Current issues
RIGHTS AND WRONGS

The European Union Copyright Directive is aiming to restrict our rights by limiting the usage of copyrighted works to whatever the owner decides. So you could buy a CD and it would only be legal to play it on a music centre but not on a PC, or to copy it to some other format, like compact cassette, to play in the car. Within the directive (Passed in May 2001) was the phrase "Rights-Management Information". This means that your private usage is limited. A side effect will enable proprietary file formats to limit what you can do. We could end up with a licence saying you cannot use our software if you criticise us, or any of our friends and so ending any form of free speech and democracy. But no one would do that now, would they?

It is May and so before the summer sun takes its toll and forces us outside and away from our screens, a flourish of Linux activity is about to occur. Lots of projects are churning new versions. Mozilla is soon to launch version 1.0, which will mean the browser will have come a long way in usability and stability. Next we can all install the latest distributions to keep up with security and applications. The fact that they usually come with new toys is either a distraction or bonus depending on your mood and who is in the room with you. We also have the annual Linux Installdays arranged by the Dorset user group where we can all help spread the word and help one another.

Happy Hacking

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.