Subject: My battle with Linux
Posted by lon on Fri, 15 Oct 2004 19:49:33 GMT
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Any Linux users in here? I am trying to get Linux going and move to it as the OS of choice with their Wine program and such to accessmy needed Windows apps. As it is I've managed to use a fair amount of open sourcein my 'real life'. I use Pine for PC which is a mail program developed by Washington University. Pine has beenaround for Unix systems since the mid 90's or so and is free. I used Pine when communicating to a BBS back when dino'sroamed the Earth. As a browser, Firfox can't be beat for flexibilty and securityand that is from Mozilla which is open source as well. All that remains for me to do is get Linux going and i willbe off the Micro$oft buss for good. That may take some time though. I've been stumped bysomething that should have "installed itself' which is mystandard US Robotics modem. There's help on the way for that...I know the device works, but can't get Linux to see it. I just wondered if anybody is using Linux OS in here (?)

Subject: Re: My battle with Linux
Posted by Wayne Parham on Fri, 15 Oct 2004 20:31:31 GMT
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Hi Lon,AudioRoundTable.com is hosted on a Linux box, but Sheri is who deals with OS and platform issues. I have done work on several Linux systems, some that included a little light administration. I've setup Samba, written termcap codes, that sort of thing. Linux is like other UNIX systems - It's powerful and configurable but you must plan on doing a lot of your own support.Wayne

Subject: Re: My battle with Linux
Posted by wunhuanglo on Fri, 15 Oct 2004 20:52:56 GMT
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I did some fooling around with Linux back around kernal 0.9. It's been a long time though. A lot of time spent experimenting with config files - there was no "self-install" at that time. Most RPMs were incomplete, there was no general agreement on file structure - great fun trying to get something working.Two things I can recommend to make your transition as easy as possible:[1] download the latest Mandrake package. It's really done well. I installed 8.0 a while back just to check it out and it was as smooth as silk. If you can't download it (and I wouldn't even consider it with dial-up) buy it - it's worth it.[2] get the "Idiots" linux book (the one with the chimp on the front). A really clear, excellent beginners reference.

Subject: One more thing...
Posted by wunhuanglo on Fri, 15 Oct 2004 21:00:53 GMT
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Do you know about Lindows/Linspire after Microsoft got through with them? Check out www.linspire.com.Back when I looked at it, WINE was kind of hopeless. Maybe it's a lot better today, I don't know. But Linspire (commerical WINE on steroids) is supposed to be very good.

Subject: Re: One more thing... re: Lindows/ Xandros
Posted by lon on Fri, 15 Oct 2004 23:06:15 GMT
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My investigation of Linus has been fairly extensive.The Lindows package sold with computers at Walmart haveseveral packages installed and there is a subscription packageavailable to get more. For a 'front end' approach to use Linux for a minimalinstall to do mail, websearch and some office apps., I haven'theard about anything better than Xandros. Xandros was written up in the last _PC Upgrade_ magmore as a press release than evaluation, but that's the wayI heard about it. Plain vanilla Xandros costs about $40. More on Linux in these other messages... Xandros

Subject: Re: My battle with Linux
Posted by lon on Fri, 15 Oct 2004 23:28:33 GMT
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The Linux I got this time around after trying out Knoppix...the version that comes on and runs from the cdrom drive... isRed Hat Linux 2 or Fedora Core 2. I wanted to push the free software idea as far as I could,so I just looked at the distributions available as 'books'with cds and the one I landed on at Barnes and Noble wascalled Red Hat Linux 2 Bible by Christopher Negus. Then I made a lending library request for the purchase. When the library bought the book ($50) I located one of myspare drives in removable trays to put the OS on so it didn'tinterfere with anything else. The disks went through the disk scan for errors ok.But when it came time to install them, one disk section wouldnot write the files for the Open Office part of installedprograms. So I redid the install and left off the Office Suitecheckbox. This got the rest of the install to run. This was the point at which I picked up the 900 pagebook by Negus with the message on the spine that says"100% Complete." Well, more on that in a minute. I have only been able to do a few things with thisinstall: create a file drawer, link to the terminal fromthe toolbar and pick out a screen saver (cow on bouncing trampoline.) What I wanted to get working was dialout.Back to the Negus book. The book was not much help. And900 pages is just, well, too much to deal with. I use a listserv run by Marcel Gagne, author of"Moving To Linux Kiss The Blue Screen Of Death Goodbye".His book contains the Knoppix mentioned which he uses as a tutorial. The listserv is friendly and doesn't mindnewbie questions. There a couple

other sources as well for online helpincluding Fedora. I got some tips to set up the modem from the Gagnelistserv. One of them says to use the command minicom -s Get this,and here's my point; the Negus has noreference in the index to minicom at all. If you look upthe word 'modem' you also get zero reference. This ina book claiming to be "100% Complete." After several days of back and forth at variousforums and the listserv I have been able to dial out--not connect to the Internet, just dial my ISP. Therest remains to be done. I believe that Open Source Linux and the other prog.sI use like Mozilla Firefox and Pine mail reader are the future.That's why I'm taking all the time with it.

Subject: Re: My battle with Linux
Posted by lon on Fri, 15 Oct 2004 23:42:02 GMT
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Yes, I'm getting the idea (see other messages) that Mandrake 10or Suse 9.1 would be a good OS for an upgrade path to the AMD 64 bit processor and my next computer build. Also, we as audio enthusiasts can take advantage of OpenSource software using the newer formats like Ogg for betterfidelity. I use a Yamaha RP U100 USB receiver (got it oncloseout at rebate time for $89 with shipping) and itintegrates with my computer webstream listening as wellas my small tv. There are various speaker switches hookedof for my desktop set and the Boomtoobz. The Yam canfunction as a standalone radio, work with its extensiveWindows software (including DSP's, EQ) but far as I know,I have no software in Linux to run the USB Yamaha. The Yams are great. I'm looking for another one. But I wonder why Yamaha has bailed in producing this device.The RP line included a 5:1 unit similar to the one I have...those are all gone from rebate as well. Someone else should be in this market. I have becomevery attached to being able to do everything with Yamfrom the keybaord, including on/off.
http://www.yamahamultimedia.com/yec/products/cavit/rpu100.asp

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Subject: Help is on the way
Posted by Dean Kukral on Sat, 16 Oct 2004 04:21:35 GMT
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I am the moderator of a list that deals with building and repairing pc's. There is some talk now and then about Linux, but for me it is an automatic hit of the DEL key! :) Been there, done that, struggled with the vi editor! I suggest that you take a look at our list, where the subject of Linux is a little more on topic. Main website is www.freepctech.com. The PCBUILD list is the one that deals with operating systems, and PCSOFT deals with application software.You can read the "Linux Letter," search the archives, and submit a question to the PCBUILD or PCSOFT list. You do not have to be a subscriber to post a question, and you can see the replies in the archives. Or, you can subscribe and join in.

Subject: Re: Help is on the way
Posted by lon on Sat, 16 Oct 2004 04:29:53 GMT
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My message was just a trial balloon to see if there are any userson here. Thanks for the offer but I can only add something new when I drop something off the load I have. I am now able to dial out with a routine I wrote down.I'd be glad to forward that to your list and tell themhow far along I am.