

# Keep an Open Mind!



Welcome to this, the first issue of Linux Magazine UK. The magazine aims to address the needs of the entire Linux community, both professionals and enthusiasts alike, as well as appealing to those who simply want to understand just what the Linux fuss is all about.

Whoever it was said "from tiny acorns, mighty oaktrees grow" might have been thinking about Linux. Who would have thought that a hobby project started by a Finnish university student in 1991 would grow, in less than ten years, into a worldwide industry worth billions of pounds? Only this month, worldwide IT research company IDC, reported yet further growth of the Linux phenomenon.

Of course, the acorn wouldn't have flourished without the right climate and nurturing. For that we have to thank Richard Stallman's vision of "free software" that resulted in the GNU Software Project. Belief in Stallman's ideal was enough to motivate thousands of programmers to spend millions of hours developing not just this free operating system but hundreds of free utilities and applications to run on it. That's why when we talk about Linux we should really be saying "GNU/Linux."

But Linux isn't the only important outcome of the GNU Project. It has started another ball rolling: the move to open source. Open source software and GNU software aren't the same thing, but they share one fundamental principle: the program source code - the text that programmers write in order to create software - must be free for all to see and modify. An ever-increasing number of companies are starting to realise the benefits of open source including Sun Microsystems, which will be releasing the entire code of its StarOffice suite very soon.

So what are the benefits of open source? For a software company one benefit is the potential for thousands of individual programmers to test and add features to their programs. Another is that customers increasingly want openness. They are starting to see the value of open standards and the disadvantages of closed ones.

For you, the user, the benefit of open source is that you can once again take control. You aren't forced to accept what a closed-source software company gives you. You aren't locked into expensive upgrade cycles just to get rid of bugs that shouldn't have been there in the first place. If you find a bug you can fix it. If you need a new feature you can add it. Or, if you don't have the necessary expertise, you can find someone who can. Try doing that without the source code!

Open source development directly addresses the problems that users of closed source software experience every day. That's why more and more people are moving to Linux and open source. Linux is now a mighty oak, strong enough to support business-critical applications.

At Linux Magazine we campaign for the Linux cause in every corner of the world - both physical and virtual - and guarantee to bring Linux professionals and enthusiasts an unbeatable mixture of high quality editorial and informed opinion.

We're at the dawn of a new era in computing - one where the users are back in control!

See you next month

Julian Moss  
Editor

## GUARANTEE

We pride ourselves on the origins of our magazine which come from the very start of the Linux revolution. We have been involved with Linux market for six years now through our sister European-based titles Linux Magazine (aimed at professionals) and Linux User (for hobbyists), and through seminars, conferences and events.

By purchasing this magazine you are joining an information network that enjoys the benefit of all the knowledge and technical expertise of all the major Linux professionals and enthusiasts. No other UK Linux magazine can offer that pedigree or such close links with the Linux Community. We're not simply reporting on the Linux and open source movement - we're part of it.

### General Contacts

General Enquiries 01625 855169  
Fax 01625 855071  
[www.linux-magazine.co.uk](http://www.linux-magazine.co.uk)  
Subscriptions [subs@linux-magazine.co.uk](mailto:subs@linux-magazine.co.uk)  
E-mail Enquiries [edit@linux-magazine.co.uk](mailto:edit@linux-magazine.co.uk)  
Letters [letters@linux-magazine.co.uk](mailto:letters@linux-magazine.co.uk)

### Editor

Julian Moss [jmoss@linux-magazine.co.uk](mailto:jmoss@linux-magazine.co.uk)

### Staff Writers

Keir Thomas, Dave Cusick,  
Martyn Carroll, Jorrit  
Tyberghien

### Contributors

Richard Ibbotson,  
Adrian Clark, Jono Bacon,  
Rob Morrison

### International Editors

Harald Milz [hmilz@linux-magazin.de](mailto:hmilz@linux-magazin.de)  
Hans-Georg Esser  
[hgesser@linux-user.de](mailto:hgesser@linux-user.de)  
Bernhard Kuhn  
[bkuhn@linux-magazin.de](mailto:bkuhn@linux-magazin.de)

### International Contributors

Heike Jurzik, Jo Moskalewski,  
Andreas Huchler, Andreas  
Grytz, Stefan Lichtenauer,  
Thorsten Fischer, Björn  
Ganslandt, Fritz Reichmann,  
Manuel Lautenschlager

### Design

Renate Ettenberger,  
Tym Leckey

### Production

Hubertus Vogg

### Operations Manager

Pam Shore

### Advertising

01625 855169  
Neil Dolan Sales Manager  
[ndolan@linux-magazine.co.uk](mailto:ndolan@linux-magazine.co.uk)  
Linda Henry Sales Manager  
[lhenny@linux-magazine.co.uk](mailto:lhenny@linux-magazine.co.uk)

### Publishing

#### Publishing Director

Robin Wilkinson  
[rwilkinson@linux-magazine.co.uk](mailto:rwilkinson@linux-magazine.co.uk)

Subscriptions and back issues  
01625 850565

Annual Subscription Rate  
(12 issues)

UK: £44.91. Europe (inc Eire):  
£73.88 Rest the World: £85.52  
Back issues (UK) £6.25

### Distributors

COMAG, Tavistock Road, West  
Drayton, Middlesex  
England UB7 7QE

Linux Magazine is published monthly by Linux New Media UK, Europa House, Adlington Park, Macclesfield, Cheshire, England, SK10 4NP. Company registered in England.

Copyright and Trademarks  
(c) 2000 Linux New Media UK Ltd

No material may be reproduced in any form whatsoever in whole or in part without the written permission of the publishers. It is assumed that all correspondence sent, for example, letters, e-mails, faxes, photographs, articles, drawings, are supplied for publication or license to third parties on a non-exclusive worldwide basis by Linux New Media unless otherwise stated in writing.

ISSN 14715678

Linux is a trademark of Linus Torvalds

Linux New Media UK Ltd is a division of Linux New Media AG, Munich, Germany

### Disclaimer

Whilst every care has been taken in the content of the magazine, the publishers cannot be held responsible for the accuracy of the information contained within it or any consequences arising from the use of it. The use of the CD provided with the magazine or any material provided on it is at your own risk. The CD is comprehensively checked for any viruses or errors before reproduction.

### Technical Support

Readers can write in with technical queries which may be answered in the magazine in a future issue, however Linux Magazine is unable to directly provide technical help or support services either written or verbal.