Sponsors of the FreeVSD Project

freeVSD
www.freevsd.org
The open source web-hosting platform

SURVEY

For further information please contact:

Zoë Knipe

Lindsell Marketing

Tel: +44 (0)207 434 2090

Fax:+44 (0)207 437 4130

E-Mail:zoe@lindsellmarketing.com

Linux Market to Grow 154% in 2001

predicts Idaya/freeVSD research

Research conducted by Idaya (www.idaya.co.uk), sponsors of the FreeVSD project (www.freevsd.org), has revealed that the Linux market is expected to grow by over 150% during 2001. Linux is predicted to become the most dominant global web server platform by mid 2002, and there is majority confidence that open source software will become the most dominant underlying technology for web hosting services by 2003.

However, this growth is dependent on improvements in Linux functionality, principally the wider porting of standard productivity applications to Linux, and failsafe techniques such as file system journalling. The main potential obstacles to Linux market growth are seen as: lack of support availability from the distributions and application developers; and market conservatism and distrust of GPL-based solutions.

The Idaya/FreeVSD research was conducted between January and March 2001 amongst the global top 1000 Internet Service Providers – precisely the companies that have made the greatest investment in GPL technology and applications. Respondents were a mixture of business managers, technical heads and service managers.

Principal findings from the research were:-

- The Linux market is expected to grow a further 154% during 2001, matching growth rates experienced in 2000.

- Improved software ability (66%), journalling file systems functionality (53%), ease of installation (48%) and improved GUIs would accelerate this growth rate.

- Linux is expected to become the most dominant webserver platform by mid 2002.

- 45% of respondents expect open source software to become the dominant technology for web hosting by the end of 2003. On the other hand, 33% do not believe it will become this dominant.

- Almost two thirds (64%) of ISPs consider the leading open source software meets the standard required for enterprise level applications, comparable with proprietary software.

- Market distrust and Support Availability are seen as the main potential obstacles to Linux market growth

- An overwhelming majority (70%) feel there should be greater convergence between freeBSD and the Linux distributions in order to combine their strengths and develop a standard set of tools for modern Unix platforms.

Austin Delaney, founder of the freeVSD project comments, "The pace of Linux growth continues unabated, fuelled by the obvious economies open source software delivers into the community most reliant on Linux – namely the ISP community. The improved ability of the ISP to bring down the cost of web services, yet be able to rely on robust and proven GPL applications, is putting web-enablement within the grasp of a far wider global business community – and this all without undermining the ISP's earnings potential.

"Yet additionally we are also seeing the traditional proprietary providers of enterprise systems – IBM, Oracle, Dell, Compaq, HP, etc – putting billions of dollars into Linux development. This is critically important as it presages the penetration of Linux into corporate back-office processes, immediately opening a far wider market for support services and for GPL-developed applications. I think everyone has realised that open source in general, and Linux in particular, is here to stay."
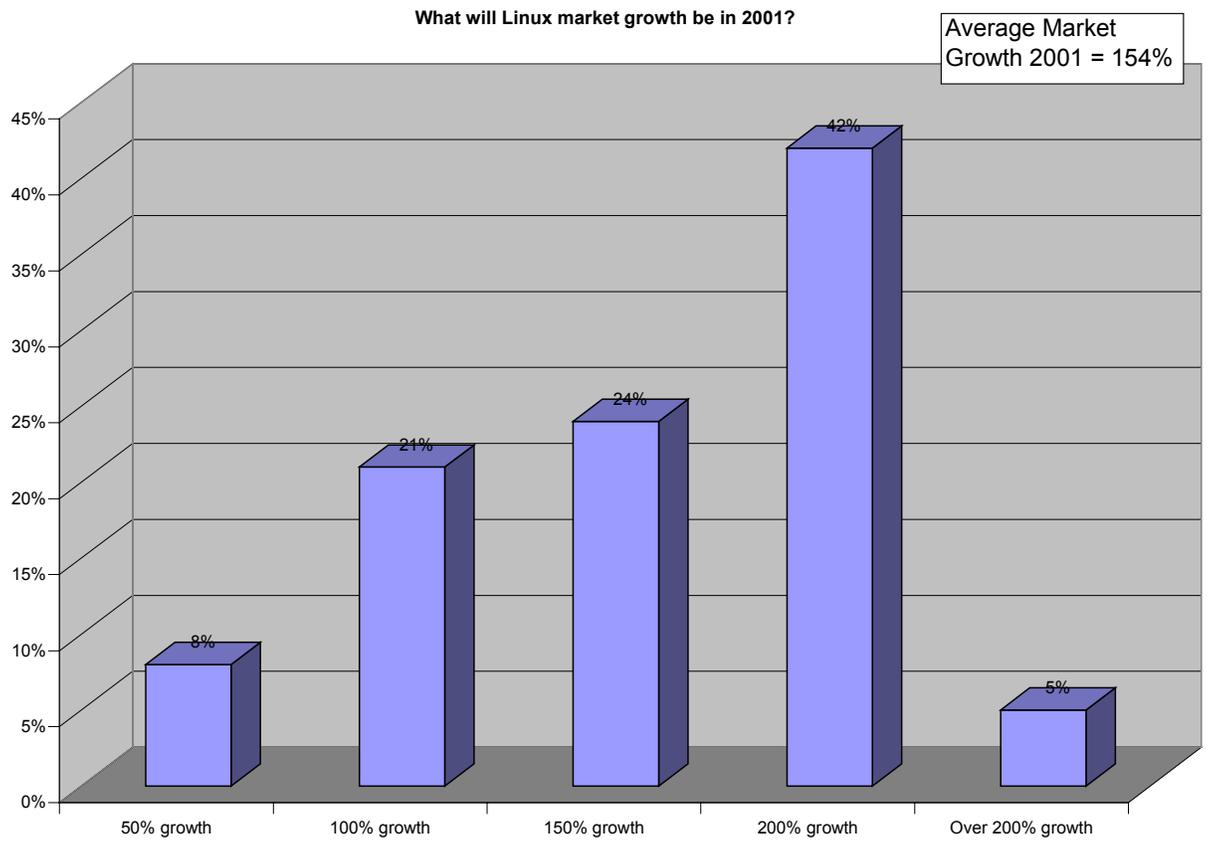
CHART 1

What will Linux market growth be in 2001?

	50% growth	100% growth	150% growth	200% growth	Over 200% growth
	8%	21%	24%	42%	5%

CHART2

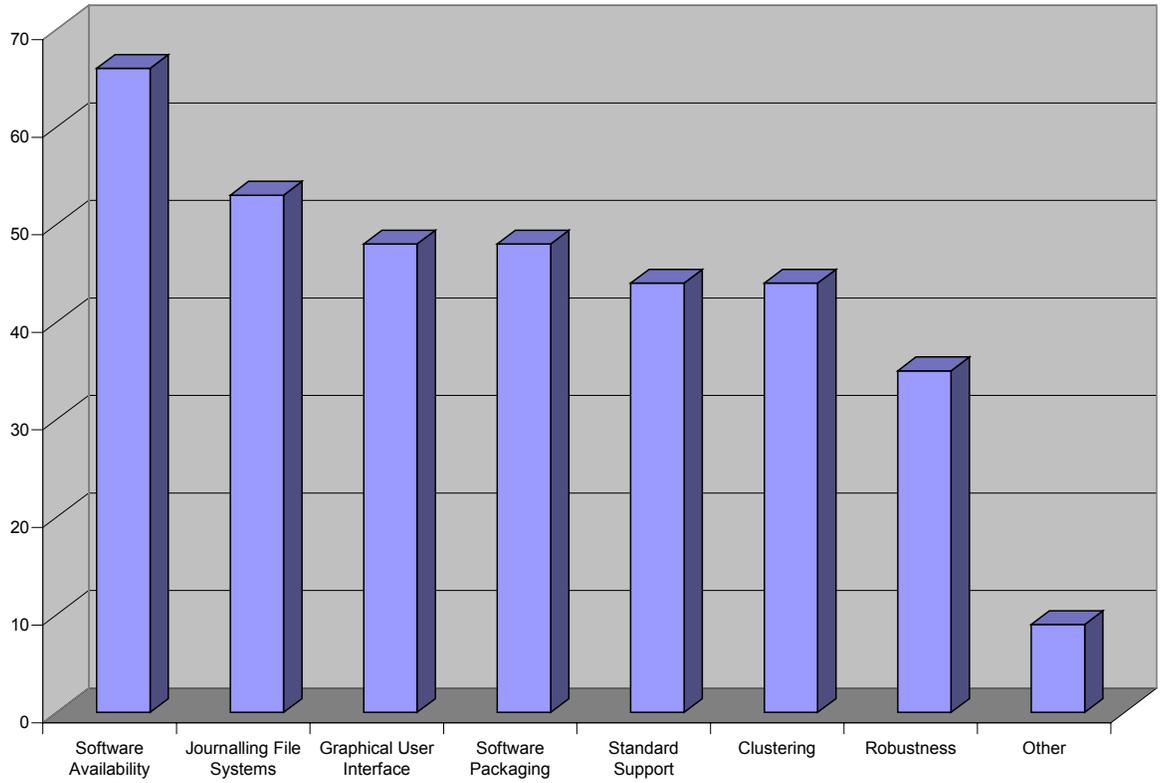**What areas of Linux Functionality/Features should be improved to accelerate growth in take-up?**

CHART 3

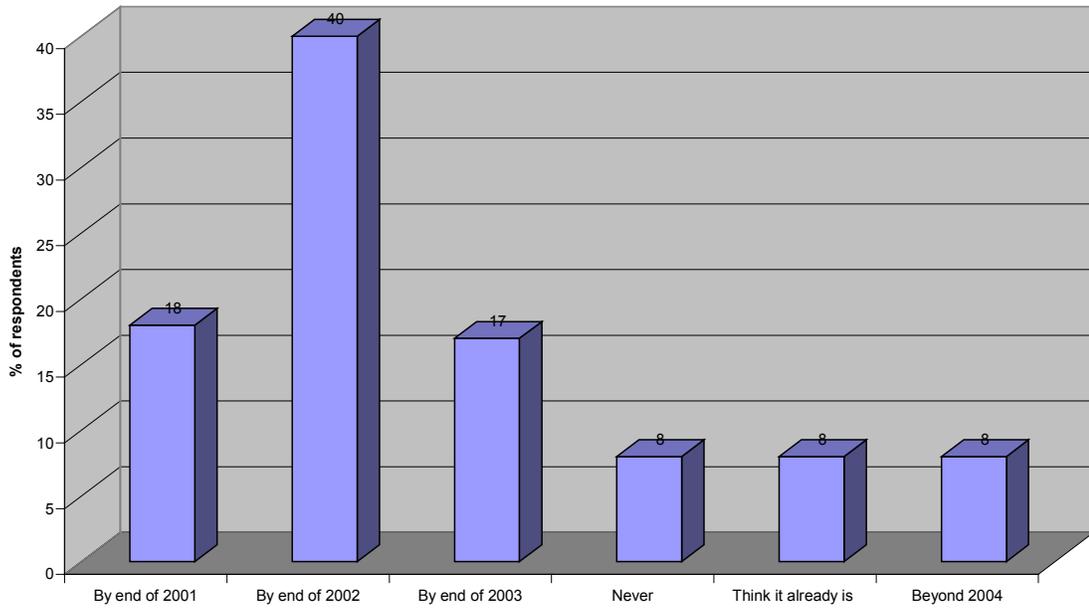**When do you think Linux will become the most dominant webserver platform in the world?**

CHART 4

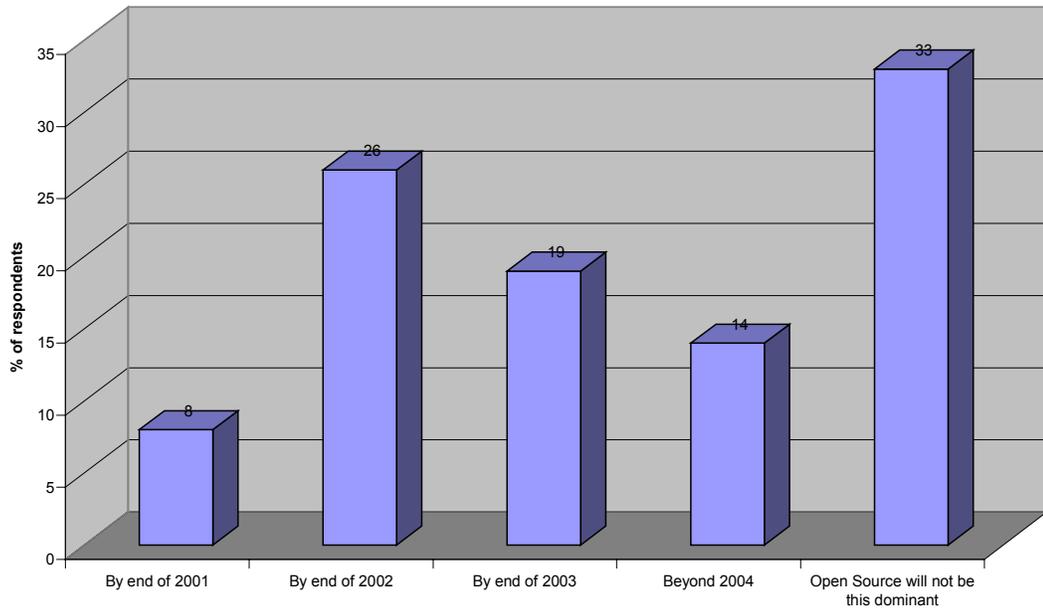**When will open source dominate the underlying technology for web hosting services?**

CHART 5

Does open source software meet the standard required for enterprise level applications compared with proprietary software?
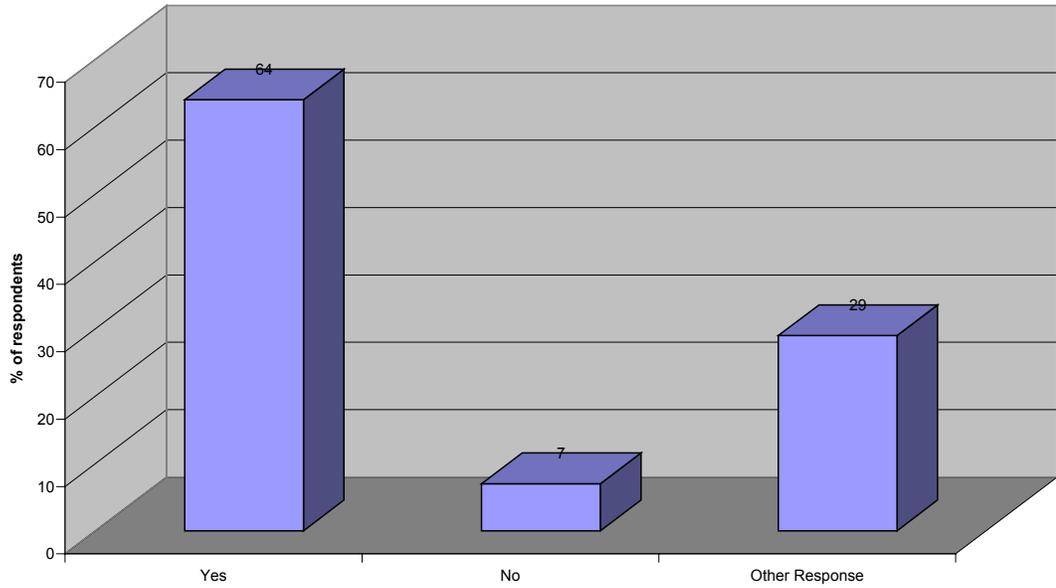

CHART 6

Are there significant obstacles which might slow down the growth of the Linux market?
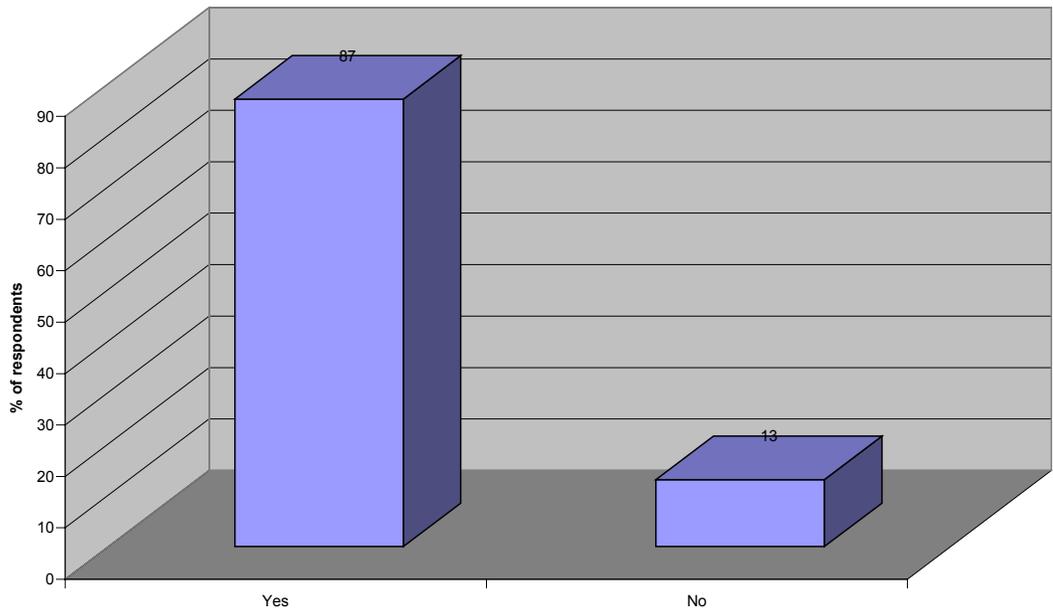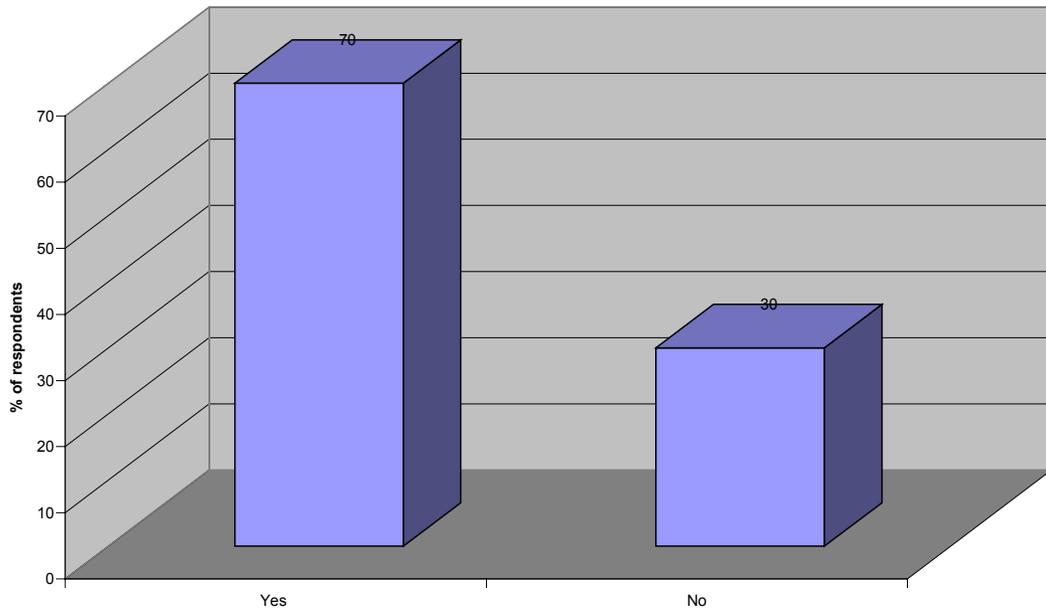
CHART 7

Rundown of significant obstacles which may slow down the growth of the Linux market

1	Support Availability
2	Market Distrust
3	Fragmentation (lack of single Linux distribution)
4	Microsoft's Marketing Department
5	Lack of knowledge about Linux
6	Lack of Linux Skills
7	Software Availability, Lack of Marketing
8	Installation Problems, Resistance to Change
9	Lack of Funding, Lack of GUI, Lack of Standards
10	Dotcom Turndown, Availability of Drivers

CHART 8

Do you feel there should be greater convergence between BSD and the different Linux distributions?

About freeVSD

freeVSD is an opensource project sponsored by Idaya ltd (see below). Since launch, there have been in the region of 200 downloads of freeVSD each month from developers and ISPs across the USA, Latin America, Europe, Russia, Asia and Australasia. It is estimated that more than 25 ISPs are already using freeVSD commercially, whilst 150 ISPs are currently implementing or testing the software. Much positive feedback has already been received from almost 2000 software developers and ISPs.

About Idaya Ltd

Based in Brighton, UK, Idaya ltd develop cutting-edge software solutions for ISPs and web hosting companies worldwide. VSDClient is Idaya's first product to market, with several more related projects in the pipeline. Idaya ltd are primary commercial sponsors of the freeVSD project, and are actively seeking more partners and Early Adopters.

For further technical enquiries, please contact info@freevsd.org