

Linux consortium gets valley boost

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Gelato. The mere mention of the tasty treat makes Lily's mouth water.

But that won't divert attention from the Silicon Valley connections to the Gelato Foundation, a group with a chilling mission.

Silicon Graphics Inc. of Mountain View, which makes computers for the likes of scientists and graphic artists, is becoming an industry sponsor for the federation, an international research consortium with the mission of advancing open source software in the form of the Linux OS Intel Itanium 2 platform.

The idea is to develop open-source software for academic, government and industrial HCP research. Gelato's name stems from the popular penguin logo for Linux. Cold? Sweet? Get it?

SGI hopes to gain some perspectives from Gelato's international users. And in return the company will loan an SGI Altix 350 midrange system to the University of New South Wales. The university and SGI will each host speakers every quarter to create early access to code that will allow Gelato researchers to become pre-beta testers on the Altix 350 and on Hewlett-Packard integrity servers running Linux software.

Gelato's founding sponsor, Hewlett-Packard Co. of Palo Alto, will host Gelato's May meeting called "Understanding Your Itanium System to Maximize Performance." More than 100 scientists and engineers will descend on San Jose from May 22 through May 25 for the conference.

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