

Changing Times



We pride ourselves on the origins of our publication, which come from the early days of the Linux revolution.

Our sister publication in Germany, founded in 1994, was the first Linux magazine in Europe. Since then, our network and expertise has grown and expanded with the Linux community around the world.

As a reader of Linux Magazine, you are joining an information network that is dedicated to distributing knowledge and technical expertise. We're not simply reporting on the Linux and Open Source movement, we're part of it.

Dear Linux Magazine Reader,

As Autumn is now upon us, the IT world slowly shakes off its summer lethargy. New projects are starting to appear and some are designed for our business needs.

Kroupware should be ready by the end of the year. This is a large open source groupware product that has been commissioned by one of the German governmental IT agencies. The project aims to produce a server with all the functionality of MS Exchange servers and MS Outlook 2000 clients.

Why is this a good thing? Well, it is good for the IT agency as they will get an open source alternative based on standard components. If these sources are then released we will all gain for what would be seen a small expenditure for one large IT department. Other governments could then use this project and gain all the benefits for no cost.

Does this harm anyone? Other countries benefiting does not harm the original commissioning agency so everyone benefits all around. Governments helping one another – this could be a good thing. As much as I distrust governments this might be something I applaud. Now if only governments had video game departments...

A new political platform has been created by Bruce Perens after his departure from Hewlett Packard. The Sincere Choice initiative, is in response to the Microsoft-backed Software Choice Initiative. The difference is one aims at giving people the choice of being able to use proprietary software, while the other aims for the choice of proprietary software OR Free software.

The main principle of the Sincere Choice is for a fair, competitive market for computer software, both proprietary and Open Source. Bruce will have no complaints here. Software should live or die based on its merits, not on whether you are locked in to a proprietary monopoly.

Microsoft seem determined to stop any form of competition. First we had C# and .NET then reading DVD's without proprietary decoders. Next was Software patents and just as we are beginning to make politicians understand how wrong this is along comes the Palladium project. This is where a new security chip will be built onto all future motherboards. Access to, say a secure website, will be allowed only if you are using a registered proprietary software.

This Trusted Computing Platform will stop any evil terrorist from buying the latest Amazon blockbuster but what about us free world people? Content you receive may be limited because you are not trusted or it is deemed bad for you, such as the opposition's political information. Will this be the way MS finally gets to control the Internet?

Happy Hacking,



John Southern
Editor

Survey Results

Here are some of the results from the Linux Magazine reader survey:

- 98%** of our readers are male
- 62%** use Linux at work
- 43%** of our readers hold Technical Specialist positions
- 27%** share their copy with others
- 24%** buy just for the Community pages
- 76%** use Linux on the desktop
- 9%** are still living with their parents :-)

Subscription Winners

The winners from the survey draw are:

- Mr M. C. Bishop, Chirnside, UK
- Mr L.J. Kroker, Hong Kong
- Mr A. Mc Donald, Dublin, Ireland
- Ms L. Staal, Alkmaar, The Netherlands
- Mr M. Thompson, Cambus, UK

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