Issue #14 - June 2008

full circle

THE INDEPENDENT MAGAZINE FOR THE UBUNTU COMMUNITY

ubuntu
kubuntu
xubuntu
edubuntu

REVIEW :
JVC MINI RELOADED
INTERVIEW :
SOREN HANSEN

HOW TO :
GIMP PART 3
PUT PHOTOS ON YOUR IPOD
MAKE A PLUG 'N' PLAY ZONE
CREATE YOUR OWN SERVER 6

COMMAND AND CONQUER :
NEW SERIES! - WE START BY SHOWING YOU WHAT NOT TO DO IN THE CONSOLE

COMMAND & CONQUER!

MEET YOUR NEW FRIEND: THE COMMAND LINE.

EXCITED

ABOUT UBUNTU IN SOUTHEAST INDIA

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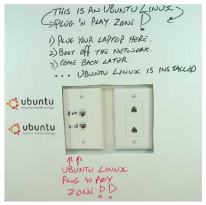

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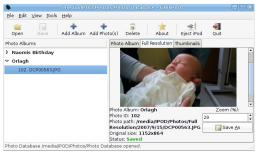

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EDITORIAL

Welcome to another issue of Full Circle Magazine.

Many people are hesitant to switch to Linux, because they fear having to learn and use text commands to accomplish tasks, instead of interacting soley with a mouse-driven graphical user interface. Although modern Linux distributions, such as Ubuntu, can be run without the need for typing commands, simple-to-learn and easy-to-use commands often make even novice's tasks easier to accomplish than could be done with the mouse. As one reader (Cibby) points out in a letter (page 31), using DOS commands on PCs back in the (good?) old days was no big deal. So, why fear Linux commands?

Starting this month we want to dispel the myth of the difficult command line. In *Command and Conquer*, Robert Clipsham is starting off by telling you the basics, how to get help in the command line, and, most importantly, what not to type in the command line! From next month, he will start discussing the easy, and probably most used, commands - working his way up to the more difficult and esoteric ones.

Our *Start Your Own Server* series continues, and David Lamb wants to know what you would like him to discuss in the future, so please drop him an email. His email address is at the end of his article.

Enjoy the issue and keep in touch!

All the best,
Ronnie
Editor, Full Circle Magazine
ronnie@fullcirclemagazine.org

This magazine was created using :

What is Ubuntu?

Ubuntu is a complete operating system that is perfect for laptops, desktops and servers. Whether at home, school or work Ubuntu contains all the applications you'll ever need including word processor, email application and web browser.

Ubuntu is and always will be free of charge. You do not pay any licensing fees. You can download, use and share Ubuntu with your friends, family, school or business for absolutely nothing.

Once installed, your system is ready to use with a full set of productivity, internet, drawing and graphics applications, and games.

http://url.fullcirclemagazine.org/7e8944

NEWS

Feel free to email news stories to: news@fullcirclemagazine.org
Please include a source URL.

Ubuntu Team Readies for 8.04.1

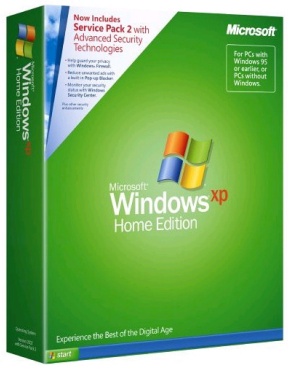
With Ubuntu 8.04.1 is scheduled to be released on July 3. Ubuntu 8.04.1 is not a new release but an updated CD image so that users trying Ubuntu 8.04 for the first time only have to download the CD image and not all the updates that have been released since the original 8.04 release. Those updates are included in the CD image to be released on July 3.

For developers this means that *"the hardy-proposed queue is now frozen with respect to packages that are included on any of our ISO images. The only uploads that are being accepted for these packages are those fixing bugs that have already been approved as targets for the 8.04.1 point release,"* the team said today.

"Other packages in universe that aren't included on any ISOs can still have updates prepared, but of course since they aren't included on ISOs they also don't have the same deadlines for inclusion, so please understand if these aren't given the highest priority by the archive admins in the short term."

Source: tectonic.co.za

Microsoft Extends Windows XP Life, Again



Microsoft's new Vista operating system hasn't been that warmly received thus far and many individuals and large corporations have opted to stick with Windows XP. Microsoft had declared that sales of Windows XP had to halt on June 30th.

Microsoft has decided that it will extend the life of Windows XP and allow it to be sold until June 2010 with a major caveat. The OS can only be sold on cheap desktops. A similar announcement was made in April allowing the XP OS to be sold on cheap notebooks.

This change will allow the XP OS to be used on machines like the cheap E-box from Asus while it is being used on the Eee as well. The move is viewed widely as an attempt to keep Linux from becoming the OS of choice for low cost machines.

Source: news.bbc.co.uk

Ubuntu 8.04 vs. Fedora 9

"Since the release of version 5.10 (aka Breezy Badger) in 2005, Ubuntu Linux has stood apart from hundreds of other Linux distributions, capturing the attention of penguin heads and of users seeking a free, stable, usable alternative to Microsoft Windows. With its click-and-go Live CD installation and its support for a broad base of hardware devices, Ubuntu built a reputation for ease of use that changed the way many people think about Linux. PC World was so impressed that Ubuntu landed on our list of "The 100 Best Products of 2006," a first for any flavor of Linux.

"Ubuntu 8.0.4 offers a level of functionality comparable to that of Mac OS and Windows, from delivery to installation to daily use. Unfortunately, the ties that bind all Linux distributions--primarily a lack of support for major Windows- and Mac-based business, design, and gaming applications--still hold Ubuntu back from mass popularity. For users with such moderate computing needs as Web browsing, e-mail, and basic document creation, however, Hardy is a compelling option.

Source: www.pcworld.com

NEWS

Ubuntu Server receives positive reviews

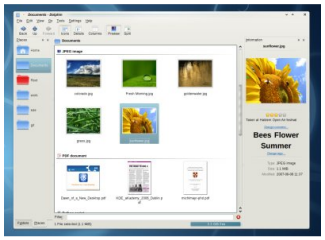
I can tell you up front that Ubuntu Server gets high marks for its corporate support; easy backups, installs and upgrades; documentation, and more.

So I set out to find some IT pros who could talk about Ubuntu Server, which wasn't hard. I just asked, "*Who's using Ubuntu?*" in a newsletter. Here are some respondents' views of Ubuntu Server, both positive and not-so-positive.

In the past, Linux has gotten dinged for poor corporate-level support; but Canonical Ltd. — Ubuntu's corporate parent — got support right with Ubuntu's Long Term Support (LTS), according to Jim Read, an IT administrator for a financial institution. *"We have stuck with 6.06 LTS, and it has worked well,"* Read said. If he changed support providers, he'd have to do major system reconstruction, but LTS 6.06 hasn't given him a reason to consider a change.

Source:
itknowledgeexchange.techtarget.com

KDE Community Announces Second Beta Release of KDE 4.1



The KDE Community is proud to announce the second beta release of KDE 4.1. Beta 2 is aimed at testers, community members and enthusiasts in order to identify bugs and regressions, so that 4.1 can fully replace KDE 3 for end users. KDE 4.1 beta 2 is available as binary packages for a wide range of platforms, and as source packages. KDE 4.1 is due for final release in late July 2008.

After one month has passed since the feature freeze on the KDE 4.1 branch, the KDE hackers have been working on polishing the new features, desktop integration, and documenting and translating the packages. Several bugfixing sessions have been held and squashed bugs in the beta software. While there are still bugs left that need to be fixed until the release, KDE 4.1 Beta2 shapes up nicely. Testing and feedback on this release is appreciated and needed to make KDE 4.1 a splash.

Source: www.kde.org

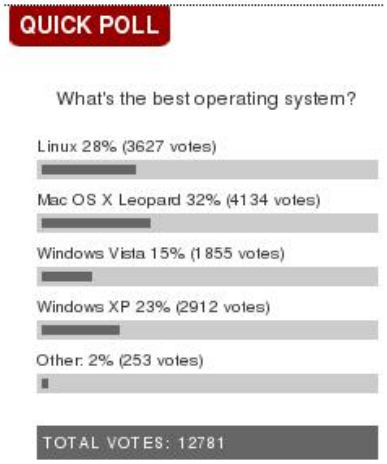
Linux vs. OS X vs. Vista vs. XP

Whether it's because of Vista's confusing array of versions, its hefty hardware requirements, its driver issues or its invasive security features, users are resisting the upgrade to Vista and considering other options, from Mac OS X to Linux to just sticking with Windows XP, thank you very much.

Each [of our experts] is positive that his operating system is the best and will try his hardest to convince you of that -- and is not above taking a few swipes at the competition. These are not rational, disengaged reviews; these are opinionated essays meant to sway your point of view.

When you've read all the arguments, you make the call by voting in our reader poll -- and of course we welcome your own arguments in the comments area as well.

Source:
www.pcworld.com/businesscenter/



COMMAND AND CONQUER

Written by Robert Clipsham

The command line may seem daunting at first, but, once mastered, you won't know how you lived without it. This month I will introduce you to your new best friend, and show you how to stay safe.

To meet your new friend, go to Applications > Accessories > Terminal (in GNOME), or K > System > Konsole (in KDE). Upon opening a terminal, you will see:

```
username@computer-name:~$
```

This means that you are logged into the command line - with <username> on <computer-name>. The :~$ shows that you are in your home directory (~), and that you are logged in as a non-root user ($). If you aren't too sure what this means, don't worry - it will be explained later in this article or in later articles.

The first step to command line safety is, believe it or not, knowing what you're typing in! If you are about to type a command, and you do not know what it does, DO NOT run it. I'm not saying that you need to know fully what everything you type in does, as that would take years of learning commands you may use only once or twice. There are a few ways of finding out what a command does. The easiest one is to type:

```
whatis <command>
```

This will search all the manual (or man) pages for the command, and return a brief description of it. This isn't always useful though, and doesn't describe commands in full. A better way is:

```
man <command>
```

Unlike the 'whatis' tool, 'man' will give you access to the full man page(s), and allow you to see its description, any options/arguments it accepts, and some examples of how to use the command. An argument is everything that comes after the command - for example, in the two commands above, you are passing one argument - the command name. To navigate the man pages, use the up and down arrows (or pg up, pg down if you're impatient!), then q to quit.

```
man man
```

This will give you an overview of how to use 'man' itself. The first thing that will probably strike you is a big complex blob of text. If you look at it carefully, you will see it isn't as complicated as it looks. Anything in square brackets [] is optional, so, if you ignore them, you will see 'man', 'man -l file', 'man -k regexp' and 'man -f page'. Each of these accepts a different set of arguments which are shown in the brackets. While this is useful, it doesn't actually tell you what the options do. This is explained further down the page. If you follow the page, you will see the typical layout of a man page. You will notice there is a lot of information here, which you probably don't need to read. The

"OPTIONS" section will probably be of most use, as it gives you a list of what each option does - for example -L <locale> or --locale=<locale> will allow you to view the man pages in languages other than your default locale. That will explain most of the relevant or useful sections of man pages; however, there is a lot more information in there than I have shown you here.

There is another more advanced way of getting help: 'info'. However, that is unlikely to be useful to you at this stage. If you want to find out more about it, type "?" when viewing an info page to find out how to navigate them. 'man info' may also be useful.

Now that you know how to figure out what commands do, it would be good to know some commands and other things you should be aware of. The first of these is 'sudo'. This will run the command that follows after it as the root user. In case you don't know, the root user has unlimited power over the system, and therefore anything that is run as the root user is potentially dangerous. This does not mean that sudo is a bad thing though. It can be incredibly useful at times, because it minimizes the chances of messing up and typing a wrong command as root, by having you add 'sudo' at the start of each command. Anything that you run with sudo should be run with care, and make sure you know what it does first!

The next thing you should be aware of is command line options. These manipulate the way a command works, for example:

```
man -k PDF
```

Rather than displaying the 'man' page for the PDF command (as you might expect), it will list all commands connected in any way to PDF. See how the addition of '-k' has modified the output of the man command? Other modifiers allow users to send the output of one program to another, append contents to the end of a file, run an application in the background, and many other things. Just note that when you see a symbol that you don't recognize, it may be changing what you expect the command to do, so you may need to do some research before you run it.

There are combinations of commands and modifiers that should not be run as they may damage the system, the main one being: 'rm -rf'. It will remove critical system files. If you would like to find out more about what not to type then visit: http://ubuntuforums.org/announcement.php?a=54. I know it sounds scary, but it's better to raise, in advance, awareness of what not to run.

The command line is your friend, don't be afraid of it!

Robert Clipsham is a self confessed geek, whose hobbies include: programming/scripting, chatting on IRC and not writing his articles on time.

HOW-TO

Written by Roger Wheatley

CREATE A PLUG 'N' PLAY ZONE USING UBUNTU

One of the things I dislike is reinstalling any operating system over, and over, and over again. After a while, it becomes boring and inconvenient when you have a hot idea you want to try out. One of the things I enjoy doing is to try out new ways, ideas or Linux packages. Often this means starting from a clean system, or having to reinstall because I made mistakes and trashed an existing system. The point? Well, for one it's a great learning environment for me, it helps my friends who have switched or are considering a switch, and it gives me information I can share for free - and that helps everyone!

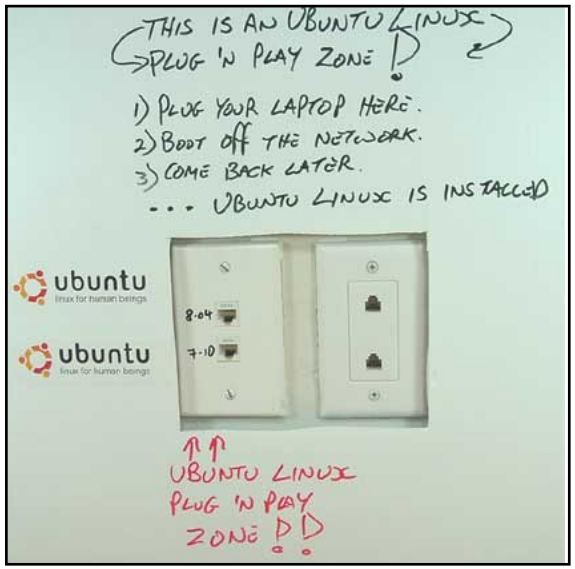
Today is not any different - actually I'm pretty excited about this topic!!! Here's the scenario:

1) I wanted an easy way for friends to migrate to Linux (I'm using Ubuntu).

2) Personally, I needed a way that Ubuntu could install itself while I go do something else.

Side note: During today's project, I realized that this would be a great feature for a school, a computer lab, a computer hobby group, and even a business or laptop repair shop. If any of you use this idea, please let me know as I'd love to see it! ;-)

The idea? I created my very own "Ubuntu Linux Plug 'N Play Zone"!



It's a simple 3-step process.

A user plugs their laptop into one of the two ports (pictured left), and boot off the network. Go away, come back later, and it's all done. Voilà!

Also, you can see that they have the option for a Gutsy install (7.10), and soon - I've not set that up yet, probably over the weekend - a Hardy install (8.04). The picture above is how I'll leave the "Zone" for now. (I didn't want to write on the wall, so I put an old plastic sign over the plug, and wrote on the plastic with a marker. Easy to enhance and change later). How is this done? Ahhh... Not as hard as one might think, Grasshopper.

For this to work properly, we need a DHCP server on a separate network (subnet). We also need a TFTP server, and, of course, client laptops (or PCs)

that can netboot. Netboot is when the BIOS is configured to boot off the network card. Last year, I posted “30 Dollars, 30 Minutes, 1 Nice Fileserver”, and that’s the unit I wiped clean and used for this project. We can begin by installing Gutsy (7.10) on the system.

Note: Look farther down to the IP addresses. Ensure that your server is using a static IP address within your subnet, and make a note of this IP. The first time I did this, I messed up and used the wrong address.

After this, here are the steps I took:

Note: Instead of typing “sudo” all the time, we can “sudo su” (become root) and then don’t have to keep using the sudo command.

The first thing we need to do is grab some packages:

```
apt-get update apt-get
install dnsmasq atftpd atftp
```

dnsmasq is: *“a lightweight, easy to configure DNS forwarder and DHCP server. It is designed to provide DNS and, optionally, DHCP, to a small network. It can serve the names of local machines which are not in the global DNS. The DHCP server integrates with the DNS server, and allows machines with DHCP-allocated addresses to appear in the DNS - with names configured either in each host or in a central configuration file. Dnsmasq supports static and dynamic DHCP leases and BOOTP/TFTP for network booting of diskless machines.”* Source: http://www.thekelleys.org.uk/dnsmasq/doc.html

atftpd is: *“A TFTP server. By default it is started by inetd on most sytems, but may run as a stand-alone daemon. This server is multi-threaded and supports all options described in RFC2347.”* Source: http://www.math.ucla.edu/computing/docindex/atftp-man-2.html

atftp is: *“A client/server implementation of the TFTP protocol that implements RFCs 1350, 2090, 2347, 2348, and 2349. The server is multi-threaded, and the client presents a friendly interface using libreadline. The current server implementation lacks IPv6 support.”* Source: http://freshmeat.net/projects/atftp

Because the first port is Gutsy (7.10), we need to get the netboot files for it. It’s easy to get via wget, like this:

Create a directory if it’s not already there:

```
cd /var/lib

mkdir /tftpboot
```

Use wget to download the tarball into /source.

```
cd /var/lib/tftpboot

wget
http://archive.ubuntu.com/ub
untu/dists/gutsy/main/instal
ler-
i386/current/images/netboot/
netboot.tar.gz
```

Note: For Hardy (8.04) the command is:

```
wget
http://archive.ubuntu.com/ub
untu/dists/hardy/main/instal
ler-
i386/current/images/netboot/
netboot.tar.gz
```

But remember, to do this with Hardy (or any other Linux platform), make sure the port is being served by another Dnsmasq on another subnet. If not, then the wrong version of Linux might be installed.

Now untar:

```
tar -zxf netboot.tar.gz &&
chown -R nobody:nobody
```

The chown directive is saying “Change the ownership of everything recursively to Nobody”.

Now we need to set up the DHCP/DNS configuration (for Dnsmasq). The following information is needed:

1) What IP address range to give laptops being plugged into the “Zone”.

2) The default gateway (that's usually your router, the point for external access to the Internet).

3) The IP address of the server that's going to provide Linux to the laptops.

4) The DNS address (should be the same as the server's address).

After a few tries, and a bit of Googling, I found the correct way to do this. I was putting the wrong numbers in first time around. It was an easy mistake to fix.

Note: The small (cheap) router that I used defaults to the 192 network, so I just left it at the default. You can change it to match your own subnet!

```
dhcp-range=192.168.0.150,
192.168.0.155,6h

dhcp-
boot=pxelinux.0,192.168.0.5

dhcp-option=3,192.168.0.1

dhcp-option=6,192.168.0.1
```

Here is what the lines correspond to: dhcp-boot=pxelinux.0 is the IP address of the server. *dhcp-option=3* is the default gateway address. *dhcp-option=6* is the DNS address. dhcp-range is the pool of IP addresses being leased out to connecting laptops. Only a very few are available as I only have one port per subnet. The 6h means to lease out the IP addresses for 6 hours.

Now that I finally had the correct addresses configured, I restarted like this:

```
invoke-rc.d dnsmasq restart
```

After it’s successfully restarted, make sure the firewall is not blocking. I didn’t check that, and it took me a while - and a bit of Googling - to find the fix. If your firewall is interfering, you can modify this script to your needs:

```
#!/bin/bash

# flush all chains

iptables -F

#delete the chains

iptables -X

# set the default policy
for each of the pre-defined
chains and pipe to /dev/null

iptables -P INPUT ACCEPT

iptables -P FORWARD ACCEPT

iptables -P OUTPUT ACCEPT

iptables -t mangle -F
2>/dev/null

iptables -t mangle -X
2>/dev/null
```

```
iptables -t nat -F
2>/dev/null

iptables -t nat -X
2>/dev/null
```

Original script and idea from http://townx.org/simple_firewall_for_ubuntu_using_iptables via Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 3.0 License.

As you can see from the above link, we can further create a customized start/stop feature. After a lot of Googling, I found there are tons of iptables resources out there!

Now, set your laptop (or PC) BIOS to enable booting off the network (PXE). If it works, you're good to go, and your Plug 'N Play Zone is live! :)

If there is trouble, try the following:

1) Check your /var/log/syslog for issues.

2) Is dnsmasq even listening? (I learned that network boots use bootp through port 67). Is port 67 working? Use this command: netstat -nulp | grep '67.*dnsmasq

The response should show UDP port 67.

Side note: Netstat command is here: http://www.computerhope.com/unix/unetstat.htm

3) What about iptables, are they really turned off?

```
iptables -L

iptables -L -t nat

iptables -L -t mangle
```

The first command says "list the active rules". The second says "list the nat (Network Address Translation) tables", and the third says "list the mangle tables".

Side note: To learn more about iptables and "mangle", read here: http://www.informit.com/articles/article.aspx?p=19626

4) Is atftpd listening on a port? (It's supposed to be on port 69):

```
netstat -nulp | grep atftpd
```

Again, the response should show a UDP port, and it should be 69.

This was a fun, exciting project. Hopefully, some of you can use this information to help you. As I mentioned, this would be great for schools, a computer lab or lab projects, a computer hobby group, and even a business or laptop repair shop. Either way, please let me know.

It's really cool to just plug-and-go in the plug and play zone!

HOW-TO

Written by Daniel Lamb

CREATE YOUR OWN SERVER - Part 6

Now we can start setting up email on our server. I suggest using IMAP and SMTP for sending and receiving email. You should have installed Postfix and Dovecot. You still need to install fetchmail - which will collect any email not received by SMTP. To collect emails by SMTP, you need to set up an MX record (read more about this here http://www.petri.co.il/configure_mx_records_for_incoming_smtp_email_traffic.htm) with the provider of your domain name - it forwards emails to your home IP address. You need to forward SMTP through the firewall on your router to the IP address of your server - to do this, refer to your user manual for your router/firewall.

The only changes you will need to make in the Postfix configuration is under Local Delivery: change "Home-relative pathname of user mailbox file" to Maildir, and under "SMTP Authentication And Encryption", put a tick in the box to "Allow connections from same network", and "Allow connections from this system" under the heading "SMTP relaying restrictions". In the Dovecot IMAP/POP3 server menu, click on Mail Files, and change the radio button option under Mail file location to “Inbox in ~/Maildir, folders in ~/mail”.

If you have any other email that needs to be picked up via POP3, you should now install fetchmail by typing:

```
sudo apt-get install fetchmail
```

Now, open up "Fetchmail Mail retrieval" (Fig.1 above) in Webmin, and click on "..." and "Add Fetchmail server for user".

Fill in the box for "Server name", add a username and password (which will be supplied by your ISP or your web site provider), and choose which local users you want the email to be distributed to.

Fig. 1

Webmin Index
Module Index

Add Server

Mail server options

Server name		Polling enabled?	Yes / No
Mail server to contact	Same as server name /		
Protocol	Default	Server port	Default /
Authentication method	Default		
Check condition	Always check		
	Only if interface is up	with address / netmask	/

Mail server user details

Remote user		Remote password	
Local user(s)	root		
Leave messages on server?	Yes / No / Default (Usually no)		
Always fetch all messages?	Yes / No / Default (Usually no)		
Connect in SSL mode?	Yes / No / Default (Usually no)		
Command to run before connecting			
Command to run after disconnecting			

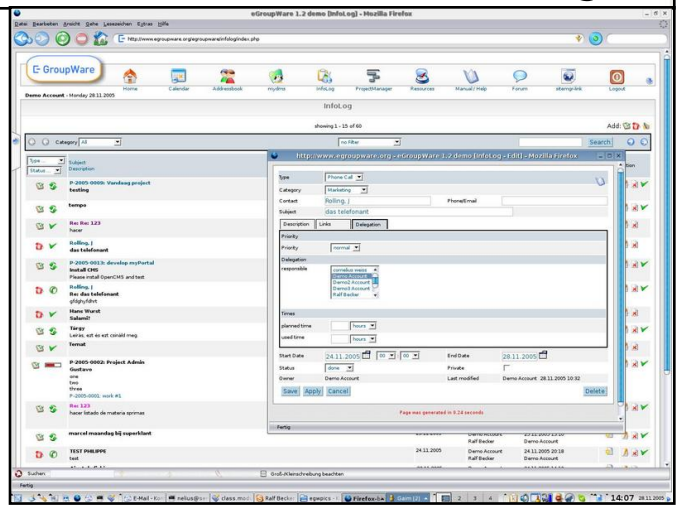
Create

Fig. 2

Add any users who are permitted to access the system - these are users who can access email, samba shares and so on.

You can now install *eGroupware* (right), which will allow you to view webmail and also connect to shared calendars and shared contacts. To install *eGroupware*, open a console and type:

```
sudo apt-get install egroupware
```



We will deal with configuring *eGroupware* for next month.

One item which should have been configured previously is DNS - to set this up, click on Bind DNS in Webmin. Click on "Create master zone". Enter the domain into the "Domain name / network" box. For the master server, type in the domain name as well. Enter a suitable email address in the appropriate box. Type in the IP address of the server (the external IP address provided by your ISP) and finally, click "Create".

Next month, we will configure eGroupware. But, we want to hear what you, our readers, would like to see next in this series of server articles. Email your suggestions to Daniel at daniel.lamb@openyourwindows.com.

Daniel Lamb owns and runs *Flonix IT Solutions* and is based in Perth, Scotland. He is also involved in a number of open source projects such as *Moon Secure AV, Kantaris Media player*, and *open live support*.

He is also a committed Leeds United fan.

HOW-TO

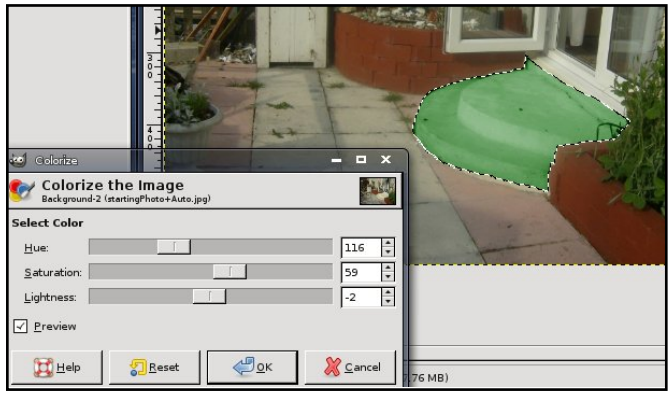
Written by Ronnie Tucker

USING GIMP - Part 3

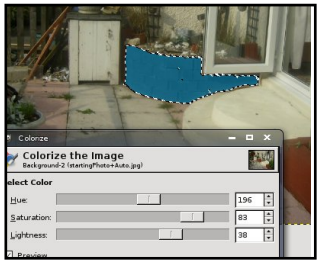
In the previous article, I showed how to alter the colors of an entire image. Now, I'll describe how to alter selected parts of an image, while leaving the rest untouched. This is done using the selection tools (below).

From left to right, the first two buttons select a rectangle or an oval, respectively (hold Shift for a perfect circle). The third button opens a free-selection tool for outlining selected portions on an image. Try it. Click the icon, then left click your mouse, hold it, and draw around an item. When you release the mouse button, you'll see a region selected for manipulation (right).

Now, all modifications will affect only the selected region. This helpful method is, however, not very good for precise selections.



Next is a fuzzy selection. When a dot is clicked, this selection enlarges until it encounters a different color. The enlargement can be fine-tuned by editing the Threshold number in the tool options (below the icons). By holding down Shift, more colors can be selected to widen the selection. Once a selection has been made, further modifications apply to it alone (right).



Next is the color-selection tool. It is similar to the fuzzy selection, so lets move on to the last (for now): the scissor selection tool. This is more precise than the freehand tool discussed above, but it only works well on items with definite outlines. The method is this: click to start selecting, and put a point on the outline; click again to put another point further along the item's outline; the scissor tool then tries to determine the item's perimeter (above); continue clicking on the

image's outline; more added clicks (and points) increase the selection's precision; the last click should be back at the starting point. Before committing to a selection, any of the points can be clicked and dragged to fine-tune the outline.

To create the actual selection, click inside the completed loop (shown below).

To remove a selection, go to the menu and click Select > None.

But how do you make a precise selection? Pen tool (icon shown left).

The pen tool permits more precise curve creation than does the scissor tool. First, click the pen tool to open it. Then, click around the outline of the desired selection, as was done with the scissor tool. But unlike the scissor tool, the first point can not be re-clicked as the last of the points to close the selection -- so just click near it. Don't worry if a point is slightly out of place. After inserting all the points, any point can be clicked and moved into place (below).

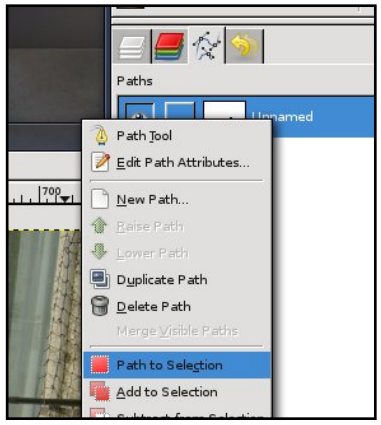
Now, the points can be edited to produce nice curves between them. Hold down the Ctrl key, click on a point (keep the mouse button down) and move your mouse. A line will then come out from that point and a curve will begin forming between the chosen point and one of the points on either side of it (below left).

Each point can have two lines coming from it to form a curve (above right). So, click on the point, hold down Ctrl, and drag out the second line. Now you will have a curve.

The initial point can still be moved, but clicking and dragging a box at the end of a line can fine tune a curve, or create a curve leading in (or out) from a point, or form a straight line on the other side -- this latter was useful in the present example where the steps meet the doorway.

When all the points are in place, and the curves are satisfactory, tell GIMP to select the area. To do this, click the Paths tab (beside your Layers tab). If it's not there, display it by clicking Dialogues > Paths.

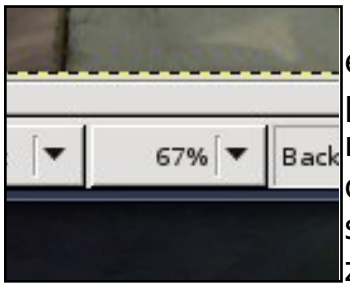
The just-created path is shown in miniature in the Paths tab. Right click on its name and select *Path to Selection*.



To hide the path to work on the selection, or to show it again, click the eye icon.

Combining the selection tools with the color-correction items can be amazingly powerful, especially if all that is needed is to color-correct family photos or holiday snaps.

Zoom



Sometimes, even more precision is needed when creating selections. The zoom tools are very handy for this. At the bottom of the image window is a drop-down menu (above) that gives quick access to a variety of settings for zooming in or out of images.

The Zoom tool (left) is also accessible from the toolbox on the left.

With the Zoom tool, clicking on an image will zoom in (holding Ctrl and clicking will zoom out). In addition, holding a click permits drawing a box around just a portion of an image (below) for zooming (above right).

Don't forget to combine tools. For instance, to select a piece of an image, zoom in first, then go for the tool of your choice.

Next month, we will discuss probably the most important part of GIMP: layers. Creating an image using layers allows you to create non-destructive additions to an image which, when saved in GIMP format, can be edited at a later date.

Ronnie Tucker is Editor of *Full Circle* magazine, a proud Kubuntu user, and part-time artist whose gallery of work can be seen at www.RonnieTucker.co.uk.

HOW-TO

Written by Jonny McCullagh

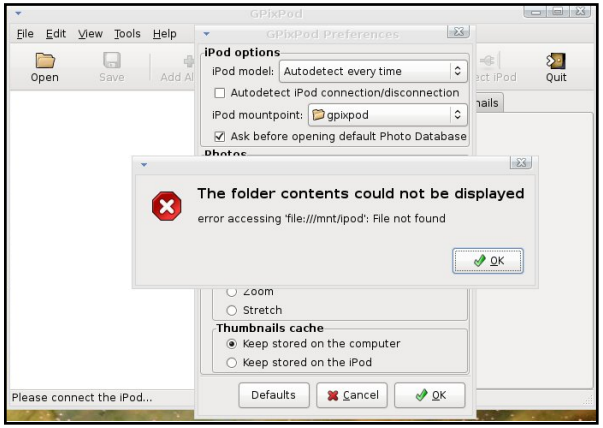
PUT PHOTOS ON YOUR iPOD

For several years, various iPod models have supported storing and viewing photos. However, Apple does not support Linux users with its iTunes software. Thankfully, Flavio Gargiulo has come to the rescue with GPixPod.

GPixPod (http://www.gpixpod.org) is an elegant tool for managing photos on an iPod, but, I hit a brick wall when I first started using it. GPixPod is available from the universe repository, and is easy to install using your favorite package manager. After installation, GPixPod is available from the Applications > Graphics menu.

When you first open GPixPod, you will probably be greeted with a slightly daunting dialog (Figure 1) asking for an iPod Photo Database. This database resides on your iPod. As a confused iPod novice, I canceled this dialog and went in search of GPixPod's configuration in Edit > Preferences. In the preferences dialog (Figure 2), I could see that GPixPod was looking for an iPod mounted at /mnt/ipod - which did not exist on my system. Changing the 'iPod mountpoint' to the actual iPod device connected to the computer solved the problem of the missing iPod Photo Database.

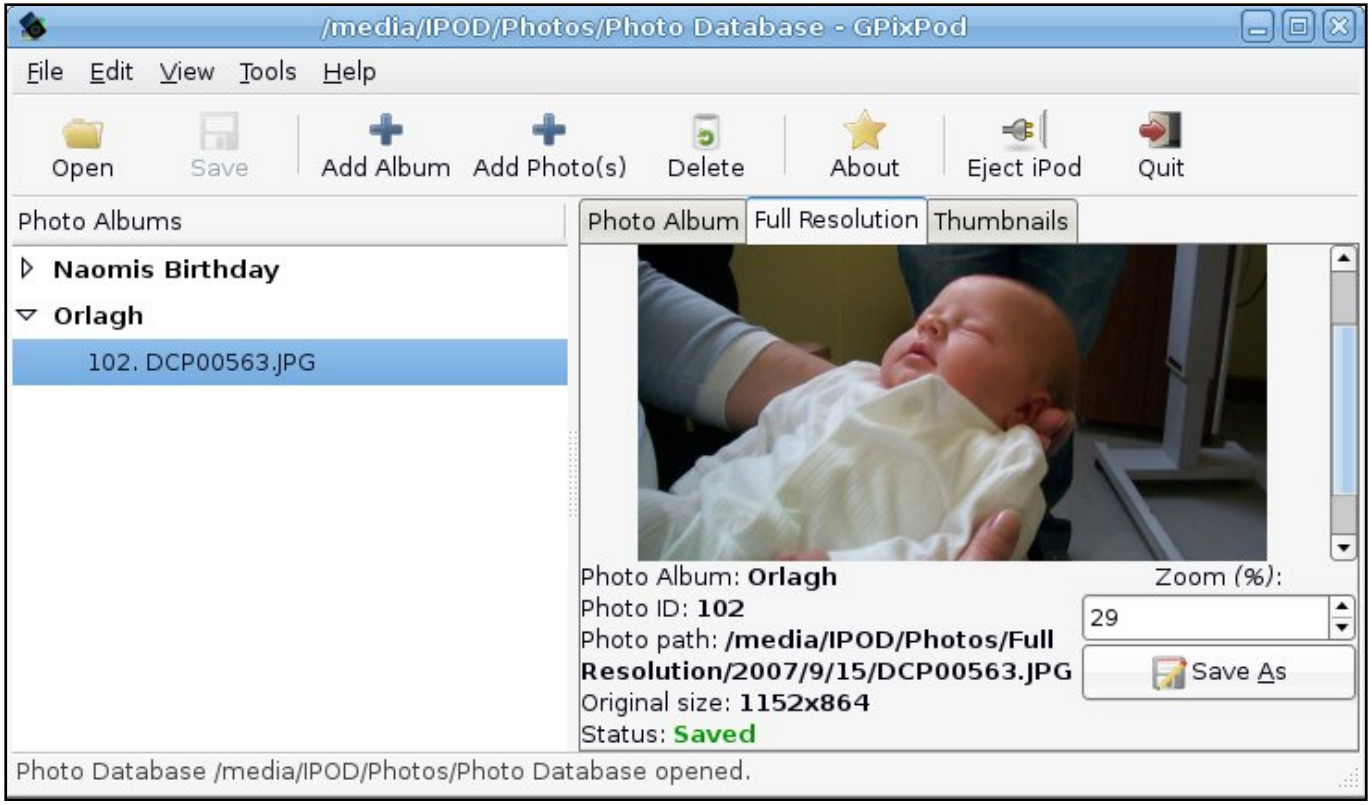
Above: GPixPod will ask for an iPod Photo Database when opened.



Above: The GPixPod Preferences showing the incorrect iPod mount point.

After choosing your connected iPod in the Preferences dialog, GPixPod will prompt you to create a Photo Database for storing details about your albums and photos.

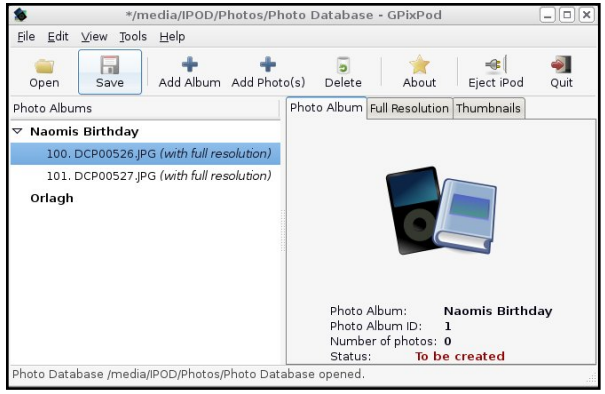
Left: GPixPod can create your iPod Photo Database.



Above: GPixPod showing a Full Resolution photo

Once you create the iPod Photo Database, using GPixPod is wonderfully simple. New photo albums can be created using the 'Add Album' button on the main toolbar, and photos can be added from your computer to the iPod using the 'Add Photos' button. The one potential snag here is that the albums and photos are not saved to the iPod until you click the 'Save' button.

GPixPod is an essential tool for Ubuntu iPod users, once you overcome the iPod Photo Database hurdle.



Above: Don't forget to 'Save' any new albums and photos.

Above: Choosing the real mounted iPod from the Preferences menu.

MY OPINION

Written by Juergen Kissmann and Amy Bassett

EXCITED ABOUT UBUNTU IN SOUTHEAST INDIA

Could you imagine India without Ubuntu? In Auroville, we couldn't, especially those of us at Blue Light. Auroville is a small international township where 2,000 people from all over the world live and work together. We have all the usual amenities of a small town: schools, administrative offices, services, housing communities, libraries, restaurants, commercial units, and cultural spaces for art and music.

Auroville was started with one (of several) stated intention: “Auroville belongs to humanity as a whole”. For those of us who make Auroville our home, it is natural that some of us recognize a kindred vibration between the ideals of Auroville and those of Open Source. What we care about is community, collaboration, research and development, and an inspired drive to take risks and truly experiment.

Why is Blue Light excited about Ubuntu? The Ubuntu community is easily accessible and highly responsive. Over the past two years, the support we received for solving our problems was beyond expectations. Being a mixed group of IT professionals and self-taught computer enthusiasts

with unreliable and inconsistent availability of information through conventional channels, access to the online community for support is very important to us. Another reason why we choose Ubuntu is that it is a solid and secure platform that will provide the type of computing environment that we want in Auroville for our schools and services. Furthermore, as in many countries with limited resources, low-cost or free software provides us with needed alternatives to costly proprietary products. With Hardy Heron as the next long-term-supported (LTS) version, we are ready to continue our Ubuntu adventure in our working environments.

In 2006, a food and sundry-items distribution center was set up. It opened with various Linux distributions - leading ultimately to Ubuntu. Then, two schools made the decision to migrate to Linux, one of which runs a thin client network. Now, certain aspects of our community-wide financial services are undergoing migration, and there is a

Above: the Blue Light team

discussion about how the entire service may move to a Linux-based, Open Source system.

Who is Blue Light anyway? Over the last year, a highly-motivated group of individuals came together to create a concrete framework to move the community services to Ubuntu. We call ourselves Blue Light Open Source Service and Research Center or, for short, Blue Light. We welcome those who want to experience Auroville - while researching and implementing Open Source solutions in the community. One research area is thin client set-ups because, with the thin client, we can use low-end hardware and reduce maintenance costs. Another is small office/home office (SoHo) set-ups. We're especially interested in assisting the development of an Ubuntu SoHo server, as this would meet all our needs, and provide quick and easy server set-ups in our community. Also, we're interested in researching groupware solutions to improve our team-oriented working environments.

We're already a living, laughing and learning part of the global Open Source community. We look forward to sprouting and nurturing an organic, Auroville home-grown Ubuntu community as well.

Interested in Ubuntu and Auroville? Take a look: http://www.auroville.org. You are encouraged to write to us at bluelight@auroville.org.in

MY STORY

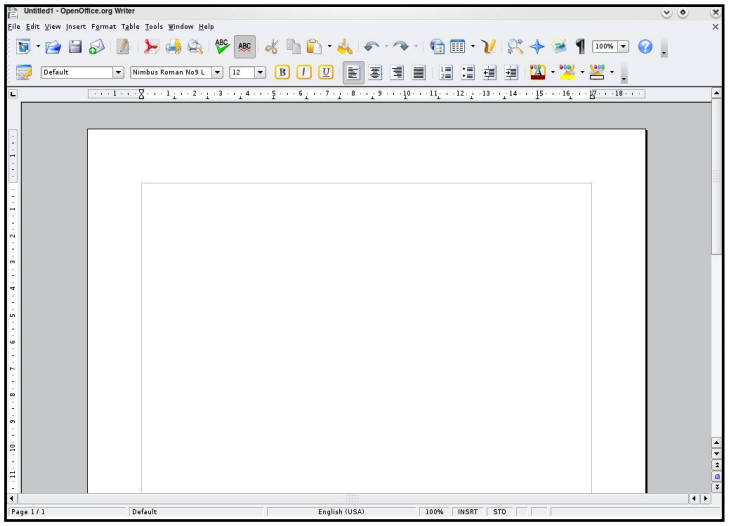
Written by Jim DeBroux

FIRST IMPRESSIONS LAST

Our IT person introduced me to Ubuntu in the late Spring or early Summer of 2006. He had requested one Ubuntu CD - and got 25 - so he offered me one. I refused at first, thinking that Linux was not for me. After all, I was wedded to Windows, and was developing Windows programs in Visual C++ for our lab. Eventually, I took it because I had had some experience with open source software (I was using Firefox, Thunderbird and GIMP) and was curious about Linux.

I did nothing with the CD at first, but, sometime in the Summer, I decided to try the live version of Ubuntu. I was very interested in what I saw, so I went to the official Ubuntu website to learn more. I learned that I wanted to try 6.06 (Dapper). I requested a free CD through ShipIt. It arrived in about two weeks instead of the promised eight.

The install went flawlessly. I was immediately impressed. There were some issues here and there, but, for the most part, everything worked. When I had a problem, the answers were easily found on the Ubuntu forums, and when I could not find the answer there, all I had to do was ask and someone on the forum was willing and able to help me through to a resolution.



I was having fun with my computer again. I was productive to the point of having extra time to play around. I also experimented with lots of software, even trying different versions of Ubuntu (e.g. Kubuntu and Xubuntu). I still booted into Windows occasionally for some tasks, but, overall, found Linux served most of my needs very well.

Then 6.10 (Edgy) came out. I tried to do the upgrade, but that was a mistake. Everything on the Ubuntu drive got corrupted. I went back to Windows and downloaded the .iso for Edgy and installed from scratch. Fortunately, I had all of my data backed up. I have since learned that it is wise to have /home on a separate partition, as this makes updating/upgrading much simpler. I have since become addicted to upgrading.

This might have been the end of the story but for two things:

The first is that my wife's computer needed an upgrade. I installed a “lower end” motherboard and dual-core 64-bit CPU. Win2K would not install, as the necessary 64-bit drivers were not available. Panic time: she needed a word processor to finish her masters degree. Windows XP 64-bit was an option but we didn't want to spend money on a new OS. So I installed Ubuntu 7.04 (Feisty) on her “new” computer. It worked. She has adapted quite well to OpenOffice.org and other software. She can also handle the terminal (if necessary) because, as she puts it, “I'm just an old UNIX girl” (she used to do 3D animation on Unix computers). The only real problem is the driver for her printer. It is somewhat inadequate, and doesn't seem to work well with GIMP.

The second is VirtualBox. Issue #5 of “Full Circle Magazine” had a wonderful article about VirtualBox. I never had much success with VMWare, so I didn't have much hope here either. But, to my surprise, VirtualBox works, and works well for me. I installed Win2K in my virtual machine and I was just blown away. I have also used it for checking out different flavors of Ubuntu and Linux. When my wife saw it, she requested that Windows be installed that way on her computer. I did the install for her, including the Windows drivers for her printer, so now she can at least perform some of the maintenance that the printer requires. I will wait to see how VirtualBox handles the next Ubuntu upgrade. If all goes well, the Windows hard drive will be reformatted for Ubuntu's exclusive use.

> **I'm just an old UNIX girl...**

A couple of final comments. Ubuntu is very easy to install - it's the easiest OS to install that I've come across. Anyone who says it is more difficult to install than Windows has probably never installed Windows from scratch on a “clean” machine. For someone who is completely new to and unfamiliar with computers (e.g. my dad), I would recommend Ubuntu as the OS of choice. The maintenance is minimal, the dangers of viruses and malware are minimal, and it has a much more appealing appearance than Windows.

REVIEW

Written by Robin Catling

JVC MINI - RELOADED

Around December 2005, I decided I had to take action before the heavy Dell 5150 laptop I was lugging around did permanent damage to my spine. My final candidate for an ultra-lightweight, fully-functional, mini notebook was the JVC MP-XV841. Extremely compact at 9.2 by 7.0 by 1.5 inches, it's lightweight at 3.2 pounds, and not much bigger than a hardback book. The delivery specs (below) were better than the laptop I was using daily.

The 1GHz Centrino processor didn't set the world on fire even then, but how much horsepower do you really need for a mobile office? Okay, the computer is eccentric, and it compromises in strange ways. It has an external clip-on battery; but the good news is that this means four hours between charges. The VGA connector is on an external port replicator, along with a four-port USB hub. There's no Bluetooth.

Above: The JVC 'mini'. Back in the good old days before ASUS EEE's.

The tight, cramped keyboard -- despite having all the keys in the right places -- is just a fraction too small for easy typing; long work is broken up by regular trips to the Delete key. However, for such a small machine it has a fantastic screen which is extremely bright, pin-sharp, and, in a widescreen format of 1024x600, plays DVDs perfectly using the built-in DVD/CD-RW combo drive. It has manual playback controls along the front edge, a volume

jogwheel, brightness controls, and a keyboard lock under the screen. There's even a button for surround sound.

By the time I purchased my JVC, it had been out for about eighteen months, so the original (even more) outrageous price had dropped by half. I bought one for £639 (~$1100), and carried it around client sites for a year or so. It caught everyone's attention.

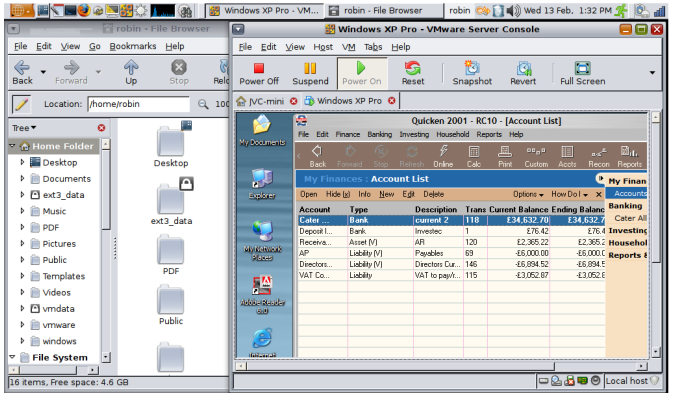
That was then...

Time passed. Eventually, I bought another Dell dual-core laptop with Vista Ultimate, lived with it for six hideous weeks, and replaced the entire hard drive and operating system in favor of Ubuntu 7.04 (Feisty). That was my moment of conversion. As a Linux-watcher for several years, I knew its potential, but this time I was sold on it. Another idea soon formed, but I didn't act on it until Ubuntu 7.10 (Gutsy) was released. Then I began the resurrection of the JVC.

It took some planning. I had always intended to upgrade the 40GB hard drive, but the ultra-compact size of the JVC was clearly the most challenging part of the exercise. More so than most laptops, it wasn't designed with user upgrades in mind. My research found a single Web page of instructions, compiled by a couple of brave souls who had succeeded in upgrading their machines. I learned that the entire machine needed to be disassembled, since the hard drive is the largest internal component and everything else bolts in around it.

In for a penny...

Jeweller's screwdrivers -- check; magnifying glass -- check; courage in hand -- check. The disassembly took me back to when I did my own car mechanics for lack of money. I had learned to punch a sheet of cardboard to hold and label the engine bolts, so I did the same with a sheet of paper to hold and identify the thirty seven mismatched screws. In half an hour, I had the whole thing laid out across the table. If I hadn't built desktop PCs for myself and family for years, I probably wouldn't have tried it. I didn't take photos -- it was too distressing! While I had the JVC in pieces, I upgraded its memory -- both slots, 512MB apiece, which gave me a 1GB machine. The 120GB drive went in and I reassembled it with only one screw left over. I'm still not sure how that happened.



Ta-da!

I had used the Gutsy Live CD for various installs already, so I knew it worked, but you know how laptops, especially those of a certain age, have unpredictable combinations of hardware and firmware. I needn't have worried. Ubuntu installed almost flawlessly: it recognized the on-board

802.11g wireless straight off the bat, connected to my router and...welcome 'JVC-Gutsy' to the Web! Packages were updated, themes and bookmarks were applied, and graphics were configured -- job done.

Workday

For reasons best known to me and my accountant, we maintain my company accounts on an ancient version of Quicken. For that, I need a Windows machine and that's what I've got; I installed VMware Server with my Windows XP as client. The on-screen real estate is limited but the performance is more than fine. I work with a minimalist desktop anyway, so creating a single Gnome panel was second nature. I currently use the Nimbus theme from Open Solaris, which is clean and highly legible. At most tasks, the JVC exceeds expectations, although I wouldn't try to redesign my Web sites without my external monitor plugged in. The only thing that still doesn't work is the Ricoh SD card reader -- although Ubuntu recognises the Ricoh in my other laptop!

Four months on, suddenly everyone is talking about the Asus Eee PC (below) as a full-spec Linux pocket PC. For the price, there's no question they've done a stand-out job. But for my money, my little JVC is simply a pocket battleship. I still take it to client sites and into coffee shops, and it still gets everyone's attention.

JVC Mini MP-XV841 specification when delivered:

Intel Centrino 1Ghz
512MB memory
40GB hard drive
DVD/CD-RW
8.9inch TFT
Intel Extreme Graphics 2 (64MB RAM)
Intel PRO/Wireless 802.11b/g
2 x USB2 sockets
SD card reader
IEEE-1394/Firewire port
10/100 Ethernet
V.90 modem
PC Card slot
Windows XP Professional

JVC Mini MP-XV841 specification now:

1GB memory
120GB hard drive
Ubuntu 7.10 (Gutsy).

Robin Catling occasionally earns money as a project manager, business analyst and technical trainer. He also coaches fencing in the New Forest, Hampshire, England.

MOTU INTERVIEW

Taken from behindmotu.wordpress.com

SOREN HANSEN

Behind MOTU is a site which features interviews with those who are known as 'Masters of the Universe' (MOTU). They are the volunteer army of package maintainers that look after the Universe and Multiverse software repositories.

Age: 26
Location: Nørresundby, Denmark
IRC Nick: soren

How long have you used Linux, and what was your first distro?

I started running Linux back in 1996, I believe. I bought a CD set called “Infomagic “LINUX Developer’s Resource CD-ROM” - which had a few different distributions on it. I knew nothing about the various distros, so I just went with whatever they had put on the first disk, which was Slackware. After a few years, I switched to RedHat, then Debian (around 2000, I think), and now finally Ubuntu.

How long have you been using Ubuntu?

I’ve been running Ubuntu since a few months after Hoary came out.

When did you get involved with the MOTU team and how?

I’ve been involved in free software for quite a few years now, so it felt natural to take active part in the development of the distribution I used, and so I got involved pretty much right away. I had my first self-made package included in Breezy a few months later, and I’m quite sure I must have contributed a few patches for other packages during Breezy as well, but Launchpad doesn’t have that on record.

What helped you learning packaging and learning how the Ubuntu teams work?

Being a Debian user before, it took a bit of reading to work out the differences between Debian and Ubuntu, and while reading up on what the different components (main, restricted, universe, and multiverse) were for, I also read about the MOTU team, etc. I had previously worked on some packages used internally in the company I used to work for, and I also contributed a couple of packages to Debian (for which I never found a sponsor, though), so the technical bits of packaging weren’t that alien to me.

Favorite part of working with MOTU?

I love hanging out in the Ubuntu IRC channels :) People are friendly, helpful, and we have lots of fun. The presence of all the more experienced people is also an infinite source of inspiration to me.

Any advice for people wanting to help with MOTU?

Just realise that it's really not that hard. We're a friendly bunch, and even the smallest contribution is very welcome. You don't have to start out with packaging a new complex package.

You are the latest MOTU to join the Ubuntu Core Developer ranks, how would you compare working in Universe and Main?

Well, personally, I've felt that [it] requires a more holistic view of Ubuntu. A lot of the stuff I've worked on in universe was "safe" to fiddle around with. Nothing huge would break if it didn't work out as planned. Recently, I've found myself patching the kernel, and I needed to make a tiny change to module-init-tools as well. I think I stared at my two-line patch for 5 minutes trying to convince myself it wouldn't break anything. AFAIK, it hasn't. Yet.

Any Plans for Hardy Heron?

Oh yes, plenty! We're discussing a lot of different things here at UDS. Integration into existing networks is going to be a big thing, simplifying various system management use cases, virtualisation. It's a bit too soon to say what we'll actually be doing, but there's certainly a lot of ideas, and I'm really excited about the Ubuntu server edition.

Favorite quote?

There is one that cracks me up every time:

"It has been said that XML is like violence; if a little doesn't solve the problem, use more."

If you've ever been pulled into a project using XML, you'll know what this is all about.

What do you do in your other spare time?

Sleep.

Pic of you, your work area, and/or your screen?

You realise of course, you've forced me to clean my office, now, don't you?

UBUNTU WOMEN

Written by Emma Jane Hogbin

In this final installment of “Making Change Happen”, we take a look at volunteer retention.

The world of open source software relies almost entirely on volunteer contributions. All behavior is motivated, and different volunteers will have unique reasons to work on a project. For some people, it is enough to have the satisfaction of a job well done; however, most volunteers will also need some kind of external recognition. This may include anything from the karma points in Launchpad to peer recognition for having contributed a useful patch.

Within your project’s team, you need to create an environment where volunteers feel supported, valued and welcome. Volunteers give up their free time to contribute to a project. They will only be motivated to stay with the project as long as the project satisfies a need of theirs. Make sure the work is fun (yes, debugging code is fun for some people). Take every opportunity to applaud competence and any other trait you value. Offer feedback on work that is done by your volunteers, but be aware of the kind of feedback you are giving - you may want to give constructive criticism privately.

Keep track of the people--not just the code that is contributed. Identify the motivating behavior for each of your core volunteers, and make sure they are receiving their motivational paycheck. Being aware of each person’s habits will also help you to spot potential burn-out. Although recruiting new volunteers can be a solution to losing people from your project, retaining happy volunteers is the key to success.

The commitment to making change happen is ongoing. Review your progress on a regular basis. Make sure you are setting goals, creating action items, designating areas of responsibility, evaluating progress and retaining your volunteers. I look forward to reading about your continued success.

Emma Jane Hogbin builds and supports on-line communities using open source software. She lives in rural Canada and chronicles her adventures at www.emmajane.net.

UBUNTU YOUTH

Written by Andrew Harris

The future of open source is in the young people of today; that's why this corner of the magazine is for young people or simply those who are young at heart.

Coming to Ubuntu, you may find it hard to really break in to the group. You may feel that you want to do something for the community, but you don't know how. I had similar feelings when I came to the FOSS world.

I had heard of all the wonderful things about the open source philosophy. I loved the idea of helping your neighbor and sharing your work freely. But I felt powerless whenever I thought of advancing it or helping to make it better. In reality, the only thing stopping me was myself. Here's how you too can become involved in open source.

First, find other Linux people around you, like a local LUG or LoCo team. Attend their meetings and learn as much as you can. When they need volunteers, then find out how you can help. When I was getting into Linux, I set up a meeting place for the Phoenix Linux User Group in a more remote part of Phoenix, and I was immediately accepted into the group.

Above: Launchpad.net - there's always some way to help the community.

Try getting your friends to try out Linux. That is how we got where we are today. After all, you don't see a lot of Ubuntu commercials on television, do you? You never know how much even one person who decides to get involved can change things for the better.

If you really want to get involved, start coding. Mike Saunders recently had an excellent series on programming in *Linux Format* magazine, and there are thousands of books and resources on learning to program. When you become proficient at it, try fixing bugs in your favorite open source projects. All projects have bugs, and all bugs need fixing.

I hope you feel inspired to help out. Perhaps you will be the next Mark Shuttleworth or Linus Torvalds!

Andrew "Tuna" Harris is, in a nutshell, a geek. He enjoys Linux, Open Source, the fine arts, and programming. If you follow his advice then you too will be addicted to knetwalk. Andrew will be speaking at this year's Ubuntu Live and hopes to see you there.

LETTERS

Every month we like to publish some of the emails we receive. If you would like to submit a letter for publication, compliment or complaint, please email it to: letters@fullcirclemagazine.org. **PLEASE NOTE: some letters may be edited for space reasons.**

I'm a regular reader of Full Circle Magazine, and I just wanted to say 'great job'.

Something that is desperately needed though, is some kind of tutorial on getting wireless working. I've been trying to get my wireless working now for 18 months. Sometimes it works, and sometimes it doesn't. It comes off as this giant "black box" that no one really seems to understand, even how-to pages are more: "I tried this and it worked" rather than a good guide.

From different cards, to NDIS wrapper vs. native drivers, to WEP, WPA, TKIP, etc., it all becomes a blur very quickly.

Full Circle should write about this as many people have problems with it.

Scott Mohnkern

Ed: *Any experts out there want to write Scott (and the others) a good wifi guide?*

LETTER OF THE MONTH

Writer of Letter of the Month wins two metal Ubuntu case badges!

I must comment on your excellent magazine. I wanted to make a small booklet, and there was the article in *Full Circle* on how to use *Scribus*. Perfect! I had also been looking for a program to make an image of my operating systems. I tried *Partimage* but had to keep remembering the correct path, even wrote it down to no avail. A few months ago I purchased *Image For Windows* (which will do both Windows and Linux) I am a 99.9% Linux user but occasionally need a program in that "other" system. Then in your most recent magazine there was *Parted Magic*. I already had that ISO image burnt to a disk but didn't really understand how to use it. I thought I had to go to the command line, make a backup directory and so on. In that excellent article I learned that is not the case. Thanks for the articles on every day apps. It helps to get more out of them. Keep up the good work!

Tom Lombardy

I have just read my first issue of Full Circle (#12) and I'm hooked. What a publication! I'm a 67-year-old convertee from Windows and need the info in this magazine. My wife and I both have Ubuntu installed. I have Hardy and she has Fiesty. I have been looking for a Ubuntu-specific magazine for a while. I'll probably download all the back issues to get myself caught up. Keep up the good work.

Bill

I read Full Circle for the first time today, finding it on Google, looking for a comparison between Ubuntu and Mint.

An enjoyable, optimistic magazine! I especially liked the article written by a 12-year-old, and the HowTos.

My experience with Linux has been one of revelation. I'm in research, in engineering, and by default, we seem to all run Windows, mostly because the application software is all written for Windows.

I switched to Ubuntu last year at the needling insistence of a few IT friends - and I never looked back. Between the open-source software and Wine, there's almost no need for me to go scrounging around in my Windows partition anymore, except for a few games.

And when I do - what a grisly mess. Downloading software, extracting it, installing it - then being left with a rotting detritus of its left-behinds.

Anyway, the focus of my

> **When I was a kid, we used DOS and it was no big deal...**

letter is this: people are often hesitant to step into Linux systems because of all the tinkering and command-line activity. My argument is that this is a GOOD thing.

When I was a kid, we used DOS, and it was no big deal to hit the command line. Sure, it was ugly, but it gave you a sense of ownership.

Now, when someone uses a new Windows machine, look at their faces when something goes wrong (especially in Vista!) - it's one of defeat, of utter perplexity. Can't play this DVD. Can't play these music files. Can't save here. Using Windows transforms you from an owner of a machine to merely a user - which is exactly where Microsoft likes you to be. Put trust in their hands, and let them guide you through this prickly-pear maze.

With Ubuntu and the command line, I've been promoted to the owner, and I like it. I greet problems with optimism because the community invariably has a solution or, at least, a one-google-search answer.

How can I go back to being a user?

Cibby Pulikkaseril

Regarding your Top5 and games, I was really amazed with Kenta Cho's games - http://www.asahi-net.or.jp/~cs8k-cyu/index_e.html - such as *Torus-Trooper, Parsec47, Rootage*, and *Tumiki-Fighters*. All are available from the Hardy repository. These games are the most addictive I could find in the Ubuntu repository.

Other interesting games were from *Oohara Yuuma* - http://www.interq.or.jp/libra/oohara - another Japanese programmer. He coded *Dangen* and *Tenmado*. Very minimalistic yet addictive games.

Paulo

Q&A

Written by Tommy Alsemgeest

If you have Ubuntu-related questions, email them to: questions@fullcirclemagazine.org, and Tommy will answer them in a future issue. **Please include as much information as you can about your problem.**

Q I use Xubuntu 6.06. I tried the new versions, but during install it said that my BIOS is "before cut-off". It seems that newer kernels are designed to not work on older hardware. When Xubuntu 6.06 is terminated - what will users with older hardware do? Is there any solution?

A This is, as you suggested, a problem with Xubuntu detecting a BIOS that is older than the year 2000. There are two ways to fix the problem. The easiest way is to update the BIOS. You can usually do this by going to the manufacturer's website, downloading a file, rebooting, then going into the BIOS and telling the BIOS to update from the file you downloaded.

The second way is to force Xubuntu to use your computer. To install it, you need to give the *aspci=force* option for the Live CD. That should let you boot off the CD and install Xubuntu. But, then you have to edit your *menu.lst* to get that option to work every time:

gksudo mousepad /boot/grub/menu.lst

Scroll down to near the bottom, where your Xubuntu installation is listed. Then add *aspci=force* to the end.

Q I have a new MEDION MD96440 laptop. With the -*so* command, Ubuntu 8.04 tells me: "a REALTEK ALC268 soundcard is not producing any sound at all."

A This should be of help to anyone trying to troubleshoot sound problems:

https://help.ubuntu.com/community/SoundTroubleshooting, and this might be of help in your case: http://ubuntuforums.org/showthread.php?t=551615

Q I've just installed Ubuntu 8.04 on my laptop. Then, I downloaded KDE 4 packages from a mirror, but I don't know how to install it. I can't find any articles that help me install it. Do I need additional tools to install it?

A You've probably downloaded the source for KDE 4. It is much easier to install it using the Ubuntu repositories. To install KDE 4:

Using your package manager, add the following line to the sources list and save:

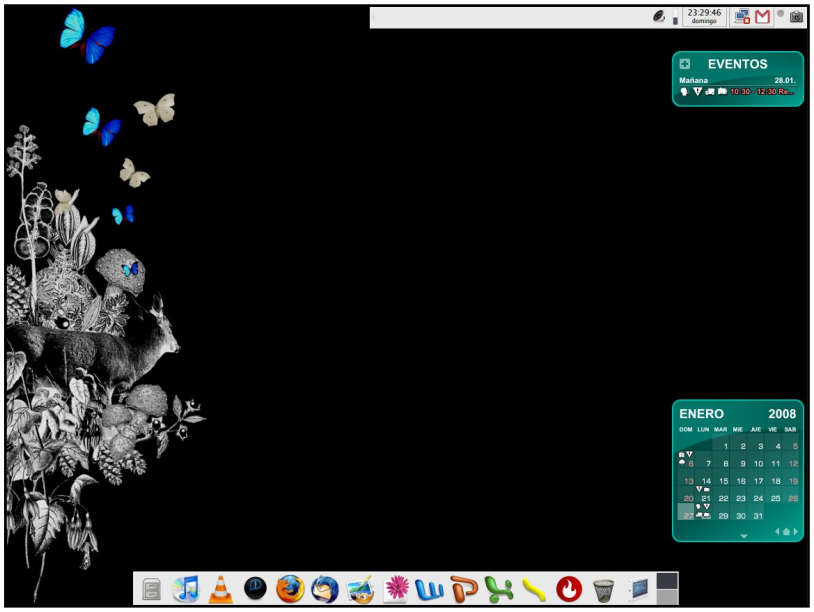
deb http://ppa.launchpad.net/kubuntu-members-kde4/ubuntu hardy main

To install KDE 4, install the *kde4-core* package.

On next login, you will need to choose KDE4 from the login manager.

MY DESKTOP

Your chance to show the world your desktop or PC. Email your screenshots and photos to: misc@fullcirclemagazine.org and include a brief paragraph about your desktop, your PC's specs and any other interesting tidbits about your setup.

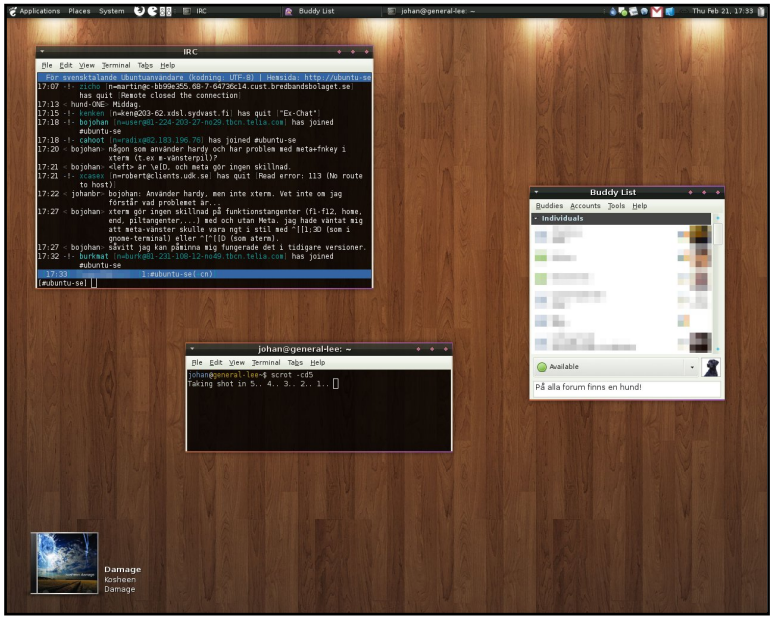


I'm using Xubuntu Gutsy - a really lightweight desktop. So light that my PC feels like a Ferrari!

The wallpaper's name is 'Black Nature', and it's from DeviantArt.com. The calendar is the new Rainlendar. I was a huge fan of Rainlendar when I was using Windows, and now we have a .deb package for installing it on Ubuntu.

I love my Xubuntu 7.10. At the moment, I don't need the fancy stuff of Compiz, and every Windows user I know says that my incredible, efficient, beautiful and secure Xubuntu is amazing.

Andrés Gómez



Here is pic of my clean desktop, running Ubuntu 7.10.

GTK: Tuxido
Metacity: Tuxido
Icons: Powered & ecqlipse 2
Wall: Hardwood Lights

My computer, the General Lee, runs on an AMD Athlon 64 X2 3800+ with Corsair XMS2 PC6400 DDR2 1GB.

Johan Eriksson

TOP 5 SPACE GAMES

Written by Andrew Min

Your monthly list of Linux games or applications from the depths of the Internet. If you have an idea for a list, please email: misc@fullcirclemagazine.org

AstroMenace

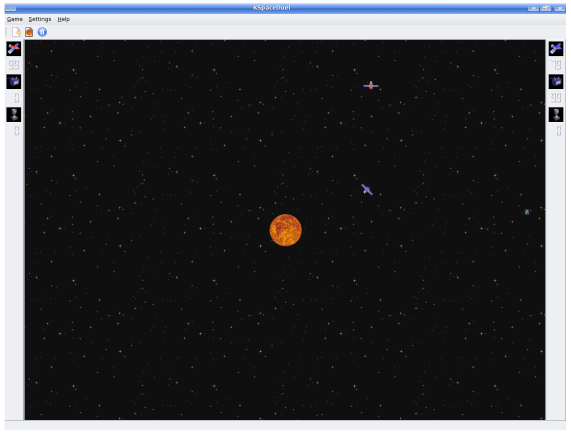
Homepage: http://www.viewizard.com/astromenace/index_linux.php

While not the most famous on this list, AstroMenace is by far one of the best games I've ever played. It is, as you may have guessed, a space shooter. In this 3D space scroller, you navigate a ship through asteroids while destroying enemy ships. Sure, it sounds like just another side scroller; and it would be, except for the stunning 3D graphics. Now would be a good time to tell you that you need a super powerful graphics card and a ton of RAM.

To install AstroMenace in Ubuntu, you'll need to add a new repository. Full instructions are available at http://url.fullcirclemagazine.org/1de13a (scroll down to the apt repository section). After that, install the astromenace package.

KSpaceDuel

Homepage: http://games.kde.org/game.php?game=kspaceduel



If you don't have the RAM to run AstroMenace, but still like a good old space shooter, give KSpaceDuel a try. This KDE game is much less complicated than AstroMenace, but it's still lots of fun. Basically, you have two satellites (one of which you control) orbiting around a sun. The object of the game is to shoot the other player--without crashing or getting hit. However, there's a lot of gravity and physics involved, which makes for a very challenging and fun game.

To install KSpaceDuel, install the ***kspaceduel*** package, available in the main repository.

Critical Mass

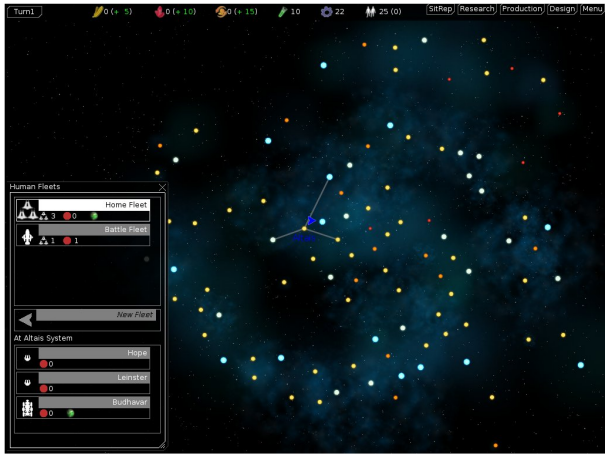
Homepage:
http://criticalmass.sourceforge.net

Critical Mass is another really simple shooter game, modeled after those old-time arcade space shooters found in malls and doctor's offices. The story is fairly basic: you've been overrun by an army of "critters", and you need to kill them all. Dead easy, right? Well, those critters are coming at you faster than any I've ever seen at the mall.

To install Critical Mass, use the ***criticalmass*** package in the universe repositories.

Andrew Min has been a Linux addict since he first installed openSuSE in VMWare. Learn more about him at http://www.andrewmin.com/

FreeOrion



Homepage:
http://www.freeorion.org

If you prefer turn-based strategy type games, yet still love the alien side of life, FreeOrion is a great option. It's a free turn-based strategy game based on Master of Orion. Basically, it's a space-based Civilization (or, if you're a free software lover, FreeCiv). As a nice bonus, the graphics look fairly good (especially for an open-source game).

FreeOrion doesn't have any Ubuntu packages yet. There is an installer at http://url.fullcirclemagazine.org/cff89d (latest.tar.gz). For install info read: http://url.fullcirclemagazine.org/2b4cb3

I've created an Ubuntu package at: http://url.fullcirclemagazine.org/038a75.

Vega Strike

Homepage:
http://vegastrike.sourceforge.net

If you like both strategy and shooter games, Vega Strike is one of the most awesome games invented. You are a pilot in a very large galaxy with a host of species (each with their own history) who can do what you choose, be it trade, pirate, or fight. Luckily, it's not all strategy. There's also the actual action, which takes place in your cockpit in a view similar to a first person shooter.

There is a package called *vegastrike* in the universe repositories. However, this version is rather outdated. You can try using a Debian package at http://packages.debian.org/sid/vegastrike and http://packages.debian.org/sid/vegastrike-data, but please note: **Debian packages don't always work on Ubuntu.**

HOW TO CONTRIBUTE

We are always looking for new articles to include in Full Circle. For article guidelines, ideas, and for issue translation, please see our wiki:
http://wiki.ubuntu.com/UbuntuMagazine

Please email your articles to: articles@fullcirclemagazine.org

If you would like to submit news, email it to:
news@fullcirclemagazine.org

Send your comments or Linux experiences to:
letters@fullcirclemagazine.org

Hardware/software reviews should be sent to:
reviews@fullcirclemagazine.org

Questions for future interviews should go to:
questions@fullcirclemagazine.org

Lists and desktop/PC photos should be emailed to:
misc@fullcirclemagazine.org

If you have questions, you can visit our forum:
www.fullcirclemagazine.org

Deadline for Issue #15:
Sunday 06th July.

Release date for issue #15:
Friday 25th July.

HAVE YOUR SAY

If you want to have your say on how Full Circle Magazine develops, please attend our monthly IRC meeting.

You can find our next Agenda at:

http://url.fullcirclemagazine.org/f2ba08

We want input from you, the reader, to help us make decisions that affect the magazine.

Next general meeting (all welcome): **Sat. 05th July** at **1700 UTC**.

Meetings take place in the IRC channel **#fullcirclemagazine**, which is on the irc.freenode.net server. Or you can use our webIRC page which is at http://irc.fullcirclemagazine.org and it will allow you to interact with our IRC channel from within your web browser.

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And our thanks go out to *Canonical*, the *Ubuntu Marketing Team* and the many translation teams around the world.