

Opening Doors



Dear Linux Magazine Reader,

Two projects are about to move to Open Source for different reasons. The end result is all that matters for the community.

A well known project was chosen by one of the large Linux distributions as a much needed fix for one of their cash generating products. The previous stand-in was rumored to have been beset by many user complaints and talk of poor help facilities. The new product was a success. Everyone was happy except those who complained that the product should not be using the word "Open" in its naming, if it was not really Open in the spirit of the meaning, and that a Linux distributor of all people should understand this.

Time passes and the distributor finds itself in the position of having a rival product within its portfolio. Having two strategies is confusing, so one is elected to be the chosen way and the other is no longer needed. At this point, the product is released as an Open Source project with many developers signed up to help. Even though it was mentioned just once on a mailing list.

Worldwide DVD distribution

We are happy to announce that as of this issue, the Linux Magazine DVD will automatically be included in all newsstand copies worldwide.

That means that whether you buy your magazine copy in Seattle, Seville, or Singapore, the DVD will always be included.

Due to newsstand specifications and other distribution issues, the DVD has so far only been available on the newsstand in the UK. Enjoy!

The owners get a chance to change their business strategy to offering additional value-added services such as a professional MS Outlook connector. The focus has changed from being a company that develops a product to be sold by another company to developing extra features for an Open Source software application. Everyone is again happy, as long as the Linux distributor has chosen the right product for its strategy and that it is not just because it was a case of internal politics.

Big OS vendors have a hard time competing against Linux and Open Source software. This is not because they do not have good products. Some are world class. The problem is that they cannot possibly pay for tens of thousands of the best developers, when the OS model has many tens of thousands of developers for no cost, who work on different aspects because they love doing so. OS vendors can afford to have a few of the very best, and they can certainly afford the best in strategists.

These strategists, will obviously see the potential trouble ahead when they have to compete with the rapidly developing Linux model. Their own OS unable to change at such a pace is doomed in the long term. Even if their marketing droids say one thing, they internally might be thinking and hinting at another. One very well known Unix vendor has tested Linux. It has even released some of its hardware with varying Linux support.

Externally, it is committed to its own Unix that is a proprietary system to compliment its hardware range. Internally, some of the developers held a recent world conference to thrash out ways of producing an Open Source version of their product. They can see some of the advantages the product has, but would like the opportunity to have the many

eyes review it, to ensure it is the best it can be. We should all expect to hear of a new Open Source operating system soon, as long as the company does not try to use legal methods to strangle the idea and the developers fall to earth like Icarus.

Open Source forever!

John Southern
Editor

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.