

Could Dapper Drake give Ubuntu a last laugh in Linux server space?

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Created 14/06/2006 - 5:18pm

Submitted by srlinuxx on Wednesday 14th of June 2006 05:18:15 PM Filed under [Ubuntu](#) [1]

Thousands of developer hours behind Red Hat Enterprise Linux (RHEL) and SUSE Linux Enterprise Server (SLES) could make it close to impossible for the Ubuntu operating system to grab the third spot in the Linux server market.

However, not everyone feels that way. Raven Zachary, a senior analyst with The 451 Group, based in New York, looks at the massive community-driven potential of Ubuntu and sees a spark of popularity that is absent from the leading commercial Linux vendors. Ubuntu 6.06's server component opens the door for expanding into new markets, he said.

"To some extent I can agree that there is not room for another Linux that looks like Red Hat or SUSE, but there is room for one that does not look like either of them," Zachary said.

This is not the first time that the Ubuntu name has been knocked around in the headlines with big-name vendors.

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