

Current issues

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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.

As predicted some four months ago, several of the major players in the Linux market have finally decided to cooperate with each other. Caldera, SuSE, TurboLinux and the Brazilian Conectiva have all agreed to work with a common aim. Each will still ship products with differing value added content, but they will be based on the same development core and so reduce some costs. It also means it will be a little easier to get standards and compatibility issues sorted. This could explain why SuSE has been making inroads into conforming to the Linux Standard Base. This is a good thing for Linux within businesses and the common goal of world domination.

With the main rivals to this union being Red Hat, Mandrake and Debian we are not quite heading for a single Linux distribution just yet. Red Hat is certainly known within the business world and Mandrake also has a corporate server version. Debian gets used in most corporate server rooms thanks to its steady support. Although fragmentation was the main flaw in UNIXes of old, I like the idea of there being some differing distributions: it encourages innovation and allows many paths to be taken. With some 270 current distributions I can always find a way to pass a rainy day installing a new system. Some systems I favour over others, some I will no longer give disk space to, as they go out of their way to make rain clouds darker and installs harder. Who knows, maybe we will see another big player enter with a distribution of its own and make the day a little sunnier.

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.