The Ubuntu project continues its conquest of the Linux desktop with Ubuntu 7.10 “Gutsy Gibbon.” Ubuntu Linux is respected around the world for combining high-end stability with an easy user experience.

The Desktop
The Gnome 2.20 desktop included with Ubuntu 7.10 comes with an enhanced Evolution mail and calendar client, advanced power management, and better browsing for digital images. The desktop search bar applet, which is now part of the Ubuntu default configuration, provides fast access to common search functions. Gutsy Gibbon also includes default Compiz Fusion 3D graphics and a new tool for quickly switching between user sessions. The Firefox browser adds an improved Firefox plugin finder, and new background tools provide dynamic screen configuration.

Security Matters
The AppArmor security framework makes its way into the default Ubuntu configuration with the latest release. You’ll also find an additional installation alternative for securing files with hard disk encryption. This disk-level encryption, which protects data even when the system is in a powered-off state, ensures that a stolen laptop or mobile device won’t reveal your secrets.

For the Admin
Although Ubuntu is popular with the home crowd, the system also shines as an easily manageable workstation for corporate environments. Gutsy Gibbon comes with features such as profile-based authentication configuration, which lets the admin set up profiles for site-wide authentication changes. One of the most important changes with Ubuntu 7.10 is the default support for write access to Windows NTFS partitions. Earlier versions offered read access, but the latest Ubuntu comes with NTFS write support using the tools of the NTFS-3g project. Other advances include automatic printer installation and improved LTSP thin client support.

Conclusion
The Ubuntu project is famous for a smart, simple user interface and a no-nonsense approach to development and integration. We hope you enjoy this month’s Ubuntu 7.10 “Gutsy Gibbon” DVD.