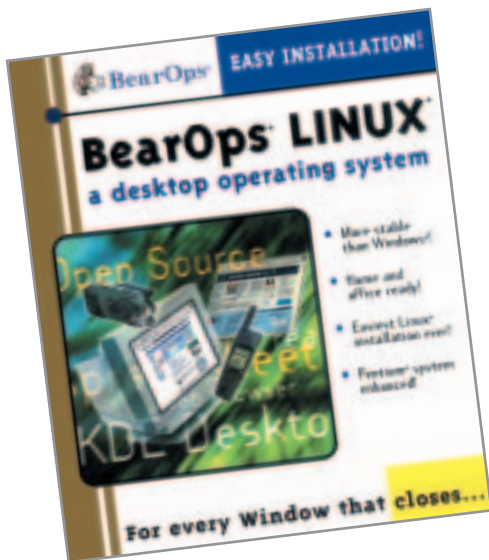


# BEAROPS LINUX DESKTOP OS

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Designed to give you everything you need for the home and office and all with a graphical desktop. BearOps Linux has tough rivals to compete with.



Partitioning the hard disk

A new distribution from the Canadian Alta Terra Ventures Corp. Aimed at both the beginner and seasoned computer techie alike the two CD package does quite well.

The installation from the first CD is either via a graphical installer if the video card is VESA2 compliant or it forces a frame buffer install if not compliant. Technical support is limited to a free half hour installation call or free email support. After that support is via a premium rate line. Calls are also international to Canada. That said the installation worked first time finding both a USB wheel mouse and a SCSI interface.

There are two possible installation routes. The Auto feature assumes that it can destroy the hard drive contents and perform a new installation from scratch. The Manual install route allows you to dual boot the machine or just keep partitions that you want to.

You can choose to use the ReiserFS journaling system or the standard ext2 for your linux partitions. The partitioning tool worked well and correctly resized a Windows partition. The installation took eighteen minutes but this was just the first disk to get the standard configuration loaded.

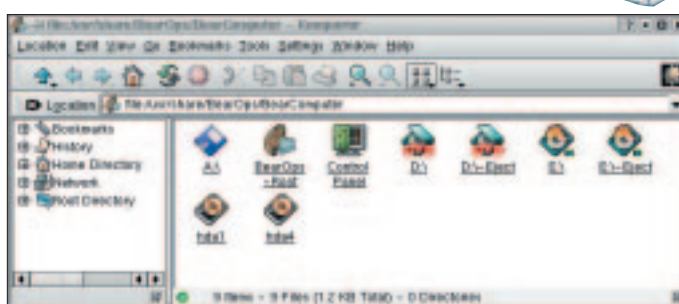
The KDE desktop is started and then the additional programs from the second CD can be installed. These include Star Office from Sun, Mozilla and gPhoto (two versions 0.4.3.1 and 2.0.1). The only disappointment was that the disc had only 250MB of programs and so 400MB of packages were missed at the very least.

The manual explains how and where to get additional software and for each compression type

how to load and install.

The only down side is in the manual. Although well written in clear language that explained, but was not patronising, it gave the appearance of being a photocopy and so a cheap product. The online manual had higher resolution images and so I would recommend printing it out first. Printing is via CUPS and the default browser is Netscape 4.77 supplied with Adobe and RealPlayer..

Overall the distribution would have been wonderful a year back and to be fair if you are after a standard Linux with updated packages this would suffice, yet somehow it now feels dated or at least unfinished. The time and effort of the manual is let down by the poor printing and the system overall could have done with someone adding a few more packages. Without local helpline numbers the distribution may fail to appeal to anyone outside Canada.



Konqueror up and running