

Linux drives worldwide server sales boom

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Huge demand for Linux servers has help push the overall server market to new heights, according to IDC's Worldwide Quarterly Server Tracker.

Factory revenue in the worldwide server market grew at 5.3 per cent year over year to \$12.1bn in the first quarter of 2005, marking the eighth consecutive quarter of positive overall revenue growth.

Linux server sales enjoyed their eleventh consecutive quarter of double-digit growth, with year-over-year revenue growth of 35.2 per cent and unit shipments up 31.1 per cent.

The study noted that customers continue to expand the role of Linux servers into an ever increasing array of workloads in both the commercial and technical segments of the market.

Sales of Windows servers enjoyed strong growth, as revenues and unit shipments grew 12.3 per cent and 10.7 per cent respectively year over year.

Significantly, quarterly revenue of \$4.2bn for Windows servers represented 34.4 per cent of overall quarterly factory revenue, for the first time pulling even with quarterly revenue in the Unix server market.

Unix servers experienced 2.8 per cent revenue growth year over year and five per cent unit shipment growth over the first quarter of 2004.

IDC found that volume server revenue grew 15.6 per cent year over year and continues to represent the primary growth engine for the server market overall.

Revenue for midrange enterprise servers grew 6.1 per cent year over year, marking the second consecutive quarterly increase in that segment.

IDC believes this may reflect increased IT spending to run more scalable workloads and consolidation/virtualisation initiatives than can be deployed onto volume servers.

However, this growth of low- and mid-range server shipments was not maintained across high-end devices.

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