



Linux is Operating System of choice for advanced Set Top Boxes, says Ocean Blue

Bristol, England - 20 March 2007 - Ocean Blue Software, the specialist digital TV software developer, has released a Linux version of its Sunrise, Voyager, and SurfSoft software products, with ports to the leading hardware platforms complete or well under way. The company reports that Linux is emerging as the preferred platform for developers of set-top boxes, particularly at the high end, such as Digital Video Recorders (DVRs) and IPTV.

Recent introductions by Ocean Blue include Linux versions of the company's software, including MHEG-5 (for Freeview " Press red" functionality) support, for the multi-purpose NXP Nexperia chipsets and Toshiba's 'Donau' system-on-chip (SoC).

"The major chipset manufacturers are introducing new Linux platforms almost monthly," commented Ken Helps, Managing Director of Ocean Blue Software. "IT vendors that wish to produce products for the Digital Home and are used to working with Linux in the past, now have the option of using Linux based DVB and MHEG-5 Digital TV software products. The Linux operating system features in many of the new raft of IPTV Set Top Boxes, being powerful enough to support advanced functions but not requiring a license fee. All the industry reports indicate strong growth in this area and we are developing our software to support most platforms."

NXP's (formally Philips Semi-conductors) Nexperia range of chipsets support home entertainment products, audio description and the latest AV codecs (H.264, WM9), creating an advanced platform for building IP STBs and dual functionality STB products.

Codenamed 'Donau', Toshiba's high performance system-on-chip (SoC) devices simplify the design and dramatically reduce time to market. The platforms combine Toshiba's Media embedded Processor (MeP) architecture with a 64-bit embedded RISC host processor to create multimedia SoCs with compute performances of up to 650MIPS (at 180MHz).

These combined hardware and software solutions with advanced features will allow development of IP STBs for the digital home with technology features such as: video telephony, picture improvements, broadband TV, time-shift recording, support for Freeview channels, DVD playback, storage, personal video recording, network connectivity, and even voice over IP(VoiP).

Ocean Blue is also providing product developed to the Freeview Playback PVR standard and the European Accessibility Project.

Technical Information

Ocean Blue's Voyager software system MHEG-5 & DSM-CC is the result of a more than 10 man-year development project and is fully tested and in production.. The MHEG-5 & DSM-CC software was developed in the standard C programming language and is thus portable to many different operating systems and hardware computing platforms.

Ocean Blue's Sunrise is a suite of integrated software products, which provides all the functionality for receiving digital video & audio on digital set top boxes and televisions. Sunrise is a multi-mode TV product, a single software product which supports both analogue and digital TV broadcasts.

Ocean Blue's Surfsoft (a Freeview Playback standard version is available) system software is a content management systems that has been saved on a hard disk-based digital TV device. Surfsoft's many features and functions include time shift, trick modes, search, retrieve, save, record, timed recording and pause.

For further information or pictures, please contact:

Ken Helps
Ken.Helps@oceanbluesoftware.co.uk
0117 9722753
www.oceanbluesoftware.co.uk

Peter Linton
peter@medialink.co.uk
0118 984 3386
www.medialink.co.uk