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Ubuntu 10.04: The Perfect Consumer Operating System?

The upcoming release of Ubuntu 10.04 is on the way and with its new theme, looks simply stunning. With an online music store built in a strong focus on social networking, could this finally be the release consumers have been waiting for?

[Christopher Smart](#)

Wednesday, March 24th, 2010

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It's true, I've given Ubuntu a thrashing from time to time, but it was deserved. (See [Hey Ubuntu, Stop Making Linux Look Bad](#) and [Two Simple Suggestions for Ubuntu](#)) Now, it deserves a little of something else.

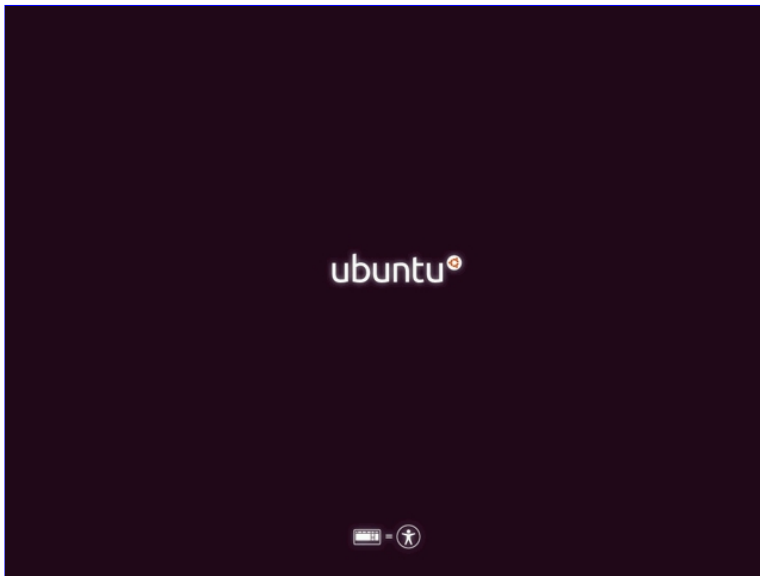
Last week the first Beta of Ubuntu 10.04 was released, providing a solid glimpse of what will comprise the final release in a month's time. It looks damn good.

On the face of it, Ubuntu 10.04 appears to achieve what no other distro has been able to do yet - near perfect integration. From start to finish this looks like a highly professional, sleek, commercial grade operating system. Truly. Whatever Mark Shuttleworth has been doing in his new role, keep doing it, because this release looks to be the best ever (and it's *me* saying this, so you know I'm not wetting my pants over nothing).

It's Got the Look

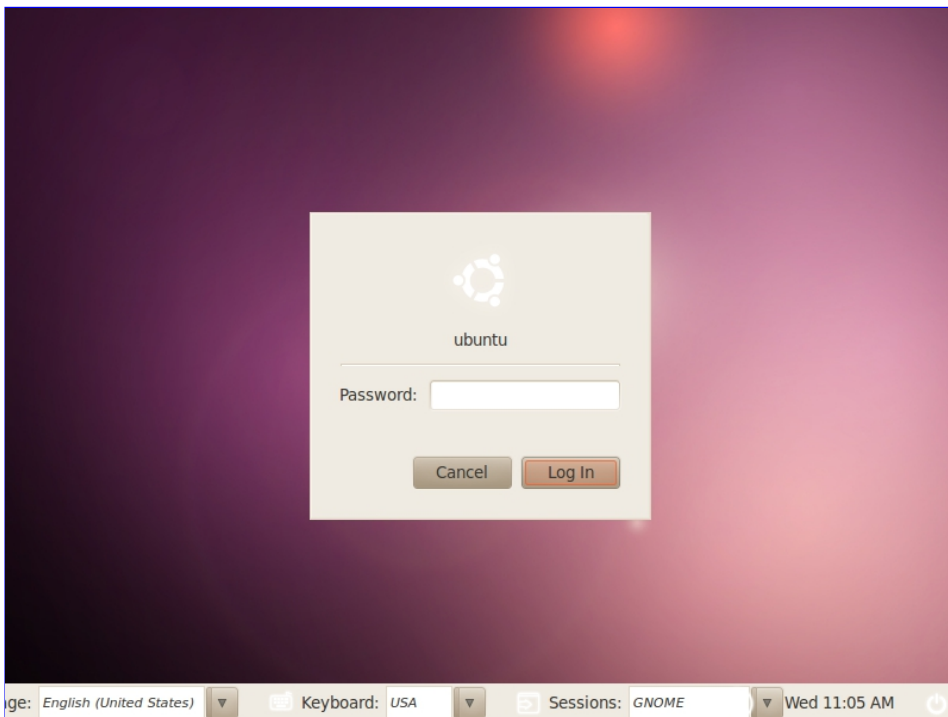
Promises made, promises lost, we've been waiting a long time for a new, fresh, updated look and feel for Ubuntu. Really, no-one *really* liked the orange and brown, but we did put up with it. Thank the Heavens now we finally have a brand new, sleek look. I like it. I really like it. How else can I put this? It's *awesome*.

The boot sequence is a sharp and the new corporate font looks great. Very sleek and modern. Thank goodness that horrible black and white pulsating Ubuntu logo is gone from 9.10!



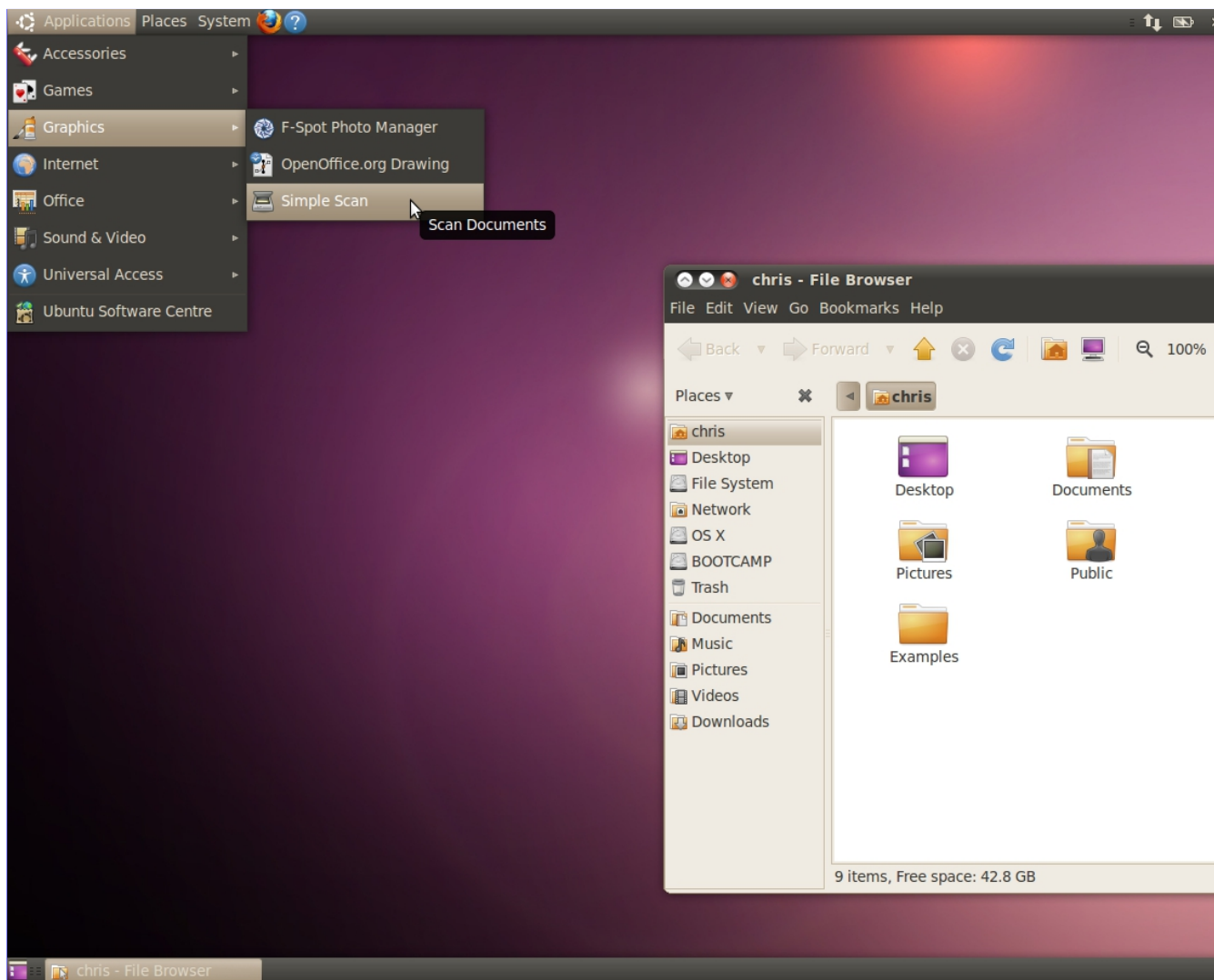
Lucid boot splash screen

The login screen is simple, but light and well integrated. Here you get your first glimpse of the new color scheme including the new pu somewhat Mac-ish, but it works really well.

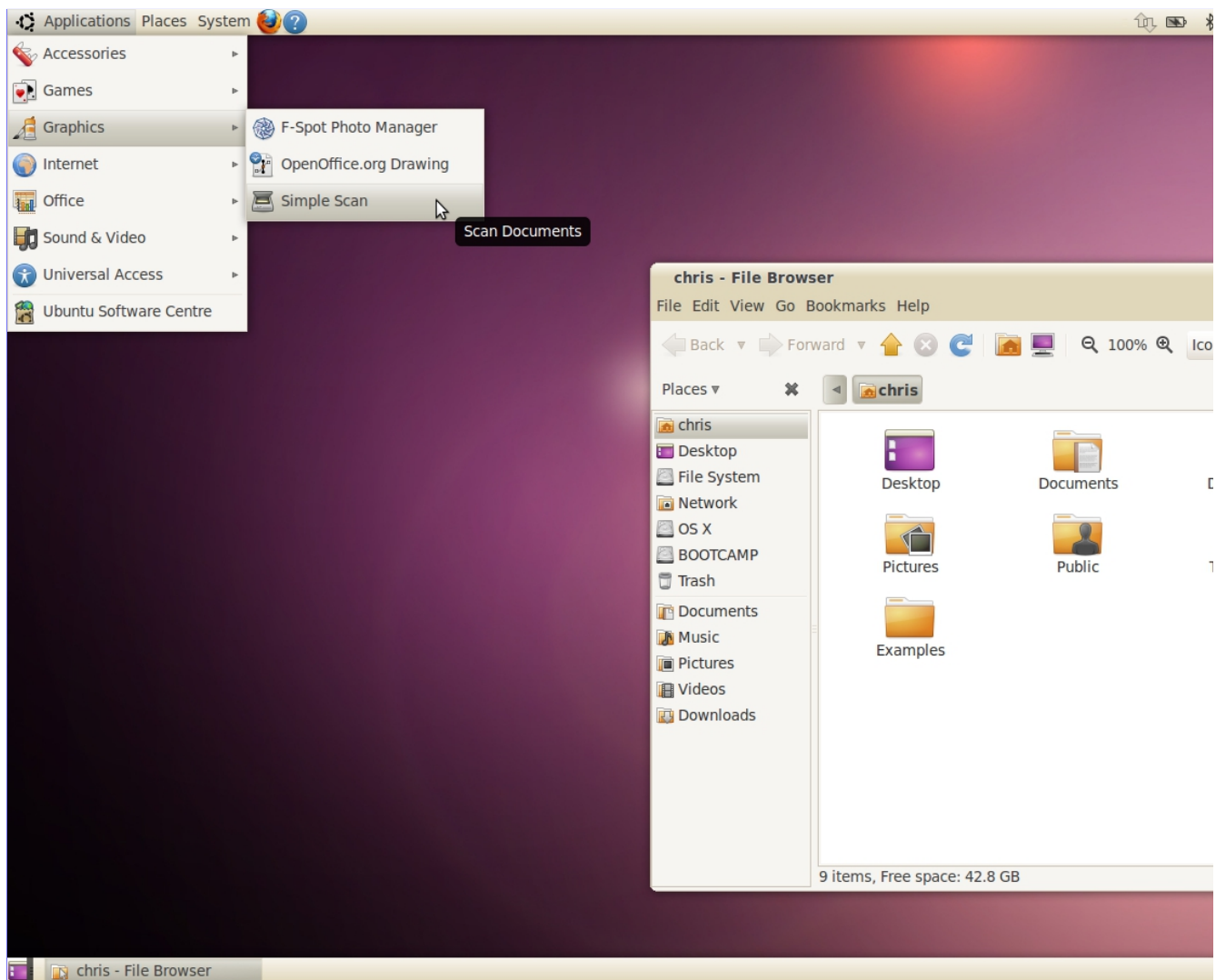


Lucid login screen

Logging into the desktop is where it will hit you. This is no regular Ubuntu. This thing is modern, sleek, *purposeful*. The default desktop is a departure from the traditional Human theme and is called, Ambiance.

**Lucid default desktop theme, Ambiance**

However, there also a lighter option called Radiance.

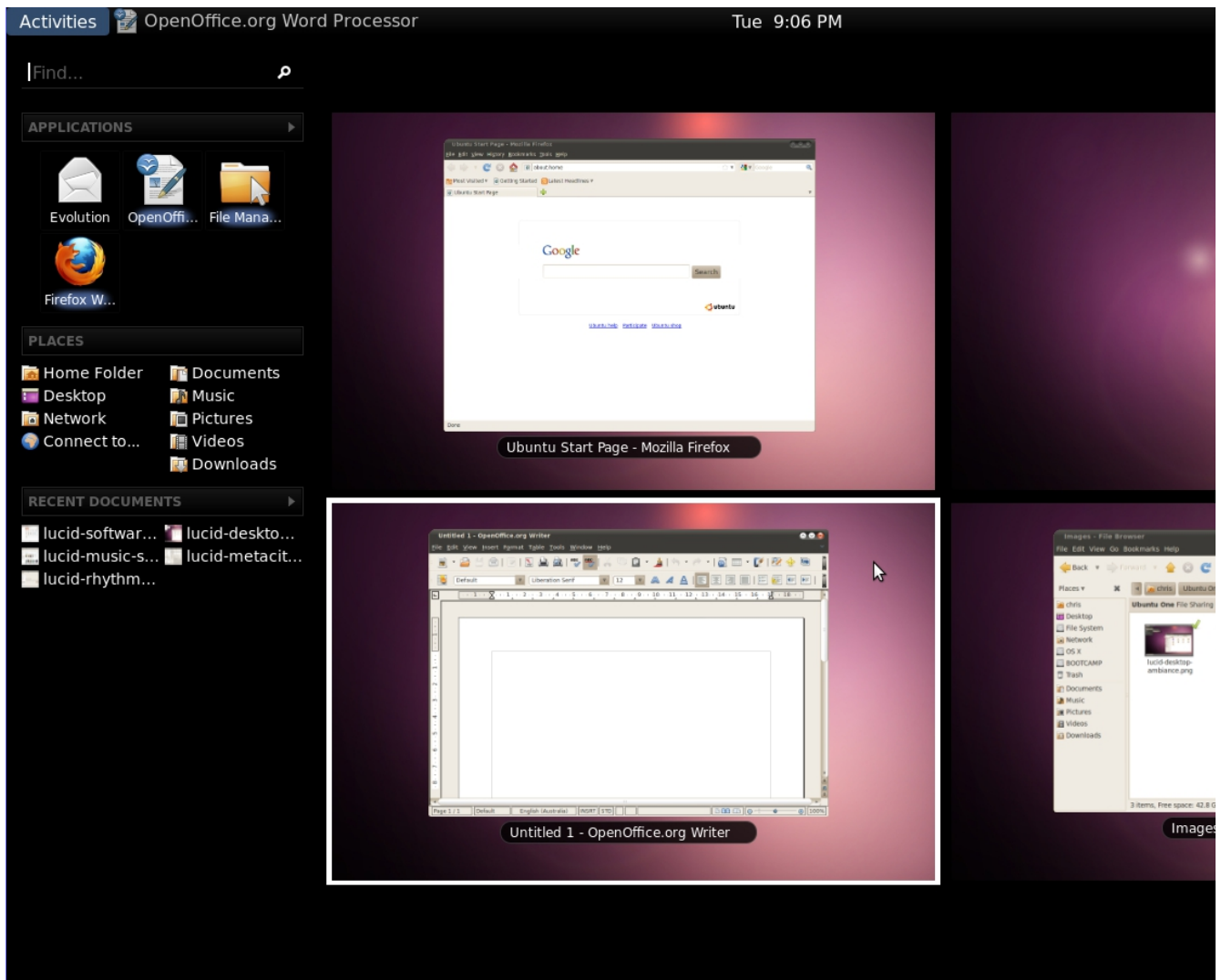


Lucid alternate desktop theme, Radiance

Both sport the new widgets on the left (although in the screenshots they have been moved back to the right), which has caused no end what's all the fuss about? Ubuntu users are happy to put up with poor quality releases, but move the buttons and all hell breaks loose.

Mark Shuttleworth has made it clear that Ubuntu is not a Democracy and that these decisions are [not up for discussion](#). Quite frankly, it makes decisions about how things will be and you just have to put up with it, or change it. When it comes to OS X or Windows you are in Linux distro. If you want ultimate control, fork it and make your own distro. In the mean time, use it, change it, or move on.

Buttons on the left or right aside, the Ubuntu desktop finally looks *first class*. This new branding is just what the doctor ordered, and was attractive to consumers. Of course, one can also install Gnome Shell to get a taste of what's to come!



Gnome Shell running on Lucid

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[linuxmagazine](#) said:

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Posted 4 days ago ([permalink](#))



[bendib](#) said:

HOW DARE THEY MOVE THE BUTTONS!!!! HOW DARE THEY GET RID OF GIMP!!!! HOW DARE THEY BASE UBUNTU ON DE Fedora! (but damn 12 to HELL!)

Posted 3 days ago ([permalink](#))

**kghosh22 said:**

Has the Net-Manager applet been fixed in this release ?

Posted 3 days ago ([permalink](#))

**rdevoe said:**

i put ubuntu netbook remix on my msi wind netbook and have had zero problems. Of course I'm just a low end user, no youtube p video , i could care less whats on my ipod (did get it working though i detest itunes) . I install new distros on old pcs from time to all the multimedia working is a pain. If i recall my UNR played flash video quick and easy. If a pretty paint job (desktop) gets power to Linux. People are so scared of free (or cheap) software . If more people started with Linux they would have more of an ic many people who have no clue and want to stay that way. Anything that helps in expanding the masses mindset has to be a good

Posted 3 days ago ([permalink](#))

**jonjermey said:**

So they've taken OUT the image editor and put IN a video editor? Because more people edit videos than images? Or because vide embarrassing name? Just change the name, folks, that's all you need to do. There's nothing wrong with GIMP.

You could call it the Pictorial Ubuntu Service.

Posted 2 days ago ([permalink](#))

**silverwave said:**

I have been using Lucid since March 19 and it is rock solid, I love it.

I usually install the Ununtu RC's but never a Beta.

In this case you are safe - its from testing and its a LTS.

If you are on Karmic and want to test lucid use TestDrive.

Terminal:

```
sudo add-apt-repository ppa:testdrive/ppa
sudo apt-get update
sudo apt-get install testdrive
```

Then run "TestDrive" (System Tools menu).

Posted 2 days ago ([permalink](#))

**silverwave said:**

Forgot to link to my Lucid report:

<http://silverwav.wordpress.com/2010/03/19/taking-a-chance-on-lucid-10-04-beta-1/>

Oh and Gimp takes 2 min to install so no big.

Posted 2 days ago ([permalink](#))

**excaliber27 said:**

Wow, this is a huge improvement from 9.10. Nice work Mark Shuttleworth.

In the 9.10 release, I was subject to the nvidia n6600 issue, not allowing the live OS or install to boot. Therefore, the only way I c copy of 9.04 and upgrade to 9.10.

But not this time. Here nouveau helps out, allowing the 10.04 lts beta 1 to boot. And it's faster.

Looks like Ubuntu is now ready to make serious inroads to the pc OS market again.

Nice work and a solid kudos from www.linuxgameconsortium.com

Posted 2 days ago ([permalink](#))

**dmesq said:**

Installed on P4 1 GHz w/2GB RAM... not bad, but the software manager is a pain.

It appears to begin searching the 30,000 or so packages the instant you type one letter in the search window, which basically stc

kill/restart the software package manager 5-6 times now, I have spent 5 hours with it and only got it to install wireshark and a fe

I thought Mandriva's package manager was slow and klunky... but damn it works, never locks up and finds things in seconds, not

Posted 1 day ago ([permalink](#))



boysha said:

Time to maybe try Linux Mint to see what highly professional, sleek, commercial grade operating system is. I know it's made from Ubuntu is showing just now, Mint has shown a couple of years ago.

Just a thought...

Posted 21 hours ago ([permalink](#))



perles said:

I don't use Ubuntu and I don't like it either, but it would be great to see the biggest Linux spam getting mature and achieving its for everybody, even who does not like it. However, if they had based their desktop on KDE their results would be a lot easier and

Posted 20 hours ago ([permalink](#))



basilf said:

I am a fan of Ubuntu but its like its a bueaty queen keep changing its look. I use Ubuntu and Windows 7 something I would never lacking in Dell brands or not at all.

I have a Dell V105 which is going straight to the bin as soon as I get the fully functional Brother 4 in 1 on Linux. Some companie hardware in Linux since it claims it supports Ubuntu, but it quietly removed Ubuntu support here in Canada. What they call sup a Dell building who had no clue what a terminal was or that there were more than one GUI, very very sad.

I plan to drop Windows 7 I can now run Window Office under wine in Ubuntu 9.10 its a snap. I hope Ubuntu 10.4 has pre-install 100% switch that much easier. I can't wait for 10.4 the beta version is a blast, finally the dog S#\$\$%##% theme is gone.

Posted 20 hours ago ([permalink](#))



korin43 said:

I just wanted to say two things:

1) The placement of the minimize-maximize-close buttons matters. Not to technical users, but Ubuntu's target audience: people v the buttons are in the wrong place. Just trust me on this, if you take Ubuntu, stick the taskbar on the bottom of the screen, chang Something menu to a single button that says "Start" and change Firefox's name to "Internet Explorer, your grandma won't be abl that same setup and put the close button on the left side of the windows, she'll flip out and say that she doesn't understand how t never accept it).

2) I wish Ubuntu would just make the options "Rolling Release" and "Long term support" and not put people through major upgr problems are no worse than we get with Windows. The differences are that you don't upgrade Windows every 6 months and you c updating Windows.

Posted 7 hours ago ([permalink](#))



grabur said:

I'm still happily using hardy, so @korin43 I don't know what you're moaning about, you don't have to be bleeding edge. I've had i stuck on the last LTS, as it has been pretty much solid. I've a few irritations with compiz and my screensaver but I've learnt my w

Synaptic has always been slow. The new software centre looks absolutely horrible. If they like the mac way of doing things why n

I hope suspend resume woes will be banished, and the network manager will be better. If ubuntu really want to copy osx, they sh can't stand drilling through menus for things, it's bad enough in windows.

The theme still looks all over the shop. Orange icons and purple... gasp. Let's hope the release is more than eye candy.

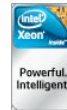
It would be nice to know what's new in the server edition. I use ubuntu server, and it's been more user friendly than redhat. I've server releases.

Posted 1 hour ago ([permalink](#))

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