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Caldera's in the money

David Orenstein

January 11, 2000 () Four big-name technology companies helped infuse \$30 million into Linux vendor Caldera Systems Inc. yesterday, and soon, at the company's upcoming initial public offering (IPO), the general public will be able to invest as well.

Sun Microsystems Inc., Citrix Systems Inc., Novell Inc., The Santa Cruz Operation Inc. and investment firms Egan-Managed Capital and Chicago Venture Partners gave privately held Caldera the cash Monday, the same day Caldera announced it has filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission to hold a stock offering to raise \$57.5 million, according to its regulatory filing. The date and price weren't established. Caldera's specialty within the pack of Linux vendors is providing easy installation tools and making sure the source code it distributes exactly matches the compiled programs it distributes. More than four-fifths of the company's shares are controlled by Ray Noorda, a venture capitalist and founder of Novell Inc.

Although Caldera is considered a leading Linux vendor, its competitors have attracted far more attention. Red Hat Software Inc.'s stock rocketed up 408% since debuting last August. Hardware vendor VA Linux Systems Inc., however, dropped more than 30% since a record-setting IPO in December.

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