

## Current issues

# CRITICAL MASS

Playing with obscure operating systems you sometimes find a world-beating idea that is well thought out but sadly, in time, the project fails. Those that survive manage to do this by achieving enough support from users so that development continues. Suddenly the support reaches a stage where development starts to snowball.

Linux development has been through this and it is now starting to show in retailing. Walking into a shop asking for Linux-compatible products is not high on my list of things to do for fun. But somewhere along the way it is beginning to sink in with retailers, who are realising that there is money in penguin products. Argos, the catalogue shop, is not someone who you would immediately think of to openly advertise a Linux product. Only one admittedly, but it is a start.

Usually, I have to check the hardware compatibility lists before I go shopping but more and more manufacturers are saying that their products are supported. While browsing at a computer show in the centre of London within five minutes I managed to find a SCSI adapter, network card, motherboard, CPU, Graphics card, and hard drive that all stated they were Linux-compatible on the box. Most are manufactured in the Far East and that indicates either they have all just heard of Linux in the last few days or that momentum is building. In the coming year I expect we will find more products and all Open Source.

Happy coding!



John Southern, 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)  
 Email Enquiries [edit@linux-magazine.co.uk](mailto:edit@linux-magazine.co.uk)  
 Letters [letters@linux-magazine.co.uk](mailto:letters@linux-magazine.co.uk)  
 CD [cd@linux-magazine.co.uk](mailto:cd@linux-magazine.co.uk)

**Editor** John Southern  
[jsouthern@linux-magazine.co.uk](mailto:jsouthern@linux-magazine.co.uk)

**Assistant Editor** Colin Murphy  
[cmurphy@linux-magazine.co.uk](mailto:cmurphy@linux-magazine.co.uk)

**Contributors** Alison Davis, Richard Ibbotson,  
 Jason Walsh, Steven Goodwin,  
 Janet Roebuck, Lesley Dixon,  
 Simon Naish, Bruce Richardson,  
 David Johnson, Jack Owen,  
 Jono Bacon

**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)  
 Ulrich Wolf  
[uwolf@linux-magazin.de](mailto:uwolf@linux-magazin.de)

**International Contributors** Jan Kleinert, Frank Wieduwilt,  
 Andreas Bauer, Andreas Jung,  
 Björn Ganslandt, Georg Greve,  
 Jo Moskalewski, Christian  
 Perle, Stefanie Teufel

**Design** Advanced Design

**Production** Rosie Schuster

**Operations Manager** Pam Shore

**Advertising** 01625 855169  
 Carl Jackson Sales Manager  
[cjackson@linux-magazine.co.uk](mailto:cjackson@linux-magazine.co.uk)  
 Verlagsbüro Ohm-Schmidt  
[Osmund@Ohm-Schmidt.de](mailto:Osmund@Ohm-Schmidt.de)

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

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 01625 850565

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