

Oracle-Ubuntu tie-up coming?

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A trail of breadcrumbs seems to be connecting database powerhouse Oracle with the Ubuntu version of Linux.

The most recent crumb was a report last week by Jeffries & Co. analyst Katherine Egbert. "Our independent checks in the past two weeks indicate that Oracle seems to be close to introducing its own software 'stack,' featuring Ubuntu Linux. We have heard that Ubuntu is currently working to certify its recently introduced server operating system to all of Oracle's major products, including database and middleware," Egbert said.

A likely time to announce such news, she said, would be the Oracle OpenWorld conference next week. The remarks sent Red Hat's stock down 7 percent the next day, and it remains down.

Ubuntu is a newly popular version of Linux funded by a South African company, Canonical, which is trying to profit from selling Ubuntu support.

Christopher Kenyon, Canonical's business development manager, offered another crumb in a recent interview, when he said Oracle makes sure its 10G Express version works on Ubuntu.

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