

Ubuntu (Linux); my first experience of...

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...is good.

I bought a minimum "barebones ASUS mobo" with AMD64 plus one DVDdrive graphics card and did this:-

http://groups.google.co.uk/group/comp.os.linux.setup/browse_frm/thread/af66b27496dd89dd/0d47eaa0681fed8?lnk=

That hardware cost just under £500, that would probably equate to half the price in the States i.e. \$500. The timecost was half a day - from scratch, including downloading the .iso image (6.10) and burning the CDrom.

The desktop is similar to XP except that it is snappier and simpler and Firefox is the default browser.

The downside is that it connecting my Binatone ADSL 500 modem is "...possibly difficult - USB types generally are..."

I ignorantly assumed "the command line" was some ancient throwback thingy but it is actually brilliant because you can automate everything with scripts i.e. a hassle to make it work but after that it's a one-touch as opposed to Windows where it is always a hassle to e.g. select all the .cpp and .h files by hand and not the .bak files before copying.

To get a get-feel for maintance and dependencies see:-
<https://help.ubuntu.com/community/InstallingSoftware>

If I crash it tomorrow, no worries, I can insert my .iso disk and re-install the whole lot from scratch in under an hour, maybe thirty minutes (I have no other software installed on it so far) And this is the real reason for changing to an open source operating system: reliability - the mutli-platform software I am involved with has exposed two bugs that otherwise do not show on the main development platform.

In fact the app I use most on my PC is Firefox. My favourites for sheer ergonomic brilliance are Cdex and MD5summer. All of these are free-spirited. I had to abandon Nero6 for the free InfraRecorder

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because only the latter would successfully make the bootable
Ubuntu .iso CDrom.

I thought that the future would be the Mac but now I am not so sure,
even Linux stands a chance. No way is it going to be Vista.

Cheers
Robin

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