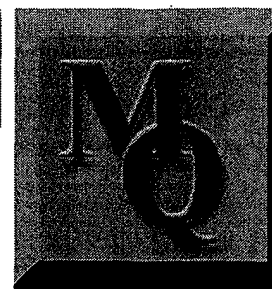


**360**



Linux for Microsoft Windows Users



# Welcome to MozillaQuest

The On-Line Computer Magazine

28 April, 2003

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## Will Red Hat and SuSE Be Drawn Into the Fracas? SCO-Caldera v IBM:

### SCO Clears Linux Kernel but Implicates Red Hat and SuSE

#### Linux and the SCO-Caldera v IBM Lawsuit

By Mike Angelo -- 28 April 2003 (C) -- Page 2

## SCO's Chris Sontag Discusses the Details

*MozillaQuest Magazine: In an interview Darl McBride did with **CRN's** Paula Rooney, that was published yesterday, he said "There will be a day of reckoning for Red Hat and SuSE when this is done." Just what did Darl mean by that? (Link to **CRN** article in the **Resources** section at the end of this article.)*

*Chris Sontag: What he meant was that if SCO prevails in their lawsuit with IBM, companies like Red Hat and SuSE may need to revisit their distributions and remove any UNIX system code from their distributions and compensate SCO in some way for the software code that they benefited from by using our UNIX code.*

*-MozillaQuest Magazine: I take it that when you say UNIX you specifically mean SCO UNIX?*

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**-Chris Sontag:** *We specifically mean the UNIX source code which is the basis for all other UNIX distributions including IBM AIX, SUN Solaris, HP UX, etc.*

**MozillaQuest Magazine:** *Have Red Hat and/or SuSE done or are they doing something inappropriate?*

**Chris Sontag:** *SCO is coming across things all the time that these companies will need to address at some point. We haven't decided what course of action we plan to take yet.*

**MozillaQuest Magazine:** *Have they violated any SCO-Caldera copyrights, patents, and/or trademarks?*

**Chris Sontag:** *That will be determined as SCO's case proceeds.*

**MozillaQuest Magazine:** *If so, could you please explain what Red Hat and/or SuSE have done or are what they doing for which there "will be a day of reckoning"?*

**Chris Sontag:** *We are using objective third parties to do comparisons of our UNIX System V [SCO-owned Unix] source code and Red Hat as an example. We are coming across many instances where our proprietary software has simply been copied and pasted or changed in order to hide the origin of our System V code in Red Hat. This is the kind of thing that we will need to address with many Linux distribution companies at some point. (Emphasis added.)*

**-MozillaQuest Magazine:** *Would stuff like perhaps FreeBSD code look as though it were SCO-owned code?*

- [Resources](#)

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### SCO-Caldera v. IBM:

[SCO-Caldera Sues IBM in Intellectual Property Dispute](#)

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### SCO-Caldera & the GNU/Linux Community:

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### Intellectual property Note

In this article we use the somewhat vague term *intellectual property*, in part because that term is the one

[John Ferrell and MozillaQuest's Mike Angelo Discuss the Lawsuit](#)

- [IBM Moves Lawsuit from State to Federal Court](#)
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- [Linus Torvalds Comments on SCO-Caldera's Linux-Related Allegations](#)

- [IBM Dispute, a PR Nightmare for Caldera](#)

**-Chris Sontag:** *I think that is highly unlikely.*

**-MozillaQuest Magazine:** *Also, to the extent that this is SCO-owned code, is this stuff that IBM gave to Red Hat or did Red Hat somehow grab it from some other source(s)?*

**-Chris Sontag:** *That is a good question that we would need to ask the Linux vendors when the time is right.*

**MozillaQuest Magazine:** *In that CRN interview, Darl also said there is "substantial System V code showing up in Linux." How many lines of code are involved?*

**Chris Sontag:** *I'm not going to get into specifics right now, but we are coming across several instances that make this more than a minor infraction.*

**MozillaQuest Magazine:** *When Darl said "substantial System V code showing up in Linux", did he mean the Linux kernel, the GNU/Linux operating system, a Linux distribution(s), or Linux applications? If it is in the kernel, which kernel version(s)?*

**Chris Sontag:** *We're not talking about the Linux kernel that Linus and others have helped develop. We're talking about what's on the periphery of the Linux kernel. (Emphasis added.)*

**-MozillaQuest Magazine:** *It's likely lots of people in the Linux community will be relieved to know the allegedly tainted code is not in the kernel.*

**-MozillaQuest Magazine:** *The periphery of the Linux kernel is a pretty big space. Outside of the kernel is the GNU/Linux operating system. Thus in my way of picturing this, it is the GNU/Linux operating system that lies on the periphery of the Linux kernel. Then on the outside of that ring around the kernel is a Linux distribution and all sorts of*

SCO chooses to use in its SCOSource documents. Free software advocate Richard Stallman believes that the term *intellectual property* is inappropriate. To see why he believes the term *intellectual property* is inappropriate, please see his essay *Some Confusing or Loaded Words and Phrases that are Worth Avoiding*. A link is in the **Resources** section at the end of this article on [page 3](#).

However, the focus of this article is on the SCO property whether it be in the nature of copyright, patent, or trademark. In order to avoid the off-focus issue of the appropriateness of the term *intellectual property* here, we operationally define the term *intellectual property* to include property whether it be in the nature of copyrightable property such as software source code, or a copyright, patent, or trademark.

Richard Stallman also is concerned about the somewhat loose use of the terms *GNU/Linux* and *Linux*. To see why Richard Stallman is concerned about the use of the terms *GNU/Linux* and *Linux*, please see his essay *Linux and the GNU Project*. A link is in the **Resources** section at the end of this article on [page 3](#).)

[Mozilla 1.3 Browser-Suite Released](#)

[SCO-Caldera Sues IBM in Intellectual Property Dispute](#)

[SCO-Caldera & the GNU/Linux](#)

**Community: Part 2,  
Under the Iceberg's  
Tip**

*applications.*

**Mandrake 9.1-RC1  
Available for  
Downloading Now**

*-So, as I understand what you say here, the System V code is showing up in the GNU/Linux operating system ring around the kernel rather than at the Linux distribution level or the applications level, is this correct?*

**Netscape 7.02  
Browser-Suite  
Released**

**-Chris Sontag:** *I really can't go any further from what I've already commented on.*

**Mandrake Linux  
Corporate Server  
2.1 Released**

{Please make sure you read the ***Summary and Conclusions*** section of the article for an explanatory graphic and more discussion about this thread of the interview.]

**SCO-Caldera & the  
GNU/Linux  
Community: The  
SCOsource IP  
Matter**

***MozillaQuest Magazine:*** *The Linux kernel and GNU/Linux people with whom I have discussed the Caldera v IBM matter say that:*

*(a) As far as they know there is no proprietary SCO-owned code in the Linux kernel or in the GNU/Linux operating system, is this correct?*

**Tabbed-Browsing  
Comes to KDE**

**Chris Sontag:** *We're not commenting on this yet at this point.*

**KDE 3.1 Released:  
Binaries and  
Source Code  
Available for  
Downloading**

*(b) If you and/or SCO would let them know what code in the Linux kernel and/or the GNU/Linux operating system is proprietary SCO-owned code, in the public domain, they would remove that code immediately from the Linux kernel and/or the GNU/Linux operating system. If there is proprietary SCO-owned code in either the Linux kernel and/or GNU/Linux, are you and/or SCO willing to say what that code is so that the Linux kernel and/or GNU/Linux operating system people can remove that code from the Linux Kernel and/or the GNU/Linux distribution?*

**LinuxWorld in New  
York City -- 21-24  
January 2003**

**Chris Sontag:** *We're not commenting on this yet.*

**Mozilla 1.0.2  
Browser-Suite  
Released**

***MozillaQuest Magazine:*** *The Red Hat and SuSE people with whom I have discussed the Caldera v IBM matter say that:*

*(a) As far as they know there is no proprietary SCO-owned code in their Linux distributions and products, is this correct?*

**Mozilla 1.0  
updated!**

**Chris Sontag:** *No, this is not correct. We are finding SCO-owned code in their distributions.* (Emphasis added.)

**Don't Forget the  
Books**

*(b) Are Red Hat and/or SuSE violating any SCO copyrights? Patents? Trademarks?*

**Linux Makes a  
Great Gift**

**Christmas Season  
Holidays &**

Computer  
Suggestions 2002:  
Overview

**Chris Sontag:** *We're not commenting on this yet.*

Netscape 7.01  
Browser-Suite  
Released

**-MozillaQuest Magazine:** *This is somewhat confusing to me. If y'all are finding SCO-owned code in the Red Hat and SuSE distributions, and, as if you said/implied at the beginning of this discussion that the do not have SCO's permission to include that SCO-owned code in the distributions, does that not constitute copyright infringement?*

Mozilla 1.2.1  
Browser-Suite  
Released

**-Chris Sontag:** *I'm not a lawyer, so I can't comment on what that constitutes.*

Buggy Mozilla 1.2  
Recalled

**MozillaQuest Magazine:** *Do not HP, IBM, Sun, and Apple have one-time, perpetual licenses for their use of SCO Unix?*

Mozilla 1.2  
Browser-Suite  
Released

**Chris Sontag:** *Some have perpetual licenses, others do not. They are perpetual as long as they honor the terms of their contract. When they bre their contract, they are no longer perpetual. Some companies have been very honorable in their strict adherence to the terms of our contract. Others as our complaint against IBM alleges, have not.*

Mandrake Linux  
9.0, Desktop Magic  
You Can Use: A  
First Look

**MozillaQuest Magazine:** *Do HP, IBM, Sun, and/or Apple pay annual license fees for SCO Unix or did they pay one-time license fees?*

Mandrake Linux 9.0  
Retail Boxes Ship

**Chris Sontag:** *There are confidentiality agreements in place with these vendors for their license of UNIX which we cannot break that don't permit u to disclose terms of their license fees.*

Linux for Windows  
Users:

**MozillaQuest Magazine:** *If HP, IBM, Sun, and Apple paid one-time licens fees for SCO Unix, then how does SCO lose money by their moving from Unix to Linux?*

Using  
LinNeighborhood  
to Create a Network  
Neighborhood for  
Linux

**Chris Sontag:** *It's probably not about money. It's about value. The intrinsi value of our IP diminishes when any company tries to misappropriate it elsewhere in an illegal way.*

SuSE 8.1 LSB  
Certified

**-MozillaQuest Magazine:** *Does not value translate to money and vic verse?*

SuSE Linux 8.1  
Release Today

**-Chris Sontag:** *When SCO loses value from its OS, you could also translate that into money, yes.*

Zero Tolerance for  
Privacy and  
Security Bugs

**MozillaQuest Magazine:** *What are SCO's recurring, annual revenues for SCO Unix licensing from (a) HP, (b) IBM, (c) Sun, and (d) Apple?*

Mozilla and  
Netscape  
JavaScript Bugs  
Compromise

**Chris Sontag:** *Again, please see answer above. All good questions, but n*

## Privacy and Security

*one that we can answer if we want to honor the confidentiality of our agreements.*

## Red Hat Linux 8.0 Is LSB Certified

**MozillaQuest Magazine:** *In the CRN interview, Darl said "System V is the basis for all operating systems outside of Redmond, AIX, HP UX, Solaris, Apple and Linux." That does not make sense to me. Isn't System V supposed to be the base code for AIX, HP UX, Solaris, and Apple (OS-X)?*

## Red Hat Linux 8.0 Distribution Released

**Chris Sontag:** *You will notice that the article has changed after we requested a correction. It now reads "all operating systems outside of Redmond--AIX, HP UX, Solaris, Apple, and Linux."*

## Mandrake 9.0 is LSB Certified

*We would add to that, that these are the major operating systems outside Redmond.*

## Mandrake Linux 9.0 Released for Downloading

**MozillaQuest Magazine:** *Darl also said in the CRN interview that "Linux comes from Unix and we own the Unix operating system." All the Linux kernel and GNU/Linux operating system people we have talked to say this not true. They say that the Linux kernel and GNU/Linux were developed independently. They say that the Linux kernel and GNU/Linux operating system are not derived from Unix. **Are you disputing what the Linux kernel and GNU/Linux people are saying about this?** (Emphasis added)*

## SCO's Darl McBride and MozillaQuest Magazine's Mike Angelo Discuss Caldera Linux and LSB

**Chris Sontag:** **Yes we are. This will all be brought out in court.** (Emphasis added.)

## Caldera/SCO 3.1.1 OpenLinux Distribution Gains LSB Certification

For what the Linux kernel people say that Chris Sontag is disputing here, please see our article **Linux Kernel Gurus Reject SCO-Caldera v IBM Lawsuit Claims.**

## Mozilla 1.2-alpha Browser-Suite Released

This is a very informative interview despite some inconsistencies in Chris Sontag's statements. Of course not answering questions that go to matters involved in confidential agreements between SCO-Caldera and its Unix licensees is to be expected. Even so, those questions remain unanswered and leave parts of the puzzle missing. And Chris Sontag does sidestep answering some questions that ought to be answered -- more missing puzzle pieces.

## Mozilla 1.0.1 Browser-Suite Released

## UnitedLinux: A Standard or a Distribution?

## UnitedLinux, a Divisive Weapon for Caldera's Darl McBride -- Part II

## Holger Dyroff, Gaël Duval, Mark de Visser and Mike Angelo Discuss

Nevertheless, to Chris Sontag's and SCO-Caldera's credit, he does state there is no

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**LSB, UnitedLinux, and the Linux Market**

**UnitedLinux, a Divisive Weapon for Caldera's Darl McBride -- Part I**

**Netscape 7.0 Browser-Suite Released**

**Netscape 7.0 Browser-Suite Coming, But Not Here Yet**

**Mozilla 1.1 Browser-Suite Released**

**Mozilla 1.0.1-RC2 aka Netscape 7.0-beta Browser-Suite Released**

**Netscape Communicator 4.8 Browser-Suite Released**

**Red Hat Calls on Linux Community for Beta Feedback**

**Red Hat Linux 7.4/8.0 Moves Closer -- Beta 3 (Null Nee Limbo) Released**

**MandrakeSoft Calls on Linux Community for Beta Testers**

**Mandrake Linux 9.0 Beta 3 Available Now -- 9.0 in**

complaint from SCO-Caldera as to SCO-owned Unix code in kernel.org's Linux kernel. He also specifically alleges there is SCO-owned Unix code in Red Hat Linux and SuSE Linux. This clears up many questions about what are the SCO IP issues and what are some of the specifics in SCO's Caldera v IBM *Complaint*.

Thus, today's interview provides heretofore-missing puzzle pieces. Moreover, if you have been following our SCO IP and Caldera v IBM coverage and if you are good at reading between the lines, you will find even more heretofore missing puzzle pieces in today's discussion with Chris Sontag.

See **Summary and Conclusions** on Page 3 ----->

<---- Back to Page 1

Continued on Page 3 ----->

Please see the first two parts of our series about SCO-Caldera's IP claims plus its intentions to enforce and license its intellectual property rights.

**SCO-Caldera & the GNU/Linux Community: The SCOsource IP Matter**

**SCO-Caldera & the GNU/Linux Community: Part 2, Under the Iceberg' Tip**

**Part 1: The SCOsource IP Matter**

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- Are the SCO libraries in any Linux Distributions?
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**Part 2, Under the Iceberg's Tip**

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- The Community's Response to SCO-Caldera's IP Claims, in a Nutshell
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Anatomy

- The Innocent and the Guilty
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Browser-Suite  
Released**

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**Scott McNeil and  
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LSB**

**Are You Ready For  
the Linux Standard  
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**SuSE Linux 8.1 in  
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**SuSE Says Yes to  
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**New Mozilla  
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**Mandrake Linux 9.0  
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