Letters to the editor
Write access

Mouse problems solved

I have just installed Fedora 2, but … as so many others my mouse did not move during and after the installation! At first I thought that the configuration file *xorg.conf* was wrong. But it was not.

Thanks to *http://www.google.be* find "fedora mouse" I discovered that the BIOS expected an USB mouse while my system had a normal scroll mouse.

The article in *http://www.linuxquestions.org/questions/history/183103* advised me to disable the BIOS support for USB Legacy!

It was a pity that this problem set me on the wrong foot. I lost quite a long time to search for the reason of the problem. Please inform the other readers about this problem, and its solution.

Another thing was that all programs */usr/bin/redhat-** changed into */usr/bin/system-**. I believe changing too much the prefixes of programs from "redhat" to "fedora" and "redhat" to "system" only confuses the users without any operational benefit…

Anyway the DVD Fedora 2 was a splendid idea!
Geert Van Pamel,
Project Manager, IT Development & Maintenance, by email

Silent Nights

I recently built a silent (well, very nearly) silent pc – I can hear it hum, but only just – the birdsong is louder! Nevertheless, when I built it in December, it was top-of-the range. So, I have a few comments on your QuietPC article. Especially that you don't need to sacrifice performance for near-silence.

The excellent Heatlane Zen, which I'm using with a 3GHz P4, is available more cheaply from *www.quietpc.com* (I purchased everything from them – and have been duly satisfied). The motherboard must be in a vertical plane, so that the Heatlane can work by convection.

The Seagate Barracuda drives are very quiet, but still noisy when they are doing disk access. A dramatic reduction in noise can be obtained by using Zalman's heatpipe HDD cooler – which includes large rubber mounts which almost totally kill the rattling noise. The cooler now takes up a 5 1/4 inch bay, and also reduces the HDD temperature a bit. (I'm using the 7200rpm Seagate Barracuda 160GB SATA drives x 2)

Graphics cards can also be silenced effectively, and the fan totally removed. I used a Zalman ZM80A-HP heatpipe cooler on an Nvidia FX5200. Case fans can usefully be slowed down with a series resistor.

Acoustic matting (foam with dense backing material) is slightly helpful, but I wouldn't say it makes a dramatic difference, if the machine is already quiet.

If interested, here's what I put into mine:
- C6607B Accousticase Black Super Midi Tower, no PSU
- Q-Technology Ultra-Quiet ATX PSU 350W, 120mm fan
- ZM80A-HP Silent graphic card cooler
- Zalman HDD cooler ZM-2HC1
- HeatLane Zen fanless CPU cooler
- AF120CT Accoustifan 120mm
- Zalman Fan Mate Variable Fan Speed Controller

Well worth it – and certainly cheaper than buying a pre-built PC. I haven't had to make any compromises on performance here.
Richard Neill, by email

Suse Mental Notes

In your letters to the editor page you advised J. Perry from Hull to work around his Mozilla browser freezing in Suse Linux 9.0 by disabling the IPv6 protocols on his firewall.

I had the same problem: Mozilla did not seem to recognize my keyboard yet the mouse worked all the time. Any use of keyboard resulted in program freeze

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that could not be halted any other way than through console and "top -u whoever - > kill". I found that I could solve this problem by disabling automatic keyword searches or automatic text completion in "Preferences - > Smart Browsing" in Mozilla.

Suse seems to be happily unaware of this problem. Suse guys, please make a mental note! Perhaps a "users tips" area on Suse's server would be a good idea?
Tuomas Helin, Pori, Finland

Gnome Compiling

I am a tyro programmer. I can successfully create SIMPLE C and C + + console based programs. I would like to progress onto GUI programs, using Gnome. However, I am having problems.

I tried to compile the mini.c program contained within issue 2 of your magazine. After much trial and error, I have finally got the system to at least attempt to compile the program. However, it still will not actually compile, returning the following error…

```
cannot find -lesd
```

This leaves me none the wiser. What do I need in order to rectify the problem?
Tony Bradley, by email

LM The the missing file that you need on your system is the *esound* deamon. If you install the *esound* development package you should find the software compiles correctly.