Letters to the editor

Write access

■ Reading from Paper

I had a look at the web site and the search feature is very useful and comprehensive and your site is now on my Opera toolbar.

One question that I have (I should say that I am a Marketing Consultant so you understand why I ask the question) is why should somebody buy your magazine where all of the content is on the web site except for the last three months and easily searched? I would be interested in your views but as I am only asking the question out of curiosity please do not feel obliged to answer it.

I know why I buy it, I prefer to read from paper and I am happy to pay a reasonable price for something that I value. Now I suspect that I am older than the average age of your readers so maybe my views are not typical of your readership or potential readership.

I will be renewing my subscription!
Matthew Durnford, by email

LM Thanks for your comments and for renewing your subscription. Why do we publish all of our content online?

As you mentioned, it is nicer to read on paper instead of from a computer monitor. Paper also gives you the opportunity to easily read while travelling, taking a break from work, etc. Surely not all of our readers feel this way, but there are more "old-fashioned" paper readers out there than you might think.

Secondly, and most importantly, you note that you are willing to pay for some-

thing of value. We put a lot of effort into the quality and usability of Linux Magazine, and we would like as many people as possible to know about it.

The internet helps us to get the word out, and if someone finds a useful article on our website, they are more likely to consider reading on a regular basis.

This is also the spirit of the Linux and Open Source Community – everyone donates time and effort for the general good, which makes for a better situation for all of us. If, by posting our articles online, we can help more people to be successful with Linux, then in the end, we all benefit.

Obviously, this is a risky proposition from a business point of view. However, our experience is that the international Linux Community rewards our efforts by subscribing to our magazine and telling others about it. As you say, it is worthwhile to pay for something of value!

■ Seeing fonts

I have added a truetype font following the instructions on the Redhat page. Why can I only see these if I am root. The machine is stand alone and the Xserver is already running as root.
Grant Kelly, by email

LM By Red Hat page I assume you mean: *http://www.redhat.com/docs/manuals/ linux/RHL-9-Manual/ref-guide/ s1-x-fonts.html*

The problem is, although the X server is running as root, as a user you need to be able to access the directory where the fonts are stored.

You could place your new fonts into the */home/<username>/.font* directory which would work just as well, but using the general directory for the fonts at */usr/share/fonts/local/* means that if you set up another user on your system, that they could also use them.

You need to change the permissions with

```
chmod a+r -R /pathtofonts
```

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*letters@linux-magazine.com***

The *-R* tells it to be recursive with subdirectories. The *a + r* means (A)ll users (R)eadable. Then clear the font cache with the command

```
fc-cache
```

This last command needs to be run with write permissions as it needs to be able to produce a summary file for each directory.

Once this has run, you do not need the write permissions.

■ Safer Building

The article states "You will need superuser privileges throughout the build process. You can allow non-privileged users to build packages but this is complicated to setup."

I strongly disagree. First, this may be dangerous for the system (as stated somewhere else in the article). Second, this is really simple.

For a nice explanation, see the mandrake RPM Howto: *http://www.linux-mandrake.com/en/howtos/mdk-rpm/ preliminary.html*

It is usually as simple as typing the following command: *mkdir -p ~/rpm/ {BUILD,RPMS/i586,RPMS/noarch,SOUR CES,SRPMS,SPECS,tmp}* and then in the file *~/.rpmmacros* put this 2 lines:

```
%_topdir    YOUR_HOME_DIR/rpm
%_tmppath   YOUR_HOME_DIR/rpm/tmp
```
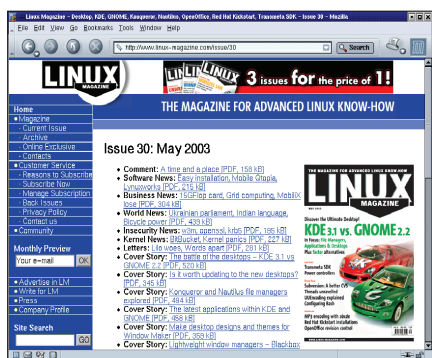
Pascal Terjan, By email ■

Figure 1: Linux Magazine issue #30 archive page