

Current issues

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Technical Support

Readers can write in with technical queries which may be answered in the magazine in a future issue, however Linux Magazine is unable to directly provide technical help or support services either written or verbal.

In the next few months expect the market to get a shake up. Rather than lots of separate distribution companies all working their own way and repeating each other's work, a major co-operation will be announced. This has the disadvantage of less diversification. For me this is not a worry, as if an opportunity exists someone will fill it and there are enough small distributions to keep everyone on their toes.

The advantage is firstly cost reductions in that the wheel is not reinvented at each development centre. The second is that by pooling resources work can be more focused and directed rather than just developing at someone's whim. Not all of the big players are included and if they were it would have hinted at a cartel. Those that are included will have to find a way to add value to differentiate their products. Adding value means more features, which in turn requires more development and so the product improves.

The next big move will be in High Performance Computing. This will allow Linux to run on very large systems, all the time. Although Beowulf clusters exist they are mostly experimental. Enterprise wide deployment means a new set of problems. Sure enough the main contenders for these markets, IBM, Compaq and Sun are all busy developing to scale their Linux work to on-demand systems. Running Linux on a mainframe is possible, but the ability to run it on large clusters with reliability is now approaching.

Happy Hacking



John Southern
Editor

**GUARANTEE**

We pride ourselves on the origins of our magazine which come from the very start of the Linux revolution. We have been involved with Linux market for six years now through our sister European-based titles Linux Magazine (aimed at professionals) and Linux User (for hobbyists), and through seminars, conferences and events.

By purchasing this magazine you are joining an information network that enjoys the benefit of all the knowledge and technical expertise of all the major Linux professionals and enthusiasts. No other UK Linux magazine can offer that pedigree or such close links with the Linux Community. We're not simply reporting on the Linux and open source movement - we're part of it.