Designing your ideal computer for home

The Perfect System

A standard beige or grey system box might be all well and good for the server room, but when it comes to home, you need to be thinking about style. You are likely to spend many a fine night with your computer at home. It may be time for a computer makeover. **BY JOHN SOUTHERN**

It is no use spending all your hard earned money on creating the ideal home without any consideration being spent on your home computer. It is something that could be a talking point one way or another. Having friends admire your decor is nice; but to have then complain about your computer being an eyesore is too much for any self-respecting computer user. More important is the nuisance level that will soon confront you from the noisy fans inside most PCs. With Linux being stable and able to undergo extremely long periods without shutdown, noise can make all the difference between a system that is loved, or one that starts to be hated.

With this in mind, we set about finding just what can be done to produce a quiet – if not completely silent – PC. Of course, this does come at a price. For most, a silent PC will be far beyond what their budget allows, but considering how much the noise pollution produced can affect your health, it is worth taking a

look at what you could do. There are thousands of options available. We tested and tried the best in our Linux labs, so you can cut to the chase and simply choose what is best for you.

Having settled on your ultimate PC design, we take a real in depth look at the attachments you are likely to add to your machine. The first peripheral usually bought is a printer. Not all printers cost the same or offer the same functions. Fortunately for us, the man behind Linuxprinting.org has come to our rescue and produced the ultimate guide to buying a printer for your Linux computer. This ranges from the big professional color laser printers usually found in graphic design shops, to the budget inkjet and mono laser machines designed to suit almost any pocket.

Now we have a quiet computer and matching printer, all we need is a digital camera to take some photos. The range has recently increased to include cameras that act as mass storage devices when connected to your computer. We explore what is available, how you can gain access, and more importantly, take control of your latest digital purchase with ease using Linux. The ability to manipulate the photos and their corresponding data headers on your camera, makes the new range of software a joy to use.

So the next time your friends come around to visit, you can proudly show them your system and let them leave green with envy. ■