

# Looking Forward with Linux



Over the past few years, the Linux® operating system (OS) has transformed from a tool for the most technologically savvy engineers to one of the most complete and stable operating systems available. Many companies first deployed Linux for their departmental file-and-print or Web servers, but now many large corporate IT departments use Linux as the cornerstone OS for core business applications.

Linux is based upon an open source programming model that promotes the best fixes from the programming community in a collaborative environment. This OS has become a prominent force in enterprise computing. Extensive research investment from vendors has resulted in a stronger and more business-ready Linux, one that can meet the needs of enterprise applications.

Linux now provides a significant choice for affordable enterprise computing. In this issue of *Power Solutions*, Dell™ engineers and business partners explore the Linux OS by discussing the following:

- Methods for simplifying Linux deployments
- Tools for integrating Linux-based systems into UNIX environments
- Techniques for storage management within the Linux OS
- Approaches for fine-tuning Linux systems

The February issue of *Dell Insight*, our publication that focuses on enterprise computing from a business perspective, also discusses the Linux OS. The issue takes an industry perspective on open source computing and discusses the future of Linux within the business world. You can learn more about the latest issue of *Dell Insight* at <http://www.dell.com/dellinsight>.

In addition to the articles focusing on Linux, this issue of *Power Solutions* also addresses the latest developments in server blade systems, storage management, and data center management. Furthermore, this issue

presents reviews of Dell products from *PC Magazine* and *Network World*.

We are starting the new year with a new look for the magazine's pages. In 2003, we are also introducing the *Power Solutions Case Study Digest*, included as a supplement to this issue. This digest details Dell deployments in various businesses and organizations. The *Power Solutions Case Study Digest* is intended to provide peer-to-peer support and to assist readers on future projects. By compiling solutions that work, we can help improve the quality of IT.

We hope this issue provides intriguing new ideas for kicking off the new year. And we plan to continue providing you with timely, practical information that you can use. Your feedback has been valuable to us. Keep sending your comments and let us know about your successful Dell deployments—we are always looking for best practices to share with the IT community.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Eddie Ho".

Eddie Ho  
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