

More chances to give away your favourite OS

INSTALLATION

FOR THE NATION

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Linux may have been gaining ground in the last few years, but it remains in minority use on desktops. Those frustrated with this position will be happy to hear that a national Linux event, in the form of an Installation Day, is being planned for 29th April.

Don't forget the signature

Details of installation procedures are up on the site. Clear notice of limited liability for damage caused should be given and advanced notification of hardware specifications should be asked for. Get PC owners to sign the waiver. You may want to insist that hard disk drives are ready-partitioned, or have a separate area at your event for this.

Useful for the day would be handout of URLs for help, howtos/manpages, online books, LUG details, book lists and magazines. We will follow up preparation for Linux Day over the next two issues and look forward to hearing about your own events.

Back to school

As a community event looking to reach the most users interested in free (in every sense of the word) software, schools maybe a particularly good candidate for hosting events. A Linux install on a spare school desktop or two (and maybe a server as well) may be the beginning of a total move to free software for some schools. Don't forget many schools still have scores of old Acorn and Amiga machines, as well as old PC's and Apple Macs, often with network cards, into which Linux will breathe new life. Distributions for these architectures are easily available.

Events will be taking place across the country, but your help is needed to organise and run them. As well as individuals and User Groups, Linux businesses will be involved in giving free demonstrations to business users.

Use the LUGs

Local User Groups will be the main focus for events, co-ordinating installfests and local publicity across much of the country. If you are not yet in touch with your nearest LUG, see our User Group pages, they will be glad to hear from you. Those in a region without an active LUG can find out about forming one at the UK LUG Web site, where you can also find LUGs not yet listed by us. Details of the events can be found at the Install Day site.

Installing a new OS is not always a straightforward business (even with Linux), and there is a lot of discussion on the mailing list of the pros and cons of this approach. Alternative promotional events will be run alongside installations, including software demonstrations and possibly group training events. Shops are encouraged to participate and an installation pack is available for them on the Web site.

Info

Linux Day

<http://www.linuxday.org.uk/>

UK LUGs

<http://www.lug.org.uk/>

Cheap CDROMs of GNU/Linux distributions are available from a number of firms.

Follow the links from any

Linux portal, such as

<http://www.linux.org.uk/>