www.arabeyes.org

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The Arab Open Source Experience

Oct. 19, 2003

What is Open Source

- It's the ability to copy, modify and distribute the building code of programs
- It's knowing that thousands of people scrutinize virtually all applications
- It's knowing that bugs and vulnerabilities are addressed immediately
- It's knowing you are secure without blind trust

Arabeyes Mandate

- Fully furnish and supply Arabic support on Linux/Unix
- Implement and contribute to standards
- Introduce OSS/Linux to Arab educational institutions
- Build knowledge-base and experience all Arabs can benefit from via a nurturing environment
- Enhance and encourage bleeding-edge technology driven industry in Arab world

Arabeyes History

- Lack of Arabic support prompted Aunyx Project (Jan. 2001)
- Aunyx had vision but lacked focus and resources
- Evolved to Arabeyes, founded July 2001
- Extensive research of what and who is available
- Formed a focused roadmap with means to attain and gauge its goals
- Extensive outreach to all involved in Arabization

Arabeyes Resources

- Simply put we have no resources
- Servers donated by Arabeyes members
- Bandwidth paid by Arabeyes members
- Server runs UnderMyFeet™
- Members volunteer their time, effort and resources
- Looking into solidifying professional 5+ year commitment

Arabeyes Management

- Core Team manages Arabeyes
 - External contacts
 - Overall direction
 - Plans and prioritizing
- Meetings are held online on IRC (Internet Relay Chat)
- All meeting minutes and agendas publically available
- All meetings are open to any person interested

Arabeyes in The News

- Arabian Computer News (ACN ITP.net)
 - Jan. 15, 2003 Lack of awareness holds Linux back
- Network Middle East (ITP.net)
 - Linux Tech Analysis
- Gulf News (UAE daily paper)
 - Aug. 24, 2003 Arabeyes.org playing key role in Arabizing Linux software
- The Star (Jordanian daily paper)
 - Linux Arabization The Open Source Way

Arabeyes Project Types

- Translation projects
- Development projects
 - External patches/fixes
 - Internal home-grown projects
- Fonts/Art projects
- Standardization
- Documentation

Translation Projects

- On-going process of updating translations of main desktop environments, applications and libraries
 - GNOME, KDE









- AbiWord, Mozilla
- Qt Toolkit Library
- Create comprehensive English-to-Arabic dictionary
 - Wordlist (ver 0.5) 86,000 terms

Development Projects - External

- Extend Arabic support by patching mainstream programs
 - less file persual filter (pager) for CRT viewing
 - LyX WYISWYG interface to TeX typesetting
 - txtbdf2ps convert text files to Postscript files
 - VIM popular text editor
 - XFree86 X11R6 X server
 - mlterm X terminal
 - FVWM2 X11 Window Manager

السعي للجامعات من التحديات التي يواجهها فريق التطوير و التعريب seyebarA هي أقحام المزيد من المتطوعين و تشجيعهم على العمل على مشاريع برمجية تهدف إلى دعم اللغة العربية في نظام لينكس و أنظمة يونكس. و الإجابة على هذا التعدي كانت التوجه للجامعات. الناظر لتاريخ البرامج المفتوحة المصدر، و نظام لينكس، و غيره من البرامج الحرة يرى ان القاسم المشترك بينها هي أن معظمها كانت نتاج عمل طلاب جامعات، و بدعم من جامعاتهم و هيئاتهم الأكاديمية.و من هنا جائت رغبة فريق التطوير و التعريب في السعي للوصول للجامعات و التعاون معهم في سبيل أنجاح مشروع دعم اللغة العربية في أنظمة

يونكس.
و مع قرب بدأ السنة الدراسية الجديدة في الجامعات، يبدو أن الوقت مناسب للبدأ
بالعمل على هذا المسار. و من هنا يأتي طلبنا منكم مساعدتنا في هذه المجال، من
الممكن أن تساعدونا عن طريق:

- ارسال أسماء و عناوين البريد الإلكتروني لأساتذة الجامعات في العالم العربي و
خارجه، ممن تعتقد أنهم من الممكن أن يستمعوا لنا حول مدى ملائمة نظام لينكس للنظام
التعليمي، و كيفية ملائمة العمل على مشاريع اللغة العربية لتحقيق الأهداف التعليمية
للجامعات. نود أن نأكد للأساتذة /رؤساء الأقسام/عمداء الكليات تلبية نظام لينكس
المتطلبات ليكون أداة للأبحاث في الدراسات العليا و الفوائد التي تتحقق من

- INSERT Arabic (lang) —

Development Projects - Internal

- Home-grown development projects
- Fulfill Arab-centric needs
- Only when options of a merge to mainstream applications exhausted
- Wide range of applications and libraries
- Provide development infrastructure to Arab developers

Akka – Arabic Console

Started: Jan. 16, 2001



- Release: ver. 1.0
- A tool to enable Arabic input/output on console
- Example of continuity (evolved from Acon)
- Used in HaydarLinux as initial installation medium

Arabbix – Live-CD Linux Distribution

Started: Sept. 2, 2003

Status: ver. 0.8



- World's first Arabic Linux Live-CD Distribution
- Demonstrates the results of Arabization work
- Showcases many of Arabeyes' applications, documents and principles
- Intended to spark wide range of interest about Open Source and Arabeyes
- Intended to show and cement "can be done" attitude

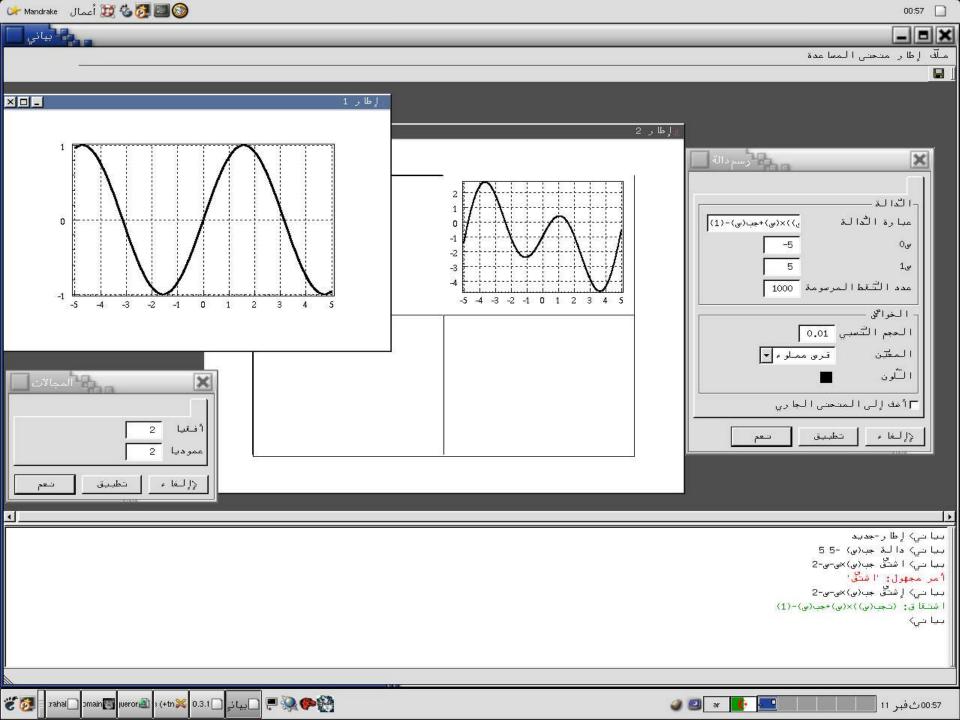


Bayani – Scientific Graph Plotter

Started: Nov. 30, 2002



- Status: ver. 0.1
- Provide a complete scientific toolkit in Arabic
- Serves a multitude of educational purposes
- Intended to provide a means to interpolate Arabic equations into graphs
- Based on the Qt Toolkit Library



Duali – Arabic Spell Checker

Started: Jan. 31, 2002



- Release: ver. 0.1.1
- Arabic spell checker designed to integrate with other applications
- Boosts a very compact dictionary design
- Written and prototyped in Python
- Final product to be written in C++

```
Line: 191 Word 1: Incorrect: [الامبارساند]

Line: 208 Word 11: Incorrect: [امبارساند]

Line: 235 Word 11: Incorrect: [امبارساند]

Line: 235 Word 11: Incorrect: [امبارساند]

[امبارساند] [elzubeir@devel:gnome]$
```

FreeBSD Ports – Arabeyes Ports

- Started: Sept. 1, 2003
- Integrate Arabic category to the FreeBSD ports collection
- Includes Arabic applications, translations, fonts and the functionality for Arabic-driven FreeBSD system

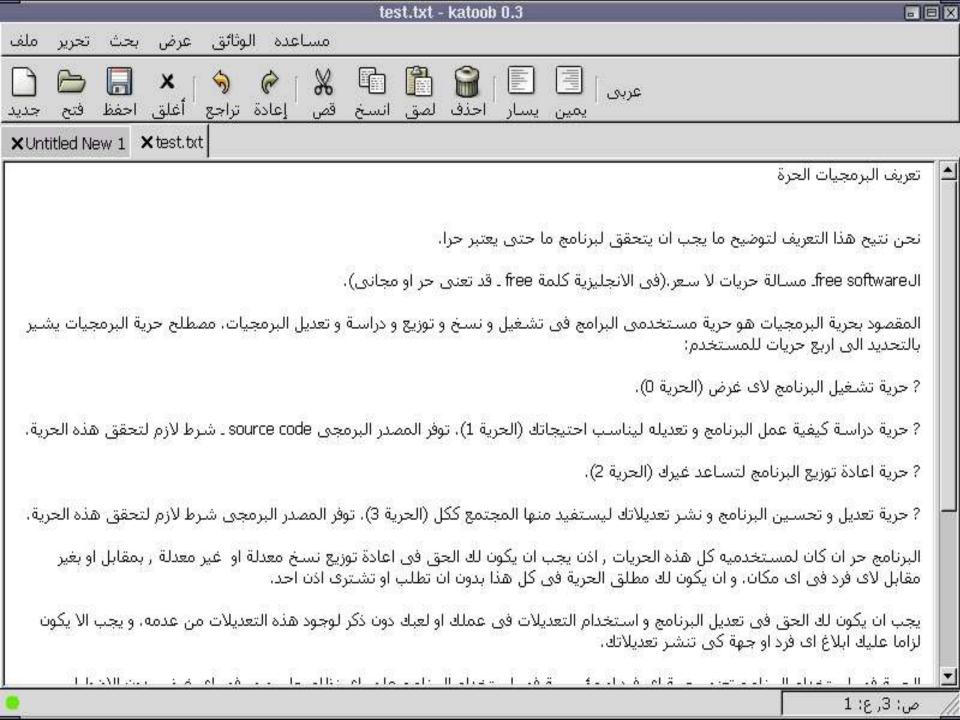


Katoob – Arabic Text Editor

Started: Jun. 6, 2002



- Release: ver. 0.3.5
- Light-weight Bidirectional (BiDi) text editor
- Includes various integrated tools formatting, printing, spell-checking, HTML numerical import/export, etc.
- Proof of concept for GTK2 library support of Arabic



QaMoose – Web-based Dictionary

Started: Sept. 1, 2001



- A web-based English-Arabic online dictionary
- Needed for translators to ensure consistency
- Allows others to contribute to its content
- Uses DICT protocol to query "Wordlist"



Quran – GUI Multimedia Quran

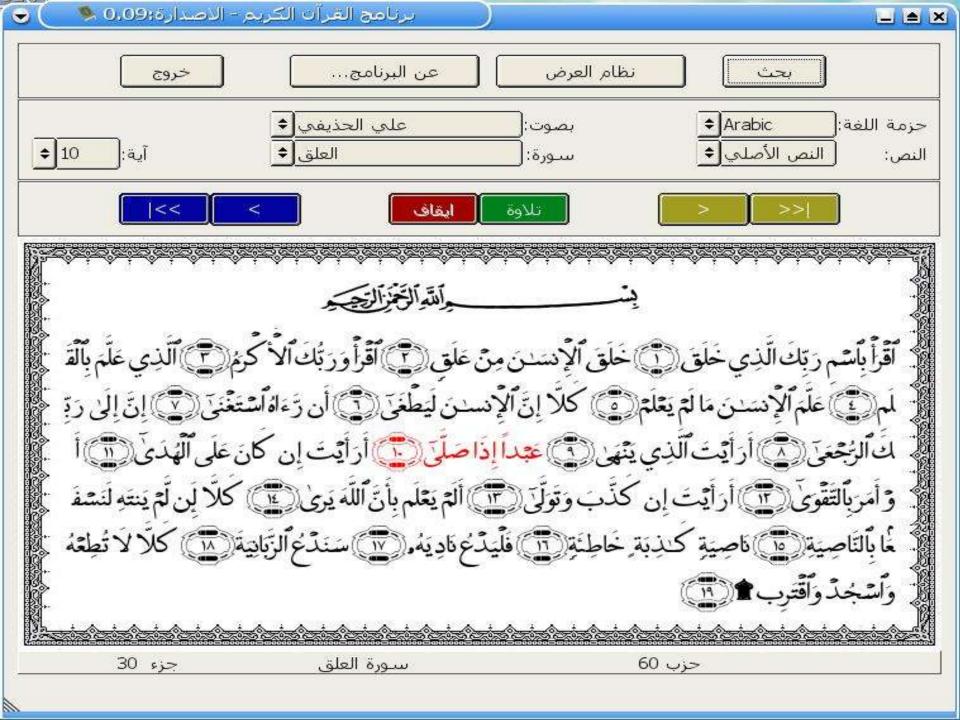
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- Started: Jul. 13, 2002
- Navigate through texts and audio of the Quran
- Support of multi-lingual text translations
- Comprised of Qt and GNOME based clients





Al Quran



Fonts Project – Khotot

Started: Feb. 27, 2003



- Create Arabic fonts (fixed-width and TrueType)
 - Salvage existing free and open Arabic fonts
- Create central repository for all free and Open Source
 Arabic fonts
 - Nurture required skill-set and establish know-how



Standardization – Arabic Standards

- Arabic documentation and translation standard
- Arabeyes Arabic Linux support standard
 - Distribution support level (to influence RedHat, Mandrake, SuSe, etc.)
 - Applications support level
- Arabeyes Arabic Support Certification Program

Documentation Projects

- Translation of HOWTO's
- Writing Arabic-specific guides and HOWTO's
 - Addressed to users
 - Addressed to technical writers and translators
 - Addressed to developers



What Can You Do To Help?

- Get involved yourself
- Raise awareness
 - Tell your family, friends and colleagues
 - Solicit corporate and governmental involvement
 - Impress upon educational institutions the use of Linux (presentations, seminars, courses, research projects, etc.)
- Convert all your documents to UTF-8 encoding
- Consider donating to advocate and show support

Links

- Linux User Groups
 - www.linux.org.sa
 - www.linux-egypt.org
 - Start one in YOUR area!
- www.linux4arab.com
- www.arabiclinux.com
- www.linuxtoday.com
- www.linux.org
- We want to hear from YOU on www.arabeyes.org