Letters to the editor

Write access

◼ A DVD to have a play with

The DVD that came with Issue 47 / October is great – lots of different Knoppix style distros to have a play with. :) The fact that the DVD is bootable into all the different versions is an added bonus.

It's nice to see Linux Magazine do something Debian-based for a change, rather than all that Suse/RPM stuff that it seems to focus on. Keep it up!

Sonia, by email

LM Thanks for the compliments, it is always nice to hear that our work is appreciated. We don't have a bias for any particular distribution. Our goal is to provide practical information on the products used by the majority, while introducing other options as well.

◼ Thin Linux Client

I have been experimenting with the Live Knoppix and Feather Linux system from the Issue #46 / September DVD.

I was astonished that those little jewels can boot any Intel into a working network LAN environment within minutes. Fast, effective and without any manual intervention. DHCP, DNS and the TCP/IP gateway are identified, as well as the other hardware and even the swap partitions are mounted!

Running remote X Window applications is possible within seconds! I can mount local Linux or Windows partitions if needed. Even mounting NFS disks should be possible, although I haven't tried this yet.

What I would be interested in is making a "thin Linux client" available to my team, i.e., to have a small Linux system available via a BOOTP loader (booting Linux over the network) using a server on the local LAN. This way even a boot CD-ROM isn't necessary. It would be sufficient to indicate in the BIOS that a network boot should be attempted.

If the remote image is updated with a new version, the client systems automatically gets the new version on the next reboot.

Never before I have found such an article in Linux Magazine. This could be useful also for small companies wanting to make available thin Linux clients to their office workers without the hassle of installing an OS!

Geert Van Pamel, by email

LM Interesting idea for an article. Any one out there want to write it? You know where to find us: *edit@linux-magazine. com.*

◼ Notebook power management

Just to say a big "thank you" for the article on Ndiswrapper, which should stop me needing to boot my HP nx9005 notebook into Windows in order to use wireless networking. It uses a Realtek chipset for normal Ethernet, but the Broadcom chipset for wireless.

I did get a trial license for the commercial "Driverloader" product, but I couldn't get it working. I've got to the stage of having a wlan0 using ndiswrapper, and it lets me set the WEP key, but for some reason its not letting me set the ESSID. But at least there is light at the end of the tunnel now, and I have a web site to watch!

As for future articles, how about an in-depth article on notebook power management?

Paul, by email

LM Please see our article "Sleeping with Linux" on ACPI and APM on p43 in this issue. It describes how you can use the advanced power management features on your Linux laptop.

Please send your comments and suggestions to
letters@linux-magazine.com

◼ Linux Magazine in Oz?

I was wondering if the magazine is available in Australia, or would I have to subscribe? Would you please let me know my best options – thanks!

Tim Josselyn, by email

LM In fact, we've been distributing Linux Magazine to newsstands in Australia for some time now. However, we don't have a list of newsstands/locations where it is available. So, I suggest trying first at larger newsagents, e.g., at a large railway station or a major airport. It largely depends where you live, in Sydney, Melbourne, Adelaide or any other of the major cities it should be no problem.

If this doesn't work: we have a special trial subscription offer, which gets you 3 DVD issues with Airmail delivery at the price of a single copy at the newsstand: US$ 15. For more information on ordering please see here: *http://www. linux-magazine.com/Trial.*