

# The brighter side



Dear Linux Magazine Reader,

The year started with bad news. Disney won the Eldred case which meant that anything made after

1920 in the USA will never go out of copyright. This was a bitter blow to free press publications who had hoped to be able to print many works on the internet.

The free publishing would have allowed some books to be read in differing formats such as the braille or moon systems for the blind. Due to low demand, these would not be produced by the current publishers. Poorer nations will also not get the chance to self publish.

The same day MandrakeSoft filed for the equivalent of Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection. Apple announced that its new Safari browser was built around the Konqueror engine rather than the one from Mozilla, much to the anger of some Mozilla supporters. SCO was rumoured to be considering that it would charge all Linux users \$90 royalty payments for intellectual property for use of its IP technology.

Fortunately the gloom started to lift with SCO disputing the claim. Mandrake

9.1 Beta started to hit the mirrors and Konqueror supporters pointed out that Apple chose on quality, not for history. Just to show that not all court cases go the wrong way for Free Software, Jon Johansen was acquitted over the DeCSS DVD region cracking code by the Norwegian Supreme Court.

Competition is a good thing for Free Software. When you are involved in a project and a rival launches a new version, you get a small sinking feeling that they are doing things better and all your efforts are wasted. They have a shiny new toy with different colors and features. Everyone is talking about it and yours is forgotten. Fortunately, sanity then takes back its hold on your mind and you realize that they may have a good feature that you should possibly include, but they are doing everything wrong. This spurs you into a coding frenzy with the rest of the team.

Finally, you release your next version, causing the rivals to go through the same process. Slowly both of the projects improve until they are unrecognizable to any user who has not updated frequently. New versions cause offshoot projects. More programs to satisfy every niche. Over time the software evolves.

A user of the Linux desktop just a couple of years ago would be amazed at the current modern versions. Will this continue? So far the trend has showed no sign of levelling out. In fact the rate of improvements is increasing. KDE and Gnome both still continue to battle for the desktop, causing each to be more inventive. The major distributions throw us new versions each with more features and easier-to-use options.

A whole host of new 'design yourself a Linux distribution' projects have sprung up and the number of new novel software projects announced each month

## LINUX MAGAZINE

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.

keeps increasing. This could be due to the winter weather keeping everyone inside with nothing to do but code, or it could be that coders are becoming more inventive and the thought of making what would have been a personal exercise into a free and open project is more appealing.

Or to quote Linus' Law from Eric Raymond: "Given enough eyeballs, all bugs are shallow."

Happy Hacking,

**John Southern**  
Editor

### Get connected!

This month we focus on the network. Whether you are running a Small Office / Home Office of your own or connecting into a large multi-site work domain, the ability to cope with a network will effect us all. Even on a single machine we can network between host and guest operating systems.

In our world, we continually come up against other operating systems. Connecting to these may be necessary or just a convenience. To help you in this chore we have expanded the network feature to include Samba.