

## Letters to the editor

# Write access

## ■ Better access to articles

Maybe I'm missing it, but where is your online search function? If I would like to know if you have an article about something how do I find out?

*Badiane Ka, by email*

**LM** You haven't been able to find the search function on the website because it was in beta testing when you wrote. In the meantime, we've finished testing and you are now able to search the entire web content.

You can search by using the field in the menu on the left, or by going to <http://www.linux-magazine.com/search>, where advanced search options are available.



This search function also serves to give you an overview of published articles, since it indexes all online articles, including the PDF copies of back issue articles in the Online Archive, available at <http://www.linux-magazine.com/Archive>.

We're continually adding more content and functionality to the website, so check back often!

## ■ Expensive Linux

I was thinking of making the switch to Linux, or at least to try it out; and went to the SuSE website. I was staggered by the prices!

I'm on a modem link so downloading isn't an option, and besides I want something easy to install. I don't know

whether you have any suggestions as to how, or IF, I can get a reasonably priced Linux installation for personal use.

*Robert Dedman, by email*

**LM** Linux is not necessarily expensive, the price range starts at free and goes up from there. Let me give you some examples in the UK.

Our favorite is LinuxEmporium in Wallingford <http://www.linuxemporium.co.uk> offering a huge range of Linux distributions on CD-Rom by post. These range from Gentoo costing £2.50 to the latest Debian snapshot (9 CDs) costing £16.

CheepLinux, based in Stockport just south of Manchester, will also sell you a huge range, Gentoo here is £4.99. <http://www.cheeplinux.com>

The box sets of SuSE <http://www.suse.co.uk> might seem expensive in comparison to these sets of disks because you get so much more. The boxed sets contain manuals, applications that are not freely distributable and offer support. Similarly Red Hat <http://www.europe.redhat.com> offers similar boxed sets with support and manuals.

Let us clarify the support issue a little. These companies offer actual support, in that you can pick up the telephone to them and they will solve problems to do with installation. This is a little different in my experience from Microsoft.

The cheapest Microsoft Windows XP Home edition we could find is £163.32 from Dabs <http://www.dabs.com>. This comparison is a little unfair, as the Windows product does not come with the enormous range of hardware drivers and software that you get when you buy a Linux distribution.

If you do not want to spend the money on buying from above, you could always send an email to your local Linux User Group <http://www.linux-magazine.com/Readers/Usergroups> asking if someone is willing to download or copy a CD for you. Even better would be to go along to



Please send your comments and suggestions to [letters@linux-magazine.com](mailto:letters@linux-magazine.com)

your nearest LUG meeting where the members are normally delighted to help you install Linux and, if you are lucky, give you the copy for free, give or take the cost of a beer!

## ■ US \$ prices introduced

I would like to subscribe to Linux Magazine but there aren't any options for US\$ subscriptions. Could you please inform me if your publication is available in the USA.

*Jerry Miltner, by email*

**LM** Yes, Linux Magazine is available in the USA both on the newsstand and by subscription. Single copies are available in most Barnes & Noble and Borders stores (if not on the shelf, they can order it), as well as various regional bookstore and electronics chains.

Regarding subscriptions, we have always offered delivery to the US, but until recently with Euro prices. We have now introduced US\$ prices for delivery to all locations outside Europe.

A full year subscription (12 issues including CD) costs US \$74.90 for SAL shipping (mix of surface and air), and US \$84.90 for Airmail delivery. We recommend Airmail delivery – the magazine will usually arrive within a few days of the official on sale date, whereas SAL is slower and less reliable. The US \$ prices are now available over the website here:

<http://www.linux-magazine.com/Subs>. Welcome aboard! ■