

Error: The Highly Unreliable Times

This Week Updated 07/15/07 Version 0.0.0.10 Issue 3

[Contact Us](#), [Home](#), [About Us](#), [our Radio Show](#) YOUR ADD HERE!

[The People or companies who wrote these articles can be found by clicking on the Title of the article if you have an Internet connection.](#)

Computer Rescue **1-208-750-5628**

From The Editor Justin Breithaupt

THE BALLROOM BLITZ

Microsoft's media blitz looks like a desperate attempt to stay alive. I just got my new issue of eWeek magazine volume 24 and as in previous eWeek magazines I noticed that even though it's all about IT (Information Technologies) which for the most part basically discusses servers and business and mostly involves Free Software like Linux, Microsoft has it's adds plastered threw out the magazine. Even if you go to a lot of open source community sites you will see Microsoft adds on the Internet. Now I don't blame these sites or magazines because accepting money from Microsoft and using it to promote Linux is actually a good thing. With all this false information about how good Microsoft software is people don't seem to believe it. Thats why I say bring it on Microsoft. You can't win.

FALSE IMPRESSION ABOUT LINUX BLINDED BY DEBIAN / Ubuntu

A lot of people are under a false impression about Linux. They think because they have tried Debian or another similar type of Linux that every version of Linux is hard to set up. I ask you to please try a mandrake based version or slack ware that works right away without a lot of set up. After reading this issue I hope you get a better understanding of how easy Linux can be as well as learn about the new developments in the news.

DIY 8-64 channel Sound Studio with Linux.

Ok first of all let me explain. How would you like to be able to have 8 inputs and outputs to and from your computer at a time for recording? Well you can or you can have up to 64 separate channels recording at the same time. How? Well since each fiber optic line handles 8 channels of sound for every two you have you can receive and send 8 channels of sound. There is a card made by RME ([HDSP PCI card](#)) that IS NOT A FIREWIRE CARD but

uses the same cable and connection to connect 64 channels to an external fiber optic sound device ([ADI-648](#)). If you only want a maximum of 24 channels then you don't need to buy this card or a fiber optic sound device. All you need is one card ([HDSP9652](#)) with 6 fiber optic ports and 3 external audio interfaces ([High-End 8-Channel A/D & D/A Converter with Premium Mic Preamplifiers and ADAT® Interface](#)). If however you want to go all out and get 64 channels you will need expensive equipment. It's about \$300.00 per every 8 channels of in and out. So that's basically all you need. If you wanted to do this with a laptop you could but I'm not sure why you would want to.

NEWS SECTION

Saturday, July 7, 2007

[New exciting Gnome developments](#)

Source: [Developing GNOME is going to rock even more very soon!](#)

Gnome development is starting to see some interesting changes. The first is the previously mentioned [gtkbuilder](#) support in GTK+ 2.12. This adds new features over the previous libglade implementation and also is now part of GTK+ so it can be used everywhere GTK+ is used.

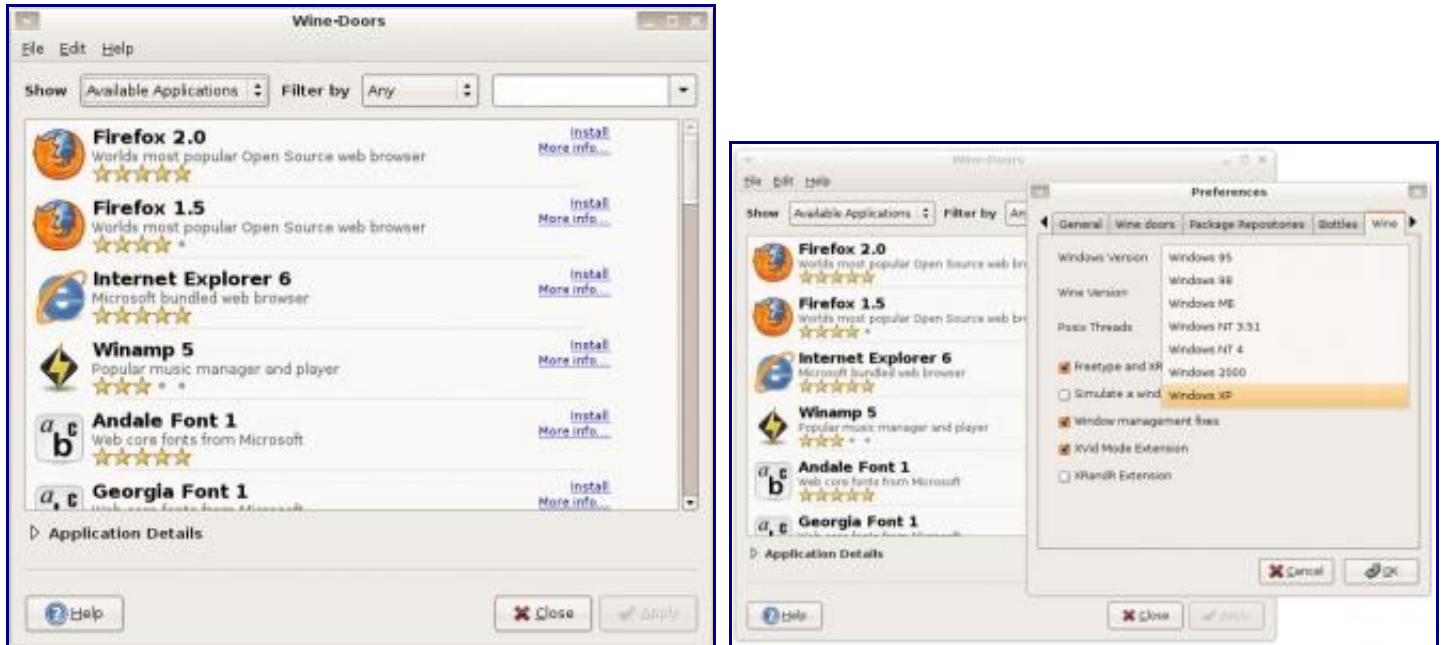
Another ongoing development is GVFS. Currently gnome uses something called [gnome-vfs](#) which is great but is showing its age when it comes to newer functionality such as [FUSE](#).

These new features alongside the amazing existing language bindings for GTK+/Gnome make for a very exciting time for Gnome.

[Linux Kernel 2.6.22](#)

includes an optional, more SMP-friendly SLUB allocator (<http://lwn.net/Articles/229984>), new and much better wireless and firewire stacks, a new architecture called Blackfin, a LVM-for-flash-storage-devices called UBI, event notifications through file descriptors (<http://lwn.net/Articles/225714>), the POSIX-draft utimensat() syscall, the 'TCP Illinois' and 'YeAH-TCP' congestion control algorithms, IPV6 Optimistic Duplicate Address Detection, AF_RXRPC socket support, relocatable x86-64 kernel support, improvements to the CFQ I/O scheduler, more process footprint information in /proc, various new drivers and many other improvements.

Wine Doors For Ubuntu



Wine doors is an application designed to assist users in obtaining, installing, uninstalling and working around the caveats associated with wine applications. Although wine doors is intended to be a replacement for winetools it is not limited to release cycles for the applications available to install, instead a web service will be provided, this web service will serve XML Pack Lists and Application Packs as well as various other resources.

Home page: <http://www.wine-doors.org/wordpress/>
Ubuntu package: I couldn't find a debian package of wine-doors on the web, so, if you want to install it you should build from source. More information [here](#).

Rev Al Sharpton To campaign for Linux

Written by Administrator



July 2007

The Rev Al Sharpton announced today that he would begin campaigning for linux adoption and for more hardware companies to provide linux device driver support as a way of ending the "digital divide" in America.

"Corporate America has to learn that it needs to support everyone in America, and not just those who can afford to spend \$400 on Microsoft Office. By supporting free software, we can keep hope alive in America", said the minister speaking outside his home in Harlem, NY.

A spokesperson close to Revernd Al indicated that he would use his contacts and formidable lobbying presence to put pressure on boards to release linux drivers

for all their product and to release linux versions of software where applicable. "The Reverend likes to strut his stuff and get in the face of rich, corporate America on behalf of ordinary people. Protests with full choirs in attendance are likely in front of those companies like Logitech which refuse to cooperate with the open source community", said the spokesperson anonymously.

Compiz Fusion logo Idea 2

Description:

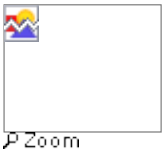
w00t!

So yesterday after returning from the Live Earth Concert in NY (NJ) I found that my design had gotten dugg. So I went ahead and updated the design to what I actually submitted as my final designs. Thanks for the digg! And here's to a beautifully designed opensource community! :)

This is a logo concept that came to me just a day or so ago. The idea was to actually illustrate a fusion between the two older brands giving them both a sort of new dimension and energy. The shape is more "crystalline" than just pure box like the old compiz logo and the arrow is replaced with the fusion explosion in the middle, suggesting directionality but in a more dynamic and energetic way that relates more directly to fusion. And then you have the kind of mixing of the colors which adds another visually interesting quality.

Anyway, thought it was interesting. :) Hope you like it.

openartist.net



Zoom



Zoom

Dell's Linux desktop line keeps expanding

Jul.

08,

2007

When Dell first announced that it would be [releasing Ubuntu Linux-powered consumer desktops and laptops](#), some people saw it as more of a stunt than a serious business move. They were wrong. Dell has already [expanded its consumer Linux line](#), and now it has announced that it will soon be offering Ubuntu Linux systems outside of the United States and for new businesses.

Is Ubuntu the way forward for Linux?

IT PRO speaks to Ubuntu founder Mark Shuttleworth about the future for Ubuntu and Linux as a platform. Posted Richard Hillesley at 9:00PM, 2nd July 2007



During the last three years Ubuntu has sprung from nothing to become the most popular desktop distribution of [Linux](#). There are good reasons for Ubuntu's success. Ubuntu is firmly rooted in the Linux developer and user communities, based on Debian, the classic Linux community distribution, and employs some of the key Debian developers. Ubuntu is clean and uncomplicated which makes it attractive to entry level users, without sacrificing the traditional Debian virtues of stability, flexibility and configurability, which has made it an enticing proposition for developers.

The logical next step for Canonical, the holding company for Ubuntu, has been to capitalise on this popularity by making advances into commercial markets, offering industrial strength training and support to Linux users, and establishing partnerships with Dell and Sun to provide pre-installed Ubuntu systems.

Sunday, July 8, 2007

Confessions of a Linux Fan: 10 Things You Might Want To Know Before Switching Over To Linux BUT WAIT I DON'T AGREE!

Ok Who said they could speak on behalf of the entire Linux community and say that there are all these problems with Linux after just using Ubuntu or something like it?

1. **The basic installation of most mainstream Linux distributions is very easy, but a first time user might run into trouble when trying to depart from the defaults. May I Get A Word In Here? First of all it depends on what you are installing, second if you are installing Ubuntu I can see where you might have trouble installing it. PCLinuxOS and other Mandrake distros don't have as much trouble.**
2. **If you want a proper Linux installation, you are going to have to mess around with the partition table. What? It did it automatically for me. It even does in Ubuntu too. Not sure what the problem is.**
3. **You will have to learn how to use the command line. You will? In PCLinuxOS I can install pretty much everything from the Synaptic Package Manager in PCLinuxOS except ie4linux and VMWare. So I'm not quite sure what you are talking about.**
4. **All those pretty effects of wobbly windows and cube desktops require some work from the user. Oh? Is that really true? In PCLinuxOS the beryl 3D desktop will work as soon as it's done installing on most computers. If it does not and you know what kind of Video card you have (like me I have a Nvidia 6000) you just open the Synaptic Package manager and search for Nvidia and look in the description for the 6xxx series. Install it and thats it.**
5. **Yes, more hardware works with Linux than with Windows. No, not all hardware works 100% like**

it's supposed to. OK? In Windows Vista 64 bit and almost as many times in 32 bit you can't get drivers for your hardware to work properly. Just try to get dial up working in 64 bit, You can't. Now maybe HP printers work the best in Linux but that's because HP supports Linux. Dell printers for standard Dell models that come with Windows are Lexmark Paperweights. Lexmark printers are the cheapest printers made and also the worst quality. No wonder they don't work in Linux. If it's not a good printer it probably doesn't work at all in Linux. As for dial up well it does work in Linux 64 bit with the right modems.

6. **If you need/want to install a package not included in the repositories, or install from source, you might need to do some research.** Research? You must mean research to find out if it is going to work with Debian based Ubuntu. Almost any package will work in PCLinuxOS or a Mandrake based version but Debian packages must be pre-made just for Debian. Debian is so special that there are packages made just for it. Wow doesn't that make you feel special. Mandrake makes its own packages with the make command. Why can't Debian do that? Maybe the question is why can't Windows do that?
7. **Most mainstream software manufacturers forget about Linux.** Oh? Is that why since the beginning of 2007 to now 12% of software manufacturers have left Microsoft and made code for Linux? It's estimated that by 2008 63% will support Linux.
8. **Linux is not for the meek of heart.** Darn Straight! Finally we can agree on something! That's why those T-Shirts say fear me for I am Root! (the root user has all privileges and access to all systems) Linux ROCKS! Don't try to hide it.
9. **Linux is almost entirely virus/trojan/spyware free, but you will still need some kind of protection.** Ok where did you learn about Linux? From Microsoft's FUD department? Linux comes with its firewall turned on and tight as a locked safe at Fort Knocks. There is no way in unless you make a way. Now of course you can get pop ups or spyware that will track your PC or pop up ads unless you clean out your temporary files once in a while but it's that way on any system and those are not viruses. Viruses attack your computer and data or mess with settings like Trojans or send more junk on like worms.
10. **Linux assumes that you are an intelligent person.** "As such, it assumes that if you log in as administrator, you know what you are doing. You can do a lot of damage as administrator. You can literally screw the whole darn system with a single mistyped command on the command line. Luckily, for the most part, you will be logged in as a lowly user. Assuming that you are intelligent also implies that you can customize everything, and if you break something while customizing the system to your needs, you will know how to fix it, or be willing to work hard and learn how to fix it." **OK now you are telling me that you need to be intelligent to use Linux? Logging in as root is a bit stupid but live and learn then reinstall it again stupid and don't use that root account. Secondly you think it's easier in Windows? I don't even have to try to screw things up in Windows, they are already screwed up when I install it. It takes a "intelligent" person to fix Microsoft's screw ups and make the system actually run! Linux is for people that just want their computer to work like a toaster. I usually install it for people that can't or don't want to and set it up just for them so that they can use it anytime they want without worrying about it crashing.**
11. "As a final thought, I guess what we, the Linux fans, do not tell you is that for the most part "Linux is for power users, and Windows is for n00bs" (I've seen this posted somewhere). So think about what I've posted, and if you are not willing to "geek" around a little, Linux is not for you." **Windows is for n00bs? Then when will the n00bs ever learn how to use Linux if it's**

so complicated like you say?

Dell adds nerdy sense of humour to Linux promotion

You have to see this [Click Here](#).

SouthWest Airlines working on in-flight WiFi

What you mean Cell Phones won't bring down an aircraft? Or is the iphone just that important?

A tipster sent us a recent corporate presentation at SouthWest Airlines that twice mentions that "Inflight wireless internet connectivity" is being looked at. Rather predictably for an airline, this is mentioned on a slide discussing future revenue opportunities -- hey, dems airlines gotta get paid! -- but [at least they're thinking about it](#), right? As such, we can probably expect the [in-flight rates](#) for said "wireless internet connectivity" to be equivalent to the altitude of the plane. We'll know more as soon as SouthWest starts getting specific on the deets: when they do, we know which airline we'll be booking the next time we have to fly internal.

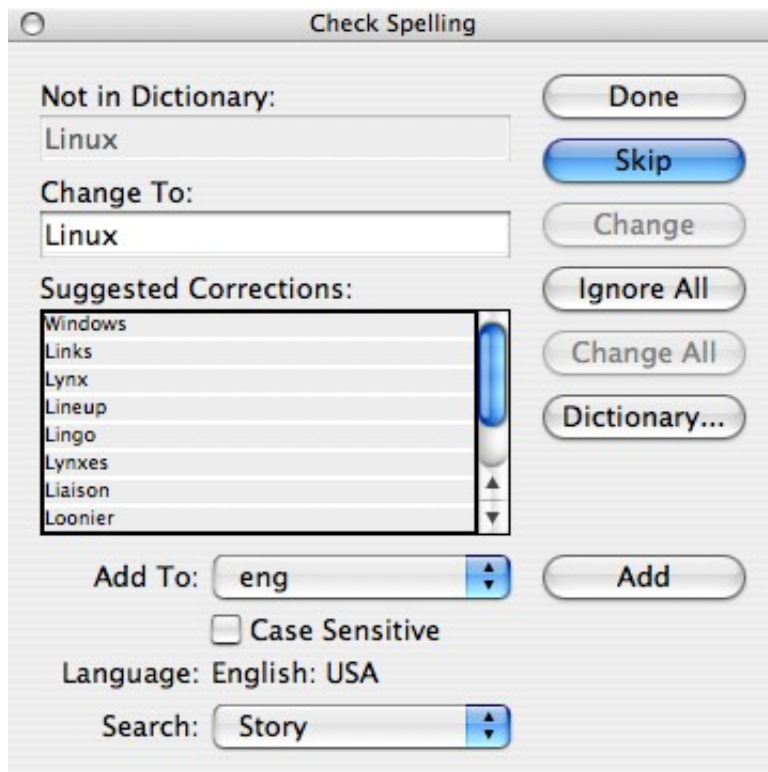
Google to buy e-mail security company for \$625 mln

Sounds Like a wasted Investment to me since Mozilla Thunderbird has an automatic Junk Mail filter you can turn on but what good investment's has Google made besides youtube in the past year?

Using Compiz, Beryl, And Metisse On A Mandriva 2007 Spring Desktop

This tutorial shows how you can use [Compiz](#), [Beryl](#), and [Metisse](#) on a Mandriva 2007 Spring (Mandriva 2007.1) desktop (the system must have a 3D-capable graphics card). With Compiz, Beryl, and Metisse, you can make your desktop use beautiful 3D effects like wobbly windows or a desktop cube (although the desktop cube isn't available on Metisse).

Linux not in dictionary



The Highly Reliable Times Strikes Again!

As stated in this article if you click the link above “We can't take big **risks** with our technology. State government needs **trusted, tested** technology that's **reliable** and **predictable**.” Lets take this apart and look at it.

- **Risks.** Microsoft takes risks with very strange changes in the way they treat their customers.
- **Trusted.** [Trusted Computing](#) makes Windows Vista good Right?
- **Tested.** Yes Microsoft is testing Vista on users right now and getting helpful error reports sent back to Microsoft containing useful information that they want about your computer, files, and software you are using. Microsoft is our beloved Big Brother.
- **Reliable.** We can rely on Microsoft software to crash when we least expect it and to be fully compatible with viruses, spyware, trojans, adware, and other “features” Microsoft may include such as Internet Explorer 7, Remote Access, Remote Control, the ability to add or remove software as they wish. This may include features such as DRM (data restrictions management or data rights management).
- **Predictable.** We can predict that there will be major problems with Microsoft products around the holidays and for several years after a new product is launched before Microsoft gets a chance to get error reports to study and fix. I predict that it will be at least another 6 years before a better I mean newer more unstable version of Windows comes out. Linux comes out about every 6

months.

The \$300 Linux-Powered 'iPhone Killer' Arrives

“After seemingly endless delays, the OpenMoko phone is here. The first version of the NEO 1973 mobile phone, which carries the Linux kernel inside and is not locked to a specific network, is available for purchase from OpenMoko.com. It's not as jaw-droppingly pretty as the iPhone, but it shares a design philosophy -- no buttons, just a screen -- and it's ready to be loaded with any number of open-source software applications. (Though, according to Gadget Lab, [so is the iPhone](#)).

The base version of the NEO sells for \$300. It has a 2.8" VGA touch screen, a micro SD card slot, a USB port and 2.5G GSM quad band capability.

Keep in mind that this unit (the GTA01) was pushed out early so developers could begin writing device drivers, custom GUIs and some cool apps for the phone. The next revision (GTA02), which will be available starting at \$450 in October, will be ready for the mass market. It will have wi-fi, 3-D motion sensors and added graphics accelerators. So this phone isn't exactly an iPhone killer -- the next one will be a contender. AptUsTech has [a nice comparison](#) of the NEO 1973 and the iPhone.

When it comes to devices, more choice is almost always "a good thing." But will consumers respond to the NEO? We all know developers are going to dig this phone. But what's more important to consumers -- a super-sexy status item that's locked to one carrier and one set of functions, or a less sexy look-alike with a fully free and open software system?"

A brief hands-on with the Intel Classmate PC (with Linux) Keep in mind that this laptop is in direct competition to the OLPC laptop and this is why it was created!

By Troy Unrau | Published: July 08, 2007 - 11:23PM CT

Ars Technica recently got its hands on the new Intel Classmate laptop computer, one of the new projects [competing](#) for a share of school-aged computer users in developing countries. I was able to survey this machine thanks to Helio Chissini de Castro of Mandriva.

Ubuntu Receives Readers' Choice Award for 'Best Linux Distribution'

I hate to admit it but it's news I guess.

Monday, July 9, 2007

OpenMoko.com goes live

Source: OpenMoko.com



Today marks the launch of openmoko.com the corporate site for the openmoko project. If you didn't know already the openmoko is a new cell phone designed from the ground up in an open manner. All the hardware is designed in an open manner and the software on the phone itself is gnu/linux. [CLICK HERE FOR VIDEO 1](#), [Video 2](#).

Dell will sell Linux on PCs outside of US

PC giant hopes to emulate enthusiastic US response elsewhere

By Jeremy Kirk, IDG News Service

Dell is preparing to announce plans to sell computers with preinstalled Linux outside the US.

It is also preparing to offer the Ubuntu Linux distribution to small business customers, though it is not yet clear in what geographies it will be available.

More details will be revealed shortly, wrote Lionel Menchaca, digital media manager for Dell on a company blog on last week.

"I wanted to be clear that Dell does have plans to offer Linux to more consumers in additional locations outside the United States," Menchaca wrote.

Dell is also encouraging more members of its Linux engineering team to post technical updates about specific distributions and open-source projects, he added.

Dell [began selling](#) two desktop PCs and a laptop with the Ubuntu 7.04 Linux distribution preinstalled in the US in May, a move the company said was in response to consumer demand.

Although Linux's success has been squarely in the server market, consumers are showing increased interest in the open-source operating system as a desktop OS alternative to Microsoft's Windows. Desktop Linux has tended to have more appeal among developers and computer enthusiasts.

Dell already offers other Linux distributions from market leaders Red Hat and Novell on some of its servers and its Precision workstation line.

[This is too funny! http://www.productsofchampions.com/](http://www.productsofchampions.com/)

Microsoft made sure this page would work on Linux? Not sure but I can certainly use it in my browser. "Products aren't born Certified, there journey to greatness is long and hard." I

thought building a computer that is compatible with Vista was suppose to be easy?

All Kinds Of Cool New Linux Distros Out Today!

There are several new cool versions of Linux. Haven't tried them yet but they sure look cool. Several based on slack ware like [Skolelinux 3.0 RC4](#), and [Ultima Linux 8.2](#) and even [Skolelinux 3.0 RC4](#).

No Samba for Microsoft and Its Linux 'Partners'

:(Poor Microsoft is feeling the heat brought on by the GPLv3. Oh My.

“Samba will move to GPLv3

The Samba team will continue to provide security fixes to the GPLv2 versions, but new features will be added only to the GPLv3 versions, the team said. The Free Software Foundation has already released a number of elements of its Gnu's Not Unix (GNU) project under GPLv3, including the widely used "tar" command for compressing and decompressing files. ”

iPhone in depth: the Ars review

By [Jacqui Cheng](#), [Clint Ecker](#), [Ken Fisher](#) | Published: July 09, 2007 - 11:11PM CT

iPhone Hackers: "we have owned the filesystem"

“The kooky hacking kids over at IRC channel [#iphone](#) claim to have gained full ownership of the iPhone file system. In an update titled "How to Escape Jail," they highlight the technical steps required to enable custom ring tones, wallpapers and more for your iPhone. They have not released a tool for general consumption -- yet -- but do provide the picture above as evidence of their hacking skills.”

GBAX 2007 Coding Competition entries released for DS, PSP, GP2X and GP32

The wait is over and the entries for the GBAX 2007 Coding Competition are now available to download! We had a massive turnout this year with 60 entries, the highest in our five year history! We would like to say a very big thanks to everyone that took part; the entrants, splash screen designers and web site owners that helped to promote the competition. Please help to promote the competition by clicking on the Digg link to the right.

GIMP Tricks: Chocolate bar with GIMP

[Some time ago I saw a chocolate bar made with Adobe Photoshop somewhere on the Internet. I thought that Gimp can't do worse than and I got myself to work. It seemed to be quite easy and here is the result in 28 steps.](#)

HOW Microsoft Illegaly tried to crush Linux.

FUNNY AND INTERESTING NEWS SECTION

[Will the iPhone blend? Watch the iPhone being destroyed.](#)

[GEICO's letter to the Transformers about some insurance claims.](#)

[Next-gen iMacs to bundle new Apple keyboard](#)

[Google struggles to see no evil, speak no evil](#)

"Google's habit of using a wide network of employee-run blogs for making official news is obviously meant as a democratic way of sparking dialogue between the company and its users and partners, but two recent PR incidents suggest that this practice is growing increasingly treacherous for a bottom-up, rapidly growing company that has "Don't Be Evil" as a corporate moto."

[Canonical open-sources first Launchpad component](#)

Canonical, the company behind the popular Ubuntu Linux distribution, announced July 9 that it is releasing Storm, a generic open-source object relational mapper, which is used in Launchpad, a Web-based collaboration platform for open-source developers.

[Open source take-up booming in APAC](#)

Open source accounts for between 25 and 70 percent of all software in Australian, Chinese, Indian and Korean companies, according to a recent IDC survey.

[CFS scheduler to appear in Linux kernel 2.6.23 \(SUPER FAST\)](#)

The Linux kernel process scheduler, as you know it, has been completely ripped out and replaced with a completely new one called Completely Fair Scheduler (CFS). How fair it will be, remains to be seen, but in the meantime here's what its original creator Ingo Molnar has to say on the subject:

80% of CFS's design can be summed up in a single sentence: CFS basically models an "ideal, precise multi-tasking CPU" on real hardware.

"Ideal multi-tasking CPU" is a (non-existent :-)) CPU that has 100% physical power and which can run each task at precise equal speed, in parallel, each at 1/nr_running speed. For example: if there are 2 tasks running then it runs each at 50% physical power - totally in parallel.

On real hardware, we can run only a single task at once, so while that one task runs, the other tasks that are waiting for the CPU are at a disadvantage - the current task gets an unfair amount of CPU time. In CFS this fairness imbalance is expressed and tracked via the per-task `p->wait_runtime` (nanosec-unit) value. "wait_runtime" is the amount of time the task should now run on the CPU for it to become completely fair and balanced.

Open Up to Open Formats

Like pretty much all of you who read this site, I spend most of my working day messing with data and text files, and sending them around to various colleagues on a variety of platforms. While I do most of my work in OpenOffice.org and The GIMP, the overwhelming majority of my colleagues use Microsoft Office, Adobe Photoshop, and Adobe InDesign. So, despite my personal preference for Free and Open Source Software and open-standard documents, almost every document I create eventually ends up in some proprietary format. But proprietary formats, while convenient in their ubiquity, are inherently problematic, and there are some very compelling reasons to think twice about how you save your files. Here's why you should use open formats, and convince your colleagues (hint, hint to my colleagues) to do the same.

Hands-on with a prototype Intel Mobile Internet Device

During KDE's [aKademy](#) developer summit in Glasgow, 2007, Ars Technica got an early look at a prototype of the [Intel Mobile Internet Device](#), known as the Intel MID. This prototype was supplied to the French offices of Mandriva, a Linux distribution that was chosen by Intel to help test and develop KDE for this device. I had chance to play with this prototype for a few hours, complete with a working installation of [KDE 4.0 Alpha 2](#).



The particular unit I was looking at had been fitted with a fresh installation of [Mandriva Flash Edition](#) and a fresh build of KDE 4's development series. The device is still considered a technology development prototype, and the final version will not be shipped with the exact same configuration as the prototype. In fact, this prototype was accompanied with warnings that it had not been tested to conform to any FCC regulations or their international counterparts. In its final form, these specifications will differ; however, the system was equipped with the following hardware.

- Celeron 800 Mhz (Santa Rosa) CPU
- 1GB RAM

- Standard notebook IDE drive
- Intel 945GM (with OpenGL support)
- A Logitech webcam with a rotational range of 225 degrees
- A Marvell wireless chipset supporting WiFi and WiMax
- Bluetooth
- 1024x600 touch screen with a rotational range of 90 degrees
- A "double-thumbs" style keyboard
- A "nipple" mouse resembling that of the ThinkPad
- One USB port
- One headphone jack
- Power connector and cord

[How To: Compiz Fusion on Ubuntu 7.04 \(Feisty Fawn\)](#) by **Steve**

Compiz Fuzion is NOT for Beginners.

[A beginner's introduction to the GNU/Linux command line, Part II—Managing processes](#)

A tutorial for novices that discusses processes and process related commands including ps, top, grep, fuser, more, jobs and kill.

[Linux reaches the Italian Parliament](#)

After the French Parliament's migration to Linux, the [Italian Chamber of Deputies](#) (Camera dei Deputati) chose to let "**The Penguin**" **enter into the heart of the Italian Democracy...**

As *partly reported* by the Italian newspaper **Repubblica**, on *July 10th, 2007* a plan suggested by the left deputies [Pietro Folena](#) and [Franco Grillini](#) to **migrate all the computers of the Parliament from Windows to Linux** was *approved* by the Chamber.

The migration will affect about *3500 public boxes* of the Chamber, **both desktops and servers**, and each Deputy/Party may also ask to migrate his/its (private) computers to the Free Operating System.

This choice has been taken for various reasons... First of all this decision will allow to **economize**, *saving* more than *3 million Euro every year* (the licenses of each machine actually cost about 900€/year). It's also a great step towards the **technological freedom and independence**, moving away from (monopolistic) proprietary software that contrasts with the meaning of democracy itself. There are many technical reasons as well, the most important dealing with the **security of the Parliament** (and because of that all the citizens).

With this decision [Folena](#) (after *explaining better the migration*) [hopes](#) that also the *local administrations* will move to free environments as well, like the province of **Bolzano** already has done with the [FUSS! project](#).

EDIT [12-07-2007]: according to [The Inquirer's article](#) (that has made a small interview to Folena) the Italian Parliament will move to **SuSE Linux**. For an Ubuntu lover like me it isn't the best choice, but also if Novell has made a pact with the Devil (read it

Micro\$oft) it's always running "our" kernel.

Web 2.0 is built on Open Source

Linux to gain "completely fair scheduler"

The next release of the Linux kernel will apparently gain an all-new scheduler said to deliver better desktop scheduling. Ingo Molnar's CFS ("completely fair scheduler") implements a fair scheduling approach long advocated by Con "Conman" Kolivas, a practicing Australian medical doctor specializing in anaesthesia.

Molnar, a Red Hat employee who maintains the kernel's scheduling subsystem, describes CFS as follows: "Eighty percent of CFS's design can be summed up in a single sentence: CFS basically models an 'ideal, precise multi-tasking CPU' on real hardware."

Molnar adds, "I'd like to give credit to Con Kolivas for the general approach here: he has proven via RSDL/SD [Staircase-Deadline] that 'fair scheduling' is possible and that it results in better desktop scheduling. Kudos Con!"

Ubuntu launches new "freedom-focused" Gobuntu derivative

Although Ubuntu is highly regarded by desktop Linux users, the popular Linux distribution has been the subject of perpetual criticism from a small but vocal minority of users who believe that it doesn't set a high enough standard for software freedom. New initiatives announced this week aim to tackle those criticisms at their source, by resolving the perceived problems. Ubuntu founder Mark Shuttleworth has [announced](#) the availability of [daily CD images](#) of a "freedom-focused flavour of Ubuntu" called Gobuntu.

Gobuntu, which will eschew virtually all proprietary software components, aims to pacify critics who think that Ubuntu's support for "non-free" software is detrimental to users. Last year, the Free Software Foundation announced the [release](#) of gNewSense, an Ubuntu derivative without proprietary graphics drivers, proprietary plug-in components like Adobe's Flash player, and patent-encumbered proprietary media codecs. According to Shuttleworth, the goal for the Gobuntu derivative is to "provide a cleaner and easier to maintain base for projects like gNewSense."

DIY Linux cellphone components available



A vendor of tiny, Linux-based SBCs (single-board computers) will soon begin accepting pre-orders for cellular networking and GPS daughtercards. Gumstix said its "Goliath" daughtercards target remote data applications such as fleet tracking, as well as "hobbyists who want to build their own phone."

Lenovo quietly selling Linux-compatible laptops

Lenovo seems to have a love/hate relationship with Linux. Last year, it began offering its high-end T60p ThinkPad laptop [with SLED 10](#) (SUSE Linux Enterprise Desktop).

This year, the company is releasing its newest high-end laptop, the T61p ThinkPad, and once more,

while it runs desktop Linux, the company isn't overly eager to let the world know about it.

COMPUTER SERVICES SECTION

[Your Add Here](#)

Computer Rescue

1-208-750-5628

Imagine if you could install new software for free without upgrading your computer. Imagine if your computer:

- Was no longer affected by viruses and still could browse the web and accept your e-mail you currently get through Outlook Express or Internet Explorer.
- Did what you told it to do without freezing or stopping just like your other appliances in your home.
- Could open, edit, and save Word, Excel, Power Point, Access, and HTML documents without paying for extra software.
- Played and copied any DVDs, CDs, and all your multimedia files from all the computers in your house!
- Had 6500 free software packages available that you could download legally any time you wanted to and came with a free built in Spam filter.

Stop imagining and start believing. If you buy a new computer from us now we will throw in a 1 year hardware guarantee for free as long as you let us install the computer with a surge protector of our choice, and have us clean the dust out every 6 months. Quality service and your satisfaction are the only things that matter to us. Computers should be as easy to use as a toaster. Why wait? Prevent viruses now!

Call Computer Rescue: 1-509-843-1053 or 1-208-750-5628.

Serving the Lewiston, Clarkston, Asotin, Pomeroy, and Dayton area since 2001.

MICROSOFT CONSPIRACY SECTION (Is it true? You decide for yourself.)

FROM THE EDITOR Justin Breithaupt Speaking Out Against HDTV

Most HDTV's that are affordable use LCD technology. Macintosh announced that they found a way to fit a video capture device into LCD Monitors. Macintosh calls it the [iSight](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Image:MacBook_iSight.jpg) http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Image:MacBook_iSight.jpg . HDTV's can send information over their HDTV connection and can receive commands too. This is the perfect recipe for a National or even Global surveillance system. What is worse yet is the Government claims that they will make everyone switch from cable to HDTV in 2008. I can't say for certain but there is a good chance these technologies mentioned will be used together in the future.

If any kind of identification is put in your TV such as biometric fingerprint readers or passwords to view adult channels or otherwise restricted channels it would then be possible for the Government to monitor who was using the TV. If HDTV is set up like the Satellite Radios that must send information to the Satellites before they can receive signal then the government could make it so you must not use filters that restrict information going back to your HDTV provider or your TV would not be able to receive signal.

Such a thing might be called [Trusted Computing, Trusted Viewing, or some other misleading name](#) that looks innocent stamped on a package.

Further more HDTV is inferior to Cable TV. As is stated in the A+ Guide to PC Repair Digital CRT monitors were the first kind. Digital was too grainy and hard to work with so they upgraded to analogue. Analogue CRT monitors were able to blend colors together and make images that were chunky or Digital appear smoother and appear to have higher quality. CRT monitors today similar to your tube TVs at home are used by video game designers and graphic artists around the world over LCD monitors because they don't have that grainy digital imperfection that the LCD monitors have. Some may say Plasma Screen monitors and TVs are higher quality and I won't argue with them but they are also digital and when you are watching TV on Cable or HDTV and the signal is not perfect you see it on the TV where as a LCD TV would filter that out for you and make it seem to look perfect. You will also note that with HDTV when it starts to loose quality you see squares and the sound becomes choppy or distorted where as with cable you get a little static and nothing more. Static is much better than big blocks that resemble tiles in your bathroom and choppy distorted sound that you can't understand.

So why does the Government want us to change to HDTV?

1. CRT Monitors and TV sets have a large amount of hazardous Lead in them that when disposed of in a land fill will leak into our water and potentially pollute our drinking water.
2. They have convinced the American Public that LCD and Plasma screens are the new thing and that they must therefore be better.
3. HDTV uses less bandwidth than Analogue cable does and so the FCC loves it because they can put less quality video threw a smaller space and therefore give

you more channels on the same line.

4. And hey it's HDTV which sounds cool right?
5. I almost forgot our Big Media friends who love the added copy write protection so you can't record anything on anything except your TiVo which will erase itself in 10 days.

I can't wait to put an HDTV in my bathroom so someone can watch me take a shower. The government didn't ask before they taped our phones so why should we wait for them to ask to watch us in our homes?

For More Info on the iSight go to: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/iSight>

Built-in iSight

Version 1.1 of [Apple's Boot Camp](#) added [Microsoft Windows XP](#) drivers for the built-in iSight. Version 1.2 implemented support for the built-in iSight in [Windows Vista](#) as well.

Don't Like It? Notify your Governor or State Representative.

[Article #475: CUPS Purchased by Apple Inc.](#)

["In February of 2007, Apple Inc. acquired ownership the CUPS source code and hired me \(Michael R Sweet\), the creator of CUPS."](#)

CUPS will still be released under the existing GPL2/LGPL2 licensing terms, and I will continue to develop and support CUPS at Apple.

Answers to questions about the change of ownership can be found on the [frequently asked questions page](#). "

SOMETHING DOES NOT SMELL RIGHT HERE!

[First of all if Apple intends to keep CUPS open thats great. If they intend to control it then there is a problem. Microsoft noticed lately that SAMBA switched to GPLv3. Since Microsoft seems to view the GPLv3 as a cancer that is affecting open source software the most logical thing for them to do would be to buy out as many open source companies that use GPLv2 as possible. Microsoft owns a lot of Mac stock. Is it possible they are masking themselves as Mac and buying out the Open Source software? You tell me.](#)

Gobuntu is... go

["Thanks to Colin and Evan's efforts we now have daily images of a freedom-focused flavour of Ubuntu, "Gobuntu". This is a call for developers who are interested in pushing the limits of content and code freedom - including firmware, content, and authoring infrastructure, to join the team and help identify places where we must separate out pieces that don't belong in Gobuntu from the standard Ubuntu builds.](#)

<http://cdimage.ubuntu.com/gobuntu/daily/current/>

At the moment this primarily addresses hardware drivers but as the team grows we will be able to maintain a bigger delta between Ubuntu and Gobuntu. The goal is to

provide a cleaner and easier to maintain base for projects like gNewSense. Bug reports are welcome, but patches and offers of help will get better results.

Thanks guys!

Update: a number of comments have asked what Gobuntu is. It is a flavour of Ubuntu (like Kubuntu or Xubuntu) that is basically the same desktop environment as Ubuntu (a GNOME desktop) and a very strict set of restrictions on the licences of code **and content**. This means that we try to strip out ANYTHING which is not modifiable and redistributable, including firmware, PDF's, video footage, sounds etc. We are trying to apply the FSF "rights" definition to everything in the platform. Gobuntu will not correctly enable much hardware today - but it exists as a banner for the cause of software freedom and as a reference of what IS possible with a totally rigorous approach. The goal is to make it a real point of pride to be able to run Gobuntu on a laptop or desktop or server, because it means that all of the stars have aligned to ensure that you have complete freedom to use that hardware with free software."

My Question is since Google owns Gobuntu what are they planning on doing with it? I know Google supports Linux and helps the community but there are some deeper moral dilemmas I have with the company. Google makes it harder to locate sex offenders that are supporting child pornography. Google obviously wants to have more corporate control over the Internet and make more money but will this affect their Linux involvement and support for freedom?

SPEED UP YOUR LINUX COMPUTER!

16,000 Linux computers delivered - for free

Let's convince ATi to make quality drivers or open-source them! For all of you who suffer from lack of desktop effects or compositioning!

Willing to buy a high-end, free-software-only laptop?

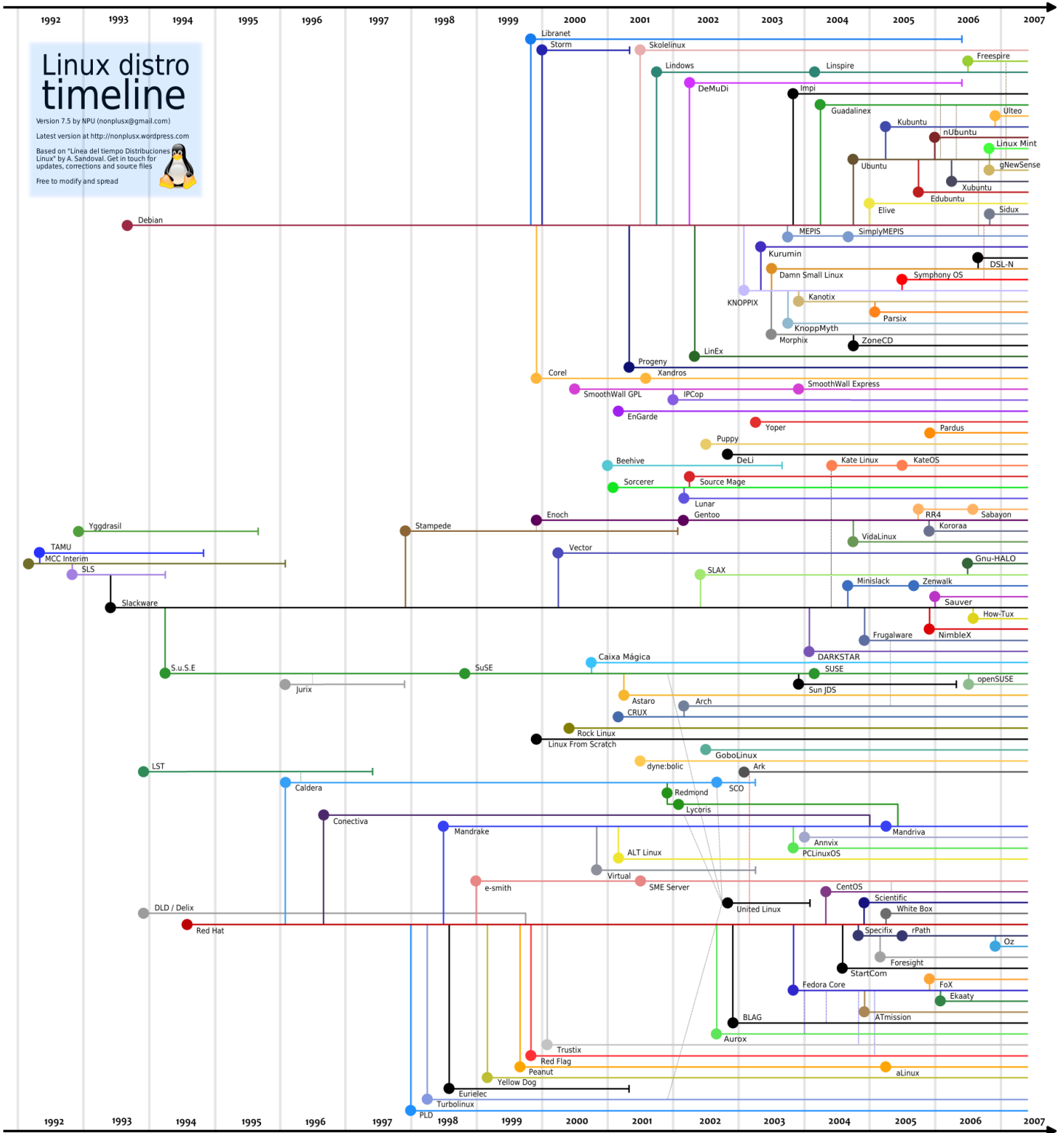
Nouveau Driver 2D performance exceeds Nvidia driver. Speed up your PC by up to 64% or more.

Government of Japan Embraces Open Software Standards

The OpenDocument Format Alliance (ODF Alliance), the leading organization advocating for openness and accessibility to government documents and information, today congratulated Japan for adopting a policy under which government ministries and agencies will solicit bids from software vendors whose products support internationally recognized open standards.

Microsoft Surface, Watch Your Back! Here Comes MPX for X Server on Linux

Linux distro timeline.



[How some extremely smart hackers pulled off the most audacious cell-network break-in ever](#)

On 9 March 2005, a 38-year-old Greek electrical engineer named Costas Tsalikidis was found hanged in his Athens loft apartment, an apparent suicide. It would prove to be merely the first public news of a scandal that would roil Greece for months.


The next day, the prime minister of Greece was told that his cellphone was being bugged, as were those of the mayor of Athens and at least 100 other high-ranking dignitaries, including an employee of the U.S. embassy. [See sidebar "[CEOs, MPs, & a PM.](#)"]

[Hide your iPhone or iPod in a ZUNE](#)

So you have a shiny new iPhone? It needs protection too. After all, you stood in line for days to get your iPhone. It would be a tragedy to lose your precious device in a only a few seconds.

But there's no need to be concerned, because Hide-a-Pod is ready to serve. Just pop your iPhone inside for instant protection. Just like the iPod version, you connect one simple cable and you'll still have access to all the great features of your device. And just think, for the first time the Zune will have Wifi that is actually useful.

[ATM Reprogramming Caper Hits Pennsylvania](#)

By Kevin Poulsen  July 12, 2007 | 6:42:11 PM Categories: [Crime](#)

Police in Derry, Pennsylvania are baffled by a June ATM robbery in which an unidentified man wearing flip flops and shorts strolled into Mastrococco's Market and reprogrammed the cash machine to think it was dispensing dollar bills instead of twenties.

Along with a female accomplice, the crook netted \$1,540 in two visits on June 19 and 20, according to store owner Vince Mastrococco. "They came in, they hit me the first day -- a man and a woman -- and they cleaned me out," Mastrococco told THREAT LEVEL. "Then they came back the next day and cleaned me out again."



A sergeant with the Derry Borough Police Department they're still investigating the crime, and no arrests have been made.

COMPUTER PROBLEMS SECTION (they seem to blame a lot of Vista related issues on failing hardware)

First of all I would like to thank Microsoft for providing and managing the community forums for problems related to Windows Vista and Microsoft Software. After reading these forums I realized I no longer needed to wait for complaints about Microsoft software when there were so many listed already. I'm not going to give out the display names of these users you can click on the links for these stories to figure that out.

Here is one I posted:

[I suggest a new business strategy. in Windows Vista General Discussion](#)

My new business strategy for Microsoft is to go completely open source. Because most of the software developers will stop developing for Microsoft by 2008 I think that this would be a very good idea. You could let the Open Source community develop your operating system and worry about making quality software and making sure you had plenty of hardware support. You would notice an increase in profit because no one likes Vista. Everyone is either sticking with XP, moving to Mac, or Moving to Linux. I know you can spend 7 years waiting for things to go in your favor but why not start fresh now.

I got some very interesting replys. Click above to see them.

[Problem with txt files in Windows Vista General Discussion](#)

For some reason, when saving a txt file, it replaces "fi" in any word with a "?" in other words, first would read ?rst. any ideas? It's probably not a vista problem, but has anyone come across this before?

[Can't get Vista off of my computer in Windows Vista General Discussion](#)

When I try to do a backup my computer stops responding and as far as I can tell there is no Windows. old folder. Why don't you have a separate cd disk to remove Vista? Now I'm going to have to take my computer to get it repaired.

[Windows installer... in Windows Vista General Discussion](#)

It seems like, and may in fact be, that every time I start anything I get a momentary Windows Installer dialog box saying that it is "Preparing to install".

Preparing to install what? Is there something that I need to do to stop this or is it just something that a Vista [Ultimate] user has to get used to?

[Fix the damn "Calculating Time Remaining" problem already! in Windows Vista General Discussion](#)

I bought this computer with Vista Business pre-installed back in April, and I'm still wasting huge amounts of my time while I wait for Vista to calculate the time remaining before even starting to transfer files.

I'm just absolutely flabbergasted that this hasn't been dealt with in a patch or service pack release. I don't want to go out and download/install some third party software to do something that the OS should do.

Honestly...This is outrageous.

[Display problems in Windows Vista General Discussion](#)

Hi

All

I have a wierd problem with Vista or maybe display drivers. System is an intel E6700, 2G RAM, NX8500GT video card, Vista Home premium running a 24" Dell LCD on VGA. Problem is about every 10th boot the system boots up ok but the desktop is all wrong, imagine splitting the desktop into two halves left and right and then displaying the halves in the opposite half, the system works fine still, the mouse runs off the edge of the monitor and appears on the other half etc, you can shut the machine down and reboot and all is well. I have done all of the vista updates and have downloaded both the latest drivers from my card manufacturer and from nvidia but nothing changes, any help would be good.....

m4r..confused

[Aero not working in Windows Vista General Discussion](#)

I installed windows vista premium and the aero function is not working. I am not sure if my video card is compatible with directx, how do I check that.

Other than none of the features are showing up, the task bar thumbnail is ghosted, there is no color scheme that says vista.

I have it on 32 bit and everything else,

Any ideas, my lap is a hp pavilion dv 1000, bought in 04.
thanks

[Can't install Office 2007 pro, get don't have access to file error 1310 in vista ultimate in Windows Vista General Discussion](#)

I get Error 1310

Error writing to file c:\config.msi\25093.rbf. Verify that you have access to that directory.

Every time I try to install Office 2007 Pro in Vista Ultimate I get this error, but I have gotten a different filename the 2 times I tried to install. Works fine on my other pc running windows xp. in vista i am full admin with full rights. So what is going on here?

[Vista Sound Issue in Windows Vista General Discussion](#)

Ok, this sounds nuts but....

The sound card keeps getting turned off In My Vista Ultimate machine.

By turned off I mean that if the machine is idle for a few seconds you can hear a little "tick" from the speakers. The same tick you hear when you boot the system, when the drivers get loaded and the sound card is initialized.

When something happens that requires a sound to play, you hear a little "tick" and then the sound plays. Then a few seconds later another "tick" as the sound shuts down again.

Driving me nuts and I can find no setting to make it stop.

Any Ideas?

[My mouse locks up when I switch user accounts in Windows Vista General Discussion](#)

When I switch between user accounts my mouse locks up. If I unplug the mouse from the USB port, the mouse unfreezes and can be used normally until I switch users again. Any suggestions?

[System-stopping flaw... in Windows Vista General Discussion](#)

There have been one other message, but this is the one that shows up every time after I unchecked 'automatic restart';

IRQL_NOT_LESS_OR_EQUAL

What does this mean?

Memory-related? As in 'manufacturer installed Vista, then did not add sufficient memory to run anything -besides- that'?

Or something else, hopefully something I can fix without going into the guts of the machine?

With hope for help and thanks in advance

[Unable to downstream video using Internet Explorer to access Windo in Windows Vista General Discussion](#)

Question

I'm running Vista with Windows Media Player 11. When I attempt to downstream video from a website using Internet Explorer to open WMP, I get the page "Internet Explorer is unable to access this website".

The only way to view the video is to first download (save) to my desktop. It will then open WMP. This extra step is a wast of time.

Does anyone have a fix for this problem?

[Can't boot vista; please advise in Windows Vista General Discussion](#)

I upgraded from XP to Vista Ultimate a few months ago. All had gone well until yesterday. Suddenly, when I try to boot, all I get is the usual screen: "windows didn't shut down normally, so choose to restart normally, restart in safe mode, etc." None of these works. It also says to try your installation CD and choose "repair."

My problem: My Vista Ultimate CD is an upgrade, not a full install. It has no "repair" option, and won't upgrade for me since the machine already has Vista. My XP CD (presumably) has a "repair" option, but it isn't showing up now that the machine has Vista. Do I have any alternative but to reinstall XP?

Thanks for any advice or suggestions.

(this one reminds me of the problem my Dad had with Vista) **[Cannot start control panel in Windows Vista General Discussion](#)**

I just found the control panel cannot be started. Today I noticed the memory monitor showed 94% of my 1.5G memory are occupied which I believe is not correct since I was not running many programs. But after I restart the computer and try to open control panel, a blank explorer window showed up and closed automatically after a while. I tried a few times, but cannot start control panel at all. Anyone met similar issue before? Please help.

[Keyboard problems in Windows Vista General Discussion](#)

HELP!

MAJOR ISSUE #1: My backspace deletes EVERYTHING I write. It erases the entire line, paragraph word, EVERYTHING!! How do I fix that???

MAJOR ISSUE #2: Also, for some reason when I click on my explorer icon, I get the properties screen. I have to right click, then select open window. My left click will not work!!!

MINOR ISSUE # 1: Now, another thing I have issues with is that the keyboard will sometimes do differnt things, and I do not know where to go to fix it, or what I pressed to mix everything up.

FMINOR ISSUE #2: My Compaq Presario doesnot always wake up when I open it. Sometimes it just stays asleep and I have to press all kinds of buttons!!!

Thanks in advance for any help you can offer.

Norton on Vista in Windows Vista General Discussion

I have just started to use Vista and each time I switch on a box comes up telling I should use Norton. I don't want Norton and its reminders and would like to remove it from my system but cannot see how to do it.

Would someone out there please advise me?

Many thanks in advance.

Dear Microsoft, Please Fix Problems With Windows Vista RTM Windows Update Immediately. in Windows Vista General Discussion

Dear Microsoft, Please Fix Problems With Windows Vista RTM Windows Update Immediately.

Kevin John Panzke (**MSDN Operating Systems Level Subscriber and Microsoft Tech Net Direct Subscriber**).

Vista's helpful pop up messages... in Windows Vista General Discussion

Hi -

I'm on Windows Vista Hpr 32-bit. I've searched this question on the forum and I see others have asked it but I didn't see any answers, so I thought it was worth a try asking myself.

Is there any way to get rid of Vista's helpful pop up messages - like these: 'See Blocked Startup Programs', 'Activity Area has changed', 'See Updates Vista has installed' etc etc....

They didn't bother me at all at first and in fact, when I saw posts about them on this forum, I thought 'Why would they upset anybody?' But I guess over time, it does wear one out, so to speak. So now I'm over them I guess.

I appreciate any assistance or help. Many Thanks, Frank B.

Internet Explorer 7 won't play online video in Windows Vista General Discussion

Hi,
I have Windows Vista/Internet Explorer 7 when I am on the Internet and when I click on any video to play it, you would expect Windows Media player to open and play that video it but it will not. I do have Nero 7 installed so I don't know if that is the problem? How do I get Internet Explorer and or Windows Media player to play online videos when I click on them? I have already set Windows Media Player and Internet Explorer to be all defaults for every thing they can play but that didn't work either. Now when I click on a video link I get a pop up saying: Phising filter can not check this page Microsoft temp unavailable. How do I get video links to play for me?

Antivirus software including firewall for Vista 64-bit in Windows Vista General Discussion

Does anybody know any antivirus software (full protection package including firewall) able to work with Vista Home Premium 64-bit?

Having purchased Vista in April, first I used GData. After a couple of weeks some problems with its firewall module occurred. The GData technical support advised me to remove the complete software and reinstall GData without the firewall module. Since then I have been using GData without the firewall module although I have paid for a full protection package! And the GData support has never contacted me again though they promised me to analyse my problem and to come back with a solution.

According to what I was able to find out, the Norton Internet Security does not support Vista 64-bit.

Vista - SD Card in Windows Vista General Discussion

Am not able to get vista to read any of SD card.
- Kingston
- Scandisk

I've applied the patch as suggested by microsoft.

Anyone got solution?

(The Excuse) Its New!! in Windows Vista General Discussion

Vista is comparatively new. We must give it a go and try not to constantly compare it with what went before. Microsoft said that it would run lots of maintenance programs in the background. One because people want to get on with other computing tasks while carrying out mundane maintenance, but perhaps more importantly, because MS knew so many people would never carry these tasks out, if left to their own devices. Updates are one such task. Updates are important because they block holes that virus makers have found.

I nominate vista as the worse OS ever! in Windows Vista General Discussion

Oh.. I nominate it not only for the worst OS awards...
I also nominate it for the worst software of ANY kind!!!
Its a pile of CRAP!

Sure there have been some other flops in the past, like Microsoft Bob..

But ONLY Vista has the potential to screw up so many computers since its spreading like a cancer on all new computers!!!

THIS VIDEO SAYS IT ALL <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FVbf9tOGwno>

Can't surf web after installing update for IE7 in Windows Vista General Discussion

After installing the "cumulative security update for IE7 in windows vista (KB933566)", I can online but cannot surf web. Anyone know how to solve the problem?

[Help, Vista's firewall started to work with outbound traffic, and I don't know how to stop it!!!! in Windows Vista General Discussion](#)

Dear friends:

Help, Vista's firewall started to work with outbound traffic, and I don't know how to stop it!!!!

I don't know why, but as a result of this, my computer has become very slow. How can I return to the standard firewall inbound traffic check only?

(interesting) **[My first Vista ka-boom! in Windows Vista General Discussion](#)**

Core Duo, VHP

I was working on a document when suddenly all applications shut down, the screen went blue, and a banner said INSTALLING UPDATES. That remained for five minutes or more. Then, the unit rebooted and that took more than five minutes.

When I loaded Word, it took several minutes instead of the usual 3-4 seconds. Now, everything's fine, the work-in-process was saved, etc. But it was an unpleasant surprise!

So... what empowers Vista to shut down spontaneously - apparently to install updates? Is there some record of what happened? Could there have been some security issue that demanded instant updating?

I've really been happy with Vista, but didn't enjoy that experience. Is there a radio button somewhere that I can UNcheck to prevent autonomous update/reboot?

(a Trojan horse?) **[All Folders Marked "Read Only" in Windows Vista General Discussion](#)**

I've discovered in Vista that all my folders are marked read only. This is bothersome being that in the past I've used bat files to copy specific files to another area of my current hard drive and my external H.D. Being that the folders are read only I can no longer do this in Vista. How can I take away the "read only" attribute permanently? Using "properties" of the folders and unchecking and pressing apply does not work. Thank you for any suggestions.

[maximized windows going behind Gadgets sidebar in Windows Vista General Discussion](#)

I use to have this preference set but somehow it was removed and I forgot how to do it originally. Where do you set the preference to stop maximized windows from going behind the Gadgets' Sidebar? When I hit "maximize" on a window I want the window to expand as far it can without the Gadgets' Sidebar covering part of it.

[Error on CD-/DVD drives... in Hardware & Devices](#)

I have a Plextor DVDR PX-716A ATA Device and a Toshiba DVD-ROM SD-M612 ATA Device on my PC. I upgraded the machine from XP Pro sp2 yesterday. I've had just a continuous string of issues but seem to have them almost all cleared up now. However, I wanted to use an installation CD a few minutes ago and discovered that the two CD/DVD devices aren't working. They don't even show up on the My Computer explorer anymore.

I went in to device manager and there's the little yellow exclamation mark on both of them. In the device status box of their properties it says:

Windows cannot start this hardware device because its configuration information (in the registry) is incomplete or damaged. (Code 19)

Click 'Check for solutions' to send data about this device to Microsoft and to see if there is a solution available.

I checked online but as with most every other problem I've had there was nothing there. I looked at the application and system events but nothing jumped out at me.

I would have gone back to a restore point when they were working but one of the problems I had caused Vista to set up a second system volume. The restore setting was still trying to create the store point on the old non-existent drive so I've got diddly for backup right now.

I've uninstalled both devices and then scanned and automatically installed, them, hoping that it would correct whatever the registry issue was. It had no effect.

Any idea what error code 19 is and what I need to do in order to get this resolved?

Thanks in advance,

Well that covers some of the many problems with Vista so now on to the NEWS.

Hey Geek Squad, I Haven't Seen My Laptop In A Month



Reader Lorraine would like her laptop back. [Geek Squad](#) sent it to HP for repair then never contacted Lorraine again. Eventually she drove over to the Best Buy (she couldn't get anyone on the phone) where they told her that her laptop would be replaced, but only after HP sent it back. When would HP send it back? No one knows. It is a mystery for the ages.

Lorraine writes:

Dear Ben:

Consumerist is a fantastic blog. I recently discovered it when I googled "Geek Squad" in a desperate attempt to get action on a service problem. As you advised, I sent Robert Stephens an email --pasted in below--but aside from an auto-response, I haven't heard boo.

Four weeks ago I dropped my laptop with Geek Squad for repair. Not only has Geek Squad NOT fixed it--but they have not contacted me once. My many attempts to reach Geek Squad by phone--Best Buy's circular phone menu never connects customers to a real person--were futile. In fact, I had to drive to Best Buy in order to speak with Geek Squad. That's how I learned--after returning from a two-week out-of-town trip-- my laptop is irreparable and must be replaced.

But Geek Squad won't replace it until the laptop returns from HP whence Geek Squad sent it for repair four weeks ago. When will my laptop return from HP? Geek Squad can't say . Aside from a single electronic request to HP, Geek Squad tells me there is nothing more they can do.

I'm fuming. Aside from complaining--in person--to managers at my local Best Buy , I seem to have no recourse.

Geek Squad's incompetence is more than inconvenient. It's costing me my livelihood. I'm a copywriter who works on a laptop 8-10 hours daily. My utter dependence on my laptop prompted me to buy a three-year warranty when I purchased the laptop from Best Buy last year.

Thanks for the opportunity to vent. Do you have any further suggestions?

Sincerely yours,

Lorraine

A few days later, Lorraine wrote with an update:

Dear Carey:

Thanks for your email and kind offer to check out my problem.

Since I wrote you, I've filed a complaint to the Better Business Bureau and with complaint.com--all cc'd to Geek Squad's CEO Robert Stephens and Nirov, manager of my local Geek Squad.

I'm appalled that I haven't yet had a single communication from Geek Squad or Best Buy.

On Monday I plan to file a small claims suit.

I appreciate all you're doing.

Best regards,

Lorraine

You know, we're starting to get the feeling that Lorraine might like her laptop back. We suggest she try calling HP to complain. If her laptop is stuck in repair limbo over there, they might be able to help her get it back. Call: +1-650-857-1501, ask for Mark Hurd's office.