline, Freespire 2.0 adds legally licensed proprietary drivers, codecs, and applications in its core distribution, to provide a better user experience. Freespire 2.0 (<http://www.freespire.org>) also continues to offer users the ability to choose what software they want installed on their computer, without limitations or restrictions, as a result, making available proprietary software where there are no viable open source alternatives.

Freespire is able to provide improved out-of-the-box hardware, file type, and multimedia support, such as MP3, Windows Media, Real Networks, Java, Flash, ATI, nVidia, WiFi, and many more. Freespire is also the first desktop Linux operating system that will include a CNR plugin for the soon to be released new CNR Service (<http://www.cnr.com>), providing free one-click access to thousands of open source applications, as well as options for legally licensed DVD playback software, Sun's StarOffice, Parallels Workstation, Win4Lin, CodeWeaver's Crossover Office, TransGaming's

Cedega, commercial games and many more.

"Version 2.0 is the first Freespire based off of the popular Ubuntu distribution," explained President and CEO of Linspire, Inc. Larry Kettler. "Freespire 2.0 picks up where Ubuntu leaves off by adding proprietary software, drivers and codecs, to make for a more complete turn-key solution for mainstream desktop computing."

Immediately available for free download through the Freespire.org web site (<http://www.freespire.org>), Freespire is a community-influenced, Ubuntu-based Linux distribution that is designed to be powerful enough for sophisticated Linux users and developers, yet easy enough for someone new to Linux. Freespire was created specifically for use on desktop and notebook computers and designed to offer a new level of polish, attention to detail, and ease-of-use in a free Linux distribution.

Freespire 2.0 begins with Ubuntu (Version 7.04) as its baseline and then adds software from six broad categories, further expanding Freespire's capabilities:

***CNR plugin** provides free one-click access to thousands of open source applications, as well as options for legally licensed DVD playback software, Sun's StarOffice, Parallels Workstation, Win4Lin, CodeWeaver's Crossover Office, TransGaming's Cedega, commercial games and many more.*

KDE is added for an easier-to-use and more comfortable interface, with a more familiar look and feel for Apple Mac and Microsoft Windows users.

Enhanced applications and features are added for superior usability and ease of use, modifying software applications such as Firefox and Thunderbird, and along with the inclusion of Linspire-sponsored open source software like Nvu, Lsongs, and Lphoto.

Proprietary software is added when necessary, such as Java,



Flash, and Adobe Acrobat, in order to provide overall increased interoperability.

Proprietary codecs are added to expand multimedia compatibility and provide a superior overall experience so users can listen to MP3 files, play Windows Media files, and much more.

Proprietary drivers are added to expand hardware compatibility and provide optimum 3D graphic card support, better WiFi support, and more.

"This is by far our most advanced desktop Linux system we've released to date," said Kettler. "Everything is cutting edge, utilizing the latest core technologies, from the Kernel to KDE, with the infrastructure in place to keep Freespire updated and current, moving forward."

Freespire 2.0 also provides users with enhanced Microsoft Word document interoperability by including Open XML translators that allow OpenOffice to open and edit Microsoft Word .docx formatted documents.

As a company, Linspire will continue to develop and release new commercial versions of its industry leading desktop Linux operating system, the Linspire OS. While Freespire is more accessible to developers, enthusiasts, hobbyists and those in or curious about the Linux community, Linspire will

continue to be more geared toward general computer user, OEM and the retail channel by offering more ease of use and premium support.

About Linspire

Linspire, Inc. (<http://www.linspire.com>) was founded in 2001 to bring choice into the operating system market. The company's flagship product, the Linspire operating system, is an affordable, easy-to-use Linux-based operating system distributed primarily pre-installed on PCs for home, school, and business users. Freespire (<http://www.freespire.org>) is a community-involved, Linux-based operating system that combines the best that free, open source software has to offer (community driven, freely distributed, open source code, etc.), but also provides users the choice of including proprietary codecs, drivers and applications as they see fit. With Freespire, the choice is yours as to what software is installed on your computer, with no limitations or restrictions placed on that choice. How you choose to maximize the performance of your computer is entirely up to you. Linspire also pioneered CNR Technology, which provides free access to all Linux software through CNR.com, allowing one-click installation from over 20,000 software programs, packages and libraries. Free to use, both free and commercial software is available at <http://www.cnr.com>.

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Dell offers XP

Although Dell, like most computer makers, switched almost entirely to Windows Vista in January, it found that there was still significant customer demand for the older Windows XP and announced in April that it would offer it on four Inspiron laptop models and two Dimension desktops.

"We heard you loud and clear on bringing the Windows XP option back to our Dell consumer PC offerings," Dell said on its *Ideas in Action* page. Users get to vote on various suggestions, and the notion of bringing back XP got 10,000 "points," making it among the most popular requests but well below top picks such as adding Linux or OpenOffice.org to its PCs. (Dell has responded to the Linux requests by offering Ubuntu pre-installed on selected computers.)

Windows XP systems became scarce, but not impossible to find, after Vista arrived. For example, Hewlett-Packard said it would continue selling XP on some machines aimed at small and midsize businesses, while CompUSA still stocks a couple of business-oriented XP systems in its retail stores. Lenovo has also continued shipping XP on many of its business systems.

Much of the demand for Windows XP appears to be coming from small business rather than consumers. Market

SCO loses in court

researchers say that businesses know that Windows XP works with their hardware and software and are not ready to upgrade to Vista just yet. Based on my own experience, delaying the upgrade will allow time for incompatibility problems to be sorted out and should lead to a more straightforward upgrade when they do decide to make the move.

Microsoft product manager Michael Burk said in a statement: "Dell is responding appropriately to a small minority of customers that had this specific request. But, as they have said before, the vast majority of consumers want the latest and greatest technology, and that includes Windows Vista."

The software maker has said it will stop selling Windows XP to large PC makers by January. Smaller computer sellers, known as system builders, will be able to sell XP machines for an additional year. Microsoft says such a move is normal after a new operating system comes out.

"Windows Vista is safer, easier to use, better connected and more entertaining than any operating system we've ever released, and we're encouraged by the positive customer response we've seen to date," the company said. "It's standard practice to allow OEMs, retailers and system builders to continue offering the previous version of Windows for a certain period of time after a new version is released."

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Some time ago, a firm called SCO (previously the Santa Cruz Organization) sued IBM for including Unix code in Linux. It demanded royalties (of \$700 per machine) from Linux users and claimed that thousands of lines of the Linux source code breached its copyrights. However, it refused to reveal what these lines were. It also sued Novell for "slander of title".

Now a federal court in Utah has ruled that SCO only bought a licence to use Unix and not the copyright which Novell Inc. retains.

This ruling, which SCO will probably appeal, harms SCO's efforts to claim money from installations of Linux. The decision also aids International Business Machines Corp in its defence of the suit that SCO brought against that company.

Novell senior vice president and general counsel Joe LaSala said, "The court's ruling has cut out the core of SCO's case and, as a result, eliminates SCO's threat to the Linux community based upon allegations of copyright infringement of Unix." He added, "We are extremely pleased with the outcome."

In 2003, SCO announced that it had determined that Linux

was an illegal knockoff of Unix, an operating system originally developed by AT&T in the 1970s, and which it claimed to have purchased from Novell in 1995.

At that time, SCO filed its lawsuit against IBM, claiming that IBM had unfairly taken part of the Unix code and contributed it to the community of programmers who develop Linux.

At the time, many Linux enthusiasts doubted whether SCO could succeed in its claims, because it had distributed a version of Linux under the open source GPL, which gives users the right to modify the source code. Certainly the legal situation was quite complicated and the recent court decision has added much needed clarification.

SCO merely licensed Unix from Novell, the court ruled, in a 102-page opinion by U.S. District Judge Dale A. Kimball. The company never purchased the copyright to Unix, the judge ruled, meaning SCO probably can't sue Linux users or IBM for copyright infringement and SCO must pay a percentage of the royalties it has collected since 2003 over to Novell.

The judge also said Novell had the authority to force SCO to waive its claims against IBM. SCO has alleged that IBM engineers who had once worked on a joint project with a SCO predecessor improperly used knowledge they gained in later contributions to Linux.

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Free security suite

It is no longer sufficient to guard against viruses with antivirus software. Spam, phishing and spyware pose additional threats to your computer. You can deal with these threats by using separate applications – e.g. *AVG*, *Spybot* and *Spamhilarator* – or you could buy an integrated security suite.

Now there is a security suite that combines most of the necessary functions in an advertising-supported application. It is called *CyberDefenderFREE* and can be downloaded from <http://www.cyberdefender.com>.

Included in the suite are *earlySPY*, *earlyVIRUS*, *earlySPAM*, *earlySCAM*, *earlyMONITOR* and *safeSEARCH*. The one thing it does not include is a firewall and it is designed for use only with Windows 2000, XP or Vista.

As the names suggest, *CyberDefenderFREE* deals with spyware, viruses (trojans and worms), spam, and phishing attempts. It also monitors intrusion attempts and prevents identity theft. As is all that wasn't enough, it also endeavours to make searching safer through the *safeSEARCH* module.

The advertising only operates when the application is active and is said to be “unobtrusive”.

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