

# Current issues

# PRIME TIME

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Annual Subscription Rate  
 (12 issues)  
 UK: £44.91 . Europe (inc Eire) :  
 £59.80 Rest of the World: £77.00  
 Back issues (UK) £6.25

**Distributors** COMAG, Tavistock Road, West Drayton, Middlesex  
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**Print** R. Oldenbourg

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ISSN 14715678

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## 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.

IBM recently hit the TV screens with a Linux advert. It took me a few seconds to realise what was being advertised, then the reality sank in. IBM obviously believes the general public is finally ready to understand about Linux and that the corporate buyers will think of IBM first for all their Linux needs. It's a refreshing change to see a marketing department that realises the public is astute and capable of making up its own mind.

It is a shame that the UK government doesn't have the same foresight as IBM. In its new policy of Open Government the Gateway initiative has been introduced, which will force departments to use BizTalk servers and Windows 2000 Advanced servers. This policy now forces every council to also buy the same servers or be left out of the loop with no way to communicate with the proprietary protocols. I am sure it was an equitable deal though...

There again, maybe IBM was appealing to Peruvian nationals who, thanks to a letter by a Peruvian congressman, reminded us all of the basic fundamentals for civilisation. The Republic of Peru is considering a government bill for Free Software in Public Administration. Microsoft wrote a letter expressing its concern that this would be a bad thing for trade, the world economy, defence of freedoms etc. The subsequent reply by the congressman was a wonderful defence of Open Source. You can find the letters at <http://pimientolinux.com/peru2ms/>.

Keep fighting for freedom



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.