IBM will enhance its fully integrated Linux platform adding proven retail operating system functionality

Linux is fast becoming one of the most popular platform choices for retail. To help your retail customers acquire the advantages of Linux such as security and reliability, without sacrificing uptime or long term technical support, IBM will launch the IBM Retail Environment for SUSE LINUX (IRES) Version 2.

Version 2, like Version 1, will include a distribution of SUSE LINUX Retail Solution (SLRS) based on the SUSE LINUX Enterprise Server (SLES) and distributed and licensed directly to your retail customers by Novell, Inc. This enterprise-class operating system is optimized to work with select IBM SurePOS systems, IBM eServer xSeries hardware and IBM middleware. With IRES Version 2, retailers will be able to run Linux at the point of sale (POS) and on back-office servers, enjoy robust functionality similar to that provided in IBM's 4690 Operating System, and receive outstanding technical support from IBM.

New capabilities in Version 2 will include:

• **Server/client hardware support.** Version 2 will allow retailers to use a single POS system as a server and client, helping to enable retailers to use IRES without necessarily purchasing a separate Linux server.

• **Fast, easy configuration.** Dynamic role-based configuration will help simplify store system administration. Instead of configuring clients individually, retailers will be able to select a default based on a store role (POS, help desk, service, gift registry). IRES also facilitates faster installation of in-store servers, requiring less intervention and fewer manual steps.

• **Enhanced retail performance.** Version 2 will include new systems management components that will help make it easier to keep track of in-store hardware and software inventory, so retailers can service peripherals proactively and validate software updates. A new graphical user interface (GUI) facilitates in store management for configuration and industry standard reporting mechanisms.

• **Improved distribution.** During software updates, software sent from the enterprise to the store may include only updates instead of the entire image. This reduces strain on store bandwidth and speeds up maintenance, especially in large operations.

Of course, another key advantage of IRES is its ability to help your retail customers reduce total cost of ownership. The SLES operating system scales to virtually any size retail environment and can run at the POS, on back-office servers or on a mainframe. This helps reduce the costs of managing multiple operating systems, in a single store or across the enterprise. Version 2 will also include scalable systems management tools designed for employees with little IT expertise. And unlike some platforms,

IRES supports thin-client diskless environments without the need to purchase additional software.

For more information about the new IBM Retail Environment for SUSE LINUX Version 2, please contact your local IBM representative or visit **ibm.com**/industries/retail/store.