



P R E S S R E L E A S E

OSDN Network Adds Comprehensive Electronic Reference Library of Top Selling IT Books

Fremont, CA, February 12, 2004 – OSDN (Open Source Development Network, Inc. a subsidiary of VA Software Corp. NASDAQ:LINUX) today announced the launch of Safari Bookshelf, a fully searchable electronic reference library of more than 2,000 leading technical books, across OSDN's world-renowned network of technical sites, including Slashdot.org and SourceForge.net.

Technologists, enterprise architects, developers and system administrators who turn to the OSDN technology network for IT news, techniques and technologies can now add Safari's vast virtual library of technical books to their OSDN toolbox. By searching Safari, users can save time in the heat of problem-solving by pinpointing exactly the technical information and code samples they need. The extensive library includes Open Source classics such as 'Programming Perl' written by Larry Wall, the creator of Perl (O'Reilly) as well as recent best-sellers including 'Core PHP Programming' (by Leon Atkinson, Prentice Hall PTR).

"The OSDN community relies on our network as a source of information they can apply directly to their projects in the enterprise. We chose to partner with Safari to provide our users with even more in-depth and targeted content – now they can search books from publishers they already trust, like O'Reilly and Addison-Wesley, to find answers the instant they need them," said Richard French, General Manager of OSDN.

Unlike an online bookstore, Safari enables users to simultaneously search across all books in the library. Users can read books cover-to-cover or flip directly to the section they need. Code fragment searching targets results further by returning only sections containing actual code, which can be cut and pasted directly. Subscribers also have the option to download chapters for printing or viewing offline.

"The pairing of Safari and OSDN just makes sense," said Sean Devine, Managing Director of Safari Books Online. "Our objectives sync well: we both aim to provide the technology community with the tools they need to excel in their fields. The book reviews posted on Slashdot any given day show that OSDN users are already loyal to books from Safari publishers. Now the full content of those books is just a click away on Safari Bookshelf."

Safari's library boasts content from leading technical publishers including Addison-Wesley Professional, Adobe Press, Cisco Press, O'Reilly & Associates, Macromedia Press, Microsoft Press, Prentice Hall PTR, Peachpit Press, Sun Microsystems Press, Que, and Sams. More than 70 new titles are added each month, ensuring access to the most current and up-to-date information available.

Safari Bookshelf is available by monthly or annual subscription. Visitors to OSDN technical sites: OSDN.com, Devchannel.org, freshmeat.net, ITManagersJournal.com, Linux.com, NewsForge.com, Slashdot.org and SourceForge.net, receive their first 14 days free when they subscribe to the service.

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About Safari® Books Online

Safari Books Online is a joint venture between the industry's leading technical publishers, O'Reilly & Associates, Inc., and The Pearson Technology Group. Safari's flagship service, Safari® Tech

Books Online, is the premier electronic reference library for programming and IT departments. Unlike an online bookstore, Safari is a fully searchable database of the electronic versions of books from O'Reilly & Associates and Pearson's many imprints: Addison-Wesley Professional, Adobe Press, Cisco Press, Macromedia Press, New Riders, Peachpit Press, Prentice Hall PTR, Sun Microsystems Press, Que and Sams. Microsoft Press titles are also available. Safari's portfolio includes three additional electronic reference libraries: Safari Bookshelf for the individual technologist, Safari HelpDesk Online for enterprise knowledge workers and Safari Business Books Online for business professionals. For more information call Safari Books Online at (617) 848-7025 or visit the company's Web site at www.safaribooksonline.com.

About OSDN (Open Source Development Network, Inc.)

OSDN is a wholly-owned subsidiary of VA Software Corp. (Nasdaq: LNUX), is the most dynamic community-driven media network on the Web. OSDN publishes two world-renowned networks of Web sites: the OSDN Technology Network, which attracts every level of IT decision maker, influencer and buyer; and the MediaBuilder Network, which reaches graphic artists and Web designers worldwide. OSDN sites include Slashdot.org, SourceForge.net, ITManagersJournal.com, DevChannels.org, Linux.com, ThinkGeek.com, and freshmeat.net. <http://www.osdn.com>

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