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XSWEEKLY Shell Related News 10.06.00 - 16.06.00

Kinda of a lite issue this week, but that's done on purpose as I have a million other little side projects going atm. Most of the sections that are gone this week will be back again next week as I will have some time. I have added in a new feature that I would like to get some responses to, a Mailbag. This weeks question is: What is the worst module you have ever used, and why? Mail all replies to demigod@meganet.net

This week I am going to thank a bunch of people who helped me get to this point with the newsletter.

- Yaso for registering the domain, doing the basic layout, and the gfx.
- Bryan for hosting my mailing list and putting up with my crap about the shell.
- mrG for the xswweekly button, and various layout ideas.
- Fahim for standing by me and giving me support when I needed it most.
- Everyone who wrote in to support me during my down period with LSWeekly.
- Adam for hosting me for nothing and putting up with my crap.
- My work for hosting my domain for nothing.
- The coders for the various shells and os's.
- My girlfriend and daughter for all their love and support.
- Mike for listening to me complain about slow d/l speeds.
- And everyone else I forgot, there are too many to name.

Thanks a lot, without you, XSWeekly would never have become a reality. Here's hoping that I can continue to bring this letter to this part of the net.

- demigod

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 --= Shell Specific =-
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[Top News Stories]

- XSWeekly.com Online (11:07 16.06 na)

I finally got a domain and the page is up and running. I am missing a few pages, like the entire Quick Info set of pages. Stop over there and tell me what you think. Also, reply to the Mailbag question if you get a chance.

url - <http://www.xswweekly.com>
(source: <http://www.xswweekly.com>)

[Modules]

- LsICQ 0.1 ~ Ender (10:33 13.06 ls)

"Ender of easycuts and PureLS has just released a new module which is essentially a miniature version of ICQ (ie. it's a new ICQ client). At this point all of its functionality is in its !bang commands, but Ender plans on including a contact list, etc. Let him know how you'd like the contact list to be implemented."

url - <http://floach.pimpin.net>
e-mail - ender@purels.org
(source: <http://floach.pimpin.net>)

+-----<*>-----+

- lsplaylist 20000614 ~ MrJukes (10:36 13.06 ls)

"The Module Man, MrJukes, has put out a new module which is essentially an mp3 player as a loadmodule that he calls lsplaylist. He's also included an .exe which he calls playback. The module has all the standard mp3 player functions, all wrapped up into a loadmodule. The app is skinnable, so he's hoping that we'll get as many skimmers as possible to put out some skins for playback.

%%Update%% (11:12 15.00)

- Added skinning support to the playlist on the main window. You can now move it around like the rest of the buttons. More details in skinning-readme.txt.
- To get the fake winamp support working to display the currently playing song put FakeWinamp=1 in your [Main] section of lsplaylist.cfg
- Added anchoring to the buttons. This will associate a button with a side. To use anchoring, click the edit layout button, then right click on the button you want to set the anchor for. The properties dialog doesn't work yet but it will soon.
- Added support so you can use those modules that display the title of the currently playing song.
- Fixed it so that the New Tracks Window pops up when a new mp3 is created anywhere in the watched directory structure.
- Added skinning support the progress bar. Check the skinning readme for further details.
- If you hold down control and use the arrow keys in Layout Edit Mode you can now resize a button on the fly.
- Fixed the pause between songs.

url - <http://www.cs.purdue.edu/homes/anders/Playback>
e-mail - mrjukes@purdue.edu
(source: <http://floach.pimpin.net>)

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- LS Tetris 1.1 ~ WhiteShadow (10:41 13.06 ls)

A Tetris module that has all the regular Tetris game

features.

url - <http://www.muohio.edu/~changty/modules.htmlx>

e-mail - changty@muohio.edu

(source: <http://floach.pimpin.net>)

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- Sentry 1.0 ~ TrOgI (11:18 15.06 1s)

"TrOgI, author of the popular and useful dwarf wharf replacement, has released a new analog clock module he calls "Sentry". It's very customizable, supports Magic Pink (tm) transparency, shows the date (with the customizability of LSXCommand :), and supports dragging. If you want something other than the popular Chronos or LSXCommandClock digital clocks and you don't want to have to load up a wharf just to run alsclock or the like, then this new loadmodule is your best choice."

url - <http://desktopsource.mindjunction.com/>

e-mail -

(source: <http://floach.pimpin.net>)

+-----<*>-----+

- lsxcommand 1.8.1 ~ Visigoth (11:25 15.06 1s)

lsxcommand is the swiss army knife module for LiteStep. It is a command line mod that you can launch web sites though, show the time, and about a million other things.

New in this version:

- Fixed bug with newer LiteStep versions
- Fixed AlterScript Run-Twice bug (thanks to Chris Rempel for the fix)

url - <http://floach.pimpin.net/visigoth/>

e-mail -

(source: <http://floach.pimpin.net>)

+-----<*>-----+

- JLSMail 0.04 ~ FxLin (1:27 15.06 1s)

JLSMail is a java mail checking module. It requires that you have JRE 1.2 installed.

New in this version:

- added imap support
- fixed scrolling of headers is now stable
- added JLSMailBoxName
- changed JLSMailAniOffsetWidth to
JLSMailAniOffsetLeft &&
JLSMailAniOffsetRight
- changed the color definitions to HEX
JLSMailFontColor
JLSMailNewMailColor
JLSMailBackColor

url - <http://frodo.hiof.no/~nilscdah/fxslin/JLsMail.shtml>
e-mail -
(source: <http://floach.pimpin.net>)

+-----<*>-----+

- geOFlexiMenu 4a ~ pdw63 (10:39 16.06 geo)

This plugin allows you to set up multiple application and menu links on your geOBars.

New in this version:

- A bug fix to prevent the dll from crashing if you click on the button before it is properly configured.
- Added documentation covering geoShell default menus.

url - <http://news.geoshell.com>
(source: <http://news.geoshell.com>)

[Themes]

- Pernicious ~ EWJim (11:17 16.06 ls)

"First theme. First release. First time for everything? Nearly res independent, 1024+. Easy install. Full sentences? Oh, alright then.

"The layout and functionality of this theme is based on KGNome by KanedA and the graphics were mercilessly taken from a windowblinds theme called MaxD by Johanne Chainé. Still, the popup's all mine.

"It might take up a bit too much room for some of you but give it a try anyway.

"Enjoy!"

url - <http://www.litestep.net>
ss - <http://www.litestep.net/themes/ss/ewjim.pernicious.15.6.00.jpg>
e-mail - litestep@sadik.iwarp.com
(source: <http://www.litestep.net>)

[Web Sites]

- PureLS.org back online (11:54 14.06 pls)

While my script was checking sites, I noticed that purels.org didn't come up with a domain error. Looks as if they have worked out the DNS issues.

url - <http://www.purels.org>
(source: <http://www.purels.org>)

+-----<*>-----+

- PureLS Dev Page (11:20 15.06 pls)

"Jugg & Ender have updated PureLS.org with some new info about

the source code. Apparently the source is now available via their SourceForge account. They've also got new email address (rather than the old purels@hotmail.com one). Email Ender and Jugg using the PureLS.org domain."

url - <http://www.sourceforge.net/projects/purels/>
e-mail - ender@purels.org/jugg@purels.org
(source: <http://floach.pimpin.net>)

[Misc]

- LS Startup Screens ~ J (11:33 15.06 ls)

J has made some startup and shutdown screens using the new LS Logo. They are for Win9x only but they are animated.

url - <http://home.soneraplaza.nl/qn/prive/ae.klos/j/LSlogo/>
e-mail - Johan.Klos@student.uva.nl
(source: <http://floach.pimpin.net>)

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 --= Beyond the Specifics =--
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[Interesting]

- Freeboxen.com (11:20 16.06 na)

This site is for people with old system that they don't want anymore, don't think its worth selling, so they post it here for anyone to take if they want it. Not much here now but the site hasn't been up for very long. Stop buy and add something to it. You know your not going to get anything for that 286 so post it already!

url - <http://www.freeboxen.com>

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[Mailing Lists]

- LiteStep

To subscribe, e-mail: litestep-subscribe@litestep.ru.ac.za
To unsubscribe, e-mail: litestep-unsubscribe@litestep.ru.ac.za
Additional commands, e-mail: litestep-help@litestep.ru.ac.za

- Stuff

To subscribe, e-mail: stuff-subscribe@litestep.ru.ac.za
To unsubscribe, e-mail: stuff-unsubscribe@litestep.ru.ac.za
Additional commands, e-mail: stuff-help@litestep.ru.ac.za

- DarkStep

To subscribe, e-mail: darkstep-subscribe@egroups.com
To unsubscribe, e-mail: darkstep-unsubscribe@egroups.com

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XSWEELY Shell Related News 17.06.00 - 23.06.00

Whoops! I did it again, I left the letter at work and for some reason my auto upload/backup script didn't kick in. Sorry once again for a late issues, I blame it on M\$.

As of late, a lot of new of new shells have been popping up but it seems as if there support, both users and third party coders, is to say the least lacking. I realize that LiteStep is one of the most popular shells because of its long life and massive user base but give these new shells a chance. If you don't they will cease to exist and you may never know what your missing. Do you think that LiteStep has always been as popular as it is now? I don't think so. Just because a new shell may be unstable at first, that is just about the time you want to start using it and giving the coder(s) input on what you find wrong with it and what ideas you may have. A project like LiteStep pretty much has all the core features its going to have but a new shell coder would more than likely be happy to include something you want if you do some bug testing for him/her. So my point is, don't shrugs off all these new shell just because there not LiteStep. Give them a chance and I think you will be pleasantly surprised by what you get.

- demigod

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[Top News Stories]

- stepForum Open For Business (11:07 20.06 na)

stepForum is a webboard set up for anyone interested in LiteStep or DarkStep to go and post about news, bugs, themes, anything. It has an easy to use interface, saves prefs, simple html, etc. If you run another shell, or are interested in other shells, mail one of the moderators and a section can be opened for it.

[Modules]

- scrsaver 1.2 ~ Pavil (11:23 20.06 ls)

scrsaver is a bang command module that allows for control of your current selected screen saver.

New in this version:

- + Added !ScreenSaverStop bang.
- * Optimized

url - <http://floach.pimpin.net/pavel/>
e-mail - pavel.vitis@seznam.cz

(source: <http://floach.pimpin.net/pavel/>)

+-----<*>-----+

- lsplaylist 20000620 ~ MrJukes (10:36 13.06 ls)

This is a full mp3 player in both module and .exe format. The module has all the standard mp3 player functions, all wrapped up into a loadmodule. The app is skinnable, so he's hoping that we'll get as many skinners as possible to put out some skins for playback.

New in this version:

- Fixed a bug where it would lock up when playing a song with no ID3 data.
- Fixed a transparency drawing problem. It would cut off the left part of the image.
- Made shuffle a little more random.
- Fixed another drawing bug where it would cut off the right part of the image.

%%UPDATE%% (12:52 22.06)

- Hopefully fixed the mousewheel problem.
- Added an equalizer. It is very basic right now, but it works.
- Made skinning a lot easier. You should now have a skin.ini in the directory where all the skin images are located. This holds all information about dimensions and images and such. All other user preferences are still in lsplaylist.cfg. You probably want to start over to make sure your skin is compatible.
- I made my skin available for download. Try it out, it is much better than the default.
- Added skin changing support. Right click in the main window and choose "Change skin". It doesn't even stop the music!
- Added something called a GButton. They do nothing at all but are useful for displaying an image in the main window. Look at my skin, playback-skin_jukes.zip for details on how this feature works.

url - <http://www.cs.purdue.edu/homes/anders/Playback>

e-mail - mrjukes@purdue.edu

(source: <http://floach.pimpin.net>)

+-----<*>-----+

- cdtray 1.0 ~ Pavel (14:40 22.06)

cdtray.dll is a simple module that has three functions: eject, close, and toggle. These are achieved via bang commands, though he states in the readme that the toggle band command is not supported by all cd-rom drives.

url - <http://floach.pimpin.net/pavel/>

e-mail - pavel.vitis@seznam.cz

(source: <http://floach.pimpin.net/pavel/>)

+-----<*>-----+

- LSCount 1.1 ~ MrJukes (12:43 223.06 ls)

"If you haven't visited litestep.net recently, you may be unaware of LSCount. It is a module I have written that is designed to try and get an accurate count of the number of Litestep users. It would be appreciated if everybody who runs Litestep could download and run this module. You can get the most recent builds from <http://www.cs.purdue.edu/homes/anders/lscount>. I'm not on the mailing list, so if you want to respond, reply to me at mrjukes@purdue.edu. Thanks for your time and please please run the module."

url - <http://www.cs.purdue.edu/homes/anders/lscount>
e-mail - mrjukes@purdue.edu
(source: LS Mailing List ~ LSCount)

[Web Sites]

- LiteStep.com back again (11:40 20.06 ls)

My sitechecker came up with a change on litestep.com instead of a domain error so I shoot over there and to my surprise there it was. Nothing has changed since it went down but keep and eye out.

url - <http://www.litestep.com>
(source: <http://www.litestep.com>)

+-----<*>-----+

- Mindjunction Gets A Make Over (12:46 23.06 na)

I hopped on over to [mindjunction](http://mindjunction.com) and noticed that not only were the updates(!), but there is a whole new look. Swing on over there and keep posting those ideas!

url - <http://www.mindjunction.com>
(source: <http://www.mindjunction.com>)

[Programs]

- lsDrinks 2.17.1 ~ nf0 (11:37 20.06 na)

lsDrinks is a news gathering app that can list a ton of various site updates into an .htm file or as shortcuts in various folders. It requires Perl to be installed in order to run.

New in this version:

- Fixed several sites including betanews.com and themes.org

url - <http://www.10500bc.org/lsDrinks/>
e-mail - nf0@10500bc.org

(source: <http://floach.pimpin.net>)

[Misc]

- NT Login Screens ~ J (12:50 23.06 1s)

Looks like J made up some NT/w2k login screens. Shoot over to his site to check out the set that he has.

url -

http://www.interq.or.jp/jupiter/philsci/porch_workshop_lsdoc/logon_screen.htm

e-mail - philsci@jupiter.interq.or.jp

(source: <http://floach.pimpin.net>)

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[Top News Stories]

- SoyLent Green, New V2_OS GUI (12:53 20.06 v2)

Another new GUI for V2_OS is in the works. From the ss's of it it looks pretty sweet. Not much on the specs rite now as it is in version 0.0 and nothing to download as of yet. I'd keep an eye on this one though, looks like its going to be pretty sweet.

url - <http://www.sci.fi/~murina/sg/>

(source - <http://www.v2os.cx/>)

[Programs]

- SealAMP 2.0 ~ Florian Xavier (12:28 20.06 sel)

SealAMP is a mp2/mp3 player which features oszilloscop, you can read and change/write the id3 tag, shows info about the mp2/mp3, you can play forward/rewind, etc.

New in this version:

- Can read m3u file in the file list
- Other minor changes

url - <http://members.aon.at/seal/>

e-mail - free.seal@eon.at

(source: <http://members.aon.at/seal/>)

[Web Sites]

- SEAL Source Archive ~ DthWlkr (12:35 20.06 sel)

"I have started a SEAL archive. It is for SEAL source, SEAL script, or any thing else that may come up. I need help here

creating it. I need more source code. I code some but I will need help creating the archive. I can't go around and all the source code my self. Plz help out and submit code. I will add the code along with who submitted it and who wrote it(if they are different)."

url - dthwlkr.homestead.com/seal.html
e-mail - the_ZETA_WOLF@hotmail.com
(source: <http://pub8.ezboard.com/bsealsystem>)

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-- Beyond the Specifics --
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[Intresting]

- Pimpwar.com (12:53 23.06 na)

Pimpwar is an old BBS door game that has been ported to a web interface. You basically play a pimp and you have to stay alive and wealthy while maintaining your group of whores and thugs, defending your turf, and a ton of other interesting things. Drop on over, it's a load of fun.

url - <http://www.pimpwar.com>
(source: <http://www.pimpwar.com>)

[Programs]

- QuickMenu Public Beta ~ SnoCorp (14:06 23.06 na)

"Some brand new stuff here. QuickMenu is a simple menu program for launching other programs. It comes with a menu maker that takes any directory (ie Start Menu) and makes a menu file from it. It only comes with one skin since it's so new but it's fairly easy to make your own. It's described in detail in the readme. Give it a try!"

url - <http://ldi.virtualave.net/>
e-mail - snocorp@idirect.ca
(source: <http://ldi.virtualave.net/>)

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[Mailing Lists]

- LiteStep

To subscribe, e-mail: litestep-subscribe@litestep.ru.ac.za
To unsubscribe, e-mail: litestep-unsubscribe@litestep.ru.ac.za
Additional commands, e-mail: litestep-help@litestep.ru.ac.za

- Stuff

To subscribe, e-mail: stuff-subscribe@litestep.ru.ac.za
To unsubscribe, e-mail: stuff-unsubscribe@litestep.ru.ac.za
Additional commands, e-mail: stuff-help@litestep.ru.ac.za

- DarkStep

To subscribe, e-mail: darkstep-subscribe@egroups.com

To unsubscribe, e-mail: darkstep-unsubscribe@egroups.com

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XSWEEKLY Shell Related News 24.06.00 - 30.06.00

Another week rolls by and the community seems to have quieted down quite a bit. This is more than likely due to alot of people going home for the summer. This is always a nice lull in the normal chaotic world of the shell community. On any given week it seems that one community or another is up in arms about something and things get a bit weird for a good period of time. What amazes me though is that the smaller alt os communities don't seem to go through this. Although I could be wrong, it seems that everything is either kept underwraps and away from the general user or there is no blowout like the win32 shell community seems to have. Maybe we can take a page from their book the next time something starts to get out of hand and just either keep it between the parties that are having the problem or just quit fighting altogether.

- demigod

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[Top News Stories]

- Changes.txt Fixed (12:54 26.06 1s)

Seems as if the changes.txt for the LiteStep cvs has finally been fixed. Thanks go out to Bryan for that one. Does that man ever sleep?

url - <http://rucus.ru.ac.za/~litestep/builds/changes.txt>
(source: <http://floach.pimpin.net>)

+-----<*>-----+

- A Different Shade Sourcecode Archive ~ Asperon (11:10 27.06 na)

Asperon has decided to put up a sourcecode archive of his work. On his site he states that because of all the help he has gotten from other archives, he now wishes to give something back.

url - <http://home.student.uu.se/c/cace4851/>
e-mail - asperon@home.se
(source: <http://home.student.uu.se/c/cace4851/>)

+-----<*>-----+

- SmartAlec At It Again (11:23 27.06 ds)

This time SmartAlec is packaging DarkStep in the 2000 package. While they have permission to do this as long as "We do not provide support for it and it remains freeware." we at the DS Headquarters are setting up some help for SmartAlec users.

url - <http://www.smartalec2000.com/>
(source: <http://www.darkstep.com/>)

[Modules]

- hotspots 0.52 ~ Pavel (12:39 26.06 ls)

"With Hotspots you can define transparent rectangular areas on the screen called "hotspots". You will get ability to trigger events (execute programs or !bangs) on mouse over, or on mouse click. You can also attach different cursor shape to each hotspot."

New in this version:

- Added 'P' flag
- Added ability to load custom mouse-over cursors from file (.CUR, .ANI), added HotSpotCursorDir variable
- Added 18 new click+shiftkey actions
- Some sample cursors

%%UPDATE%% (10:23 30.06)

- Bugfix: action_out was not properly disabled when "D" flag was used
- Added 'O' (OneInstance) flag
- Added experimental feature - Hotspots are disabled when any application is running fullscreen. It should prevent conflicts with some games

url - <http://floach.pimpin.net/pavel>
e-mail - pavel.vitis@seznam.cz
(source: <http://floach.pimpin.net/pavel>)

+-----<*>-----+

- cdtray 1.1 ~ Pavel (12:43 26.06 ls)

cdtray.dll is a simple module that has three functions: eject, close, and toggle. These are achieved via bang commands.

New in this version:

- Improved mechanism of !CDTrayToggle

url - <http://floach.pimpin.net/pavel>
e-mail - pavel.vitis@seznam.cz
(source: <http://floach.pimpin.net/pavel>)

+-----<*>-----+

- SysColor 2.2 ~ Message (12:59 26.06 ls)

SysColor allows you to change your system color.

New in this version:

- Fixed problem with RGB and BGR colors being confused (thanx qwilk for pointing it out)
- Added SCLoadSection

url - <http://www.litestep.net>
e-mail - message@litestep.net
(source: <http://www.litestep.net>)

+-----<*>-----+

- LSCount 1.3 ~ MrJukes (13:02 26.06 1s)

LSCount is a small module that sends a chunk of data to FPN and logs how many people use LiteStep. Not only that, but you can have your number displayed on your desktop.

New in this version:

- Added LSCountBgImage: Use this to display an image for the background. If this is not present, LSCount just paints the desktop (There is no magic pink(tm) support for this (yet?))
- Added bang commands: !LSCountShow, !LSCountHide, !LSCountToggle, !LSCountGetCount

%%UPDATE%% (10:35 27.06)

- Hopefully fixed the problem where it crashes PureLS (and possibly some litestep crashes too).

url - <http://www.cs.purdue.edu/homes/anders/lscount>
e-mail - mrjukes@purdue.edu
(source: <http://www.litestep.net>)

+-----<*>-----+

- Onidle 1.0 ~ Pavel (10:04 28.06 1s)

This module allows execution of program / !bang command after defined period of user inactivity.

url - <http://floach.pimpin.net/pavel>
e-mail - pavel.vitis@seznam.cz
(source: <http://floach.pimpin.net/pavel>)

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- LiteCQ 2 ~ Ender (10:03 30.06 1s)

LiteCQ (recently LSIcq) is a litestep module that allows for most ICQ functionality.

New in this version:

- Reorganised the source a bit, and in the process discovered a few 'logic' (eg, program flow) bugs.
- Corrected the '!IcqRead w/o waiting messages' crash
- Fixed up some stuff (eg, neg coords)
- Started to implement basic contact-list code as a popup or dropdown box. It's not exactly usable yet, but the bonus is if you add a person to your list, and they send you a message, you at least see their name instead of a number
- Added Socks support
- Fixed some theming problems
- Added systray support.
- Added !ICQReply
- Fixed 'message ordering' bug

url - <http://floach.pimpin.net>
e-mail - ender@purels.org
(source: <http://floach.pimpin.net>)

[Web Sites]

- LS Commands moves... again (12:56 26.06 ls)

Once again LS Commands moves, this time to litestep.com. This site is jam packed with just about every command for every module ever coded for LiteStep. If it's not there, e-mail him and it soon will be.

url - <http://www.litestep.com/lscommands/>
(source: <http://floach.pimpin.net>)

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- DarkStep.com Back (14:29 26.06 ds)

Got an IM from Fahim that darkstep.com is back. I knew this would be up and running soon as litestep.com is back up and they are hosted on the same box. Good to see these domains back. Stop on by and show your support.

url - <http://www.darkstep.com>
(source: Fahim via IM)

[Programs]

- bootman 1.1.12 ~ pixol (10:40 27.06 na)

Bootman is a shell loading program that can support upto 100 shells, applications, and/or games. I also has optional bootup sound, crash implementation, customizable boot logo, and easy configuration with drag and drop support

New in this version:

- Drag and drop finally now works
- Errors loading bug has been fixed
- Crash Implementation is now fully implemented, will be improved upon in future releases.
- Added another splashlogo
- Modified defshell placement

url - <http://www.dtop.org/pixolpod/>
e-mail - pixol@hotmail.com
(source: <http://floach.pimpin.net>)

+-----<*>-----+

- ShellON v2 ~ Mike Rhodes (10:47 27.06)

A shell loader for Win9x/NT/W2K. It appears to have some plug-ins for geOShell also. Because it only available in an install shield format and the features page isn't there

this is the only info I have on it.

url - <http://home.freeuk.com/shellon/>
e-mail - webmaster@shellon.cjb.net
(source: <http://www.desktopian.org>)

+-----<*>-----+

- Shell Logon 0.2 ~ Grant Stanley (10:54 27.06 na)

Shell Logon replaces the Windows 2000/NT4 logon screen. It currently allows you to logon to the local computer or a domain, as well as being able to select the shell your going to use at logon instead of changing the registry, and then re-logging on, or using another program which doesn't allow you to select the shell on the same screen.

url - <http://www.uranium238.co.uk/>
e-mail - Grant@Uranium238.co.uk
(source: <http://www.desktopian.org>)

[Latest Builds]

- LiteStep
 - o 24.6 build 061000
 - o <http://builds.litestep.net/builds/06-10-2000.zip>
- DarkStep
 - o 0.971
 - o <http://www.darkstep.com/files/DarkStep971.zip>
- geOShell
 - o 4.6.2
 - o <http://news.geoshell.com/Plugins/Download/geoshellr462.zip>
- PureLS
 - o 052900
 - o <http://209.46.69.134/purels/binaries/00-05-29r.zip>

.....
 --= Alt OS Specific =--
.....

[Programs]

- SealScript 0.01 ~ Bad Sector (10:23 29.06 sel)

SealScript is a scripting engine for SEAL. As of right now, only console commands are supporting.

url - <http://michalopoylos.tripod.com/seal.html>
e-mail - michalopoylos@hotmail.com
(source: <http://pub8.ezboard.com/bsealsystem>)

[Web Sites]

- Dthwlkr.com Open (15:41 26.06 sel)

"I have finally gotten dthwlkr.com as my domain. I am now in the process of updating my pages so that they work from dthwlkr.homestead.com. That is where all the pages are stored.

"Source that has been published so far.

- Disk Commander
- Editor
- HPage
- SmallDIT
- WatchDog"

url - <http://www.dthwlkr.com>
(source: <http://pub8.ezboard.com/bsealsystem>)

+-----<*>-----+

- Soylent Green Moves (10:31 29.06 v2)

Soylent Green, a GUI interface for V2_OS has moved to a new server at <http://soylentgreen.newmail.ru/>. They also have a source download for the Canvas module.

url - <http://soylentgreen.newmail.ru/>
e-mail - murina@sci.fi
(source: <http://www.v2os.cx/~stalin/index.html>)

[Latest Builds]

- SEAL

- o 1D (042900)
- o <http://www.home.sk/public/seal/sealexe.zip>

- V2_OS

- o 0.63.2a
- o http://www.v2os.cx/downloads/dl_system.htm

.....
 -- Beyond the Specifics --
.....

[Tweaking]

- Changing the Internet Explorer Title Bar

As you can tell I love simple reg hacks. This one will allow you to change the IE title bar from saying Microsoft Internet Explorer to what ever you want. Now, I know alot of the reghack sites say to goto HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE but for me that does not work. So on with this hack.

Step 1 - Open Regedit (Start, Run, Redegit)

Step 2 - By clicking the +'s get to this entry:

HKEY_CURRENT_USER\Software\Microsoft\Internet Explorer\Main

Step 3 - Within this key find the entry "Window Title". If it does not exist, click on Edit -> New -> String Value, and create a new string called Window Title.

Step 4 - Change the value of "Window Title" to what ever you would like your IE title bar to say. To do this click on Edit -> Modify.

Step 5 - Close the registry editor and your good to go. No reboot needed.

[Intresting]

- Zebulun.org

Zebulun is another in the long line of E/N sites but it is one of the few I visit daily. There odd twist on life and hoard of interesting links makes it worth the visit. They have a nice, clean interface and no banner adds. Take a few mins out of your busy life and check it out. You will not be disappointed.

url - <http://www.zebulun.org>

[Programs]

- Open Trap

Saw this little diddy on Shell City and thought it would be great for all the time you get the "Cannot find X dll" error. This looks like a must have for people who run shells.

From Shell City:

"When you try to launch an application and get a message such as "Can't find foo.bar or one of its components," you can't tell what file is missing. OpenTrap solves this problem. It logs which files were successfully accessed and which were not. It also can eavesdrop on file close functions to help you track the time spent working on particular files."

url - <http://hotfiles.zdnet.com/cgi-bin/texis/swlib/hotfiles/info.html?fcode=0000D1>
(source: <http://www.shellcity.net>)

.....

[Mailing Lists]

- LiteStep

To subscribe, e-mail: litestep-subscribe@litestep.ru.ac.za
To unsubscribe, e-mail: litestep-unsubscribe@litestep.ru.ac.za
Additional commands, e-mail: litestep-help@litestep.ru.ac.za

- Stuff

To subscribe, e-mail: stuff-subscribe@litestep.ru.ac.za
To unsubscribe, e-mail: stuff-unsubscribe@litestep.ru.ac.za
Additional commands, e-mail: stuff-help@litestep.ru.ac.za

- DarkStep

To subscribe, e-mail: darkstep-subscribe@egroups.com
To unsubscribe, e-mail: darkstep-unsubscribe@egroups.com

.....

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REQUIREMENTS."

url - <http://www.litestep.org>
e-mail - c0mrade@litestep.net
(source: <http://www.litestep.org>)

[Modules]

- Sentry 1.1 ~ TrOgI (11:21 03.07 1s)

"TrOgI, author of the popular and useful dwarf wharf replacement, has released a new analog clock module he calls "Sentry". It's very customizable, supports Magic Pink (tm) transparency, shows the date (with the customizability of LSXCommand :), and supports dragging. If you want something other than the popular Chronos or LSXCommandClock digital clocks and you don't want to have to load up a wharf just to run alslock or the like, then this new loadmodule is your best choice."

New in this version:

- Added FakeTransparency parameter. With real transparency, the clock hands do not show over the transparent regions. With this option they do.
- Added NoSeconds parameter. Use this option to not have a seconds hand.
- Added RefreshRate parameter. Default refresh rate is 1 second. Example would be when using NoSeconds parameter you don't need to refresh every second so using 60 seconds would be better to cut down on resource usage.
- Added CenterDateX parameter. Centers the date horizontally in the clock.
- Added CenterDateY parameter. Centers the date vertically in the clock.

url - <http://desktopsource.mindjunction.com/>
e-mail - crouson@inreach.com
(source: <http://floach.pimpin.net>)

+-----<*>-----+

- TextEdit 1.4 ~ WhiteShadow (9:46 05.07 1s)

"This is a small module that can be used to edit text files. It could be useful in allowing you to edit your step.rc file on the fly. However, it could also be very dangerous if used on the wrong file."

New in this version:

- Added !textcopyfile
- Added TextCalculate

url - <http://www.muohio.edu/~changty/>
e-mail - changty@muohio.edu
(source: <http://www.muohio.edu/~changty/>)

+-----<*>-----+

- Chronos 1.5 ~ Maduin (9:50 05.07 ls)

"Chronos is a Litestep loadable module which can display the current date and time anywhere on the desktop. It supports background bitmaps, variable font styles, and user-defined date and time formats."

New in this version:

- added bang commands: !ChronosAlwaysOnTop, !ChronosToggleAlwaysOnTop and !ChronosNotAlwaysOnTop
- added events: ChronosOnMouseEnter and ChronosOnMouseLeave
- added ChronosGravityX and ChronosGravityY (see readme for explanation of gravity)

url - <http://maduin.dasoft.org>
e-mail - maduin@dasoft.org
(source: <http://maduin.dasoft.org>)

+-----<*>-----+

- geekamp 1.9 ~ n0thing (aka azathoth) (9:54 05.07 ls)

"Geekamp is a bang command module which allows you to have almost complete control over winamp. It's best used in combination with shortcuts and/or hotkeys."

On a side note, geekMaster originally coded this module and n0thing is now hacking away at it.

New in this version:

- Fixed all those problems that caused mine and so many others pc's to die horribly...

url - <http://www.intricatechaos.com>
e-mail - n0thing@intricatechaos.com
(source: <http://floach.pimpin.net>)

+-----<*>-----+

- DeskFolders 2.0b4 ~ Maduin (9:53 06.07 pls)

"DeskFolders is a Litestep desktop module which allows you place embedded folders ("desk folders") onto your desktop. Desk folders can display the contents of any directory or shell folder, such as the Desktop folder or My Computer. You can create multiple desk folders with any position or size and in a variety of styles and colors. Desk folders are designed to be highly customizable and to blend in well with your existing LS desktop. DeskFolders is great for providing quick access to files and directories or for allowing you to drag and drop files between Explorer and the LS desktop."

New in this version:

- added parameter: alwaysOnTop (true or false)
- fixed a minor compatibility issue with PureLS

url - <http://maduin.dasoft.org>
e-mail - maduin@dasoft.org

(source: <http://maduin.dasoft.org>)

+-----<*>-----+

- Rainlendar 0.4 ~ Rainy (10:06 06.07 ls)

"Rainlendar is a very customizable calendar that resides on your desktop and shows the days of the current month. The application is a Litestep plugin, but it can be used without the Litestep as well. You can use it even with the normal Explorer-shell if you like."

New in this version:

- Months can now cycled with cursor-keys.
- Added few bangs: !RainlendarShow, !RainlendarHide, !RainlendarToggle, !RainlendarRefresh, !RainlendarConfig, !RainlendarQuit, !RainlendarShowNext, !RainlendarShowPrev, !RainlendarShowMonth [Month] [Year]
- Added possibility to start the calendar hidden.
- Changed the double buffering to full window version. This should reduce flickering.

url - <http://gamma.nic.fi/~rainy/Rainlendar.html>

e-mail - rainy@iki.fi

(source: <http://floach.pimpin.net>)

+-----<*>-----+

- LSDialer 0.41 ~ WhiteShadow (9:43 07.07 ls)

This module lets you dial in and disconnect to entries already in your phonebook (the connections listed in Control Panel-> Network and Dialup Connections).

New in this version:

- Fixed crash on recycle when connected bug

url - <http://www.muohio.edu/~changty/>

e-mail - changty@muohio.edu

(source: <http://www.muohio.edu/~changty/>)

[Programs]

- bootman 1.1.18 ~ pixol (11:14 03.07 na)

Bootman is a shell loading program that can support upto 100 shells, applications, and/or games. I also has optional bootup sound, crash implementation, customizable boot logo, and easy configuration with drag and drop support

New in this version:

- Improved drag n drop.
- A few bug fixes.
- Reduced file size (Microsoft take note!).
- Some needed gui changes.

url - <http://www.dtop.org/pixolpod/>

e-mail - pixel@hotmail.com
(source: <http://floch.pimpin.net>)

+-----<*>-----+

- Shell Logon 0.4 ~ Grant Stanley (11:18 03.07 na)

Shell Logon replaces the Windows 2000/NT4 logon screen. It currently allows you to logon to the local computer or a domain, as well as being able to select the shell your going to use at logon instead of changing the registry, and then re-logging on, or using another program which doesn't allow you to select the shell on the same screen.

New in this version:

- Task Manager now loads and DOESN'T crash the computer.
- You can change your password successfully.
- You can lock the computer and it requires the username and password to unlock it.
- Shell Logon remembers the last shell used and automatically selects it.
- Shell Logon is now a lot more stable and 'shouldn't' crash your computer.

url - <http://www.uranium238.co.uk/>
e-mail - Grant@Uranium238.co.uk
(source: <http://floch.pimpin.net>)

[Latest Builds]

- LiteStep
 - o 24.6 build 061000
 - o <http://builds.litestep.net/builds/06-10-2000.zip>
- DarkStep
 - o 0.971
 - o <http://www.darkstep.com/files/DarkStep971.zip>
- geOShell
 - o 4.6.2
 - o <http://news.geoshell.com/Plugins/Download/geoshellr462.zip>
- PureLS
 - o 052900
 - o <http://209.46.69.134/purels/binaries/00-05-29r.zip>

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[Top News Stories]

- The V2_OS Kernal Team Wants Your Input (15:32 03.07 v2)

"We at the kernel coder team have lots of ideas, but we would like to have your opinions about what you would like to see in V2_OS next kernel release!

"Send an e-mail to one of the KCT member! Or if you feel like you really want to make your point, come and talk to us on the #v2os channel on EFnet!"

url - <http://www.terbium.net/members/phil>
e-mail - reynes@irit.fr
(source: <http://www.v2.nl/joostcgi/Ultimate.cgi>)

+-----<*>-----+

- New HDD Version of V2_OS Kernal ~ MaxLilt (15:36 03.06 v2)

"Try the brandnew bugfixed build of V2_OS! It's here:
www.terbium.net/members/maxlilt. Now you can copy all files
(including boot.scr) to v2os hdd partition!"

url - www.terbium.net/members/maxlilt
e-mail - maxlilt@hotmail.com
(source: <http://www.v2.nl/joostcgi/Ultimate.cgi>)

[Programs]

- V2MM under going rewrite ~ Mathias Fischer (15:11 06.07 v2)

"V2MM (Visual Virtual Memory Manager) is mainly a memory manager, but no traditional one. It organizes the memory in a way like a filesystem with folders and directories. It uses small information blocks which can point on code as well as on data like pictures in memory. So everything in memory is public, there are no individual programs anymore, they are intended to work together, to share resources and to behave in the same manner."

After cursing around the page abit, it looks like you can download a pre-beta copy of a working V2MM before he started the rewrite. This looks to me like it could be a very nice addition to V2_OS.

url - <http://www.v2os.cx/~mtf>
e-mail - mtf@gmx.de
(source: <http://www.v2os.cx/~stalin/index.html>)

[Misc]

- BadSEAL Coding Tutorial ~ BadSector (10:08 05.07 sel)

Looks as if BadSector has whipped up a tutorial for DJGPP coding for his BadSEAL SEAL distro. It is in html format and must be unzipped into its own dir.

url - michalopoylos.tripod.com/seal/index.html
e-mail - michalopoylos@hotmail.com
(source: <http://pub8.ezboard.com/bsealsystem>)

+-----<*>-----+

- ALLEGTTF 1.8 ~ Doug Eleveld (10:20 05.07 sel)

"ALLEGTTF is a collection of functions to produce anti-aliased text output and TTF (True Type Font) loader, a GRX font loader and a bitmap font loader for use with Allegro and DJGPP."

url - <http://huizen.dds.nl/~deleveld/index.htm>
e-mail - D.J.Eleveld@anest.azg.nl
(source: <http://pub8.ezboard.com/bsealsystem>)

[Latest Builds]

- SEAL
 - o 1D (042900)
 - o <http://www.home.sk/public/seal/sealex.exe.zip>
- V2_OS
 - o 0.63.2a
 - o http://www.v2os.cx/downloads/dl_system.htm

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 -= Beyond the Specifics =-
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[Tweaking]

I gleaned this off the LSMailing List. I took two of the relevant messages from this thread: OT: sharing pagefile.sys W2K with W9x/WME.

Posted by DMaestr0:

Hiya, I found this very handy topic: paging file sharing for W2K and W9x/WME; as you know W2K uses pagefile.sys as a swapfile (paging file) ... and W9x and WME uses a .swp file (I forgot the name :) If you've configured your system, as I have, to use a static swap file (rule of thumb: the size is three times your RAM) for both W9x and W2K. In my case that $124 * 3 > 307,2$.

Here's what you enter in your system.ini (in c:\windows most likely) under [386enh] :

```
PagingFile=E:\PAGEFILE.SYS
PagingDrive=E:
MinPagingFileSize=307200
MaxPagingFileSize=307200
```

where E: is the drive you've got the swapfile on. duh

anyway, be sure to have an equal size for both W2K and W9x/WME... that's it...

Follow up post by Chris Ward:

This can also be done in the GUI under NT 4.0 or Windows 2000

In Windows 2000 right click on the My Computer, Properties, System Properties, Advanced, Performance options .. you can also set on what drives the swap file exists.

For 98 this can be done by:
right click on My Computer, Properties, Performance, Virtual Memory,
at this point you have to do the settings yourself.

[Intresting]

- Spinned's Dreamcast Giveaway

Spinned is giving away a Sega Dreamcast a month for the best poster on there UBB. They will judge the person on number of posts, number of threads and posts to the thread, and quality of posts.

The UBB is aimed at gaming software, hardware, and other gaming aspects. Stop on over and make some posts! Maybe you too can win a free DC!

url - <http://talk.spinned.com>

[Programs]

- VNC (Virtual Network Computing)

This is a neat little program. It allows you to log into a machine with the server side program set up and control the desktop via a PCAnywhere style interface. Because it is coded in java, it is platform independent meaning you can set up a server on a Mac and control it from a windows desktop. It works over a LAN, WAN, or the internet. Best of all its totally free!

url - <http://www.uk.research.att.com/vnc/index.html>

.....

[Mailing Lists]

- LiteStep

To subscribe, e-mail: litestep-subscribe@litestep.ru.ac.za
To unsubscribe, e-mail: litestep-unsubscribe@litestep.ru.ac.za
Additional commands, e-mail: litestep-help@litestep.ru.ac.za

- Stuff

To subscribe, e-mail: stuff-subscribe@litestep.ru.ac.za
To unsubscribe, e-mail: stuff-unsubscribe@litestep.ru.ac.za
Additional commands, e-mail: stuff-help@litestep.ru.ac.za

- DarkStep

To subscribe, e-mail: darkstep-subscribe@egroups.com
To unsubscribe, e-mail: darkstep-unsubscribe@egroups.com

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XSWEEKLY Shell Related News 08.07.00 - 14.07.00

Not only did my script fail to send this to my home system again, but it was a really slow week. Sorry for the smallness of this letter but I just want to try and get it out and start on this weeks. So without further ado and other cliché's....

demigod

[Mail Bag]

This weeks mailbag question is: (still)

What other OS's besides Windows have you tried? What made it better/worse?

[Spotlight]

- Interface Workshop ~ Takayuki Kawamoto (aka philsci)

This is a japanese/english shell site, although it is highly geared towards LiteStep. He has links to english and japanese site, listing of japanese modules, and other general news.

url -

http://www.interq.or.jp/jupiter/philsci/porch_workshop/workshop_index.htm
e-mail - philsci@jupiter.interq.or.jp

.....
-- Shell Specific --
.....

[Top News Stories]

- State of the Step: The Game Is Afoot ~ Headius (11:27 12.09 1s)

Looks as if Headius has send out another State of the Step. This time he goes into the down time of the coders, more looking into the future, an installer, new primary theme, new core vwm, his interview for Wired, and other topics.

url - <http://www.xsweekly.com/state-071100.txt>

(source: LS Mailing List ~ State of the Step: The Game Is Afoot.)

[Modules]

- TextEdit 1.41 ~ WhiteShadow (13:03 09.07 1s)

"This is a small module that can be used to edit text files. It could be useful in allowing you to edit your step.rc file on the fly. However, it could also be very dangerous if used on the wrong file."

New in this version:

- Fixed the error using ^" in textreplace.

url - <http://www.muohio.edu/~changty/>
e-mail - changty@muohio.edu
(source: <http://www.muohio.edu/~changty/>)

+-----<*>-----+

- LsBox 1.7.1 ~ BlackHawk (13:11 09.07 ls)

"LsBox is a skinable easy to customize and resource-friendly alternative to the "normal" shortcutgroups for a number of applications like freefloating menus, messageboxes and configuration dialogs."

New in this version:

- Added native support for Wharfmodules
- Added native support for displaying Text
- Added !LsBoxShow and !LsBoxHide
- Paths are now handled relative to the Litestep Path.
- Trying to call !LsBoxCreate for an already created unique hidden window will automatically call !LsBoxShow
- LsBoxX and LsBoxY can now have negative values
- Fixed the all-tooltips-show-last-tooltip-text bug
- Removed the LsBoxstatistics bang - wasn't worth the trouble

%%UPDATE%% (11:22 12.07)

- Fixed "cannot load lsbox.dll" error in win95.

url - <http://www.blkhawk.de>
e-mail - blkhawk@blkhawk.de
(source: LS Mailing List ~ *** LsBox 1.7 released ***)

+-----<*>-----+

- geOCommand 1.0 ~ Daij-Djan (13:20 09.07 geo)

geOCommand is a command line module that allows you to quickly launch programs or open folders.

New in this version:

- Improved history
- User defined aliases
- Nicer look and feel (drag and drop...)
- Added history support.
- Added history limitation, max. entries to store.
- Added history filter, only store succeeded commands.
- Improved command execution function

url - <http://news.geoshell.com>
e-mail - sms@slavin.org
(source: <http://news.geoshell.com>)

+-----<*>-----+

- Mousehide 1.0 ~ Pavel (10:14 10.07 ls)

"This module automatically hides mouse cursor after defined count of keystrokes or after mouse inactivity, so the cursor does not cover typed text. After any mouse activity the cursor is automatically revealed."

url - <http://floach.pimpin.net/pavel/>
e-mail - pavel.vitis@seznam.cz
(source: <http://floach.pimpin.net/pavel/>)

[Misc]

- PureLS Option Pack Update ~ jugg (13:17 09.07 pls)

jugg has updated the PureLS option pack with two of Maduin's older mods. This update includes pause.dll, which is a module that will allow a pause to take place after executing a command, and wallpaper.dll, which is a standard wallpaper changing program.

url - <http://www.purels.org>
e-mail - jugg@purels.org
(source: <http://www.purels.org>)

[Latest Builds]

- LiteStep

- o 24.6 build 061000
- o <http://builds.litestep.net/builds/06-10-2000.zip>

- DarkStep

- o 0.971
- o <http://www.darkstep.com/files/DarkStep971.zip>

- geOShell

- o 4.6.2
- o <http://news.geoshell.com/Plugins/Download/geoshellr462.zip>

- PureLS

- o 052900
- o <http://209.46.69.134/purels/binaries/00-05-29r.zip>

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 -= Alt OS Specific =-
.....

[Latest Builds]

- SEAL

- o 1D (042900)
- o <http://www.home.sk/public/seal/sealexe.zip>

- V2_OS
 - o 0.63.2a
 - o http://www.v2os.cx/downloads/dl_system.htm

.....

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 - Additional commands, e-mail: litestep-help@litestep.ru.ac.za

- Stuff
 - To subscribe, e-mail: stuff-subscribe@litestep.ru.ac.za
 - To unsubscribe, e-mail: stuff-unsubscribe@litestep.ru.ac.za
 - Additional commands, e-mail: stuff-help@litestep.ru.ac.za

- DarkStep
 - To subscribe, e-mail: darkstep-subscribe@egroups.com
 - To unsubscribe, e-mail: darkstep-unsubscribe@egroups.com

.....

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XSWEEKLY Shell Related News 15.07.00 - 21.07.00

Yet another bad week for me. I have been redoing my scripts trying in vain to figure out why they are not working. In theory they should be working without a hitch, but there not. Because of this the letter never gets uploaded when its supposed to and I have to wait till Monday to send it out.

Anyway, I have been wanting to go off on a huge rant about something but am going to hold off until I can take the time to talk to a few people. What I have been pissed about hasn't changed and if you read this weekly, you probably know what I am talking about. Instead of ranting off like I usually do and getting slammed by everyone for not doing some investigating first, I am going to do some investigating first this time then rant. This way I will have all the facts straight when I run my sword though.

- demigod

[Mail Bag]

This weeks mailbag question is:

What is the main reason that you use a shell/alt os?

[Spotlight]

- PixolPod

This is a wallpaper site that also houses the shellmanager bootman. He has up 153 of his own wallpapers which are very interesting. Bootman is one of the best shellmanagers out there as it allows for an unlimited number of shells to be booted and supports for games and any other exe to be loaded as the shell.

url - <http://www.dtop.org/pixolpod>

.....
 -- Shell Specific --
.....

[Top News Stories]

- CodeX Is Released (10:45 17.07 cx)

"A new shell is out there! It is called CodeX, it's been around for a couple months now! It is still in beta but it is very stable. The first non-beta release is scheduled for September!

"CodeX is a programmable shell that runs in Windows 95/98/NT

and 2000. It uses the Sun's TCL language as the programming language. It comes with the following:

- Complete syntax highlighting text editor.
- Complete file manager.
- Visual form builder. (RAD)
- System tray.
- Virtual Window Manager.
- Task manager.
- Themes support.
- OLE support.
- Desktop with shortcut icons.
- Easy and fast popup menu system configured with a single file.
- CPU monitor.
- Zoomer.
- Mini-calculator.
- Clipboard viewer.
- System information.
- Mini cd player.
- Quick run module.
- Console.
- And many many more...

"Everything that you see on screen is fully configurable using TCL (Tool Command Language). You can also develop your own modules with Delphi. You can also easily extend the programming language (TCL) by adding new functions to the engine."

Editors Note I am adding CodeX to the list of shells I report on as of September, its official non-beta release.

url - <http://pages.infinet.net/funktion/codex>
e-mail - adeschenes@megadata.com
(source: Alain Deschenes via Submission Form)

+-----<*>-----+

- State Of Shells (10:35 19.07 na)

Recently, a discussion about the state of shells has taken over the mailing list and some of the major shell sites. It seems that because of a really horrible review by a site has sparked off yet another round of how to improve documentation, themeing, etc for shells. Two very good rants to read are on tin omen's site. Stop on over there and give it a read.

url - <http://www.desktopian.org>

+-----<*>-----+

- WhiteShadow Releases His Source Code (10:28 21.07 na)

While hopping around the sites I came across this little gem at WhiteShadows place. It seem that he has released the source to all this modules. I love seeing this. Stop on over and see whats up for grabs.

url - <http://www.muohio.edu/~changty/>
e-mail - changty@muohio.edu
(source: <http://www.muohio.edu/~changty/>)

[Modules]

- pcp_volume ~ pcppopper (11:58 19.07 1s)

"This module deals with windows volume controlling system. It is loosely based on v_bang.dll by blackhawk. However, his module has more useless (in my opinion =) stuff than mine and is written in delphi (you should be ashamed =P), whereas mine is written in 'ansi' c (wohoo for purels). I only have 32 megs of ram so every kb counts, (v_bang.dll = 22.016b, pcp_vol.dll = 6.144b).

url - <http://floach.pimpin.net>
e-mail - da.box@home.se
(source:

+-----<*>-----+

- Mousehide 1.1 ~ Pavel (10:23 21.07 1s)

"This module automatically hides mouse cursor after defined count of keystrokes or after mouse inactivity, so the cursor does not cover typed text. After any mouse activity the cursor is automatically revealed."

New in this version:

- Added MouseHideStartupDelay
- Added MouseHideStartupSound (to aid setup of correct startup delay)
- Do hide after key-up event only, ignore key-down. Solves key+drag bug.
- Do not hide mouse while mouse button is down (timed hide during mouse drag)
- Added *MouseHideIgnore - experimental

url - <http://floach.pimpin.net/pavel/>
e-mail - pavel.vitis@seznam.cz
(source: <http://floach.pimpin.net/pavel/>)

[Web Sites]

- WIWIKALS Opens To The Tune Of Ranting ~ Craig Eliason (10:50 21.07 1s)

"As you know, jugg recently called the 'tweeners of the LiteStep community (between programmers and newbies) to help fill the documentation void for LiteStep. I am exactly one of those people, and he has inspired me to put together what I've been considering doing for a while now.

"It is a new site called WIWIKALS. That stands for What I Wish I'd Known About LiteStep. The idea is to have experienced LiteSteppers contribute the wisdom they picked up only through their experience so that more novice users can benefit. The result might be a bit random, but it should fill some holes in the documentation gap."

url - <http://www.rci.rutgers.edu/~eliason/litestep.htm>
e-mail - eliason@eden.rutgers.edu
(source: Craig Eliason via e-mail)

[Programs]

- Bootman 1.4 ~ Pixol (10:53 21.07 na)

"Bootman is simply a shell boot manager. There are many features of bootman including customizable splashlogos + sound, unlimited number of shells or any exe file you wish to add.. I have all my games added so I do not have to boot into explorer each time I want to play, easy configuration, crash protection, neat startup animation, perfect ui and other neat features."

New in this version:

- Adds much better uninstall support, fixes configuration problems, install problems fixed.

url - <http://www.dtop.org/pixolpod>
e-mail - pixol@hotmail.com
(source: <http://floach.pimpin.net>)

[Latest Builds]

- LiteStep

- o 24.6 build 061000
- o <http://builds.litestep.net/builds/06-10-2000.zip>

- DarkStep

- o 0.971
- o <http://www.darkstep.com/files/DarkStep971.zip>

- geOShell

- o 4.6.4a
- o <http://news.geoshell.com/Plugins/Download/geoshellr464a.zip>

- PureLS

- o 052900
- o <http://209.46.69.134/purels/binaries/00-05-29r.zip>

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 -= Alt OS Specific =-
.....

[Latest Builds]

- SEAL

- o 1D (042900)
- o <http://www.home.sk/public/seal/sealexe.zip>

- V2_OS

- o 0.63.2a
- o http://www.v2os.cx/downloads/dl_system.htm

.....

[Mailing Lists]

- LiteStep

To subscribe, e-mail: litestep-subscribe@litestep.ru.ac.za
To unsubscribe, e-mail: litestep-unsubscribe@litestep.ru.ac.za
Additional commands, e-mail: litestep-help@litestep.ru.ac.za

- Stuff

To subscribe, e-mail: stuff-subscribe@litestep.ru.ac.za
To unsubscribe, e-mail: stuff-unsubscribe@litestep.ru.ac.za
Additional commands, e-mail: stuff-help@litestep.ru.ac.za

- DarkStep

To subscribe, e-mail: darkstep-subscribe@egroups.com
To unsubscribe, e-mail: darkstep-unsubscribe@egroups.com

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XSWEEKLY Shell Related News 22.07.00 - 28.07.00

Alot of talk has been going on about two main things recently, lack of documentation for shells and not having PureLS themes on litestep.net. I'm going to stay away from the second one as I already have a headache and don't want to get over worked up ranting about that.

The lack of docs is and has been an ever running problem. It is something that should have been addressed long ago but was never really jumped on because of various reasons. Now that LiteStep is once again in the news and getting bad reviews, this subject rears its ugly head. The thing that most amazes me is the lack of caring for it. The shell community is pretty closed when it comes to actually caring about non-members. Most newbies cant even install a theme but no one really seems to care.

Now I know that there is some working going on behind the scenes and someone just opened up a general information dump site, and that Necro has a very nice FAQ up but 95% of the shell community could care less if a newbie can't work out setting up a theme or even the shell it self. Comon people, new users are important on many levels. Not only do new users help to increase the userbase, but how do you think we get new coders? Or new themers? Or new web masters? We were all newbies at one point.

I understand that most of us who started on LS b21/22 had to learn to use it ourselves, but back then it was alot simpler than it is now. There are twice as many core files, the amount of modules and the complexity of the `step.rc` has increased to an amazing level, and the number of different ways that themers make themes makes what we had to originally learn seem like childs play.

What I'm getting at here is we as a community should be pulling together to get some comprehensive documentation out there for the shell scene, not just sitting on our hands hoping someone else picks up our slack.

- demigod

[Mail Bag]

This weeks mailbag question is (again):

What is the main reason that you use a shell/alt os?

[Spotlight]

- LiteStep FAQ

With all the talk about the lack of documentation for shells recently, I thought it would be a good idea to mention one of the best resources for LiteStep out there now, the LSFAQ. Necro has whipped up a very comprehensive set of question and answers

pertaining to LiteStep on Win9x, NT, and W2K. There are also other FAQ for various other things gleaned off the LS Mailing List.

As Necro will be busy starting in September, he requests some help in bringing LSFAQ up to date. If you have the time please drop him an e-mail and lend a hand.

url - <http://lsfaq.litestep.org>
e-mail - necro@eden.rutgers.edu

.....
 -- Shell Specific --
.....

[Top News Stories]

- LS to PLS ~ tinomen (10:38 28.07 pls)

Tin Omen (famed webmaster of desktopian) has done a doc on converting LiteStep themes over to PureLS themes. He states that it isn't the end all be all of PureLS documentation, but its a good place to start. He goes though the whole boot of converting over to purels, but you must have knowledge of LiteStep.

url - <http://desktopian.org/ls2pls.html>
e-mail - tin_omen@mindless.com
(source: <http://www.desktopian.org>)

+-----<*>-----+

- geOShell on Skinz.org (10:46 28.07 geo)

Skinz.org has finally opened up a section for geOShell schemes. Because geOShell doesn't use actual themes or skinz, it seems to have been shunned until now. Stop on over and show your support for one of the better shells to hit the scene.

url - <http://skinz.org/skins.php3?login=&id=&area=geoshell>
(source: <http://news.geoshell.com>)

+-----<*>-----+

- geoShell to go skinable (10:49 28.07 geo)

Thats right, in the next builds of geOShell, skinning will be implemented. This is a great step forward for this shell imo. If you have stayed away from geoshell because of its looks or lack of ability to change how it looks, I suggest trying out the next few builds of geOShell.

ss - <http://website.lineone.net/~pdw63/images/4.6.5%20-%20preview.jpg>
(source: <http://news.geoshell.com>)

[Modules]

- LSDialer .42 ~ WhiteShadow (9:48 28.07 ls)

This module lets you dial in and disconnect to entries already in your phonebook (the connections listed in Control Panel->Network and Dialup Connections).

New in this version:

- Recycling no longer loses the tray icon (only if lsdialer.dll is loaded after systray.dll).
- Fixed a connection bug (when previous connection was closed using another program).

url - <http://www.muohio.edu/~changty/>
e-mail - changty@muohio.edu
(source: <http://www.muohio.edu/~changty/>)

+-----<*>-----+

- LSTransparent 1.0.0.9a ~ dreamer (9:50 28.07 ls)

LSTransparent allows for fake alpha blending of modules ala w2k.

New in this version:

- Added color tinting.

url - <http://floach.pimpin.net>
(source: <http://floach.pimpin.net>)

[Latest Builds]

- LiteStep
 - o 24.6 build 072700
 - o <http://builds.litestep.net/builds/07-27-2000.zip>
- DarkStep
 - o 0.971
 - o <http://www.darkstep.com/files/DarkStep971.zip>
- geOShell
 - o 4.6.5
 - o <http://news.geoshell.com/Plugins/Download/geoshellr465.zip>
- PureLS
 - o 052900
 - o <http://209.46.69.134/purels/binaries/00-05-29r.zip>

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 -= Alt OS Specific =-
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[Top News Stories]

- SEAL E-Communique (11:17 28.07 sel)

"We had good response to our previous E-News SEAL E-Communique so I am reminding you that deadline is every 2 weeks...ie this Friday (Saturday my time) when it runs out on the EastCoast

of USA. Please note that you can submit anything you like related to SEAL, Programming and computers. I need LINKS! Please post links through to us at sealsys@kwazulunatal.com.

e-mail - sealsys@kwazulunatal.com
(source: <http://pub8.ezboard.com/bsealsystem>)

[Lib Files]

- SFA bl ~ Florian (11:05 28.07 sel)

SFA stands for "Sound Format API".

This is the idea:

If a program/game wants to play a file, it has to use different routines to play f.e. midi, mp3, wav, mod, etc. It would be easier to have some functions, which would go for all file formats, so that you need only to write `pp->play(pp);` and it plays all kind of sound file formats which are loaded.

url - <http://members.aon.at/seal/>
e-mail - free.seal@eon.at
(source: <http://members.aon.at/seal/>)

[Programs]

- FreeCDP 2.1 ~ Florian (11:11 28.07 sel)

This is a multiple format player for SEAL. It currently plays UD, MIDI, WAV, MOD, XM, S3M, JGM, UMX, MP3, MP2, CD formats. You can also use it via command line.

New in this version:

- The mp3/mp2 part has been improved!

url - <http://members.aon.at/seal/>
e-mail - free.seal@eon.at
(source: <http://members.aon.at/seal/>)

[Latest Builds]

- SEAL
o 1D (042900)
o <http://www.home.sk/public/seal/seal.exe.zip>

- V2_OS
o 0.63.2a
o http://www.v2os.cx/downloads/dl_system.htm

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 -= Beyond the Specifics =-
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[Tweaking]

- Change the color of Win9x BSOD

I ripped this directly from the BSOD Properties web site. This hack only works for 9x. It doesn't do anything for NT. I really like this hack so here it is.

In the [386Enh] section of your SYSTEM.INI file add these two lines:

```
MessageTextColor=C  
MessageBackColor=0
```

In this case "C" is the hexadecimal number for bright red, and "0" is black.

Here is a complete list of colors:

- 0 - Black
- 1 - Blue
- 2 - Green
- 3 - Cyan
- 4 - Red
- 5 - Magenta
- 6 - Yellow/Brown
- 7 - White
- 8 - Gray
- 9 - Bright blue
- A - Bright green
- B - Bright cyan
- C - Bright red
- D - Bright magenta
- E - Bright yellow
- F - Bright white

Note that bright colors display as dark colors in text backgrounds. For example, if you select "bright green" as the background color, the text in the message title will appear bright green but the main background will appear as regular green. Likewise, if you selected "bright white" for the text color, the title background will appear as regular white.

(source: <http://www.pla-netx.com/linebackn/news/bsod.html>)

[Intresting]

- Open Windows Project

This is something that struck me as very interesting as soon as i saw the link. This is from there manifesto:

"The purpose of the Open Windows Project is to develop a 100% compatible open-source clone of the Microsoft Windows operating system. Goals of the Project include: development of a 32-bit Windows kernel; Win32, Win16, and MS-DOS application compatibility, Windows software support (including all necessary components, libraries and other resources) Windows hardware support (via existing real mode

and protected mode drivers), system services, a help system of some sort, file system support (which must include the FAT16, FAT32, and VFAT file systems, with support for others added later), Windows registry support, support for OLE (object linking and embedding), MS-DOS subsystem support, system file protection and PC Health features, support for TCP/IP networking, and all other CORE aspects of the Microsoft Windows operating system model. Other aspects of the operating system, such as further networking components, application development tools, support for other file systems and operating systems, and web services (such as a web browser application, an e-mail application, updates to the OS via the web, etc) may be added later."

There isn't any listed progress for this project, the idea is one that I'm surprised hasn't been started in this scale yet.

url - <http://openwindows.sourceforge.net>
(source: <http://www.shellcity.net>)

[Programs]

- UltraEdit32

This is my preferred text editor of choice. It has syntax highlighting, multiple file open, unlimited file size, macros, split view, pane view, etc... If you hack out code in plain text, do html, or just about anything, this is the text editor that I recommend.

url - <http://www.ultraedit.com>

.....

[Mailing Lists]

- LiteStep

To subscribe, e-mail: litestep-subscribe@litestep.ru.ac.za
To unsubscribe, e-mail: litestep-unsubscribe@litestep.ru.ac.za
Additional commands, e-mail: litestep-help@litestep.ru.ac.za

- Stuff

To subscribe, e-mail: stuff-subscribe@litestep.ru.ac.za
To unsubscribe, e-mail: stuff-unsubscribe@litestep.ru.ac.za
Additional commands, e-mail: stuff-help@litestep.ru.ac.za

- DarkStep

To subscribe, e-mail: darkstep-subscribe@egroups.com
To unsubscribe, e-mail: darkstep-unsubscribe@egroups.com

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XSWEEKLY Shell Related News 19.08.00 - 25.08.00

Ok ok ok, I know, its been over three weeks since I mailed this out. After deciding to take off about a week to chill out and get some of my other projects finished, I got hit with about a million problems all at once. On top of it all, this past friday was my daughters first birthday, so that delayed this issues. Too just cap off the crappyness that is my life, this week was horribly slow on all fronts.

Let me take this little space here to say that I am truly sorry for slacking off so much, but I am back again and hopefully my world will stay at atleast a semi-normal level for a while so that I can continue this news letter.

Thanks for sticking with me.

- demigod

[Mail Bag]

This weeks mailbag question is:

What one thing would you like to see done differently in a shell?

[Spotlight]

- Mindjunction

This took off for a while but has since died out. This is a great site for sharing your ideas with coders. It's also a great site for coders to get new ideas. Go and post some ideas!

<http://www.mindjunction.com>

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 -- Shell Specific --
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[Modules]

- Mousehide 1.2 ~ Pavel (10:45 21.08 1s)

"This module automatically hides mouse cursor after defined count of keystrokes or after mouse inactivity, so the cursor does not cover typed text. After any mouse activity the cursor is automatically revealed."

New in this version:

- Improved *MouseHideIgnore - Now testing ClassName and/or

- executable name
- Improved mouse hiding mechanism
- Fixed bug - Mouse hiding at startup
- Module is not loaded if no mouse detected
- Added !MouseMove bang
- Added X,Y parameters to !MouseShow and !MouseHide
- Tested on Windows Millennium
- Removed debug code in kmhook.dll

url - <http://floach.pimpin.net/pavel/>
e-mail - pavel.vitis@seznam.cz
(source: <http://floach.pimpin.net/pavel/>)

+-----<*>-----+

- Testtasks.dll ~ jugg (10:59 21.08 ls)

Tasks.dll is the ever popular task manager for LiteStep and pureLS. It is a very configurable task manager allowing for placement of tasks anywhere on your desktop, skinnability, and a miraid of other options.

This is a debug test release to find memory leaks within the dll.

New in this version:

- Got the page faults down from 200+ per second to around 25 per second.
- Fixed a fairly large memory leak/corruption when no applications were opened for tasks.dll to display tiles for.
- Fixed a smaller resource problem.

url - <http://jugg.logicpd.com/>
e-mail - jugg@purels.org
(source: <http://jugg.logicpd.com/>)

[Misc]

- Skin Scripting ~ Jaykül (9:49 22.08 geo)

"You can now change your skin from the command line! Of course, you can also set the "on-top" or "auto-hide" properties, verticality (?) and skinning of EACH, or every geOBar with one command!

"Check out my skin (sorry) at skinz.org. It's called "golden", and it contains the script that will allow all of this."

url - <http://www.skinz.org>
e-mail - JoelBennett@Hotmail.com
(source: <http://news.geoshell.com>)

[Latest Builds]

- LiteStep

- o 24.6 build 082500
- o <http://builds.litestep.net/builds/08-25-2000.zip>
- DarkStep
 - o 0.971
 - o <http://www.darkstep.com/files/DarkStep971.zip>
- geOShell
 - o 4.6.5a
 - o <http://news.geoshell.com/Plugins/Download/geoshellr465a.zip>
- PureLS
 - o 052900
 - o <http://209.46.69.134/purels/binaries/00-05-29r.zip>

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 -= Alt OS Specific =-

 [Programs]

- BlackJack ~ Leo (11:53 21.08 v2)

"Now you can play blackjack in v2os (or at least try).
 The game have some bugs yet, and i'm releasing this first
 version because i'm tired to fight against them.

"Most notably are:
 - dealer points are always - 1 of what should be. (i.e.
 22 show 21)
 - I don't have a randomize function.

"The seed for the random number generator is always the
 same. So every time you open the game you play the same
 game.

"The source can be used to make other card games. It has a\
 function to draw cards [drawcard(x, y, <cardnumber>);] and
 a function to shuffle the 52 cards array (or deck)
 [shuffledeck(<seed>);]."

url - <http://members.xoom.com/villandryltd/>
 e-mail - leo@grante.ufsc.br
 (source - <http://www.v2.nl/joostcgi/Ultimate.cgi>)

 [Latest Builds]

- SEAL
 - o 1D (042900)
 - o <http://www.home.sk/public/seal/sealexe.zip>
- V2_OS
 - o 0.63.2a
 - o http://www.v2os.cx/downloads/dl_system.htm

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[Mailing Lists]

- LiteStep

To subscribe, e-mail: litestep-subscribe@litestep.ru.ac.za

To unsubscribe, e-mail: litestep-unsubscribe@litestep.ru.ac.za

Additional commands, e-mail: litestep-help@litestep.ru.ac.za

- Stuff

To subscribe, e-mail: stuff-subscribe@litestep.ru.ac.za

To unsubscribe, e-mail: stuff-unsubscribe@litestep.ru.ac.za

Additional commands, e-mail: stuff-help@litestep.ru.ac.za

- DarkStep

To subscribe, e-mail: darkstep-subscribe@egroups.com

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XSWEEKLY Shell Related News 26.08.00 - 01.09.00

I was going to take this space this week to lay into Message for blowing up at me on the LS Mailing list. I really have alot of ammo to unload on him to but.... I have decided against it because dragging this out in a public forum will accomplish nothing except more of the same.

At this point, there is actually alot of visible progress going on not only in the core, but in documentation and other various aspects of LiteStep. This is one of the few times that I have been impressed by what is going on. I have personally spoken to some of the dev team and have seen first hand alot of the documentation being created and some of the programs being written to further the ease of use of LiteStep.

What I would like to do now is to ask everyone who has any type of problem with LS, the team, the webmaster, to write up lists of things that you think are wrong or need improvement or anything else, and mail them to me. This will be much more production then us sitting around laying into each other because we have opposing views. I myself have taken up some of that cause and come up with my own lists of things that I am passing along to others.

I know that I am infamous for starting trouble but this week I would rather promote progress than a fight. I will not apologies for what I have said in the past or about how I feel about certain people but I will not drag it out here or on the list. Take a note from me, if you have a problem with someone, take it to them personally and not in a public forum, please.

- demigod

[Mail Bag]

This weeks mailbag question is (again):

What one thing would you like to see done differently in a shell?

[Spotlight]

- LiteStep Commands

This site has the commands for over 200 LiteStep modules. Not only that but it also has a brief explanation on what each is. This is a must visit site. Whether your a new user or a seasoned veteran looking for a command, this is the site to goto.

<http://help.litestep.com>

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-- Shell Specific --
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[Top News Stories]

- State of the Step 08-28-2000 ~ Headius (10:08 29.08 1s)

Another State of the Step hits the list. This time Headius tackles Documentation or the lack there of, Build Stability, Themes, and a ton of other stuff. If you into LiteStep, this is worth the read.

url - <http://www.xsweekly.com/state/state-082800.txt>

+-----<*>-----+

- LS2K Gets Some Help (9:42 31.08 1s)

Looks like Azathoth has shuffled himself around once again and is now helping jalist with LS2K. Head on over and check out the layout, its looking good.

url - <http://www.ls2k.org>
(source: <http://floach.pimpin.net>)

[Modules]

- jKey ~ jugg (9:39 29.09 pls)

"jKey.dll" is off the same idea as the LiteStep Hotkey.dll module. However, I've pretty much rewritten it from scratch (tho if you do compare code, you can see I was looking at the hotkey source when I wrote it). Its completely cleaned up. All memory is dynamically allocated, and a bunch of new options to tweak its use."

url - <http://jugg.logicpd.com/index.html>
e-mail - jugg@earthling.net
(source: <http://jugg.logicpd.com/index.html>)

+-----<*>-----+

- tasks .90 ~ jugg (9:41 29.08 pls)

Tasks.dll is the ever popular task manager for LiteStep and pureLS. It is a very configurable task manager allowing for placement of tasks anywhere on your desktop, skinnability, and a myriad of other options.

New in this version:

- Added TasksSetTimer
- Fixed memory corruption when no task tiles were displayed.
- Fixed resource leak when a Tile had both a custom bitmap and icon defined for it.
- Fixed code from loading a custom icon when a custom bitmap was already loaded for the same Tile.

url - <http://jugg.logicpd.com/index.html>
e-mail - jugg@earthling.net
(source: <http://jugg.logicpd.com/index.html>)

[Web Sites]

- DarkStep.net back online ~ maaneeack (9:55 30.08 ds)

DarkStep.net is back. maaneeack has finally gotten control of it again and uploaded the site. It has a totally new look from the old ds.net and to me feels a bit more user friendly.

url - <http://www.darkstep.net>
(source: maaneeack via irc)

+-----<*>-----+

- LS Commands Moves Again ~ KSR (9:45 31.08 ls)

Yes again LSCommands gets a new url, this time its a vhost at litestep.com. This is a tremendous site, it has the command list for 124 different LS mods along with explanations. This is a must visit site.

url - help.litestep.com
e-mail - krabourn@bigfoot.com
(source: <http://floach.pimpin.net>)

+-----<*>-----+

- LSPortal Back ~ c0mrade (9:19 01.09 ls)

This is THE place for LS related links. Jorje had originally started this site on chunkymunky along with modulo and ran out of time to keep it up. After he had given it over to me I too ran out of time and handed it over to c0mrade. It looks like he has come through and once again LSPortal is back, hopefully this time to stay.

url - <http://links.litestep.net>
(source: Topic in #litestep)

[Programs]

- TweakGUI v3 ~ Vish (10:29 29.08 geo)

"I wrote this little utility to avoid firing up Regedit every time I wanted to change a setting in geOShell. I wanted it to be a mini Regedit with the Root Branch as HKCU\geO\geOShell but that was gonna take some time & this approach seemed better after I saw Cloud9ine & Xion's Config modules."

url - <http://members.rediff.com/Vishk/tweakgui.htm>
e-mail - Vishk@Rediffmail.com
(source: <http://news.geoshell.com>)

+-----<*>-----+

- Carapace 1.5 PR2b ~ Pixol (9:53 01.09 na)

Carapace is a shell swapping program. It boats a number of very useful features such as supporting an unlimited number

of shells, dynamic shell swapping, and crash protection to name a few.

New in this version:

- Installer fixes.
- Caratask can now be executed at any time, and terminate any task.
- Caratask UI modified for the better.
- Help file to reflect the new changes.
- Activex 429 bug fixed.

url - <http://www.dtop.org/pixelpod/>
e-mail - pixel@hotmail.com
(source: <http://www.dtop.org>)

[Latest Builds]

- LiteStep
 - o 24.6 build 082900
 - o <http://builds.litestep.net/builds/08-29-2000.zip>
- DarkStep
 - o 0.971
 - o <http://www.darkstep.com/files/DarkStep971.zip>
- geOShell
 - o 4.6.5a
 - o <http://news.geoshell.com/Plugins/Download/geoshellr465a.zip>
- PureLS
 - o 052900
 - o <http://209.46.69.134/purels/binaries/00-05-29r.zip>

.....
 -= Alt OS Specific =-
.....

[Programs]

- Allegro 3.12 (10:47 31.08 sel)

After 6 months of no new builds, Allegro, the code lib for SEAL has been updated. Head on over and grab the new copy if you code at all for SEAL.

url - <http://www.talula.demon.co.uk/allegro/>
(source: <http://pub8.ezboard.com/bsealsystem>)

+-----<*>-----+

- Bad SEAL 0.4 ~ Bad Sector (9:39 01.09 sel)

Bad SEAL is a redistribution of SEAL with a lot of addons and other GUI updates by Bad Sector.

New in this version:

- Multiuser support from 0.4a (due to several problems)
- New programs
 - CALC.EXE
 - CLOCK.EXE
 - RUN.EXE
 - WATCHDOG.EXE
- Programming tutorial
- Console mode
- Package system fixup
- New SEALCMDI
- Tools for easiest message translation
- COPY fixup
- Less memory needed
- JumpyLoader added
- minor bugfixes
- minor additions

url - <http://michalopoylos.tripod.com/seal/index.html>
 e-mail - michalopoylos@hotmail.com
 (source: <http://pub8.ezboard.com/bsealsystem>)

 [Latest Builds]

- SEAL
 - o 1D (042900)
 - o <http://www.home.sk/public/seal/sealexe.zip>
- V2_OS
 - o 0.63.2a
 - o http://www.v2os.cx/downloads/dl_system.htm

.....
 == Beyond the Specifics ==

 [Programs]

- Win32AimAd 0.1

Noticed this link on Whiteshadows page. Its a program that strips the adds off of AIM. It looks to be a C port of the VB6 program AimAd. Although it isn't complete and still has a few bugs (like resizing aim gets a bit strange) it's a nice program none the less.

url - <http://gena01.lk.net/prog/win32aimad.shtml>

.....

 [Mailing Lists]

- LiteStep
 - To subscribe, e-mail: litestep-subscribe@litestep.ru.ac.za
 - To unsubscribe, e-mail: litestep-unsubscribe@litestep.ru.ac.za
 - Additional commands, e-mail: litestep-help@litestep.ru.ac.za

- Stuff

To subscribe, e-mail: stuff-subscribe@litestep.ru.ac.za

To unsubscribe, e-mail: stuff-unsubscribe@litestep.ru.ac.za

Additional commands, e-mail: stuff-help@litestep.ru.ac.za

- DarkStep

To subscribe, e-mail: darkstep-subscribe@egroups.com

To unsubscribe, e-mail: darkstep-unsubscribe@egroups.com

.....

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If you would like to unsubscribe from XWeekly at any time, simply send an e-mail to xswweekly-unsubscribe@wuzzle.org and you will be removed. You can e-mail me at demigod@meganet.net with any questions, suggestions, etc.

XSWEEKLY Shell Related News 02.09.00 - 08.09.00

It seems as if some people are none too happy with my rants. Now, I know that about 95% of the time, my rants are based on unfounded rumors and speculation. They are also based on how I feel about something that week. That is what a lot of people who get upset at my rants seem to fail to realize. It is a rant about MY feelings and not always about what is right or even at times true. Sometimes I get a feeling about something or from something that rubs me the wrong way and I rant about it. I know that I have mentioned this before, but it bears repeating because people keep missing the point of my rants. If you are offended by my rants, fell that they are totally wrong and/or unfounded, shot me an e-mail, and if its not full of swears and line after line of telling me how stupid I am, I will either post it here if its small enough, or post it in the mail bag section on my page.

- demigod

[Mail Bag]

This weeks mailbag question is:

If shell's were not freeware, would you pay for them and why?

e-mail - demigod@meganet.net
url - <http://www.xswweekly.com/mail.html>

[Spotlight]

- LiteStep Mailing List Archive

Many people don't know this but, Bryan (MHolmesIV) has set up a searchable archive of the entire mailing list. This is a very handy site for when you know that someone mentioned a tip but you can't remember who it was but you know it was on the list.

url - <http://wuzzle.org/list/litestep.html>

.....
 -- Shell Specific --
.....

[Top News Stories]

- LS Dev Team In Search Of A Coder (12:16 04.09 ls)

I was talking to Headius on IRC today and he mentioned to me that the LS dev team is in search of a coder with high-level COM coding skills. He realizes that people with this skill

level usually don't work for nothing, but if you are part of the LS community and have the time and the skill, please consider lending a hand.

e-mail - headius@headius.com
(source: Headius via irc)

+-----<*>-----+

- Tasks.dll Memleak Bug Found (11:45 04.09 ls)

Jugg and Headius, along with about 20 people sending in bug reports, have found the leak in tasks.dll. Apparently it all stems from some horrible M\$ coding. Gee, who would have thought of that?! From Jugg's site:

"Now, you can do one of two things. Add the command 'TasksTransparency real' (without the quotes) or upgrade to the freshly released LS CVS build 2000-09-04. The problem appears to be Microsofts fault :) See, I knew it wasn't my fault! Anyway, using that tasks setting, bypasses a call made to TransparentBLT() in lsapi.dll. And in recent builds, it has been using a Microsoft Windows API call, which contains the memory leak."

url - <http://jugg.logicpd.com>
e-mail - jugg@earthling.net
(source: <http://jugg.logicpd.com>)

+-----<*>-----+

- DarkStep Is Filemine.com's Daily Pick (11:05 07.09 ds)

Christopher Spera gives a very nice write up of DarkStep for filemine.com this week. He has done a lot of research into the major shells (LiteStep, DarkStep, IceSphere) and give a very comprehensive review of DarkStep. I would personally like to thank Christopher for taking the time out to talk to the DS Team and giving it a fair shot. Head on over and read the review.

url - <http://www.filemine.com>
(source: <http://www.darkstep.com>)

[Modules]

- LSQuickBox 1.50 ~ Epsilon (11:52 04.09 ls)

"This module is a LiteStep Desktop Module which imitate the IE4 Quick Launch Box in Explorer TaskBar."

New in this version:

- Variable QBoxIconSize (1 to 255)

%%UPDATE%% (10:46 08.09)

- Seems to be working on Win9x
- Can Display 32x32 Icons
- "QBoxNoHook" Variable

- Some Drawing Fix
- Fixed Right Click on Area without Icons
- Removed Hook System in Win9x
- Two Bangs Added : "!QBoxChangeDir" "!QBoxChangePos"
- Added QBoxNoBorde
- Icons Click is Now Working

url - <http://www.epsylon3.com/>
 e-mail - Epsylon3@ifrance.com
 (source: <http://floach.pimpin.net>)

+-----<*>-----+

- jDesk .70 ~ jugg (9:33 05.09 pls)

"jDesk features improved performance, stability, and customization over the Desktop that comes with LiteStep. For example, jDesk can execute programs, LiteStep action (bang) commands, and combinations of any number of commands from a single mouse click, or mouse/keyboard combination. Also, jDesk can set your initial Work Area (amount of screen real estate that a maximized window covers) as well as changing the Work Area on the fly."

New in this version:

- Complete code/settings rewrite.
- Added ability to leave any of the work area dimensions unaffected when setting the work area by specifying ".none" in its place.
- Fixed multiple issues dealing with focus/zorder
- Basically you should start with a clean setup and build your settings from scratch, just about everything has changed. Enjoy.

url - <http://jugg.logicpd.com/index.html>
 e-mail - jugg@earchling.net
 (source: <http://jugg.logicpd.com/index.html>)

+-----<*>-----+

- WharfX 0.2 ~ TrOgI (10:14 05.09 ls)

WharfX is a modified wharf.dll module that allows for the wharf to be horizontal or vertical. Other improvements are on the way.

%%UPDATE%% (9:14 08.09)

- Fixed the move on resolution change to work with WharfHorizontal
- Added ability to set the folder direction to the same as the wharf with WharfFolderWharfDirection setting
- Added bang commands !WharfShow and !WharfHide
- Fixed the wharf autohide feature to work correctly in horizontal mode
- Added WharfTileWidth and WharfTileHeight settings to use for any size tiles

url - desktopsource.mindjunction.com
 e-mail - crouson@inreach.com

(source: LS Mailing List ~ WharfX b0.1 released)

+-----<*>-----+

- LsSlider 1.0 ~ Black Hawk (11:30 06.09 1s)

"LsSlider is a general Slider loadmodule for Litestep. You can use LsSlider to control Winamp, any given Channel of your Soundcard or you can use LsSlider to call Bang Commands."

New in this version:

- total rewrite
- new Winamp mode
- new VolumeControl engine
- very small and resource friendly
- won't need v_bang anymore {was a stupid idea}
- [BANG] mode isn't implemented, but i don't think that anyone did ever use it.

url - <http://www.blkhawk.de>

e-mail - blkhawk@blkhawk.de

(source: LS Mailing List ~ *** new LsSlider ***)

+-----<*>-----+

- V_Bang 2.0lt ~ Black Hawk (11:34 06.09 1s)

V_Bang is a loadmodule for Litestep that adds !bangs to control the volume of a soundcard. You can also control the balance."

New in this version:

- "Lite" version (now only 15kb)

url - <http://www.blkhawk.de>

e-mail - blkhawk@blkhawk.de

(source: LS Mailing List ~ *** New V_Bang lite ***)

+-----<*>-----+

- LSNews 2.4 ~ MrJukes (9:10 07.09 1s)

LSNews is a loadmodule that will grab the headlines from a given site and display it on your screen.

New in this version:

- Added support to read local files

url - <http://floach.pimpin.net/SecondPartySoftware/>

e-mail - mrjukes@purdue.edu

(source: #litestep topic)

+-----<*>-----+

- xmouse.dll ~ llornkcor (9:17 08.09 1s)

"x style auto raise for LiteStep, Works only for Windows98 and Windows2000"

url - <http://modulo.litestep.org>
e-mail - llornkcor@llornkcor.com
(source: <http://modulo.litestep.org>)

[Web Sites]

- Interface Workshop Gets A Facelift ~ philsci (12:33 04.09 na)

After taking his site down because of the fighting that was going on on the LS Mailing List, philsci has had a change of heart and reposted Interface Workshop along with a new look. Not only that, but he has separated his work of porting LS to japanese and his english news into two separate pages. Stop on by there and show him your support.

url -
http://www.interq.or.jp/jupiter/philsci/porch_workshop/workshop_index.htm
e-mail - philsci@jupiter.interq.or.jp
(source: philsci via e-mail)

[Programs]

- ShellON 2.16 ~ delusional (11:58 04.09 na)

ShellON is a shell swapping and loading utility that is fast becoming a nice little boot manager.

New in this version:

- Fixed Choose Profile with Timer bug, where the default profile wasn't chosen correctly when the time ran out.

url - <http://shellon.cjb.net/>
e-mail - webmaster@shellon.cjb.net
(source: <http://floach.pimpin.net>)

+-----<*>-----+

- LSTheme Changer .55 ~ Galois (12:07 04.09 ls)

This is one of the best theme changers for LS that I have seen. Not only will it changes themes for you, it gives you a preview of what it will look like and a nice gui interface to work with. This is a MUST HAVE tool imo.

%%UPDATE%% (9:15 07.09)

- Fixed some UI flaws
- Fixed some internals
- Added clickable address bars
- Added Set as default
- Added Preliminary Wallpaper Support - note: The accompanying xml section is not finalized, it is more a RFC.

url - <http://www.ls2k.org>
e-mail - galois@techie.com
(source: <http://www.ls2k.org>)

+-----<*>-----+

- TweakGUI 4a ~ Vish (12:45 04.09 geo)

This is a small program that gives you a GUI interface for changing setting in geOShell instead of having to root around in your registry.

New in this version:

- Fixed Error 50003, if tweakGUI 3 was running fine previously, TweakGUI 4a will also run fine now.
- Added individual geOBar support.
- Fixed the Tab Order.
- Improved the Skin Preview by hiding the preview if the Curr Dir doesn't have a geOShell skin.

url - <http://vish.htmlplanet.com/geoshell>
e-mail - Vishk@Rediffmail.com
(source: <http://news.geoshell.com>)

+-----<*>-----+

- geOKee 1.0.0 ~ z0mbi3 (11:42 06.09 geo)

"geOKee is a hotkey manager, since it allows you to add, remove and edit geOShell's Hotkey Service, in other words, manage your geOShell's hotkeys. There is a little plugin for geOShell calls geOKey that does this as well, but instead of using geOShell's Hotkey Service it implements a service of it's own. And since geOShell is for all you minimalists, I thought if writing something that would make use of geOShell only, thus minimizing resource usage."

url - <http://z0mbi3.sempre.nu/>
e-mail - z0mbi3@hackers-pt.org
(source: <http://news.geoshell.com>)

+-----<*>-----+

- LSDocView ~ Jon Gross (12:04 06.09 ls)

This is a documentation viewer for LiteStep that digs the documentation file off a central server (currently his server) and displays it within the application.

url - <http://www.outershell.net/bin/lsdoc.html>
e-mail - aeon@outershell.net
(source: LS Mailing List ~ Document Program)

[Misc]

- XSWeekly Wallpaper ~ philsci (12:36 04.09 na)

Yup, that's right, XSWeekly has its own wallpaper now. Philsci, web master of Interface Workshop, was nice enough to make up a very nice wallpaper based off of the XSWeekly logo located on my site. Thanks a bunch man, it looks great!

url - <http://www.xsweekly.com>
e-mail - philsci@jupiter.interq.or.jp
(source: <http://www.xsweekly.com>)

+-----<*>-----+

- Scheme Preview OCX ~ Daemon (12:41 04.09 geo)

"This control enables you to display most of the colors that are used by geOShell schemes. If you have seen the widget available in the geO Control Panel Applet, this tries to emulate it's functionality. It is up you, the developer, to read the color settings from the registry or the REG files. It's not that hard anyways and including it into this control would have made its scope greater than what it was intended for."

url - <http://www.fragmenteized.com/geoshell/>
e-mail - fragmented@subdimension.com
(source: <http://news.geoshell.com>)

[Latest Builds]

- LiteStep
 - o 24.6 build 090400
 - o <http://builds.litestep.net/builds/ls-0246-dev-20000904.zip>
- DarkStep
 - o 0.971
 - o <http://www.darkstep.com/files/DarkStep971.zip>
- geOShell
 - o 4.6.5a
 - o <http://news.geoshell.com/Plugins/Download/geoshellr465a.zip>
- PureLS
 - o 052900
 - o <http://209.46.69.134/purels/binaries/00-05-29r.zip>

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 -= Alt OS Specific =-
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[Programs]

- Bad Seal .42 pre-release ~ Bad Sector (12:50 04.09 sel)

Bad SEAL is a redistribution of SEAL with a lot of addons and other GUI updates by Bad Sector.

New in this version:

- Fully SEAL 1.0D
- Beginnings of a new GUI
- Other undocumented changes

url - <http://michalopoylos.tripod.com/seal/index.html>
e-mail - michalopoylos@hotmail.com

(source: <http://pub8.ezboard.com/bsealsystem>)

[Web Sites]

- New Seal Webring ~ Amos Vryhof (12:53 04.09 sel)

Because Webring.org is merging with Yahoo, Amos has decided to host the ring on his own site.

url - disvr.cjb.net/webring/
e-mail - A.M.O.S@juno.com
(source: <http://pub8.ezboard.com/bsealsystem>)

+-----<*>-----+

- Seal Search Engine ~ Amos Vryhof (9:45 07.09 sel)

"As anyone who has gone to the Seal WebRing home page knows, there is now a Search engine that will search the pages of the Seal WebRing. This search engine has been upgraded a bit. It now searches all kinds of DOS-Related Websites. With this new addition, I hope to make the Seal Webring Search engine the best engine for finding DOS information and resources. If you find a page you consider to be a valuable resource to DOS users or developers, click the Index link in the Seal WebRing HTMLFragment and add the URL."

url - disvr.cjb.net/webring/
e-mail - A.M.O.S@juno.com
(source: <http://pub8.ezboard.com/bsealsystem>)

[Latest Builds]

- SEAL

- o 1D (042900)
- o <http://www.home.sk/public/seal/sealexe.zip>

- V2_OS

- o 0.63.2a
- o http://www.v2os.cx/downloads/dl_system.htm

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--= Beyond the Specifics =-
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[Intresting]

- Suck's View Of Internet Law Presidence

While reading /. I ran into an interesting article by suck about why the internet is being ruled into the ground. While it is supposed to be humor, it stings of truth and hard reality. Give it a read if you have the time.

url - <http://www.suck.com/daily/2000/09/08/>

[Programs]

- RdocEx ~ mlin

This is a pretty cool shell addon for winfroze that puts programs along with the usual files into the Recent Documents folder. It is very useful and comes in a nice, small package. He has also released the source to this little diddy.

url - <http://www.mlin.net>

.....

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XSWEEKLY Shell Related News 09.09.00 - 15.09.00

Like everyone did not see this coming, but I have something to say about that Wired article. It was one of the worse POS articles I have read in a long time. Now, don't get me wrong, I like the idea that shells and customization is making it into hard print but... this was a travesty of justice.

To start off with, the article name, GUIs Just Want to Have Fun, was just plain sad. They really could have come up with a million other, much better names to grab the users attention. Instead they opted to use something so uberlame that it makes me cringe to even type it out here. Comon, this is supposed to be a professional magazine here people!

Next we get to the article itself. Right off the bat you realize that the author really has no clue on what he is writing about and just using catch phrases. He quotes Bowie Poag, creator of the propaganda tiles, as if he is a driving force in the custo community. Next he calls the shell IceSphere IceStep. That right there just shows how much he really paid attention to what he was researching on. And don't even get me started on the line "and the tartly named DarkStep."

Ok, after we get past the lameness of his reporting on shells, he goes on to praise realplayer for an entire page! What a sell out! I wouldn't have minded if he has a few things to say about how skinning and customizing is becoming main stream, but he spends more time on saying how great realplayer is than on any other one topic. This is a blatant sell out right there.

Now, from what I understand, he had a lengthy interview with Headius but he is no where to be found in the article. Headius is one of the main coders in the LiteStep core and instead we have quotes from lonerunner and Bowie Poag??? Not to mention that he makes it seem as if lone is still the head of LS development! Not only is this article horrible, its also misleading, filled with propaganda for realplayer, and written with no regards to any logic that I can decipher.

Personaly I love the idea that customization and shells are finally getting there coverage but like the ZDTV run on LiteStep, it is totally wrong. The community is being misrepresented horrible even when some of its main people are giving their input. I have sent my e-mail to Wired stating how saddened I was that they allowed any monkey with the relative knowledge to use a word processor and a spell checker to pump out crap articles to sell out to cooperations and make a buck. Send in your letter too, maybe if we send in enough letter they will actually take the time to screen these monkeys and get a real writing staff. Then again, maybe not.

- demigod

[Mail Bag]

This weeks mailbag question is:

What did you think of the Wired article on customization?

e-mail - demigod@meganet.net

url - <http://www.xsweekly.com/mail.html>

[Spotlight]

.....
 -= Shell Specific =-
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[Top News Stories]

- LiteStep, DarkStep, and IceStep? in Wired (10:04 13.09 na)

Wired recently ran it's article on the customization community and mentioned LiteStep, DarkStep, and IceSphere though it got the last one wrong. Although it's nice to see these shell's getting some publicity, I with the author had taken more time to write this article correctly.

url -

http://www.interq.or.jp/jupiter/philsci/porch_workshop_topics/wired-article.zip

[Modules]

- geOUser 1.0 ~ Stanislav Antov (10:12 13.09 geo)

"This is a plugin for geOShell that shows the number of people using it (and therefore geOShell too) Some people compare it to LS Count in regard to functionality, but some have mentioned that LS Count does not show the users but tabulate them on the server."

url - <http://www.fragmentized.com/>
e-mail - fragmented@subdimension.com
(source: <http://news.geoshell.com>)

+-----<*>-----+

- xVWMx 1.0 ~ MrJukes (10:06 14.09 ls)

xVWMx is a virtual windows manager that shows the contents of each of the desktops. You can set the number of desktops, refresh rate, and a bunch of other options.

url - <http://modulo.litestep.org>
e-mail - mrjukes@purdue.edu
(source: <http://modulo.litestep.org>)

+-----<*>-----+

- IconBox 1.1 ~ MrJukes (10:09 14.09 ls)

IconBox is a copy of E's iconbox. It allows for drag and drop, auto placement after minimize and a lot of other features.

New in this version:

- You don't need to specify the full path for images anymore
- Fixed drawing to reduce the amount of blackness

url - <http://modulo.litestep.org>
e-mail - mrjukes@purdue.edu
(source: <http://modulo.litestep.org>)

+-----<*>-----+

- LsSlider 1.1 ~ Black Hawk (9:08 15.09 ls)

"LsSlider is a general Slider loadmodule for Litestep. You can use LsSlider to control Winamp, any given Channel of your Soundcard or you can use LsSlider to call Bang Commands."

New in this version:

- Added a "WinAmp Volume" Mode
- Removed "Error Closing Step.rc" Messagebox - Darkstep and purleLS should be able to run it without "Nag-box" on startup
- Fixed various issues with AlwaysOnTop and threaded Sliders
- I won't implement a [BANG] mode until s.o. tells me he need it

url - <http://www.blkhawk.de>
e-mail - blkhawk@blkhawk.de
(source: <http://www.blackhawk.de>)

+-----<*>-----+

- PCP_Vol 0.3 ~ pcppopper (10:29 15.09 ls)

"This module deals with windows volume controlling system. It is loosely..em..loosely based on v_bang.dll by blackhawk. I desired to do a rewrite of it since I only have 32 megs of ram so every kb counts, (v_bang.dll = 22.016b, pcp_vol.dll = 5.632b). (Note on the sizes: v_bang.dll is packed using the upx .exe packer which makes it more than half the original size. pcp_vol.dll uses some compiler optimizations to get it's small size. the .text and .reloc sections are merged with the .data section which makes it a bit smaller.)"

New in this version:

- Fixed a lot of bugs in this readme. Notoriously the v_bang bashing bug (sorry, i didn't mean any harm.) and the bug that prevented channels to be specified correctly.

url - <http://www.ls2k.org>
e-mail - da.box@home.se
(source: <http://www.ls2k.org>)

[Programs]

- Carapace 1.5 ~ Pixol (9:14 15.09 na)

Carapace is a shell manager with a ton of features. It includes crash protection, thread maintenance, per shell settings, etc... This is THE shell manager to use.

url - <http://www.dtop.org/pixolpod>
e-mail - pixol@hotmail.com
(source: pixol via irc)

[Misc]

- Shell Trek ~ ne0_akt (10:18 13.09 na)

This is a very interesting story that ne0_akt is working on. It is something like the history of the current shells written in a fiction like setting. I enjoyed it alot and am looking forward to the next part. Check it out, it is worth the read.

url - <http://www.xsweekly.com/shelltrek.html>
e-mail - ne0_akt@dangerous-minds.com
(source: PureLS Mailing List ~ [Shell Trek] - A New Beginning)

[Latest Builds]

- LiteStep

- o 24.6 build 090400
- o <http://builds.litestep.net/builds/ls-0246-dev-20000904.zip>

- DarkStep

- o 0.971
- o <http://www.darkstep.com/files/DarkStep971.zip>

- geOShell

- o 4.6.5a
- o <http://news.geoshell.com/Plugins/Download/geoshellr465a.zip>

- PureLS

- o 052900
- o <http://209.46.69.134/purels/binaries/00-05-29r.zip>

.....
-- Alt OS Specific --
.....

[Latest Builds]

- SEAL

- o 1D (042900)
- o <http://www.home.sk/public/seal/sealexe.zip>

- V2_OS
 - o 0.63.2a
 - o http://www.v2os.cx/downloads/dl_system.htm

.....
 --= Beyond the Specifics =-
.....

[Intresting]

- An Article On Open Source Management

Another /. link, this time to a well written article on Open Source and the way it is managed or more to the point, not managed. Great read imo.

url - <http://www.lotus.com/developers/devbase.nsf/articles/doc2000091200>

[Programs]

- Winamp Remote Control

Saw this on shell city. This is something that I can use for my home lan because I'm too lazy to pick up my second kb. From the readme:

"The broadest overview would have to be that the winamp plugin gives winamp the ability to respond to control messages from remote machines connected via a network.

"In more concrete terms - install the plugin, and you can control winamp on machine 1, by using a client application on machine 2."

url - <http://www.freenetpages.co.uk/hp/patrickmmartin/winampremote/>

.....

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If you would like to unsubscribe from XSWeekly at any time, simply send an e-mail to xswweekly-unsubscribe@wuzzle.org and you will be removed. You can e-mail me at demigod@meganet.net with any questions, suggestions, etc.

XSWEEKLY Shell Related News 16.09.00 - 22.09.00

Is it just me or does it feel like a lot of good ideas, mostly starting off as open source, being raped and then sold? The Wired article really opened my eyes to this trend. Windows, Real Player, etc. These programs took the ideas and coding of open source apps, raped it, and are now selling them. What a slap in the face to those of us who put in our precious spare time to work on these open source projects just to see some fat cat company turn around and rape our work and ideas. It really, REALLY get to me and I wish they would at the very least give credit where credit is due. But do they? I don't think so.

Along the same idea is the selling out of many of our favorite news resources. Slashdot, Lockergnome, Wired, just to name a few. They are either so bias or so ad ridden that it makes a mockery of what they used to be. Also, the writing and the care that is put into these publications has gone way down hill since their beginnings. Wired used to be a really good mag at one point, but now its writers are horrible and it takes you 22+ pages of ad's just to get to the contents! WHAT IS GOING ON HERE?? This is a travesty and no one is making all that much of a fuss about it. Each day I write more and more e-mails to the editors and actual authors of articles asking why they are so bias, and each day I get fewer and fewer responses. I go out and seek a new, unbiased site only to come up empty as after reading an article or two I see that the site is heavily slanted to there advertisers.

I don't know what can be done at this point. The entire net, even this early in its infancy, is becoming a business play ground. Everywhere you look there are ad's, spam, paid for reviews. It's getting to the point where I don't even what to be on the net any more.

If you are part of this community, and you feel even a tenth of what I fell, do something about it. Write to your favorite mags and sites and ask them to be unbiased and not sell out. Remember, they will produce what the public wants. If you just stand idly by, say hello to the cooperate net where every page has been bought and paid for by some corporation.

- demigod

[Mail Bag]

This weeks mailbag question is:

What did you think of the Wired article on customization?

e-mail - demigod@meganet.net
url - <http://www.xswweekly.com/mail.html>

[Spotlight]

- Low Dimension

Lowspirit, the creator of Quick Notes, runs this site. Here you

will find other skinnable apps like Custo Clock, MadCow, IP Watcher, and some screen shots of their up and coming shell.

url - <http://www.lowdimension.net>

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 --= Shell Specific =-
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[Top News Stories]

- XSWeekly in PCFormat (14:43 22.09 na)

jalist just let me know that in the latest issue of the uk mag PCFormat that along with ls2k.org, fpn, and another site, XSWeekly.com is mentioned along with a shot of the page. This is the first time that I have been mentioned in print and I am quite elated about it. Can't wait to get my copy.

url - <http://www.pcformat.co.uk>

+-----<*>-----+

- Azathoth Leaves The Shell Scene (11:04 18.09 na)

Azathoth, coder of quite a few modules and supporter of the lsde, has decided that enough is enough and has left the shell scene. Here is the e-mail that he dropped me:

"Hello everyone...

"This will be my final post. I have decided that after 2 years of work and energy put into the LiteStep shell that it is time for me to move on. I feel that the personalities involved in LiteStep have begun to matter more than the shell and it is this attitude that I cannot take.

"To me, LiteStep was a shell. Something to make Windows look and work well. But recently, the internal feuds and basic moroffishness of some of the "community" members has made me re-think my current status. When I think about LiteStep now, my first thoughts aren't good ones. When it gets to that point, I decide to quit no matter what project I am doing.

"Despite this obvious attack on the community, i still feel that there are some invaluable members who i will not mention so as not to offend people, but they know who they are. These people have helped give LiteStep shape and form and have helped nurture LiteStep into something we can all enjoy. When these people are being put down for their work, it just makes me think. It is unfortunate but more often than not, the accuser is usually the least productive member of the community.

"I have to say that an insurmountable degree of respect goes out to a section of the DevTeam who do nothing but add and improve LiteStep no end. These are the people who inspire and help us. If only there were more of them, maybe then the shell might become less about the personalities and more

about the code.

"Maybe I'm being romantic, hoping that LiteStep could become more than the sum of it's parts. But in the years i have used LiteStep i have had great hopes. To see these being thrown away due to a few narrow minded sideline screamers seems like a waste. But hey, this is a community, and communities have to have bad guys right?

"I suppose, i could put down another reason for leaving the LiteStep scene would be my approaching school finals. I wish to take some time out to study and hopefully do well in my exams. LiteStep causes me too much grief and too many headaches for me to devote any more time to it. So giving up the scene was the only real course of action i could for see.

"Having said all this, i will still continue to use the shell, and check on updates etc. as i still believe LiteStep itself is a great shell. I will just be withdrawing from direct activities.

"I have to thank people like jalist, demigod and dreamer who have talked to me and helped and supported me. These guys are great. Shout outs also go out to gundams, who became a good friend, NeXTer. Hadius, grd, MrJukes and the other coders in the LiteStep scene. These people have been my inspirations and their influences will stick with me for a long while.

"I thank everyone in the shell community who has been supportive throughout my rocky presence.

"I hope that upon my return (after my exams) that the shell shall be a better place and shall embrace the new users, not reject them.

"Thank you all again. So long.

"I got it all back, now I'm something. Azathoth"

(source: Azathoth via e-mail)

[Modules]

- jKey .31 ~ jugg (11:06 18.09 pls)

jKey.dll is Hotkey manager for Win32 Shells. jKey is based off the idea of LiteStep's Hotkey.dll, but offers more features and configuration options.

New in this version:

- Added "jKeyVKTable"
- Removed "jKeyCtrlEscKey"
- Removed built in special virtual key lookup table. Now it is accessed through "jKeyVKTable"
- Changed a bit of the internal code workings.
- Fixed potential to not unregister a hotkey when exiting.
- Fixed no warning boxes showing up when a hotkey was not registered correctly. Now they do.

url - <http://jugg.logicpd.com>
e-mail - jugg@earthling.net
(source: <http://jugg.logicpd.com>)

+-----<*>-----+

- Litescript 1.2 ~ MrJukes (11:14 18.09 ls)

This appears to be a scripting module that allows for not only the basic scripting functions, but window control also.

%%UPDATE%% (9:24 20.09)

- Fixed a bug causing litestep to hang on recycle
- Added a basic if statement to the language
- Variable expansion
- Added OnTop, NotOnTop, Sticky, NotSticky commands
- Added Prompt commands (Pops up a message box)

url - <http://www.ls2k.org>
e-mail - mrjukes@purdue.edu
(source: <http://www.ls2k.org>)

+-----<*>-----+

- WinCtrl 1.4 ~ mirul (11:18 18.09 ls)

This module give you a ton of commands for controlling your windows like min, max, etc...

New in this version:

- Added var WinctrlHotkeyOnly, which makes it use GetForegroundWindow instead of relying on LM_WINDOWACTIVATED msgs.

url - <http://modulo.litestep.org>
e-mail - mirul88@pd.jaring.my
(source: <http://modulo.litestep.org>)

+-----<*>-----+

- geOMoltofill ~ luke (11:45 18.09 geo)

"geOMoltofill is a plugin for geOShell, which fills some holes in a geOBar so that it's nice always (nice = same width)."

url - <http://www.handshake.de/user/geoshell>
e-mail - hinnerkfd@hotmail.com
(source: <http://news.geoshell.com>)

+-----<*>-----+

- LsSlider 1.1b ~ Black Hawk (10:07 19.09 ls)

"LsSlider is a general Slider loadmodule for Litestep. You can use LsSlider to control Winamp, any given Channel of your Soundcard or you can use LsSlider to call Bang Commands."

New in this version:

-Added new flag to start Sliders Hidden
-Minor fixes to the Show/hide/toggle bangs
-Experimental code to load LsSlider in LsBox

%%UPDATE%% (9:19 20.09)

- Removed the experimental code - it didn't work :/

url - <http://www.blkhawk.de>
e-mail - blkhawk@blkhawk.de
(source: <http://www.blackhawk.de>)

+-----<*>-----+

- lsCDEject 1.0 ~ Chao-Kuo Lin (10:14 19.09 ls)

lsCDEject is a small ls mod that gives you three commands to eject, close, and/or toggle the cd tray. This mod will also give you the option to choose a drive letter.

url - <http://cklin.cjb.net>
e-mail - chaokuo@iname.com
(source: <http://floach.pimpin.net>)

+-----<*>-----+

- jump 1.2 ~ MrJukes (10:26 19.09 ls)

"It is a very similar module to AmpTitle but without the nasty memory leak and it works in NT/2k. It basically displays the currently playing Winamp song on your desktop in a fully customizable window."

%%UPDATE%% (9:25 20.09)

- jumpAlwaysOnTop
- !jumpMove X Y
- !jumpHome

%%UPDATE%% (10:13 22.09)

- jumpNoScroll
- jumpFormat "%title% - %status% - %length% - %pos% - %rem%"
- jumpLeftClick !bang, jumpRightClick !bang, jumpMiddleClick !bang
- jumpNoWinampText "jAMP"

url - <http://www.ls2k.org>
e-mail - mrjukes@purdue.edu
(source: <http://www.ls2k.org>)

+-----<*>-----+

- WharfX 0.3 ~ TrOgI (9:13 20.09 ls)

WharfX is a modified wharf.dll module that allows for the wharf to be horizontal or vertical. Other improvements are on the way.

New in this build:

- Added bang commands !WharfToggle, !WharfMove, !WharfMoveTo
- Added WharfStartHidden setting

- Added ability to set the tile size for each folder

url - desktopsource.mindjunction.com

e-mail - crouson@inreach.com

(source: LS Mailing List ~ WharfX b0.3 coming at ya!)

+-----<*>-----+

- LiteRunner 1.0 ~ MrJukes (10:19 21.09 ls)

This module will execute a bang command or an executable every time it sees that one of the specified applications has been launched.

url - <http://modulo.litestep.org>

e-mail - mrjukes@purdue.edu

(source: <http://modulo.litestep.org>)

[Web Sites]

- geoXplain ~ CoolerFlex (11:32 18.09 geo)

"It will be a special geoshell help site for newbies, and will contain screens and skins! I would like to ask you to put it on your site, if you will it'll be great!"

url - <http://geoxplain.cjb.net/>

e-mail - coolerflex@freeze.com

(source: <http://news.geoshell.com>)

+-----<*>-----+

- geOShell SS site ~ Daemon (11:09 19.09 geo)

geOShellShots is exactly what it sounds like, a repository for geOShell screen shots. If you want to show off your geOShell desktop, stop by there and upload shot.

url - <http://communities.msn.com/geOShellShots/>

(source: <http://news.geoshell.com>)

+-----<*>-----+

- LiteStep Default Theme Contest Site (12:53 22.09 ls)

c0mrade has put up an area on litestep.net just for uploading you entries into the LiteStep Default Theme Contest. Right now there are only three themes up. Stop by and check out the themes and post your own.

url - <http://www.litestep.net/dthemes.php3>

(source: <http://www.ls2k.org>)

[Misc]

- LiteStep .ndf File for NeoPlanet ~ ChromeTiger (19:49 22.09 ls)

This is a huge list of LiteStep related sites compiled by ChromeTiger for use with NeoPlanet.

url - heep://www.ls2k.org
e-mail - chrometiger@citynet.net
(source: http://www.ls2k.org)

[Latest Builds]

- LiteStep
 - o 24.6 build 090400
 - o <http://builds.litestep.net/builds/ls-0246-dev-20000904.zip>
- DarkStep
 - o 0.971
 - o <http://www.darkstep.com/files/DarkStep971.zip>
- geOShell
 - o 4.6.5a
 - o <http://news.geoshell.com/Plugins/Download/geoshellr465a.zip>
- PureLS
 - o 052900
 - o <http://209.46.69.134/purels/binaries/00-05-29r.zip>

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[Web Sites]

- FreeDOS/SEAL page moves (10:30 21.09 sel)

 The FreeDOS/SEAL website now has its own vhost and a
 new look.

 url - <http://www.seal.de.vu/>
 (source: <http://members.aon.at/seal>)

[Latest Builds]

- SEAL
 - o 1D (042900)
 - o <http://www.home.sk/public/seal/sealexe.zip>
- V2_OS
 - o 0.63.2a
 - o http://www.v2os.cx/downloads/dl_system.htm

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[Interesting]

- Informit Free Library

I am not sure where I got this from, but it is sitting in my bookmarks and it is quite a nice little resource. It includes full books on c/c++, java, OS's, CAD, DB, and much more. Worth the time just to stop by and see what is available.

url - <http://www.informit.com/itlibrary/>

.....

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XSWEEKLY Shell Related News 23.09.00 - 29.09.00

Why is it that people in the open source community feel as if they can contribute nothing but expect everything? This is becoming a more and more familiar theme. Now, I'm not expecting everyone who uses an open source product to go out and learn to code. I'm not even expecting everyone who uses an open source soft to pitch in. I am just sick and tired of seeing those who don't contribute complain. Deal with it or help us out here people. Don't expect us to jump on your problems if you feel as if you don't need to give back to the community. Don't like how a web site looks? Send in a new design to the webmaster. Found a bug in a program? Code up a patch. Don't know how to code? Send a detailed e-mail to a dev telling them what you are using, what you were doing, the exact error, os, etc. Have you been using the soft for a while? Pitch in where you have the skills. Now, I can't code to save my life, so I do this letter and help out with the LSDE.

Why is it so hard for people to take a few min's out of their days to give back a little to the community? Sitting around ranting and raving and not doing anything to help isn't going to solve your problems. More than likely, it will make it worse because others will ignore you. If you fell that there is an area in the community that you are apart of that needs some work, pitch in to help. If there isn't something already set up, set something up. No matter what you do to help out, it's something. The coders, webmasters, themers, etc make no money in these projects. They do it for the love of the program or the community. Show them some respect and help out, please.

On another note, I had a conversation with Chris Prillio of Lockergnome about what I said about him last week. Although I will not retract what I said as it was what I felt at the time, I went back through the last 6 months of his letter's and realize that he does still put a ton of freeware apps in the letter. So I was wrong in saying that he is a sell out. As a matter of fact, it appears as if he will report on a free program before a pay program. I noticed this trend a lot in his letters. What lead me to believe that he had sold out was the GnomeREPORT in the beginning. Here, he tends to mention programs and what not that he is trying out or has just bought. After that, the sections mainly comprise of freeware/shareware program made by individuals or smaller companies. So let me say here that I am sorry Chris for not giving you letter the full attention that I should have and calling you a sellout for just a feeling that I had with no real substance.

- demigod

[Mail Bag]

This weeks mailbag question is:

How do you feel about the open source community?

e-mail - demigod@meganet.net
url - <http://www.xswweekly.com/mail.html>

[Spotlight]

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[Top News Stories]

- LiteStep.net Redesign Contest (10:21 23.09 1s)

"Ladies and gentlemen...it's been over a year that our site had the same layout. I've decided to change it. Now, I've tried to come up with this and that, and nothing inspired me really. So, here's the deal (even though I offered it before). I'm going to leave this one up to you our loyal users. This is a little contest that I'm going to make.

"So, what do you have to do:

- Come up with organized, kick*ass layout.
- Keep it simple and fast loading.
- Keep in mind information that's on the front page right now + more, because a lot more will come with new layout.
- Keep in mind that the site needs to be customizable. Now here's no limits to this...whatever we will chose, I'll adjust my NEW customize code to.

"What are the rewards:

- litestep.net/.org subdomain
- litestep.net/.org pop email

"Unfortunately I have no money to offer, since I don't really get paid myself of this site, but ANY help will be appreciated. Please submit your URL's of layouts, OR layouts in archive to c0mrade@litestep.net. Thank you all in advance, and PLEASE do it ASAP, as a lot of things are COMING. I'll post you up on updates as soon as everything else I'm working on is officially confirmed."

url - <http://www.litestep.net>
e-mail - c0mrade@litestep.net
(source: <http://www.litestep.net>)

[Modules]

- LSQuickBox 1.50 ~ Epsilon (9:53 23.09 1s)

"This module is a LiteStep Desktop Module which imitate the IE4 Quick Lauch Box in Explorer TaskBar."

New in this version:

- Maybe a NT4 compatible version
- Advanced Transparency Skin on Win2k

url - <http://www.epsylon3.com/>
e-mail - Epsylon3@ifrance.com
(source: <http://www.epsylon3.com/>)

+-----<*>-----+

- Grdtray 3.0b2 ~ grd (9:27 26.09 1s)

Grdtray is a very customizable system tray replacement module.

- Added code from jugg to make sure that ontop/notontop should be working correctly.
- Altered some minor things to speed up a cpl things
- This version will actually be released. A more appropriate thanx mess has been added to the additional notes section.

url - <http://modulo.litestep.org>
e-mail - grd@post.netlink.se
(source: <http://modulo.litestep.org>)

+-----<*>-----+

- ckVWM 0.8b ~ Chao-Kuo Lin (11:58 26.09 1s)

This is a modified sysVWM using ideas based off of input from the LS Mailing List.

New in this version:

- VWMHideTaskOnSwitch
This will cause the sysvwm hide the tasks from task bar if its window is not on the current screen. It will not hide the minimized window from task bar, and it'll carry it to different desktop. So when restored, the window will be in the current desktop, and not in the old
- VWMWrapScreen
This will allow your desktops to be kind of circular. Let's say the you are in the first desktop. When you use !VWMLeft, this config will allow you to move to the last desktop.
- VWMReturnToFirstScreen
For those whose sysvwm will behave weird when not recycling in the first desktop, this config will force the sysvwm to go back to the first desktop. (I don't know about most of the people, but i guess you won't experience this kind of problem)

Added Bang Commands:

- !VWMTOGGLEHIDETASKONSWITCH
(This is for toggling the VWMHideTaskOnSwitch config)
- !VWMTOGGLEWRAPSCREEN
(This is for toggling the VWMWrapScreen config)

*Note: In this version of !VWMDesk #, the # will start from 1 and not 0

url - <http://cklin.cjb.net>
e-mail - chaokuo@iname.com

(source: <http://www.ls2k.org>)

+-----<*>-----+

- jukeys 1.0 ~ MrJukes (13:03 26.09 ls)

"jukeys is a replacement for hotkey.dll. It has pretty much the same functionality except that it has hotkey groups. This means you can have multiple functionalities assigned to the same hotkeys depending on the current group."

url - <http://modulo.litestep.org>
e-mail - mrjukes@purdue.edu
(source: MrJukes via irc)

+-----<*>-----+

- Systray 1.05 ~ Maduin (14:12 29.09 ls)

Maduin's systray replacement is a very versatile systray supporting skinning and icon placement.

New in this version:

- Shows Win2k icons without NeXTer's stand alone executable.
- Restores icons on LS crashes (ala Traysaver)

url - <http://modulo.litestep.org>
e-mail - maduin@dasoft.org
(source: <http://www.litestep.net>)

[Web Sites]

- Mystep.org coming back? (12:05 26.09 na)

I got an e-mail the other day via my site stating that Mystep.org will be coming back. Apparently there was a fall out between WareWolf and GodzillaMK awhile back and that brought the production of mystep.org to a halt. There is no word on a release date or a current url but I will try to keep you up to date on happenings.

(source: GodzillaMK via XSWeekly.com)

[Programs]

- Carapace 1.5b ~ Pixol (11:10 25.09 na)

Carapace is a shell swapping program. It boasts a number of very useful features such as supporting an unlimited number of shells, dynamic shell swapping, and crash protection to name a few.

New in this version:

- Fixed CP:Task for NT/W2k
- Added Minimize Button
- Added an option to turn off the flashing loop

url - <http://www.dtop.org/pixolpod>
e-mail - lgreen@pixolpod.fsnet.co.uk
(source: Pixol via irc)

+-----<*>-----+

- LS Theme Selector ~ Galois (9:25 27.09 ls)

This is one of the best theme changers for LS that I have seen. Not only will it changes themes for you, it gives you a preview of what it will look like and a nice gui interface to work with.

New in this version:

- Redesigned the GUI as suggested by qwilk
- Added "Load On Startup"
- All settings now editable from within program (step location, wallpaper etc)

url - <http://www.ls2k.org>
e-mail - galois@techie.com
(source: <http://www.ls2k.org>)

[Latest Builds]

- LiteStep
 - o 24.6 build 090400
 - o <http://builds.litestep.net/builds/ls-0246-dev-20000904.zip>
- DarkStep
 - o 0.971
 - o <http://www.darkstep.com/files/DarkStep971.zip>
- geOShell
 - o 4.6.5a
 - o <http://news.geoshell.com/Plugins/Download/geoshellr465a.zip>
- PureLS
 - o 052900
 - o <http://209.46.69.134/purels/binaries/00-05-29r.zip>

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[Programs]

- BadSeal pre-release 0.43 ~ BadSector (12:55 29.09 sel)

Bad SEAL is a redistribution of SEAL with a lot of addons and other GUI updates by Bad Sector.

New in this version:

- DOS Support

url - michalopoylos.tripod.com/seal/index.html

e-mail - michalopoylos@hotmail.com
(source: <http://pub8.ezboard.com/bsealsystem>)

+-----<*>-----+

- SFA beta3 ~ Florian (13:55 29.09 sel)

SFA is a format api lib for supporting different types of sound files.

New in this version:

- Won't shut down SEAL
- LNF drivers not needed

url - <http://www.seal.de.vu/>
e-mail - dos.fire@aon.at
(source: <http://pub8.ezboard.com/bsealsystem>)

[Latest Builds]

- SEAL
 - o 1D (042900)
 - o <http://www.home.sk/public/seal/seal.exe.zip>
- V2_OS
 - o 0.70
 - o ftp://vp.dyn.dhs.org/0.70/v2_os.img

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[Interesting]

- QNX Realtime Platform OS

I have downloaded and been playing around with the Win9x version of QNX and it seems really nice. After getting some additional packages to allow xapps to compile and run in it, it is a pretty full featured OS. If you like to play in new OS's like BeOS, I would suggest giving this one a shot. It's free and worth the download imo.

url - <http://get.qnx.com>

[Programs]

- Custom Eyes

This is a freeware windows skinning application. Although it doesn't skin everything like WB, it is still a nice little program if you are into totally changing how your desktop looks.

url - <http://dabder.free.fr/CE/index.htm>

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XSWEEKLY Shell Related News 30.09.00 - 06.10.00

Why is it that people want help doc's so bad that they flame us to death because none are written, but refuse to read the documentation that is out there now? Each module comes with its own readme that usually sums up what the module is about and how to use it. I will admit that some times they are impossible to read but at least try first will you! I'm sitting around hacking out core docs and someone in a channel is asking a question that I KNOW is available and easy to understand. Not only that, but this person is pointed to the place that the doc is kept and they STILL want help. Look, we are not going to keep pouring our hearts and all our free time into doc's if you are not going to at least read them. What is the sense in that? Apparently some people think that not only should we write up doc's, but we should also write their step.rc's for them too.

I really don't mind the people who come in and ask a question because either the documentation was sketchy on something or they just don't understand it, but when it's pretty obvious that they never even looked at the readme then I start to get upset. If you are unwilling to help yourself first, don't come to me or anyone else looking for help. You will get flamed, ridiculed, ignored, and eventually you will either quit using LiteStep or read some documentation. So save everyone the fighting and please try and read what is available before you ask a question.

- demigod

[Mail Bag]

This weeks mailbag question is (again):

How do you feel about the open source community?

e-mail - demigod@meganet.net
url - <http://www.xsweekly.com/mail.html>

[Spotlight]

- DesktopSource

DesktopSource is packed full of source code from many different programs and languages. Just browsing the front page you will see the amount of code available to you. Great site for those wanting to learn to code for LiteStep, changing languages, or just starting out coding.

url - <http://desktopsource.mindjunction.com/>

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[Top News Stories]

- Daily Builds At FPN (9:05 02.10 ls)

rootrider has taken it upon himself to start compiling the ls cvs on a daily basis or when ever a change is made to the core. These build could be VERY unstable as they are bleeding edge daily builds. Use at your own risk.

url - <http://floach.pimpin.net/lsdev>
e-mail - rootrider@wsu.edu
(source: rootrider via xweekly)

+-----<*>-----+

- Dimension Finally Released (9:23 04.10 na)

Nivenh finally released the shell that went in and out of production more times than I care to count. It has many different options over existing shells. Pager style vwm, 3-D objects, its own file manager, etc. While it is still pretty beta, it is still work checking out.

url - <http://www.teniji.com/>
e-mail - nivenh@teniji.com
(source: rootrider via irc)

+-----<*>-----+

- #Litestep.net and ls.themes.org

Yup, litestep.net is moving right along. #LiteStep.net is now open on irc (EFNet). This channels is for litestep.net related chat. Also, c0mrade and Col_KFC, a very old school LS user, will be opening up ls.themes.org.

url - <http://www.litestep.net>
e-mail - c0mrade@litestep.net
(source: c0mrade via irc)

[Modules]

- TextEdit 2.0 ~ WhiteShadow (10:15 02.10 ls)

"This is a small module that can be used to edit text files. It could be useful in allowing you to edit your step.rc file on the fly. However, it could also be very dangerous if used on the wrong file."

New in this version:

- Complete rewrite of TextEdit.

url - <http://www.muohio.edu/~changty>
e-mail - changty@muohio.edu
(source: <http://www.muohio.edu/~changty>)

+-----<*>-----+

- ckVWM 1.0 ~ Chao-Kuo Lin (10:22 02.10 ls)

This is a modified sysVWM using ideas based off of input from the LS Mailing List.

New in this version:

- Added Bang commands:

!VWMRESTOREWINDOW <text>

This command will help you retrieve hidden window that's lost in your desktop.

The text specify any word or sentence in the window's title that you want to restore.

!VWMRESTOREALLWINDOWS <text>

Same as the bang above, except this one will restore all the window that contains text in its title.

- Added Step.rc configs:

The following 4 fonfigs will determine where the window will show when you use the restore bangs above:

VWMRestoreX # (default 10)

VWMRestoreY # (default 10)

VWMRestoreWidth # (default 400)

VWMRestoreHeight # (default 300)

VWMMaximizeThreshold #

- Bug Fixes

- Fix the problem that VWMWrapScreen doesn't work when AutoSwitching

- Fix the bang commands, VWMOpen and VWMInitialDesk, so that the first desktop will be 1 instead of 0

- Fix the bang command, VWMReset.

- Fix the problem that maximized or full screen stuff will disappear. (sorry guys)

- Fix the problem that it will occasionally lock up.

- Others that i can't think of right now.....

url - <http://cklin.cjb.net>

e-mail - chaokuo@iname.com

(source: <http://www.ls2k.org>)

+-----<*>-----+

- LSmMail 4.0 ~ MrJukes (12:27 02.10 ls)

This mod checks for new mail on multiple POP3 accounts and lets the user know when they have new mail.

New in this version:

- Total rewrite

url - <http://www.ls2k.org>

e-mail - mrjukes@purdue.edu

(source: <http://www.ls2k.org>)

+-----<*>-----+

- Rainlender 0.5 ~ Rainy (9:53 03.10 ls)

"Rainlendar is a very customizable calendar that resides on your desktop and shows the days of the current month. The application is a Litestep plugin, but it can be used without

the Litestep as well."

New in this version:

- Fixed to work with the latest lsapi.dll's.
- Rainlendar.exe now accepts quoted path as argument.
- Fixed a bug that prevented the background image to display fully.

url - <http://gamma.nic.fi/~rainy>
e-mail - rainy@iki.fi
(source: <http://gamma.nic.fi/~rainy>)

+-----<*>-----+

- smbangs r3 ~ Two_toNe (9:55 06.10 ls)

Mbangs.dll is a simple set of bang commands that control the visibility of Sysmeter(all versions) and L-ement system load monitors.

New in this version:

- Added - !SysmeterToggle, !L-ementToggle and !WinToggle to toggle their visibility.
- Added - !SysmeterKill, !L-ementKill and !WinKill to safely close their window.

url - <http://desktopsource.mindjunction.com/>
e-mail - 2tone@inreach.com
(source: <http://floach.pimpin.net>)

[Web Sites]

- LS2K Offline For A Bit ~ jalist (9:53 06.10 ls)

No, ls2k.org is not dead, it's just waiting for a change of dns numbers at NSI. So, when that gets done, jalist will once again be bringing us up to date rants that I just love to read.

<http://www.ls2k.org>
(source: jalist via irc)

+-----<*>-----+

- Mindjunction Looking For A New Mind ~ geekMaster (10:00 06.10 na)

That great idea depot site Mindjunction has been stagnant for quite a while and geekMaster admits that he just doesn't have the time. He is asking for anyone that would like to help out and run the site to drop him and e-mail.

url - <http://www.mindjunction.com>
e-mail - lheddings@geocities.com
(source: <http://www.mindjunction.com>)

[Programs]

- Carapace 1.5b build 258 ~ Pixol (10:10 02.10 na)

Carapace is a shell swapping program. It boasts a number of very useful features such as supporting an unlimited number of shells, dynamic shell swapping, and crash protection to name a few.

New in this version:

- VB Setup

url - <http://www.dtop.org/pixolpod>
e-mail - lcgreen@pixolpod.fsnet.co.uk
(source: <http://www.dtop.org/pixolpod>)

+-----<*>-----+

- Bang.exe ~ Azathoth (16:11 03.10 ls)

This is just a win32 version of !.exe which was written by Maduin.

url - <http://www.intricatechaos.com/>
e-mail - azathoth@intricatechaos.com
(source: LS Mailing List ~ tnl wanted it...)

[Misc]

- LsDrinks 2.19.0 ~ nf0 (11:18 04.10 na)

This is a news checking script written in perl. It requires you to have perl installed to run.

New in this version:

- Changed the FileName. Now will let you place the htm file anywhere you want and have any extension

url - www.10500bc.org
e-mail - nf0@10500bc.org
(source: <http://modulo.litestep.org>)

[Latest Builds]

- LiteStep

- o 24.6 build 100600
- o <http://builds.litestep.net/builds/ls-0246-dev-20001006.zip>

- DarkStep

- o 0.971
- o <http://www.darkstep.com/files/DarkStep971.zip>

- geOShell

- o 4.6.5a
- o <http://news.geoshell.com/Plugins/Download/geoshellr465a.zip>

- PureLS

- o 052900

o <http://209.46.69.134/purels/binaries/00-05-29r.zip>

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[Web Sites]

- The main V2_OS site is getting a face lift (9:45 05.10 v2)

Swing on by <http://www.v2os.cx/~whizzi/v2os> and see what is in progress. WHiZZi would like some feedback as to what you want to see on the page, HTML, Java, Flash, ect...

url - <http://www.v2os.cx/~whizzi/v2os>
(source: <http://www.v2.nl/joostcgi/Ultimate.cgi>)

[Latest Builds]

- SEAL

- o 1D (042900)
- o <http://www.home.sk/public/seal/sealexe.zip>

- V2_OS

- o 0.70
- o ftp://vp.dyn.dhs.org/0.70/v2_os.img

.....

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XSWEEKLY Shell Related News 07.10.00 - 13.10.00

I know it, you know it, we all know it. EFNet is going down the tube, worse than usual this time. The main servers are getting hammered by script kiddies, splits are happening more and more, and the number of server delinking is out of hand. Because of this, a lot of talk has been going around about moving channels to another server. Apparently that didn't last too long, but why? There are two sides to this that I want to rant on, 1) Forcing people to goto the new server and 2) The one's who refused to move just because it wasn't EFNet.

Now, moving server is probably a pretty good idea, but the execution in how it was being done was poorly done. A move to openprojects.net was tried and apparently failed. Why did it fail? Maybe do to the fact that it was never discusses with some of the main people in the LS community. Maybe it was do to the fact that to a lot of people, the move felt very forced. Nothing was ever discusses really, it was just an up and move and then "Come to this server now because." That was really the WRONG way to do it. No matter who you think you are, you cannot force people to move just because you think its a good idea.

On the other side of this are the one's who flat out refused to move, because... Because it wasn't EFNet, or because they just didn't feel like moving, or because of a list of other really bad reasons. Nothing to the effect that I stated above, basically just because. This too is WRONG. If it was decided upon that the chans should move and these people just refused to move, all that would do is hold up progress just because they didn't feel like it.

Personaly, I don't know which is worse. Forcing a move, or refusing to move just because. Take some time to think about it. Think who it will affect. Think of what it will affect, then make your decisions.

- demigod

[Mail Bag]

This weeks mailbag question is:

Should I hard link to files within the news letter?

e-mail - demigod@meganet.net
url - <http://www.xsweekly.com/mail.html>

[Spotlight]

- Links Warehouse

This is a new site by SpirtWnd that seeks to become the ultimate

link site for shells, skinning, custo, etc... He has a really good idea but needs some help in collecting links. Stop over there and submit some links. Who knows, you might win something if you submit enough of them.

url - mjaspp.infopages.net

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[Top News Stories]

- Desktopian's New Look ~ quilk (11:21 10.10 na)

Looks like quilk did up a totally new look for desktopian while tin is working on his tin_toys posting app. I like the new look personally. Loads faster, looks cleaner, and is a bit easier to navigate. Take a look.

url - <http://www.desktopian.org>
(source: <http://www.desktopian.org>)

+-----<*>-----+

- Links Warehouse Opens With A Contest ~ SpiritWnd (11:07 13.10 na)

"Links Warehouse is just that, it is a sight that is primarily designed to house links to either sites or files. Categories and Subcategories can be added upon request by the administrators (which is something I will get to shortly).

"If a link is broken, it can be reported as broken and the next time the user who either originated the link and/or edited the link will be flagged that the link is broken.

"Now, to maintain this level of sophisticated user handling requires that every user have a personal user id and pw. This way not only can the posts be monitored, but when you post automatically is your information attached to the post.

"Administrators are handy in this site as well. Each category can have their own administrators. I.E. Shells, Skinz, Linux, etc.. who have the ability to add subcategories on demand or add news to that individual area of the site.

"The sites primary design was so that a main SiteOp can walk away from the site and barely maintain the site while the active users of the site can keep the information up without difficulty or programming.

"I ask that you please check it out. There are still features that I am implementing. As I posted the site at 70% to start getting the links in. Some of the categories and subcategories are lame and were initially test only. Yet, I will have the complete execution of administrative control over the categories/subcategories in place by Saturday.

"This site is built in ASP and sits on an active database. I spent a couple of months trying to find what is the best way

to honestly build a resource site and keep it up even in the absence of a SiteOp. This is the design I came up with.

"To help the Links Warehouse get their links collection together. Enter in as many links as you can (there are specific rules, like non-repetition in different categories/subcategories.) and not being bogus links. Top 3 winners get faboo prizes....Like:

"1st prize is either (winners choice) a VooDoo-4 AGP Video Card or a 30GB Maxtor Drive."

url - mjasp.infopages.net
e-mail - msaurondon@hotmail.com
(source: SpiritWnd via e-mail)

+-----<*>-----+

- New IRC Server For LiteStep Channels? (11:13 13.10 ls)

It seems that c0mrade got sick and tired of all the splits and troubles connecting to efnet and set up all the major LiteStep channels on a new server. irc.openprojects.net is home to a lot of the big *nix channels including BSD, Debain, slashdot, and enlightenment to name just a few. Stop by and check it out.

server - irc.openprojects.net
(source: jalist via irc)

[Web Sites]

- Jugg's Site and PureLS.org Back Online ~ jugg (11:04 13.04 pls)

It looks like jugg is finally settled into his new place and he has his server set back up.

url - <http://www.purels.org>
<http://jugg.logicpd.com/>
e-mail - jugg@earthling.net
(source: <http://jugg.logicpd.com/>)

+-----<*>-----+

- ls.themes.org Opens, Kinda (11:33 13.10 ls)

ls.themes.org is now open, kinda. As of right now it just links to litestep.net but it's still nice to see LiteStep up there with the other shells like enlightenment.

url - ls.themes.org
(source: <http://www.litestep.net>)

[Misc]

- Creen ~ etoffi (13:02 11.10 ls)

This is a patch for LiteStep that helps in the placement

of graphics on your screen.

e-mail - etoffi@bigfoot.com

(source: LS Mailing List ~ download creen, folks)

+-----<*>-----+

- New Rainlendar Example Config ~ Rainy (11:01 13.10 ls)

Bill Kraski sent Rainy a new example config for Rainlendar. He also notes that you must be running at least build 090400 of LS for Rainlendar to work.

url - <http://gamma.nic.fi/~rainy/>)

e-mail - rainy@iki.fi

(source: <http://gamma.nic.fi/~rainy/>)

[Latest Builds]

- LiteStep

o 24.6 build 100600

o <http://builds.litestep.net/builds/ls-0246-dev-20001006.zip>

- DarkStep

o 0.971

o <http://www.darkstep.com/files/DarkStep971.zip>

- geOShell

o 4.6.5a

o <http://news.geoshell.com/Plugins/Download/geoshellr465a.zip>

- PureLS

o 052900

o <http://209.46.69.134/purels/binaries/00-05-29r.zip>

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[Latest Builds]

- SEAL

o 1D (042900)

o <http://www.home.sk/public/seal/sealexe.zip>

- V2_OS

o 0.70

o ftp://vp.dyn.dhs.org/0.70/v2_os.img

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XSWEEKLY Shell Related News 14.10.00 - 20.10.00

Content filtering is really, really starting to get to me. I recently sent an e-mail out to the LiteStep list and got a nice little spam back from some content filtering bot telling me that my mail is now quarantined as it is a "sensitive e-mail" because I used a swear word. Then, I reply back to the list stating that this is a neo-nazi approach and THAT one gets banned too!! What is this crap? You have GOT to be kidding me. Yes, lets protect our children by filtering everything!

Censorship on this scale is disgusting. It's not like I was explaining how to make a bomb (this will now be banned, I used the word bomb) or something. It's freedom of expression. What really gets me most is that it is a US company that is blocking it too. Where is freedom of speech?? Apparently I didn't though enough of my tax money at the government for them to care enough. Oh ya, I forgot, it's a company, they reserve the right to stomp all over my rights because it's private sector. Lovely. With the way the world is going now, it will be so desensitized that anyone that even THINKS of a word that could possibility be considered offensive will be serving life. Welcome to the 21st century and all that it doesn't entail.

- demigod

[Mail Bag]

This weeks mailbag question is:

Should I direct link to files within the news letter?

e-mail - demigod@meganet.net
url - <http://www.xswweekly.com/mail.html>

[Spotlight]

- geOShell News

Alot of people don't seem to realize that this site exists since news is no longer posted to the main geOShell site. It is updated usually three or four times a week.

url - <http://news.geoshell.com>

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[Modules]

- VBModule ~ SubZer0 (10:13 19.10 ls)

This is the most amazing thing I have ever seen. SubZer0 has finally done something that a lot of people have been waiting for, you can now code LS modules in VB.

url - <http://dhcp-58-70.adacpe.cableone.net/vbmodulo/>
e-mail - jelkins@dhcp-58-70.adacpe.cableone.net
(source: <http://floach.pimpin.net>)

+-----<*>-----+

- grdAmp 0.98 ~ grd (10:40 19.10 ls)

"This is not a normal winamp-frontend-litestep-module. It's a module that wraps the basic functionality of winamp but WITHOUT using winamp itself. This is achieved by interfacing the winamp input and output plugin architecture."

url - <http://floach.pimpin.net/grd/>
e-mail - grd@swipnet.se
(source: grd via irc)

+-----<*>-----+

- jKey 0.32 ~ jugg (9:35 20.10 pls)

jKey.dll is Hotkey manager for Win32 Shells. jKey is based off the idea of LiteStep's Hotkey.dll, but offers more features and configuration options.

New in this version:

- Fixed recycle bug where Window Class wasn't being unregistered correctly.
- Fixed problem with Hotkey error box, that kept it from showing the name of the Hotkey that failed, if that hotkey wasn't listed in the virtual key table.
- I built this version under Win2k. I normally build under Win98se. It shouldn't change anything, but you never know.

url - <http://jugg.logicpd.com>
e-mail - jugg@earthling.net
(source: <http://jugg.logicpd.com>)

[Web Sites]

- LS2K Back Up And Running ~ jalist (9:50 19.10 ls)

After having some dns problems, jalist finally got ls2k.org back online. Good to see that page back in action. Keep an eye out there for some new changes.

url - <http://www.ls2k.org>
e-mail - jalist@bigfoot.com
(source: <http://www.ls2k.org>)

+-----<*>-----+

- PoundLS Is Alive ~ rootrider (9:59 19.10 ls)

rootrider, admin of fpn, has taken over duties on the official #litestep (efnet) website. If you are a regular there and haven't registered, go there and do so.

url - <http://irc.litestep.net>
e-mail - rootrider@wsu.edu
(source: <http://irc.litestep.net>)

+-----<*>-----+

- grd On FPN ~ grd (10:44 19.10 ls)

Apparently grd moved his homesite to FPN and I didn't even realize it. Stop by to see updates to grdAmp and other mods by this great coder.

url - <http://floach.pimpin.net/grd>
e-mail - grd@swipnet.se
(source: grd via irc)

[Misc]

- Huge Skinning Suite Released

A group called The Skindicate has released one of the largest suites of skins to date. It includes skins for just about every skinnable app and even includes a LiteStep theme.

url - <http://www.skinz.org>
(source: <http://floach.pimpin.net>)

[Latest Builds]

- LiteStep

- o 24.6 build 100600
- o <http://builds.litestep.net/builds/ls-0246-dev-20001006.zip>

- DarkStep

- o 0.971
- o <http://www.darkstep.com/files/DarkStep971.zip>

- geOShell

- o 4.6.5a
- o <http://news.geoshell.com/Plugins/Download/geoshellr465a.zip>

- PureLS

- o 052900
- o <http://209.46.69.134/purels/binaries/00-05-29r.zip>

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[Web Sites]

- V2_OS Project Server Online ~ Gravity (11:18 19.10 v2)

This is a site for the project server and other related items.
If you have any suggestions or ideas send an e-mail to
gravity.

url - <http://www.v2operatingsystem.com/>
e-mail - info@terbium.net
(source: <http://www.v2.nl/joostcgi/Ultimate.cgi>)

[Latest Builds]

- SEAL
 - o 1D (042900)
 - o <http://www.home.sk/public/seal/sealexe.zip>
- V2_OS
 - o 0.70
 - o ftp://vp.dyn.dhs.org/0.70/v2_os.img

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 --= Beyond the Specifics =--
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[Programs]

- 2X Explorer

With the recent talk of third party file managers, I thought I would mention one of the better ones. I ripped the description right off of Shell City's page. "2xExplorer is a great dual-pane (Norton Commander-style) file manager for Win9x/NT. It offers efficient navigation and features such as file filters, folder synchronization, editor and shell context menu support, DriveBar for trick navigation, and Mirror browsing and scrolling for tree synchronization. It extends the functionality of the standard Windows Explorer by adding an extra folder contents pane, which enables directory comparisons and easy file transfers. Yet the program is designed to look and "feel" like the standard Explorer so as to be straightforward to use.

url - <http://personal-pages.ps.ic.ac.uk/~umeca74/>

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XSWEELY Shell Related News 21.10.00 - 27.10.00

With M\$ coming out with the next generation NT platform, some are wondering if shell's are at there end. Because of the ability to completely skin the new NT, it may seem that way, but I don't think so. I think that it may give some good competition to programs like WindowsBlinds and the like, not actual shell. Why? Simple, shells add so many extra things like load meters, active shortcuts, fully customizable popups, etc. Think about everything that you have running or don't have running in your shell right now. Do you think M\$ will EVER give you that level of customizability? I really don't think so. They may allow you to have a better looking interface and MAYBE a vwm, but never the customizability that we enjoy on a daily basis. Remember, no matter how buggy your shell may be, it is still better than straight explorer for functionality and imo looks.

- demigod

[Mail Bag]

This weeks mailbag question is:

What other shells/alt os's should I preview here?

e-mail - demigod@meganet.net
url - <http://www.xswweekly.com/mail.html>

[Spotlight]

- Seal and DrDos

While I usually Spotlight a shell page here, I thought I would break out of the norm and do up a SEAL page. This site is run by Florian Xaver and has a lot of info on SEAL, SEAL distros, and DrDOS. Great site if you have a DOS box kicking around like me.

url - <http://www.seal.de.vu/>

.....
 -- Shell Specific --
.....

[Top News Stories]

- Teknidermy Opens Nov 1st (10:18 27.10 na)

"NEW ONLINE MAGAZINE FOCUSES ON INTERFACE DESIGN (SKINNING)

"On November 1st, a new magazine will go online to serve the

Interface Design community, also known as "skinner". The magazine is called "Teknidermy" and is located on the net at: www.teknidermy.org.

"Teknidermy is a community magazine, written for, by and about "skinner". The first issue features interviews with Russ Schwenkler (Dangeruss), Shoggot - the master of moderation at Skinz.org, Gorman, the top dog at Deskmod, and Alex Jackson (Commodore Perry), a winamp skinner with a vision. The first issue will also include a detailed article on that great freeware art program "The GIMP", as well as a look at skinning the Handheld PC.

"Teknidermy is an International effort, with primary layout being done in the USA, and web mastering being done in the UK. Currently, Teknidermy is an English-language publication, but the magazine is actively seeking contributions from all over the world.

"What's up with that name? Teknidermy?"

"Well, it's a take on the concept of taxidermy. Funk & Wagnalls defines taxidermy thusly: "Taxidermy - the art or process of stuffing and mounting the skin of dead animals for preservation or exhibition." Teknidermy Magazine defines Teknidermy thusly: "Teknidermy - the art or process of mounting new skins on pre-existing programs for personalization or exhibition." Note: No animals were harmed during the making of Teknidermy Magazine.

"Thanks you for your time.

"We hope to see you at Teknidermy!"

"Kenray

"Editor@teknidermy.org

"www.teknidermy.org"

url - <http://www.teknidermy.org>
e-mail - editor@teknidermy.org
(source: <http://floach.pimpin.net>)

[Modules]

- grdAmp 1.00 ~ grd (14:11 23.10 ls)

"This is not a normal winamp-frontend-litestep-module. It's a module that wraps the basic functionality of winamp but WITHOUT using winamp itself. This is achieved by interfacing the winamp input and output plugin architecture."

New in this version:

- Now you can type `!grdampplay/!grdampadd <dir>` and also enhanced the open-common-dialog-box to support multiple files.
- Among the general bug-fixes this time, there is the fact that unplayable files are not added to the playstack in the first case.

%%UPDATE%% (14:27 24.10)

- the whole playstack routine has been rewritten... main reason to this was that I couldn't get the stl::list to work, so I replaced it with something completely "mine"... =)
- coded support for !grdamprandom to constantly choose randomly from the playstack and !grdampshufflestack to rearrange the playstack.
- !grdamprepeatone and !grdamprepeatall has also been added, and even !grdampback is there. this is because the playlist never gets deleted from memory (until you do a !grdampclearstack or start a new !grdampplay <file>/<dir> or whatever)

url - <http://floach.pimpin.net/grd/>
 e-mail - grd@swipnet.se
 (source: LS Mailing List ~ when everbody else is sleeping)

+-----<*>-----+

- lsxwharf ~ whytheluckystiff (14:15 23.10 ls)

This is a modification of Visigoths lsxcommand that allows you to run lsxcommand within the wharf or LSBox.

url - <http://www.litestep.net>
 e-mail - whytheluckystiff@mailcity.com
 (source: <http://www.ls2k.org>)

+-----<*>-----+

- LSXCommand 1.8.2 ~ Visigoth (9:11 24.10 ls)

LSXCommand is the swiss army knife of LS modules. It is a command line that allows you to launch program, run bang commands, open web sites, and about a million other options.

New in this version:

- Fixed !CommandMove home making LSXCommand invisible
- !CommandMove has absolute position support.

url - <http://floach.pimpin.net/visigoth>
 e-mail - gandhimail@worldnet.att.net
 (source: <http://floach.pimpin.net/visigoth>)

 [Latest Builds]

- LiteStep
 - o 24.6 build 100600
 - o <http://builds.litestep.net/builds/ls-0246-dev-20001006.zip>
- DarkStep
 - o 0.971
 - o <http://www.darkstep.com/files/DarkStep971.zip>
- geOShell
 - o 4.6.5a
 - o <http://news.geoshell.com/Plugins/Download/geoshellr465a.zip>
- PureLS

- o 052900
- o <http://209.46.69.134/purels/binaries/00-05-29r.zip>

.....
 -= Alt OS Specific =-
.....

[Programs]

- BlueSEAL ~ ZANE DthWlkr(12:49 26.10 sel)

I "have created BlueSEAL...

"I mixed and matched various features from various SEAL distruations to make one that I like...

"I reworked all the colors created a different start screen and included a SuperNintendo and Sega Genesis emulators. I included some wallpapers. ZOS VII(the newest version written in PowerBASIC 3.5).... this is really worth your while to download..."

url - www.dthwlkr.com
e-mail - ZANE@DthWlkr.com
(source: <http://pub8.ezboard.com/bsealsystem>)

[Latest Builds]

- SEAL
 - o 1D (042900)
 - o <http://www.home.sk/public/seal/sealexe.zip>
- V2_OS
 - o 0.70
 - o ftp://vp.dyn.dhs.org/0.70/v2_os.img

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 -= Beyond the Specifics =-
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[Programs]

- ibICQ

itty bitty ICQ is a small, fast, win32 clone of ICQ. While it is still in the very early beta stages of conception, it looks as if it will become a nice lean alternative to the adware bloated ICQ.

url - <http://nasiry.stormloader.com>

.....

If you would like to unsubscribe from XSWeekly at any time, simply send an e-mail to xswweekly-unsubscribe@wuzzle.org and you will be removed. You can e-mail me at demigod@xsweekly.com with any questions, suggestions, etc.

XSWEEKLY Shell Related News 28.10.00 - 03.11.00

Teknidermy... what can I say out this online magazine. To start, I really do like the idea that they have put together. No, really, I do but the implementation of it is not only sloppy but so unprofessional that it gives the skinning community a black eye imo. The site is messy, the interviews are so biased they are laughable, and the level of professionalism is somewhere below newbie. Comon! You have a great idea. Why are you throwing away potential new subscribers by being so unprofessional?

This is supposed to be a site for skinners but the layout is not only bland, but its messy and unorganized. The interviews are very, very biased which is a big no no, and the format of each interview is different. I think you get my point here.

As I originally said, I really do like the idea of an online magazine for the skinning community but put some pride into your work. Show them that this is more than just another site. Put up the eye candy, throw in some flash, anything!

On a lighter note, I was having some issues with the way that atomz.com was crawling my archive. My server does not allow for dir listings so their bot wasn't properly indexing each dir. I e-mailed their support and within an hour a tech had written me back stating that not only was the problem fixable, but they had fixed it already for me!! Now that's what I call support! A special thanks goes out to Fran from the Atomz support team for fixing my problem.

[Mail Bag]

This weeks mailbag question is:

What other shells/alt os's should I preview here?

e-mail - mailbag@xsweekly.com
url - <http://www.xsweekly.com/mail.html>

[Spotlight]

- help.litestep.com

This is a great site that needs to be mentioned again. KSR has compiled a list of 200+ module with all their commands on this site. If you need help with a module, goto this site first.

url - <http://help.litestep.com>

.....
-- Shell Specific --
.....

[Top News Stories]

- LS-Novice e-group ~ Rex H. McTyeire (12:28 29.10 1s)

Looks like someone took the incitive to set up a newbie mailing list for LiteStep. From the e-groups page:

"For the discussion of the application of the LiteStep shell to new user and other than technically brilliant. Pros, cons, and ideas exchanged freely amongst those who do not speak fluent technoid, but still want maximum flexibility in desktop customization and a more tailored functionality of the desktop interface than is presented by our buddy Bill in the standard winpackage. Death to blue skies, clouds, and the start button."

url - <http://www.egroups.com/group/LS-Novice>
e-mail - rexbo@rdsnet.ro
(source: <http://www.ls2k.org>)

+-----<*>-----+

- New LiteStep Tutorial Pages ~ rootrider (13:09 29.10 1s)

rootrider has posted a new tutorial on fpn and made up a nice tutorial index page. There are tutorials for both beginners and advanced users.

url - <http://floach.pimpin.net/litestep-tutorials.shtml>
e-mail - rootrider@wsu.edu
(source: <http://floach.pimpin.net>)

+-----<*>-----+

- LiteStep on TechTV (14:38 29.10 1s)

LiteStep is being featured in the ScreenSavers Answers & Tips section. Although it is basically just a rehash of the TV spot and there are still some quirky errors in their explanation, any publicity is good publicity.

url -
<http://www.techtv.com/screensavers/answerstips/story/0,3656,2341490,00.html>
(source: LS Mailing List ~ LiteStep on TECHTV!!!!!!)

[Modules]

- Geekamp 1.9a ~ azathoth (12:11 29.10 1s)

Geekamp is a front end module for winamp that allows you to control just about every aspect of winamp via bang commands. One note, this was originally coded by geekmaster but azathoth has taken over and recoded the entire thing.

New in this version:

- Turns out in the last build i forgot to include !Amp_ToggleBrowser, it's now working again.

- Added Bang Commands:
 - o !Amp_FileInfo
 - o !Amp_PowerOn
 - o !Amp_PowerOff
 - o !Amp_Rewd10s
 - o !Amp_Rewd20s
 - o !Amp_Ffwd10s
 - o !Amp_Ffwd20s
 - o !Amp_Restart
 - o !Amp_MovePosition

%%UPDATE%% (14:43 31.10)

- !Amp_FileInfo was causing serious problems when winamp was set to "Scroll Name In Windows Taskbar". This build has removed !amp_fileinfo as a bang.
- Fixed some minor bugs.

url - <http://www.ls2k.org>
 e-mail - azathoth@intricatechaos.com
 (source: azathoth via irc)

+-----<*>-----+

- ckHotspots 1.0 ~ Chaku (12:15 29.10 ls)

Hotspots.dll allows you to run programs or bang commands when a certain spot on the screen is moused over.

New in this version:

- ckHotspotsTimeout # define how frequent the module will check the mouse, the smaller the more frequent, (default: 100)
- *ckHotspot x y width height [action to perform when mouse enters] [action to perform when mouse leaves] x, y, width and height can be negative
 - o x, y specifies the left top hotspot box
 - o width and height specifies the width and height for the hotspot box. If you specify either one of them to be 0 the box width or height will span to the whole screen.
 - o The next two action can be bang commands or a path to a program.
 - o *Important: none of your configurations from your Hotspots module will work because this has nothing to do with the hotspots module

url - <http://cklin.cjb.net>
 e-mail - chaokuo@iname.com
 (source: <http://www.ls2k.org>)

+-----<*>-----+

- ckVWM 1.2 ~ Chaku (12:20 29.10 ls)

ckVWM is an updated sysvwm that was originally written by killarny. This is a more advanced vwm then the one that comes stock with LiteStep.

New in this version:

Bang commands:

- !VWMRESTOREALLWINDOWS Changed to !VWMRESTOREALLWINDOWS "window title or class name" "method" where method could be blank(default to overlap), overlap, or cascade
- !VWMRESTOREWINDOW and !VWMRESTOREALLWINDOWS Changed the window title or class name matching scheme to use the match() function. The syntax for matching a specific word such as MIRC would be: *MIRC*. The matching is not case sensitive.

Added:

- !VMMove x y Change the position of the VWM to x, y (x and y can be negative) If nothing is supplied, the VWM will move back it's old position specified in step.rc

Step.rc configs:

- Added configs to disable the vertical or horizontal autoswitch VWMDisableVerticalAutoSwitch VWMDisableHorizontalAutoSwitch
- Changed the RestoreWidth, and RestoreHeight so that if you don't specify them or one of them is negative, then when restoring windows using !VWMRESTOREWINDOW or !VWMRESTOREALLWINDOWS the windows' original width and height will not be changed.
- Added config *VWMStartWindowsOnDesktop "Window title or class name" "Desktop Number" so that windows that match will always start on the desktop number you specify (doesn't work with PureLS at this time)
- Added config VWMSnapWindowOnDrag so that window will retain its relative coordinate to the desktop when dragging the miniwindows Misc: In this release, i added a two modified popup modules, popup r9.3 and popup2, that will work with ckvwm. They will allow you to have popup tasks for hidden windows on different desktops when you have the config VWMHideTaskOnSwitch. The step.rc config for these added popup feature is: PopupckVWMPath "path" where path equals to the path to your ckvwm.dll, the one you load module with. When you don't use ckvwm, you can simply comment out the PopupckVWMPath, and everything will be the same as before. The syntax to see windows on other desktop is the same as !PopupTasks, just replace !PopupTasks with !PopupTasks1, !PopupTasks2, !PopupTasks3.....depending on your vwm configuration. !PopupTasksAll Allows you to tasks from all desktops. *Note: if a warning dialog popups up from your shell saying that the module ckvwm is already loaded, simply change the order you load ckvwm and popup in step.rc Load ckvwm before popup.

Bug Fix:

- Fix the problem that !VWMTOGGLEHIDETASKONSWITCH will make windows disappear
- Fix !MoveApp bang so that it will work with VMMWrapScreen
- Fix !MoveApp bang so that for example you click on a shortcut which calls this bang, the program will look for the topmost visible window to move.
- Fix the bug that when clicking on task, the wrong desktop will be shown.
- Fix the config VWMDeskWallpaper# so that it can use e-vars, and save the time to allocate unnecessary memory spaces

url - <http://cklin.cjb.net>
e-mail - chaokuo@iname.com
(source: <http://www.ls2k.org>)

+-----<*>-----+

- Popup r9.3c ~ Headius (13:12 29.10 ls)

The popup rx.x series is a set of popups that adds extended functions above the core popus.

New in this version:

- Fixed problem with it working with current LS Builds.

url - <http://floach.pimpin.net>
e-mail - headius@headius.com
(source: <http://floach.pimpin.net>)

+-----<*>-----+

- lsSETI 0.2 ~ Ugh!! (14:34 29.10 ls)

"I've just written a small Litestep module which lets you monitor the progress of your SETI@Home program. Module displays a small text window with percentage progress. Simple, but effective." Source code is included in this zip.

url - <http://www.cutajar.net/owen/lsSETI/>
e-mail - ugh@pobox.com
(source: LS Mailing List ~ lsSETI)

+-----<*>-----+

- grdamp 1.3 ~ grd (10:32 30.10 ls)

"This is not a normal winamp-frontend-litestep-module. It's a module that wraps the basic functionality of winamp but WITHOUT using winamp itself. This is achieved by interfacing the winamp input and output plugin architecture."

New in this version:

- Made the module compatible with older builds of litestep (24.5), purels and darkstep.
- Supports a lot of new winamp-style-window-messages, that for instance will enable lsslider to work with grdamp, which is a great addition.
- Added !grdampsavestack, (guess what it does)

url - <http://floach.pimpin.net/grd/>
e-mail - grd@swipnet.se
(source: LS Mailing List ~ grdamp für alle)

+-----<*>-----+

- LsBox 1.99b ~ Black Hawk (10:39 30.10 ls)

LsBox is a skinable easy to customize and {resource-friendly} alternative to the "normal" shortcutgroups for a number of applications like freefloating menus, messageboxes, and configuration dialogs.

New in this version:

- {Boxes} added a Winamp-like "Snap to edge" feature
- {Boxes} Boxes won't "jump" on DesktopAreaChange anymore
- {Boxes} Boxes aren't visible in Tasks anymore
- {Boxes} Changed the way the background Bitmap is painted
- {Boxes} Changed the way the DragRect is set - RTM
This fixes the Magic Pink(tm) flash problem
- {Shortcuts} Changed the way (bang)commands are called.
Should be now faster & fool-proof, too.
- {Shortcuts} Added complex RGN handling (still flickers a bit) - Shortcuts can now be placed *Outside* the main Box.
- {Modules} implemented Wharf+ specs
- {Modules} WharfModule are now actually unloaded properly
- {BoxFiles} fixed a bug in the Keyname compare function
- {Text(cuts)} fixed the FontName setting to actually work - was Times New Roman only

%%UPDATE%% (9:19 31.10)

- {Boxes} fixed a bug that caused an infinite loop after !LsBoxDestroy
- {Modules} New Module Format {Prototype}
I have already tested some of the more tolerant modules with this, but most won't work *right*..... you can try it if you want.
- {WharfModules} Moved all WharfModule loading routines in this SubModule

%%UPDATE%%

- Fixed the disappearing box problem by ignoring the ParentWnd supplied on InitModuleEx (??????)
- Will work with the new LsSlider release (load as *module)
- Will work with my Sysvwm patch (load as wharfmodule)

url - <http://www.blkhawk.de>

e-mail - blkhawk@blkhawk.de

(source: LS Mailing List ~ *** *NEW* LsBox rell.98 ***)

+-----<*>-----+

- geekTray 1.0 ~ geekMASTER (9:24 03.11 ls)

"This is a little module that will put a single icon in your systray that responds to mouse clicks."

url - <http://www.mindjunction.com>

e-mail - lheddings@geocities.com

(source: <http://www.litestep.net>)

[Web Sites]

- Black Hawk Moves To Pimpin.net

Noticed this on the LS Mailing list. It seems that BlackHawk has picked up and moved stakes over to the pimpin.net server. He has updated his redirects so you can continue to get the same url and still hit his page.

url - <http://floach.pimpin.net/blkhawk>
e-mail - blkhawk@blkhawk.de
(source: LS Mailing List ~ *** *NEW* LsBox rell.98 ***)

[Programs]

- ShellON 2.18 ~ Mike Rhodes (12:45 29.10 na)

ShellON is a very full featured shell swapping and managing utility.

New in this version:

- Added 'Exists' column on Shell List
- Added Displays default profile on Choose Profile screen.
- Added Displays default shell on Shell selection screen.
- Added Displays 'Cannot find file' if an image in a boot screen set cannot be found.
- Added Detailed uninstall instructions in help file.
- Improved ShellON's handling when Splash Screen is not shown.
- Merged Splash FormCreate and FormShow to speed up ShellON.
- Fixed loading of Wallpaper Options where icon transparency was removed.
- Fixed label in config that said 'minutes' instead of 'seconds'!
- Removed X and Y co-ordinates of Wallpaper settings, because they didn't do anything.

url - <http://shellon.cjb.net>
e-mail - ezines.mike@virgin.net
(source: Mike Rhodes via e-mail)

+-----<*>-----+

- TweakGUI 5 ~ Vish (11:24 30.10 geo)

This is a small program that gives you a GUI interface for changing setting in geOShell instead of having to root around in your registry.

New in this version:

- Added ability to switch between Explorer & geOShell. Its not much of a shell switcher since it will affect all users, but its better than doing it manually.
- Added Plugin config for Fleximenu's, geODateTime (limited), geOTray, geOLabels.
- Added Icon Config for changing various Core geOShell icons.
- Added Hotkey support. Not very intuitive or as nice as it should be but made it more <safe> so that it doesn't nuke / mess up your Registry.
- Added ability to make your geOBars Translucent in Win2k. The translucency is lost after a Recycle but is nice to have till geOShell natively supports it. Don't know if it works on Win ME. The translucency is fixed for all geOBars to be 75%.
- Added a refresh button, which will reload all settings from the registry.(Useful if you've added a new plugin / geOBar / HotKey). It has to be done manually since TweakGUI isn't

- meant to be running all the time.
- Added a HotKey for TweakGUI. Its < Win + T > & can be changed / removed.
 - Removed the gripper settings for the Default geOBars & moved them to the Bar config section.
 - Forgot to mention that the previous release had the option of Backing up your Entire geOShell config as a .reg file. Has anyone used it ???. Should I make it possible to backup your individual geOBars / HotKeys Settings / Menu Config etc. ???

url - <http://vish.htmlplanet.com/geoshell>
e-mail - Vishk@Rediffmail.com
(source: <http://vish.htmlplanet.com/geoshell>)

[Latest Builds]

- LiteStep
 - o 24.6 build 100600
 - o <http://builds.litestep.net/builds/ls-0246-dev-20001006.zip>
- DarkStep
 - o 0.971
 - o <http://www.darkstep.com/files/DarkStep971.zip>
- geOShell
 - o 4.6.5a
 - o <http://news.geoshell.com/Plugins/Download/geoshellr465a.zip>
- PureLS
 - o 052900
 - o <http://209.46.69.134/purels/binaries/00-05-29r.zip>

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 -= Alt OS Specific =-
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[Web Sites]

- SEAL Beta Help Site ~ Julien Etelain (12:00 30.10 sel)

Someone finally stepped up and started to write some help docs (in html format) for SEAL. The page that is currently up is beta and he needs some help in writing it. Send him an e-mail if you see any mistakes or wish to lend a hand.

url - <http://pmad.forez.com/seal/beta-help/>
e-mail - julien@pmad.mail22.com
(source: <http://pub8.ezboard.com/bsealsystem>)

[Latest Builds]

- SEAL
 - o 1D (042900)
 - o <http://www.home.sk/public/seal/sealexe.zip>

- V2_OS
 - o 0.70
 - o ftp://vp.dyn.dhs.org/0.70/v2_os.img

.....

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XSWEEKLY Shell Related News 04.11.00 - 10.11.00

Over the last few week I have noticed something that is really getting to me, un-objective reviews. If you are going to review something, be objective. Don't let personal experience get in the way of giving what ever it is an objective review. Even if you had problems with it, state that, but don't directly say something to the effect of "it sucks". That is not only un-objective but down right mean. The coders (or who ever made what it is you are reviewing) has put time and effort into something that you are putting down.

Now, don't get me wrong, I do this sometimes, but I don't say that it out right sucks. I point out what I think is wrong and give options on how I think it could be better. This is constructive criticism and will more than likely make the person who you did the review on take a second look at what was done. If you out and out put down the product there is a good chance it will just be left out to die.

The next time that you are going to review something, think about something that you have put a lot of time and effort into. Then think about how it would feel if someone came along and said that it sucked.

- demigod

[Mail Bag]

This weeks mailbag question is:

Who would you like me to interview?

e-mail - mailbag@xsweely.com
url - <http://www.xswweekly.com/mail.html>

[Spotlight]

- Chaku's Site

Chaku is the coder of some great modules like Popupck, ckVWM, and lsCDEject. Not only does he have his modules listed here, but also some other programs he has coded.

url - <http://www.geocities.com/chaokuolin/>

.....
 -- Shell Specific --
.....

[Modules]

- grdAmp 1.05 ~ grd (9:58 06.11 ls)

"grdAmp is almost like geekamp or any similar module. It provides !bangs for controlling your music experience. The main difference between grdamp and any other !bang player controller is that this module, doesn't require ANY program running in the background which makes it more of a music-player and less of a play-controller."

New in this version:

- Massive rewrite (so you can expect some buggyness)
- Most important thing is that the playlist now exists as a separate class. This actually means that by the next version it's going to be possible to connect an external playlist. This enables grdamp to be a full featured musicplayer for those that want that and those who want a lightweight lifestep-music-player can have it another great addition is the fact that nowadays only the currently active input plugin is loaded. This will hopefully make it more memory effective. This also has effect on streams. You will only be able to open streams with a module that is already open. So to play a stream that in_mp3 can read (don't use in_mp3 still) you have to first load an mp3 and then load the stream directly after.
- !grdampopen has been somewhat improved (thx again blkhawk) and the module is generally alot cleaner (although NeXTer would prolly disagree).
- !grdAmpClearStack, !grdAmpSaveStack & !grdAmpShuffleStack have all been renamed to !grdAmpListClear, !grdAmpListSave, & !grdAmpListShuffle and grdAmpRandom, grdAmpRepeatOne & grdAmpRepeatAll have all altered names; grdAmpListRandom, grdAmpListRepeatOne & grdAmpListRepeatAll this is all to provide a difference between grdAmp inside commands/settings and grdAmpList specific commands/settings.

url - <http://floach.pimpin.net/grd/ls/>

e-mail - grd@swipnet.se

(source: <http://floach.pimpin.net/grd/ls/>)

+-----<*>-----+

- LsBox 2.0 ~ Black Hawk (10:39 30.10 ls)

LsBox is a skinable easy to customize and {resource-friendly} alternative to the "normal" shortcutgroups for a number of applications like freefloating menus, messageboxes, and configuration dialogs.

New in this version:

- Fixed the !LsBoxDestroy function, seems still to be crashing on some win2k machines. I still don't know what causes the crashes.
- Fixed the !lsBoxShow and !LsBoxHide functions - I broke them in the last release.

%%UPDATE%% (9:19 07.11)

- Added LsBoxOnLeftClick

- Added LsBoxOnRightClick
- Added LsBoxStartHidden - This will let you start a box Hidden by default.
- Added !LsboxResetPos - This will help if a box was moved in some unnatural way. Like when a box moves to 15mil X and 4mil Y after a resolution change.
- Fixed not visible Text problem.
- Fixed vanishing Shortcuts then Crash Problem.

url - <http://www.blkhawk.de>
 e-mail - blkhawk@blkhawk.de
 (source: <http://www.blkhawk.de>)

+-----<*>-----+

- geOSwim v1.0 ~ Scott Ramsay (11:20 07.11 geo)

"geoSwim a virtual desktop manager. It increases your desktop size to any dimension. Instead of selecting a desktop region like typical vdm's, geoSwim allow you to pan (swim) your visual area."

url - <http://news.geoshell.com/pages/plugins.asp>
 e-mail - sramsay90@hotmail.com
 (source: <http://news.geoshell.com>)

+-----<*>-----+

- Soniquez 1.0 ~ azathoth (11:22 07.11 ls)

This is a front end for sonique. It functions much like geekAMP. It allows for playing, opening, stoping, etc of music files via Sonique.

url - <http://www.ls2k.org>
 e-mail - azathoth@intricatechaos.com
 (source: azathoth via irc)

+-----<*>-----+

- ShortcutMap 1.0 ~ MrJukes (11:02 12.11 ls)

This new module by jukes is a great module for those of you who theme in graphical control panels. Instead of having to make a ton of shortcut's and what not, this allows you to make one image and map out sections of it to be clickable ala imagemaps in html.

url - <http://www.litestep.net>
 e-mail - mrjukes@purdue.edu
 (source: <http://www.ls2k.org>)

+-----<*>-----+

- Popup 2.12ck ~ Chaku (11:09 12.11 ls)

The ck versions of popup2.dll have the ability to have multiple popup menus assigned.

New in this version:

- Fixed scrolling problem. If your !Popup won't start with a

portion out of the desktop while clicking at the edge of the screen, and thus no scrolling, try using the bang name you assigned for that popup.

- Added support for bang command to specify popup position:
!Popup[BangName] x y
ex. !PopupMain 100 300, negative numbers work too.

url - <http://www.geocities.com/chaokuolin/i>
e-mail - chaokuo@iname.com
(source: Chaku via irc)

[Programs]

- LSThemes 0.81 ~ galois (11:09 12.11 ls)

"LiteStep Theme Selector (LSTS) provides you with a graphical user interface (GUI) for easy changing of LiteStep themes. It provides theme preview and readme/documentation linking capabilities, and can set default theme for your system to use at startup."

New in this version:

- Minor Bug Fixes
- Revamped help file done by qwilk

url - <http://www.ls2k.org>
e-mail - galois@chungkuo.net
(source: <http://www.ls2k.org>)

[Misc]

- not-so-geOAutoPlay ~ elem~poimen (11:15 07.11 geo)

This is basically a hacked version of litestep with the autorun.dll jugg did. This module will add autorun for cd's.

url - <http://news.geoshell.com/pages/plugins.asp>
e-mail - tdlarson@bigfoot.com
(source: <http://news.geoshell.com>)

[Latest Builds]

- LiteStep
 - o 24.6 build 100600
 - o <http://builds.litestep.net/builds/ls-0246-dev-20001006.zip>
- DarkStep
 - o 0.971
 - o <http://www.darkstep.com/files/DarkStep971.zip>
- geOShell
 - o 4.6.5a
 - o <http://news.geoshell.com/Plugins/Download/geoshellr465a.zip>

- PureLS
 - o 052900
 - o <http://209.46.69.134/purels/binaries/00-05-29r.zip>

.....
 --= Alt OS Specific =-
.....

[Web Sites]

- SEAL On SourceForge ~ Amos Vryhof (12:16 07.11 sel)

"I finally figured out how to get SourceForge to work properly. It doesn't like Internet Explorer...but works great under Netscape. Hopefully once it is all setup, we will be able to use any system we want.

"This will get us CVS, FTP, and a lot of other stuff (like access to their compile farm)

"I will begin working on a main page for the Web Page access. It will basically draw the whole Seal community together in one place. There will be very little information, other than access to different Seal resources, and services provided in various places.

"The site will be as simple and straight forward as possible.. nothing flashy where it isn't needed, and more dependence on color than images.

"Hope this can do the trick of keeping the 'main source' up to date."

url - <http://sealsystem.sourceforge.net>
e-mail - a.m.o.s@juno.com
(source: <http://pub8.ezboard.com/bsealsystem>)

[Latest Builds]

- SEAL
 - o 1D (042900)
 - o <http://www.home.sk/public/seal/sealexe.zip>
- V2_OS
 - o 0.70
 - o ftp://vp.dyn.dhs.org/0.70/v2_os.img

.....

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XSWEEKLY Shell Related News 25.11.00 - 01.12.00

As the holidays are approaching fast, the scene is starting to slow down a bit. This makes for reporting on things hard as news is pretty scarce. Even the main news sites are pretty much either digging for news, or bringing up older issues. I think here I will do that latter.

One of the past issues that has bugged me but seems to be remedied is interactive of the coder to the users. In the past I have seen coders look down there noses at the user as if they were nothing more than annoyances that had to be dealt with. Recently though, I see the coders, webmasters, etc.. talking more with the end users and getting their input. This is a great thing imo. With this, the coder can now hunt bugs faster, would out new features, and it makes the user feel as if he is a part of the community. That is what open source projects should be all about. Let's try and keep the community feeling going. It can only help us in the end.

- demigod

[Mail Bag]

This weeks mailbag question is:

Are there any other shells/os's you would like to see in XSWeekly?

e-mail - mailbag@xsweely.com
url - <http://www.xswweekly.com/mail.html>

[Spotlight]

- Dream7

Dawm is creating an all in one site: news, music, reviews, chats, etc... As of right now it is in the very beginnings of being. Stop on over and check it out. If you have the time, send him and e-mail and help him out. This site looks like it could become something very interesting.

url - <http://www.dream7.org/>

.....
 -= Shell Specific =-
.....

[Top News Stories]

- Azathoth Takes Over DarkStep (10:17 27.11 ds)

After months of silence from the DarkStep front, Fahim has released his source over to Azathoth in hopes that he will continue to work on the shell. I spoke with Aza on irc and he said that he plans on gathering up a dev team to begin reworking DarkStep.

e-mail - azathoth@intricatechaos.com
(source: Fahim via e-mail/Azathoth via irc)

+-----<*>-----+

- Chaku Added To The LS Dev Team (10:59 27.11 ls)

Chaku, author of ckVWM, ckHotspots, and a bunch of other modules, has joined the LS Dev Team. Congrats man! Great to see a coder like you recognized for your talents.

url - <http://lsdev.litestep.net>
(source: <http://floach.pimpin.net>)

+-----<*>-----+

- LiteStep Has Includes (14:43 28.11 ls)

As of the latest official daily build, LiteStep now has includes. What this means is you can call to another file with commands in it within the main step.rc. This is something that has been long in the coming. It will allow for theme swapping and editing to be a lot easier.

url - <http://builds.litestep.net>
(source: noodge via irc)

[Modules]

- ckVWM 1.25 ~ Chaku (10:53 27.11 ls)

ckVWM is an updated sysvwm that was originally written by killarny. This is a more advanced vwm then the one that comes stock with LiteStep.

New in this version:

- added config VWMFocusLast, so that the window that has the last focus will be focussed when switch back to that desktop. This config can coexist with config VWMFocusCenter, but the focus last code will run first before the focus center code.
- now !VWMMOVEAPP can accept number that specifies which desktop to move to instead of just moving to the neighboring desktop. syntax: !VWMMOVEAPP #, where # is the desktop number starting from 1
- now compatible with dwarf and lsbox(no 64^2 size limit), and almost all other wharf loading modules
- photoshop tools
- fixed !VWMMoveApp bang, so that it won't move always on top stuff.
- fixed a rendering problem when the width of each vwm is

shorter than the height

url - <http://cklin.cjb.net>
e-mail - chaokuo@iname.com
(source: <http://cklin.cjb.net>)

[Web Sites]

- Galois Sets Up On FPN (11:03 27.11 ls)

Seems that galois, coder of LSTS, has opened up a site on FPN. It is a very simple page with a few links to his two programs so if you have any design ideas or layout send them his way.

url - <http://floach.pimpin.net/galois/>
e-mail - <http://floach.pimpin.net/galois/>
(source: <http://floach.pimpin.net/>)

[Latest Builds]

- LiteStep

- o 24.6 build 112800
- o <http://builds.litestep.net/builds/ls-0246-dev-20001128.zip>

- DarkStep

- o 0.971
- o <http://www.darkstep.com/files/DarkStep971.zip>

- geOShell

- o 4.6.5a
- o <http://news.geoshell.com/Plugins/Download/geoshellr465a.zip>

- PureLS

- o 052900
- o <http://209.46.69.134/purels/binaries/00-05-29r.zip>

.....
 --= Alt OS Specific =--
.....

[Programs]

- MySEAL 3.0.1 ~ julien (15:00 28.11 sel)

MySEAL is a distro package of SEAL with some extras from BadSEAL and some of his own coding.

New in this version:

- Ability to maximize windows.

url - <http://pmad.forez.com/seal/my>
e-mail - julien@pmad.mail22.com
(source: <http://pub8.ezboard.com/bsealsystem>)

[Latest Builds]

- SEAL
 - o 1D (042900)
 - o <http://www.home.sk/public/seal/sealexe.zip>
- V2_OS
 - o 0.70
 - o ftp://vp.dyn.dhs.org/0.70/v2_os.img

.....

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XSWEEKLY Shell Related News 02.12.00 - 08.12.00

Why is it the baby Bells here in the states still have total control? Back in 1996 the government deregulated them for a reason but with there strong arm tactics and other bull, they have managed to push CLEC's out of the way and continue to dominate the local calling area's. Not only that but they still want full access to long distance which was what was promised to them IF they unbundled there eq and allowed CLEC's to access it cheaply.

What really gets to me on this is that the Bells have once again joined back up into four major local telco companies and the government just turns it's back. At the same time, though, they are putting companies like AOL/Time Warner and Microsoft under intense scrutiny for possibly being a monopoly. What kind of double standard crap is this? I realize its typical to buy out the government. I also realize that the US government has been bought and sold long ago, but that still doesn't give them any right to reward one company while punishing another for the exact same act.

Yes, Microsoft is blatantly being monopolistic, but so are the baby bell's. What explanation does the government have to allowing them to prosper and allowing Microsoft to suffer? They point to the fact that the telephone has become a staple of life. Oh really? They can refuse me phone service, something the gas or electric company cannot do. It's just more crap that they throw at the masses that really don't care what the government does just so long as they get what they want.

When will this all end? I don't have the answer, wish I did. Maybe one day the people of the US will wake up and realize that we are not as free as we think we are. Then again, we probably wont.

- demigod

[Mail Bag]

This weeks mailbag question is:

Are there any other shells/os's you would like to see in XSWeekly?

e-mail - mailbag@xsweely.com
url - <http://www.xswweekly.com/mail.html>

[Spotlight]

- LSD4P

Yes, not only is it a distro, but it also has a web site. Here you will find the latest LSD4P distro, current news on its updates, the Theme Guide for the distro, but other intresting tidbits.

url - <http://lsd4p.dx0.org>

.....
-- Shell Specific --
.....

[Top News Stories]

- 1000 Themes At ls.net Or Not.. (11:41 04.12 ls)

LiteStep.net saw its theme archive hit 1000 themes, then drop to below 995. It seems that a few people thought it would be funny to delete their themes to drop the number down. Needless to say, it is still quite a feat.

url - <http://www.litestep.net>
(source: <http://www.ls2k.org>)

[Modules]

- Rainlendar 0.6b ~ rainy (10:09 05.12 ls)

Rainlendar is a very customizable calendar that resides on your desktop and shows the days of the current month. The application is a Litestep plugin, but it can be used without Litestep as well. You can use it even with the normal Explorer shell if you like.

New in this version:

- Added new menu item to jump to the current month and a equivalent !bang for it (!RainlendarShowCurrent)
- Added possibility disable hotkeys from the config.
- Added hotkeys for changing the months. Note that key presses must be clean, i.e. modifiers (alt, shift, ...) cannot be used. This prevents accidental keypresses with vwm. Also note that that the calendar window must be active for hotkeys to work.
- Rainlendar's window now has a name "Rainlendar".

url - <http://www.iki.fi/~rainy/>
e-mail - rainy@iki.fi
(source: <http://www.iki.fi/~rainy/>)

+-----<*>-----+

- geekAMP 1.9b ~ azathoth (11:37 07.12 ls)

geekAMP is a frontend module for controlling winamp via !bang commands.

New in this version:

- Re-added !Amp_FileInfo.
- Fixed !Amp_Show so it actually works.

url - <http://azathoth.ls2k.org>
e-mail - azathoth@ls2k.org
(source: <http://www.ls2k.org>)

+-----<*>-----+

- Shortcutmap 1.1 ~ MrJukes (9:47 08.12 ls)

Shortcutmap works like an image map for web sites where in you can set cords up for clickable area's on the map. This is great for creating images for GUI config menus.

New in this version:

- Fixed the memory leak
- Fixed the middle mouse button bug

url - <http://www.litestep.net>
e-mail - mrjukes@purdue.edu
(source: <http://www.litestep.net>)

+-----<*>-----+

- LSBox 2.1 ~ Black Hawk (14:54 08.12 ls)

"LsBox is a skinable easy to customize and {resource-friendly} alternative to the "normal" shortcutgroups for a number of applications like free floating menues, messageboxes and configuration dialogs."

New in this version:

- Cleaned up vast parts of LsBox trying to fix the problem with threading. It didn't help and the problem still exists - So don't use threading with Lsbox till I fix the problem. !don't use no threading at all!
- Removed the adaptive rgn handeling - it was flickering too much
- Changed the "!LsBoxResetPos" bang to reset all positions to the ones in the .box file even "normal" movement is now reset.
- This is the first offical version to work with LsSlider!
- Added "How to load a Module into LsBox" to the docs.

url - <http://www.blkhawk.de>
e-mail - blkhawk@blkhawk.de
(source: LS Mailing List ~ *** LsBox Release 2.1 ***)

[Programs]

- Carapace 1.5c ~ Pixol (11:33 04.12 na)

Carapace is a fully featured shell loader. Not only that, but it has a task manager, shell swapper, and it looks like skinning.

New in this version:

- Loading settings bugs, not able to change logo!
- Launching explorer, after quick running a command loaded the filemanager instead of the shell
- Tabbing of interface now works again
- Redesigned interface preparing for V2

- About box now shows credits, latest build and version info
- Listbox now shows protected status by either - or +
- Code more reusable, reorganised structure of code.. more efficient
- Part Implemented skinning engine
- Removed slow window animation, will be added later if requested

url - <http://www.dtop.org/pixolpod/htm/news.htm>

e-mail - lccgreen@pixolpod.fsnet.co.uk

(source: <http://www.dtop.org/pixolpod/htm/news.htm>)

 [Misc]

- LSD4P ~ whytheluckystiff (11:13 04.12 ls)

"SD4P is the LiteStep Distro For People. :) It's a self-executable that installs the latest build (2000-11-28) and five themes, as well as LSTS (the theme-switchin' util) and LiteStep Enabler (because litestep.exe -install is still kinda goofy).. I have permission from all the software authors and theme authors and it's ready to go!

"So if you haven't tried the new build, check it out. I just wanted to pitch in on the effort to make LS easy.

"Oh, one thing also that's cool about this distro is that it has a central local.rc that is used to store local configuration data and keep the right-click popup consistent. This means that every theme will have the same options in the right-click popup. This is made possible by the "include" option in the new builds of LiteStep! It also keeps your Hotkeys consistent from theme to theme. I have a bunch of friends who have always struggled getting LiteStep up and going, but this did the trick for most of them. It got them into a few themes and gave them a structure and soon enough they learned it and can edit the step.rc and stuff."

%%UPDATE%% LSD4P 1.1 (11:40 07.12 ls)

- LiteStep itself!! (build 2000-11-28)
- LSTS, the LiteStep Theme Selector by galois
- LiteStep Enabler by Chet McNeill for easy switching between normal

Windows explorer and LiteStep

- Pre-configured themes:
 - o LiteGnome v1.6 by laurent
 - o Chaos by Omar
 - o Phusion by tech.spider
 - o 18 by darkfyre
 - o Stratosphere by BarrettLight50
 - o Hanzatsu by AznRomeo

- Easy installation thanks to Nullsoft's Super-PiMP!

url - <http://LSD4P.dx0.org>

e-mail - whytheluckystiff@mailcity.com

(source: LS-Novice Mailing List ~ here's a silence breaker)

+-----<*>-----+

- LSD4P Theme Compliance Doc ~ whytheluckystiff (11:42 07.12 ls)

whytheluckystiff is at it again, this time with a theme doc. This doc explains how to make themes compatible with the LiteStep Disto 4 People installer. The doc is included with the latest disto or via the web site.

url - <http://LSD4P.dx0.org>
e-mail - whytheluckystiff@mailcity.com
(source: <http://LSD4P.dx0.org>)

[Latest Builds]

- LiteStep
 - o 24.6 build 112800
 - o <http://builds.litestep.net/builds/ls-0246-dev-20001128.zip>
- DarkStep
 - o 0.971
 - o <http://www.darkstep.com/files/DarkStep971.zip>
- geOShell
 - o 4.6.5a
 - o <http://news.geoshell.com/Plugins/Download/geoshellr465a.zip>
- PureLS
 - o 052900
 - o <http://209.46.69.134/purels/binaries/00-05-29r.zip>

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 -= Alt OS Specific =-
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[Programs]

- AView 0.1 ~ Vandars (10:14 06.12 at)

"YASA (Yet Another Software Announcement) time :)

"This time it's the fairly simple AView, which is nothing more than a JPEG image viewer. It uses a GUI, and does "slideshows" of a directory. To be honest, it is not much better functionally than the standard bmview that is included with AtheOS at the moment. ;D"

url - <http://www.vandars.pwp.blueyonder.co.uk/atheos.html>
e-mail - vandars@cableinet.co.uk
(source: AtheOS Mailing List ~ AView 0.1)

+-----<*>-----+

- SEAL Games ~ julien (12:00 07.12 sel)

Julien has put out 3 games for SEAL. These include solver, laby, and tic-tac-toe. He is also working on some others to be native with SEAL.

url - <http://pmad.forez.com/seal/game/>
e-mail - julien@pmad.mail22.com

(source: <http://pmad.forez.com/seal/game/>)

[Web Sites]

- CD Distro @ AtheOS.cx ~ Kurt (12:10 07.12 at)

Kurt has set up a page over at atheos.cx for the distro of AtheOS iso cds. Here you can see who is making them and where they are shipped too.

url - <http://www.atheos.cx/cdrom.php3>
e-mail - kurt@atheos.cx
(source: AtheOS Mailing List ~ Making AtheOS CD's)

[Latest Builds]

- SEAL

- o 1D (042900)
- o <http://www.home.sk/public/seal/sealexe.zip>

- V2_OS

- o 0.70
- o ftp://vp.dyn.dhs.org/0.70/v2_os.img

- AtheOS

- o 0.3.0
- o <http://www.atheos.cx/download/list.php3?0.3.0>

.....
 --= Beyond the Specifics =-
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[Interesting]

- GITampD

This is a neat little winamp plugin. From the e-mail i received:

"We have a completely alpha blended watermark that sits on your desktop which remote controls winamp. When the watermark is transparent, you can click through it, drag windows behind it, etc. Hovering the mouse over it for a few seconds causes it to solidify and then the controls are available. We display the eq vis, button controls and playlist. In this version we cannot control the seek bar, volume or balance but those are on the feature list for the next release. We also have a visualizer that runs along the right side of your screen. The cool thing about the vis is that it runs OUTSIDE of your desktop. None of the desktop area is covered and all your apps will still be able to run full screen."

url - <http://www.gitwit.com>

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XSWEEKLY Shell Related News 09.12.00 - 15.12.00

Ok, it seems that dTop (chunkymunky) has been taken over by another company. Now, this shouldn't be a bad thing except they striped all the links that where there AND killed all the hosting with NO WARNING! Not only was I hosted there, but so was Pixol and Killarny. What kind of way is this to conduct business in this community?? Now that site that I had hosted on dTop is totally gone. They have blow the directories out completely.

This type of action is total bull. What gives them the right to take MY work and just delete it without first informing me that this would be taking place?? They don't even own the box that its on, Eye Media does. All they have is the name and the space to use now. I have written to them and asked them what is going on and if I could have my site back. I have yet to receive a reply.

Before, we rallied around to help out Yaso try and save chunkymunky from that waco woman who owned chunkymonkey. Now I ask you to boycott dTop and show the moroffs who have taken over what its like to just stomp in and take over. Screw these people and their lack of ethics.

On a sadder note, I have removed DarkStep from XSWeekly. As Fahim has give the code over to azathoth and he will be changing the name, DarkStep is no longer being coded. I really enjoyed reporting on DarkStep for the time that it was around, and I really hope that azathoth can take it to new heights.

- demigod

[Mail Bag]

This weeks mailbag question is:

Are there any other shells/os's you would like to see in XSWeekly?

e-mail - mailbag@xsweely.com
url - <http://www.xswweekly.com/mail.html>

[Spotlight]

- WIWIKALS

What I Wish I'd Known About LiteStep has moved itself over to litestep.com This is a great site with user submitted tips and tricks. Stop on over if you are having a problem with something, or give over a tip or trick that you have learned.

url - <http://wiwikals.litestep.com>

.....
== Shell Specific ==
.....

[Top News Stories]

- Mulvane Takes Over LSDev@FPN (10:34 13.12 ls)

Mulvane has taken over compiling bleeding edge builds over at fpn. Because rootrider has been very busy lately, Mulvane stepped up to the plate to fill the gap. Great to see the community pull together like this!

url - <http://floach.pimpin.net/lsdev>
e-mail - mulvane@hotmail.com
(source: Mulvane via IRC)

+-----<*>-----+

- Community Cometary At Interface Workshop (9:16 14.12 na)

Philsci has written up a very interesting piece on the Japanese shell community. What is really interesting about it though is that it really does pertain to just about every online community out there. This is worth the read.

url -
http://www.interq.or.jp/jupiter/philsci/porch_workshop/workshop_index.htm
e-mail - philsci@jupiter.interq.or.jp
(source:
http://www.interq.or.jp/jupiter/philsci/porch_workshop/workshop_index.htm)

[Modules]

- LSWiz b4 ~ Message (10:25 13.12 ls)

"AppWizard has created a lswiz DLL for you. This DLL is the starting point for writing your custom AppWizard. It demonstrates the basics of creating a custom AppWizard."

New in this version:

- Added option not to have comments added to generated source.
- Fixed lswinbase not being added to generated project.
- Fixed Window::Init() not being added to generated source.

url - <http://www.mindjunction.com/message/>
e-mail - message@litestep.net
(source: LS Mailing List ~ lswiz b4)

+-----<*>-----+

- WharfX 0.5 ~ TrOgI (10:23 13.12 ls)

"This is a modified wharf with many enhancements. Use wharfx.dll in place of wharf.dll. All settings are the same as the wharf except the new ones listed below."

New in this version:

- Added WharfX and WharfY step.rc settings.
- Changed wharf shade/unshade to right-click on wharfcap instead of left.

- instead of left.
- Added folder tile pressing.
- Added multiple Wharfs.
- Modified bang commands to work with multiple wharfs.
- Added nested subfolders (nest them as far as you want).

url - <http://desktopsource.mindjunction.com>
e-mail - crouson@inreach.com
(source: LS Mailing List ~ WharfX b0.5!)

[Web Sites]

- Pigeon Module Repository ~ whytheluckystiff (10:36 13.12 ls)

This site is a repository to compliment the :Pigeon Software and the LSD4P distro pack. Here you can search his repository for any module available.

url - <http://deathstar.eng.utah.edu/~kroford/930/pigeon/>
e-mail - whytheluckystiff@mailcity.com
(source: <http://www.ls2k.org>)

[Programs]

- :Pigeon Interactive Tool 0.2 ~ whytheluckystiff (10:40 13.12 ls)

"The :Pigeon module is designed to automate the install of LiteStep modules and extensions. It includes some searching capabilities and knows how to use WinSock to fetch the raw data from the net."

url - <http://deathstar.eng.utah.edu/~kroford/930/pigeon/>
e-mail - whytheluckystiff@mailcity.com
(source: <http://www.ls2k.org>)

[Misc]

- LiteStep NewsGroup ~ ge0ph (10:16 14.12 ls)

Seems like ge0ph has set up a LiteStep newsgroup off his server. Hopefully we can keep this one up and running this time.

url - <news://news.ge0ph.com/lightstep>
e-mail - ge0ph@ge0ph.com
(source: <http://www.litestep.net>)

[Latest Builds]

- LiteStep
 - o 24.6 build 112800
 - o <http://builds.litestep.net/builds/ls-0246-dev-20001128.zip>
- geOShell

- o 4.6.5a
 - o <http://news.geoshell.com/Plugins/Download/geoshellr465a.zip>
- PureLS
 - o 052900
 - o <http://209.46.69.134/purels/binaries/00-05-29r.zip>

.....
 == Alt OS Specific ==

 [Latest Builds]

- SEAL
 - o 1D (042900)
 - o <http://www.home.sk/public/seal/sealexe.zip>
- V2_OS
 - o 0.70
 - o ftp://vp.dyn.dhs.org/0.70/v2_os.img
- AtheOS
 - o 0.3.0
 - o <http://www.atheos.cx/download/list.php3?0.3.0>

.....
 -= Beyond the Specifics -=

 [Programs]

- YaLaMet (Yet Another Lame Menu Tool)

Saw this little diddy over at litestep.net the other day. I downloaded it and found it to be very useful on my work machine. From the site:

"What is YaLaMet?

"Well - YaLaMet is a menutool, an easy and quick way to start application, without it taking up a lot of space. I deem that it will be of most use for people that do not like the desktop, that Microsoft gives us.

"YaLaMet takes up very little space on your desktop, and it is basically just a dropdown-box, with items in it. And these items points to applications, pretty much like shortcuts - just without all that MS-crap"

url - <http://home.worldonline.dk/~kherkild/yalamet.html>

.....

 [Errata]

In the interview with WareWolf, I mistook his reference to an apology to AZ as to azathoth. It should have been to AznRomeo.

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XSWEEKLY Shell Related News 16.12.00 - 22.12.00

I know this is a really skimpy letter, but I'm lucky that I got it out at all. It was such a crazy week for me. The holidays just become a blur now which really sucks because I like to enjoy these times with my wife and daughter. I had such a blast playing with her in the snow this past week. I just wish that time would slow down during times like that instead of flashing by.

Have a Happy Holiday everyone!

- demigod

[Mail Bag]

This weeks mailbag question is:

Are there any other shells/os's you would like to see in XSWeekly?

e-mail - mailbag@xsweely.com

url - <http://www.xswweekly.com/mail.html>

.....
 -= Shell Specific =-
.....

[Top News Stories]

- LSD4P 1-800 Line ~ whytheluckystiff (20.12 1s)

Seems that why has set up a 1-800 VoiceXML Line. This is the first of its kind in any of the communities. From his site:

"Admist other things, I started playing around with VoiceXML and I decided to open this 1-800 line for people who are active in LSD4P. Right now I'll be posting some news there. There is a brief installation dialog and a little synopsis on this project. It's not tremendously useful, but it's sorta cool."

url - <http://lsd4p.dx0.org>

e-mail - whytheluckystiff@mailcity.com

(source: <http://lsd4p.dx0.org>)

[Modules]

- WharfX 0.6 ~ TrOgI (13:02 18.12 1s)

"This is a modified wharf with many enhancements. Use wharfx.dll in place of wharf.dll. All settings are the same as the wharf except the new ones listed below."

New in this version:

- Removed the set desktop area stuff.
- Cleaned up image combining code.
- Added option to not use transparency in a tile.
- Fixed transparency in folders (thanks to dmaestr0 for pointing this out)
- Default back image smaller than width/height will now be centered

url - <http://desktopsource.mindjunction.com>
e-mail - crouson@inreach.com
(source: LS Mailing List ~ WharfX b0.6!)

[Web Sites]

- WIWIKAL Moves To LiteStep.com ~ Craig Eliason (13:18 18.12 ls)

Wiwikal has a new cushy home over at ls.com. Same look, same great material, new house. Stop on over and contribute.

url - <http://wiwikal.litestep.com>
e-mail - eliason@eden.rutgers.edu
(source: WareWolf Interview)

+-----<*>-----+

- ChromeTiger Moves To LiteStep.com ~ ChromeTiger (13:20 18.12 ls)

It's an exodus!! Yet another hosting over at LiteStep.com. This time its theamer ChromeTiger. This site is now boasting a new look. Stop on over there too and check out some of his themes and walls.

url - <http://chrometiger.litestep.com>
e-mail - ChromeTiger@citynet.net
(source: WareWolf Interview)

[Latest Builds]

- LiteStep
 - o 24.6 build 112800
 - o <http://builds.litestep.net/builds/ls-0246-dev-20001128.zip>
- geOShell
 - o 4.6.5a
 - o <http://news.geoshell.com/Plugins/Download/geoshellr465a.zip>
- PureLS
 - o 052900
 - o <http://209.46.69.134/purels/binaries/00-05-29r.zip>

.....
 -= Alt OS Specific =-
.....

[Latest Builds]

- SEAL
 - o 1D (042900)
 - o <http://www.home.sk/public/seal/sealexe.zip>
- V2_OS
 - o 0.70
 - o ftp://vp.dyn.dhs.org/0.70/v2_os.img
- AtheOS
 - o 0.3.0
 - o <http://www.atheos.cx/download/list.php3?0.3.0>

.....

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XSWEEKLY Shell Related News 23.12.00 - 29.12.00

Happy New Year! Yet another year passes in the shell world and what an interesting year it was. I am just happy to still be here bringing you news and other dirt on the various communities. Lets try and make this new millennium (yes this is the REAL new millennium) better than the last.

[Mail Bag]

This weeks mailbag question is:

Are there any other shells/os's you would like to see in XSWeekly?

e-mail - mailbag@xsweely.com

url - <http://www.xswweekly.com/mail.html>

[Spotlight]

- YogiNews

Yogib3ar will soon be opening a site dedicated to shell related programs. As an ex-admin of dTop (chunkymunky) he has plenty of experience in this field. Stop on over to see a work in progress.

url - <http://yoginews.ls2k.org>

.....
 -= Shell Specific =-
.....

[Top News Stories]

- History Of Distro's ~ _why (9:57 27.12 ls)

_why of LSD4P has posted up a History of Distro's. In it he not only goes over what distro's have appeared in the past, but how they have affected us now. Also, there is some very good and serious talk about the problems with theme standardization. This is worth your time to read if for no other reason then to learn a little LiteStep history.

url - <http://lsd4p.dx0.org/>

e-mail - whytheluckystiff@mailcity.com

(source: <http://lsd4p.dx0.org/>)

[Modules]

- grdAmp 1.09 ~ grd (14:29 26.12 ls)

grdAmp is an input/output module that utilized the winamp input/output modules for playing mp3's.

New in this version:

- Finally constructed a workaround for the problems when the volume jumped as soon as a new track started. This is experimental and therefore only works with output-plugins that output information to the standard wave-out and also it has not yet been applied to the panning.
- Altered the classname of the grdamp main window from "grdamp wndcls" to "grdampclass", this means that if you had LSXCommand (or anything else) reading from grdamp before, you'll have to change your settings... =/ This was done to go in the lines with the modified version of jump that is included in this release.
- Includes a modified version of jump (that ONLY works with grdamp)

url - <http://floach.pimpin.net/grd>
e-mail - grd@swipnet.se
(source: grd via irc)

+-----<*>-----+

- geekamp 1.9c ~ azathoth (29.12 16:54 ls)

This is a frontend for winamp. You can control just about all aspects of winamp via bang commands and use shortcuts to make your own winamp control center.

New in this version:

- Fixed bug in !amp_fileinfo.
- Fixed numerous bugs and problems (all dialogs should appear on top now).
- Add Bang Command !Amp_LoadEQPreset.
- Problems: People have been reporting about geekamp not working from shortcuts. This is very strange. I have no answer as yet, if geekamp doesn't work for you, please try older builds until you find a build that works, then please write to me about it so i can fix it. Thanks.

url - <http://azathoth.ls2k.org/>
e-mail - azathoth@ls2k.org
(source: <http://www.ls2k.org>)

[Web Sites]

- un2 At LS2K

Just noticed that un2 is now being hosted over at ls2k.org. Although there is nothing there yet, it's nice to see ls2k growing like it is.

url - <http://www.ls2k.org/un2>
(source: <http://www.ls2k.org>)

+-----<*>-----+

- LiteStep Commands Moves, Kinda ~ ksr (11:08 27.12 ls)

ksr has moved LiteStep Commands from help.litestep.com to lscommands.litestep.com. Same great taste, just a slightly different address.

url - <http://lscommands.litestep.com>
e-mail - krabourn@bigfoot.com
(source: <http://lscommands.litestep.com>)

[Misc]

- Online Module Configurator ~ Flea (10:37 27.12 ls)

"This page is to help you configure modules for Litestep, the Explorer shell replacement. It is intended for use by newbies and veterans looking for a quick and easy way to configure modules. There are 2 modes.

"1. The default: allows the printout of the comments of the module. The comments have additional configuration info and default value info.

"2. The advanced: allows easier viewing of all configurable values in a short list."

url - <http://www.worlddismine.org/litestep/mod-config.php3>
e-mail - web@worlddismine.org
(source: <http://www.ls2k.org>)

[Latest Builds]

- LiteStep

- o 24.6 build 112800
- o <http://builds.litestep.net/builds/ls-0246-dev-20001128.zip>

- geOShell

- o 4.6.5a
- o <http://news.geoshell.com/Plugins/Download/geoshellr465a.zip>

- PureLS

- o 052900
- o <http://209.46.69.134/purels/binaries/00-05-29r.zip>

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 -= Alt OS Specific =-
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[Top News Stories]

- SEAL To Be Sold? ~ Bad Sector (11:19 27.12 sel)

Seems as if the original creator of SEAL has a startup company and has been working on an OS with offshoots from SEAL. The problem with this is that SEAL is GPL but he will be using some of the SEAL source in this new, pay for, OS. Check out this thread for more info:
<http://pub8.ezboard.com/fsealsystemgeneral.showMessage?topicID=192.topic>

url - <http://pub8.ezboard.com/bsealsystem>
(source: <http://pub8.ezboard.com/bsealsystem>)

[Programs]

- Desktop Pack 1 ~ Julien (14:21 26.12 sel)

This is a large pack of very useful addons for SEAL. Included here is WinEditor, TrackBar, ProgressBar, Search, GRFX, WinManager, Desktop 3.2 and the Dev Pack.

url - <http://pms-en.pmad.net/>
e-mail - julien@pmad.net
(source: <http://pms-en.pmad.net/>)

[Latest Builds]

- SEAL

- o 1D (042900)
- o <http://www.home.sk/public/seal/sealexe.zip>

- V2_OS

- o 0.70
- o ftp://vp.dyn.dhs.org/0.70/v2_os.img

- AtheOS

- o 0.3.0
- o <http://www.atheos.cx/download/list.php3?0.3.0>

.....

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XSWEEKLY Shell Related News 06.01.01 - 12.01.01

Some amazing things have been happening lately. It seems that a lot of large companies are finally starting to see the light when it comes to shells and even skinning programs. Real Player, Microsoft, etc.. have started to add skinning ability to their programs and even their os. What an amazing step. It seems like just yesterday that skinz.org was opened and efx was the talk of the town. LiteStep was finally growing out of its infancy and geOShell was around the corner.

While skinning and even the idea of having a more visual shell is great to see in these main stream programs, I don't know how great that is us. If MS get's it right, programs like Illumination and WB will be pointless. Who would need a program to skin Windows if it can do it correctly itself?

Now I don't think that shells will be affected all that much. Windows would have to have some extremely dramatic changes for it to even come close to competing with any shell out there right now. The only thing that I worry about is that they will make it nearly impossible to run a shell within windows. Once Microsoft sees something as a threat, they attack it viciously and take huge steps to protect what they believe is their's.

I really hope that something like that doesn't happen. Having shells as an alternative makes working on my computer all the less painful.

- demigod

[Mail Bag]

This weeks mailbag question is:

Would you attend a Shell Conference?

e-mail - mailbag@xsweely.com

url - <http://www.xsweekly.com/mail.html>

[Spotlight]

- nikon.cm.nu

The idea of this site is to be a repository for programming, art work, screen shots, and photo's. The database is all user submitted and they are hoping that it will grow to be another great community site.

url - <http://nikon.cm.nu>

[Shell Of The Week]

- SharpOS

This is an interesting shell that I have had the past privilege of beta testing. While it is not available for public consumption yet, it soon will be. Although it is not as modular as LiteStep is, it is still a very nice and stable shell. As of right now it includes a popup, launch bar with a bunch of options, VWM, systray, gui config, and a bunch of other stuff.

<http://www.lowdimension.net>

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 -= Shell Specific =-
.....

[Modules]

- mmsupport 0.2b ~ Message (9:55 08.01 ls)

This module is for multiple monitor support. You must be running the January 1st build or later for this to work.

url - <http://www.mindjunction.com/message/>
e-mail - message@litestep.net
(source: LS Mailing List ~ New Module....)

+-----<*>-----+

- LSBox 2.2 ~ Black Hawk (10:11 08.01 ls)

"LSBox is a Litestep loadmodule that allows the creation of freefloating and skinnable "Boxes" that can be used to generate custom messageboxes, Floating Menues and Dialogs."

New in this version:

- {Shortcuts}Added support for ShortCutgroups to LSBox. !LSBoxGroupShow/Hide/Toggle it's all there ;).
- {Bangs}Added a !LSBoxToggle Bang.
- {Boxes}LSBox won't close on Alt-F4 anymore (request).
- {Lsbox}Fixed a hole in the LSBoxDestroy Function. This should have caused crashes .
- {LSBox}I moved all the Bangs to a separate file.

url - <http://floach.pimpin.net/blkhawk/>
e-mail - blkhawk@blkhawk.de
(source: <http://floach.pimpin.net/blkhawk/>)

+-----<*>-----+

- LSPanels Alpha 12 ~ Figbash (9:34 10.01 ls)

A newcomer to the mod scene, Figbash, has a pretty neat module out. LSPanels is for making panels. They are moveable, hideable, skinable, and can be any shape or size. Good for making gnome style panels, app launchers, and almost an unlimited number of other, useful things.

url - <http://www.ls2k.org>
e-mail - Nostrildamus@hotmail.com
(source: yogib3ar via irc)

+-----<*>-----+

- LSGradWall ~ galois (9:36 10.01 ls)

galois, famed coder of LS Theme Selector, has put out another interesting module. This module can create gradient wall papers and was originally coded to test his gradient engine. It might just be eyecandy, but it's pretty neat.

url - <http://floach.pimpin.net/galois>
e-mail - galois@chungkuo.net
(source: rootrider via irc)

[Web Sites]

- LSD4P up and moves ~ _why (10:54 13.01 ls)

More movement of sites. This time its _why moving his Disto page on over to litestep.com. He has decided to leave the :Pigeon project at its old home to hold the fort.

url - <http://why.litestep.com>
e-mail - whytheluckystiff@mailcity.com
(source: <http://lsd4p.dx0.org>)

[Programs]

- TweakGUI ~ Vishk (11:32 09.01 geo)

This is a small program to change registry settings for geOShell without having to hand hack the registry.

New in this version:

- Updated the Settings for the latest beta.
- Added the configuration for the geOTasks Plugin.
- The Translucency option has been improved, Settings now stick around & are how they should be.
- Small (cosmetic) fixes in the Hotkey Section.
- Multiple user Shell settings has been added.
(WinNT / Win2K only)

url - <http://vish.htmlplanet.com/geoshell/>
e-mail - Vishk@Rediffmail.com
(source: <http://vish.htmlplanet.com/geoshell/>)

[Misc]

- LSD4P 1.2 ~ _why (9:57 08.01 ls)

_why has put out yet another version of his LiteStep distro. This new package has some new themes, a new

installer, and :Pigeon 0.4.

url - <http://lsd4p.dx0.org>
e-mail - whytheluckystiff@mailcity.com
(source: <http://lsd4p.dx0.org>)

[Latest Builds]

- LiteStep
 - o 24.6 build 010201
 - o <http://builds.litestep.net/builds/ls-0246-dev-20010102.zip>
- geOShell
 - o 4.6.5a
 - o <http://news.geoshell.com/Plugins/Download/geoshellr465a.zip>
- PureLS
 - o 052900
 - o <http://209.46.69.134/purels/binaries/00-05-29r.zip>

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[Misc]

- SEAL App Step by Step Tutorial ~ Bad Seal (11:27 08.01 sel)

"I wrote a tutorial that describes step-by-step the creation of a simple SEAL application. It is about 14 pages printed (A4) and contains a lot of source code. Also at the end is the source code for a telephone book program (like a data base). You will find it with the sources in .c format for testing at www.badseal.org/ in a single ZIP file (13K)."

url - <http://www.badseal.org>
e-mail - michalopoylos@hotmail.com
(source: <http://pub8.ezboard.com/bsealsystem>)

+-----<*>-----+

- SEAL Goodies ~ Ant (13:22 08.01 sel)

Looks as if Ant has set up a shop over at Cafe Press and has some SEAL goods on display. You can buy a t-shirt, coffee mug, and a mouse pad. Pretty cool stuff, but where is the case badge??

url - www.cafepress.com/pmad
(source: <http://pub8.ezboard.com/bsealsystem>)

[Latest Builds]

- SEAL
 - o 1D (042900)
 - o <http://www.home.sk/public/seal/sealex.exe.zip>

- V2_OS
 - o 0.70
 - o ftp://vp.dyn.dhs.org/0.70/v2_os.img

- AtheOS
 - o 0.3.0
 - o <http://www.atheos.cx/download/list.php3?0.3.0>

.....

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XSWEELY Shell Related News 13.01.01 - 19.01.01

Ok this letter is only about ohh a week late. I kinda got caught up in reading a book online which took most of last week and the beginning of this week. Sorry about that. I will be sending out this letter and this weeks letter today. By the way, look for the link to the book I was reading in the next letter in the interesting section.

- demigod

[Mail Bag]

This weeks mailbag question is:

Would you attend a Shell Conference?

e-mail - mailbag@xsweely.com
url - <http://www.xweekly.com/mail.html>

.....
-- Shell Specific --
.....

[Top News Stories]

- ShellCon NorthWest 2001 (9:55 26.01 na)

"I'm working on putting together a gathering of shell users and developers in the general Washington state area some time this summer. I've already spoken to a few people who are interested, so now I just need to get a list of people who are interested that I haven't contacted yet. The meeting place would probably be somewhere near Seattle, Washington, sometime between June and August of 2001. If you're in this area, or are willing to travel to Seattle for such an event, please let me know. I'll try and get an announcement list going if enough people contact me."

e-mail - rootrider@wsu.edu
(source: <http://www.ls2k.org>)

[Modules]

- WharfX 0.71 ~ TrOgI (9:57 26.01 ls)

This is a heavily modified Wharf module that allows for multiple wharfs, any size wharf, ect...

New in this version:

- Fixed .extract to work properly with dll's again (thanks to Michael Schwab-Trapp for the quich bug report)
- Changed separating character between normal and mouseover images from a colon to braces around the mouseover image
- Added mouseclick image to tiles

url - <http://desktopsource.mindjunction.com>
e-mail - crouson@inreach.com
(source: <http://floach.pimpin.net>)

+-----<*>-----+

- geekamp 1.9d ~ azathoth (10:00 26.01 ls)

geekamp is the now famous winamp front end modules.

New in this version:

- Bugfix: !amp_power works again, thanks to dolphinX or vega or whoever the hell you are these days for pointing that one out....

url - <http://azathoth.ls2k.org>
e-mail - azathoth@ls2k.org
(source: <http://floach.pimpin.net>)

[Web Sites]

- LiteStep Doc's All Over ~ DeViLbOi (10:01 16.01 ls)

The site for the official LSDoc's is pretty much everywhere.
Here is a list of the urls:

docs.litestep.com
docs.litestep.net
docs.litestep.org
manual.litestep.com
manual.litestep.net
manual.litestep.org

url - <http://docs.litestep.com>
e-mail - devilboi@litestep.com
(source: topic in #ls_help)

[Programs]

[Misc]

- Structured LiteStep Distro ~ Haoshiro (10:08 26.01 ls)

A new LS distro has hit the streets. This time it is based around a more ridged dir structure.

url - <http://fec.emulationworld.com/ls2k1/>

e-mail - haoshiro@oz-studios.com
(source: <http://floach.pimpin.net>)

[Latest Builds]

- LiteStep
 - o 24.6 build 010201
 - o <http://builds.litestep.net/builds/ls-0246-dev-20010102.zip>
- geOShell
 - o 4.6.5a
 - o <http://news.geoshell.com/Plugins/Download/geoshellr465a.zip>
- PureLS
 - o 052900
 - o <http://209.46.69.134/purels/binaries/00-05-29r.zip>

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[Programs]

- AView 0.2 ~ Kristian Van Der Vliet (10:57 15.01 at)

AView is an image viewer that can view multiple styles of images and has slideshow report.

New in this version:

- Changed to use the new libtransimage Translator Kit library

url - <http://www.vanders.pwp.blueyonder.co.uk/atheos.html>

e-mail - vanders@cablenet.co.uk

(source: AtheOS Mailing List ~ AView 0.2)

+-----<*>-----+

- ACalculator 0.2 ~ Chir (11:02 15.01 at)

ACaculator is a simple GUI pocket calculator.

url - http://www.geocities.com/chir_geo/atheos/index.html

e-mail - chir@geocities.com

(source: AtheOS Mailing List ~ my first AtheOS application)

[Latest Builds]

- SEAL
 - o 1D (042900)
 - o <http://www.home.sk/public/seal/sealexex.zip>
- V2_OS
 - o 0.70
 - o ftp://vp.dyn.dhs.org/0.70/v2_os.img
- AtheOS

- o 0.3.0
- o <http://www.atheos.cx/download/list.php3?0.3.0>

.....

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XSWEEKLY Shell Related News 20.01.01 - 26.01.01

It appears as if shells are becoming a pretty popular topic in some of the main stream media. Just today I got an e-mail from philsci that Win32 shells are being talked about in a rather popular web-mag in Japan. Shell Extension City was listed as the Help Site of the Week by ZDTV. A bunch of shells were discussed on the Investor's Business Daily site.

All this main stream publicity is great... or is it? Alot of the shells are not really made for beginners. While there have been a ton of leaps and bounds to make them simpler to use, we are still basically hand editing cong files or the registry. Maybe it's time that we start seriously considering making some GUI configuration a standard.

Now, I know that this is a pain to do, and will probably increase the size of the shells quite a bit. This, though, seems to be the way that we have to go if we are to make the shells more for the masses and less for the more advanced user. Still though, I wonder if this is even a good idea. LiteStep, geOShell, and the others were really never made with the common user in mind. They are all about tweaking your system out to the max. They were never created for the user who knows how to run three programs on their machine and that is it.

I know that I usually advocate the usage of shells to be more for the masses but I have a feeling that this turn of events may end up coming crashing down on us because of the complexity of the shells themselves. Of course, I could be totally wrong.

- demigod

[Mail Bag]

This weeks mailbag question is:

What do you look for in a shell/os site?

e-mail - mailbag@xsweely.com

url - <http://www.xswweekly.com/mail.html>

[Spotlight]

- Desktopian

While I probably do not need to spotlight this, there are still some people who don't know about it. This is one of the oldest shell related sites on the web. Starting off as Tin_Toys, it has grown into a very stable and information packed site. It's web masters tin_omen and qwilk keep up with interesting shell and tech news.

url - <http://www.desktopian.org>

.....
 -= Shell Specific =-
.....

[Top News Stories]

- MrJukes Releases All His Source Code (10:59 26.01 na)

Yup, you read it right. He has put the source to every module and program that he has written, including unreleased works, on his site. And yes, that is a MS e-mail you see.

url - <http://floach.pimpin.net/SecondPartySoftware/source/>
e-mail - bretan@microsoft.com
(source: <http://floach.pimpin.net>)

+-----<*>-----+

- Shells In The Japanese Media (11:30 26.01 na)

philsci sent me this very interesting link to a Japanese news site that has a multi-page article on Win32 shells. While I can not read any of it, it is still incredible to see the far reaching effects that shells are having.

url - <http://pcweb.mycom.co.jp/special/2001/w32shell/>
(source: philsci via e-mail)

[Modules]

- WharfX 0.8 ~ TrOgI (10:38 26.01 ls)

WharfX is a modified Wharf module that allows for multiple wharfs, any size wharf, etc...

New in this version:

- Almost a complete rewrite. Some of the code from b0.71 is still here.
- Revamped the wharf creation code and wharf classes.
- New syntax for using multiple wharfs (similar to multiple popups).
- Compatible with old wharf syntax.
- Wharf tiles now take on their own size from their image.
- All previous functionalities are supported except WharfCloseOnSwitch, !WharfTasks, and movement on resolution change.
- Now supports !Refresh.

url - <http://desktopsource.mindjunction.com>
e-mail - crouson@inreach.com
(source: LS Mailing List ~ WharfX b0.8 is ready for your...)

+-----<*>-----+

- LSNTTP 1.1 ~ Pigeon (10:43 26.01 ls)

Pigeon has ripped apart the old LSClock mod and made it into a NTP load module. Basically, you can use this to time sync up a bunch of machines by polling a box with NTP. While he isn't taking any credit for writing this because he tore apart LSClock, I think it's still a pretty nice mod.

url - <http://www.ls2k.org>
e-mail - pigeon@iname.com
(source: LS Mailing List ~ LSNTTP... NTP sync module...)

+-----<*>-----+

- Label 1.1 ~ Maduin (10:45 26.01 ls)

"Label.dll allows you to define multiple skinnable labels and place them anywhere on your desktop. The labels can display any text can be updated at run-time using bang commands."

url - <http://www.ls2k.org>
e-mail - kschaffe@kent.edu
(source: Maduin via IRC)

+-----<*>-----+

- jukeys 1.1q ~ qwilk (10:52 26.01 ls)

Looks as if qwilk has taken it upon himself to update some of MrJukes code that was opened up. Jukeys is a mod that allows for grouping of hotkeys.

New in this version:

- Added jukeysNoTitle (-> current group name not displayed)
- Added missing keys: Pause, Insert, Delete, Home, End, PageUp, PageDown, Tab, Backspace, Spacebar, Apps, Enter, Mul, Div, Add, Sub, Dec, Num0-Num9
- !Refresh support (only hotkey definitions are refreshed for now)
- Compiled with latest LSAPI; now uses LSExecuteEx instead

url - <http://www.desktopian.org>
e-mail - qwilk@desktopian.org
(source: <http://floach.pimpin.net>)

+-----<*>-----+

- HotSpots .54 ~ Pavel (10:56 26.01 ls)

After 7 months of dormancy, Pavel has thrown out a new Hotspots!! Hotspots is this nifty little mod that draws out invisible areas on your desktop. When your mouse passes over it you can execute bang commands.

New in this version:

- bugfix: hotspot not transparent: definitely fixed.
- bugfix: resource leak in cursor-handling.
- Improved fullscreen detection.
- "Delay" maximum value increased. (actually 864000 = 24h)

- (requested)
- Improved cursor setting code.
- Added HotspotsDisabledInFullScreen.
- Added 'F' flag. (enabled in Fullscreen)
- Added bangs !HotspotEnable / !HotspotDisable to control single hotspot. (Same as !HotspotUpdate "Name" "D")
- Added few new cursors.
- Now uses kmhook.dll. (keyboard-mouse systemwide hook) Copy it together with hotspots.dll.
- DLL overhead reduced.
- hotspots054.zip packed with 7-zip. (*much* better compression ratio compared to PKZIP, WinZip and others)

url - <http://floach.pimpin.net/pavel/>
e-mail - pavel.vitis@seznam.cz
(source: <http://floach.pimpin.net/pavel/>)

[Web Sites]

- FPN Get A New Look (11:03 26.01 na)

After over a year, rootrider and kuhndog have set about the task of giving a facelift to FPN. With a spiffy new logo, scanline bg, and some fancy new link colors, its looking pretty good.

url - <http://floach.pimpin.net>

[Programs]

- LS Themes .90 ~ galois (10:24 26.01 ls)

This program is for changing themes on the fly and some other basic shell functions.

New in this version:

- Added support for windowblinds.
- Added preliminary shell support.
- Reorganised the code.
- Fixed the running under another shell issue.
- Fixed some Windows 9x issues.
- Lots of other minor stuff.
- PS. If people would like it to support pLS please let me know.

url - <http://floach.pimpin.net/galois/>
e-mail - galois@chungkuo.net
(source: <http://floach.pimpin.net>)

[Latest Builds]

- LiteStep
 - o 24.6 build 010201
 - o <http://builds.litestep.net/builds/ls-0246-dev-20010102.zip>

- geOShell
 - o 4.6.5a
 - o <http://news.geoshell.com/Plugins/Download/geoshellr465a.zip>
- PureLS
 - o 052900
 - o <http://209.46.69.134/purels/binaries/00-05-29r.zip>

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 == Alt OS Specific ==

 [Latest Builds]

- SEAL
 - o 1.0E
 - o <http://michalopoylos.tripod.com/seal/sle-disk.zip>
- V2_OS
 - o 0.70
 - o ftp://vp.dyn.dhs.org/0.70/v2_os.img

- AtheOS
 - o 0.3.0
 - o <http://www.atheos.cx/download/list.php3?0.3.0>

.....
 == Beyond the Specifics ==

 [Interesting]

- Underground

This is an online book (also in print) about hackers from the mid 80's in Australia, the UK, and the US. It is a very in depth book on the mind set of each of the individuals and how hacking affected their lives. These are true stories and I think that it makes the book all that much better. If you have the time, give it a read, it really keep me riveted.

url - <http://rubberhose.sourceforge.net/underground/>

.....

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XSWEEKLY Shell Related News 27.01.01 - 02.02.01

I have brought this next topic up a few months ago and I'm going to bring it up again, not giving credit where credit is due. In the past this was happening with people taking modules or hacks and not giving out credit, now its happening with news posts on web sites.

Recently the trend seems to be nipping news from another site and not even bothering to link or mention the site it came from. This is a horrible practice as you are now ripping someone else's work and just taking the credit for your own. It is like a slap in the face to the person who posted it first. They take the time and effort to go out and find the news, post about it, just to have another site come along, rip it, and give no credit.

Something needs to change here people. Everyone is always going on about community, but it doesn't seem to apply to the web sites. Why is this? Are we all not apart of the community? Because we are more visible than say the average user this makes us exempt from basic courtesy? When I post in here, I always have a link to the source, even if I goto a mod coders site and see a post there for one of their mods, I put that in. The least the news sites could do is give credit to the other news site that it was ripped from.

Some people seem to think I'm out of line here. That I'm not thinking too much of myself or the site that I am affiliated with. This is far from the truth. We all put a ton of effort into our sites and whether its more prudent to have news on one site or another doesn't take away from the fact that someone did the leg work and should get credit for it. Period.

- demigod

[Mail Bag]

This weeks mailbag question is:

What would you like to see in XSWeekly?

e-mail - mailbag@xsweely.com

url - <http://www.xswweekly.com/mail.html>

[Spotlight]

- Crank's Site

This is a site that I see asked for at least 3 or 4 times a week. Crank coded the now infamous transirc client. For those of you who like eyecandy, this is a page for you.

url - <http://members.nbci.com/lstthemes/>

[Shell Of The Week]

- Graphite

Coded by mian, this is a totally script driven shell. JS, VBS, just about any script can be used. Because of this, it makes for a very powerful themeing engine. For regular end users, it can be configured via a GUI interface for ease of use.

url - <http://www.graphite.sh>

.....
 -- Shell Specific --
.....

[Top News Stories]

- A New pLS Build ~ jugg/ender (12:50 29.01 pls)

Yes folks, after months of waiting, a new build of PureLS has been released. Now, because neither jugg nor ender decided that keeping a change log made sense, I can't tell you what has changed. Just go and download the thing already.

url - <http://www.purels.org>
(source: PureLS Mailing List ~ Its here! Go grab it.)

+-----<*>-----+

- SharpE Public Beta Released ~ Lowspirit (9:24 31.01 oth)

After months of waiting, SharpE (formally ShareOS) has been released to the public. While I have tested this shell out in the past, it has since become much more mature. It is now totally modular and incorporates everything you are looking for in a shell. Test drive this baby today.

url - <http://www.lowdimension.net>
e-mail - lowspirit@mail.bip.net
(source: <http://www.lowdimension.net>)

+-----<*>-----+

- LiteStep.net Design Ripped (01.02 9:39 1a)

cccp hoped on irc last night and threw up a url to the most blatant rip I have ever seen. The really horrible part about it is not only didn't they even change the name of the css file it calls to, but the logo is just a poor rip of the LiteStep logo.

url - <http://www.mmsystems.uk.com/>
(source: cccp via irc)

[Modules]

- Kill Process 1.0 ~ Pavel (9:33 29.01 ls)

Kill process will allow you to kill an active thread or close a window via bang command.

url - <http://floach.pimpin.net/pavel/>
e-mail - pavel.vitis@seznam.cz
(source: <http://floach.pimpin.net/pavel/>)

+-----<*>-----+

- jKey 0.33 ~ jugg (9:47 29.01 ls)

"jKey.dll is Hotkey manager for Win32 Shells. jKey is based off the idea of LiteStep's Hotkey.dll, but offers more features and configuration options with less overhead."

url - <http://jugg.logicpd.com/>
e-mail - jugg@dylern.com
(source: <http://www.litestep.net>)

+-----<*>-----+

- HotSpots 0.55 ~ Pavel (9:17 31.01 ls)

"With Hotspots you can define transparent rectangular areas on the screen called "hotspots". You will get ability to trigger events (execute programs or !bangs) on mouse over, or on mouse click. You can also attach different cursor shape to each hotspot."

New in this version:

- Hotspot can be attached to specified window(s)
idea by: [xnowfall <xnowfall@xnowerks.org>](mailto:xnowfall@xnowerks.org)
- Add '@' before program name to run it hidden
- Added HotspotsWindowAnimation parameter
- Hotspots are disabled during mouse-dragging
- "Name" parameter in commands/bangs may include wildcards (see Note below)
- Restoring of application window improved - when application is already running and "0" (one instance) flag was used
- Optimizations of window handling code
- Delay time now in 1/100 second ticks (it means, add 0 to all your current Delay parameters)
- Uses new kmhook.dll v1.1
- Adjusted to work on PureLS 28.01.01

url - <http://floach.pimpin.net/pavel/>
e-mail - pavel.vitis@seznam.cz
(source: <http://floach.pimpin.net/pavel/>)

+-----<*>-----+

- Bypassload 1.0 ~ Pavel (01.02 9:09 ls)

"This module allows to bypass module loading at Litestep startup / recycle by holding defined shift key."

url - <http://floach.pimpin.net/pavel/>
e-mail - pavel.vitis@seznam.cz
(source: <http://www.ls2k.org>)

[Web Sites]

- ShellON On The Move

delusional has uprooted and moved on over to a new host.
Along with the move comes a new site design and some info
on the next version of ShellOn, his shell boot manager.

url - <http://delusional.pSIONstyle.co.uk>
e-mail - delusional@pSIONstyle.co.uk
(source: delusional via e-mail)

[Latest Builds]

- LiteStep

- o 24.6 build 010201
- o <http://builds.litestep.net/builds/ls-0246-dev-20010102.zip>

- geOShell

- o 4.6.5a
- o <http://news.geoshell.com/Plugins/Download/geoshellr465a.zip>

- PureLS

- o 012201
- o <http://www.purels.org/binaries/01-01-28r.zip>

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 -= Alt OS Specific =-
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[Programs]

- Desktop 3.3 ~ Julien (11:16 29.01 sel)

Julien's SEAL Desktop has now been updated, and this is
a critical update. Along with a bunch of important bug
fixes, he has also included a color changer.

url - <http://www.seal.ht.st/>
e-mail - julien@pmad.net
(source: <http://www.seal.ht.st/>)

+-----<*>-----+

- usrutilities 0.1 ~ Jarret Raim (12:04 02.02 ath)

"userutilities are a collections of programs to add and
remove users as well as allow users to change their passwords
forthe AtheOS operating system."

url - <http://www.resnet.trinity.edu/jraim/>
e-mail - jarito@gci-net.com

(source: AtheOS Mailing List ~ Release....)

[Latest Builds]

- SEAL
 - o 1.0E
 - o <http://michalopoylos.tripod.com/seal/sle-disk.zip>
- V2_OS
 - o 0.70
 - o ftp://vp.dyn.dhs.org/0.70/v2_os.img
- AtheOS
 - o 0.3.0
 - o <http://www.atheos.cx/download/list.php3?0.3.0>

.....

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- jAMPtoo 1.0 ~ Wout! (10:15 05.02 ls)

jAMPtoo is a modified version of MrJukes jAMP module.
jAMP is a winamp title scrolling mod that now boasts a few
new features such as more font options, better transparency,
and LSBox support.

url - <http://www.ls2k.org>
e-mail - wout@graffiti.net
(source: <http://www.ls2k.org>)

+-----<*>-----+

- Label 1.2 ~ Maduin (11:10 06.02 ls)

"Label.dll allows you to define multiple skinnable labels and
place them anywhere on your desktop. The labels can display
any text can be updated at run-time using bang commands."

New in this version:

- Added support for system info in labels. just put the name
of the info you want inside brackets. ("The time is [time]")
 - activeTask (title of the currently active task)
 - computerName
 - cpu
 - date
 - memAvailable
 - memInUse
 - memTotal
 - os
 - swapAvailable
 - swapInUse
 - swapTotal
 - time
 - userName
- Added support for functions to modify sysinfo.
("[lowerCase(computerName)]")
 - lowerCase
 - upperCase
- Known issue: [cpu] doesn't work on NT/2K yet.
- Known issue: documentation is out of date.
- Bugfix: doesn't crash under PureLS anymore.

url - <http://www.ls2k.org>
e-mail - kschaffe@kent.edu
(source: <http://floach.pimpin.net>)

+-----<*>-----+

- rcx ~ Maduin (9:35 08.02 ls)

rcx is a module for controlling Lego Mindstorm creations
via bang commands. I'm not sure exactly what the commands
are as there is no read me.

url - <http://trident.mcs.kent.edu/~kschaffe/>
e-mail - kschaffe@kent.edu
(source: <http://trident.mcs.kent.edu/~kschaffe/>)

+-----<*>-----+

- taskSwitcher ~ Maduin (9:36 08.02 1s)

Another of Maduin's previously unreleased modules. This one allows you to switch through current running windows tasks via bang commands. Again, no readme.

url - <http://trident.mcs.kent.edu/~kschaffe/>

e-mail - kschaffe@kent.edu

(source: <http://trident.mcs.kent.edu/~kschaffe/>)

+-----<*>-----+

- jukeys 2.0q ~ qwilk (9:38 08.02 1s)

qwilk just e-mailed me that he has released version 2 of his hotkey modules and boy is it an update.

"Hello all...

Today I released the new, much improved, jukeys 2.0q! :D ..and this time, I posted the news at desktopian *before* telling you guys... =) I am very tired right now, so I'll just quote MrJukes on this one: Have fun!

Thanks,
Karl"

New in this version:

- Added jukeysOffsetX <offset>, jukeysOffsetY <offset> (works the same way as in LSXCommand)
- Added jukeysGroupShow, jukeysGroupX <offset>, jukeysGroupY <offset>
- Removed jukeysNoTitle (replaced by the new Group commands)
- Added jukeysCommandShow, jukeysCommandX <offset>, jukeysCommandY <offset>
- Added jukeysCommandColor <color>, jukeysErrorColor <color>
- Added jukeysMsgErrorCmd <message>, jukeysMsgErrorBang <message>
- Added jukeysErrorSound <path\to\.wav>
- Added jukeysMouseLeft <n>, jukeysMouseRight <n>, jukeysMouseMiddle <n>
- Added a new "select group" popup menu for easy group switching
- Added !jukeysPopup, !jukeysPopupGroups
- Added !jukeysRepeat
- Added !jukeysMove, !jukeysMove <x> <y>
- Added !jukeysSetCommand <command> <args> and !jukeysSetError <message> as an interface to the "world outside" (other modules)... =)
- Added missing key: Escape
- Now repositions automatically on screen resolution change
- Change: "!jkSwitchTo" is now "!jukeysSwitchTo" - just like all the other bangs
- Change: A background bitmap now has precedence over background colour, like in all other LiteStep modules...
- Fixed: Everything (?) is updated on !Refresh now
- Fixed: Multi-modifier hotkeys wasn't displayed correctly in the popup menu
- Fixed: jukeysFontFace wasn't working
- Fixed: Switching to a non-existing group was possible
- Fixed: Bang scripting (!execute [command1][command2]...)

- now works
- Included a background bitmap, an error sound and a jukeys.rc configuration file
 - Cleaned up the code, added more comments (source to be released soon!)

url - <http://www.desktopian.org>
e-mail - qwilk@desktopian.org
(source: qwilk via e-mail)

[Web Sites]

- Interface Workshop Has A New Look ~ philsci(9:59 08.02 na)

How I missed this I'm not sure, sorry philsci. IW has a new look and is now located in a new directory. Same great insight, just a fancy new look. Check it out.

url - <http://www.interq.or.jp/jupiter/philsci/iw-html-01>
(source: <http://www.interq.or.jp/jupiter/philsci/iw-html-01>)

[Programs]

- ShellON 2.20 ~ delusional (11:00 05.02 na)

ShellON is a full feature shell/boot manager that boasts a ton of useful features.

New in this version:

- The 'Set xxx As Shell' button now works! (I'm sure it used to, but then I noticed it didn't...:)
- All file names written as shells are shortened to 8.3 file names, as this is required by Windows.
- Double clicking the shell list now acts as 'Log Off and Load' button does.
- Icons in Shell List.
- Shell List Popup Menu.
- Different Views for Shell List.
- New About screen and Launcher screens. Now much cooler!
- Removed Advanced and Basic Interfaces - more confusing than helpful.
- Increased the delay before icons are made transparent at startup, so they usually are now.
- Improved the Wallpaper folder checking procedure. It should be quite a lot faster now, as it only does one pass rather than one for each file type.
- Altered layout of Wallpaper list tab (slightly), larger preview image now.

url - <http://delusional.pSIONstyle.co.uk/shellon/>
e-mail - ezines.mike@virgin.net
(source: delusional via e-mail)

+-----<*>-----+

- SharpMP3 0.08a ~ kaiden (11:09 05.02 se)

While this is primarily an mp3 player for SharpE, it can be a stand alone player. It is pretty simple now but looks like it will be a great addition to SharpE.

url - <http://sharpe.ninthstar.net/>
e-mail - kaiden@sharapeshell.com
(source: <http://sharpe.ninthstar.net/>)

+-----<*>-----+

[Misc]

- Hotline Control 1.0 ~ Visigoth (9:32 08.02 na)

This program is for allowing Hotline to run under alternative shells. Thats all it does, but it does is masterfully.

url - <http://floach.pimpin.net/visigoth>
e-mail - gandhimail@worldnet.att.net
(source: LS Mailing List ~ Hotline Users: Rejoice!)

+-----<*>-----+

- Bryan Spruces Up The Mailing Lists ~ Bryan Kilian (10:10 09.02 na)

Bryan, list owner of the LS and Stuff mailing lists, has hacked up some new features for the lists. He is now indexing the lists every 6hrs, has added a better search engine, new stats, and a host of other useful thing.

url - <http://wuzzle.org/list/>
e-mail - bryan@wuzzle.org
(source: LS Mailing List ~ Some changes)

[Latest Builds]

- LiteStep

- o 24.6 build 010201
- o <http://builds.litestep.net/builds/ls-0246-dev-20010102.zip>

- geOShell

- o 4.6.5a
- o <http://news.geoshell.com/Plugins/Download/geoshellr465a.zip>

- PureLS

- o 012201
- o <http://www.purels.org/binaries/01-01-28r.zip>

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[Programs]

- BadSEAL 0.52 ~ Bad Sector (13:22 05.02 sel)

BadSEAL is the most complete SEAL distro out there. It has a hord of configuration features and programs.

Note: This is only an update, you must have BadSEAL 0.5 installed.

New in this version:

- Ability to change colors, style of menus, taskbar position, 'bad seal' menu icons, close/minimize/maximize/bad seal menu icons.
- You can add background images to title bar.
- You can do many combinations to change Bad Seal's interface as you like it.

url - <http://www.badseal.org>
e-mail - michalopoylos@hotmail.com
(source: <http://www.badseal.org>)

[Latest Builds]

- SEAL
 - o 1.0E
 - o <http://michalopoylos.tripod.com/seal/sle-disk.zip>
- V2_OS
 - o 0.70
 - o ftp://vp.dyn.dhs.org/0.70/v2_os.img
- AtheOS
 - o 0.3.1
 - o <http://www.atheos.cx/download/list.php3?0.3.1>

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 -= Beyond the Specifics =-
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[Programs]

- dCD and dRun
- delusional, the coder of ShellON, has whipped up two new programs. dCD is a tiny 225kb cd player and dRun is a 240kb floating run application. Both take up almost no memory and are very useful.

url - <http://delusional.pSIONstyle.co.uk/>

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XSWEEKLY Shell Related News 10.02.01 - 16.02.01

You know, each week I sit in front of my kb pondering what to write about. Each week I wait until the last minute and usually come up with something really horrible or really harsh. There seems to be no in between. Something either grabs me and I go off on a tangent or I have nothing to write about and something like this pops up out of my kb.

I think I need a new hobby really. Sitting 12 to 14 hrs in front of a computer isn't doing it for me any more. Eight hours at work, then I go home, play with my daughter until she goes down for the night, then firing up my home system and spending another 6 hours on that. I think there is still a sun but I'm not totally sure. Sleep is something that other people do I swear. If I'm not on the computer I'm playing some game or tweaking my LAN. I really do need to get a life here.

With all that said, in the coming months, XSWeekly, and any other project that I am working on may come to an end. I will be moving over to NOC here at work and the birth of my next child will be sometime in May. With the new position and a new baby, I will have little to no time for anything other than real life. Hopefully I will still have enough time to do this letter and maybe another project or two but as it is looking now, probably not. There goes my idea of a life huh?

- demigod

[Mail Bag]

This weeks mailbag question is:

What is your favorite shell/os site?

e-mail - mailbag@xsweely.com
url - <http://www.xswweekly.com/mail.html>

[Spotlight]

- #LiteStep

Before root went on his hiatus, he redid the PoundLS page. This is a site for people who hang out in #litestep on efnet. If you are a regular or want to check out the bio on someone, swing on by there.

url - <irc.litestep.net>

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[Top News Stories]

- rootrider Is Taking A Break ~ rootrider (10:09 13.02 na)

Seems that root has spent so much time doing CS and LS stuff that it has started to interfere with his real life. He posted on fpn that he will be taking some time away from all computer life to see if he can't work things out in the real world. Good luck man.

url - <http://floach.pimpin.net>
(source: <http://floach.pimpin.net>)

+-----<*>-----+

- Necro Filling In ~ necro (9:43 14.02 na)

Necro, famed author of the LSFAQ, is lending a hand over at FPN while rootrider is away sorting out real life. Great to see people helping out like that. Way to go man.

url - <http://floach.pimpin.net>
(source: <http://floach.pimpin.net>)

[Modules]

- jAMPtoo 1.11 ~ Wout! (10:15 05.02 ls)

jAMPtoo is a modified version of MrJukes jAMP module. jAMP is a winamp title scrolling mod that now boasts a few new features such as more font options, better transparency, and LSBox support.

New in this version:

- Added: + Scrolling!!! Got quite a lot of requests, so here it is, two different types of scrolling even!
- Time display! You can now display the play-time in a different place than the (scrolling) text!
- Hide when winamp not loaded (for non LSBox/wharf use)

url - <http://www.ls2k.org>
e-mail - wout@graffiti.net
(source: <http://www.ls2k.org>)

+-----<*>-----+

- Tasks 0.91 ~ repugnant (10:10 13.02 ls)

Tasks.dll is one of the most popular modules for LiteStep. It is a highly configurable task manager originally written by jugg.

New in this version:

- Updated Jugg's task module to handle negative coordinates in the !TasksMove command. Much thanks go out to Jugg for the module and for walking me through how to fix it.

url - <http://www.ls2k.org>
e-mail - repugnant_shit@hotmail.com
(source: <http://www.ls2k.org>)

[Programs]

- SharpMP3 0.10a ~ kaiden (14.45 13.02 se)

"SharpMP3 sports a complete rewrite. Every bit of the code has been completely rewritten & now fully supports skinning for everything. However i didn't really want to release this yet because there's lots i wanted to do but I'm very strapped for time for the next week or two. So expect slow updates to it. Now go download it and get to skinning."

url - <http://sharpe.ninthstar.net/>
e-mail - kaiden@sharapeshell.com
(source: <http://sharpe.ninthstar.net/>)

[Misc]

- LiteStep Module Configurator ~ Flea (10:13 14.02 ls)

Got a submission from Flea that he has updated his online LiteStep Mod Configurator. This is a nifty little site that will generate working .rc code for the selected module.

New in this version:

- Better organization of modules.
- Default values entered automatically.
- Color picker popup box for fields that require a color.
- Autocheck for integer fields and color fields.
- Ability to download the module you're configuring.
- More modules.
- And so many more changes.

url - <http://www.worlddismine.org/litestep/mod-config.php>
e-mail - vdang@worlddismine.org
(source: Flea via submission)

[Latest Builds]

- LiteStep

- o 24.6 build 010201
- o <http://builds.litestep.net/builds/ls-0246-dev-20010102.zip>

- geOShell

- o 4.6.5a
- o <http://news.geoshell.com/Plugins/Download/geoshellr465a.zip>

- PureLS

- o 012201
- o <http://www.purels.org/binaries/01-01-28r.zip>

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[Web Sites]

- Vanders on the move ~ vanders (11:37 16.02 at)

Vanders, author of AEdit, AView, and a few other AtheOS programs, has moved his site and given it a bit of a face lift.

url - www.vanders.pwp.blueyonder.co.uk
e-mail - vanders@cableinet.co.uk
(source: AtheOS Mailing List ~ Just a quick note)

[Latest Builds]

- SEAL

- o 1.0E
- o <http://michalopoylos.tripod.com/seal/sle-disk.zip>

- V2_OS

- o 0.70
- o ftp://vp.dyn.dhs.org/0.70/v2_os.img

- AtheOS

- o 0.3.1
- o <http://www.atheos.cx/download/list.php3?0.3.1>

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XSWEEKLY Shell Related News 17.02.01 - 23.02.01

Super light weight letter this week because I was training a new kid here at work that has since left for various reasons. This next letter will be back up to speed. No, I haven't left you all yet, and I'm hoping that I won't have to at all.

- demigod

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 -= Shell Specific =-
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[Top News Stories]

- ODP For Alternative Shells Horrible ~ philsci (15:34 19.02 na)

Saw this over at IW. Seems that the Open Directory Project section on Alt Shells is run by a dead moderator. Looking though it shows that tin_omen's site is still Tin_Toys and sites like mines, ls2k, IW, ect.. are no where in site. This is pretty much a travesty if you ask me as ODP is a pretty popular directory for open source minded people. Maybe we need to start beating on some doors here and get a real mod in there.

url - <http://dmoz.org/>
(source: <http://www.interq.or.jp/jupiter/philsci/iw-html-01/index.html>)

[Modules]

- Rainmeter ~ Rainy (10:15 23.02 ls)

This is a simple CPU/MEM load meter. It is not a wharf mod but a loadmodule. It is in it's infancy and may not work for your system. Also, Win9x is NOT supported.

url - <http://gamma.nic.fi/~rainy/>
e-mail - rainy@iki.fi
(source: <http://gamma.nic.fi/~rainy/>)

[Web Sites]

- The Borg's LiteStep Collective ~ TheBORG (15:09 19.02 ls)

TheBORG is at it again, this time he has a new idea. No more commands, now he is doing a bunch of nifty things. Girls of LiteStep, Splash Screens, etc.

url - <http://collective.ls2k.org>

e-mail - borg@ls2k.org
(source: <http://www.ls2k.org>)

[Misc]

- Wuzzle Forum ~ Bryan (14:22 21.02 na)

Bryan has set up a forum over at wuzzle for discussing anything related to any of the lists that he hosts. Head on over and post!

url - <http://www.wuzzle.org/forums>
e-mail - bryan@wuzzle.org
(source: <http://www.ls2k.org>)

[Latest Builds]

- LiteStep

- o 24.6 build 010201
- o <http://builds.litestep.net/builds/ls-0246-dev-20010102.zip>

- geOShell

- o 4.6.5a
- o <http://news.geoshell.com/Plugins/Download/geoshellr465a.zip>

- PureLS

- o 012201
- o <http://www.purels.org/binaries/01-01-28r.zip>

.....
 -= Alt OS Specific =-
.....

[Latest Builds]

- SEAL

- o 1.0E
- o <http://michalopoylos.tripod.com/seal/sle-disk.zip>

- V2_OS

- o 0.70
- o ftp://vp.dyn.dhs.org/0.70/v2_os.img

- AtheOS

- o 0.3.1
- o <http://www.atheos.cx/download/list.php3?0.3.1>

.....
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If you would like to unsubscribe from XSWeekly at any time, simply send an e-mail to xswweekly-unsubscribe@wuzzle.org and you will be removed. You can e-mail me at demigod@xsweekly.com with any questions, suggestions, etc.

XSWEEKLY Shell Related News 24.02.01 - 02.03.01

All these problems lately with LS.net and FPN being down shed a light on something. There are so few shell related web sites these days. When those sites went down, LS2K was the only place left to check out news. While this is great for LS2k, it isn't all that great for users.

I can remember about a year ago there were a lot of sites, either specialized or general, about shells. Now I can name only a few. What happened? Was it the cut in payout of banner ads? Lack of interest in Win32 shells? Lack of time? I'm sure that all of these play a part, but where are the new sites to take there place?

I really don't know what kind of impact this has on the shell community as a whole, but I'm pretty sure it isn't all that good. We have seen with FPN and Desktopian going down that there were no other places to go for general shell news. Oh sure, Shell Extension City was still up, but he isn't shell specific like the others. What we need are more general shell specific sites out there like there used to be. Even dedicated ones specific to one or two shells would be nice. I'm not talking about geoshell.com, I'm talking about Phil GeoShell House O' News kind of thing. InterfaceWorkshop fills this gap nicely, but a lot of his news is for his Japanese audience only.

I guess this is more of a call to arms more than anything. With the recent downtimes it is now more evident that we need other alternatives for news besides a few major sites. I myself try to cover more and more shells as time goes by, but my time is limited and becoming more limited by the day.

What I am suggesting is that you take a look at places like FPN and InterfaceWorkshop and go from there. Take what interests you and do up a page on it. It doesn't have to be elaborate or take a ton of time. I think we just need a few more people to contribute back into the shell community to have it flourish once again.

- demigod

[Mail Bag]

This weeks mailbag question is:

Do you think there are enough shell related web sites?

e-mail - mailbag@xsweely.com
url - <http://www.xsweekly.com/mail.html>

[Spotlight]

- NeXTer's Dominion

NeXTer, famous for his work on the LS core, has up and moved his site on over to ls2k.org. Here you will find some of his personal software and insights on a bunch of stuff.

url - <http://nexter.ls2k.org>

.....
 -= Shell Specific =-
.....

[Top News Stories]

- LiteStep.net In Trouble (9:59 28.02 na)

Pimpin.net which hosts ls.net and a host of other sites, is down grading from dual ds3's to a dsl 1.1 because the banners are no longer covering the cost of the bandwidth. LiteStep.net is now in need of new hosts because the dsl 1.1 will not be able to support the amount of bandwidth that it pushes. If you can offer any help, please e-mail cccp.

%%UPDATE%% (10:31 01.03)

After only a day of downtime, they have found a host. FPN and LiteStep.net will now be moved to deskmod. Once the dns kicks in everything will be up and running once more.

url - <http://www.litestep.net>
e-mail - cccp@litestep.net
(source: <http://www.litestep.net>)

+-----<*>-----+

- LiteStep Mailing List Page Competition ~ Bryan (11:52 28.02 na)

Bryan, owner of the LS mailing list, has asked for a redo of the list page at wuzzle.org. From the e-mail to the list:

"I'm having a competition,

"I want someone to make the litestep list pages look cool, unfortunately, you have a bunch of restrictions.

"Only very minimal changes to the html will be allowed, and none to the list display pages (the threads and messages)

"However, the stylesheet is fair game.

"here is the current stylesheet:
<http://wuzzle.org/list/lists.css.txt>

"Get creative, you'd be amazed what you can do with a stylesheet.

"Winner gets credit, and an email address @litestep.ru.ac.za or wuzzle.org or wherever.

"The pages to be changed: <http://wuzzle.org/list>

"Bryan"

url - <http://wuzzle.org/list>
e-mail - bryan@wuzzle.org
(source: LS Mailing List)

+-----<*>-----+

- FPN on LockerGnome.com ~ rootrider (12:42 28.02 na)

In the new Daily Update on lockergnome.com, Chris points out root's review of WinXP. Another great step for the shell community, and a pretty decent write up by root too.

url - <http://floach.pimpin.net>
e-mail - rootrider@wsu.edu
(source: <http://floach.pimpin.net>)

+-----<*>-----+

- DTop/Chunkymunky Gone ~ yaso (13:22 28.02 na)

Yaso has decided to completely shut down dtop.org. After the name battle over chunkymunky and the switch to dtop, the site degraded to almost no posts. There is, however, a light at the end of this tunnel. Yaso is coding up a new site, skinnerz.com. No word on exactly what this site will be about but it seems mildly obvious from the name.

e-mail - yaso@bigfoot.com
(source: <http://www.dtop.org>)

[Modules]

- geekamp 1.9.61 ~ azathoth (11:46 28.02 ls)

geekamp is a front end for winamp and now for sonique.

New in this version:

- !Amp_PlayPause now opens Winamp if not already open.
(Suggestion by Poul Dam)
- !Amp_PowerOn now focuses the player if it is already open.
- !Amp_PowerOn now works again.
- Code restructuring leads to slightly faster executing time
(think 1 or 2 cycles)
- Constants redefined for easier source reading.
- Slapped myself on the head for being so damn stupid in the code.
- Re-wrote readme.txt to be more concise and easy to read.
- Added changes.txt to shorten main readme size.

url - <http://www.ls2k.org>
e-mail - azathoth@ls2k.org
(source: <http://www.ls2k.org>)

+-----<*>-----+

- Lockpc 1.1 ~ Repugnant (12:37 28.02 ls)

"A small (3K) module that will let you lock your computer through the !LockPC bang command. This is intended for Windows 2000 users only (though it should work with Whistler too)."

%%UPDATE%% (10:35 01.03)

- Works with NT4.

url - <http://www.personal.psu.edu/jew208/>
e-mail - repugnant2k@hotmail.com
(source: <http://www.ls2k.org>)

+-----<*>-----+

- geOAmpList, AmpVol, and AmpTime ~ Rattboi (13:41 28.02 geo)

Rattboi has coded up three geo plugins for winamp. They are pretty self explanatory off of the names.

url - <http://damienent.8m.com/Programs.html>
e-mail - bradonk@hotmail.com
(source: <http://damienent.8m.com/Programs.html>)

+-----<*>-----+

- Label 1.3 ~ Maduin (11:05 02.03 ls)

Maduin has thrown out another version of his desktop label program. From the changes this is becoming a swiss army knife of a module.

New in this version:

- Added support for multiple "Labels" commands.
- Added the following sysinfo functions.
 - o hostName
 - o IP
 - o randomLine('file')
- Added the following support functions.
 - o capitalize(x)
 - o trim(x)
- Added LabelUpdateInterval: number of milliseconds between updates.
- Fixed various transparency issues.
- Known issue: if one item in a label autoupdates, the whole label will do so, so don't mix stuff like randomLine with CPU/mem, etc.
- Again I haven't updated the docs... next time, I promise! =)

url - <http://trident.mcs.kent.edu/~kschaffe/>
e-mail - kschaffe@kent.edu
(source: <http://floach.pimpin.net>)

[Web Sites]

- LiteStep Magazine Online ~ avs (12:33 28.02 ls)

This looks like it will be an all in one litestep site.

Some of the future projects will be a list of modules with description, positives, and negatives, themeing tutorials, and a ton of other LS related items and articles.

url - <http://avs.ls2k.org/>
e-mail - avs@myrealbox.com
(source: <http://www.ls2k.org>)

+-----<*>-----+

- LSDev On SourceForge (11:09 02.03 ls)

The LS Dev team's current home is up and running. This may be just a temporary housing, or it could become permanent. As of right now there is a main page, ability to submit bugs and post to a simple board. I'll keep you posted as to the permanent location of the dev team.

url - <http://sourceforge.net/projects/litestep/>
(source: <http://sourceforge.net/projects/litestep/>)

[Programs]

- ShellON 2.30 ~ delusional (13:25 28.02 na)

ShellON is a full featured shell manager. It boasts a ton of other features such as the ability to load an unlimited number of shells, crash protection, and a ton of others.

New in this version:

- Crash protection (!) Added a thread that sits waiting for the shell to close.
- Added install parameter to set ShellON as the default system shell.
- Moved the Parameter code in the config program so it checks earlier in the load process. It is much quicker now.
- You can drag the Launcher windows around.
- Moved wallpaper code for Launcher to a separate thread, so you don't have to wait for all the wallpaper stuff before you can load your shell.
- Hopefully done more fixing for the NT/2k code.
- Wallpaper order was not maintained when Monitor Folders function was used.
- Altered the form settings so the forms appear screen center, not desktop center. Sometimes the forms would appear half on each of two monitors.
- Changed some of the Windows to tool windows. For no reason.
- Put the new email and site addresses into the Help File.
- Deleted the main form, doh! Luckily I had a 2.19 backup, but there was still some coding to redo:(

url - <http://delusional.pSIONstyle.co.uk/>
e-mail - delusional@psionstyle.co.uk
(source: delusional via e-mail)

[Latest Builds]

- LiteStep (not available at time of publishing)
 - o 24.6 build 010201
 - o <http://builds.litestep.net/builds/ls-0246-dev-20010102.zip>
- geOShell
 - o 4.6.5a
 - o <http://news.geoshell.com/Plugins/Download/geoshellr465a.zip>
- PureLS
 - o 012201
 - o <http://www.purels.org/binaries/01-01-28r.zip>

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 -= Alt OS Specific =-

 [Programs]

- SealBuilder 1.01 ~ Ganesh (14:55 28.02 sel)

This is a program generator for SEAL. It is written in Vb and supports the following objects:

- +StatText
- +TextBox
- +CommandButton
- +VTrackBar (from Bad Controls)
- +DriveList
- +FolderList
- +Editor

url - <http://ganisoft.virtualave.net/seal/>
 e-mail - gruswami@emirates.net.ae
 (source: <http://pub8.ezboard.com/bsealsystem>)

+-----<*>-----+

- AZoom - chir (10:50 01.03 at)

AZoom is a basic pixel zoomer app for AtheOS. It allows for multiple sized magnification and the opening of any gfx file.

url - http://www.geocities.com/chir_geo/atheos
 e-mail - chir@geocities.com
 (source: AtheOS Mailing List)

 [Web Sites]

- BadSEAL.org Shut Down ~ BadSector (13:47 28.02 sel)

I'm not sure why it has been shut down but it has. Currently you can access BadSEAL via this new url:

<http://www.crosswinds.net/~badseal/>

BadSector will set up the badseal.org redirect in the

future.

url - <http://www.crosswinds.net/~badseal/>
(source: <http://pub8.ezboard.com/bsealsystem>)

[Latest Builds]

- SEAL (not available at time of publishing)
 - o 1.0E
 - o <http://michalopoylos.tripod.com/seal/sle-disk.zip>
- V2_OS
 - o 0.70
 - o ftp://vp.dyn.dhs.org/0.70/v2_os.img
- AtheOS
 - o 0.3.1
 - o <http://www.atheos.cx/download/list.php3?0.3.1>

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 -= Beyond the Specifics =-
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[Interesting]

- What's Wrong With Copy Protection

If you haven't read this yet, do so. It is a very well written and thought out article on what is really wrong with copy protection and the way that companies are using it as if they were laws.

url - <http://www.toad.com/gnu/whatswrong.html>

[Programs]

- Scope b4

Fahim is back to coding, but not a shell this time. Scope is a very small, multi-window browser that is coded off of the IE engine. If you are looking for a small, fast browser, this is the one for you.

url - <http://cyberian.tripod.com>

.....

If you would like to unsubscribe from XSWeekly at any time, simply send an e-mail to xswweekly-unsubscribe@wuzzle.org and you will be removed. You can e-mail me at demigod@xsweekly.com with any questions, suggestions, etc.

XSWEEKLY Shell Related News 24.03.01 - 30.03.01

Well, after I took off close to a month again to get myself worked out, I am back. Sorry again about the downtime but things in my life are getting a bit jumbled together and I needed some time to clear my head and my plate to again work on XSW. Hopefully I won't have to have many more breaks in the publication but with a new child on the way, you never know.

It seems that a lot of people are still confused about Raptor, and what it means for the future of LiteStep. I myself was a bit confuddled about it at first, but have since talked to Message and realized what a boon it will be to LiteStep and the entire shell community as a whole if it works out correctly.

All shells need the same basic set underlying code to work. Things such as task management, systray handling, etc.. all need to be in every shell for it to be complete. What Raptor does is make this available to all shells. It has nothing to do with the way that a shell is presented, only what it needs to run. Raptor will also provide a scripting engine for any shell that uses it. To bring it to a simple level, think of Raptor as XWindows for linux, and the shells as Window Managers. Each Window Manager has its own interface, look, feel, etc.. while using xwin to provide it with its basic needs. Same deal here.

So don't worry, LiteStep isn't going anywhere anytime soon. It is only getting better and better.

- demigod

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 -= Shell Specific =-
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[Top News Stories]

- A Brief Word On Raptor (11:18 26.03 na)

I just got done talking with Message about Raptor and I was pretty well mistaken as to what it was all about. Raptor will be nothing more than a kernel for handling the dirty work that all shells have to handle. Task management, the system tray, etc... while also giving a given shell the ability to run scripting through it. Each shell will retain its own set of API and continue to act and function as normal, though a module coder or even a themer can opt out to use Raptor specific commands. In no way what so ever is LiteStep going away! As a matter of fact, using the Raptor kernel, LiteStep should overcome its limitation of no scripting and become a lot more stable in the process. I would like to publicly thank Message for taking some time to talk with me about the developments of Raptor in regards to the future of LiteStep.

url - <http://raptor.cybersnot.com>
(source: <http://www.ls2k.org>)

+-----<*>-----+

- XSWEEKLY In Japanese ~ philsci (11:43 26.03 na)

Yup, thats right, XSWEEKLY in Japanese. Well, not ALL of XSWEEKLY, just my rants. Takayuki Kawamoto, web master of the Interface Workshop, is now translating my weekly rants into Japanese. This is a great step for me as I am now having my voice heard multinational. Check it out even if you don't read Japanese.

url - <http://www.interq.or.jp/jupiter/philsci/iw-html-xsw/>
e-mail - philsci@jupiter.interq.or.jp
(source: philsci via e-mail)

+-----<*>-----+

- LiteStep.net Is Back ~ cccp (12:59 29.03 ls)

Yay, ls.net is back online! So are all of the subdomain, including the ones previously hosted on ls.org.

url - <http://www.litestep.net>
e-mail - cccp@litestep.net
(source: cccp via irc)

[Modules]

- dwarf 20010320 ~ TrOgI (10:35 26.03 ls)

Dwarf is a module that will allow you to run any wharf mod on your desk top.

New in this version:

- Added !DwarfCloseFolder internal bang command. Can only be used by a dwarf tile in a folder/subfolder to cause the folder to close.

url - <http://desktopsource.mindjunction.com>
e-mail - crouson@inreach.com
(source: <http://floach.pimpin.net>)

+-----<*>-----+

- WharfX 0.81 TrOgI (10:52 26.03 ls)

WharfX is a more robust wharf module. It allows for any size wharf tiles, multiple wharfs, etc...

New in this version:

- Moved back to b0.71's code since b0.8 wasn't working for most people.
- Added all the functionality from b0.8.
- WharfAllTitles now defaults to no background color.
- Added WharfTitleAlignment setting.

- Added WharfTitlePadding setting.

url - <http://desktopsource.mindjunction.com>
e-mail - crouson@inreach.com
(source: <http://floach.pimpin.net>)

+-----<*>-----+

- SharpTray 0.23 ~ Malx (15:18 26.03 se)

SharpTray is the plugin for SharpE that handles all the systray functions.

New in this version:

- Ability to switch between OnTop.
- Hide unwanted icons.

url - <http://www.sharpe-shell.com/>
e-mail - malx@techie.com
(source: <http://www.sharpe-shell.com/>)

[Web Sites]

- Shellfront.org Opens ~ rootrider (11:55 26.03 na)

rootriders new site, shellfront.org, is up and he is making posts. I'm not too sure that this will be the final look of the site, but to me, it looks pretty good as is. Stop on by there and show your support.

url - <http://www.shellfront.org>
(source: <http://www.ls2k.org>)

+-----<*>-----+

- SharpE's New Web Addy ~ lowspirit (13:15 26.03 se)

SharpE finally has its own domain. Same look, new address. Update your bookmarks and news grabbers now!

url - <http://www.sharpe-shell.com/>
e-mail - lowspirit@sharpe-shell.com
(source: <http://www.sharpe-shell.com/>)

+-----<*>-----+

- LiteStep Dev's Site Is Up (13:07 29.03 ls)

The LS Dev's now have their own site. It's the same layout from when they were hosted on ls.net, but now they have their own domain. Check here for all official updates and releases.

url - <http://www.lsdev.org>
(source: #litestep topic)

[Programs]

- Scope 1.0 PR2 ~ Fahim (16:01 26.03 na)

Scope is a lightweight browser based on the IE engine. It is a MDI that will show pages in either the Mozilla or IE engine. Great alternative to the overweight, bulky, bloat ware browsers out there. And the best, its free!!

url - <http://cyberian.tripod.com>
e-mail - fahimf@email.com
(source: <http://cyberian.tripod.com>)

[Misc]

- New LS IE Throbber ~ Mountaineer (13:08 29.03 1s)

Another throbber is out for IE, this time created by Mountaineer. Jalist describes it as a color-type throbber thing. Look's interesting to me.

url - <http://www.ls2k.org>
e-mail - mountaineer@riverland.net.au
(source: <http://www.ls2k.org>)

[Latest Builds]

- LiteStep

- o 24.6 build 010201
- o <http://builds.litestep.net/builds/ls-0246-dev-20010102.zip>

- geOShell

- o 4.6.5a
- o <http://news.geoshell.com/Plugins/Download/geoshellr465a.zip>

- PureLS

- o 031701
- o <http://www.purels.org/binaries/01-03-27r.zip>

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 -- Beyond the Specifics --
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[Interesting]

- William Gibson Reads Neromancer

Blatently ripped this from Shell Extension City. This is a 6hr set of mp3's of William Gibson reading Neromancer word for word. If you poke around the site, there is some other great stuff to be had also.

url - <http://www.8op.com/gibson/en/neuroaudio.html>

[Programs]

- Scope PR2

Scope just keeps getting better and better. Fahim, ex-LS Dev/DS Dev, is hammering away at making Scope the next best browser out there. This is a free, tiny, browser that works off the IE engine but can incorporate the mozilla base too. Not only that but it support MDI ala Opera. Get this now!

url - <http://cyberian.tripod.com>

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XSWEEKLY Shell Related News 31.03.01 - 06.04.01

Whew, zero news anywhere this week. All I got was two bits of LiteStep news and that's it. It seems that every project is either in a major reorg or everyone is away doing something else. It's so dry out there I can't even make up news.

Seeing as nothing else is happening, I figure I'll use this opportunity to rant out a bit about things that have been getting on my nerves lately.

Why is it that people have no clue? I mean really, what is so difficult about reading something first, than asking questions? Is it too hard to read? Too much of your precious time? This isn't just related to shells or os's. This is in regards to everything. I work as tech support for an ISP and it is horrible. People call in with questions that could be answered if they had taken the time to click on the help menu that is supplied with every program. Most of the time the help in there is very straight forward and not written for those who are already familiar with the technology.

Another thing that is getting to me is the poor quality of service of any mid to large sized company. Since when did this trend start?? Isn't it us that pays your salaries? Apparently it's too much to ask that I can speak to a human who has a higher IQ than a box full of packing peanuts. Don't want to shell out that extra buck an hour to get someone that thinks for themselves eh? That will make you a profit at the end of the year, yup yup. Keep the customer happy and they will continue to do business with you. Treat them to stupid and clueless support, long holds, poor merchandise, and a cooperate outlook and say bye bye. Low prices don't always keep a customer guys.

One last thing before I let you all go. I am happy to say here that after my diddy about there being very limited shell sites out there, a ton of new ones have popped up. We at ls2k are now hosting 10 sites. Not all of them are shell related but quite a few are. I have also seen some postings on other sites just starting. This is great. We need more of this!! Keep up the great work!

- demigod

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-- Shell Specific --
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[Top News Stories]

- Maduin Releases His Source Code (06.04 12:07 ls)

Maduin has released the source code to all his recent modules. This includes label, pause, rcx, and taskswitcher. Stop by his page to pick it up.

url - <http://trident.mcs.kent.edu/~kschaffe/ls/>
e-mail - kschaffe@kent.edu
(source: <http://trident.mcs.kent.edu/~kschaffe/ls/>)

[Modules]

- Label 1.4 ~ Maduin (06.04 11:59 ls)

"Label.dll is a Litestep-loadable module that allows you to define multiple skinnable labels and place them anywhere on your desktop. Labels can display static text and dynamically updating system information that can be updated at run-time using bang commands."

New in this version:

- added !LabelMove, !LabelReposition, and !LabelResize
- added !LabelUpdate
- added the following sysinfo functions
 - diskAvailable('drive')
 - diskInUse('drive')
 - diskTotal('drive')
- updated the documentation and converted it to plain text
- bugfix: labels are now hidden from the VWM
- known issue: might not work in PureLS -- I need bug reports.

url - <http://trident.mcs.kent.edu/~kschaffe/ls/>
e-mail - kschaffe@kent.edu
(source: <http://www.ls2k.org>)

[Latest Builds]

- LiteStep
 - o 24.6 build 010201
 - o <http://builds.litestep.net/builds/ls-0246-dev-20010102.zip>
- geOShell
 - o 4.6.5a
 - o <http://news.geoshell.com/Plugins/Download/geoshellr465a.zip>
- PureLS
 - o 031701
 - o <http://www.purels.org/binaries/01-03-27r.zip>

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XSWEEKLY Shell Related News 30.12.00 - 05.01.01

Well, it looks as if c0mrade has had enough. He has taken himself out of the top position at litestep.net and handed the reigns over to his brother. He states on his web site that it is because of RL and other reasons.

Right now, I don't know how to feel about this. As just about everyone knows, I was a very vocal opponent against the joining of the sites. I was also very vocal against a lot of what c0mrade was doing. In the last moments before he left, he and I had a bit of a blow out in #litestep. I am just hoping that this was not the driving point of his leaving. c0mrade, no matter what his faults, helped to move LiteStep to a new level. That feat alone deserves respect.

Now that he is gone, what is to happen to litestep.net? I don't think that it will be the focal point of the LiteStep community as it has in the past. A lot of people visited the site because of c0mrade. He seemed to bring a certain something to the site that it will now be lacking. I am not saying that the site will just up and die, but it will not be the same.

Thanks for everything c0mrade. No matter what has transversed between us, at least we kept it interesting. Here is to hoping that RL treats you better than LS did.

- demigod

[Mail Bag]

This weeks mailbag question is:

Do you think there should be an official LiteStep site?

e-mail - mailbag@xsweely.com
url - <http://www.xsweekly.com/mail.html>

[Spotlight]

- LSD4P

Yup, I have done this one already, but I'm going to do it again. This site just keeps getting better and better. Now [_why](http://_why.com) has some really interesting updating tools, a new distro out, some odd comics and a nice History of Disto's piece up. Stop on over and enjoy.

<http://lsd4p.dx0.org>

[Shell Of The Week]

- Cloud:9ine

"Briefly, Cloud:9ine is a very powerful and highly versatile shell replacement system. It works on any version from Windows95 or NT4.0, through to Windows Millennium and 2000.

"The shell uses three main interface sections; a desktop that allows you access to the system's menus; a launch menu that replaces the Windows Start Menu; and host bars that allow you to add plugins that can do any variety of tasks."

url - <http://www.cloud9ine.com/>

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 -- Shell Specific --
.....

[Top News Stories]

- c0mrade Leaves LiteStep (5.01 16:54 ls)

It seems that c0mrade, the webmaster of litestep.net, has decided that it is time to move on. From his site:

"Well everybody, the time has come for me to depart due to a thing called "Real Life" (and some other undisclosed reasons). This is my last post on this site, so here I come.

"First of all, I'd like to thank everyone who came, comes, and will come to this site. I'd like to thank everyone for their support and participation in LiteStep project. I've been here for a long time, and saw a lot of people come and go, but LiteStep is like mafia, once you are in, you can never be out. So once again, my humble appreciation to those who has been here, who's gone, and who will come to what we call Community.

"Second of all, I'd like to thank and bow before the DevTeam. DevTeam includes everyone who has ever been in it, from Lonerunnr to current group of guys. It's you people who made LiteStep what it is now, and we all owe it to you one way or another. Your efforts appreciated or not have kept this shell the best of all times at all times :). And of course, special thanks to Lonerunnr for starting such a wonderful project.

"And last but not least, I'd like to apologize to everyone who I might have offended, or have done something that wasn't proper or necessary to do. I won't mention names, but those people know who they are. Some points I still stand by, but some of them I wish I could take back, but life's life, luckily we don't yet have time machine, cuz if we did, who knows what chaos might have been caused :).

"And finally, the new webmaster from this day forth is going to be my younger (by 25 minutes) twin brother CCCP. He's going to take over the project from here, he's your new person to give ideas to, to flame, to give your inputs and

opinions to, and the thing is, I don't know for sure, but knowing him for 24 years, I'd say you are up for major changes in everything around here, and I'm sure they are going to be great ones. One thing I guarantee is that he'll take good care of everyone, that's for sure. I'm no longer involved in ANYTHING related to this project, for as much as I'd like to, it's impossible. I asked my brother to change all the passwords to all the sites, so I don't even have access to that anymore. CCCP is much better than I in PHP, and he's just as knowledgable about LiteStep as I am, since he's been using it since the day I found out about it. He's got all the files to the new rewrite, and is going to complete the work. He decided not to release current site's source due to too much unnecessary work to clean up code and make it readable. Instead you will see the source for the new site as soon as it comes out, since it looks more like the source of something that actually might be shown to the public without being embarrassed.

"The bottom line is, I truly love LiteStep, I truly loved to be involved and actually do something useful for the common cause, and I surely (even with all the bumps on the road) still love our Community (with capital "C"). Without the Community LiteStep wouldn't be what it is now, that's for sure.

"So long everybody. It's been a privilege and pleasure to be here, but it's time to move on."

url - <http://www.litestep.net>
(source: <http://www.litestep.net>)

[Modules]

- geekamp 1.9c ~ azathoth (29.12 16:54 ls)

This is a frontend for winamp. You can control just about all aspects of winamp via bang commands and use shortcuts to make your own winamp control center.

New in this version:

- Bugfix: !amp_power works again, thanks to dolphinX or vega or whoever the hell you are these days for pointing that one out....

url - <http://azathoth.ls2k.org/>
e-mail - azathoth@ls2k.org
(source: <http://www.ls2k.org>)

+-----<*>-----+

- WharfX 0.71 ~ TrOgI (8:59 04.01 ls)

WharfX is an alternative to the core wharf module that comes with LiteStep. This mod offers any size wharf, multiple wharfs, and a host of other features.

New in this version:

- Lots of recoding for a smaller dll size and cleaner code.
- Added ability to set each wharf as not topmost and hidden on startup independently.
- Added wharf groups and changed bang commands to use groups.
- Fixed !WharfMoveTo to accept negative values.
- Fixed !WharfShow to work again (thanks to warren for the bug report).
- Fixed WharfAutoClose and WharfCloseOnSwitch.
- Added ability to set default/default folder/folder images for each wharf.
- Added ability to set a wharf cap image for each wharf.
- Added WharfNoMoveOnResChange setting.
- Added ability to set each wharf as vertical/horizontal.
- Added mouseover image to tiles.
- Removed the double click moving stuff (can be done with bangs).
- Cleaned up sound playing code.

%%UPDATE%% (10:05 05.01)

- Fixed .extract not working for dll files.
- Changed syntax for use of mouseover images.
- Added support for mouseclick images.

url - <http://desktopsource.mindjunction.com>
 e-mail - crouson@inreach.com
 (source: LS Mailing List ~ WharfX b0.7!)

 [Web Sites]

- PixolPod Moves ~ Pixol (12:56 04.01 na)

Because of the problems with dTop, Pixol has moved PixolPod over to ls2k.org. PixolPod is the primary site for Pixol's shell swapping program Carapace. It also houses some nice walls and other interesting items.

url - <http://carapace.ls2k.org>
 e-mail - lgreen@pixolpod.fsnet.co.uk
 (source: <http://www.ls2k.org>)

 [Programs]

- Pigeon 0.4 ~ _why (9:51 04.01 ls)

The :Pigeon module is designed to automate the install of LiteStep modules and extensions. It includes some searching capabilities and knows how to use WinSock to fetch the raw data from the net.

New in this version:

- Added functionality for builds and themes to be downloaded so that ppl can download them as soon as I store them in the repository. Keep your eyes open!
- Some debugging of the sockets.
- Added to default LSD4P v1.2.

%%UPDATE%% (10:06 05.01)

- Socket error reporting. If sockets timeout or fail or the connection goes down, a Retry/Cancel box should come up.

url - <http://lsd4p.dx0.org>
e-mail - whytheluckystiff@mailcity.com
(source: <http://lsd4p.dx0.org>)

[Misc]

- lsDrinks 2.21.1 ~ nf0 (02.01 13:39 ls)

This module grabs the headlines from user-configured websites and "...then creates an Htm link in its folder. Then you can Look at your popup under the selected folder and see the news. To follow the link just click on the one you want and it will open it up in your browser...". You need to have Perl installed to use this mod.

New in this version:

- Fixed: Newsforge
- Fixed: Fullon 3D
- Fixed: Dilbert
- Fixed: Mind Junction News
- Fixed: Mind Junction Ideas
- Fixed: EQ Corner
- Fixed: Infoworld
- Fixed: MonkeyFist
- Fixed: LSD4P
- Fixed: Dekstop Engineer
- Fixed: EmuViews
- Removed: DemoNews
- Removed: The Ultimate OS
- Removed: DarkStep

url - <http://www.10500bc.org/>
e-mail - nf0@10500bc.org
(source: <http://www.10500bc.org/>)

[Latest Builds]

- LiteStep
 - o 24.6 build 010201
 - o <http://builds.litestep.net/builds/ls-0246-dev-20010102.zip>
- geOShell
 - o 4.6.5a
 - o <http://news.geoshell.com/Plugins/Download/geoshellr465a.zip>
- PureLS
 - o 052900
 - o <http://209.46.69.134/purels/binaries/00-05-29r.zip>

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-- Alt OS Specific --

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[Web Sites]

- Bad Seal Get's A TLD ~ Bad Sector (12:22 04.01 sel)

Bad Seal can now be viewed via <http://www.badseal.org>.
Same great layout, same great taste, new url. Stop
by and check it out.

url - <http://www.badseal.org>
e-mail - michalopoylos@hotmail.com
(source: <http://pub8.ezboard.com/bsealsystem>)

[Misc]

- Bad Seal Mailing List ~ Bad Sector (12:37 04.01 sel)

Seems as if Bad Sector has set up a mailing list over at
source forge just for the Bad Seal distro of SEAL.

url - <http://lists.sourceforge.net/lists/listinfo/sealsystem-badseal>
e-mail - michalopoylos@hotmail.com
(source: <http://pub8.ezboard.com/bsealsystem>)

[Latest Builds]

- SEAL

- o 1D (042900)
- o <http://www.home.sk/public/seal/sealexe.zip>

- V2_OS

- o 0.70
- o ftp://vp.dyn.dhs.org/0.70/v2_os.img

- AtheOS

- o 0.3.0
- o <http://www.atheos.cx/download/list.php3?0.3.0>

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Got some news? Wanna see it in XSWeekly? Well, shoot me a mail at demigod@meganet.net with the subject XSWeekly-News and I'll post it in the letter.

Got a complaint? Got a compliment? Got an idea? I'm open to all rants and raves. Send me a mail at demigod@meganet.net, any subject, and tell me what you think. I will personally reply to all e-mails sent.

XSWEELY SPECIAL EDITION #1 - Darkside of the Shell

Welcome to the first issue of XSWeekly Special Edition. In this letter I sit down and talk a bit with the creator of DarkStep, Fahim Farook. I have also done a write up of the shell and a brief history of its conception. Some of you know that I am heavily involved with DarkStep so you may see some favoritism in this letter towards it.

In 1999, after Fahim departed from the LiteStep development team he went underground and starting working on a new shell. In late October of 1999, I received the first private beta of DarkStep. To say I was excited to get to play with a shell written by one of the better LS Developers is an understatement. Although the first few builds were unstable and buggy, it grew into something more. It grew apart from its LiteStep roots and is even now evolving into a fully featured, user friends setup. It is becoming what Fahim wanted LiteStep to be.

What is DarkStep?

The aim of DarkStep is to be an easy to use alternative shell for a user with any level of computer expertise - whether they be an expert or a novice. This is achieved by transparently doing all the work necessary in switching shells. The configuration of the core DarkStep components is a snap as well due to the fact it is all done via a graphical user interface where you simply click a button or check a box with a minimum of typing. However, the modules themselves will probably require a fair bit of computer expertise because most of them have been designed in such a manner that their configuration requires the editing of text files and a fair amount of documentation reading. Hopefully, this situation will improve in the future as more and more module authors code easier to use modules.

DarkStep is not an open source project though an SDK will be available for module developers with any extra help necessary provided. While it is not an open source project, DarkStep will never be a commercial application either - it is rather what you might term "Donationware" <g> It is completely and utterly free without any restrictions for you to use and distribute but if you like it and would like to send him books, clothes, money, hardware etc as thanks, he will not say no :-). Some might question this attitude in this day and age of open source projects but he has decided to keep this project closed source mostly because of the fact that he has seen the code that he and others worked on for LiteStep for so long being used without a word of thanks or any mention by others in closed source projects. That sort of attitude has soured him on open sourcing and as he worked very hard to

shape DarkStep into what it is, he doesn't want the same thing to happen with DarkStep ...

I have known Fahim for a while now and consider him a true friend. I find him light hearted and deeply committed to this shell. The following is a brief interview I held with Fahim and I think that you can gather the same feelings that I have.

<XSWeekly> Ok well i know how much you hate these damn things so thanks for even hopping on.

<Fahim> I don't hate it that much ... but I just can't get to efNet from work and I'm hardly online except to get e-mail from home.

<XSWeekly> What finally drove you to leave the LS dev team and start ds?

<Fahim> Nobody knows the answer to that one - including me <vbg>

<Fahim> Actually, I guess it was a lot of things going on at once:

a) I'm mostly a loner who works best on his own b) all the fighting going on in the LS community at that time especially about certain decisions I'd taken regarding LS and the demands by certain people that they be kept informed because they'd worked on LS too ...

<Fahim> c) The direction I wanted LS to take as opposed to what the others involved with it at that time wanted to do ...

<Fahim> d) My need to be a loner ..

<Fahim> e) My need to work on my own <vbg>

<XSWeekly> Is DarkStep the direction you would have taking litestep in?

<Fahim> Definitely! What I planned for LS 0.25 was all ease-of-use features ... I wanted LS to be so easy to use that even newbies would start using it.

<Fahim> I kinda lost sight of it when I first got working on DS because there was so much to do and I was basically going with the flow at first but I've kinda got back on track again with 0.970 ...

<XSWeekly> So the current gui configuration of the shell is the path that you see DS taking in the future?

<XSWeekly> Ease of use over configurability?

<XSWeekly> Or do you plan on doing both?

<Fahim> Yep! I wanted to make even modules GUI configurable so that they would dynamically update when settings changed even during my LS coding days - remember LSDesk? That's the precursor to all the GUI DS native modules that will be coming out soon ...

<Fahim> I don't see any decrease in configurability just because we went GUI ... how do you mean?

<XSWeekly> Well now were stuck doing things by menus and specific GUI sets. In a LS environment, many interesting things have come about from mods that the designers never dreamed of.

<Fahim> Not necessarily ... I think what happened in LS is more due to using the same settings in an innovative way ... the same settings will still be available via the GUI so why should there be any less innovation?

<Fahim> The only area of innovation that got taken out is with the

Step.Rc specific text editing stuff ...

<Fahim> And that is basically due to a limitation in the Step.Rc format itself because modules can't write to the Step.Rc through the API and so themers had to adapt ...

<XSWeekly> Good point.

<XSWeekly> What do you have planned for the next release of the core?

<Fahim> The next release? I really have no idea... Currently, my major goal is to get all the native DS modules converted to GUI ...

<Fahim> I think the biggest challenges there will be the Popups and SysVWM.

<Fahim> Then, I intend to take a look at Mike Lin's TraySaver source and strip out all the GUI stuff so that what will be left will be an exe that keeps track of the system tray ...

<Fahim> I will then incorporate the Exe in the DS core so that DS will launch that Exe as the first app launched by DS so that even if DS crashes, the TraySaver-lite version will go on and so allow you to recover most of your system tray ...

<Fahim> I would like to keep a solution that even other shells can make use of... I believe the only problem with TraySaver b10 is that it takes over as the shell and some other problems and once those are eliminated, the version I have in mind should work for any LS compatible shell (and systray module).

<XSWeekly> Many people don't know that you are not from the US, tell us a bit about where your from and how living here has been for you.

<Fahim> I'm from Sri Lanka - a small island nation in the Indian ocean ... some call it an island paradise though the country has been going through a civil war for over 20 years and has a lot of problems ... but it certainly is a beautiful place ...

<Fahim> Living here? It's been an experience :-) I enjoy most of the perks of living here - access to the best computer hardware, software, books etc ... and I enjoy the width and breadth of the country - I've been to (or at least traveled through) about 10 states so far and you see such a wide variety of people and places ...

<Fahim> But on the other hand, it also looks very similar - I hate the fact that most of the big chain buildings all look the same and this is mostly something I'm used to and not so much a fault of the US itself in any way <g> but I find myself constantly being lost because all the buildings look alike - or rather I'd think I recognize a landmark when it is just another BurgerKing or Waffle House like the one I saw two states ago. <vbg>

<Fahim> The other negative thing is of course what I've talked to you about personally - the kind of stupor that I see people in over here (at least most of the people - but not any of the Internet generation that I've met virtually ...).

<Fahim> People are satisfied to live their lives out in a tiny little corner and think the "experts" (the lawyer, the doctor ...) control their lives because they know better - even when their advice is blatantly against common sense ..

<XSWeekly> How do you feel about some of the personal attacks against you?

<Fahim> I have had relatively few personal attacks and none directly - I do hear of somebody saying something negative about me but

that's it ... Nobody has so far written to tell me "You suck!!!" :-)

<XSWeekly> ON that thread, how to you feel about the shell community as a whole?

<Fahim> I like the shell community as a whole and enjoy the sense of camaraderie and the fellowship ... but I do hate the bickering and nitpicking that crops up from time to time ...

<Fahim> And the competitiveness that goes "my shell is better than yours" - I would rather that we all lived together in harmony... (or at least, tolerance <g>)?

<XSWeekly> Do you see that as the eventually downfall of the shell scene?

<XSWeekly> This competition on an unhealthy level?

<Fahim> I don't think that the shell community will actually die down ... it might disintegrate a bit but it will keep on going ...

<Fahim> Because there will be more and more users coming in just as there are more and more shells and each shell will have some userbase - whether it is just the shell developer.

<XSWeekly> Out side of programming what other hobbies do you have?

<Fahim> I read (fantasy/SF mostly but almost anything from historicals to westerns to romances ...), I love PSX games (Grandia, Star Ocean 2, Wild Arms, Brave Fencer Musashi etc ...)

<Fahim> I enjoy music and movies as well ...

<XSWeekly> How do you feel about the "hero worship" some users pay you?

<Fahim> Err ... people hero worship me? <vbg> News to me :-) Most of the people who do write to me are usually very businesslike - they are polite and thank me for what I've done, but they don't have any qualms about telling me if I did something wrong either ...

<Fahim> Actually, a lot of them are really friendly and helpful and go to insane lengths sometimes to give me a bug report ...

<XSWeekly> Anything else you would like to add?

<Fahim> Nope ... I think we've gone through quite a bit ... but lemme know if you have any further questions or would like any clarifications

<XSWeekly> Thanks for your time and putting up with my question (=

<Fahim> We don't need to do polite interview ending stuff here demi :-)

To best sum up this letter I will quote Fahim, a quote that is now displayed on FPN:

"alternative shells aren't toys for power users alone"

- demigod

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XSWEEKLY SPECIAL EDITION #2 - Shelling on a Razors Edge

Lowspirit and his team over at Low Dimension have put out some rather nice programs in the past. Among them are IP Watcher, MadCow, and the very popular Quick Notes. Along this line of great programs comes SharpOS. Like the programs they have made in the past, SharpOS does not disappoint. Pleasing to look at and easy to use, it will be a shell for all level of custo users.

After speaking with Lowspirit on IRC a while back, I asked him how SharpOS was going. He later sent me a pre-beta version of it and I have been playing with it ever since. I am really impressed by how it is coming along. Although at this time it is static and not modular, it is a very clean, easy to use, and appealing shell. There are a ton of options already and new ones are being added with each update.

Here follows the interview I had with Low. It covers SharpOS's current state, it's future, and a few personal questions.

+-----<*>-----+

<XSWeekly> Why did you decided to start work on SharpOS?

<Lowspirit> Inspiried by shells like Outsider and LiteStep, we just wanted to create something in between. It all started with a simple launchbar, and it evolved into a full fledged shell as we decided to add more and more features to it.

<XSWeekly> So is SharpOS still something in between?

<Lowspirit> We aimed at making it as feature packed as Litestep can be with all the modules available out there, while still keeping that compact feeling of having it all in one place. So I'd say it's a good description, a cross between LiteStep and Outsider.

<XSWeekly> Although it seems to be very featured packed, it is not all that modular. What are your plans for implementing more functionality?

<Lowspirit> We are currently looking into having the possibility to load litestep modules. Other then that, once we get a stable version we do plan do make all the things you see in the SharpBar separate plugins, so initially it won't be modular at all, but with time we aim to make it so.

<XSWeekly> What about third party support? Does this go along with the future plan of making the SharpBar plugin capable?

<Lowspirit> Once we establish a plugin format we will of course make a SDK available.

<XSWeekly> Do you every plan on opening the source under a gpl or similar license?

<Lowspirit> Actually yes. Once we get a taskbar in there I think the code could be interesting for people to peek at since we would have code for a fully functional Systray, VWM, Desktop, and task management in there then. Originally I would have said no since the code in the SharpBar is very generic and relatively easy to code.

<XSWeekly> What do you see for the future of SharpOS?

<Lowspirit> My vision of the future for SharpOS goes in waves, sometime I just feel it sucks and why bother with all the other high quality shells out there, and sometimes I feel like it really really rocks, and right now I feel that it really really rocks and I think it has a bright future with a place in shell history.

<XSWeekly> As it is right now, the looks is pretty static. Are there any plans for changing this?

<Lowspirit> This is still haven't been decided, if we want it skinnable or not. We do know people would want it skinnable, but there are so many of those out there so... as I said, still undecided.

<XSWeekly> How about an alternative, like geOShell did?

<Lowspirit> We would have to finish all the core components first, before deciding anything, but personally, I don't feel any need to skin it and think it only would bloat the code and make it eat more memory. It's not really up to me to decide. After the first public beta, we'll listen to user feedback and decide which way to do it.

<XSWeekly> Tell me a little about yourself.

<Lowspirit> Well I'm Swedish, 19 years old, have a daily job, I train Ashihara Karate 2 times a week. Other than that I'm pretty much your average fellow.

<XSWeekly> How is it living out there?

<Lowspirit> Out here? It's arctic cold and polar bears roam the streets... =) , it's nothing out of the ordinary, cold though.

<XSWeekly> Besides martial arts and coding, what else do you do for fun?

<Lowspirit> I'm a cinema freak, so I tend to spend quite a lot money on seeing all the latest movies (even if they suck) and I sleep a lot... yeah, sleeping is nice.

<XSWeekly> Do you have anything you would like to add to this interview that I have not asked?

<Lowspirit> Well, since SharpOS is under development I'd like to urge people to send in suggestions of features they'd like to see in the final product. Anything goes so don't be afraid the email me. Other than that, nope.

<XSWeekly> Well, thanks for taking some time out of your sleeping to grant me this interview. I personally cannot wait to see

the final product.

<Lowspirit> Thanks.

+-----<*>-----+

I wish I had had more time to interview Low, but work was already getting in the way. I like the work that he does, and the person that he is. I see SharpOS doing what he hopes that it does, taking its place in shell history.

- demigod

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XSWEELY SPECIAL EDITION #3 - Shell of a Site

Litestep.net is one of the main web sites of the LiteStep community. c0mrade, the current web master, took a dead site and turned it into what it is today. While the site has gone through some tough times, it remains the official LiteStep site.

Here follows a very interesting and information packed interview I held with c0mrade. The past, present, and future of LiteStep on the web and some personal questions are answered.

+-----<*>-----+

<XSWeekly> Seeing as we all know about litestep.net, tell us what got you interested in starting it.

<c0mrade> Well, back when I started, I started with my personal site called LiteStep UNLiMiTED. Litestep.net wasn't updated at all for almost a year, and abyssal was down for even more than that. There was no place for current litestep themes so I started my own site which got popular pretty soon.

<c0mrade> Then it's transformed into litestep.net by the wish of the domain owner. Of course I was the one who approached him with the idea.

<XSWeekly> How did Chris feel about that? As I remember, he was a bit hostile then.

<c0mrade> He just didn't want to go through the hassle, but when he saw the potential of my work, he changed his mind.

<XSWeekly> So after the transfer to you, how long did it take for people to start realizing that ls.net was back alive?

<c0mrade> I'd say immediately.

<c0mrade> I had to put up what I had, which was not really a complete site but people could already submit their work to the site and it was dynamic.

<c0mrade> So immediate submissions within the first day.

<XSWeekly> Thats quite impressive. Did that make you do more for the site?

<c0mrade> Of course.

<c0mrade> I love to contribute...and LiteStep was something that really got my attention right away. The more responses I got, negative or positive, the more I wanted to get done. It's sort of a stimulator.

<c0mrade> You know, for us, developers, or web guys, a single positive email a month does it for us...gives us second wind.

<XSWeekly> I can relate to that.

<XSWeekly> After that the site just started to get larger of course, but then came the mess with the b24.5 release and a lot of problems arose. How did that affect you and the site in general?

<c0mrade> It didn't. The litestep.net team continued to do what we were supposed to do. Keep people up to date, have new themes, and screenshots.

<c0mrade> So, as far as site goes, we didn't get affected at all.

<XSWeekly> It didn't affect you, personally, at all?

<c0mrade> Yes it did, but in a better way.

<c0mrade> Well, dev team internal problems, then personal problems of webmasters of headdomains. Me for litestep.net and warewolf and bob wells for litestep.com and .org (then).

<c0mrade> Where did it lead to? Well... we lost valuable dev team members, we embarrassed ourselves, and litestep in general, and well...nothing positive came out of there.

<c0mrade> So, I started a peace process and now warewolf and I are combining forces to not have anymore separate sites. We are in fact meeting about final details tonight. That's how it affected me in a good way.

<XSWeekly> So now that the TLD's of litestep are combining, what is next for ls.net?

<c0mrade> What is next for litestep.net... well... there will be no more litestep.net. The site's called litestep, that's it. All tlds are the same site, we are not planning to divide responsibilities.

<c0mrade> Litestep.com, believe it or not, is a HUGE repository of information about litestep since the early age. If we combine what's there and what we already have, plus something that we don't yet have, we get a one stop litestep site.

<c0mrade> Now, we ARE planning to have subdomains for ease of remembering. Like themes.ls.net,.org, .com will just point to the theme archive and so on. Support.litestep.net,.org, .com, etc...

<c0mrade> The main innovation and main accent will be made on creating SOME type of support for LiteStep besides just having a good documentation archive online.

<c0mrade> Of course, the whole site is being rewritten from scratch as you know. Visually there might not be any big changes, unless someone contributes a nice layout, but structurally it's totally different. It's more compact on the screen and in code, as well as better organized, and easier to maintain as well as easy for customization, and much faster. It's started with the fact that there will be no separate sites anymore in mind.

<XSWeekly> That is some huge news. It's also a bit controversial. Some people feel that the combining of the TLD's into one site is too much control. How do you feel about that?

<c0mrade> Control? Over what? We are creating a community site for the litestep community. We are going to host themers. We are giving @tld web based email. We are going to SUPPORT, not try to ELIMINATE. That's why I approached jalist for instance when he was mumbling about uselessness of his site.

<c0mrade> So whoever thinks that, they are wrong, and if they don't believe it, I'll prove them wrong when everything is in place.

<XSWeekly> I think the main feeling on that is that this huge site will push aside other, independent sites like ls2k into the background.

<c0mrade> I don't agree with that. We are not trying to centralize EVERYTHING in one spot. When I say "one stop shop" I mean a user comes to main site, looks at official resources, but hey, it's impossible to have everything.

<c0mrade> Look at FPN, or LS2K for instance. They have so much useful help and interesting information there besides just news.

<c0mrade> Or desktopian.org for instance, although tin_omen stepped away from LS theme for some reason.

<XSWeekly> True, but what will make them stray away from litestep.net if 90% of what they are looking for is there?

<c0mrade> We are going to have a lot of references to third party sites.

<c0mrade> Ok, if you want, here are the things that are in mind to keep these sites alive. You know the commercial banners we have now? How about we setup litestep ring banners or a shell banner system of our own. Or have a random or features site with ss and everything on the front page? How about a community site. My.litestep.net type of site?

<XSWeekly> Sounds like you have thought everything through pretty well. Any other plans? Near or far in the future for the site?

<c0mrade> Well... I don't really want to unveil ALL the plans...but generally, yes I've thought of everything, but not all by myself. I've got ideas from people like yourself (I give you official credit for my.litestep.whatever idea yes). Everyone contributed, I'm just executing. But there are no long term plans for at least another year. The new site will be up and running (hopefully) and then we will see.

<c0mrade> As for any particular new features, I guess you guys will have to be a bit patient, wait and see :) Just follow <http://www.c0mrade.org/changes.txt> whenever I bring it backup tomorrow.

<XSWeekly> It looks like we have something new and interesting to look forward too.

<XSWeekly> Tell me a little about yourself.

<c0mrade> I'm originally from Moscow, Russia. In 1994 I came to the United States and since then I've been living in Lincoln, NE.

<XSWeekly> How was that transition like?

<c0mrade> It was fairly easy. I grew up post hardcore communist era, and was more "Americanized" than my older brother for instance. Although, of course, cultural shock is unavoidable.

<XSWeekly> So what do you do besides work on ls.net?

<c0mrade> I work for a company called Globabilities, Inc., a startup company, doing pretty much everything. My official position is VP of Intelligent Interactive Systems. So I do anything

from sysadmining, installing, troubleshooting, web design and backends, manage projects. Mostly I do web development, but like right now I'm upgrading FreeBSD on our web server.

<XSWeekly> Do you have any other interests outside of work and ls?

<c0mrade> Of course. I like techno music and I like to dance. I play tennis occasionally. I like reading science fiction and technical books. I like fishin'. I like to relax on sundays, and do absolutely nothing, although last time that happened, was loooooong loooooong time ago. I LOVE playing guitar and singing. I learned how to play guitar so I can sing, but I mostly do Russian songs but mostly I'm a computer geek. :)

<XSWeekly> Arn't we all (=

<c0mrade> Yeah, who else would sit all day at computer with buncha IRC windows open, with HomeSite open and so I can code, couple of browser windows, but at least I have a beautiful girl sitting right next to me.

<XSWeekly> Do you have anything to add that I haven't asked?

<c0mrade> Thanks to all the litestep users, devteam, and any one else that I have forgotten.

+-----<*>-----+

It should be interesting too see what becomes of LiteStep with the combined sites. No matter what happens, it's going to be an interesting ride to say the least.

- demigod

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XSWEELY SPECIAL EDITION #4 - Rime of the Ancient Shell

WareWolf has been the silent owner and webmaster of LiteStep.com for some time now. Although it seems that the site isn't as popular as LiteStep.net is within the community, it has some really great content.

After the interview I held with c0mrade, I approached WareWolf on the merger of the two sites. What follows is a very interesting interview on that subject and many others.

+-----<*>-----+

<XSWeelky> Hi, let me first thank you for taking time out to have this interview.

<WareWolf> You're quite welcome, I'm honored...

<XSWeelky> Now, we all know that you run LiteStep.com. What first got you into LiteStep and what got you into running a LiteStep tld?

<WareWolf> Well - the moment I saw LiteStep - I was BLOWN OVER!

<WareWolf> I hadn't before, (and haven't since) seen an application so unique.

<WareWolf> I began a website immediately.

<WareWolf> Dunno if it was just dumb luck or what, but many of the sites were in a transition and it seemed CLEAR that LiteStep wasn't readily available.

<XSWeelky> What site was that?

<WareWolf> That was the LiteStepMegaSite.

* WareWolf shudders at the graphics I used.

<WareWolf> MegaSite had rainbow lettering.

<XSWeelky> How did you happened into ls.com?

<WareWolf> Soon after starting MegaSite - Bob Wells approached me; eventually we united and LiteStep.com was born.

<WareWolf> Bob is one of those people that I've met on the net, because of LS, that is 100% genuine. Fahim is another person, like this to me. Both are great guys.

<XSWeelky> As i remember correctly, you had come up with a totally new theme section. Revolutionary for that time for submissions and viewing. Tell us about that.

<WareWolf> Yes, soon after that we launched TheLeanMeanThemeMachine at LiteStep.com. It was a strong php theme archive.

<WareWolf> At that time I had found us a sponsor that was willing to let us host on their lines for free... well, I had to do their website too but once a server is up, more sites are a breeze to add.

<WareWolf> Anyway, we had a free managed t1 that went into the isp next door. Then we had the theme machine...

<WareWolf> The place I made the agreement with was bought out.

<WareWolf> Eventually our line had to change...

<WareWolf> That was when we ran on PlanetLabs.com lines.

<XSWeelky> Where is it hosted now and what happened to the Theme Engine that you had originally built?

<WareWolf> Nowadays we run on a line that I have in my house. We have a co-location with another locale north of here, 30-40 miles.

<WareWolf> We're forming an additional co-location 15 miles south.

<WareWolf> Our next co-lo will work using NO LAND LINES.

<WareWolf> All wireless.

<WareWolf> The theme engine was lost when planetlabs was acquired. I lost hardware too, in the process.

<WareWolf> Aa expensive DAT tape drive, and a RAID scsi card.

<WareWolf> c'est la vie

<XSWeelky> I had heard that c0mrade had taken your code base. Is that true?

<WareWolf> c0mrade most definitely took the basics for his theme archive from the thememachine.

<WareWolf> BUT! If I were to make one now it would look much the same as both too.

<WareWolf> So beware the major-gray-area.

<WareWolf> WebTechniques has a rather pertinent paragraph in next months issue about just this sorta thing...

<WareWolf> The author speaks in the 3rd person - stating that he'd [paraphrased] "...he ordered these words himself..."

<WareWolf> Anyways, yeah, we all see powerful things in other sites, and integrate them.

<WareWolf> I have, and always will, kept a theme archive from ANYWHERE I CAN FIND themes. Most of the users now take care of it for me. We have a very functional submission system at .com.

<WareWolf> But... all the themes we have from LiteStep.net, I was given permission from c0mrade to take.

<XSWeelky> For a while now it seems LiteStep.com has sat idly by as litestep.net has been dominating the web playing field. Then c0mrade states in an interview with that ls.net and ls.com will become one site. Any comments on this?

<WareWolf> c0mrade and I spoke of merging -- ain't gonna happen.

<WareWolf> I'm not against him, but he's non-responsive so I've teamed elsewhere.

<WareWolf> We'll be moving OFF this line, and onto a different one. In the process we're going to gain access to dev staff and tools.

<WareWolf> For our web that is.

<XSWeelky> Is it only his non-responsiveness lately that has driven you to team with others or was it something he stated in the interview?

<WareWolf> I've been apprehensive from the start.

<WareWolf> I've had a bad feeling about him... Others have stated similar feelings.

<WareWolf> You see, when I integrate a webserver, it isn't just a simple intel machine. There is firewalls, vpn's, etc.

<WareWolf> These high-end network items are quite expensive.

<XSWeelky> What kind of "bad feelings" did you get?

<WareWolf> Well, for example, I invited him into my machine once before.

<WareWolf> Setup 15 or so logins, emails addresses, whole sh-bang.

<WareWolf> Took some time to get all those hosts masked I can tell you.
<WareWolf> Anyways, he comes in and blows away webpages written by others knowing who they were and how to contact em.
<WareWolf> Before I knew it something that looked JUST like .net was running on my webserver in place of other authors work.
<WareWolf> When c0mrade walks he always stomps, he never treads lightly.. not that I do either...
<WareWolf> But that was not right and it put me in a bad position with content providing staff already in place at .com.

<XSWeelky> This goes along with what c0mrade had stated in the interview with me of .net and .com not existing any more. Both of them becoming just one site. Apparently this isn't what you had originally though the deal would be was it?

<WareWolf> Well, in the past I had agreed to something LIKE he described to you. He and I hadn't communicated enough to get to the full picture he painted. Now, I'm off to do something better than he's dreamt of, and finally have a web dev staff to use and create the ULTIMATE theme site.

<WareWolf> Mark my words.
<WareWolf> By the way, the theme machine is still here @ .com, it's not turned on now.

<XSWeelky> Well, this sounds very interesting. Care to elaborate on some of the plans that you have for ls.com?

<WareWolf> I can't.
<WareWolf> I would... if I could

<XSWeelky> Nothing at all?

<WareWolf> I will LATER?!
<WareWolf> Dev staff, faster lines, more & deeper integration.
<WareWolf> LiteStep will explode.
<WareWolf> Watch.

<XSWeelky> Sounds like the resurrection of LiteStep.com. Do you see the focus shifting from .net to .com because of this?

<WareWolf> I don't care to speculate on that
<WareWolf> My traffic is and always has filled whatever pipe I put it on.
<WareWolf> From 45k/sec to the current 75k/sec
<WareWolf> Those are the nominal rates 24/7.
<WareWolf> Chris, or whoever controls the banners at .net, are making some money off the ads. I don't.
<WareWolf> We don't do ads.
<WareWolf> A button or something for the hosting is one thing... punch the monkey is another...

<XSWeelky> From the enthusiasm in your statements, this should really be something to see. I really hope that this comes to light.

<WareWolf> So do I. Some of my most trusted staff is deeply involved so it should be a good thing.

<XSWeelky> A while back you and Azathoth, now of DarkStep, had a falling out because of Godzillamk. Any comments?

<WareWolf> GodzillaMk is a interesting character.
<WareWolf> I sided with him, and shouldn't have.

<WareWolf> I want to see LiteStep succeed. I was mean to Azn and shouldn't have been. I welcome all people who want to come and help with LiteStep.com.

<WareWolf> Its WAAAAAY too big for any one person to do for long.

<XSWeelky> Tell us a little about your self.

<WareWolf> I've been in the computer industry since I was 14.

<WareWolf> I programmed some things for the teachers to use on the then state-of-the-art "fat"-mac.

<WareWolf> I caught the bug.

<WareWolf> Since then, I've run bbs's, then websites. As for work, I have worked for Intel, Franklin Covey, NACT, Sears... all are Nasdaq traded...

<XSWeelky> How was it working for Intel? I have heard horror stories.

<WareWolf> I loved it.

<WareWolf> They'd gimme 2 - 5 big multi-proc servers to throw management cards and os's on and we'd test their stuff.

<WareWolf> It was so fun.

<WareWolf> Coppermine was all the talk then and I got to test 800mhz multi-proc-machines while 500's were the biggest available.

<XSWeelky> Did you work for them before they became like they are now?

<WareWolf> I dunno how they are now.

<WareWolf> I'd love to go back. Great bunch of intelligent-as-hell people.

<XSWeelky> What else besides LiteStep and computers do you do?

<WareWolf> I have a wife, 2 kids, 1 car - a mid-sized American job...8)

<XSWeelky> Before we end this interview, is there anything you would like to add that I haven't asked yet?

<WareWolf> I ask that people who have been in LiteStep for a while, talk with their LiteStep peers and assemble these events such that you can separate the people from the time line somewhat.

<WareWolf> Few people know what has really happened in the past, and for that I am sorry...

<WareWolf> Too too many people have STOPPED dev of code, sites, etc... because of in-fighting.

<WareWolf> I ask that people step forth that want to contribute and lets all begin anew.

<WareWolf> As always, keep using LiteStep. Try some others, you'll return.

<WareWolf> Keep learning, keep understanding windows better and sharing your info.

<WareWolf> [Http://wiwikals.litestep.com](http://wiwikals.litestep.com) is a late bloomer at our server.

<WareWolf> As is <http://chrometiger.litestep.com>

<WareWolf> Wiwkals is similar to my own faq in that I get asked those questions all the time.

<WareWolf>

<XSWeekly> Once again let me thank you for taking time out to grant me this interview.

<WareWolf> You're welcome. I would like to add that I want to have people approaching me to submit content and resources. Also, I would like to thank the dev's, past and present, and everyone else who

along the way has made LiteStep what it is today.

+-----<*>-----+

Well, needless to say, a lot of what was said within this interview was news even to me. There seems to be things going on here a bit darker than I would like, but at the same time, something new and exciting is growing. If you have some time, pitch in to help out WareWolf. Send him any ideas that you have, designs, content, anything. He is very open to suggestions.

- demigod

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XSWEEKLY SPECIAL EDITION #5 - The Shell Stops Here

After the interview with WareWolf, c0mrade contacted me on irc. He seemed quite upset over some of the things that were stated. I asked him to reply to the original interview and input his comments under what was said. Below is the reply that I received from him. (Note: Original interview begins with O>)

+-----<*>-----+

O> <XSWeelky> I had heard that c0mrade had taken your code base. Is that true?

NOT!

O> <WareWolf> c0mrade most definitely took the basics for his theme archive
O> from the thememachine.

This is entirely not true. This statement insults my originality and my programming skills. First of all, you cannot take PHP codebase if you don't have the access to the server other than http. Regardless of how you try to get files, you won't get source, it even gets parsed when you use wget. Second of all, my theme archive (which was LiteStep UNLiMiTED then) came out BEFORE Lean Mean Theme Machine saw the public life. I had a few private submissions to my site before Theme Machine was known about to the rest of people out there. More than that, my theme archive doesn't even LOOK like Theme Machine did, to most of people out there it resembled skinz.org more than anything else. Yes, I went out and looked at repository sites to get ideas, and as WareWolf mentions, there was even an article about it, and it's perfectly normal to do this amongst web designers. Yes, everybody wants to have the best of all on their sites, if they are the ones who make the site. So, I hope this explains how it couldn't have happened (hell it's simply NOT my style) that I have "taken" codebase from Theme Machine.

O> <XSWeelky> For a while now it seems LiteStep.com has sat idly by as
O> litestep.net has been dominating the web playing field. Then
O> c0mrade states in an interview with that ls.net and ls.com
O> will become one site. Any comments on this?

First of all, this is not about who dominates, once again, and this is final time I'm going to say this. There's no competition, everybody is doing what they want to do, and no one's rights are taken away. You want to do an independent site, I'm always willing to host it, and even help out with coding, give subdomain or what have you. Most people see me doing subdomains as monopolizing the LiteStep web scene. Let me give you couple of examples. Lets take LiteStep Portal. I took a dead site, recoded it, gave it life, and look, now it's up to date, and being maintained (not even by me anymore). I took modulo and make it better by making it dynamic with easier maintenance abilities. Subdomain gives the site popularity rather than being party to a so-called monopoly. Ridiculous once again.

O> <WareWolf> c0mrade and I spoke of merging -- ain't gonna happen.
O> <WareWolf> I'm not against him, but he's non-responsive so I've teamed
O> elsewhere.
O> <WareWolf> We'll be moving OFF this line, and onto a different one. In the
O> process we're going to gain access to dev staff and tools.

O> <WareWolf> For our web that is.

Good, I find out last about it. My non-responsiveness is due to my real life interests which overweight LiteStep by far. And yes, it was too much of a pain trying to merge interests amongst the owners and maintainers of the head domains. So it'll be much easier for both myself and WareWolf go our independent ways. I, however, am planning to stick with my plan and release the LiteStep site by January 1st. Both litestep.net and litestep.org are going to point to the site, and it won't be called litestep.net anymore, just LiteStep being the official LiteStep spot. Once again, I offered my services, yes they were delayed, but they got refused. It's all about choice you know.

O> <XSWeelky> What kind of "bad feelings" did you get?

O>

O> <WareWolf> Well, for example, I invited him into my machine once before.

O> <WareWolf> Setup 15 or so logins, emails addresses, whole sh-bang.

O> <WareWolf> Took some time to get all those hosts masked I can tell you.

O> <WareWolf> Anyways,he comes in and blows away webpages written by others knowing who they were and how to contact em.

O> <WareWolf> Before I knew it something that looked JUST like .net was running on my webserver in place of other authors work.

O> <WareWolf> When c0mrade walks he always stomps, he never treads lightly.. not that I do either...

O> <WareWolf> But that was not right and it put me in a bad position with content providing staff already in place at .com.

Sorry, but when I took GodzillaMK's site offline (because it was just a simple rip of another site on the net, or maybe a rip with permission as I call it) I got permission from WareWolf to remove that site before I did anything. And yes I put something that looks like .net, which I slapped in a matter of half an hour (that just simply resembles my designer style at that point of time, boxy and tably). At least it was more or less original, and once again, it was done with WareWolf's permission. I didn't blow webpage_S_ <sic> out. It was ONE site taken offline, and put in a backup directory, NOT SITES. Note, I came and installed PHP and MySQL on the computer as per request. I never opened any e-mail accounts (this is total bogus for me).

O> <XSWeelky> This goes along with what c0mrade had stated in the interview with me of .net and .com not existing any more. Both of them becoming just one site. Apparently this isn't what you had originally though the deal would be was it?

O>

O> <WareWolf> Well, in the past I had agreed to something LIKE he described to you. He and I hadn't communicated enough to get to the full picture he painted. Now, I'm off to do something better than he's dreamt of, and finally have a web dev staff to use and create the ULTIMATE theme site.

O> <WareWolf> Mark my words.

O> <WareWolf> By the way, the theme machine is still here @ .com, it's not turned on now.

All I wish is that WareWolf wasn't two-faced and would tell me all of this on the phone, or what have you, while we were discussing it because when we were, all I heard was optimism, and how he was mistaken about GodzillaMK and other people. Now, it comes out that he had a bad feeling about me. Well, now I know (once again I find out last about it). And I don't mind, people are people, they have their tastes and interests. And I only wish I someday SEE this new LiteStep.com site, as I have heard about it for past year or so.

The more sites dedicated to LiteStep, the merrier. While some people sit on their asses and point fingers at others, I prefer to sit down and do something useful. Once again WareWolf is trying to bring the sense of competition into this, and it's ok, but only when it's healthy competition, a friendly one. I don't consider telling lies and rumors a healthy competition personally. And once again, good luck with the new LiteStep.com, I only wish to see it out someday.

In conclusion: While WareWolf and I were talking about how all we do now is strictly for LiteStep, how we learned from our previous conflict, and how we won't get into any more personal bullshit. Well, unfortunately I failed to see it in his actions, as this is a clear back stab for me. Yes, LiteStep WILL blow up, but not by these measures. I consider this cheap, and most importantly untruthful. As I said, I am sticking to my plans, and continuing work on the best LiteStep site(s) on the net. What sites are better or worse is up for user's judgement. All I know is that I LOVE LiteStep, I LOVE the community (for as annoying as some of people might get sometimes), I LOVE to work on these projects and contribute, even though I have so much little time to do so anymore. So enjoy the ride. And yes WareWolf you can continue getting themes from LiteStep.net. I understand, soon you'll have "THE" best theme machine on the net, until then you probably need some push don't you?

Good luck...

c0mrade

+-----<*>-----+

And this is the end of this, completely. The only reply that WareWolf has is that he and c0mrade disagree on something, but agree on others. c0mrade has no further comments at all.

All I can say is I hope that the community can stay together through this and we don't dissolve like we did during the 24.5 mess. Please please take everything here and think about it, don't go off the handle and start a war. That is the last thing we need.

- demigod

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XSWEEKLY SPECIAL EDITION #6 - All in a Nut Shell

FPN is one of the oldest and most popular sites in the shell community to date. rootrider is the current webmaster of the site and has added a lot of content to it. Both personal and shell related.

In this interview I asked rootrider about his involvement with FPN and about how he felt about the current run of events in the LiteStep web interviews I recently conducted. His replies are very through and very well thought out.

+-----<*>-----+

<XSWeekly> First off, let me thank you for taking the time for this interview.

<rootrider> No problemo.

<XSWeekly> Now, you are the current web master for FPN (floach.pimpin.net). How did you come by this job?

<rootrider> There was a long period where Floach hadn't messed with the site a whole lot...

<rootrider> So geekmaster took it over, but he got busy with other things, so he posted a message to the LS Mailing List letting it be known that he was looking for people to work on the site for him.

<rootrider> I was already spending so much time on my own just looking for news on various sites, etc that I thought it wouldn't take any more time for me to post news on FPN.

<rootrider> I e-mailed geek about the offer, and he e-mailed me back saying that he was hoping I would "apply" (to my surprise)....

<rootrider> I went from there. I got involved enough in the site that I asked geek for the FPN ftp user/pass... that's essentially how it all happened.

<XSWeekly> Has being the webmaster of FPN been as easy as you originally thought?

<rootrider> Well... I'm not really sure.

<rootrider> I don't think I expected *anything* from FPN, time-wise I mean, I just started working on it.

<rootrider> It does take longer now to keep it up than it did originally, just because so much more of the site is my doing now than it was when I began working on the site in February or so.

<rootrider> I don't know if it's ever been easy, or hard. It's just a matter of doing what I want to do... I enjoy working on FPN, so I just do it.

<XSWeekly> I have noticed that since you first took it over, you have

expanded it a lot. Mostly in the LiteStep sections. Why the big push in that direction instead of another?

<rootrider> Litestep is the undisputed most popular shell.

<rootrider> It's got the most news for me to post and I use it almost exclusively.

<rootrider> My expansions work with LS more because that's where the demand is and that's where most of my experience is.

<rootrider> I still try and push other shells as much as possible and I think I've done an alright job in that area

<XSWeekly> What do you see now for the future of FPN?

<rootrider> I want to give FPN more non-LS content... more tutorials, information, and how-to's.

<rootrider> I've said from the beginning that I want to try and keep FPN a site for the masses; semi-newbies who know very little, and veterans who just want resources and news.

<rootrider> I can also see FPN (or at least a site of my own) moving off of pimpin.net or to its own domain name though I'm not sure if I'd like to lose the actual 'FPN' name (which is obviously based on the url :)

<XSWeekly> If you had the opportunity to have your own domain, but couldn't keep FPN (or the name), would you move?

<rootrider> Maybe...

<rootrider> I don't really know...

<rootrider> It would be extremely hard to find a host that's been as gracious as sammy of pimpin.net.

<XSWeekly> Being webmaster of one of the most prevalent sites in the shell community, how do you feel about the recent developments in the LiteStep web world?

<rootrider> UGH!

<rootrider> I've said a few times (on FPN, IRC, etc) that the Community is very important to the future of Litestep.

<rootrider> The recent developments, with the problems between c0mrade and ls.net vs. WareWolf and ls.com are amazingly stupid.

<rootrider> Just the fact that issues from over a YEAR ago are still causing problems today is absurd.

<rootrider> I love this Community... even the problems we've had, mainly because it often leads to advancements with LS and other cool changes.

<rootrider> I myself have been reluctant to display my true views on FPN's front page, simply for the fact that I don't want to bring the name of FPN into this whole thing but I've got rather strong views over this whole issue... especially with the truths (vs. lies) and the whole legitimacy of Litestep.net being the "official Litestep site".

<XSWeekly> Ok, lets break it down some then. What issues from "Over a year ago" are you referring to and why is it upsetting you?

<rootrider> Okay... a little history lesson here:

<rootrider> There was a huge issue surround the release of Litestep 0.24.5 by the LS dev team which lead to Fahim (the current head-dev at the time) leaving Litestep and starting work on DarkStep instead.

<rootrider> This problem basically surrounded the issue of who should release the .24.5 distribution and when.

<rootrider> Litestep.com was the official Litestep site at the time, which, in itself, was a bit of an issue. There were complaints of the admins of ls.com being heavy-handed with the dev team and wanting a bit of control over what happens.

<rootrider> When Fahim released the .24.5 distribution, there were immediate reports that it was **not** the real distro and that it was posted without Fahim's permission.

<rootrider> As it turns out, the file posted on ls.com then **was** the real distro but by that time, ls.com's image was tarnished more than it should have been.

<rootrider> Enough that the site kept its negative feeling in the Community.

<rootrider> Shortly afterwards, c0mrade was working on a site built specifically just for themes (IIRC, the goal was to focus on themes and do it well, without worrying about all the other LS related stuff that takes a lot of work) that he called Litestep Unlimited.

<rootrider> c0mrade then gained access to the Litestep.net domain which had been inactive for a long time due to another Community issue a long time before all of this occurred.

<rootrider> Almost immediately there was public tension between c0mrade and the webmaster of LS.com.

<rootrider> Posts to the LS Mailing List, posts on Litestep.net and Litestep.com... it got ugly.

<rootrider> I never knew the exact details behind all this until things began to come to light just these last few weeks with c0mrade's and WareWolf's interviews.

<rootrider> For some weird reason, this whole freaky issue is still a problem today, I suppose just because it got **way** to personal.

<rootrider> It's really too bad for the Community that they still have to deal with this.

<rootrider> Just the fact that those same things are recurring today... the same problems and personal feelings (anger) towards each other is still an issue, is sick.

<XSWeekly> How about the current issues? Do any of them upset you?

<rootrider> Well, besides the fact that i think it's silly that these problems are still lingering around, I think there are problems with the way c0mrade handles things, specifically related to Litestep.net. He's just fine to talk to, and he's **extremely** knowledgable and helpful when it comes to coding and getting things done.

<rootrider> There's no doubt that c0mrade is the reason that Litestep.net is so successful currently.

<rootrider> The **way** things are done sometimes are rather questionable to me, and I think he brings things out in the open too that I wish he'd actually try and solve with someone personally.

<rootrider> Nothing like this should be posted on a site or the mailing list.

<rootrider> I'm not going to mention everything, but a few of the problems involve the issue of whether or not Litestep.net really should be the **Official** LS site, and if it is, then how come there's only

themes there and nothing about LS itself?

<rootrider> I don't like the monopoly-like mentality that Litestep.net seems to involve. That being the many subdomains that it has gained that all used to be independent sites.

<rootrider> Helping sites with space and code is one thing... controlling it is another.

<rootrider> I know of a few times where people have felt like c0mrade took over where he shouldn't have. That's too bad.

<rootrider> Another thing, how come there aren't any links to Litestep.com on ls.net?

<rootrider> It *is* an LS site... a rather major one however you want to look at it. Just the fact that lscommands is on there is a major reason to point links to that domain.

<rootrider> I understand the community's adverse feelings it might have for the Litestep.com domain (because of the .24.5 problems), because I had them as well until recently. I really believe that WareWolf wants to try and change the site and improve it to be a well kept up site with a lot of potential.

<rootrider> It's not about competition... but about working together. Not combining... just acknowledging the other.

<rootrider> Both of these sites fail to do these things.

<XSWeekly> c0mrade stated that he wanted to join with ls.com and create one large LiteStep site and that would solve a lot of the problems. How do you feel about this? Or, to be more exact, how DID you feel as the deal fell through?

<rootrider> When I heard from c0mrade that ls.net and ls.com were to combine (one way or the other), I was actually very disappointed. I didn't want to see more sites combine to become one major site. I was actually alright with the idea... just disappointed.

<rootrider> Then, when I heard from WareWolf shortly after c0mrade's interview that he never actually wanted to totally combine the sites, just resolve issues and try to work together, I was *very* taken aback/surprised.

<rootrider> I was hoping that these sites would work together, at *least* for the good of the Community... but this agreement that seems to have fallen through (or never occurred?) between these two sites can only do one of two things:

<rootrider> It can hurt the Community and pull us back to a point like we were before .24.5, or we can pull together and try to improve the state of the LS Community and its sites...

<rootrider> and...

<rootrider> I don't think that combining the sites would solve many problems at all... there are just too many outstanding issues between the two webmasters at this point. I really don't think that combining more sites will help the Community much. We need to encourage these sites to support the others, with words of acknowledgment and agreement not hostility and anger.

<rootrider> Oh... and with the recent developments (ie. WareWolf's interview and c0mrade's response): SOMEONE is lying. I don't care who. It's just a simple fact... somewhere the truth is twisted. Grow up people. Solve the problems... don't instigate more.

<rootrider> Let's continue with our lives.

<XSWeekly> You mentioned "official" site before. Now that these two major litestep sites are no longer combining, which should be the

"official" site?

- <rootrider> I seem to remember a few people saying back when Litestep.com was called the Official Site that Litestep really shouldn't have such a thing.
- <rootrider> Litestep is open-sourced. People are free to do whatever they want with it.
- <rootrider> There really isn't such a thing as an Official Dev-Team, an Official Site, an Official Mailing List, etc., etc.
- <rootrider> We hand out these "official" titles in order to help us create this sense of community that we have, which I actually think is good.
- <rootrider> Along with being "official" comes respect, for the dev team and the 'official' site.
- <rootrider> However, if we are to have an actual "Official Site", then I believe that it should have several attributes (which are rather important IMHO).
- <rootrider> Such attributes would include:
- <rootrider> Having an up-front explanation of **what** Litestep is (for gosh sakes... why in the **heck** doesn't Litestep.net tell anyone what Litestep **is*!!@?*).
- <rootrider> Containing how-to's, tutorials, information, resources, etc. or at least prominent links to them.
- <rootrider> Contain up-to-date and impartial news related to the community and Litestep itself.
- <rootrider> Be a center of distribution for Litestep distributions and a few outstanding themes (maybe).
- <rootrider> I **don't** think that the Official LiteStep Site should have thousands of themes and modules, with less news than almost any other shell news site.
- <rootrider> I also **don't** think that the Official LiteStep site should contain partial news, at least on the front/news page.
- <rootrider> I wouldn't have any problem with personal opinions and partial news being in a sort of commentary/editorial section or whatever (kinda like what I've been attempting to do with FPN).
- <rootrider> In other words... I sincerely don't believe that Litestep.net should be the official site at all.
- <rootrider> Simply hosting the dev team's site doesn't make you official. It means you were kind enough to offer some space.
- <rootrider> The dev team really doesn't even have **control** over their site (afaik - I'm **really** sorry if I'm incorrect here)... beyond posting news and adding/removing dev team members from the list.
- <rootrider> This isn't necessarily a sin, just something I think should be changed.
- <rootrider> Anyway, I'd like to see Litestep.net stay **the** place to get LS themes but have another site step up to become the center of Litestep's publicity.
- <rootrider> I'm not quite sure if there is such a site yet, but, if anything, the dev team could support a group of a few Community members to go and put together an informative and helpful site that could act as the official site.
- <rootrider> The Official site shouldn't be affiliated with a certain domain name or person... just with an idea: That Litestep is cool and others should be able to find out how to get it on their own systems with ease.
- <XSWeekly> Do you think LiteStep.com should step up and be the new "official site", another site totally, or no site at all if that option is

ever available?

<rootrider> As I think about it right now (kinda' tongue-in-cheek here), I can imagine all the LS specific sites coming together to put out information that will help the Community. Yes, this is pretty close to what c0mrade has been talking about doing. I'm still not sure if this is what should be done. Just an idea.

<rootrider> Either way, I'm not even sure if Litestep.com should be the official site, definitely not in its current situation. Hopefully this will improve shortly with the recent help WareWolf's been able to garner.

<rootrider> I just want to see a good, non-partial, and informative Litestep specific site put up somewhere that could fulfill those requirements that I outlined for the last question.

<XSWeekly> Do you think there is anything that the "main" people in the LiteStep community (jalist, you, etc..) could do at this point?

<rootrider> Definitely.

<rootrider> We can come together as we kind of already have. (jalist, tin_omen, me, and a few others). Just keep a line of communication open.

<rootrider> As I said, we just need to work together. I'm not talking about a combination of sites or anything, just a sort of kinship or something between all of us.

<rootrider> We are looked up to, oddly enough, so it's **really** important that we stay friends and refrain from making enemies. That's usually how ripples in the Community begin.

<rootrider> We need to be the backbone of the Community. We are what the public eye sees.

<rootrider> There's a lot of influence that we have so it is important that people who are in a respectable position are actually **able** to be respected.

<rootrider> That's where our sites come in.

<rootrider> It's not really about me personally, or jalist, or anyone else. It's about what we say, and what we do. Our cohesiveness as a community revolves around what these respectable people do and say.

<XSWeekly> Tell me a little about you.

<rootrider> I'm a 20 year old guy who's never had a date, and doesn't really expect one.

<rootrider> I've never really had a lot of friends (IRL that is)... just a few close ones.

<rootrider> I'm actually an introvert unless I get to know people well enough. that is also a Real Life (tm) issue.

<rootrider> I'm in college now, hoping to be a Computer Science major although I screwed up this first semester enough (yeah, I'm a 20 year old freshman) that I might not be able to continue until next year.

<rootrider> We'll see. I might end up just moving on with my top goal in life, which is to create, run, own, and maintain my own computer shop of sorts.

<rootrider> I **love** helping others with their computer problems, which is probably why I hang out so often in #ls_help on IRC.

<rootrider> As you can probably guess, I spend a nice amount of my time on the computer, doing one thing or the other. Besides FPN and all

LS/shell related stuff, I'm also in a Counter-Strike clan ([WSU] - <http://wsu.twu.net/>).

<rootrider> Besides computers/internet and school, I try and spend as much time as possible, especially during Summer, mountain biking.

<rootrider> Mountain biking, as it turns out, seems to be a rather popular thing for us geeks to do.

<rootrider> KuhnDog, NeXTer, wingnut, and I'm sure more.

<rootrider> It's pretty cool.

<rootrider> I've lived my whole life here in Washington state (USA).

Actually, my whole life has revolved around about one block of space in Tacoma, which is about 30 miles south of Seattle.

<rootrider> I've never been on airplane, though it's my dream to be in the air eventually. Until a couple years ago, I'd never been south of Northern Oregon, north of the WA/BC border, or east of Moses Lake (central Washington).

<rootrider> I lived a limited life.

<XSWeekly> Do you use IRC and/or FPN to allow yourself to be more outgoing, less introverted?

<rootrider> I'm more outgoing online.

<rootrider> I just have a hard time opening myself up in person.

<rootrider> What you see of me online is very close to who I actually am.

<rootrider> If you knew me in person you'd hardly know me unless you were one of a lucky few people.

<XSWeekly> Do you find yourself allowing what goes on in the community overlapping into your RL?

<rootrider> A bit.

<rootrider> Until just a month or two ago, I hadn't ever even gotten angry online.

<rootrider> The Internet is kind of like a dream world for me. To tell you the truth, it's been a place for me to escape at times when my real life is screwed up. That probably sounds horribly geeky but, I *am* a geek.

<rootrider> Computers act as an escape route for me sometimes.

<XSWeekly> Is there anything that I haven't asked that you would like to add?

<rootrider> One major thing:

<rootrider> I *seriously* hope that our community can come together as a team to make Litestep better.

<rootrider> Stay active.

<rootrider> Don't let just a couple people determine what happens. This is an open-source project, therefore, you really do have a say. The dev team is quite open to others, and is very friendly. They aren't some distant untouchable gods or anything.

<rootrider> The same goes for the webmasters, module authors, etc.

<rootrider> I've had people feel awkward talking to me on IRC just because I run FPN.

<rootrider> *bleh*

<rootrider> I'm just a person... a real person... who got lucky with a chance to run a cool site.

<rootrider> Instead of spending time thanking me or whatever, give us (the

webmasters and mod authors) suggestions and encouragement.

<rootrider> That's what we need.

<rootrider> I'd also like to thank KuhnDog for the wonderful job that he's done with helping me on FPN, specifically with the graphics that he's created for the site and the ideas that he's given me for what to do. I really appreciate his help.

<rootrider> I'd also like to thank Mulvane as well for stepping up to take the job as operator of lsdev@fpn.

<rootrider> He's been doing a great job, and I'm glad to have added him as a member of the FPN team.

<XSWeekly> Once again let me thank you for having this interview with me.

<rootrider> No problem.

<rootrider> Thanks for asking me the questions.

+-----<*>-----+

I think that rootrider has pretty much summed up what should be said about the current issues involving LiteStep. He makes some very good points on the label of being an Official site, and why the community is so important. Read what was said here, then re-read it. Think about what was said, and maybe even consider taking what he said to heart.

- demigod

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