

Elektronisk signatur

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Halvorsen, Espen med	13.04.2015 10:35:02
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Sections

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apache	embedded development toolkit featuring Linus' new super-
2/2 (11)	efficient cramfs and ramfs filesystems. Apparently, a
askslashdot	reasonably normal Linux system can be shoehorned into
1/27	8MB of storage, with zlib decompression-on-demand and
awards	such. It sounds like it could push a fair few hobbyists and
2/2	embedded developers in Transmeta's general direction,
books	too... and reads nicely next to a Register piece on
2/1 (2)	Transmeta's leaked server initiative . Does one end of
bsd	Transmeta know where the other is pointed?"
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"Iron Chef": The Movie?

Posted by [Hemos](#) on Friday February

02, @06:45PM

from the color-me-disturbed dept.

[imac.usr](#) writes "Well, [Coming Attractions](#) never lies. Coming soon to a theater near you. Be sure to follow their link to the [Lego Chef](#) as well on iFilm." Words escape me.

([Read More...](#) | [19 of 52](#) comments)

The Transmeta Pushme-Pullyou?

Posted by [timothy](#) on Friday February

02, @05:24PM

from the linus-works-there dept.

[tired.cranky](#) writes: "[An article](#) on [LinuxDevices.com](#) sez that Transmeta is about to ship a quasi-distro slash embedded development toolkit featuring Linus' new super-efficient cramfs and ramfs filesystems. Apparently, a reasonably normal Linux system can be shoehorned into 8MB of storage, with zlib decompression-on-demand and such. It sounds like it could push a fair few hobbyists and embedded developers in Transmeta's general direction, too... and reads nicely next to a [Register](#) piece on Transmeta's leaked [server initiative](#). Does one end of Transmeta know where the other is pointed?"

([Read More...](#) | [30 of 96](#) comments)

Interviews

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2/2 (5)

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Science: "Mirror cells" May Be Key To Communication

Posted by [Hemos](#) on Friday February 02, @03:52PM

from the pretty-cool-story dept.

[tag](#) writes "[New Scientist has an article](#) discussing 'mirror cells' -- neurons that fire both when you perform an action and when you observe someone else performing that action. Researches think this explains how we 'judge intentions and feelings' and may 'answer important questions about human evolution, language and culture.' The article links to an [essay](#) by one of the researchers."



([Read More...](#) | [102 of 164](#) comments | [Science](#))

Ximian Partners w/HP; Ximian Default HP-UX Stations

Posted by [Hemos](#) on Friday February 02, @02:20PM

from the good-news-for-miguel dept.

[vukicevic](#) writes "[Hewlett-Packard](#) and [Ximian](#) have partnered to make [Ximian GNOME](#) the default desktop on all HP-UX workstations later this year. HP will also be offering Ximian GNOME on its Linux workstations. The [press release](#) has more information."



([Read More...](#) | [80 of 146](#) comments)

Ask Slashdot: Can You Suggest Any Non-Zero Sum Games?

Posted by [Cliff](#) on Friday February 02, @12:51PM

from the competition-isn't-everything dept.

epeus asks: "I have noticed that most games for children (and adults) are Zero-sum by a game theory definition - you have to battle over limited resources either implicitly (Chess, Frustration) or explicitly



Older Stuff

[Thursday](#) February 01

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[Older Articles](#)

[Yesterday's Edition](#)

Slashdot Poll

(Monopoly). Modern economic theory (dating back to the Enlightenment) makes it clear that the world is not like that - buying and selling creates value; confiscation destroys it. The 'Gift Culture' notion of Open Source described by ESR takes this a stage further. Can Slashdot readers suggest Non-Zero Sum games for children and adults to help break this mentality? The only ones I can think of are Victorian parlour games like Charades or Ghosts, where the point of the game is playing, not scoring it." I too think that there are times when we may focus too much on competition when we might be better off with entertainment. Don't get me wrong, there is a satisfying feeling to compete and win (or even to compete), but sometimes just the act of playing should be rewarding in and of itself. As always, feel free to share your thoughts on the subject.

([Read More...](#) | [536 of 681 comments](#) | [Ask Slashdot](#))

NSA + VMware = Crackproof Computing?

Posted by [timothy](#) on Friday

February 02, @12:21PM
from the heh-heh-heh dept.

[n8willis](#) writes: "ZDnet [is reporting](#) on a [VMware](#) and [NSA](#) collaboration called "NetTop." The idea to run multiple virtual computers on one box, to eliminate the need for government workers to have separate PCs—and indeed separate networks—for classified and unclassified data. The challenge is making the virtual barriers as secure as the physically separate networks. NSA and VMware say they've done it. What do you think?" Will copying between virtual machines be impossible? I wonder when (or if) NSA changes will make their way into the various distributions' boxed releases.



([Read More...](#) | [127 of 183 comments](#))

Book Reviews: The Dreams Our Stuff Is Made Of

Feet of Network Cabling in my Home

- No LAN
- Wireless LAN
- 1-64
- 65-128
- 129-256
- 257-512
- 513+
- CowboyNeal

[[Results](#) | [Polls](#)]

Comments:384 | Votes:20684

Book Reviews

Peter Wayner has written [Free For All](#) a book that explores Free Software, the history, and where it's going.

If you are trying to learn the the ideas behind digital security, check out [Secrets & Lies](#), the latest book by Bruce Schneier.

Danny Yee did reviews [of a couple PHP](#) books. With so many people using PHP, it always pays to know more.

Lastly, Jon Lasser has written [Think Unix](#), a book designed around making people understand the concepts behind Unix.

Visit [Our Book Reviews Section](#) for more.

Update: 9/21 13:19 by [H:](#)

Quick Links

Posted by [timothy](#) on Friday February

02, @10:30AM

from the not-*those*-dreams-you-fool! dept.

Duncan Lawie, stalwart science fiction reviewer, this time steps up to the plate with what you might call a meta-science

fiction book, Thomas Disch's *The Dreams Our Stuff Is Made Of: How Science Fiction Conquered the World*.

Considering that SF has been around as such for far shorter than many other types of literature, a book like this sounds like it may be useful in explaining its disproportionate hold on the public imagination. (Personally, I'd like to read the stuff on Heinlein.)



([Read More...](#) | 6281 bytes in body | [142 of 202](#)

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Sun Releases Grid 5.2 for Linux

Posted by [michael](#) on Friday February

02, @09:41AM

from the put-the-boss'-computer-to-use dept.

[Linux_ho](#) writes "[Grid 5.2](#) is a distributed processing engine that runs on Solaris, and now Linux. Apparently it has been released under an "an industry-accepted open source license" but I couldn't find out which one. The product was designed to make use of the spare cycles from any idle Solaris or Linux machines on your network. Sun mentioned in the [press release](#) that it can be used for frame rendering, but I bet you can come up with some other interesting applications. Here's the [FAQ](#)."



([Read More...](#) | [85 of 135](#) comments)

\$200 Net PC to Close Brazil's Digital Divide

Posted by [michael](#) on Friday February

02, @08:02AM

from the .NET.BR dept.

[Alexander](#) writes: "As announced by Pimenta da Veiga, minister of communications, a Net PC costing R\$ 400 (around US\$ 200) will be available in 120 days. It



Cool Sites:

- [AnimeFu](#) (Addicted to Anime?)
- [Penny Arcade](#) (The First one is always Free)
- [The Filthy Critic](#) (He Hates Everything)
- [Everything](#) (Blow your Mind)
- [Old Man Murray](#) (Games... Sorta)
- [Themes.org](#) (Make X Party)

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targets low-income users, and a 24-month paying plan will be considered. The computer will be a Pentium 500 MHz, with keyboard, mouse, NIC, 56 Kbps modem, 14" display, 64 Mb RAM and no hard disk (16 Mb flash RAM instead). The main-board architecture (developed by UFMG) will be open, allowing any company to make it. It will run Linux (probably [Coneciva](#)) with KDE, KOffice and Konqueror." The [Brazilian government notice](#) is available, as are [pictures](#) of the device. Imagine: a government doing something to help poor people get access to the internet.

([Read More...](#) | [241](#) of [377](#) comments)

Your Rights Online: Juno And Privacy

Posted by [michael](#) on Friday

February 02, @05:18AM
from the water-and-oil dept.



Karl Weiss writes: "Section 2.5 of the [Juno Privacy Policy](#) has some very interesting statements in it - you authorize them to download an app to track your usage and you can't do anything about it, you are to keep your computer on 24/7, or give them the right to make your computer call out at their desire, and they can install a screen saver on your computer with ads, and you can't get rid of it. Obviously this bothers me, but the real kicker as far as I'm concerned is that they will allow third parties to use the downloaded software. Does M\$ looking for pirated software sound like a player? Or what happens if someone cracks the software? Does that open your hard drive data to anyone? As the senior network instructor at a large private computer school, I have advised faculty and staff to not use Juno due to these requirements." It looks like the few remaining free ISPs are searching for ways to make up advertising income during the dot-com meltdown, and the "solution" they've come up with is to [make use of their users' computers to do distributed processing](#). Will Juno users realize what they are agreeing to?

([Read More...](#) | [167](#) of [251](#) comments | [Your Rights Online](#))

Dual Athlon Preview: Linux Kernel Compile Smokes

Posted by [timothy](#) on Friday February

02, @01:38AM

from the ssmokin'-in-nyc dept.



[Mr. Flibble](#) writes: "The fellows over at [NewsForge](#) have an [article](#) describing how they were able to test the 'World's First Dual DDR Athlon' running Mandrake 7.2 on a prerelease motherboard and chipset. The surprising thing is that the dual system was 142% faster in a kernel compile than a single processor system!" Jeff (of NewsForge) says this is the genuine truth. Now if only the right motherboards would start showing up in quantity on pricewatch ...

([Read More...](#) | [163](#) of [260](#) comments)

Embedded Design Contest Update

Posted by [timothy](#) on Thursday

February 01, @10:36PM

from the what-would-rube-do? dept.



[Carlie Fairchild](#) writes: "Big Mouth Billy Bass as a webcam? This and 99 other projects were selected as finalists in Embedded Linux Journal's "Win a MZ104 -- Embedded Linux Design Contest". The contest is based on products by Tri-M, ZF Linux Devices, BlueCat and M-Systems. One hundred finalists have been selected to receive kits and build the projects submitted in their proposals. A full list of the finalists' names, titles of their projects, project descriptions and project URLs can be found at [\[the linuxjournal site\]](#)."

([Read More...](#) | [4](#) of [5](#) comments)

He who knows others is wise. He who knows himself is enlightened. -- Lao Tsu

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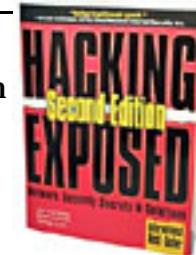
"Never offend people with style when you can offend them with substance."

--Sam Brown

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Seek out signs of intelligent life in a place where you might actually find it...in space. Using the Meade ETX-90EC motorized telescope and optional Autostar computer controller, you can locate anything from Saturn's rings to the Orion Nebula in just seconds! [Check it out!](#)



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Now, life isn't the only thing that begins with delusions and ends with bitterness! From the brilliantly pessimistic folks at Despair, Inc., we present the [2001 Despair Calendar](#)! It makes a perfect gift and volume discounts are available. A pricelessly hopeless gift that keeps on hurting, all year long!



You strong like bull? Welp, this Austrian [highly-caffeinated beverage](#) won't make you stronger, but will surely strengthen your ability to finish your next project into the wee hours of the night.



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Cameras



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- Digital Cameras
- APS Cameras



Fuji Finepix 40i Digital Camera

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- Gaming Devices
- Web Cameras

Featured computing item:



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- 900Mhz Phones
- 2.4Ghz Phones
- Caller ID Phones
- Phones w/Integrated Answering Machines

Featured telephone:



Panasonic 2.4Ghz Elite Phone

Any suggestions for nifty electronic gizmos? Send 'em to
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- 90-Station phone directory & dialer
- Phone company voice mail compatible
- Dual backlit, 3-line LCDs with 2 display colors (orange & green)
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If you've just tried to add something to your cart and you **do** have cookies enabled, then try hitting "shift-reload" in your browser ("shift-refresh" for you IE users). If you see your shopping cart properly after that, then your browser is incorrectly caching this error page. For Netscape (any version), you can go to Edit -> Preferences -> Advanced -> Cache and change "Once per session" to "Every time". That will force Netscape to behave correctly.

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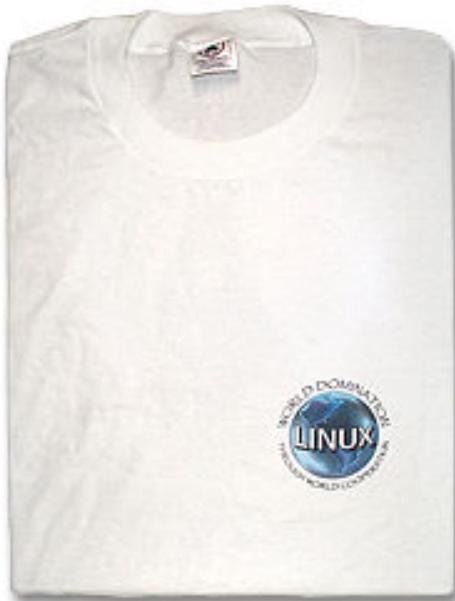
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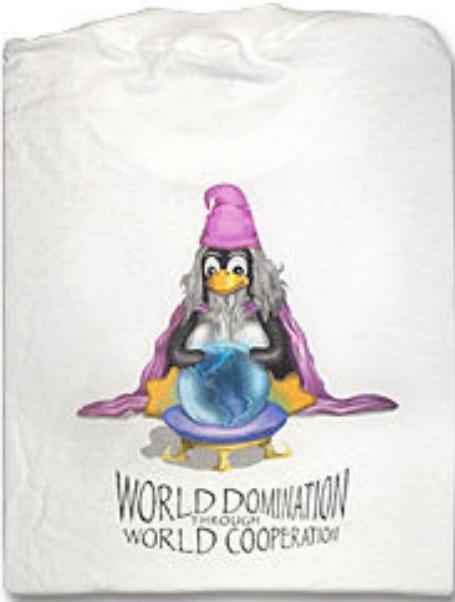
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t-shirts > **Jon "maddog" Hall - Geek God**

Front & Back:

Jon "maddog" Hall designed this t-shirt himself. Over the right front breast is a globe with "LINUX" wrapping around the equator and the phrase "World Domination Through World Cooperation" written above and below the globe. On the back is a grand ol' Tux Wizard, in purple flowing robe and pointed cap, and with a maddogish silver beard and hair. The Tux Wizard has the globe within his grasp and the phrase "World Domination Through World Cooperation" is written beneath. Thanks to Larry Ewing for Tux. Thanks to the Animation Factory for their Excellent illustration of Tux The Wizard.



[Read more about maddog and the Linux Documentation Project below...](#)

Price: \$15.99
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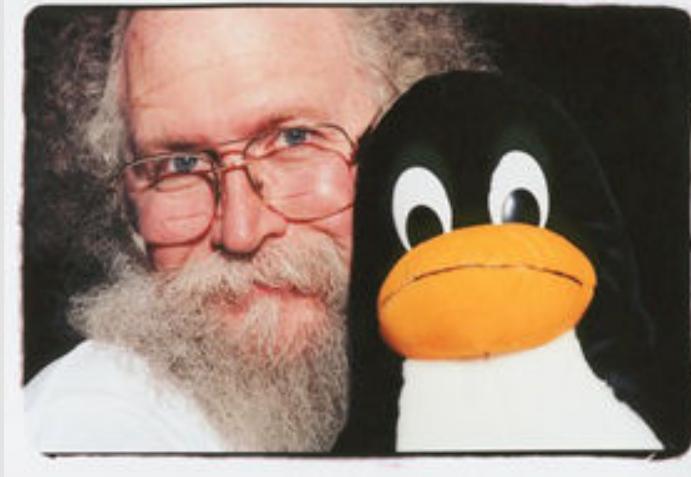
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[click on the shirt for a larger view of the back!](#)



Who Is Jon "maddog" Hall? Maddog is the Executive Director of Linux(R) International, a non-profit vendor organization dedicated to promoting the use of Linux. He is currently paid by VaLinux. Before this, maddog had been in the UNIX group for sixteen years as an engineer, Product Manager and Marketing Manager. Jon

discovered Linux in May of 1994, and proceeded to become a very vocal advocate of it both inside and outside of Digital Equipment Corporation. Jon was directly responsible for the port of Linux to the Alpha processor. Prior to Digital, Jon was a Senior Systems Administrator in Bell Laboratories' UNIX group, so he has been programming and using UNIX for over 20 years. Jon started his career programming on large IBM mainframes in Basic Assembly Language, but his career improved dramatically when he was introduced to Digital's PDP-11 line of computers as chairman of the Computer Science Department at Hartford State Technical College. There he spent four glorious years teaching students the value of designing good algorithms, writing good code, and living an honorable life. He has also been known to enjoy discussing aspects of computer science over pizza and beer with computer science students.

- [Linux International](#)

What Is the Linux Documentation Project? The Linux Documentation Project is the venerable organization that has served to catalog the various types of documentation (Man Pages, HOW-TO's, Guides, etc) having to do with GNU/Linux in one central repository. It is an invaluable organization and let's hope people do not take for granted the wealth of great documentation for the GNU/Linux Operating system made available by this loose knit team of volunteers from around the globe.

- [Linux Documentation Project Web Site](#)



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Not everybody gets to wear t-shirts to work. Sometimes you just want to show your geek around the job and sometimes you might need something more professional to wear than a tshirt which says "[you are dumb](#)" in binary. We'll soon be carrying several geeky golf shirts that should get the job done.

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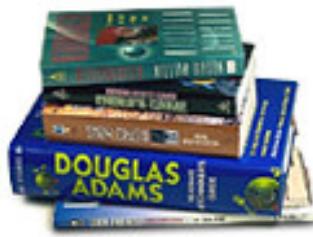




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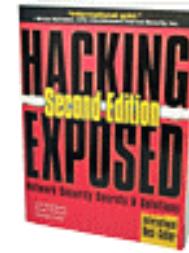
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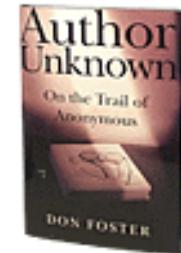


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What's this section all about? Basically, the grovalicious geek portal, [Slashdot](#), will periodically post reviews of relevant fiction and non-fiction books that will directly appeal

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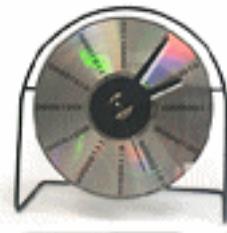
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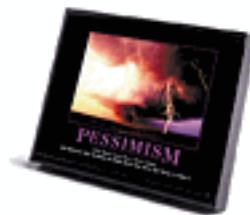
ineptitude



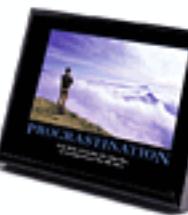
mediocrity



mistakes



optimism



procrastination



apathy



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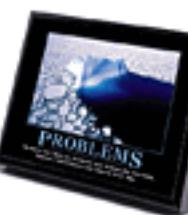
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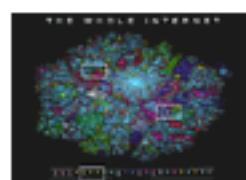
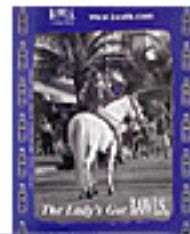
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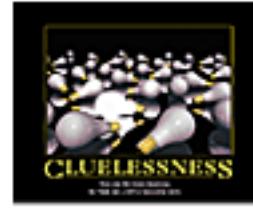
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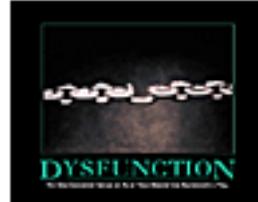
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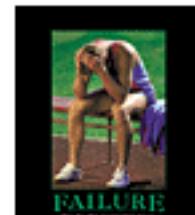
Ignorance



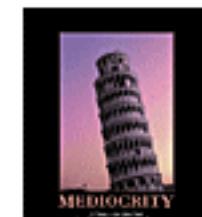
Incompetence



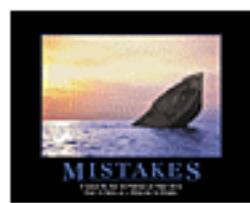
underachievement



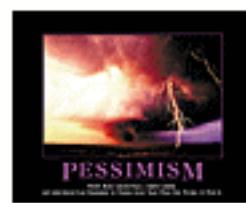
Failure



Mediocrity



Mistakes



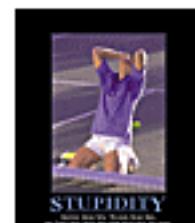
Pessimism



Procrastination



Apathy



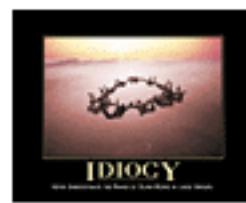
Stupidity



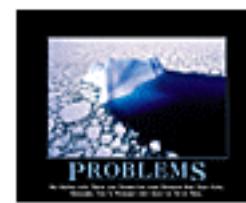
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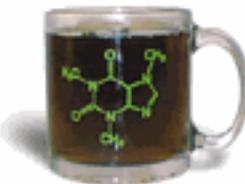
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bsd pilsner



bsd pilsner



tux pilsner



tux pilsner



include beer



include beer



kernel panic



oops



core dump



buffer overflow



seg fault



doh! set of 5

"O, for a draught of vintage! that hath been Cooled a long age in the deep-delvid earth..."

--John Keats



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--William Shakespeare (Cymbeline, Act II - Scene IV)

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jolt grape



jolt cola



mixed jolt



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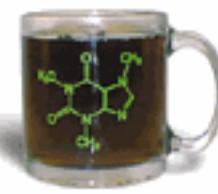


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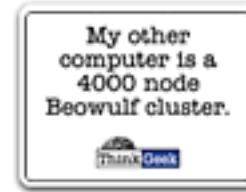
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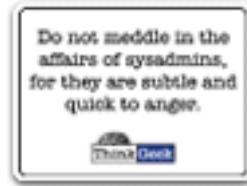
foo sticker



bsd sticker



beowulf sticker



don't meddle



go away



root sticker

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perl sticker



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- [Cyberpower: The Culture & Politics of Cyberspace and the Internet](#)
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- [Linux Graphics Programming with SVGAlib](#)
- [Solaris](#)
- [Harnessing Complexity](#)
- [Disconnected: Haves and Have-Nots in theInformation Age](#)
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- [The Ultimate Hitchhiker's Guide](#)
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- [Cryptonomicon](#)
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- [Open Sources: Voices From The Open Source Revolution](#)
- [In the Beginning...Was the Command Line](#)
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- [The Cathedral And The Bazaar: Musings on Linux and Open Source by an Accidental Revolutionary](#)
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- [UNIX Power Tools](#)
- [Running Linux](#)
- [Learning Debian GNU/Linux](#)
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- [Writing Apache Modules with Perl and C](#)
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- [The Practice Of Programming](#)
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- [Apache Book Set](#)
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- [Secrets & Lies](#)
- [THINK Unix](#)
- [The Linux Problem Solver](#)
- [Solaris](#)
- [RedHat Linux for Dummies](#)
- [SuSE Linux For Dummies](#)
- [Linux Essential Reference](#)
- [Linux Administration: A Beginner's Guide](#)
- [A Secret History: The Book Of Ash, #1](#)
- [Harnessing Complexity](#)
- [Red Hat Linux 6 Unleashed](#)
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- [Linux Network Administrator's Guide](#)

[Administering Apache](#)[Linux Graphics Programming with SVGAlib](#)

- [MySQL & mSQL](#)
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- [The Light Of Other Days - A Novel](#)
- [The Engines of Our Ingenuity](#)
- [The Social Life of Information](#)
- [MP3: The Definitive Guide](#)
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- [Programming the Perl DBI](#)
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- [Fahrenheit 451](#)
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- [Perl Black Book](#)
- [Samba Administrator's Handbook](#)
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- [Designing Web Usability](#)
- [New Rider's MySQL](#)
- [Cryptography And Network Security](#)
- [The Code Book](#)
- [Faster](#)
- [The Cluetrain Manifesto: The End Of Business As Usual](#)
- [Swing](#)
- [The Mind Of God](#)
- [Unix Backup & Recovery](#)
- [Database Nation: The Death Of Privacy In The 21st Century](#)
- [Genome: Autobiography of a species in 23 chapters](#)
- [Game Architecture & Design](#)
- [Inside Java 2 Platform Security](#)
- [After The Gold Rush](#)
- [Elements Of Programming With Perl](#)
- [Intrustion Detection](#)

Electronics

- [GE 900Mhz Cordless Headset Telephone](#)
- [Panasonic MiniDV Camcorder - PV-DV100](#)
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- [Linux Cool Keyboard](#)
- [Kensington Turbo Ring](#)
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- [Panasonic 900Mhz Cordless Phone](#)
- [Creative Labs Nomad MP3 Jukebox](#)
- [Diamond Rio 600 MP3](#)
- [razer boom1000](#)
- [Razer Boomslang 2000 Mouse](#)
- [Fuji Finepix 40i](#)
- [SanDisk 16MB Smartmedia Card](#)
- [SanDisk 32MB SmartMedia Card](#)
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- [Panasonic Elite 2.4Ghz Phone](#)
- [Panasonic Elite 2.4Ghz Phone/Ans Machine](#)
- [Aiwa In-Ear Headphones](#)
- [Aiwa Street-Style Headphones](#)
- [Panasonic CD Boombox w/Super Woofer](#)
- [Panasonic AM/FM/CD Boombox](#)
- [Panasonic 5-DVD Shelf System](#)
- [Sharp Portable MiniDisk Player/Recorder](#)
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- [Axis 2100 Network Camera](#)
- [Labtec Flat Panel Speakers](#)
- [Fuji 1.3 Mega-Pixel Digital Camera](#)
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- [Boston Acoustic Satellite/Sub Speaker System](#)
- [Verbatim 5pk CD-R Media](#)
- [Logitech Wingman Extreme](#)
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- [Logitech Cordless Ergonomic Keyboard/Mouse](#)
- [Logitech Cordless Freedom KB/Mouse](#)
- [Go Video DVD/VCR Combo](#)
- [Audio ReQuest](#)
- [6 Gig Personal MP3 Jukebox](#)
- [Nomad II 64 Mb MP3 Player](#)
- [Diamond Rio500 64-Meg MP3 Player](#)
- [Boostaroo Portable Amplifier](#)
- [Audio ReQuest](#)
- [JVC Ultra Compact Component Stereo System](#)
- [JVC Mini System](#)
- [JVC Executive Mini System](#)
- [JVC 3-CD Player/Recorder](#)
- [Pioneer 3-CD Player/Recorder](#)
- [Pioneer VSX-D509S Dolby Digital A/V Receiver](#)

- [Touchscreen Learning Remote Control](#)
- [Remote Controlled Audio/Video Switch](#)
- [Sharp Portable DVD/VCD/CD Player](#)
- [Pioneer Portable DVD/VCD/CD Player](#)
- [Panasonic Portable DVD - DVD-LV55](#)
- [Panasonic Multizone Portable DVD - DVD-LV55EN](#)
- [I-Glasses](#)
- [Panasonic Showstopper Hard Disk Recorder with ReplayTV Service](#)
- [Toshiba Dual Disc DVD Player](#)
- [Toshiba 5-DVD Changer DVD Player](#)
- [Panasonic Hi-Fi Stereo VCR](#)
- [JVC Super VHS VCR](#)
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- [Remote Controlled Audio/Video Switch](#)
- [Olympus Digital Camera](#)
- [Panasonic SuperDisk Digital Camera](#)
- [FujiFinepix4700 digital camera](#)
- [Logitech Cordless trackman](#)
- [Logitech Cordless mouseman](#)
- [Boston Acoustic BA7500USR speakers](#)
- [Boston Acoustics PC Gaming Speakers](#)
- [Altec Lansing Speakers](#)
- [Panasonic 2.4 GHz Cordless Phone](#)
- [Toshiba 900 MHz Cordless Phone w/Answering Machine](#)
- [Panasonic 2.4Ghz Phone/Answering Machine](#)

Gadgets

- [Meade ETX-90EC Telescope](#)
- [Meade computer controller](#)
- [Meade Carrying Case for the ETX-90EC Telescope](#)
- [65-Piece PC Tool Kit](#)
- [Garmin eMap Handheld GPS](#)
- [Garmin eMap w/Metroguide USA](#)
- [Photon Micro-Light Battery/Accessory Kit](#)
- [photon light](#)
- [CyberTool 41](#)
- [CyberTool 34](#)
- [Cybertool 29](#)
- [Midnite Manager II](#)
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- [Leatherman Wave](#)

- [Leatherman Wave Tool Adapter](#)
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- [Remote Controlled Audio/Video Switch](#)
- [QuickLink Pen](#)

Desk Stuff

- [Despair, Inc. 2000 Calendar](#)
- [Neon Light Sticks \(PC Mods\)](#)
- [Window Kit - PC Modification](#)
- [Luminglass](#)
- [Ratpadz Gaming Mousepads](#)
- [Cool-It Personal Fridge](#)
- [Rhinoskin Titanium Palm VII Case](#)
- [Rhinoskin Molded Alum. Palm V Case](#)
- [Boston Acoustics PC Gaming Speakers](#)
- [Despair Card Pack](#)
- [PC Tote Standard](#)
- [atomic time jumbo desk clock](#)
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- [free the code liquid mousepad](#)
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- [Eclipse Document Light](#)
- [Eclipse Computer Light](#)
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- [c.h.i.m.p.](#)
- [Fridge Code](#)
- [Cluelessness Desktopper](#)
- [Incompetence Desktopper](#)
- [Ignorance Desktopper](#)
- [Pretension Desktopper](#)
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- [Insanity Desktopper](#)

- [Failure DeskTopper](#)
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- [Adversity DeskTopper](#)
- [Despair DeskTopper](#)
- [Idiocy DeskTopper](#)
- [Problems DeskTopper](#)

Posters

- [Tux Kernel Poster](#)
- [Map of the Internet Poster 2000](#)
- [Map of the Internet Poster](#)
- [State of the Internet Poster](#)
- [Bawls poster](#)
- [Blame](#)
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- [Apathy](#)
- [Stupidity](#)
- [Adversity](#)
- [Despair](#)
- [Idiocy](#)
- [Problems](#)

Toys!

- [Koosh Vortex Powerstrike](#)
- [Koosh Vortex Tornado Spin Fire Ring Refills](#)
- [Koosh Vortex Tornado Fast Fire](#)

[Koosh Vortex Tornado Spin Sight](#)[Koosh Vortex Tornado Mini Spin Fire Ring Refills](#)

- [Nerf Motorized Balzooka](#)
- [Nerf Powerclip](#)
- [Nerf Splitfire](#)
- [Nerf Triple Strike](#)
- [Nerf Ammo: Whistling Micro Darts](#)
- [c.h.i.m.p.](#)
- [Fridge Code](#)
- [Stuffed Tux](#)
- [Helix Code Stuffed Monkey](#)
- [Original Sock Monkey](#)
- [Mini Sock Monkey](#)

Mugs & Glasses

- [Linux.com coffee mug](#)
- [WTF? Mug](#)
- [BSD Mug](#)
- [BSD Grand Pilsner](#)
- [BSD Grand Pilsner \(pack of 2\)](#)
- [Tux Mug](#)
- [RTFM Mug](#)
- [Caffeine Mug](#)
- [Slashdot Mug](#)
- [Grepmaster](#)
- [Tux Grand Pilsner Glass](#)
- [Tux Grand Pilsner Glass 2-pack](#)
- [#include <beer.h>](#)
- [#include <beer.h> \(set of 4\)](#)
- [Kernel Panic Shot Glass](#)
- [OOPS Shot Glass](#)
- [Core Dump Shot Glass](#)
- [Buffer Overflow Shot Glass](#)
- [Segmentation Fault Shot Glass](#)
- [DOH! Series of Shot Glasses](#)

Caffeine

- [Case o' XTZ Tropical Typhoon](#)
- [Sky Rocket Caffeinated Vanilla Syrup](#)
- [Red Bull - Energy Drink](#)
- [Caffeine Candy Sampler Pack](#)
- [Penguin Mints - Red/Cinnamon](#)

[Penguin Mints - Red/Cinnamon - 4 pack](#)

[Case o' Dracula Energy Drink](#)

- [case o' whoop ass](#)

- [Powergum 4-pack](#)

- [Caffeine Sampler](#)

- [Case o' XTZ Tea](#)

- [Caffeine Kicks](#)

- [Warp Mints Single Tin](#)

- [Warp Mints 4-pack](#)

- [Energy Mints](#)

- [Energy Mints: 6 Pack](#)

- [Penguin Mints Single Tin](#)

- [Penguin Mints 4-pack](#)

- [Mixed case o' X Drinx](#)

- [Case o' Bawls](#)

- [Case o' Jolt Orange Blast](#)

- [Case o' Jolt White Lightning](#)

- [Case o' Jolt Cola](#)

- [Mixed Case O' Jolt](#)

- [Case o' Water Joe](#)

- [Pacific Vanilla Chai](#)

- [Pacific Chai](#)

- [Sky Rocket Caffeinated Raspberry Syrup](#)

- [Sky Rocket Caffeinated Mocha Syrup](#)

- [Sky Rocket Caffeinated Almond Syrup](#)

- [Caffeine](#)

- [Caffeine Mug](#)

Stickers

- [Will Work For Bandwidth - License Plate Holder](#)

- [Source Code Is Free Speech - License Plate Holder](#)

- [DotCom Buttons](#)

- [The Linux Fish!](#)

- [The GNU Fish!](#)

- [The Linus Fish!](#)

- [31337 H4X0R Bumper Sticker](#)

- [übergeek bumper sticker](#)

- [i read your e-mail.](#)

- [got root? bumper sticker](#)

- [stack smasher](#)

- [Window Cling Stickers](#)

- [Linux.com cling sticker](#)

- [Linux.com sticker sheet](#)

- [MPAA](#)
- [RIAA](#)
- [deprecated](#)
- [MP3](#)
- [DOH](#)
- [XML](#)
- [/.](#)
- [WWW](#)
- [HTM](#)
- [C](#)
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- [GNU](#)
- [LNX](#)
- [JVA](#)
- [PRL](#)
- [FOO](#)
- [BSD](#)
- [Beowulf cluster sticker](#)
- [Do not Meddle...](#)
- [Go away...](#)
- [Bow before me sticker](#)
- [Perl Sticker](#)



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At last, we reveal ourselves to the Jedi... ;)

3 out of the 4 founding members started another microcompany (an ISP in the Northern Virginia area) way way back in 1995. We couldn't afford Solaris, learned about a free UNIX-like OS, and spent almost an entire day downloading it onto over 50 floppies for installation on an old 486 laptop with no cd-rom (thanks Slackware!). Since our inception, ThinkGeek has been acquired by the good folks at [Andover.Net](#) who have since been acquired by the great folks at [VA Linux](#).

We like what we are doing, and are extremely interested in the evolving culture surrounding the Internet. ThinkGeek just makes sense to us. We figure we'll try and sell stuff for programmers, tinkerers, coders, caffeine jockeys, hackers, ubergeeks and other various denizens of the net/night. We'll also try and sell some more professional geek clothing for those of you who dwell in corporate dementia.

We are going to make a conscious effort to reimburse the community which allowed us to start an ISP without purchasing expensive operating systems and hardware. We would also like to help promote the kind of freedom and advancement which free and open-source software provides. For starters, we have the [Open Source Shirt](#) which we intend to invest much effort, 100% of which the benefits will aid OpenSource.Org. We are also planning a rotating "geek god" section in which a community geek god designs a t-shirt which we will produce and sell entirely for the benefit of a particular open-source project/charity (designated by said geek god). Visit our [Geek God](#) section right now and check out the Alan Cox shirts...

We hope our site might also introduce geeks from other walks of life to open and free software concepts. Stop in for an 'HTML' shirt and leave wondering what that little Tux was all about kind of thing.

Well, despite our inane hatred of profiles, we link below to the ThinkGeek staff. Childhood pics and adult profiles of scott, willie, jen, and jon follow in ascending order of age, from the top:



Since you've read this far, you might want to...

- [Tell us what operating system you use...](#)
- [Contact us](#)
- [Check out our collective favorite links right here.](#)

COOL! We're one of
Linux Magazine's



Top 100 Linux Web Sites



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How shall I bug thee, let me count the ways...

You can bug us electronically with questions about an order:

orders@thinkgeek.com

You can bug us with generic praise, unkind remarks, and overall suggestions:

webmonster@thinkgeek.com

You can bug us individually about...:

- **[Jon](#)** - code, Korean pop music and multiheaded XFree86 4.0.
- **[Jen](#)** - website/product designs and Yoga.
- **[Willie](#)** - ThinkGeek stuff, Ideas, & Beer
- **[Jen Von](#)** - Questions about your order, our shipping policies or about how to use english on a cue ball.
- **[Scott](#)** - Scott's work here is far too secretive for you to be emailing him, but feel free to forward any Beer questions Willie can't answer.

You can bug us telephonically:

703.293.6299

(and while you're on hold, see what you're [listening to](#))

You can bug us by fax:

703.293.6292

You can bug us by mail:

ThinkGeek
10801 Main Street
Suite 700

Hey! Feel free to link back to our website if you like, we've got A
page full of button graphics for you to use if you like.

Looking for an RDF file to incorporate into your webpage, so that you can stay right on top of our latest products? Well, look no further... It's at <http://www.thinkgeek.com/thinkgeek.rdf>

Hey Again! You've read this far so you must be curious. We too are curious. [What operating system do you use?](#)



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Come here to see what's new with this site, it's inhabitants and any upcoming or recent products. You might not care about the inhabitants, but they are a necessary evil between you and the information you seek. There is no switch to ignore ramblings.

ThinkGeek.rdf

ThinkGeek has made an xml parseable .rdf file available for your personal use. This file will be updated whenever we add something new to our catalog. Check out the file [right here](#). If you are a [Slashdot](#) user, you can login, customize your homepage and select "ThinkGeek" as one of your Slashboxes.

Thursday: February 1, 10:37 EST -- [Wille](#)

Hey! We are at LinuxWorld in New York. We have the Axis Camera setup at the ThinkGeek booth and you can check out semi-live images (updated about every minute) from our area [right here](#).

Monday: January 22, 17:50 EST -- [Wille](#)

Heya. ThinkGeek will be hanging out in New York for [LinuxWorld](#) next week (Tuesday thru Thursday). Stop on by, meet and greet us as well as the rest of the folks from [OSDN](#)

([Slashdot](#)/[Linux.Com](#)/[Freshmeat](#)/[Themes](#)/[Sourceforge](#)/[Etc](#)). Oddly enough, we'll be in the OSDN booth in the .org pavilion. Now for something completely different...swag...

Swag

- [Linux.Com Merch](#) - Mugs, Stickers, Shirts...
- [Perl Camel Shirt](#) - If you like Perl, the code on this tshirt is a must see...

Caffeine

Skyrocket Syrup - Vanilla
Tropical Typhoon X-Drinx

Electronics

- Meade ETX-90EC Telescope
- GE 900Mhz Cordless Headset Telephone
- Panasonic MiniDV Camcorder - PV-DV100
- Toshiba Portable MP3 Player

Monday: January 15, 15:16 EST -- Wille

Welp, many of you have written to tell us that our Code Poet T-shirt is in the new movie Anti-trust. There were other relevant references as well: Miguel De Icaza from Ximian had a cameo, as well as Gnome (on Solaris?), and a couple of electra lamps. Too bad the movie itself was nothing special ;)

Some new t-shirt swag...

- chown linux:users /world - viva la revolucion!
- reverse engineer - for the intellectually curious...

Thursday: January 11, 20:06 EST -- Wille

- PC Modifications! Bring out the beast in your PC with our new window and light kits...
 - Window Kits
 - 10" Neon Light Kits available in blue/red/green
 - 15" Neon Sound Activated Light Kits available in blue/red
- i read your e-mail - Our friendly, lovely little slogan now on a t-shirt! Wow!

Friday: January 5, 11:43 EST -- Wille

We are alive and kicking, just recuperating from a great holiday season (thanks to you folks) here at ThinkGeek. Except for the cookie part I suppose. Scott's Mother brought us a huge plate of holiday treats. We leave my dog Cisco alone in the office for a few hours while we have dinner at our local favorite Indian restaurant

the sugar rush that he's constantly doing laps around the office. Oh well, I'm sure the cookies were good, thanks anyways to Scott's Mom...

We have a lot of new stuff to add to the site over the next few weeks, for starters:

- [Ratpadz Gaming Mouse Surface](#) - Your online Quake sessions won't be so embarrassing anymore...
- ['Got Root' Bucket Hats](#) - By popular demand...
- [State Of The Internet Poster](#) - Lots of detailed techie info for your walls...
- [Eclipse Document Light](#) - To hold your action items with!

Saturday: December 9, 19:44 EST -- [Wille](#)

Nuevo cosas para geeks...

Swag/Stuff:

- [7 New Desktoppers!](#)
- [New Stickers/Stuff](#)
 - 'Source Code Is Free Speech' License Plate Holder
 - 'Will Work For Bandwidth' License Plate Holder
 - '31337 H4X0R' Bumper Sticker
 - 'Got Root?' Bumper Sticker
 - 'ubergeek' Bumper Sticker
 - 'i read your email' Bumper Sticker
 - 'Stack Smasher' Bumper Sticker

Gadgets/Electronics:

- [Pine Portable CD/MP3 Player](#)
- [Linux Cool Keyboard](#)
- [Kensington Turbo Ring](#)
- [Logitech iFeel Mouse](#)
- [IBM 2.4Ghz Cordless Phone](#)
- [IBM 900Mhz Headset Phone](#)
- [Panasonic 900Mhz Cordless Phone](#)

Friday: December 8, 0:27 EST -- [Wille](#)

Holiday Gift Information!

- [Check Out Some Gift Ideas!](#)
 - [Purchase A Gift Certificate!](#)
 - [Our Holiday Shipping Policy!](#)
 - [Wishlist/Hint-Hint Information!](#)
-

Wednesday: December 6, 20:34 EST -- [Wille](#)

```
#!/usr/bin/perl
print <<End_Of_File;
```

Swag/Toys...

- [Nerf Balzooka!](#)
- [Nerf Powerclip!](#)
- [BSD Hats!](#)
- [20" Original Sock Monkeys](#) Also available in a [mini-sock-monkey](#)

Gadgets/Electronics...

- [Kodak EZ200 Digital Camera/Webcam](#)
- [Kodak Smart Picture Frame](#)
- [Labtec Flat Panel Speakers](#)
- [Panasonic Elite 2.4Ghz Phone](#)

End_Of_File

Monday: December 4, 18:07 EST -- [Jon](#)

Would you like to see my monkey? How about Jen's?

In my relentless pursuit to add an ever-growing pile of junk to the already unsightly mounds of crap on my desk, I've added a crappy little, itsy-bisty, grainy, fuzzy, misaligned, buggy camera. Jen has one as well, but at least her desk isn't littered with Bawls bottles, Red Bull cans, Tsingtao, random network and video cards, and various substances that I do my best to ignore.

Anyway, if you'd like to see our monkeys, just go to the [webcams page](#).

Friday: December 1, 19:39 EST -- [Wille](#)

Decking the Geek Halls with Boughs of Bawls...

- Hacking Exposed - 2nd Edition The Most Important Book Any Sysadmin/Netadmin Will Ever Own...
- Red Bull - The legendary caffeinated beverage...
- Fuji Finepix - World's smallest ultra-hi resolution digital camera. Features a built-in MP3 Player!

Don't forget about ThinkGeek Action Shots - We've recently compiled a list of previous winners available on this page. Check 'em out and submit your own! They'll make you famous!

Wednesday: November 29, 21:15 EST -- Wille

Swag:

- Shebang Hats!
- 20" Blue Luminglass - Customizable lightening storm...

Electronics/Gadgets:

- Nomad 6GIG Juke Box
- Razer Boomslang Gaming Mouse
- 65-Piece PC Toolkit
- Rio 600 MP3 Player
- Audiovox 2-way Radio Set

Monday: November 20, 20:48 EST -- Wille

Whoever said 'Don't Despair' should be shot. 6 new posters for you, they include...

- Cluelessness - There Are No Stupid Questions, But There Are A Lot Of Inquisitive Idiots.
- Dysfunction - The Only Consistent Feature Of All Of Your Dissatisfying Relationships Is You.
- Incompetence - When You Earnestly Believe You Can Compensate For A Lack Of Skill By Doubling Your Efforts, There's No End To What You Can't Do.
- Blame - The Secret To Success Is Knowing Who To Blame

Underachievement

To Be Cut By The Lawnmower.

- Ignorance - It's Amazing How Much Easier It Is For A Team To Work Together When No One Has Any Idea Where They're Going.

Friday: November 17, 21:11 EST -- Wille

New Stuff to tickle your UNIX bones...

- Linux Routers Book - Build your own fully functional router, cheap!
- BSD Fleece - A warm and cozy daemon sits on top...

New Electronics to tickle your gadget bones...

- Axis 2100 Network Camera - Runs Linux!
- Panasonic AM/FM/CD Mini System - Pretty up your cube.
- Sharp Portable MiniDisk Player/Recorder
- Iomega Hip-Zip Portable MP3 Player

Wednesday: November 15, 16:45 EST -- Wille

- WTF? Tshirts - In perfect holiday colors - Black and Orange.
- Caffeine Candy Sampler Mega-Pack - An assortment of caffeinated candies. The ideal geekish stocking stuffer...

Sunday: November 12, 16:33 EST -- Wille

"Premature Optimization Is The Root Of All Evil" -- Donald Knuth

- Wishlists Are Available! Beneath the 'add to cart' graphic on every product's page, there is an 'add to wishlist' graphic. Clicking that button, oddly enough, will add the product to your wishlist. Optionally, you can have your wishlist emailed to people who both have \$\$ in their pockets and a need to spend that \$\$ on you.

Books:

- Hack Proofing Your Network
- Dune: House Harkonnen

[Embracing Insanity](#)

[Practical Issues In Database Management](#)

- [Volcano Cowboys](#)
- [Unix System Administrator's Handbook](#)

- [WTF? Mug - Put Your Caffeine In It.](#)

- [Helix Code Software/Shirts/Monkeys!](#)

Bawls Guarana Merchandise!

- [Bawls poster](#)
- [Bawls tshirt](#)
- [Bawls hat](#)



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**NEW****FAQ***Ordering*

1. [What's your return policy?](#)
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Shipping

4. [Don't you have some generic shipping information?](#)
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8. [Do you ship overseas?](#)
9. [Can you ship to P.O. Boxes?](#)
10. [Can you ship cases of caffeine outside the U.S.?](#)

Products

11. [I have a great idea for a shirt/product. Will you make it?](#)
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13. [Why don't you have more stuff?](#)
14. [Why don't you have more color options for your t-shirts?](#)
15. [How big are the tshirts? What size should I order?](#)
16. [What about XXXL+ sizes? Do you carry them?](#)
17. [Do you have gift certificates?](#)

Miscellaneous

18. [How do i find out what's new on this site?](#)
19. [Can I link from my site to ThinkGeek?](#)
20. [Why do you sell alcohol vessels?](#)
21. [What's your Privacy Policy?](#)
22. [Why are so many of your shirts understated?](#)
23. [Who the hell are you?](#)
24. [How can i contact ThinkGeek?](#)

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call us at 703-293-6299 or 1-888-GEEK-STUFF or send an email to orders@thinkgeek.com to arrange for the return/replacement of your item(s). We want you to be happy geeks, not sad or angry geeks.

Can I buy something without a credit card?

Yes, you can. Just place items in your shopping cart, proceed to checkout and fill out your billing/shipping information. You **do not** have to enter a credit card to get to this view. Print out the page with your order and the shipping rates and mail that to us with your check or money order. [You can find our mailing address on our 'bugus' page.](#)

How do I know if something is in stock?

Generally, we denote out-of-stock items within our catalog via a reference next to the price; like --> (XXL on backorder). Of course it is entirely possible that an item will become unavailable between the time you are ordering it and when it is shipped. We will let you know if that is the case and will probably ship the portion of your order that is currently in stock. It doesn't take us that long to re-stock on the majority of our items (5-10 days). We bill credit cards once any portion of the order has shipped. There are no additional charges for fulfillment of backordered items. The total you see on the receipt is exactly what we charge, regardless.

Don't you have some generic shipping information?

We won't charge your credit card until your order is shipped. If the items you order are in stock, your order will normally be shipped within 24 hours of when you placed your order. If there's a major delay, we'll let you know. If any items are backordered, we'll contact you to work out shipping arrangements. Generally, all items on backorder are marked as such within our catalog.

For domestic orders, you can choose between five UPS service levels (Ground, 3 Day, 2 Day, Next Day Saver, Next Day). If your order contains only stickers or Linux|Linus|GNU sharks, then you will also have the option to ship your order via USPS First Class Mail. If you choose a UPS shipping option, you will receive an e-mail with a tracking number.

For orders shipping outside the U.S., we provide Airborne Express shipping. Your package will arrive within 2 to 4 business days and will have full door to door tracking. You will receive the tracking number in your shipping confirmation e-mail.

If you use a P.O. Box as your delivery address, the order cannot be sent via UPS - it will be sent via U.S. Post Office Priority Mail - and the order will not have a tracking number. We strongly suggest you do NOT use a P.O. Box as your delivery address.

How much is shipping?

It depends on what you are ordering, how much you are ordering, and where it is shipping. You can determine the cost of shipping your order by creating a shopping cart and proceeding to checkout. You will need to fill out your shipping address in order to view the shipping amount. You do not have to purchase the items in your shopping cart in order to view the shipping amount.

What's the scoop about Overnight shipping?

We have Overnight shipping options available for domestic orders. The catch is that you have to place your order before 1pm Monday-Thursday to receive *actual* overnight delivery. Overnight delivery orders received *after* 1pm or on Friday/Saturday/Sunday will ship the next business day and should arrive one day after. Also, if your Shipping address is a P.O. Box, we cannot do any of the UPS shipping options, because UPS will not delivery to a P.O. Box. The order will be sent via U.S. Post Office Priority Mail.

How often do you ship?

We'll normally ship your order within 24-36 hours if it's in stock and it's not Sunday or a holiday.

Do you ship overseas?

Absolutely. After placing items in your shopping cart, proceed to the checkout area. Complete the Shipping and Billing information, including selecting your country. We ship orders via Airborne Express, and you will receive a tracking number when your orders ships. Most orders should arrive within one week, and you may need to pay additional import fees or taxes.

Can you ship to P.O. Boxes?

Yes, but the order will be sent via U.S. Post Office Priority Mail, and will not have a tracking number. Also, Next Day Air, 2nd Day Air, and 3 Day Select orders cannot be sent to P.O. Boxes, because UPS will not deliver to an address that contains a P.O. Box.

Can you ship cases of caffeine outside the U.S.?

costs about \$50 U.S. to ship an \$18.95 case of Jolt to Israel via surface mail. If you don't mind spending that kind of money on shipping, of course we will accommodate you. Drop a note to [Scott](#) to get the rub on shipping some caffeine to your particular country.

I have a great idea for a shirt/product. Will you make it?

It's stupid to ignore great ideas, of course we'll listen. Talk to [Willie](#).

I want to purchase a bulk order. What are my options?

We manufacture most of our products ourselves and can offer resellers or other organizations quantity discounts. Drop a note to us @ bulk@thinkgeek.com and let us know what you are interested in.

Why don't you have more stuff?

We actually have many, many ideas for expanding our inventory. You will probably find a new product every week or so. We'll have some mp3, X, vi/emacs, C/C++, kernel hacking, coding, perl, hardware, BSD, gaming, and more Linux stuff rolling out so check back often. Yes, we have sweatshirts too. And we are adding gadgets for all geeky needs.

Why don't you have more color options for your t-shirts?

The number of shirt colors per design is directly proportional to the number of total dollars spent on inventory and is inversely proportional to the total number of designs available. Be patient. We'll add more shirt colors. Promise.

How big are the tshirts? What size should I order?

Almost all of our tshirts are either Gildan Ultra Cotton or Hanes Beefy-Ts which are both 6.1 ounce, heavyweight, 100% cotton, preshrunk tshirts. The sizes correspond to the following chest sizes (in **inches**): S(34-36), M(38-40), L(42-44), XL(46-48), XXL(50-52), XXXL(54-56)

What about XXXL+ sizes? Do you carry them?

In a word... sorta. 3XL and larger sizes are hard to come by, especially in colors other than black and white. For now, we have 3XL in a few of the styles, but we can't guarantee that we'll carry them all the time in all the styles. We're definitely keeping our eyes open for those sizes in other colors and for reasonable prices, so keep checking back and we'll update the size selections for the different styles when we can.

Why do you sell alcohol vessels?

Uh. Geeks drink too.

Why are so many of your shirts understated?

They are not understated. They are efficient.



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Your E-mail address:

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*

First Name:

*

Last Name:

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Address Line 1:

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City:

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State/Province:

*

Zip/Postal Code:

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FAQ



2. About the recipient:

Recipient's E-mail address:

*

First Name:

*

Last Name:

*

3. About your generous gift:

Gift certificate amount:

Send the certificate via e-mail to:

Notes to include in the e-mail:

4. Payment Info:

Name as it appears on card:

Card type:

Card number:

Exp date:

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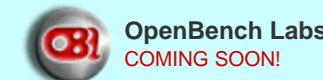
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Sections

1/30	about to ship a quasi-distro slash
apache	embedded development toolkit featuring Linus' new super-
2/2 (11)	efficient cramfs and ramfs filesystems. Apparently, a
askslashdot	reasonably normal Linux system can be shoehorned into
1/27	8MB of storage, with zlib decompression-on-demand and
awards	such. It sounds like it could push a fair few hobbyists and
2/2	embedded developers in Transmeta's general direction,
books	too... and reads nicely next to a Register piece on
2/1 (2)	Transmeta's leaked server initiative. Does one end of
bsd	Transmeta know where the other is pointed?"
1/30	
features	
1/29	
interviews	
1/9	
radio	
2/2 (5)	
science	

"Iron Chef": The Movie?

Posted by [Hemos](#) on Friday February

02, @06:45PM

from the color-me-disturbed dept.

[imac.usr](#) writes "Well, [Coming Attractions](#) never lies. Coming soon to a theater near you. Be sure to follow their link to the [Lego Chef](#) as well on iFilm." Words escape me.



([Read More...](#) | [23 of 58](#) comments)

The Transmeta Pushme-Pullyou?

Posted by [timothy](#) on Friday February

02, @05:24PM

from the linus-works-there dept.

[tired.cranky](#) writes: "[An article](#) on [LinuxDevices.com](#) sez that Transmeta is about to ship a quasi-distro slash embedded development toolkit featuring Linus' new super-efficient cramfs and ramfs filesystems. Apparently, a reasonably normal Linux system can be shoehorned into 8MB of storage, with zlib decompression-on-demand and such. It sounds like it could push a fair few hobbyists and embedded developers in Transmeta's general direction, too... and reads nicely next to a [Register](#) piece on Transmeta's leaked [server initiative](#). Does one end of Transmeta know where the other is pointed?"



([Read More...](#) | [32 of 99](#) comments)

Interviews

- [Ask About Open Source Online Info Resources](#)
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2/2 (5)

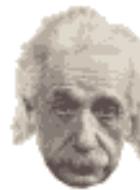
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Science: "Mirror cells" May Be Key To Communication

Posted by [Hemos](#) on Friday February 02, @03:52PM

from the pretty-cool-story dept.

[tag](#) writes "[New Scientist has an article](#) discussing 'mirror cells' -- neurons that fire both when you perform an action and when you observe someone else performing that action. Researches think this explains how we 'judge intentions and feelings' and may 'answer important questions about human evolution, language and culture.' The article links to an [essay](#) by one of the researchers."



([Read More...](#) | [102 of 164](#) comments | [Science](#))

Ximian Partners w/HP; Ximian Default HP-UX Stations

Posted by [Hemos](#) on Friday February 02, @02:20PM

from the good-news-for-miguel dept.

[vukicevic](#) writes "[Hewlett-Packard](#) and [Ximian](#) have partnered to make [Ximian GNOME](#) the default desktop on all HP-UX workstations later this year. HP will also be offering Ximian GNOME on its Linux workstations. The [press release](#) has more information."



([Read More...](#) | [80 of 146](#) comments)

Ask Slashdot: Can You Suggest Any Non-Zero Sum Games?

Posted by [Cliff](#) on Friday February 02, @12:51PM

from the competition-isn't-everything dept.

epeus asks: "I have noticed that most games for children (and adults) are Zero-sum by a game theory definition - you have to battle over limited resources either implicitly (Chess, Frustration) or explicitly



Older Stuff

[Thursday](#) February 01

- [The Unblinking Eye](#) (498)
- [Linux Industry Calls It Quits](#) (306)
- [Jef Raskin On OS X: "It's UNIX, It's backwards."](#) (545)
- [NASA Controls Jet With Nerve Signals](#) (224)
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- [BIND Security Info For "Members Only"?](#) (463)
- [The Haps from LWCE: Samba Wins, RH w/XFS, BOF](#) (133)
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- [Mason 1.0 Released](#) (167)
- [Why Don't Servers Support Power Management?](#) (390)
- [Free Software Developer's Meeting In Europe](#) (82)

[Wednesday](#) January 31

- [KDE 2.1 Beta 2 and Nautilus PR 3 - are out](#) (226)
- [RedHat "Fisher" 7.1 Beta Out Now](#) (276)
- [Borland Kylix Released - Kinda](#) (303)
- [DVD Case Follow-Up](#) (235)
- [Master of Orion III](#) (158)
- [Build Your Own Set Top Box](#) (214)

[Older Articles](#)

[Yesterday's Edition](#)

Slashdot Poll

(*Monopoly*). Modern economic theory (dating back to the Enlightenment) makes it clear that the world is not like that - buying and selling creates value; confiscation destroys it. The 'Gift Culture' notion of Open Source described by ESR takes this a stage further. Can Slashdot readers suggest Non-Zero Sum games for children and adults to help break this mentality? The only ones I can think of are Victorian parlour games like Charades or Ghosts, where the point of the game is playing, not scoring it." I too think that there are times when we may focus too much on competition when we might be better off with entertainment. Don't get me wrong, there is a satisfying feeling to compete and win (or even to compete), but sometimes just the act of playing should be rewarding in and of itself. As always, feel free to share your thoughts on the subject.

([Read More...](#) | [538 of 683 comments](#) | [Ask Slashdot](#))

NSA + VMware = Crackproof Computing?

Posted by [timothy](#) on Friday

February 02, @12:21PM
from the heh-heh-heh dept.

[n8willis](#) writes: "ZDnet [is reporting](#) on a [VMware](#) and [NSA](#) collaboration called "NetTop." The idea to run multiple virtual computers on one box, to eliminate the need for government workers to have separate PCs—and indeed separate networks—for classified and unclassified data. The challenge is making the virtual barriers as secure as the physically separate networks. NSA and VMware say they've done it. What do you think?" Will copying between virtual machines be impossible? I wonder when (or if) NSA changes will make their way into the various distributions' boxed releases.



([Read More...](#) | [128 of 184 comments](#))

Book Reviews: The Dreams Our Stuff Is Made Of

Feet of Network Cabling in my Home

- No LAN
- Wireless LAN
- 1-64
- 65-128
- 129-256
- 257-512
- 513+
- CowboyNeal

[[Results](#) | [Polls](#)]

Comments:384 | Votes:20684

Book Reviews

Peter Wayner has written [Free For All](#) a book that explores Free Software, the history, and where it's going.

If you are trying to learn the the ideas behind digital security, check out [Secrets & Lies](#), the latest book by Bruce Schneier.

Danny Yee did reviews [of a couple PHP](#) books. With so many people using PHP, it always pays to know more.

Lastly, Jon Lasser has written [Think Unix](#), a book designed around making people understand the concepts behind Unix.

Visit [Our Book Reviews Section](#) for more.

Update: 9/21 13:19 by [H:](#)

Quick Links

Posted by [timothy](#) on Friday February 02, @10:30AM

from the not-*those*-dreams-you-fool! dept.

Duncan Lawie, stalwart science fiction reviewer, this time steps up to the plate with what you might call a meta-science fiction book, Thomas Disch's *The Dreams Our Stuff Is Made Of: How Science Fiction Conquered the World*. Considering that SF has been around as such for far shorter than many other types of literature, a book like this sounds like it may be useful in explaining its disproportionate hold on the public imagination. (Personally, I'd like to read the stuff on Heinlein.)



([Read More...](#) | 6281 bytes in body | [142 of 202](#) comments | [Book Reviews](#))

Sun Releases Grid 5.2 for Linux

Posted by [michael](#) on Friday February

02, @09:41AM

from the put-the-boss'-computer-to-use dept.

[Linux_ho](#) writes "[Grid 5.2](#) is a distributed processing engine that runs on Solaris, and now Linux. Apparently it has been released under an "an industry-accepted open source license" but I couldn't find out which one. The product was designed to make use of the spare cycles from any idle Solaris or Linux machines on your network. Sun mentioned in the [press release](#) that it can be used for frame rendering, but I bet you can come up with some other interesting applications. Here's the [FAQ](#)."



([Read More...](#) | [85 of 135](#) comments)

\$200 Net PC to Close Brazil's Digital Divide

Posted by [michael](#) on Friday February

02, @08:02AM

from the .NET.BR dept.

[Alexander](#) writes: "As announced by Pimenta da Veiga, minister of communications, a Net PC costing R\$ 400 (around US\$ 200) will be available in 120 days. It



Cool Sites:

- [AnimeFu](#) (Addicted to Anime?)
- [Penny Arcade](#) (The First one is always Free)
- [The Filthy Critic](#) (He Hates Everything)
- [Everything](#) (Blow your Mind)
- [Old Man Murray](#) (Games... Sorta)
- [Themes.org](#) (Make X Party)

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targets low-income users, and a 24-month paying plan will be considered. The computer will be a Pentium 500 MHz, with keyboard, mouse, NIC, 56 Kbps modem, 14" display, 64 Mb RAM and no hard disk (16 Mb flash RAM instead). The main-board architecture (developed by UFMG) will be open, allowing any company to make it. It will run Linux (probably [Coneciva](#)) with KDE, KOffice and Konqueror." The [Brazilian government notice](#) is available, as are [pictures](#) of the device. Imagine: a government doing something to help poor people get access to the internet.

([Read More...](#) | [242](#) of [378](#) comments)

Your Rights Online: Juno And Privacy

Posted by [michael](#) on Friday

February 02, @05:18AM
from the water-and-oil dept.



Karl Weiss writes: "Section 2.5 of the [Juno Privacy Policy](#) has some very interesting statements in it - you authorize them to download an app to track your usage and you can't do anything about it, you are to keep your computer on 24/7, or give them the right to make your computer call out at their desire, and they can install a screen saver on your computer with ads, and you can't get rid of it. Obviously this bothers me, but the real kicker as far as I'm concerned is that they will allow third parties to use the downloaded software. Does M\$ looking for pirated software sound like a player? Or what happens if someone cracks the software? Does that open your hard drive data to anyone? As the senior network instructor at a large private computer school, I have advised faculty and staff to not use Juno due to these requirements." It looks like the few remaining free ISPs are searching for ways to make up advertising income during the dot-com meltdown, and the "solution" they've come up with is to [make use of their users' computers to do distributed processing](#). Will Juno users realize what they are agreeing to?

([Read More...](#) | [167](#) of [251](#) comments | [Your Rights Online](#))

Dual Athlon Preview: Linux Kernel Compile Smokes

Posted by [timothy](#) on Friday February

02, @01:38AM

from the sssmokin'-in-nyc dept.

[Mr. Flibble](#) writes: "The fellows over at [NewsForge](#) have an [article](#) describing how they were able to test the 'World's First Dual DDR Athlon' running Mandrake 7.2 on a prerelease motherboard and chipset. The surprising thing is that the dual system was 142% faster in a kernel compile than a single processor system!" Jeff (of NewsForge) says this is the genuine truth. Now if only the right motherboards would start showing up in quantity on pricewatch ...



([Read More...](#) | **163** of **260** comments)

Embedded Design Contest Update

Posted by [timothy](#) on Thursday

February 01, @10:36PM

from the what-would-rube-do? dept.

[Carlie Fairchild](#) writes: "Big Mouth Billy Bass as a webcam? This and 99 other projects were selected as finalists in Embedded Linux Journal's "Win a MZ104 -- Embedded Linux Design Contest". The contest is based on products by Tri-M, ZF Linux Devices, BlueCat and M-Systems. One hundred finalists have been selected to receive kits and build the projects submitted in their proposals. A full list of the finalists' names, titles of their projects, project descriptions and project URLs can be found at [\[the linuxjournal site\]](#)."



([Read More...](#) | **5** of **6** comments)

He who knows others is wise. He who knows himself is enlightened. -- Lao Tsu

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- Is this censorship?
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- I found a comment rated -2 or 6!
- What is a good comment? A bad comment?
- 3 days is not enough time to moderate!
- If I post in a discussion I moderated, why don't I get my points back?
- How can I improve my karma?
- Lots of early posts that "seem" to be informative/insightful and get modded up when they really shouldn't be. If the author sounds confident, people seem to just give him points. By the time an actual informative post makes it in, it's too late to go back. How could you accommodate this in the moderation system?
- What sorts of anti-troll filters exist?
- Why can't I search or filter archived stories?

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- [A lot of people have the impression you spend more time arguing with the Slashdot readers than listening to them. Do you think this is true, and if not, why do so many people have this idea?](#)
- [A lot of Slashdot readers don't feel sufficiently included in how things are done. Is there any possibility of getting more meta-discussion about Slashdot happening?](#)
- [How much traffic does Slashdot serve?](#)
- [Why has Slashdot become so successful?](#)
- [Where did the nicknames "CmdrTaco" and "Hemos" come from?](#)
- [Why do reporters care where your nicknames come from?](#)
- [What is this "Free Speech/Free Beer" thing that I see discussed in the comments?](#)
- [What is the "Slashdot Effect?"](#)
- [What's the coolest story Slashdot's ever had?](#)
- [Will there be any more episodes of "Geeks in Space"?](#)
- [What's your exact attitude about the hidden sids?](#)

Tech

- [What kind of hardware does Slashdot run on?](#)
- [Why doesn't Slashdot display in browser X?](#)
- [Where/why do you use cookies?](#)
- [What kind of logging does Slashdot do with regard to its readers?](#)

- Can I have your poll scripts?
- Why are you generating so many pages dynamically?
- What about the source code to this site?
- If you were just starting to code Slashdot.org today, what would you code the site in PHP or mod_perl?
- Do you guys ever worry that some site might steal Slashcode and try and outdo Slashdot?
- How did it feel when you opensourced slashcode, allowing people to tinker with your 'baby' as it were? Are you still involved with the process as much, or is your time taken up by reading email and such?
- What's the biggest benefit to come out of the opening of Slash so far? Better efficiency? Tighter security?

Advertising

- Can I advertise on Slashdot?
- What is AdFu?
- Why aren't you using AdFu any more?
- A banner ad is screwing up my browser!

Suggestions

- How about an NNTP news gateway?
- Have you considered rewriting Slashdot in C?
- Have you considered PHP?
- How about a page for rejected or pending story submissions?
- How about giving us a reason for rejecting submissions?
- How about allowing readers to directly administer the submissions bin?
- How about an AvantGo channel, or some other PDA interface?
- How about a WAP interface?
- Getting the Slashdot headlines by 'finger @www.slashdot.org' would be nice, don't you think?
- Slashdot should cache pages to prevent the Slashdot Effect!
- Is it possible to have META tags that Slashdot looks for in a story link before allowing it to be submitted/posted? Many times a server can't handle the load of a Slashdotting. So can the site have tags to prevent it from being added to a slashdot story?

- It seems that many moderators, because of the way they read comments, (higher thresholds, older comments first), only see comments that are posted with a bonus, or have already been moderated up. Wouldn't it make more sense to require moderators to read at a threshold of 0 with newest comments first?
 - Have you ever thought about hiding comment scores when people are moderating? It might help alleviate "Group Think."
 - I have a suggestion for improving moderation.
 - What about other moderation models such as those used by Kuro5hin, everything2, or advogato.org?
 - Will some of the subsections spin off as sites in their own right? For example, it would be cool if the YRO section were to hit dead tree form in some way like soon. It's too important to remain outside the radars of 9-5ers in Pleasantville.
-

He who knows others is wise. He who knows himself is enlightened. -- Lao Tsu

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EXCHANGE IDEAS with other Web architects.

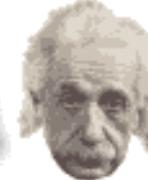
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SLASH: The Slashdot Code



The source code for the site is called "Slash". The Slashdot Like Automated Story-telling Homepage. We've set up a site, using Slash, devoted to the development and use of Slash. Check out [Slashcode](#) for all of your Slash needs. The latest patches, bugfixes, documentation, FAQs, and everything else will always be on [submit story](#)[Slashcode](#).

You can find a list of sites that use Slashcode on the [Slashcode site list](#).

Importing of Slashdot Headlines

For those who don't know, you can get [slashdot.rdf](#) or [slashdot.xml](#) to receive a list of headlines for Slashdot. The document is fairly self explanatory, and the rules are simple: Do whatever you want, but **don't** access the file more than once every 30 minutes. The server is plenty bogged down without adding a hundred stock tickers refreshing themselves every 60 seconds. If this bogs the server down to much, I'll have to take it down, so play fair!

Sections

1/30

[apache](#)

2/2 (11)

[askslashdot](#)

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[awards](#)

2/2

[books](#)

2/1 (2)

[bsd](#)

1/30

[features](#)

1/29

[interviews](#)

1/9

[radio](#)

2/2 (5)

Programs that use the Ultramode

These programs are provided as-is. They aren't mine, so don't ask questions about them! Contact the authors of the programs instead...

1. [Ian Kluft](#) has written [WebFetch](#), a collection of perl scripts used to put the headlines on the [SVLUG](#)'s homepage.
2. [Albert Strasheim](#) has written [WWW::Slashdot::Headlines](#), a perl module that snags headlines for easy usage in perl.
3. [Eric Andreychev](#) has a [Java Applet](#) on his page.
4. [sdweb-0.1](#) was written by [FnordBoy](#), and it allows you to display headlines on your own web pages pretty easily (assuming you can run perl and finger).

[science](#)

2/2 (5)

[yro](#)[OSDN](#)[freshmeat](#)[Linux.com](#)[SourceForge](#)[ThinkGeek](#)[Question](#)[Exchange](#)[NewsForge](#)

5. [Another Headline Grabber by Srijith.K](#)
6. [A Perl Headline Grabber](#) from Fred Fahnert
7. [Gunnar Hellekson](#) has a java news ticker as well.
8. [Gautam Guliani](#) has an Avantgo slashdot Headline channel for Pilots.
9. [This Script](#) by [Don Rude](#) snags headlines, and when combined with [hacked root-tail](#), displays them to your desktop.
10. Lee Kindness sent us [a CSH alias](#) that uses finger/awk to display headlines. Quite spiffy.
11. [Bernhard van Staveren](#) has written [This Perl Script](#) which snags headlines, and formats them for SSI inclusion. You can witness it in action [Over Here](#)
12. [Here is Another](#) Slashdot web page scripts by Dave Jacoby. You can get the source code [Here](#).
13. Here is a [Headline Grabber](#) written by [Evan Felix](#)
14. [Steve Kinzler](#) wrote [daily email](#) shell script to send you yesterdays headlines.
15. [Here](#) is another headline ripper written by [Michael Samuel](#)
16. [wxSlash](#) is a nice little headline snarfer for desktop usage. It is by [Caolan McNamara](#)
17. [Samuel Wood](#) modified Gunnar's Java headline ticker to create a [Active Desktop Component](#) for *cough* IE4 and IE5 users.
18. [Here](#) is another headline ticker. this one by [Alex Shnitman](#). [Darxus](#) has hacked in [Speech Synthesis](#) to Alex's code.
19. [Another Java Ticker](#) was sent in by [Ed Watkeys](#)
20. If you're interested in a headline grabber [Written in PHP](#) then say thanks to [Veigar Freyr](#) for writing it.
21. [Here is a ticker](#) that plugs into AOLs tcl/tk IM client.
22. [KWebSlashdot](#) is a perl script that sticks Slashdot headlines into your KDE root menu. By [Carmelo Piccione](#)
23. [defsqaud](#) sent us a [A mIRC Script](#) for headline slurping.
24. [SlashDotView](#) is an XML viewer by [Carmen](#)
25. [Slasher](#) is nice little app for viewing headlines, with a GNOME version and a Windows version, with a MacOS version coming soon. It comes from the great folks at [ClearLogic, Inc.](#)
26. Here is yet another [Headline Viewer](#), this one written by J-P.
27. M@ has made a nice [Perl script](#) which parses Slashdot into an AvantGo channel, if you're into that sort of thing.
28. If none of the previous AvantGo channels light your fire, then check out [Ed Gatzke's page](#) for instructions for how to make a different one.
29. [Sujal Shah](#) has written a Slashdot headline viewer that generates WML. You can find it [here](#).
30. [Rob Pengelly](#) wrote a nice little headline grabber in PHP. You can grab it from [his site](#).
31. [Heath C. Ice](#) wrote yet another headline grabber in PHP. You can grab it from [his website](#).

32. If you're into Java and JavaServer Pages, you can find a Headline Reader at [Sylistron's site](#).

There are others, but I don't have URLs handy. If you know of 'em, send 'em in.

He who knows others is wise. He who knows himself is enlightened. -- Lao Tsu

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February 3, 2001

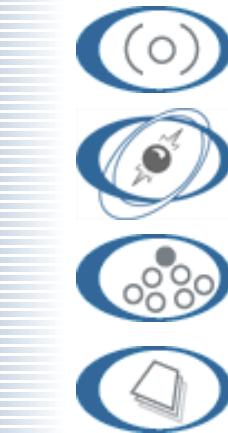
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 - Community Partners**

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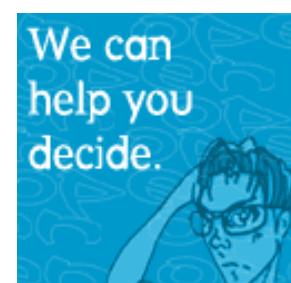


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Slashdot

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- ["Mirror cells" May Be Key To Communication](#)
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- [Can You Suggest Any Non-Zero Sum Games?](#)
- [NSA + VMware = Crackproof Computing?](#)
- [The Dreams Our Stuff Is Made Of](#)
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- [Open Source Development Network Unveils Freshmeat II](#)
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- [SourceForge.Net Supports 100,000 Developers In First Year of Service.](#)
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- [Compaq, EMC, HP, IBM, Intel & Sun join OSDN as Technology Partners.](#)

Freshmeat

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- [MonMotha's IPTABLES Masquerading Firewall 2.0.1 \(iptables-insecure\)](#)

An IPTables masquerading firewall.

- [PhpWiki 1.2 \(default\)](#)

A WikiWikiWeb clone written in PHP.

- [SETI@home GKrellM plugin 0.6.1 \(default\)](#)

A themable GKrellM plugin that shows the computation progress of SETI workunit.

- [SILC 20010202 \(Beta development\)](#)

Secure Internet Live Conferencing.

- [MindTerm 1.99pre4 \(default\)](#)

SSH-client in pure Java, includes stand-alone ssh- and terminal(vt100)-packages

- [Open Reference 20010202 \(default\)](#)

A JSP-based Web application to manage your research references and notes.

- [VNC Tight Encoder 1.1p7 \(Unix version\)](#)

Efficient compression scheme for VNC.

- [salias 0.1.1 \(stable\)](#)

A generic argument-aliasing wrapper.

- [dwun 0.96d \(default\)](#)

Controls PPP link by client requests for connection

- [OpenGUI 3.0.3 \(default\)](#)

A very wonderfull C/C++ graphics library

NewsForge: NewsVac

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- [Juno's super\(computer\) adventure, sans privacy](#)

TheStandard reports: "Tired of your computer looking for aliens when you're not using it? Now you can tell that big hunk of plastic on your desk to do work for actual, for-profit companies when you're ...

- [Petopia IPO goes to the dogs](#)

Wired.com reports that online retailer Petopia has cancelled its \$100 million IPO, saying it has sold nearly all of its assets and no longer conducts business. "The pullback scuttled agreements with Petco ...

- [ADELUX presents Firedraw](#)

From LinuxPR: Firedraw is an open source software product under the GPL licence. It's an innovative product that permits administration of a network's firewalls through a graphical web interface.

- ['Revolution OS' gets public showing at LinuxWorld](#)

LWN.net has coverage of Thursday at LinuxWorld. "As a sheer stroke of luck, Liz Coolbaugh ran into Jon 'maddog' Hall in the Javitts Center where he gave her his one extra ticket to the first public showing ...

- [Free Software Foundation gives award to Mesa 3D Graphics Library coder](#)

From BusinessWire: The Free Software Foundation bestowed its third Free Software Foundation Award for the Advancement of Free Software, in Paris. Richard Stallman presented the award, a one-of-a-kind handmade ...

- [Linux desktop catching Windows](#)

ABC News catches up with the Linux desktop, saying it's mounting a serious charge to Windows. "Big companies like Dell and Sun, and smaller ones such as Eazel, CodeWeavers and Ximian, are putting their ...

- [Security update to the CUPS printing system](#)

At LWN.net: A problem exists in all versions of CUPS prior to 1.1.5 with the httpGets() function. It could go into an infinite loop if a line longer than the input buffer size was sent by a client. This ...

- [Microsoft benefits from content protection](#)

ZDNet reports that Microsoft is in bed with the music labels and movie studios, as the software giant "captures a leading spot in the content-protection business."

- [Book Review: 'The FreeBSD Corporate Networker's Guide'](#)

Carlie writes: "The FreeBSD Corporate Networker's Guide" hit my desk recently, and I was intrigued, and I was intrigued because this book appears to have been written for someone with experience or knowledge,
...

- [ESR: Market slump to pay dividends for Linux](#)

ZDNet UK talks with Open Source evangelist Eric S. Raymond about the current bearish technology stock market. ESR's not depressed, "in fact, he believes now is an ideal moment for companies that are looking ...

- [**IBM's next big push: the network chip**](#)

ZDNet reports on IBM's plan for network processors, an "increasingly popular class of chips." Buried at the bottom of the story is this nugget: "IBM announced this week that the latest version of its PowerNP ...

- [**Borland's Kylix wins Show Favorite award at LinuxWorld**](#)

From PR Newswire: Borland Software Corporation (Nasdaq: BORL), a leading provider of e-business implementation platforms, today announced that it won the Show Favorite Award for Best Development Tools ...

- [**Corel posts fourth-quarter losses on weak sales**](#)

Reuters reports that Corel Corp. (nasdaq: CORL) reported a fourth-quarter loss on Friday despite small sales gains for its graphics and word processing software. Corel, which last posted a profit in the ...

- [**VA Linux named star of e-business at Oracle AppsWorld**](#)

From PR Newswire: VA Linux, provider of Linux-based computer systems and services, has been selected by Oracle (Nasdaq: ORCL) to be a Star of E-Business at the first annual Oracle AppsWorld, New Orleans, ...

- [**Starters for Linux - part 2**](#)

"We now move onto the second part of our journey and in this 2nd instalment of the series, you will learn about some of the common Linux commands regarding System Information, Basic System Administration, ...

[SourceForge: New Releases](#)

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- [**phpChannels**](#)

Project Setup Completed

- [**XVCL**](#)

Version 0.3 of XVCL has been released

- [**HexEdit**](#)

v1.66b6 posted

- [**jwma \(Java Webmail\)**](#)

Screenshots available

- [**CVSTProject**](#)

VW5i and cvstproj

- [**Web Resource Application Framework**](#)

Now with documentation!

- [**XM tool**](#)

website opens...

- [**SPU-Toolbox**](#)

SPU-Toolbox 0.98.5 Released

- [KMago](#)

beta release 1.0.3 available

- [ImportScrubber](#)

CVS problems preventing the first source drop...

[Linux.com: News](#)

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- [Come Join Us](#)

Loki games have been around for more than two years, but there's a problem. According to this article by Jeff Mrochuck, while Linux games are advanced and fun for most gamers who've tried them, low sales ...

- [Web Browser Darwinism? A Review of Mozilla](#)

New writer Jayson Baird has been through the mill with Mozilla, so in this article, his first for us, he takes a look at Mozilla and how it fares when up against Netscape 4.76.

- [IDE CD-RW Installation Under Linux](#)

Installing an IDE CD-R or CD-RW under Linux involves a few tricks. Brian Richardson's recent experience should help you avoid major problems.

- [Hotkeys!](#)

It seems like everyday we get submissions to the Tuneup section involving keyboard hotkeys. Submitting one or two hotkeys is nothing; a whole list like this? Now you're on to something.

- [Prepping for Linux World Live!](#)

Linux World is coming up soon. Live! will be hosting an event live from the show floor of Linux World. Won't be there? That's all right. We'll also be broadcasting it on IRC. Read on to find out more ...

- [More procmail recipes](#)

Procmail is among the very best mail filters today. Go to <http://www.procmail.org> to learn more about it. Here are some useful rules to avoid spam:

where ...

- [A Requiem for 3dfx](#)

It's time to wave goodbye to the venerable 3d graphics innovator called 3dfx, according to this hardware article written by Ross Sanders. Last month the company announced plans to sell its assets to nVidia, ...

- [Interface Enhancement](#)

Linux.com Live! recently had the privilege of speaking with the staff of [Themes.org](#) about the role of theming and interface enhancement in the future of Linux. Read on to ...

- [Inserting Files in a Document Using vi](#)

When editing a document with *vi*, the contents of another text file can be retrieved and inserted into the file at the cursor's position. This is done by calling the 'r' function in the following ...

- [**Using the /proc Filesystem**](#)

Join Tom Dominico in exploring one of the corners of the Linux kernel, through your file system and the cat utility! Find out more about this valuable source of information.

[**Open Magazine**](#)

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- [After the Fall Where's Linux?](#)
- [Scenarios for the end game](#)
- [SMP's place in the Linux equation](#)
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- [A PERFECT X](#)
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- [Hanging up on DSL](#)

[**QuestionExchange: Top 10**](#)

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- [**Telnet by root**](#)

On linux ,Which file must I set for telnetting to the Linux by user root.? I cannot telnet from...

- [**class function**](#)

hello, is there a way to call a function of a class directly without declaring the class...

- [**How to timeout Socket Write\(\)**](#)

How can I timeout a socket write()?? 1) A write() return OK just means the data is copied to...

- [**X-windows**](#)

Hello My video card, sound card is built in my motherboard. After I installed Redhat 6.0,...

- [**ftp by root**](#)

How can I ftp by user root on Linux?

- [**vi editor**](#)

hi, Using the status-line or last-line mode what is the commands that will change the...

- [**Can I set mark or space parity on a serial port?**](#)

I cannot find anywhere in documentation or source code where the Linux serial driver supports...

- [**curses?**](#)

Where can I find the curses C library? Is it has a offical homepage? Where

can I find tutorials...

- [**linux and non-linux file system integration**](#)

Does anyone know of the best way to integrate a windows 2000 and linux system so that files can...

- [**https client**](#)

Has anyone got, or can someone write a few lines of code that will retrieve an html page from an...

[Themes.org: News](#)

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- [Celebrate the release of Linux 2.4](#)
- [XDM! Now in assorted flavors!](#)
- [Sawfish 0.36 Released](#)
- [Themes.org Goes Live!](#)
- [IceWM 1.0.6](#)
- [BitchX 1.0c18](#)
- [XFree86 4.0.2 Released](#)
- [Themes Removed at Apple's Request](#)
- [Window Maker 0.63.1](#)
- [Window Maker 0.63.0](#)

[ThinkGeek: New Stock](#)

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- [Tshirts: reverse engineer](#)
- [Tshirts: chown linux:users /world](#)
- [Tshirts: i read your e-mail](#)
- [Desk Stuff: PC Mods 10 inch Neon Light Kits](#)
- [Desk Stuff: PC Mods Window Kit](#)
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Just How tough is Tux?



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Well this page is sort of mandatory I guess... the place where I post any sort of Awards that Slashdot gets. Thanks to everyone who awards us for what we're doing, and thanks to everyone that is helping make this site great. If you know of an award that we've earned that isn't listed here, I'd love to hear about it... send me mail.

Nov 26, 1997

We were awarded Project Cool's Cool Sighting award on November 26 1997



Dec 2, 1997

USA Today gave us a Hot New Site award on Dec 2 1997



Dec 9, 1997

Dynamite Site of the Nite for Dec 9, 1997



Dec 9, 1997

Cool.com's Site of the Day.



Dec 13, 1997

2/2 (5)

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The Original Cool Site of the Day



Dec 17, 1997

WebTrips Rocking Computing Site of the Week



April 20, 1998

The Mining Company, Focus on Linux, Best of the Net



April 27, 1998

ULINX Usable Links for Linux



Sep 8, 1998

itmWEB "5 Star Selection"



Oct 08 1998

Guardian's Pick of the Clicks



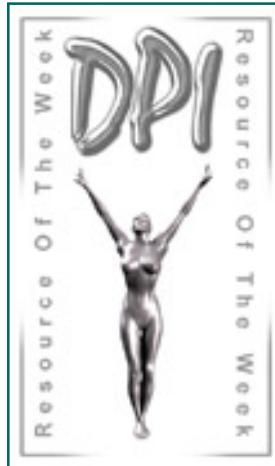
Nov 18 1998

Fierce Dot Com's Fierce Pick



Dec 7 1998

DPI Resource Of The Week Award



Jan 21 1999

Cool Site of the Year in the 'Zine' Catagory

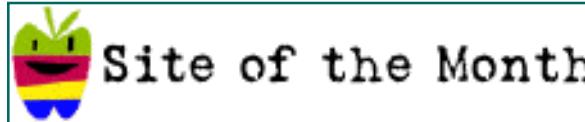
Feb 9 1999

Planet Click Coolest Site



March 1999

My Mac Site of the Month



April 13 1999

PC Mike's Website-of-the-day



April 18 1999

Word's Best Websites



May 1999

GO Network Award



Jan 2000

Mensa in Bern Thinks This Site Is Cool



Feb 2000

PiSig Labs Divine Site of All Time



Apr 2000

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Privacy Policy

At OSDN, we intend to give you as much control as possible over your personal information, including the Registration Data. We will let each user know how we will use the personal information derived from each user's access to and use of OSDN and/or the Services.

NOTICE

OSDN will track the domains from which people visit OSDN and analyze this data for trends and statistics. Subject to the provisions of this Privacy Policy, different OSDN sites may use accumulated data for different purposes, including but not limited to marketing analysis, service evaluation and planning.

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Currently, OSDN uses personal information as a basis for notifications to users, "opt-in" emails, and in order to implement the terms of the Terms of Service governing the website (the "TOS"). User names and email addresses (as well as any additional information that a user may choose to post) are publicly available on the OSDN site, unless a user elects to "opt-out" of such display of personal information. However, in cases where users voluntarily and publicly disclose personal information which may contain Registration Data, or otherwise post personal information in conjunction with content subject to an open source license, such personal information necessarily will be disclosed subject to the terms of the applicable license.

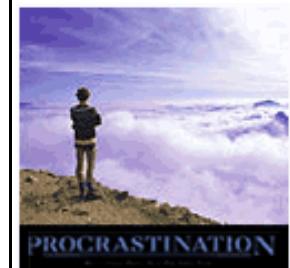
Subject to the foregoing, OSDN may conduct surveys of other studies of its customer base and usage for marketing and planning purposes. With respect to information collected from such surveys or studies, and in the event that responses are to be publicly disclosed, users will be notified at the time they take the survey and OSDN will disclose only aggregate information regarding its users and not personal information identifying any specific individual. Notwithstanding the foregoing, in cases where surveys allow users to submit written comments, and where OSDN advises users of the possibility of such disclosure at the time they take the survey, OSDN reserves the right to disclose text information provided by any user through such a survey, provided that no personal information identifying that user is disclosed.

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Cookies: OSDN employs "cookies" to provide a user with tailored information. A "cookie" is an element of data which a Service or site, when visited by a user, sends to that user's browser which, in turn, may store that element on the user's hard drive or memory. OSDN uses cookies to better serve users who use our Services; any cookies sent by OSDN will be marked so that they will only be accessible by websites subject to this Privacy Policy. However, at his or her option and at his or her sole expense and responsibility, any user may block or delete our cookies from his or her hard drive. However, by disabling cookies, certain site features and functionality may no longer work properly, or at all.

"Opt-in" Emails: Users may "opt-in" to receive site notifications, newsletters or other information via email. Users may remove themselves from such services at their discretion. Any email sent to an "opt-in" list will include directions for how a user may remove him or herself from the list, or a URL where the user may find such directions.

Other Notification: In order to implement or enforce the Terms of Service of the relevant OSDN site, OSDN may use personal information to contact users on an individual basis.

Profile Display: In some cases, users' personal information may be publicly available through a user's profile display. In such cases, users have the option to opt out of publicly displaying their real names. In cases where site profiles allow users to display optional information publicly, such entry and display is at the user's discretion and may be changed at any time by the user.

Email Display: In some cases, users may have the opportunity to use an OSDN service to send electronic mail to another user or email list. In such cases, a user's valid email address and real name will be included with such messages. In order to prevent abuse, users may not opt-out of such a display, but may choose to refrain from using said Service to transmit an email message.

General: In cases where users voluntarily and publicly disclose personal information which may contain Registration Data or otherwise post personal information in conjunction with content subject to an open source license, such personal information necessarily will be disclosed subject to the terms of the applicable license. An example of such a disclosure includes, but is not limited to, a user's disclosure of personal information as part of a message posted to a public message forum or a publicly-released software application.

At no time, unless such disclosure is required by law or a user specifically authorizes such disclosure, will OSDN disclose individual user personal information that is not publicly available to unrelated third parties.

Surveys and Resulting Information: Subject to the foregoing, OSDN may conduct surveys or other studies of its customer base and usage for marketing and planning purposes. Participation in such surveys is at the user's option; OSDN does not conduct mandatory surveys.

With respect to information collected from such surveys or studies, and in the event that responses are to be publicly disclosed, users will be notified

at the time they take the survey and OSDN will disclose only aggregate information regarding its users and not personal information identifying any specific individual. Circumstances under which OSDN would publicly disclose such aggregate information include, but are not limited to, sharing survey results with the site population, providing data to OSDN advertisers on user preferences and/or demographics, and publicizing overall usage data in press communications.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, in cases where surveys allow users to submit written comments, and where OSDN advises users of the possibility of such disclosure at the time they take the survey, OSDN reserves the right to disclose text information provided by any user through such a survey, provided that no personal information identifying that user is disclosed.

ACCESS

With regard to personal information, users can view their data on their personal profile page. When technically feasible, users are permitted to update their personal information directly through the OSDN service. When such updating service is not technically feasible, OSDN will make reasonable efforts to assist users in updating their personal information.

SECURITY

To secure site integrity, OSDN employs measures including but not limited to security audits, use of encryption tools and software, and other reasonable security measures and procedures. Internal access to users' private and nonpublic personal information is restricted to site administrators and individuals on a need-to-know basis.

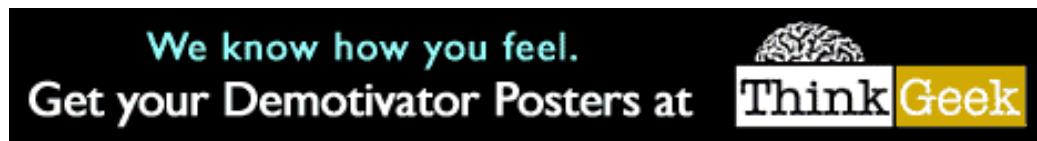
ENFORCEMENT

In the event that OSDN becomes aware that site security is compromised or user nonpublic information has been disclosed to unrelated third parties as a result of external activity, including but not limited to external security attacks, OSDN shall take reasonable measures which it deems appropriate, including but not limited to internal investigation and reporting, and notification to and cooperation with law enforcement authorities.

If OSDN becomes aware that a user's personal information provided to OSDN has been disclosed in a manner not permitted by this Privacy Policy, OSDN shall make reasonable efforts to notify the affected user, as soon as reasonably possible and as permitted by law, of what information has been disclosed, to the extent that OSDN knows this information.

UPDATES TO THE PRIVACY POLICY

To update the privacy policy, we will both post the changed version and its effective date at <http://www.osdn.com/privacy.shtml>. Concurrently with any change to the core privacy policy, we will email notice of the change to known users at least 15 days (or such shorter or longer time as mandated by law or any judicial or government body) in advance.





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About SlashNET

SlashNET is an IRC network originally sponsored by [Slashdot](#). Since then we have grown into an entity all our own. Our flagship product, one might say, is our ircd currently maintained by [drdrink](#) entitled cyclone. Cyclone supports several enhancements over standard ircd such as host name cloaking to protect you from DoS attacks, SOCKS checks to prevent ban evasions, and continual attempts to improve the code. For those of you who like that sort of thing, here is a link to its [ftp site](#).

Current SlashNET Servers

Click on the server links for more information.

DNS Name	Location/Description
area51.slashnet.org	Baltimore, Maryland, United States
moo.slashnet.org	San Francisco, California, United States
radon.slashnet.org	Boston, Massachusetts, United States
perdition.slashnet.org	Traverse City, Michigan, United States
vortex.slashnet.org	Hobart, Tasmania, Australia
coruscant.slashnet.org	The Netherlands

irc.slashnet.org	Random SlashNET Server
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Welcome to [CmdrTaco.net](#), the Home Away from Home of [Rob Malda](#). This is the place where you can sit and stare in slackjawed amazement at my collection of Amazingly Stupid Stuff that I actually sat down and took the time to put online. Be afraid.

For your convenience, my Amazingly Stupid Stuff has been divided into 2 convenient easy-for-me-to-screw-up categories. Why are they easy to screw up? Well, because in my world, these categories tend to overlap a tad. Keep reading, you'll see why.

[AnimeFu](#) has been an entertaining side project for fellow [BlockStacker](#), [Kurt The Pope](#) and I.



The site is a fun little site for Anime lovers, based on the [Everything 2](#) engine. Its still under development, but its getting quite nice. Feel free to join up, and read and write reviews for your favorite Anime titles.

nerdy stuff

[**Jubei**](#) is a simple multi-emulator front-end I wrote in Gtk-Perl. I use it to manage MAME, Snes9x and Dgen ROMS, but it is extremely flexible so you could easily use it to manage any game you wanted. I intend to eventually use it to power the arcade cabinet that I have been slowly building from scratch. Use at your own risk.

[**Linux**](#) What? You haven't heard of [Linux](#)? It's an operating system created by Linus Torvalds, and a band of hacks scattered accross the globe. You can check out [My Linux Page](#) if you want some more information, or [My Stuff](#) if you are looking for code that I've slapped together over the years. This includes the home of the amazingly outdated ascd, asmixer, asmodem & ascde (a series of Afterstep and then WindowMaker docklets) as well as some screenshots and configs for some of my Afterstep and Enlightenment desktops.

[**Slashdot**](#) I guess I should just fess up and take the blame- I created [Slashdot](#) a long time ago, and now it seems to have grown into something pretty amazing. Come on down and check it out for news about Linux, Open Source Software, Legos, Games, Star Wars, Science, Technology and pretty much anything else that falls into the "News for Nerds, Stuff that Matters" umbrella.



[**Is your Penis Small?**](#) Bet that got your attention. Recently I got an amazing offer in the mail that claimed to do [fix the problem](#), and I couldn't help but make fun of it. The Solution to Traffic Jams [has been discovered](#) and this is your chance to get in on the ground floor. [Level 84 Barb Kills Again](#) deals with the psychology of some Diablo 2 players. [This little news bit](#) after reading a Yahoo Story about a 6" Tall Mr. Potato Head Statue being "Rascist".

[**Duckpins**](#) Behold my first feeble attempt at the world of Computer Animation in the form of [Duckpins](#). Created during Jan-Feb of 96, I wrote, produced, directed animated edited and catered a 60 second CGI short. Download. Watch. Laugh (please?).

[**Hamster Havoc**](#) Following up a smash hit like [Duckpins](#) is no easy task, but I'm the only person obsessive enough to try. During the summer of 96, Rob Malda Films brought [Hamster Havoc](#) to to net. You can see exciting stills or even download the whole dang clip. It's the story of a boy, a hamster, and- awh nevermind. Who am I kidding? It barely has a plot. Download it- I think its funny.

[**Literature?**](#) Barely. But I might even be considered a writer. Of course, those who

Java Invaders if you came looking for Invaders, then tough beans. Sun asked me to change the name because it contained their highly protected top-secret, we'd tell you, but then we'd have to kill you word: Java. They own Java now. Look out StarBucks. To bad- it used to be a cute Space Invaders Clone. I was always sorta worried Atari would bitch- who knew Sun would.

Raytracer I wrote a cheesy [raytracer](#) for a Graphics class back when I was still a part of that whole college education thing. I have here a few of those stereotypical chrome-sphere-rendered-over-checkerboards online to prove that I once actually did some math.

Random Tidbits Assorted knick-knacks that just don't seem to have any other home include [Rob's Amazing Hex Triplet O Matic](#). It allows even idiots like me to get hex codes for background colors- course since [The Gimp](#) now does this automatically, I have no clue why you would want this thing.

Here's something I call [Rob's Amazing Movie Generator](#) which you can use to generate plot synopsis for blockbuster movies. Another fun one is [Rob's Amazing Poem Generator](#) which will write poetry for you, seeded by either a web page, or by /usr/bin/fortune. It's the easy way to cheat on your literature homework.

You could also look at my list of [Places](#) on the net worth visiting. It's an old list with a bazillion broken links and sites that just don't even exist any more. And finally, if you're really bored, you can read more than

consider me a writer are legally blind. Anyway, Here is a little I wrote called [Nerds, Unix, and Virtual Parenting](#). Here's another little essay I wrote about my recent obsession with [Juice](#). Since I wrote those, most of my writings have moved to [Taco Hell](#). I occasionally rant there about anything that is on my mind. Check it out if you like. Or don't. What do I know?

Cartoons I've scanned in and posted a small collection of [Cartoons](#) that I drew during high school. It's a desperate attempt to convince myself that I'm more than a Code Jockey- underneath this pocket protector clad exterior beats the heart of starving artist. Anyway, you can view these various works of mediocrity that I am so ashamed of, that I've placed them here for public ridicule.



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What? You don't have an account yet? Well enter your preferred **nick** name here: (Note: only the characters 0-9a-zA-Z_.+!*'(),-\$, plus space, are allowed in nicknames, and all others will be stripped out.) and a **valid email address** address to send your registration information. This address will **not** be displayed on Slashdot.

Click the button to be mailed a password.

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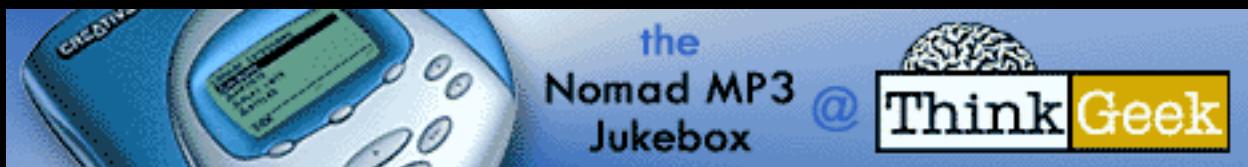
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Got a juicy nugget for the rest of the Slashdot Population? Fill out this form and it'll get whisked away to a secret hiding place where our trained squirrels will frown at it, poke at it, and hopefully post it.

If you have an editorial, an idea for an editorial, a bug with Slashdot, a question about slashdot, or anything besides a simple story, I would prefer it if you [mail me](#). The opposite is true too- please use this form if you have a story. **Resist** the temptation to email me directly with Slashdot Stories! This form organizes things intelligently and makes my life much easier, please use it!

Please also note that this is the wrong place to mail bug reports, complaints, or requests for advertising info.

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(bad subjects='Check This Out!' or 'An Article'. We get many submissions each day, and if yours isn't clear, it will be deleted.)

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The Scoop (HTML is fine, but double check those URLs and HTML tags!)

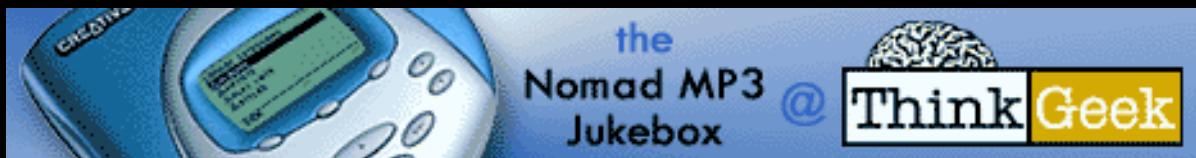
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About Advertising on Slashdot

As much fun as editing and reading several hundred submissions a day is, the harsh reality is that, yes, we do like to eat occasionally. This, as you might have guessed, is the cause for those banner ads running at the top of your screen.

Slashdot's audience is one of the most technically savvy groups on the Web, with an enormous number of systems administrators, programmers, and others heavily involved in the information age. As well, we have a very large group of people who like to purchase the newest and greatest technologies, as well as looking for interesting things to do. The bottom line is that Slashdot readers tend to be smarter, wealthier, more attractive, and more involved with computers than almost anywhere else on the Web.

The sale of Slashdot has affected the business way we're operating around here. As you can tell, the editorial style you've grown to love is intact, but in the interests of efficiency [hemos](#) will be working with phasing through our prior advertisers.

For new advertisers, please go to [OSDN](#) to learn more about Slashdot's audience and ad rates. Or contact Linda Landry, linda@osdn.com directly or by phone at 978-635-5300.

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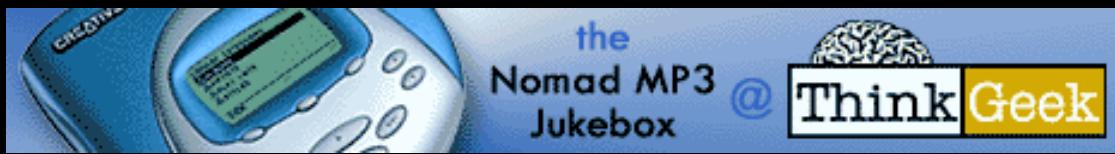
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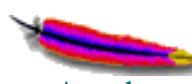
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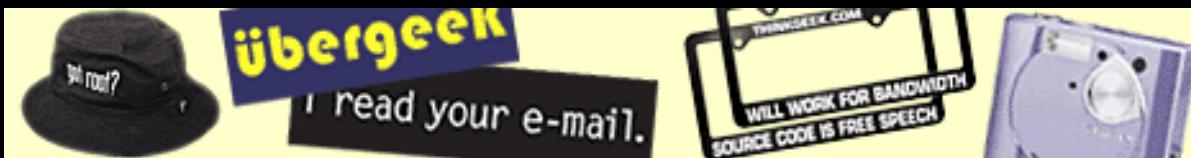


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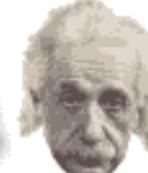
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Top 10 Comments

- 5** [Re:Yeah, right](#) by [Greyfox](#) on Wednesday January 31, @ 12:53PM EST
attached to [Linux Is Going Down](#) posted on Wednesday January 31, @ 11:53AM EST by CmdrTaco
- 5** [Re:Microsoft can't do anything about free..](#) by [Erasmus Darwin](#) on Wednesday January 31, @ 12:35PM EST
attached to [Linux Is Going Down](#) posted on Wednesday January 31, @ 11:53AM EST by CmdrTaco
- 5** [MSFT on value...](#) by [Tackhead](#) on Wednesday January 31, @ 12:27PM EST
attached to [Linux Is Going Down](#) posted on Wednesday January 31, @ 11:53AM EST by CmdrTaco
- 5** [Re:On the other hand...](#) by [Majix](#) on Wednesday January 31, @ 12:23PM EST
attached to [Linux Is Going Down](#) posted on Wednesday January 31, @ 11:53AM EST by CmdrTaco
- 5** [Sweet troll](#) by [Shoeboy](#) on Wednesday January 31, @ 12:22PM EST
attached to [Linux Is Going Down](#) posted on Wednesday January 31, @ 11:53AM EST by CmdrTaco
- 5** [Microsoft, +1 Insightful](#) by [Stickerboy](#) on Wednesday January 31, @ 12:17PM EST
attached to [Linux Is Going Down](#) posted on Wednesday January 31, @ 11:53AM EST by CmdrTaco

5 [can Windows be beaten on the desktop?](#) by [dboyles](#) on Wednesday January 31, @12:13PM EST

attached to [Linux Is Going Down](#) posted on Wednesday January 31, @11:53AM EST by CmdrTaco

5 [one important point](#) by [kaisyain](#) on Wednesday January 31, @12:09PM EST

attached to [Linux Is Going Down](#) posted on Wednesday January 31, @11:53AM EST by CmdrTaco

5 [So why are they using Linux DNS Servers?](#) by [matth](#) on Wednesday January 31, @12:05PM EST

attached to [Linux Is Going Down](#) posted on Wednesday January 31, @11:53AM EST by CmdrTaco

5 [Microsoft can't do anything about free..](#) by [xtal](#) on Wednesday January 31, @12:05PM EST

attached to [Linux Is Going Down](#) posted on Wednesday January 31, @11:53AM EST by CmdrTaco

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He who knows others is wise. He who knows himself is enlightened. -- Lao Tsu

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Apache 1.3.17 released

Posted by [michael](#) on Tuesday

January 30, @10:24AM

from the oh-frabjous-day dept.

crackhed writes "*The Apache Server group has released Apache 1.3.17. Source and binaries are in all the usual places.*" Read the [announcement](#) or get the [source](#).

([Read More...](#) | [10 of 12](#) comments)



Zend Release Zend Cache & Zend IDE

Posted by [Hemos](#) on

Saturday January 27,

@09:48AM

from the getting-more-zend-for-your-money dept.

onnerby writes: "[Zend](#) finally has released [Zend cache](#). It looks like a great booster for commercial sites.

They also have released a IDE for PHP-developers."



([Read More...](#) | [9 of 13](#) comments)

Slashcode 2.0 "Bender" Starts Beta

Older Stuff

Tuesday December 12

- [Apache: Is Realtime Compression Possible?](#) (18)

Thursday December 07

- [PHP And Mod_Perl Conflict Revisited](#) (15)

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- [Apache Foundation Releases Open Source SVG Toolkit](#) (7)

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- [Tomcat 3.2 Final Release](#) (9)

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Posted by [CmdrTaco](#) on

Tuesday January 16,

@06:18PM

from the regular-expressions-in-the-night dept.

Slashcode 2.0 ("Bender") is officially in beta. We now have themes, plugins, an abstacted database layer (MySQL support is beta, PostgreSQL is alpha, so finally the rivalry can be settled ;) a journal system for users, a spiffy template language, better mod_perl usage, ways now for other languages to talk to our authentication layer, and oh so much more. Best of all, the code has been massively scrubbed and de-Taco-spaghettified(TM). You can find a copy [on the ftp server](#). Hopefully the beta phase will be fairly short, as once its over, we'll get to move Slashdot, and have a clean codebase to which we can add all those features we've been wanting for so long. Thanks to Tofu, Krow, CowboyNeal, and Pudge for the toil. And good luck to everyone out there interested in poking at it: this version will give you much more joy then the last one *grin*

([Read More...](#) | [132](#) of [202](#) comments)

ApacheToday: Improving mod_perl Driven Site's Perf

Posted by [Krow](#) on Wednesday

January 10, @03:31AM

from the memory-loss dept.

[tf23](#) writes "ApacheToday's got an [article](#) about mod_perl and shared memory. The article is part IV of the improving mod_perl series. For any perl/apache coders (or anyone coding with Slash or Bender) this is a good read.

Quick links to the other parts:

[Improving mod_perl Driven Site's Performance -- Part III: Code Profiling and Memory Measurement Techniques](#)

[Improving mod_perl Driven Site's Performance -- Part](#)



- [PHP And Mod_Perl Conflict.](#) (16)

Tuesday November 21

- [The Apache Toolkit: Timesaver Deluxe](#) (8)
- [Apache 2.0 Alpha 8 Released](#) (9)

Wednesday November 01

- [Netcraft Results Out](#) (232)

Saturday October 28

- [ApacheCon / 2000 EU: Security Solutions With SSL](#) (25)

Sunday October 22

- [Avalon 3.0 Alpha Released](#) (8)

Saturday October 21

- [Apache And Apple's OS X](#) (10)
- [Classes With PHP](#) (7)



Friday October 13

- [Apache 1.3.14 Released](#) (10)

Wednesday October 11

- [PHP 4.0.3 Released](#) (10)

Tuesday October 10

II: Benchmarking Applications

Improving mod_perl Driven Site's Performance -- Part

I: Choosing Operating System and Hardware"

This is in part one of our holy grails, caching all of the comments for current stories. It would make those near 2000 comment [stories](#) a lot easier to stomach for the Web servers.

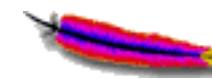
([Read More...](#) | [9 of 11](#) comments)

Bonus: David Brin for the Price of John 'maddog' Hall

Posted by [Krow](#) on Tuesday

January 09, @11:25AM

from the I-would-have-uplifted-cats-first dept.



[ApacheCon](#) has [announced](#) who the keynote speakers for the April convention in Santa Clara will be. John 'maddog' Hall will be speaking along with David Brin (one of my favorite authors). No announcements yet for sessions, but hopefully we will see that sometime soon.

([Read More...](#) | [1 of 5](#) comments)

First Virus To Use PHP Scripting Language

Posted by [Krow](#) on

Monday January 08,

@06:58PM

from the malice-knows-no-bounds dept.



hhg writes: "[Central Command](#) discovers [First Virus to Use PHP Scripting Language](#). 'This virus is not dangerous in any kind, but it can be modified to have a very destructive payload and marks a new step towards a new virus generation,' said Steven Sundermeier, Product Manager at Central Command, Inc." In its current form, the virus apparently only infects Windows machines -- by infecting all .php, .hm,

- [Top Infoworld Innovators includes Apache Group](#) (6)

Monday October 09

- [Filtered I/O in Apache 2.0](#) (9)
- [Apache 2.0a7 Released](#) (7)

Friday September 29

- [The Apache Of Your Dreams](#) (9)

[Older Articles](#)

.html or .htt files in the C:\Windows directory, but I guess we will see more dangerous variants out there very soon." [The Register](#) also has a nice [article about it here](#). Anyone who has been following PHP probably already knows about this, but I thought it would be interesting to folks who don't follow PHP that closely. Calling it a virus though, is somewhat suspect. Plus we get to show off the new PHP topic icon :)

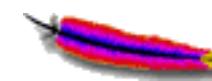
([Read More...](#) | [13 of 18](#) comments)

More Detailed Apache Usage Report

Posted by [Hemos](#) on Monday

January 01, @11:14AM

from the interesting-reading dept.



[Digimax](#) writes "A sometimes more interesting read than the [netcraft](#) survey is the one [carried out monthly](#) by [Security Space](#). It has a breakdown of apache module [usage](#) as well as some other interesting stats that the [Netcraft](#) survey does not produce."

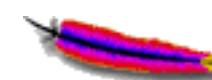
([Read More...](#) | [71 of 106](#) comments)

Netcraft December Released

Posted by [Hemos](#) on Sunday

December 31, @09:27PM

from the the-battle-goes-on dept.



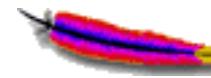
Well, the battle between Apache and IIS continues with Apache [gaining ground](#) this month - but a pretty small amount of gain. What I found most interesting was the Linux distribution discussion and the possible implications that will have in the long run. There's also some interesting discussion about the walmart.com domain, which has been submitted before.

([Read More...](#) | [70 of 130](#) comments)

Apache 2.0a9 Released

Posted by [Krow](#) on Friday

December 15, @02:20PM
from the not-for-prime-time-yet
dept.



[Eric Sun](#) writes: "Apache 2.0 is now one step closer to reality. Alpha 9 is now available for download at the Apache [download page](#). You can also read the changelog [here](#)." On a side note, they are hoping this is going to be their last alpha, and that they will be releasing a beta next month.

([Read More...](#) | [7 of 13](#) comments)

Installing Secure Webservers

Posted by [Krow](#) on Wednesday

December 13, @06:40PM
from the stuff-we-keep-private dept.

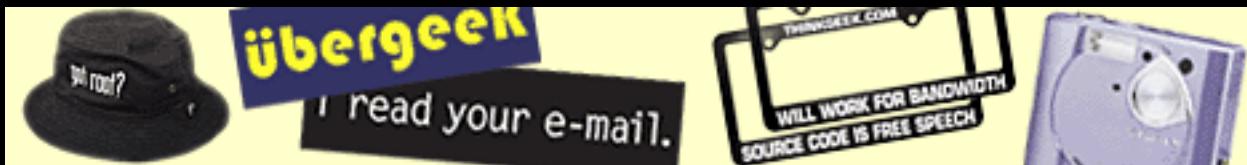


If you have been interested in learning how to install and configure mod_ssl, you might want to take a look at Rich Bowen's [article](#) on [ApacheToday](#) which gives an overview on how to do this.

([Read More...](#) | [14 of 18](#) comments)

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Web-Based Employee Scheduling?

Posted by [Cliff](#) on Friday

February 02, @06:37PM

from the time-tracking dept.

irksome asks: "I am looking to



write an application to replace a legacy system of having people choose their own schedules. The current system involves a large board, with all the available shifts in blocks, and sticky notes with people's names on them. After everyone puts their stickies on the board, some poor soul has to go through manually and type it all into a spreadsheet. I'm wondering if anyone has any suggestions for replacing this system. The ideal system would have a Web-interface, and it should also be able to generate a printable spreadsheet. Any ideas on how to implement this?"

([Read More...](#) | [1](#) comment)

Can You Suggest Any Non-Zero Sum Games?

Posted by [Cliff](#) on Friday

February 02, @12:51PM

from the competition-isn't-everything dept.



epeus asks: "I have noticed that most games for children (and adults) are Zero-sum by a game theory definition - you have to battle over limited resources either implicitly (Chess, Frustration) or explicitly (Monopoly). Modern economic theory (dating back to the Enlightenment) makes it clear that the world is not like that - buying and selling creates

Ask Slashdot

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- [MP3 Recorders?](#) (39)

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- [What Mailbox Format Do You Use And Why?](#) (446)
- [Connecting A Meade ETX-70AT Telescope To A PC?](#) (14)
- [Samba And Netatalk - Is There A Better Solution?](#) (24)

Monday January 29

- [Ad Banners On Government Sites?](#) (26)
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- [Open Source Tools For Documentation Creation?](#) (11)
- [Programming Environment For "Event Correlation"?](#) (7)

Sunday January 28

- [Technologies Available For Use In Distance Learning?](#) (187)

value; confiscation destroys it. The 'Gift Culture' notion of Open Source described by ESR takes this a stage further. Can Slashdot readers suggest Non-Zero Sum games for children and adults to help break this mentality? The only ones I can think of are Victorian parlour games like Charades or Ghosts, where the point of the game is playing, not scoring it." I too think that there are times when we may focus too much on competition when we might be better off with entertainment. Don't get me wrong, there is a satisfying feeling to compete and win (or even to compete), but sometimes just the act of playing should be rewarding in and of itself. As always, feel free to share your thoughts on the subject.

([Read More...](#) | [538 of 683 comments](#))

Weatherproof Digital Toys?

Posted by [Cliff](#) on Friday

February 02, @06:00AM

from the takes-a-lickin'-and-keeps-on-tickin' dept.

Scott Anguish asks: "I've been trying to find gear designed for the consumer market that is able to withstand exposure to water, dirt, etc. Kodak's DC5000 Digital Camera is a nice enough unit, but still misses the mark on price (\$699) and performance (2 Megapixels, no irDA). Cell phone wise: Ericsson had talked about releasing their R250d model in the U.S., but that seems to have been a no show. Their new R310s looks promising, but seems only to be available overseas. Are there any other options for use in the U.S.? (most cell providers don't seem to know much beyond the cheap phones, or the 'stylish' phones). And what of a PDA? I want something that can be tossed in pack with my eTrex GPS and not worry about the conditions. What are the options out there?"



([Read More...](#) | [13 of 16 comments](#))

- [Which XML Parser Do You Recommend? \(20\)](#)
- [More Ways To Conserve Energy? \(49\)](#)
- [Class Diagram Tool For Hundreds Of Classes? \(23\)](#)

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- [Home Repair of Apple's Airport Base Stations? \(12\)](#)
- [Use Of Shared Storage In High Availability Arrays? \(20\)](#)
- [Correlations Between Video Games And Academic Achievement? \(230\)](#)
- [Cognitive Science Daily News? \(10\)](#)

Friday January 26

- [When Should You Go Back To The Drawing Board? \(231\)](#)
- [Is C Better At Dynamic Loading Than Java? \(23\)](#)

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[Bug Tracking Database Systems?]

Posted by Cliff on Friday

February 02, @12:11AM

from the RAID-roach-tracking dept.

Jeremy asks: "*I am looking into changing our bug tracking database. We are using [Gnats](#) for the time being, and it doesn't easily offer information that will show statistical trends such as the number of bugs for each week over the last 10 weeks, or the number of bugs each developer has fixed for each week over the last 10 weeks, and so forth. What, in your opinion, is one of the best bug tracking software in the open source world?"*



([Read More...](#) | 6 of 9 comments)

[Music Notation Software For Unix?]

Posted by Cliff on Thursday

February 01, @06:16PM

from the just-as-if-you-were-writing-sheet-music dept.

CapnCheapo asks: "*I was just wondering if there has been any progress on a [Finale](#)-quality music notation system out there for Linux yet? There are plenty of sequencers and simple notation programs, but I need a program that can do heavy-duty scoring, (30 staves, transposition, score analysis, custom beaming) in a graphical environment. [Lilypond](#) is great for typesetting, but is not an ideal environment for playing with musical ideas. Thanks!"*



([Read More...](#) | 6 of 7 comments)

[Wireless Text Messaging w/o A Phone?]

Posted by Cliff on Thursday

February 01, @12:31PM

**from the take-my-cell-phone...please!
dept.**



beroul asks: *"I don't want a mobile phone (I'd never use it for voice), but I'd like to be able to send and receive text messages using some sort of small, inexpensive wireless device. Does anyone know of such a thing? I've looked for a send-and-receive pager, but they seem to have vanished as everyone opts for mobile phones. I live in the UK, so I'm looking for something that will work here. Being able to send SMS messages to people who have mobile phones would be a plus."*

([Read More...](#) | [18 of 21](#) comments)

Why Don't Servers Support Power Management?

Posted by Cliff on Thursday

February 01, @06:47AM

from the energy-efficient-and-electron-friendly dept.



Cerlyn asks: *"I am the network administrator of three server grade machines purchased from three separate companies. The recent power problems in California reminded me of the fact that none of these servers seem to support power management. The operating systems these systems run (Linux 2.2, 2.4, and FreeBSD 4.2) are compiled to support power management, but do not detect any power management capabilities at all. Granted, no one wants a server sleeping on the job. But the way things seem to be coded, processors can not even sleep while idle without known hardware support. Lightly loaded machines are often idle 75% of the time or more. Sleeping while idle could make them save a significant amount of power. For many companies, the extra ten seconds it would take to spin up a backup server's hard drive(s) likely would be a non-issue. So, why don't server grade computers support advanced*

power management (APM), APCI and the like?" And in the land of the rolling blackout, one has to wonder if the potential power saved could help the situation, assuming a good percentage of the big iron in Silicon Valley were configured to conserve what power it could (as opposed to adding on to the drain as it is now).

([Read More...](#) | [277 of 390 comments](#))

Cheap POP-In-A-Box?

Posted by [Cliff](#) on Thursday

February 01, @12:33AM
from the lowering-the-cost dept.

Interloper asks: *"I have been considering creating a non-profit ISP for a small community. The idea is to provide dial-up v.34 or v.90 connections at cost. What hardware and software are available to make an all-in-one POP for dial-up users as cheaply as possible. The sort of features needed include WAN connectivity (upstream provider, frame-relay or leased line), a digital interface for a group of dial-up lines, internal routing, internal mail handling, authentication, and any other needed support for 8+ simultaneous users. Web page hosting is not considered necessary. Basically just e-mail and browsing. Can these features all be contained in one box? What distro and hardware would make this as cheap and fast as needed?"*



([Read More...](#) | [19 of 21 comments](#))

Central Registry For Open Source Project Ideas?

Posted by [Cliff](#) on Wednesday

January 31, @06:34PM
from the getting-organized dept.
allinoneplace asks: *"I would like to start working on an open-*



source project, starting from scratch since IMHO, is very difficult to jump into an already running project (reviewing the code would take months for some of them), and I've been speculating about some ideas on my own. However, I would like to know whether there is some place where proposals for open-source projects are posted, so that people might take and start them. The other way around: Is there any place where you can post projects you think are interesting but you won't be able to start?" What are your thoughts? Do you think the Open Source community really needs such a service?

([Read More...](#) | 10 of 12 comments)

DVD Authoring With Unix?

Posted by [Cliff](#) on Wednesday

January 31, @12:38PM

from the can-it-be-done-now dept.

An Anonymous Coward, with an interest in the multimedia sector, asks:

"DVD authoring may one day be the next test of 'what you can do with a computer'. Can a professional-quality DVDs be created using Unix software? Are there sufficient tools, commercial or otherwise, to handle all the phases? MPEG-1 encoding? Different sound formats? Overlays? Branching? NTSC/PAL? And what's the user to do if s/he wants to do something simple, like burn some stills to a CD-R?"



([Read More...](#) | 8 of 12 comments)

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The Fuji FinePix 40i Digital Camera/MP3 Player

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Think Geek

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The Dreams Our Stuff Is Made Of

Posted by [timothy](#) on Friday

February 02, @10:30AM

from the not-*those*-dreams-you-fool!
dept.

Duncan Lawie, stalwart science fiction reviewer, this time steps up to the plate with what you might call a meta-science fiction book, Thomas Disch's *The Dreams Our Stuff Is Made Of: How Science Fiction Conquered the World*. Considering that SF has been around as such for far shorter than many other types of literature, a book like this sounds like it may be useful in explaining its disproportionate hold on the public imagination. (Personally, I'd like to read the stuff on Heinlein.)



([Read More...](#) | 6281 bytes in body | [142 of 202](#) comments)

Extreme Programming Installed

Posted by [timothy](#) on Tuesday

January 30, @10:30AM

from the ultra-ultra dept.

Continuing with his campaign to rid the world of lousy software, chromatic is back with this review of *Extreme Programming Installed*. It sounds like what the authors are advocating is a truly programmer-centric environment; does anyone have experience in a workplace even close to this?



Older Stuff

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Shadow of the Hegemon

Posted by [timothy](#) on Friday

January 26, @10:30AM

from the boom-boom-boooooom dept.

Reader [Aaron Gifford](#) contributed

this review of *Shadow of the*

Hegemon, by the prolific Orson Scott Card. (What?

An author with the "ability to make smart characters actually act and behave intelligently"? The sky is falling!) Given the movie plans in the works from Card, it's great to see the bookshelf expand with possible sequel material, too.



([Read More...](#) | 6952 bytes in body | [90 of 145](#) comments)

Hosting Web Communities

Posted by [JonKatz](#) on Thursday

January 25, @10:30AM

from the -people-people-people-trust-trust-dept.

Do you feel like you belong in many -- any -- Web communities?

Lots of people and companies try and host successful Websites, but few pull it off. Cliff Figallo has helped do it three different times, and has written a workmanlike, useful book about what it takes -- good design, time, patience, great software, trust and the right people. He never loses sight of what the user wants and needs. Here is a review of *Hosting Web Communities*, on how to build enduring and yes, profitable communities online. (Read more below.)



([Read More...](#) | 5414 bytes in body | [58 of 82](#) comments)

Understanding the Linux Kernel

Friday December 08

- [Longitude](#) (152)

Thursday December 07

- [Administering Apache](#) (92)

Tuesday December 05

- [Programming Perl, 3rd Edition](#) (179)

Friday December 01

- [Catch Me If You Can](#) (231)

Tuesday November 28

- [CGI Programming with Perl](#) (124)

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- [Stranger In a Strange Land](#) (334)

Wednesday November 22

- [The New Geography](#) (197)

Tuesday November 21

- [Linux Routers](#) (73)

Friday November 17

**Posted by [timothy](#) on Tuesday
January 23, @10:30AM
from the gee-look-at-all-the-little-black-dots dept.**

Reader John Regehr contributed this review of O'Reilly's *Understanding the Linux Kernel*, which goes into greater depth than most people have ever seen of the kernel source itself. (I wonder what it costs to look at the Windows source.)

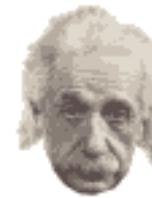


([Read More...](#) | 6097 bytes in body | [97 of 147](#) comments)

Author Unknown

**Posted by [JonKatz](#) on Monday
January 22, @11:15AM
from the --identity-and-anonymity-dept.**

Don Foster was asked to track down Ted Kaczynski by studying the Unabomber's own words (and uncovering fresh information about his choice of victims). Foster, a Vassar prof who solved a centuries old mystery involving a Shakespearean sonnet and unmasked the anonymous author of a sensational Clinton campaign book, has written a book about science, words and identity. You can run and hide, he says, but your words will always give you away. *Author Unknown* is relevant to life online, where responsibility for words and anonymous authorship is an everyday issue.



([Read More...](#) | 5629 bytes in body | [139 of 242](#) comments)

E=MC²

- [Review: "Properties Of Light"](#) (105)

Thursday November 16

- [Interconnections](#) (80)

Wednesday November 15

- [Dune: House Harkonnen](#) (210)

Tuesday November 14

- [Linux Beginners Series' Final Installment](#) (102)

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- [The Evolution Of Wired Life](#) (39)

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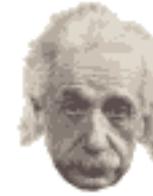
Posted by [timothy](#) on Thursday

January 18, @09:30AM

from the yessir-*squaaared*-away dept.

Michael JasonSmith (not his evil cousin Jason MichaelSmith, or the nefarious Smith MichaelJason)

contributed this review of a book which treads the line between simple and complex by concentrating on that strangely simple little equation of Einstein's -- how it came to be uncovered, its history, and its ramifications.



([Read More...](#) | 4133 bytes in body | [89 of 161](#) comments)

Web Development With JSP

Posted by [timothy](#) on Tuesday

January 16, @10:30AM

from the what-a-tangled-web dept.

This "dynamic content" thing doesn't seem to be going away, does it? Web sites need to get smarter to handle the types of content that at least some people want to see on them these days, and the coders and designers behind them need the tools to make them so. Accordingly, [Gavin Bong](#) crafted this review of *Web Development with JSP*, which may be one of the tools you need.



([Read More...](#) | 9305 bytes in body | [102 of 170](#) comments)

What Computers Really Can't Do

Posted by [JonKatz](#) on Monday

January 15, @10:37AM

from the bad-news-about-computing's-limits- dept.

A reknowned computer scientist punctures some of the arrogance and hype surrounding computing and details some of the many computational and other problems computers can't solve. After years of rising



expectations, the public expects computers to reverse aging, solve the most complex problems, and restore the ozone layer. So do many computer scientists, says the author of "Computers LTD., what they really can't do." It's a good question. What can't computers do? Jump in.

([Read More...](#) | [4287 bytes in body](#) | [378 of 528 comments](#))

The Undergrowth of Science

Posted by [JonKatz](#) on Monday

January 08, @10:39AM

from the delusion-and-venality-in-research dept.

In the wrong hands, scientific discovery can be scary stuff. This first-rate book by a British biophysicist describes some of the most infamous tales in scientific history and how they happened.



([Read More...](#) | [3958 bytes in body](#) | [164 of 228 comments](#))

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Palmtop NetBSD

Posted by [Hemos](#) on Thursday

February 01, @04:00PM
from the cool dept.

[sparcv9](#) writes "The NetBSD Team has added another port to their ever-growing list. This time, it's [NetBSD/hpcsh](#) (HPC = Handheld PC, SH = Hitachi Super-H processor), and it currently supports the SH3 processor, with the SH4 promised in the future. It currently runs on the up-until-now WinCE-only [HP Jornada](#) palmtop PC."



([Read More...](#) | **4 of 9** comments)

FreeBSD Now Runs On IBM T20/T21 ThinkPads

Posted by [Hemos](#) on

Thursday February 01,
@09:47AM



from the good-move-ibm dept.

[Wolverine](#) writes "IBM has finally seen the light and modified the BIOS on their T20/T21 laptops so users can now install FreeBSD without worrying about turning their machine into a paperweight. Although the official fix is listed as a fix for "System can not boot from a hard disk with partition ID of n5h.(n is 1 or greater)", they may have well just posted "You can install FreeBSD so stop whining". ThinkPad T20 bios can be found [here](#) and T21 bios update can be found [here](#)."

Older Stuff

Sunday December 24

- [Stopping Spam And Trojan Horses With BSD](#) (145)

Friday December 15

- [Very Non-Biased FreeBSD Review](#) (51)

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- [plex86 ported to NetBSD/i386](#) (77)

Sunday December 10

- [Another VC for BSDi](#) (9)

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- [Dr. Dobbs and Theo de Raadt](#) (11)

Friday December 08

- [BSD Leading the Way in Cooperation](#) (9)

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[Question Exchange](#)
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([Read More...](#) | [9 of 12](#) comments)

How Qwest Runs Things

Posted by [Hemos](#) on Saturday

January 27, @02:39PM

from the what-goes-into-being-big dept.

[Brew Bird](#) writes "*Qwest explains how they handle the various issues that crop up being a large*

ISP/Backbone Provider. They've got [the presentations](#)

setup in a nice little website." It's very *BSD focused, since I believe that's mostly what Qwest runs but the presentations are interesting in the scaling issue - what do you do with that much data and that many machines?



([Read More...](#) | [82 of 199](#) comments)

Tucows BSD Section Goes Down in Flames

Posted by [AilleCat](#) on Thursday

January 25, @12:39PM

from the can't-take-the-heat dept.

[BSD Today](#) ran a [comment](#) on [Tucows](#) shutting down the [Tucows](#) [BSD Section](#) after flames from the

BSD community about [the misinformation they had on](#)

[the site](#). Tucows says that they cannot meet the

demands of all the "factions" within the BSD camp.

It's a cop-out in my opinion; BSD Today and Daemon News seem to do it fine. All any of us asked for was for the inflammatory pro-linux/anti-BSD flavor of it to be toned down, and the misinformation cleared up.

[DaemonNews](#) also carries some appropriate [comments](#).



([Read More...](#) | [139 of 259](#) comments)

Thursday December 07

- ["Why I use OpenBSD"](#) (10)
- [FreeBSD 4.2 Reviewed](#) (11)

Wednesday December 06

- [NetBSD 1.5 released](#) (25)

Saturday December 02

- [BSD Learns To Play Nice](#) (21)

Friday December 01

- [BSDi announces release of BSD/OS 4.2](#) (19)

Thursday November 30

- [OpenBSD 2.8 Released](#) (174)
- [BSD to Leapfrog Linux?](#) (417)

Wednesday November 29

- [IBM Won't Support FreeBSD On ThinkPads](#) (344)

Sunday November 26

- [NetBSD 1.4.3 Released](#) (184)

Friday November 24

NetBSD 1.5/i386 Application ISOs Available

Posted by [nik](#) on Monday

January 15, @04:19AM

from the iso-csh-on-the-sea-shore dept.

hubertf writes: "The NetBSD

pkgsrc crew has released a 2-CD-set loaded with apps for NetBSD 1.5/i386. The set consists of the two files [i386pkg1.iso](#) (680MB) and [i386pkg2.iso](#) (660MB), and is also available on any [mirrors](#) of ftp.netbsd.org. See the [README](#) file that describes the contents of the CDs for more details."



([Read More...](#) | [5 of 16](#) comments)

mmEye: WebCam Which Runs NetBSD

Posted by [nik](#) on Wednesday

January 10, @04:34AM

from the NP:-Love-me-do dept.

daniel writes "This is the first I've heard of a dedicated Webcam machine that runs NetBSD. See the [mmEye](#), It's based on the [SH3](#) and its parent corp has contributed towards the [netbsd SH3 port](#) and work on SH4 support. I think this could be pretty handy for people running Webcams."



([Read More...](#) | [5 of 9](#) comments)

A Roundtable On BSD, Security, And Quality

Posted by [nik](#) on Tuesday

January 09, @01:51PM

from the no-info-on-what-colour-the-table-was dept.

mccormi writes: "[Dr. Dobb's Journal](#) is covering a [roundtable](#)



- [Got Root?](#) (33)

Tuesday November 21

- [FreeBSD 4.2 Is Out](#) (344)

Monday November 20

- [JKH on OS X](#) (35)

Wednesday November 08

- [OS X on Intel Hardware?](#) (47)

Tuesday November 07

- [BSDi In 'Survivor' Final Four](#) (14)

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with four key members of the BSD movement at the recent USENIX Security Symposium 2000. The participants emphasized that reliability and security are achieved through simplicity. Other topics included the evolving distinction between Linux and BSD, why they don't use std::string, and why no one likes IKE."

([Read More...](#) | **60** of **137** comments)

Common Misconceptions About BSD

Posted by [AilleCat](#) on Sunday

January 07, @09:02AM
from the call-me-bruce-to-clear-up-the-confusion dept.

[BSD Today](#) carries an [editorial rant](#) on the misinformation that [Tucows](#) has on their [BSD Section](#). The author wants to clear up the many misconceptions that Tucows seems to have about BSD now that they are distributing software for it. It talks specifically about licensing issues and availability.



([Read More...](#) | **23** of **41** comments)

DaemonNews Goes Print

Posted by [Hemos](#) on Wednesday

January 03, @04:35PM
from the good-for-them dept.

howardjp writes "[DaemonNews will start printing a bi-monthly print magazine starting on January 15th. The magazine will contain new original articles not found on the website. You can preorder a subscription for only 24.95 USD \(38.95 USD outside the US\) from the \[DaemonNews Mall\]\(#\).](#)"



([Read More...](#) | **45** of **137** comments)

Brand New Issue Of Daemon News

Posted by [Hemos](#) on Tuesday

January 02, @07:39AM

from the more-deveil-to-shake-a-stake-at dept.

mikey wrote to us with the news
that a new issue of [DaemonNews](#)
has been released. Get your fill of the little devil there.



([Read More...](#) | **4 of 12** comments)

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Linuxgruven, Sair And Employment Practices - updated

Posted by [timothy](#) on Tuesday

January 30, @04:15PM

from the the-truth-wants-out dept.

An unnamed correspondent writes:

"Looks like [Linuxgruven](#) has been making offers that if you pay them a few grand for them to train and [Sair](#) certify you, they will hire you on for a \$45,000/yr entry level position. Besides that fact that this smells like a scam, it seems that Sair is now in legal proceedings against Linuxgruven. Here is a link to [an e-mail from Sair](#) [Director of Courseware & Instruction Ross E. Brunson] posted on a users group mailing list." (Read more, because it gets more complicated.)



([Read More...](#) | 8578 bytes in body | 159 of 227

comments)

Clever Girl Bess

Posted by [JonKatz](#) on Tuesday

January 30, @11:15AM

from the moral-posturing-meets-greed dept.

In a revelation that perfectly demonstrates the nexus between moral posturing and greed in America, [MSNBC reported Friday](#) that tracking data on student web-surfing is being sold by one of the largest manufacturers of content-blocking software -- and in the name of protecting kids, of



Features

The latest installment of [Geeks in Space](#) is up at [The Sync](#). Listen to CmdrTaco, Hemos, and Nate talk about the latest events to happen - or not happen in the computer world.

If you enjoy [YRO](#) or [Ask Slashdot](#) stories, remember there are many in the subsection that you probably haven't read.

Check out Katz's piece on [Rethinking the Virtual Community](#) or else 1010011010's [The Landscape of Palmtop GUIs](#). Perhaps you are interested in [They Might Be Giants](#) or [Mark Edels](#) answers to their Slashdot Interview.

Update: 01/02 10:00 by [CmdrTaco](#):

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Shadow Of The Vampire

Posted by [JonKatz](#) on Sunday

January 28, @11:00AM

from the -geeks-from-Hell- dept.

If you need to escape Hype Sunday, or even if you don't, go see *Shadow Of The Vampire*. The odd and the slightly twisted will go nuts over this film by E. Elias Merhige. William Dafoe is astounding as the vampire Count Orlock, and John Malkovich is his wonderful icky and obsessive self as the director whose only moral value is getting his film made at any cost. Spoilage warning: plot is discussed, no endings. A brief and useful *Nosferatu* primer is included, free of charge.



([Read More...](#) | 7412 bytes in body | [113 of 173](#) comments)

Kids and Computers

Posted by [JonKatz](#) on Thursday

January 25, @11:45AM

from the --get-off-the-computer-and-go-outside!- dept.

A new study finds computers have become a fixture in many kid's lives at an unbelievable pace -- 72 percent of U.S. households with kids now have computers, many times the number five years ago. But the study by the Packard Foundation also finds an outrageous



Tuesday January 16

- [The Tightening Net: Part Two](#) (349)

Sunday January 14

- ['Thirteen Days'](#) (273)

Thursday January 11

- [The Tightening Net: Part One](#) (532)

Tuesday January 09

- [Voices From The Hellmouth Revisited: Part Eight](#) (13)
- [The Regulon](#) (383)

Sunday January 07

- ["Traffic"](#) (428)

Thursday January 04

- [Rethinking the Virtual Community: Part Four](#) (176)

Wednesday January 03

- [Voices From the Hellmouth: Part Seven](#) (10)

Tuesday January 02

- [The Truth About File-Sharing](#) (440)

gap in computers and Net access between rich and poor kids at home and in schools, an issue that has so far failed to arouse campus activists, the tech industry, or President Bush, who outlined his educational initiatives this week without once even mentioning computers or technology. The study also has new stats on kids and computer use by age and activity. (Read more).

([Read More...](#) | 6022 bytes in body | [184 of 252](#) comments)

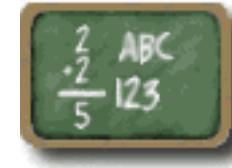
Voices From The Hellmouth Revisited: Part Ten

Posted by [JonKatz](#) on

Tuesday January 23,
@06:59PM

from the is-the-future-getting-better? dept.

This is the last in our retrospective on the columns that Jon Katz began writing after the killings at Columbine High School in 1999, followed by another handful of the many impassioned comments and emails that those columns drew, a few of which at least give hope that it is possible to tame the Hellmouth.



([Read More...](#) | 13230 bytes in body | [212 of 321](#) comments)

Making Software Suck Less

Posted by [timothy](#) on Tuesday January 23, @02:45PM
from the like-frank-lloyd-wright dept.



That much software sucks -- perhaps most of it -- is hard to dispute. Except for the simplest programs, it seems like the price of complexity is a tendency to failure. Commands don't work, user interfaces are neglected to the point of ruin, and components of even the same piece of software

Sunday December 31

- [Reviews: "O Brother" And Others](#) (238)

Thursday December 28

- [Rethinking Virtual Community: Part Three](#) (127)

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Sunday December 24

- [Review: 'Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon'](#) (250)

Thursday December 21

- [Voices From The Hellmouth Revisited: Part Seven](#) (23)
- [Rethinking The Virtual Community: Part One](#) (196)

Tuesday December 19

- [Up, Up, Down, Down: Part Four](#) (420)

Sunday December 17

- [The Emperor's New Groove](#) (254)

often clash with each other. And once you start combining them and try to use more than one application at once, sometimes the best you can hope for is an operating system that neatly segregates the problems so that your word processor doesn't take down your web browser, your IDE or your e-mail client. At least those are desktop applications for individual users, though -- the trouble compounds briskly when the common faults of software manifest in multiuser environments, where one machine going down means a wasted time and frustration for a lot of people at once. In an effort to outline the ways that software could suck less is coding, reading and writing dervish [chromatic](#).

([Read More...](#) | 7629 bytes in body | [314 of 405](#) comments)

Bush And The Tech Nation

Posted by [JonKatz](#) on Tuesday

January 23, @11:30AM
from the -tech-issues-and-the-new-govt- dept.



How will the new President affect the tech universe? In short: Fat times in the Corporate Republic, and possible abandonment of the Microsoft prosecution. Big media, telcom and chip-maker CEO's: go out and play, boys. The feds may go after "hackers" again, as Bush I did. Digital civil liberties issues will heat up as the Net Culture Wars return with a vengeance. Scientific research and politics will mix, as with RU-486 and some gene mapping issues. Open, de-centralized, bottom-up Net media will mushroom. Good times for tech defense workers and the makers of blocking software. Jump in with your own predictions.

([Read More...](#) | 14279 bytes in body | [485 of 744](#) comments)

Thursday December 14

- [Voices From The Hellmouth Revisited: Part Six](#) (16)
- [Up, Up, Down, Down: Part Three](#) (409)

Monday December 11

- [Gifts For Geeks](#) (347)

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Quick Links

Quick Links

'Snatch'

Posted by [JonKatz](#) on Sunday

January 21, @10:10AM

from the -tech-culture-movie-nodes- dept.



If a movie could have ADD, *Snatch* would be it. An eye popping, furiously-paced melange of graphics, jump cuts and freeze-frames, it's a black-humored (*very* black-humored) look at the underside of London, as experienced by an exotic band of thugs, promoters, thieves, gypsies and hustlers. Warning: Plot is discussed but nothing is given away. Please add your own reviews, as usual.

([Read More...](#) | 2485 bytes in body | **149 of 241** comments)

The Myth Of The Tech Slump

Posted by [JonKatz](#) on Thursday

January 18, @10:00AM

from the good-riddance-to-the-dotcom-era dept.



The latest media-transmitted meme about technology and the Net is that the tech world is in the midst of a slump. This is true only if you define technology's overall status by dotcom stock prices. If the dotcom era is really over, good riddance. Maybe we can forget about dog and cosmetic sites, venture capitalists, copyright and lawsuits for a bit. Some of the tech world's most interesting innovations -- from the Net and Web to mom and pop online retailing to countless individual web pages to file-sharing to Freenet to P2P programs, AI to gene mapping -- have been developed far from venture capital cash. (Read more).

([Read More...](#) | 9741 bytes in body | **168 of 239** comments)

Voices From the Hellmouth Revisited: Part Nine

Posted by [JonKatz](#) on
Tuesday January 16,
@06:42PM
from the and-weep dept.



Below: More comments
spawned by Jon Katz' columns
on the events in Colorado. These words speak for
themselves.

([Read More...](#) | [12705 bytes in body](#) | [7 of 12](#)
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[faq](#)[code](#)[osdn](#)[awards](#)[privacy](#)[slashNET](#)[older stuff](#)[rob's page](#)[preferences](#)[submit story](#)encyclopedia project and Michael S. Hart of [Project](#)[advertising](#) [Gutenberg](#), which Hart [started in 1971](#). The two projects

are very different -- Nupedia is creating an encyclopedia, while PG is creating an open-ended database of public domain and out-of-copyright texts -- but they are similar in that both projects' primary goal is free (beer and speech) access to information. Post questions (one per post, please) below for Wales and/or Hart about their creations (or any related topic). We'll send 10 of the highest-moderated

questions to them tomorrow, and will publish their answers as soon as they get them back to us.

([Read More...](#) | [68 of 95](#) comments)**Sections**[1/30](#)[apache](#)[2/2 \(11\)](#)[askslashdot](#)[1/27](#)[awards](#)[2/2](#)[books](#)[2/1 \(2\)](#)[bsd](#)[1/30](#)[features](#)[1/29](#)[interviews](#)[1/9](#)[radio](#)[2/2 \(5\)](#)[science](#)

Ask FCC Chief Technologist David J. Farber

Posted by [Roblimo](#) on Monday

January 22, @12:00PM

from the straight-from-the-source dept.

[Professor David J. Farber](#), a true Internet pioneer, has been featured on many of the "100 most important people online" and "visionaries to watch" lists that trendwatchers like to put out, started the famous [Interesting-](#)

Ask About Open Source Online Info

Resources

Posted by [Roblimo](#) on Monday

January 29, @12:00PM

from the helping-information-be-free dept.

This is a "double header" interview.

Our guests are [Jimmy Wales](#) of the recently-started [Nupedia](#) open contentencyclopedia project and Michael S. Hart of [Project](#)[advertising](#) [Gutenberg](#), which Hart [started in 1971](#). The two projects are very different -- Nupedia is creating an encyclopedia, while PG is creating an open-ended database of public domain and out-of-copyright texts -- but they are similar in that both projects' primary goal is free (beer and speech) access to information. Post questions (one per post, please) below for Wales and/or Hart about their creations (or any related topic). We'll send 10 of the highest-moderated

questions to them tomorrow, and will publish their answers as soon as they get them back to us.

Older Stuff

Thursday December 21

- [Answers From 'They Might Be Giants'](#) (142)
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- [Answers About Bastille Linux From Jon & Jay](#) (104)

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[People](#) e-mail list, and was an [expert witness](#) in the Microsoft antitrust trial. In real life, he's a professor at the [University of Pennsylvania](#), but since January 2000 he has served as the [FCC's Chief Technologist](#), a position that usually carries a one-year tenure, which means he may be leaving (literally) at any moment. What to ask? Up to you. Take a look at the linked pages first, then post questions below (one per post, please). We'll send 10 of the highest-moderated ones tomorrow, and publish Prof. Farber's answers as soon as he gets them back to us.

([Read More...](#) | [100](#) of [140](#) comments)

Robert Watson on FreeBSD and TrustedBSD

Posted by [Roblimo](#) on Thursday

January 18, @12:00PM

from the telling-it-the-way-it-is dept.

Last Friday we [solicited questions](#) for Robert Watson, hard-core [FreeBSD](#) and [TrustedBSD](#) developer. His answers (below) are breathtakingly deep and instructive. Whether you're "just curious" about BSD or a FreeBSD user who wants to see what's going on with the inner circle of developers, you'll want to spend the time it takes to read everything here, and possibly even send Mr. Watson a brief "thank you" email.

([Read More...](#) | [28203](#) bytes in body | [91](#) of [206](#) comments)

Learn From Robert Watson Of FreeBSD And TrustedBSD

Posted by [Roblimo](#) on Friday

January 12, @12:00PM

from the many-faces-of-*bsd dept.

Robert Watson is a core developer for [FreeBSD](#), and a member of the [TrustedBSD](#) project. He is one of the best people in the world to ask about FreeBSD security, and about FreeBSD development in general. Please post



- [More Candidate Answers - Bush and Hagelin](#) (991)

Wednesday November 01

- [Help Bush and Gore Answer Slashdot Questions](#) (527)

Tuesday October 31

- [The Full Nader Plus a Taste of Bush and Gore](#) (1863)
- [Ask Jon And Jay About Bastille Linux](#) (143)

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- [Mark Edel Answers Project Leadership Questions](#) (61)

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- [Presidential Answers, Round One](#) (946)

Friday October 20

- [Indrema's John Gildred Answers Your Questions](#) (134)

Wednesday October 18

- [Leading A Low-Profile Free Software Project](#) (206)

Monday October 16

your questions below. We'll send 10 of the highest-moderated ones to Watson by email, and post his responses verbatim as soon as we get them back.

([Read More...](#) | [142 of 295](#) comments)

Andre Hedrick On Hard Drive Copy Protection

Posted by [Roblimo](#) on Wednesday

January 10, @11:30AM

from the not-quite-as-bleak-as-you-think dept.

Andre Hedrick, Linux ATA dude and member of [the committee](#) that sets ATA hard drive interface standards, got [your questions](#) by email yesterday, and we got his answers back this morning. He gives us the inside dope about latest attempt by various copyright-worried industry heavies to stop you from using files in ways they dislike, spiced with a fair amount of humor, because... well, because Andre's just that kind of guy (and we like him that way!)



([Read More...](#) | [8947 bytes in body](#) | [143 of 238](#) comments)

Ask Andre Hedrick About Hard Drive Copy Protection

Posted by [Roblimo](#) on Monday

January 08, @12:00PM

from the word-from-the-insiders dept.

You've read about it [here on Slashdot](#) and [elsewhere](#): How the [4C Entity](#) is developing copy protection mechanisms for removable drives (floppies, DVDs, etc.) that can also be used on hard drives. But Linux kernel hacker [Andre Hedrick](#), member of both [linux-ide.org](#) and the industry-wide [Technical Committee T.13](#) that sets ATA hard drive interface standards, has been [raising a ruckus](#) about copy protection on your hard drive, and he, along with EFF and EPIC, is trying to get this idea killed (or at least muted). So post any questions you have for Andre about this whole thing



- [Ask the Presidential Candidates](#) (1312)

Friday October 13

- [Answers from Carnivore Reviewer](#)
[Henry H. Perrit, Jr.](#) (300)

Thursday October 05

- [Talk to One of the Chief Carnivore Reviewers](#) (116)

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below, and tomorrow we'll shoot 10 of the highest-moderated ones to him by email. We'll post Andre's answers as soon as he has time to get them back to us, which may be a bit because, he warns, "everyone else is hounding me ..."

([Read More...](#) | **166 of 245** comments)

Jason Haas on LinuxPPC -- and Drunk Drivers

Posted by [Roblimo](#) on Friday January

05, @12:00PM

from the attack-of-the-Linux-Mac-people dept.

We got a bunch of cool questions Monday for LinuxPPC dude (and recent near-death drunk driver accident victim) Jason Haas. Here, today, are his responses.



([Read More...](#) | 12511 bytes in body | **150 of 251** comments)

Ask LinuxPPC Co-Founder Jason Haas

Posted by [Roblimo](#) on Tuesday

January 02, @12:30PM

from the not-Lazarus-but-plays-him-on-the-Internet dept.

Jason Haas is co-founder, marketing director, and Web manager for [LinuxPPC](#) and an all-around good Linux guy. He's also majorly anti-drunk driving these days, because last March a drunk driver ran into his car and left it looking like [this](#). Jason was left in [only slightly better shape](#) himself, but unlike his Honda, he eventually recovered (with major help and support from his wife, Cassie) and went back to work. Ask Jason what you will; about out-of-control SUVs (I don't think he likes them), Linux on PowerPCs (something he likes a lot) or anything else. Post your questions below. Tomorrow we'll forward 10 of the highest-moderated ones to him, and we'll expect his answers back in a week or so.



([Read More...](#) | **198 of 315** comments)

The Ordinary Slashdot User Answers

Posted by [Roblimo](#) on Friday

December 29, @10:00AM

from the you-don't-have-to-be-famous-to-be-here dept.

Hmmm... seems quite a few people (judging from email I've gotten) have figured out that this week's interview guest, Clinton Ebadi, is the 'unknown_lamer' who frequents irc.openprojects.net, not that this was a great secret or anything. Anyway, Clinton has a pretty good sense of humor about himself and this whole thing, and I think it shows through clearly in his answers (below) to [your questions](#).



([Read More...](#) | 14287 bytes in body | **284 of 407** comments)

Ask An Ordinary Teenage Slashdot User

Posted by [Roblimo](#) on Tuesday

December 26, @12:00PM

from the voices-from-the-gallery dept.

These interviews have gotten pretty celebrity-oriented lately. To break the routine, this week's guest is an unknown, 15-year-old, Linux-using, Slashdot-reading high school sophomore named Clinton Ebadi I met at a [local LUG](#) meeting. Clinton's mom, who drove him to the meeting (his first), was happily surprised to find that there was a large group of people (of all ages) out there who instantly accepted and respected her son; his relatives, teachers, and classmates looked at him and saw nothing but a slightly strange, slightly pudgy loner. So ask Clinton anything you like about being a kid geek (a living, breathing Katz character, you might say) or anything else, including [MentalUNIX](#) or the ncurses-based front end he's working on for [Splay](#). Post questions for Clinton below. We'll send him 10 selected ones by e-mail, and expect his answers within a week or so.



([Read More...](#) | **475** of **803** comments)

He who knows others is wise. He who knows himself is enlightened. -- Lao Tsu

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Turbo Nitrous Version

Posted by [CowboyNeal](#) onTuesday January 09,
@10:09AM

from the lost-episodes dept.

Well, it's been a long time since we've had an update to the radio section, and that's partly due to us not recording the show very often. Also, it's in part that we lost this show and found it later, or something. So anyway, from deep within the [GiS vaults](#) is yet another episode. It features special guest [Jamie McCarthy](#), from Slashdot's own YRO section, as well as Dune discussion, anti-aliasing lust, and more.

([Read More...](#) | [16 of 18](#) comments)

Geeks in Space

[Geeks in Space](#) is Slashdot's "Whenever we feel like it" radio broadcast. Brought to you by [The Sync](#), and hosted by CmdrTaco, Hemos, Nate, CowboyNeal, and whoever else we can fit in the spare bedroom in my house.

We talk about whatever we feel like. Sometimes it makes sense, usually it doesn't. But check it out anyway. We like it.

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Hemos The Iron Chef

Posted by [CowboyNeal](#) onFriday November 17,
@01:00PM

from the i-dunno-why-he's-all-about-potatoes dept.

So [Hemos](#) decided he should stop back in Holland to visit some family, pick up some comic books, and eventually visit the [Blockstackers](#) office. We felt that was reason enough to record [a new episode](#). We talk about TiVo hacks, the Napster/BMG agreement, and I ask everyone for Bloody Mary recipes.

([Read More...](#) | [55 of 132](#) comments)

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Live From The Garden

Posted by CowboyNeal on

Friday October 27,

@01:55PM

from the but-we-dunno-which-one dept.



After another extra long pause, we're back with another installment, this time with Chris DiBona, man of many titles, and also the benevolent soul who found me a place to sleep at ALS. In this episode, we talk about bootable Linux games on CD, SQL, life as video game art, fancy chairs, and a healthy dose of anime as well.

([Read More...](#) | **16** of **19** comments)

Old programmers never die, they just branch to a new address.

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"Mirror cells" May Be Key To Communication

Posted by [Hemos](#) on Friday February

02, @03:52PM

from the pretty-cool-story dept.

[tag](#) writes "[New Scientist](#) has an [article](#)

discussing 'mirror cells' -- neurons that

[preferences](#) fire both when you perform an action

[submit story](#) and when you observe someone else performing that

[advertising](#) action. Researches think this explains how we 'judge

[supporters](#) intentions and feelings' and may 'answer important

[past polls](#) questions about human evolution, language and culture.'

The article links to an [essay](#) by one of the researchers."



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NEAR Shoemaker Touchdown Coming Up

Posted by [michael](#) on Friday

February 02, @02:13PM

from the bombs-away dept.

[iso9k](#) writes "As reported from

[Space.com](#): The first asteroid

touchdown in history is slated for Feb. 12 as NEAR

Shoemaker attempts to gently drop itself onto the battered and boulder-strewn surface of Asteroid 433 Eros. The

NEAR team itself is out of money for operations. They are out of Deep Space Network tracking time. And the probe

itself almost out of fuel. This will be the first time that the

United States has been to another body where we are the first ones to land. The race's to the Moon, Venus and Mars

were won by the former Soviet Union. The chances of the probe making a successful touchdown: less than 1%.



Older Stuff

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On the eve of Feb 11 and 12 look up to the heavens and wish our little probe good luck and thank it for its dedication and service."

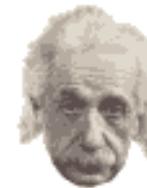
([Read More...](#) | [6 comments](#))

Fluorescent Silver

Posted by [michael](#) on Friday February 02, @04:13AM

from the day-glow-gold dept.

[humtibum](#) writes: "Sciencedaily has an article on Nanoclusters of 2-8 Silver Atoms that may be the basis for new optical storage techniques: read it [here](#)."



([Read More...](#) | [4 of 8 comments](#))

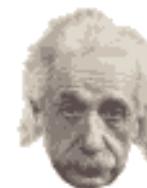
Completely Artificial Hearts Approved

Posted by [michael](#) on Thursday

February 01, @11:34PM

from the perfect-valentine's-day-gift dept.

DarrylM writes: "From [CBC's web page](#): 'The first people to have completely artificial hearts could be walking around by July . . . The new artificial hearts fit right into the chest cavity, with a battery pack positioned in the recipient's thorax. The designers said they wanted patients to show no external sign they had an artificial heart.'" Hmmm. I thought the Jarvik-7 was the first artificial heart...



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Hubble Looks More Closely @ Ant Nebula

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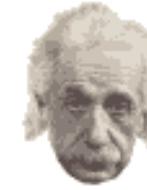
[Older Articles](#)

Posted by Hemos on Thursday

February 01, @01:01PM

from the purty dept.

avandesande writes "[CNN](#) is reporting on a new [ant-shaped nebula](#) that has been discovered. The story is short, but I think that this nebula belongs in the 'top 20 cool looking things in space' list."



([Read More...](#) | **6 of 8** comments)

New GPS Satellite Launched

Posted by michael on Tuesday

January 30, @03:39PM

from the lost-in-space dept.

zonker writes "A U.S. Air Force Delta 2 rocket launched a [new GPS satellite](#) today to add to the collection of 27 up there. This new GPS satellite is one of seven now in orbit as a replacement for an earlier generation of GPS. May be of interest to the GPS folks out there."



([Read More...](#) | **9 of 11** comments)

Ride the Vomit Comet

Posted by michael on Tuesday

January 30, @12:53PM

from the world's-most-expensive-roller-coaster dept.

Stranger4U writes "NASA and the Texas Space Grant Consortium have [this program](#) which gives undergraduate college students a chance to design a zero-g experiment and then fly it on their special KC-135 "Vomit Comet." The Vomit Comet is flown in thirty parabolic loops, each loop having a thirty-second period of near zero gravity."



([Read More...](#) | **10 of 12** comments)

Compounds Necessary For Life 'All Over Space'

Posted by [michael](#) on Tuesday

January 30, @08:01AM

from the let-there-be-ultraviolet-light dept.

[Kupek](#) writes: "[The Washington Post](#) is carrying a [story](#) about how simple chemicals, when in space, form structures that resemble the membranes found in all life on Earth. "This discovery implies that life could be everywhere in the universe," said Louid Allamandola of NASA's Ames Research Center in Silicon Valley. Instead of the life process happening entirely on a planet capable of supporting life, it is proposed that some of the process takes place in space."



([Read More...](#) | [122](#) of [172](#) comments)

Intellectual Property And The AIDS Crisis

Posted by [michael](#) on Sunday

January 28, @10:12AM

from the dollars-vs.-deaths dept.

Karl Chang writes: "[The New York Times Magazine](#) cover story on AIDS is basically an expose on how the drug companies are trying to keep their profits at the expense of the lives of those in the third-world. Some shocking statistics are included about the spread of the epidemic and the markup on the drugs. Interestingly enough, the claim of patents being needed to finance new research is rebutted with the statistic that two-thirds of the drug companies costs are in marketing and administration; the bulk of their costs aren't in R&D. [Read the story](#)."



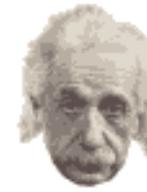
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Rice Genome Mapped

Posted by [michael](#) on Sunday January 28, @12:01AM

from the now-you're-cooking dept.

[rampant_gerbil](#) writes: "[Apparently](#) a company called Syngenta has sequenced the entire genome of the rice plant. [Here](#) is a link to the corporate press release. As the story points out, "Rice is the model for the other grasses, including corn and wheat," so this sounds like quite a milestone. Now if only they would engineer some nacho cheese flavor into those rice cakes..."



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Jeff's No Brainer Web Page

So, having left this site sitting here for almost a year without any sort of update, [Scoop's personal website](#) has inspired me to start doing something more with this site.

Here's to hoping that the inspiration isn't a flash in the pan. I've been musing lately about my recent [experiences with quicken](#), as well as [airlines](#).

in the grand tradition of one of my closest associates, [nate oostendorp](#), i have elected to construct one of the easiest web pages on the planet. if you want neat, go to [Rob's Page](#). or you can go to the main place i work on, the redoubtable [slashdot.org](#) (which we've [sold](#) to [Andover.net](#), a great bunch of people). Of course, since I wrote that, we've merged with [VA Linux Systems](#). Like before, it's a good bunch of people - which goes to show that [people make work interesting](#).

what else do i do? i work for [blockstackers](#), a small firm that is basically an umbrella to all the things in life that [we](#) like to do. I also play computer games - most recently [Baldur's Gate II](#), although some [Diablo II](#), and [SimCity 3000 Unlimited](#). I run Linux. I listen to a [huge assortment of music](#) as well, but particularly enjoy ambient music. I'm also very interested in [nanotechnology](#).

i like to read (and you can see what I'm [reading](#) right now) and not just on the computer screen. if you want to read, you should read things like Neil Gaiman, Terry Prachett, Robert Heinlein, Frank Herbert, William S. Burroughs, Kerouac, James Joyce, Shakespeare, Stephen Ambrose and Douglas Coupland. They've all got things to say, and say them well, and you should listen to them. But you should also listen to what you have to say. You should write that down, and keep that somewhere, because in seven hours, you aren't going to be able to recall this moment. That's one of the biggest lessons in life.

why should you listen to me? well, no particular reason-other then i think i've learned a bunch of neat stuff about computers, but more to the point, how computers and people work together. because it doesn't matter how good computers can be-we have to use it. and we need to, because technology is only going to get cooler. i am eagerly awaiting the day for nanotech. my significant other thinks differently. but that's ok-because people need to think different things. besides, she brought her daughter into the world, who is the apple of my eye.

on other occasions, i've taken the time to [write](#) things down. due to bad luck, as epitomized by a big house fire, i've lost much of my writing, but what i have...well.

and for those of you who wonder where the name hemos came from, perhaps an [answer can be found](#).

write this moment down

Iron Chef

Genre: Comedy.

Studio: Columbia Pictures.

Production Company: Unknown.

Project Phase: Development Hell.

Who's In It: Unknown.

Who's Making It: Jeff Eastin, George Doty, Craig Mazin (*Screenwriters*); Neal Moritz, Erik Feig (*Producers*); based on the television series *Ryori no tetsujin* (*Iron Chef*) produced by Fuji International Network.

Premise: Can a short-order cook rise from the grills of obscurity to defeat the legendary Iron Chef? He'll soon find out amidst a battlefield of heated stove-top burners.

Release Date: Unknown.

Comments: Unknown.

Rumors: Unknown.

Scoop Feedback:

February 1, 2001... Hollywood is no stranger to buying the rights for properties that, upon first glance, might make for some bizarre movies. Such is the case for this film to be partially based on the cult hit Japanese cooking show *Iron Chef* (and shame on you if you don't know what Kitchen Stadium is!)

For those unfamiliar with the popular Japanese series, in a nutshell *Iron Chef* is kind of like the food version of **Gladiator** meets *Monday Night Football*: it's a cooking show that pits the challenging chef against the reigning Iron Chef in a culinary challenge. Surrounded by their respective teams of assistants, each chef must come up with a number of courses all based upon that show's secret ingredient all within one hour. Color commentators observe and explain the frantic activity of the chefs, offering their speculation of what they could be preparing. At the conclusion of the hour, a panel of celebrity judges will then taste and judge the meals, awarding the prestigious mantle of victor upon the creator of the best

tasting meal!

The show was insanely popular when it debuted in Japan back in 1993, and now it's been discovered by North American audiences thanks to *The Food Network*. Although the regular series is no longer in production, *Iron Chef* specials still happen and are broadcast on Japanese TV four or five times a year. Last year the Chefs and Takeshi Kaga, the show's creator (his on-screen persona is kind of like WWF's Vince McMahon), travelled to New York City for a major Iron Chef contest. Currently there are over 300 episodes of *Iron Chef* in syndication.

Part of the joy of watching *Iron Chef* is watching the deadly serious chefs frantically cooking and the panelists as they observe the chaos happening inside Kitchen Stadium. The North American shows are also dubbed in English, which gives viewers a bizarre perspective, like watching older **Godzilla** movies that have been translated from the original Japanese.

The film rights for the Fuji International TV show were picked up a couple of years ago and a script by Jeff Eastin ([True Lies 2](#), *Shasta McNasty*) and George Doty (**Where the Red Fern Grows**) was commissioned. The Eastin/Doty script never seemed to advance the film's development, and now we're told that comedy guy Craig Mazin (who directed last year's [The Specials](#)) has just been hired to do a page one rewrite of the script.

[*Diced up for us by the Unknown Iron Chef.*]

For a fun spoof on the whole concept of the series, check out Steve Iervolino's six minute short film on *iFilm*, [Lego Chef](#). Iron Chef Morimoto, Dr. Hattori, Fukui and all the regulars are in it -- as well as a special appearance by celebrity Lego judge Sean Connery. [*Originally appeared on iFilm.*]

Related Sites:

[The Official Japanese Iron Chef Website](#) -- Produced by Fuji International Network, the company that makes the program.

[Iron Chef Compendium](#) -- The best *Iron Chef* website we found. They've got a complete list of all the *IC* episodes (by date and by ingredient!), profiles of the chefs and judges and lots of info about the show's popularity.

RUMOR
CENTRAL

FILM SCOOP?
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Friday, February 2

NOW SHOWING**VIEW NOW**
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RATE THIS FILM**Lego Chef**[Steve Iervolino](#)

Running Time:

6:00 min

10 = Excellent

Viewer Rating:

7.60

Number of Views:

40,340

I became pretty obsessed with Iron Chef after seeing it for the first time on Food Network over a year ago. At 2:30 one morning, it hit me just how absurdly I could spoof it - the result is the film you're about to see.

I pulled music and other sound from Iron Chef, but needed to fill the gaps in here and there with regards to the voiceover stuff. So I performed the voices of show regulars Dr. Hattori, Fukui, Ohta, Judge Kanoh, and Iron Chef Morimoto here and there throughout the movie.

I also did Sean Connery's voice, because the concept of him on the panel was so bizarre, and the toy looked like him circa Red October -- and there's always one uncomfortable actor in the judging booth.

As fans of Iron Chef know, the judging panel almost always has that photographer guy Tenmei Kanoh, at least one ditzy Asian ingenue, and a fortune teller or a food critic -- so I supplied those as well, with one of my co-workers filling in the female voices.

[email to a friend >](#)
REVIEWS**INFO**
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reruncrazy:
AWESOME!!!
INFO
Crew:
 Stacy Horton: various voices
 Mike LoBasso: co-editor
 Jennifer Lemiech: advisor

noodlemen:
 VERY funny, if you know the show. The Neons were a stroke of brilliance. I'm just surprised that the host's over-the-top wardrobe wasn't lampooned...Thanks for the laughs.

Genres:
[Comedy](#)
[Animation](#)
[Spoof](#)
musashi26:

Right on. Long live the iron chef!,er,I mean lego

benderbender:

Food Network HAS to air this!!!

erik11:

This seems mostly like an exercise. He did a good job of recreating the show with a handful of Legos and lots of original sounds but I can't figure out why I'd want to watch that. With an original idea I think Steve could make a great film.

sonicdog:

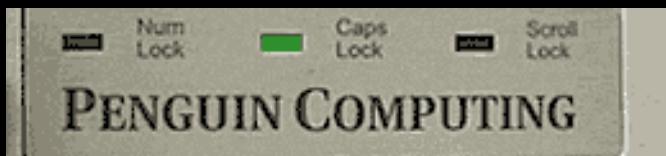
this shouldn't be in the "animation" category-- it looks more like puppetry (moving the Lego characters back and forth with wires does not constitute animation). Nice work repainting the Lego figures, and the interspersion of full-size footage.

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"Iron Chef": The Movie?

Posted by [Hemos](#) on Friday February 02,

@06:45PM

from the color-me-disturbed dept.

[imac usr](#) writes "Well, [Coming Attractions](#)

never lies. Coming soon to a theater near you. Be sure to follow their link to the [Lego Chef](#) as well on *iFilm*." Words escape me.



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[\(User #243769 Info\)](#)

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(User #164490 Info)

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(User #195030 Info) <http://www.sulli.org>

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sulli

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([User #218197 Info](#))

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--

"Jesus may love you, but I think you're garbage wrapped in skin."

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by [OzPeter](#) (Peter@Peace.with.the.world.com.au) on Friday February 02, @07:01PM EST ([#30](#))
([User #195038 Info](#))

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Yes, Hemos, they typically do.

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- [Re:Iron chef almost always wins.](#) by adjensen (Score:1) Friday February 02, @07:26PM EST
- [Re:Iron chef almost always wins.](#) by atrowe (Score:1) Friday February 02, @07:32PM EST

Today's Theme Ingredient... (Score:2)

by [sconeu](#) (pseudo-hacker formerly at ucsc dot edu) on Friday February 02, @07:15PM EST ([#43](#))
[\(User #64226 Info\)](#)

Beowulf Clusters!

They that can give up essential liberty to obtain a little temporary safety deserve neither liberty nor safety. - B.F.

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...hollywood is butchering another Japanese legend (Score:1)

by [Ikari Gendou](#) (*****igendou@hotmail.com) on Friday February 02, @07:20PM EST ([#47](#))
[\(User #93109 Info\)](#)

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- Iron Chef BBQ
- Iron Chef Vegetarian

And the mysterious 4th Iron Chef...

- Iron Chef Leftovers

So who would you cast to play the Iron Chefs, if you couldn't get the real thing?

The Wright Brothers weren't the first to fly. They were just the first not to crash.

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```

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"Yo-mi-guy-ru-eye-yon-sheff!!!!" (Score:1)

by [kstumpf](#) (ken@nospamstumpf.com) on Friday February 02, @07:23PM EST ([#51](#))
[\(User #218897 Info\)](#)

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If you aren't into Iron Chef yet, you simply must check it out. There's a great Iron Chef site at www.ironchef.com. See their great [FAQ](#) if you're new to it.

For a real treat, watch Iron Chef while drunk.

It is fun to have fun.

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Catching Iron Chef on Food Network (Score:1)

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[\(User #61003 Info\)](#)

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Phantom Pain?

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But it's even longer. Then you might as well use [this one](#).

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He who knows others is wise. He who knows himself is enlightened. -- Lao Tsu

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"Iron Chef": The Movie?

Posted by [Hemos](#) on Friday February 02, @06:45PM



from the color-me-disturbed dept.

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"Iron Chef": The Movie?

Posted by [Hemos](#) on Friday February 02, @06:45PM

from the color-me-disturbed dept.

[imac usr](#) writes "Well, [Coming](#)

[Attractions](#) never lies. Coming soon to
a theater near you. Be sure to follow their link to the
[Lego Chef](#) as well on iFilm." Words escape me.



< [The Transmeta Pushme-Pullyou?](#)

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frist post (Score:-1, Troll)

by Anonymous Coward on Friday February 02, @06:46PM EST ([#1](#))

booyaka

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- [Re:frist post](#) by Anonymous Coward Friday February 02, @06:51PM EST

2/2 (5)

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\$la\$hdot sucks (Score:0, Troll)

by \$la\$hdot on Friday February 02, @06:46PM EST ([#2](#))

([User #312361 Info](#))

Yes, I do.

[[Reply to This](#) | [Parent](#)]

comedy? (Score:1)

by [UVaRob](#) (farraher@nospam.virginia.edu) on Friday February 02, @06:47PM EST ([#3](#))

([User #243769 Info](#))

Have they ever even seen this show? I mean it's far out but I don't think this as a comedy would have a leg to stand on.

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4th post (Score:-1, Troll)

by Anonymous Coward on Friday February 02, @06:47PM EST ([#4](#))

[Keepin it real](#)

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- [Please don't waste bandwidth](#) by \$la\$hdot Friday February 02, @06:50PM EST
 - [Re:Please don't waste bandwidth](#) by Anonymous Coward Friday February 02, @06:55PM EST
 - [Re:Please don't waste bandwidth](#) by \$la\$hdot (Score:1) Friday February 02, @06:57PM EST
 - [Re:Please don't waste bandwidth](#) by Anonymous Coward Friday February 02, @07:00PM EST

Lego Chef is much better... (Score:1)

by [landaker](#) ([wjl at mindless dot com](mailto:wjl@mindless dot com)) on Friday February 02, @06:48PM EST ([#5](#))

([User #141792 Info](#)) <http://www.landaker.net>

The Lego Chef link was much more interesting than the original link.

Not to say it won't be a funny movie, but hey: given the choice between legos now and a movie later, what would you chose? ;)

--

Wes Landaker - [wjl at mindless dot com](mailto:wjl@mindless dot com)

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Europe for Europeans! (1) (Score:-1, Flamebait)

by Anonymous Coward on Friday February 02, @06:49PM EST ([#6](#))

Sieg Heil!

(1) Albanians/Kosovars Excluded!

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penis (Score:0)

by Anonymous Coward on Friday February 02, @06:50PM EST ([#8](#))

my penis hurts

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- [Re:penis](#) by \$la\$hdot (Score:1) Friday February 02, @06:52PM EST
 - [Re:penis](#) by Anonymous Coward Friday February 02, @06:53PM EST

manpussy (Score:-1, Informative)

by Anonymous Coward on Friday February 02, @06:51PM EST ([#9](#))

do you like my manpussy?

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- [Re:manpussy](#) by Anonymous Coward Friday February 02, @07:02PM EST
- [Re:manpussy](#) by Anonymous Coward Friday February 02, @07:03PM EST
 - [Re:manpussy](#) by \$la\$hdot (Score:1) Friday February 02, @07:05PM EST
 - [Re:manpussy](#) by Anonymous Coward Friday February 02, @07:07PM EST
 - [Re:manpussy](#) by Anonymous Coward Friday February 02, @07:06PM EST

Starring Beeker and the Sweedish Chef (Score:1)

by vandelais on Friday February 02, @06:53PM EST ([#12](#))

([User #164490 Info](#))

Hyurde furhy Slasha dota Bork Bork Bork!!!

"Not only do I not know what's going on, I wouldn't know what to do about it if I did." -- George Carlin

[[Reply to This](#) | [Parent](#)]

Oh no.. (Score:0)

by Anonymous Coward on Friday February 02, @06:53PM EST ([#13](#))

Awwww, man. Now you've gone and done it.

- Trollificus, the banned.

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- [Re:Oh no..](#) by Anonymous Coward Friday February 02, @07:19PM EST
 - [Re:Oh no..](#) by \$la\$hdot (Score:1) Friday February 02, @07:24PM EST
 - [Re:Oh no..](#) by Anonymous Coward Friday February 02, @07:34PM EST

Suid Afrika for Suid Afrikaner! (Score:-1, Flamebait)
by Anonymous Coward on Friday February 02, @06:53PM EST ([#15](#))

Sterilize the niggers!

[[Reply to This](#) | [Parent](#)]

- [Re:Suid Afrika for Suid Afrikaner!](#) by Anonymous Coward Friday February 02, @06:55PM EST

oh yeah (Score:0)

by Anonymous Coward on Friday February 02, @06:54PM EST ([#16](#))

suck my dick baby. slide it between your red wet lips. make your tongue dance over my rod of steel.

[[Reply to This](#) | [Parent](#)]

So is... (Score:1, Offtopic)

by [sulli](#) (slashdot_comments at sulli dot org) on Friday February 02, @06:55PM EST ([#19](#))
(User #195030 Info) <http://www.sulli.org>

[Hemos](#) starring?

sulli

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iFilm suxxx. AtomFilms r00lz. (Score:0, Troll)

by cpeterso on Friday February 02, @06:56PM EST ([#20](#))

(User #19082 Info) <http://www.geocities.com/fatpeoplearehardertokidnap2000/>

iFilm suxxx. [AtomFilms](#) r00lz.

[cpeterso](#)

[[Reply to This](#) | [Parent](#)]

Australia for Australians! (Score:-1, Flamebait)

by Anonymous Coward on Friday February 02, @06:56PM EST ([#21](#))

kill the chinks and nigger-wannabees!

[[Reply to This](#) | [Parent](#)]

- [Re:Australia for Australians!](#) by Anonymous Coward Friday February 02, @06:57PM EST

Crouching Mutton, Hidden Asparagus (Score:3, Funny)

by TrevorB on Friday February 02, @06:57PM EST ([#22](#))

(User #57780 Info) <http://www.arbutus.cx/>

Just get the same crew who did Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon to do the special effects. Or at least the intro.

I can see Chen Kenichi flying through mid air attacking Morimoto holding his blowtorch...

[[Reply to This](#) | [Parent](#)]

- [Re:Crouching Mutton, Hidden Asparagus](#) by boinger (Score:1) Friday February 02, @07:22PM EST

*** iron chef - movie TRAILER *** (Score:-1, Troll)

by Anonymous Coward on Friday February 02, @06:57PM EST ([#25](#))

Icon Chef Trailer: [ictrailer.mpg](#)

[[Reply to This](#) | [Parent](#)]

- [Re:* iron chef - movie TRAILER *](#) by Anonymous Coward Friday February 02, @06:59PM EST
- [Re:* iron chef - movie TRAILER *](#) by Anonymous Coward Friday February 02, @07:05PM EST

Mmmmm.....the texture is smooth (Score:1)

by DNAspark99 on Friday February 02, @06:58PM EST ([#26](#))

(User #218197 Info)

Those guys can make fried dog shit taste good.

--

"Jesus may love you, but I think you're garbage wrapped in skin."

[[Reply to This](#) | [Parent](#)]

Tasmania for the Tasmanians! (Score:-1, Flamebait)

by Anonymous Coward on Friday February 02, @07:01PM EST ([#29](#))

kill the white pigs!

[[Reply to This](#) | [Parent](#)]

Hmm .. Japanese cooking movie ... (Score:1)

by [OzPeter](#) (Peter@Peace.with.the.world.com.au) on Friday February 02, @07:01PM EST

([#30](#))

(User #195038 Info)

All I can say is **Tampopo**

I bet no Iron Chef movie can match those sex scenes :-)

[[Reply to This](#) | [Parent](#)]

- [Re:Hmm .. Japanese cooking movie ...](#) by Anonymous Coward Friday February 02, @07:10PM EST
 - [Re:Hmm .. Japanese cooking movie ...](#) by Anonymous Coward Friday February 02, @07:23PM EST

Nothing new here (Score:3, Funny)

by Anonymous Coward on Friday February 02, @07:04PM EST ([#33](#))

Hemos: *Words escape me*

Yes, Hemos, they typically do.

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Cmdrtaco (Score:0)

by Anonymous Coward on Friday February 02, @07:07PM EST ([#38](#))

i WANT CMDRtaco to ram me up the ass.

Cmdrtaco, use your network technology and contact me for this.

[[Reply to This](#) | [Parent](#)]

Cameo Appearance? (Score:1)

by FrostyWheaton on Friday February 02, @07:12PM EST ([#40](#))

(User #263146 Info) <http://www.penuel.net>

Will they have the French Shef from the Muppets do a cameo appearance??

The simplest act of surrealism is to walk out into the street, gun in hand, and shoot at random

André Breton

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- [Re:Cameo Appearance?](#) by Anonymous Coward Friday February 02, @07:15PM EST
- [Re:Cameo Appearance?](#) by Anonymous Coward Friday February 02, @07:16PM EST

Iron chef almost always wins. (Score:2, Interesting)

by tie_guy_matt on Friday February 02, @07:14PM EST ([#41](#))

([User #176397 Info](#))

I am not sure if he always wins because he is a better chef or not. I think the judges shouldn't be allowed to know whose food they are eating. Also it seems that while the judges are all Japanese sometimes the Iron chef's opponent isn't. Could it be that this gives the Iron chef an advantage? If nothing else he knows how to cook for the palette of people from Japan. Anyway he wins so often that sometimes I wonder if it is fixed. The time limit is interesting though. You have to cook good food fast!

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- [Re:Iron chef almost always wins.](#) by adjensen (Score:1) Friday February 02, @07:26PM EST
- [Re:Iron chef almost always wins.](#) by atrowe (Score:1) Friday February 02, @07:32PM EST
- [Re:Iron chef almost always wins.](#) by Sodakar (Score:1) Friday February 02, @07:38PM EST

Today's Theme Ingredient... (Score:2)

by [sconeu](#) (pseudo-hacker formerly at ucsc dot edu) on Friday February 02, @07:15PM EST ([#43](#))

([User #64226 Info](#))

Beowulf Clusters!

They that can give up essential liberty to obtain a little temporary safety deserve neither liberty nor safety. - B.F.

[[Reply to This](#) | [Parent](#)]

- [Re:Today's Theme Ingredient...](#) by Anonymous Coward Friday February 02, @07:16PM EST

...hollywood is butchering another Japanese legend (Score:1)

by [Ikari Gendou](#) (*****igendou@hotmail.com) on Friday February 02, @07:20PM EST ([#47](#))

([User #93109 Info](#))

I'm having seriously horrible flashbacks to the waste of celluloid that was the US Godzilla.
I can already see visions of bastardized american versions of the IC's:

- Iron Chef Hamburger
- Iron Chef BBQ
- Iron Chef Vegerian

And the mysterious 4th Iron Chef...

- Iron Chef Leftovers

So who would you cast to play the Iron Chefs, if you couldn't get the real thing?

The Wright Brothers weren't the first to fly. They were just the first not to crash.

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this article as well as others in perl (Score:1)

by [theseum](#) (dopefish@bellatlantic.net) on Friday February 02, @07:22PM EST (#49)
(User #165950 Info) <http://www.incision.org>

```
while ($story_needed) { @idiots = find_idiots($senseless_yakkers); foreach $moron (@idiots) { push(@comments,get_quotes($moron)); } $story = intersperse_speculation(@comments); print html_format($story); }
```

[[Reply to This](#) | [Parent](#)]

- [Re:this article as well as others in perl](#) by Anonymous Coward Friday February 02, @07:36PM EST

"Yo-mi-guy-ru-eye-yon-sheff!!!!" (Score:1)

by [kstumpf](#) ([ken@\(nospam\)stumpf.com](mailto:ken@(nospam)stumpf.com)) on Friday February 02, @07:23PM EST (#51)
(User #218897 Info)

Iron Chef is a trip. Once Iron Chef stopped coming on, and the Sopranos second season was over, I had cable disconnected. (ot: it will be reinstated soon for season three!)

If you aren't into Iron Chef yet, you simply must check it out. There's a great Iron Chef site at www.ironchef.com. See their great [FAQ](#) if you're new to it.

For a real treat, watch Iron Chef while drunk.
It is fun to have fun.

[[Reply to This](#) | [Parent](#)]

- [Re:"Yo-mi-guy-ru-eye-yon-sheff!!!!"](#) by Relic of the Future (Score:1) Friday February 02, @07:26PM EST

hi (Score:0)

by Anonymous Coward on Friday February 02, @07:28PM EST (#55)

[[Reply to This](#) | [Parent](#)]

- [Re:hi](#) by Anonymous Coward Friday February 02, @07:33PM EST

Catching Iron Chef on Food Network (Score:1)
by Fanmail on Friday February 02, @07:28PM EST ([#56](#))
([User #61003 Info](#))

For those of you interested in seeing Iron Chef now, go to [Food Network](#). It has the upcoming episode's time and ingredient. Enjoy.

[[Reply to This](#) | [Parent](#)]

Fung Foo (Score:0)

by Anonymous Coward on Friday February 02, @07:30PM EST ([#57](#))

Why I jerk off: He who knows others is wise. He who knows himself is enlightened. -- Lao Tsu

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Old programmers never die, they just branch to a new address.

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"Don't worry, honey. That's just a man with funny glasses."

(Laura Aasletten to her daughter, about me.)

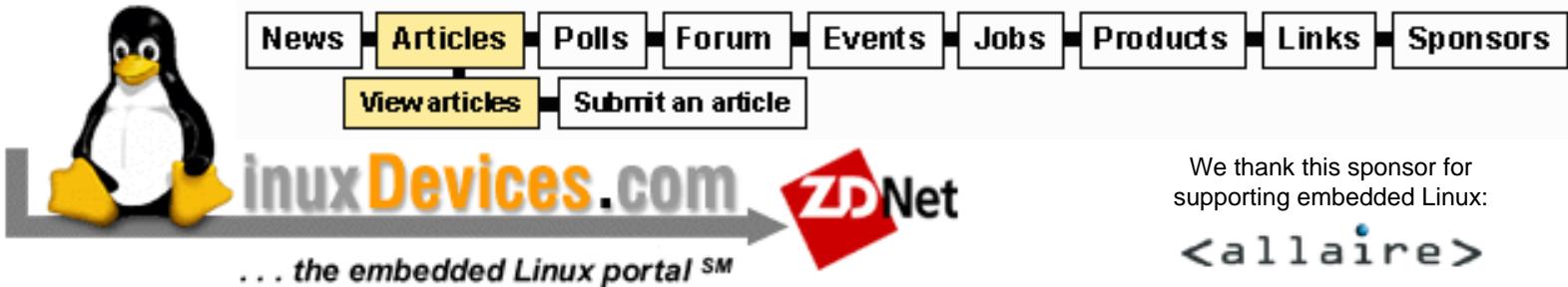
Apologies to anyone to visit this poorly-maintained site recently. Things'll get worse before they get better. Soon (soon!) I'll install some working links. In the meantime, direct your griping at [slashdot](#). =)

7th April 2000 Here is one thing. I just had a strange dream which woke from suddenly enough to write down. So here is my [dream of 7th April 2000](#).

10th April 2000 More dreams to come, but unlikely to be either unexpurgated or regular.

True to my word, here is a pair from [27th February 2000](#) and [28th February 2000](#).

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Details emerge on Transmeta's "Mobile Linux"

Henry Kingman (Feb. 2, 2001)

Henry Kingman, senior producer of ZDNet's Linux Resource Center, attended a session at LinuxWorld Expo in New York and filed this report . . .

Buried in one of the technical sessions in the basement at Linuxworld came a low-key pre-announcement of the first public availability of "Mobile Linux," a quasi-distribution and embedded Linux development toolkit that Linus Torvalds and other Transmeta employees have been working on for several years. "It's very close," according to Dan Quinlan, a Linux developer at Transmeta.

Strictly speaking, "Mobile Linux" isn't a distribution since it lacks the large applications and out-of-the-box experience of typical distros. Still, for embedded developers and technical hobbyists, it stands to make reasonably capable Linux systems significantly easier to create on resource-constrained devices.

Not surprisingly, Mobile Linux is especially well-suited for use with Transmeta hardware, and despite the current lack of public availability, several commercial vendors have already shipped products based on it. One example is the [Gateway Connected Touchpad](#) currently shipping for around \$500. Other parts of Mobile Linux, such as the cramfs, have been publicly available for some time, and have found their way into several distributions of Linux for PDAs.

Particularly impressive is the ability of Mobile Linux's cramfs to squeeze a more or less normal Linux system, complete with glibc, other libraries, the

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kernel and even the X windowing system into a paltry 8MB. This leaves plenty of room on the typical 32MB or 64MB storage devices used in embedded systems for applications such as Web browsers and mp3 music systems.

Cramfs saves space by optimizing inode table size and eliminating the space wasted between files in traditional filesystems. It also uses zlib compression for a better than 2-to-1 compression rate. The overhead for decompression is not especially bad because cramfs allows decompression of arbitrary blocks, rather than entire files, a function that the Linux kernel is able to exploit.

In addition to saving space, cramfs saves the appliance enduser from the prospects of waiting for fsck or worse, having to perform fsck manually after an abnormal termination. It does this by being read-only. This limitation makes some sense since flash ROM can withstand only a few hundred thousand write cycles. It could also be a security advantage in many circumstances. Still, an ongoing project is to incorporate compression into a journaling file system such as reiserfs which could be useful in some applications.

Another key to space savings is the use of [BusyBox](#), a single executable offering lite versions of lots of standard Unix commands. Busybox will be familiar to those who have played around with floppy disk-based Linux routers, rescue disks and the like, but most users would find its utilities pretty limited.

Configuration and other data that must persist across reboots is first saved to a temporary filesystem built in RAM on a "ramfs" filesystem, another bit of Torvalds handywork. "Linus was on a filesystem spree there for a while," according to Quinlan. When it's time to commit ramfs to persistent storage, a utility called packramfs is called to stuff it into the cramfs filesystem. The ramfs is similar to a RAM disk, but supports file "limits" so that it can be prevented from overrunning available RAM space.

To better support incremental system updates via modem, packramfs can work in a kind of partitioned manner, writing to cramfs in discreet segments. Under development is a journaling feature for packramfs that would allow the equivalent of an ftp "reget" in the case of a dropped connection, so that downloading could resume where left off. In a nod toward dependability, Mobile Linux is configured with a redundant root filesystem to better tolerate faults in the storage media or update process.

Together, Quinlan reckons that cramfs, ramfs and packramfs comprise an "elegant" solution for embedded developers wishing to optimize boot time, resource usage and robustness. "[Transmeta is not] *per se* a Linux company -- we don't sell it as a product -- but we try to add cool stuff to Linux that

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we see as missing."

Another ongoing project is a minimalist BIOS that does nothing but boot the Linux kernel, which is itself already capable of performing essentially all the functions of a modern BIOS. Such a BIOS could cut boot time substantially.

At present, about 60 packages are available for Mobile Linux if you count those comprising the build system itself. Mobile Linux "packages" are distributed as pristine upstream source with a patch to optimize for size. The packages are meant to be built on a separate system and installed as binaries on the embedded device, so the build environment comes with all needed libraries and the resulting binaries are distribution-independent. Transmeta based its early work on Debian's "Potato" release, and continues to include Debian in its test builds.

Mobile Linux includes XFree86 version 4.x rather than the frame buffer solutions used by many embedded devices. X's modular design saves space, according to Quinlan, and more importantly, frame buffer systems typically allow hardware acceleration with few if any chipsets. XFree86 4.0, by contrast, utilizes kernel-level chipset support for hardware acceleration in nearly all of today's commodity-grade graphics cards and chipsets. Systems without hardware acceleration can produce noticeably poor results when a graphical browser is used.

XFree86 4.x also integrates a TrueType font server and support for XInput, a kind of user-space input device driver for things like graphics tablets and touchscreens. Obviously, many Webpad designers would wish to include a touchscreen, probably with the option of plugging in a USB keyboard.

Not surprisingly, Mobile Linux includes a number of features that optimize it for use with Transmeta hardware. There's full driver support for devices used in Transmeta-based products and a utility to tweak the settings of the LongRun power management system of Transmeta's Code Morphing Software. According to Quinlan, "We want to help developers build cool stuff, and obviously we want to make sure Linux works well on Transmeta hardware."

What companies are working with Mobile Linux to produce cool products that run Linux? According to Transmeta CEO Dave Ditzel, "[There's the] stuff we showed in the pictures, and if it's not announced, we can't talk about it." Ditzel's half of the session included slides of about a dozen Webpad-like devices either currently or soon to become available.

In his closing remarks, Quinlan offered some advice for open source developers. This included the use of automated build environments such as the "Tinderbox" used by the Mozilla project. Whenever new code is

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submitted, builds ensue automatically on all the target platforms, and if something breaks, the developer responsible gets an email nastygram. Transmeta also automates testing: after each commit, if the build succeeds, the machine does a reboot test, launches a browser, and pulls down a Web page. Other tips included using CVS, tracking bugs and getting Q/A from people not involved as developers in the project.

If Mobile Linux ships as expected, and especially if it attracts significant attention from embedded developers, the era of the Internet appliance -- so long prophesied by the likes of Larry Ellison and Lou Gerstner -- might actually get a few steps closer to reality.

... For further information

- ▶ [Device profile: Sony SNT-V304 Video Network Station](#)
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[Adaptec launches open source program/website](#) -- New York; LinuxWorld -- (press release excerpt) -- Adaptec, Inc. today launched a new program to educate and support the Linux community, promote the release of new open-source drivers, and enable developers to create and . . .

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[Microsoft takes a page from Linux play book](#) -- ZDNet's Mary Jo Foley reports on Microsoft's increasing talk about making Windows source code available to its customers. Don't hold your breath, though -- the big M's not about to open-source Windows! Foley writes . . .

[Lineo adds Embedded Power to its acquisition portfolio](#) -- Lineo, a prominent provider of Linux software for smart devices and embedded systems, announced the acquisition of Embedded Power Corporation, a small software company that specializes in real-time operating systems (RTOS) for microprocessors (μ Ps) and . . .



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Transmeta chief talks Crusoe megaservers with The Reg

By: Andrew Orlowski in New York

Posted: 02/02/2001 at 08:00 GMT

Transmeta founder Dave Ditzel says we can expect servers with hundreds of Crusoe CPUs later this year.

But the dedicated, small form factor boxen won't look anything like today's SMP kit - even though Ditzel and partner in crime Gary Stimac (who pioneered Compaq's server business and has launched a start-up to OEM Transmeta servers) were SMP pioneers.

"I don't believe in SMP anymore," says Ditzel, who helped create the first RISC chips and design the SPARC chip for Sun Microsystems. "I just don't see any reason for people to use it."

Iconoclasm'r'us, we thought. Although SMP has become synonymous with any computer with more than one CPU, it isn't the only game in town, and has only really emerged as the orthodoxy over the past decade. In fact Intel's current server boss Mike Fester - a very tall chap - mused recently to us that he spent happy years in the mid 80s designing asymmetric multi-CPU boxes, and how that was the considered the state of the art.

But Ditzel doesn't see the overhead inherent in an SMP design - such as resolving complex cache contentions - as providing much of a practical net benefit.

"We thought people want to scale to hundreds of CPUs, and almost all of the software out there like web servers already scales that way," he told us at the LinuxWorld Expo in New York.

"It's parallel processing but not symmetric shared memory," he says. "And that adds - remember I was at Sun Microsystems for a lot of years - huge cost as well as delay introductions by probably more than a year. So the advantage you get from getting a system into the market a year sooner more than compensates any advantage you get from the SMP programming style"

Instead, the Crusoe servers will be based on simple message passing parallel processing MPP, as used by say Beowulf and other technical, stateless clusters.

Would Transmeta be working on server-specific software variants of Crusoe, we wondered?

"All of the power management features like LongRun we've designed for mobile computers automatically works in servers. Whereas all the server chips out there never even think about going into power saving mode because that was never a consideration. But now with this energy crisis, all these chips aren't equipped."

Crisis? What crisis? Although California, thanks to the libertarian-inspired disaster of deregulating its energy market, has landed itself with rolling power cuts, the budget office doesn't see any consequential impact on the rest of the US. So Transmeta is hoping that fuel bills suddenly become a decisive factor in purchasing servers. More important, we teased, than performance?

"There is a penalty... but I think we've got the trade off the other server guys never thought of," he reckons.

He's not the only hoping that Crusoe in servers is more than a wild punt. While Intel does a formidable job of providing bog standard 2CPU racks, Transmeta's server OEMs are thinking more of server farm appliances. According to *Linuxgram*, which was the first to pick up on Stimac's RLX venture, talk is of cramming as many as 24 CPUs onto a 3U rack, and throwing in management software and middleware too.

That density of performance should be a contender, even with Crusoe's reputation for hickey [shouldn't that be

'carefully managed'] multi-tasking performance.

And in his brief presentation, Ditzel compared Crusoe to Itanic: one Itanic running at 100w will be faster than a 1w Crusoe... (Actually, it's closer to 800w, or at least that's the power supply specified for two-way systems running the ludicrous Intel chip, but we digress.) But two 1w Crusoes can match the performance, in the same density, and so on, and so on...

Stimac's RLX Technologies has announced a "Razor" server, but won't say exactly what it is, although it will run Windows 2000 and Linux, according to the statement posted January 16th on the company's website. The blurb promises to "recast the dynamics of the server marketplace", which is some claim to live up to, even by the hyperbolic standards of this business.

And in the background lurks AMD, fancifully mentioned as a Transmeta predator. So far, the companies have confirmed that they're working together, with informed speculation suggesting emulation on AMD's Sledgehammer is the most likely field.

But there are more tantalising areas, too. Remember folks with so much of Crusoe being software, rather than, hardware-based, a chip OEM can implement a whopper of goodies in the chip. You're thinking all the bits that massively parallel servers need, right? Integrated into small purpose built appliances, for routing, caching or web serving, right? You'd be silly not to be, and we'll see if RLX and Crusoe's other OEMs can make it sing before too long. ®

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The Transmeta Pushme-Pullyou?

Posted by [timothy](#) on Friday February

02, @05:24PM

from the linus-works-there dept.

tired.cranky writes: "[An article](#) on [LinuxDevices.com](#) sez that Transmeta is about to ship a quasi-distro slash embedded development toolkit featuring Linus' new super-efficient cramfs and ramfs filesystems. Apparently, a reasonably normal Linux system can be shoehorned into 8MB of storage, with zlib decompression-on-demand and such. It sounds like it could push a fair few hobbyists and embedded developers in Transmeta's general direction, too... and reads nicely next to a [Register](#) piece on Transmeta's leaked [server initiative](#). Does one end of Transmeta know where the other is pointed?"



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The first thing Linuxdevices.com should do (Score:1)

by dragonfly_blue on Friday February 02, @05:27PM EST (#3)

(User #101697 Info) <http://www.zarakas.com>

2/2 (5)

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The first thing linuxdevices.com should do is buy one of the new Transmeta servers **as soon as possible.**

From 0 to ./ed in 3.6 seconds...

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It's going to run slash? (Score:4, Funny)

by [DataSquid](#) (DataSquid@datasquid.net) on Friday February 02, @05:32PM EST (#7)

(User #33187 Info) <http://datasquid.net>

Transmeta is about to ship a quasi-distro slash embedded development toolkit

And how does one develop under such a system? Post your programs and hope they get modded up to compile-threshold level?

[DataSquid.net](#), all the University of Waterloo Computer Engineering you can eat.

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Should fit in a DiskonChip Millenium (Score:1)

by [Digital Commando](#) (rugolsky-at-ead-dot-dsa-dot-com) on Friday February 02, @05:35PM EST (#12)

(User #2881 Info)

I bought a Matsonic SiS-630-based motherboard and the DiskOnChip Millenium so I could build a solid-state box using [LinuxBIOS](#). This ought to fit nicely.

Anybody know where to buy a small (set-top sized) case for a Micro-ATX motherboard? I don't need any space for drives, because it won't have any.

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Will this have an impact? (Score:3, Interesting)

by [WillSeattle](#) (no.spam.please@we.are.british.uk) on Friday February 02, @05:38PM EST (#20)

(User #239206 Info)

That's a good question. One of the side effects of California's recent electricity problems has been a spike in demand for low-power devices, specifically Transmeta-based servers, but the whole device side is another animal.

My impression is that Intel is having problems recognizing how to deal with the appliance picture and small devices, and that Transmeta has maybe an 18 month lead on them. But they're not the only players in this sphere, so this is going to depend on the following things:

1. How fast Transmeta can ship production quantity chips for this market.
2. How well device manufacturers integrate these in a useable way.
3. How interested the consumer market is in these devices.
4. What pricing strategy Transmeta has for this.
5. How far competitors are willing to go with fake media releases, arm twisting, collusion, and rumors to sink Transmeta.
6. Where G Bush and Bill G and their posses have invested their money in this area - if the regulators and the tech money interests are all after Transmeta, the best solution may not necessarily win, unless it can get its own crew behind it.

Will in Seattle - George Cheater Bush ain't my President!

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- [Re:Will this have an impact?](#) by SquadBoy (Score:2) Friday February 02, @05:51PM EST
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8 MB? (Score:1)

by Kreeblah on Friday February 02, @05:39PM EST ([#21](#))

([User #95092 Info](#))

Perhaps this is what will be used to cram Linux into the [Brazillian computers mentioned earlier](#).

Just a thought.

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So now all Transmeta can do is Heath kits? (Score:1)
by glrotate on Friday February 02, @05:40PM EST ([#22](#))
([User #300695 Info](#))

I think Transmeta is in a serious slide. A real product needs to come out and be really successful because it's getting close to being a real flop.

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- [Re:So now all Transmeta can do is Heath kits?](#) by journey- (Score:1) Friday February 02, @06:12PM EST
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Can't they see... (Score:1)
by prla on Friday February 02, @05:49PM EST ([#32](#))
([User #310556 Info](#)) <http://prla.giinf.org/>

Why are they featuring Linus, don't they know that Linux has called it quits? Bet Micros~1 would be a much better bet.. ;)

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You KNOW a FS is good when... (Score:1)
by X-Dopple on Friday February 02, @06:05PM EST ([#46](#))
([User #213116 Info](#))

...it's named 'CramFS' as opposed to FAT

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Hobysts... ON 1 GHz ???????? (Score:1)
by msergeo on Friday February 02, @06:09PM EST ([#54](#))
([User #230476 Info](#))

Does anybody have more sense for electronics here? Yeah, I imagine clock working on 1GHz which is on the single-plated PCB.... ...I come here to rest my brain....

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So where can we get this sucker at? (Score:1)
by stepson on Friday February 02, @06:19PM EST ([#68](#))
([User #33039 Info](#)) <http://www.djnr.com>

Has anyone seen this supposed 'distro' available for download anywhere? I'd love to put linux on my 16meg DiskOnChip for my firewall, probably be a lot quieter than the laptop harddrive it currently runs off of (just easier to set up, and easier to play around with 3 gigs instead of 16 megs). Fear me cisco! I'll have almost equal functionality of a cisco dual-ethernet router, with built-in firewalling, and fortune!

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They actually have a good point. (Score:2)

by [Chris Burke](#) (wyrn@engin.stupidspammersgetsmarter.umich.edu) on Friday February 02, @06:24PM EST ([#71](#))
[\(User #6130 Info\)](#)

When you're trying to cram as much computing power into a given space as you can, then you'll find that you're limited by heat dissipation. Thus the performance/Watt ration becomes more important than just performance itself. Running lots of slightly-less-impressive Crusoes will end up giving you more computing bang for your BTU, and hence more computing/inch.

It's a neat angle, but then again being able to play solitaire during your entire flight cross-country was a good angle, and that doesn't seem to have panned out. I hope it works, not because I love transmeta, but because I just like seeing cool technology win.

--Chris Burke. Think free speech; drink free beer.

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It's hypocrisy. (Score:1)

by [AFCArchvile](#) (talk_is Cheap@lies.are.expensive.com) on Friday February 02, @06:24PM EST ([#72](#))
[\(User #221494 Info\)](#) <http://www.verizoneatspoop.com/>

One half of Transmeta is working on high-end systems, while the other is working on low-end systems. Only time will tell if they snap, or if they merely stretch.

Software designers are so infatuated with the fact that they can, that they don't stop to think if they should.

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In disguise... (Score:1)

by [jdub!](#) (jdub at aphid dot net) on Friday February 02, @06:31PM EST ([#78](#))
[\(User #24149 Info\)](#) <http://www.slug.org.au/>

Tell me it's true: tired.cranky is Linux Torvalds in disguise, right? I would be.

jdub!

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But why zlib? (Score:1)

by Doubting Thomas on Friday February 02, @06:37PM EST ([#80](#))
[\(User #72381 Info\)](#)

All of the benchmarks I've seen suggest that something like UCL (whose reference implementation is also under the GPL) beats the pants off of LZ77, and hence zlib, for data throughput. I wonder why they chose zlib. Out of habit?

-
Just because it works, doesn't mean it isn't broken.

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I know I'll probably get flamed for this, but... (Score:1)

by AKAIImBatman on Friday February 02, @06:55PM EST ([#91](#))

([User #238306 Info](#))

Now THIS is where Linux shines! Not the big server doo-dad, but in the embedded devices. If you're looking for a server, BSD or Solaris will take Linux out of the game any day. But if you need a fully functional embedded system crammed into a few megs, Linux is a good way to go.
"Patience is virtue, so shut up and wait."

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A sight to see (Score:1)

by FrostyWheaton on Friday February 02, @07:14PM EST ([#95](#))

([User #263146 Info](#)) <http://www.penuel.net>

So what does a 30MB penguin look like when it's "shoehorned" into 8MB?? I can just imagine the logo for that.

The simplest act of surrealism is to walk out into the street, gun in hand, and shoot at random
André Breton

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The Space Between (Score:1)

by [IKnowBux](#) (rwc_2001 at yahoo.com) on Friday February 02, @07:30PM EST ([#98](#))

([User #229124 Info](#))

Transmeta is placing one hand below the low-end (embedded), and the other above the high-end (servers).

Then it will clap!

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Dietzel is "on crack", from a technical standpoint (Score:2)

by [nweaver](#) (nweaver@cs.berkeley.edu) on Friday February 02, @07:31PM EST ([#99](#))

([User #113078 Info](#)) <http://www.cs.berkeley.edu/~nweaver/>

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Most problems which can be translated to a message passing structure have already been migrated to clusters of cheap machines. It is problems like databases, which don't map well to message passing, which is why people buy "servers", and it is these problems which are why people buy E10ks.

Dietzel knows better, he is an intelligent scientist, but he is acting like some corporate PR flack. Such dishonesty I can accept from someone who is ignorant, but he knows better.

Nicholas C Weaver
 nweaver@cs.berkeley.edu
 Never apply a StarTrek solution to a Babylon 5 problem
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Re:Sounds cool (Score:1, Funny)
 by Anonymous Coward on Friday February 02, @05:37PM EST ([#18](#))

FUCKING Linux LEMMINGS!!! I Hope you ALL FUCKING DIE UNDER A LOAD OF WINDOWS 95 LICENSES!!!

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Re:Top 10 Reasons to Move to Windows 2000 Professi (Score:2, Insightful)by Uller78 on Friday February 02, @06:14PM EST ([#59](#))([User #49800 Info](#))

Gee. You know the M\$ lackeys are starting to wet their pants when they start inundating Transmeta stories with "W2K is good" posts. Especially when the posts only compare W2K with its almost useless predecessors.

Nice going, guys, keep it up. Waste your time flaming Linux on Slashdot while the rest of the world is busy actually writing real code and not flashy interfaces for a buggy platform. Idiots.

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- [Linux? Who gives a shit about Linux?](#) by \$la\$hdot (Score:1) Friday February 02, @06:18PM EST
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Re:\$la\$hdot sucks (Score:1)by \$la\$hdot on Friday February 02, @06:39PM EST ([#83](#))([User #312361 Info](#))

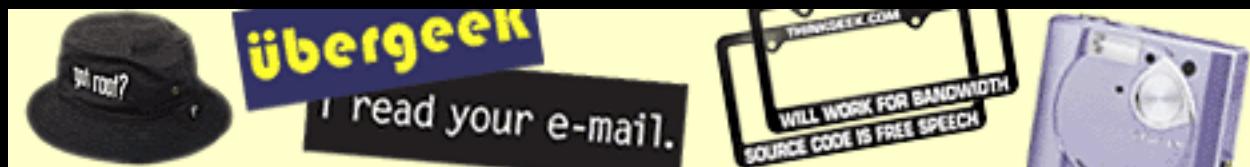
She used to be – 15 years ago.

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He who knows others is wise. He who knows himself is enlightened. -- Lao Tsu

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The Transmeta Pushme-Pullyou?

Posted by [timothy](#) on Friday

February 02, @05:24PM

from the linus-works-there dept.

tired.cranky writes: "[An article on LinuxDevices.com](#) sez that Transmeta is about to ship a quasi-distro slash embedded development toolkit featuring Linus' new super-efficient cramfs and ramfs filesystems. Apparently, a reasonably normal Linux system can be shoehorned into 8MB of storage, with zlib decompression-on-demand and such. It sounds like it could push a fair few hobbyists and embedded developers in Transmeta's general direction, too... and reads nicely next to a [Register](#) piece on Transmeta's leaked [server initiative](#). Does one end of Transmeta know where the other is pointed?"



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The first thing Linuxdevices.com should do (Score:1)
 by dragonfly_blue on Friday February 02, @05:27PM EST (#3)
[\(User #101697 Info\)](#) <http://www.zarakas.com>

The first thing linuxdevices.com should do is buy one of the new Transmeta servers **as soon as possible**.

From 0 to ./ed in 3.6 seconds...

[[Reply to This](#) | [Parent](#)]

It's going to run slash? (Score:4, Funny)
 by [DataSquid](#) ([DataSquid@datasquid.net](mailto>DataSquid@datasquid.net)) on Friday February 02, @05:32PM EST (#7)
[\(User #33187 Info\)](#) <http://datasquid.net>

Transmeta is about to ship a quasi-distro slash embedded development toolkit

And how does one develop under such a system? Post your programs and hope they get modded up to compile-threshold level?

[DataSquid.net](#), all the University of Waterloo Computer Engineering you can eat.

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Should fit in a DiskonChip Millenium (Score:1)
 by [Digital Commando](#) (rugolsky-at-ead-dot-dsa-dot-com) on Friday February 02, @05:35PM EST (#12)
[\(User #2881 Info\)](#)

I bought a Matsonic SiS-630-based motherboard and the DiskOnChip Millenium so I could build a solid-state box using [LinuxBIOS](#). This ought to fit nicely.

Anybody know where to buy a small (set-top sized) case for a Micro-ATX motherboard? I don't need any space for drives, because it won't have any.

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Will this have an impact? (Score:3, Interesting)

by [WillSeattle](#) (no.spam.please@we.are.british.uk) on Friday February 02, @05:38PM EST (#20)

[[User #239206 Info](#)]

That's a good question. One of the side effects of California's recent electricity problems has been a spike in demand for low-power devices, specifically Transmeta-based servers, but the whole device side is another animal.

My impression is that Intel is having problems recognizing how to deal with the appliance picture and small devices, and that Transmeta has maybe an 18 month lead on them. But they're not the only players in this sphere, so this is going to depend on the following things:

1. How fast Transmeta can ship production quantity chips for this market.
2. How well device manufacturers integrate these in a useable way.
3. How interested the consumer market is in these devices.
4. What pricing strategy Transmeta has for this.
5. How far competitors are willing to go with fake media releases, arm twisting, collusion, and rumors to sink Transmeta.
6. Where G Bush and Bill G and their posses have invested their money in this area - if the regulators and the tech money interests are all after Transmeta, the best solution may not necessarily win, unless it can get its own crew behind it.

Will in Seattle - George Cheater Bush ain't my President!

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- [Re:Will this have an impact?](#) by SquadBoy (Score:2) Friday February 02, @05:51PM EST
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 - [Re:six of one](#) by SquadBoy (Score:2) Friday February 02, @06:05PM EST
 - [Re:six of one](#) by .pentai. (Score:2) Friday February 02, @06:17PM EST
- [Re:Will this have an impact?](#) by maggard (Score:2) Friday February 02, @06:16PM EST
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 - [Re:Will this have an impact?](#) by Lozzer (Score:1) Friday February 02, @07:21PM EST
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8 MB? (Score:1)

by Kreeblah on Friday February 02, @05:39PM EST ([#21](#))

([User #95092 Info](#))

Perhaps this is what will be used to cram Linux into the [Brazillian computers mentioned earlier](#).

Just a thought.

[[Reply to This](#) | [Parent](#)]

So now all Transmeta can do is Heath kits? (Score:1)

by glrotate on Friday February 02, @05:40PM EST ([#22](#))

([User #300695 Info](#))

I think Transmeta is in a serious slide. A real product needs to come out and be really successful because it's getting close to being a real flop.

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- [Re:So now all Transmeta can do is Heath kits?](#) by journey- (Score:1) Friday February 02, @06:12PM EST
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Can't they see... (Score:1)

by prla on Friday February 02, @05:49PM EST ([#32](#))

([User #310556 Info](#)) <http://prla.giinf.org/>

Why are they featuring Linus, don't they know that Linux has called it quits? Bet Micros~1 would be a much better bet.. ;)

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You KNOW a FS is good when... (Score:1)

by X-Dopple on Friday February 02, @06:05PM EST ([#46](#))

([User #213116 Info](#))

...it's named 'CramFS' as opposed to FAT

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Hobysts... ON 1 GHz ??????? (Score:1)

by msergeo on Friday February 02, @06:09PM EST ([#54](#))

([User #230476 Info](#))

Does anybody have more sense for electronics here? Yeah, I imagine clock working on 1GHz which is on the single-plated PCB.... ...I come here to rest my brain....

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So where can we get this sucker at? (Score:1)by stepson on Friday February 02, @06:19PM EST ([#68](#))([User #33039 Info](#)) <http://www.djnr.com>

Has anyone seen this supposed 'distro' available for download anywhere? I'd love to put linux on my 16meg DiskOnChip for my firewall, probably be a lot quieter than the laptop harddrive it currently runs off of (just easier to set up, and easier to play around with 3 gigs instead of 16 megs). Fear me cisco! I'll have almost equal functionality of a cisco dual-ethernet router, with built-in firewalling, and fortune!

[[Reply to This](#) | [Parent](#)]**They actually have a good point. (Score:2)**by [Chris Burke](#) (wyrm@engin.stupidspammersgettingsmarter.umich.edu) on Friday February 02, @06:24PM EST ([#71](#))([User #6130 Info](#))

When you're trying to cram as much computing power into a given space as you can, then you'll find that you're limited by heat dissipation. Thus the performance/Watt ration becomes more important than just performance itself. Running lots of slightly-less-impressive Crusoes will end up giving you more computing bang for your BTU, and hence more computing/inch.

It's a neat angle, but then again being able to play solitaire during your entire flight cross-country was a good angle, and that doesn't seem to have panned out. I hope it works, not because I love transmeta, but because I just like seeing cool technology win.

--Chris Burke. Think free speech; drink free beer.

[[Reply to This](#) | [Parent](#)]**It's hypocrisy. (Score:1)**by [AFCArchvile](#) (talk_is Cheap@lies.are.expensive.com) on Friday February 02, @06:24PM EST ([#72](#))([User #221494 Info](#)) <http://www.verizoneatspoop.com/>

One half of Transmeta is working on high-end systems, while the other is working on low-end systems. Only time will tell if they snap, or if they merely stretch.

Software designers are so infatuated with the fact that they can, that they don't stop to think if they should.

[[Reply to This](#) | [Parent](#)]**In disguise... (Score:1)**by [jdub!](#) (jdub at aphid dot net) on Friday February 02, @06:31PM EST ([#78](#))([User #24149 Info](#)) <http://www.slug.org.au/>

Tell me it's true: tired.cranky is Linux Torvalds in disguise, right? I would be.

jdub!

[[Reply to This](#) | [Parent](#)]

But why zlib? (Score:1)

by Doubting Thomas on Friday February 02, @06:37PM EST ([#80](#))

([User #72381 Info](#))

All of the benchmarks I've seen suggest that something like UCL (whose reference implementation is also under the GPL) beats the pants off of LZ77, and hence zlib, for data throughput. I wonder why they chose zlib. Out of habit?

-

Just because it works, doesn't mean it isn't broken.

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I know I'll probably get flamed for this, but... (Score:1)

by AKAImBatman on Friday February 02, @06:55PM EST ([#91](#))

([User #238306 Info](#))

Now THIS is where Linux shines! Not the big server doo-dad, but in the embedded devices. If you're looking for a server, BSD or Solaris will take Linux out of the game any day. But if you need a fully functional embedded system crammed into a few megs, Linux is a good way to go.

"Patience is virtue, so shut up and wait."

[[Reply to This](#) | [Parent](#)]

A sight to see (Score:1)

by FrostyWheaton on Friday February 02, @07:14PM EST ([#95](#))

([User #263146 Info](#)) <http://www.penuel.net>

So what does a 30MB penguin look like when it's "shoehorned" into 8MB?? I can just imagine the logo for that.

The simplest act of surrealism is to walk out into the street, gun in hand, and shoot at random

André Breton

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The Space Between (Score:1)

by [IKnowBux](#) (rwc_2001@yahoo.com) on Friday February 02, @07:30PM EST ([#98](#))

([User #229124 Info](#))

Transmeta is placing one hand below the low-end (embedded), and the other above the high-end (servers).

Then it will clap!

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Dietzel is "on crack", from a technical standpoint (Score:2)

by [nweaver](#) (nweaver@cs.berkeley.edu) on Friday February 02, @07:31PM EST ([#99](#))

(User #113078 Info) <http://www.cs.berkeley.edu/~nweaver/>

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([User #49800 Info](#))

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Re:\$la\$hdot sucks (Score:1)

by \$la\$hdot on Friday February 02, @06:39PM EST ([#83](#))

([User #312361 Info](#))

She used to be – 15 years ago.

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Old programmers never die, they just branch to a new address.

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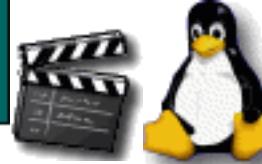
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February 02, @05:24PM

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Transmeta is going down (Score:-1, Flamebait)
by Anonymous Coward on Friday February 02, @05:25PM EST ([#1](#))

on me.

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(Score:1) Friday February 02, @07:36PM EST

- [Re:Top 10 Reasons to Move to Windows 2000 Professi](#) by aburnsio.com Friday February 02, @06:14PM EST

■ [The Truth: W2K rules!](#) by Anonymous Coward Friday February 02, @06:18PM EST

!!!! (Score:-1, Offtopic)

by Anonymous Coward on Friday February 02, @05:25PM EST (#2)

first FIRT BOST muthafuckaz

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From 0 to ./ed in 3.6 seconds...

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Sounds cool (Score:0, Troll)

by abcbooze on Friday February 02, @05:31PM EST ([#4](#))

(User #245097 Info)

If linus made it we must love it....resistance is futile

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- [Re:Sounds cool](#) by Anonymous Coward (Score:1) Friday February 02, @05:37PM EST

interesting article about Transmeta (Score:-1, Troll)

by Anonymous Coward on Friday February 02, @05:31PM EST ([#5](#))

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- [Re:interesting article about Transmeta](#) by Anonymous Coward Friday February 02, @06:09PM EST
 - [Re:interesting article about Transmeta](#) by Anonymous Coward Friday February 02, @06:11PM EST
- [Aggressive black music](#) by Anonymous Coward Friday February 02, @06:30PM EST

George W Bush slowly takes away your rights!! (Score:-1, Offtopic)

by Anonymous Coward on Friday February 02, @05:31PM EST ([#6](#))

By forcing govt agencies to give money to faith based charities, Dubya is forcing the people who need to utilize programs such as these to worship the faith of the organization that runs the program. If for instance you are a drug addict in need of rehab, and you turn to a govt funded agency, you MAY now have no choice but to accept treatment from a program that demands you involve yourself in religious(mostly christian) activities..Make no mistake about it, these faith based programs FORCE you to partake in the religion or you are removed from the program. Government dollars should only be used to help people if there are no anti-constitutional strings attached! What will dubya do next, allow government funded organizations to remove your right to free speech?

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- [Re:George W Bush slowly takes away your rights!!](#) by pappy72 Friday February 02, @05:33PM EST
- [Re:George W Bush slowly takes away your rights!!](#) by Rick the Red (Score:-1) Friday February 02, @05:35PM EST
- [Nothing new there](#) by Anonymous Coward Friday February 02, @05:42PM EST
 - [Re:Nothing new there](#) by Anonymous Coward Friday February 02, @05:50PM EST
 - [Re:Nothing new there](#) by Anonymous Coward Friday February 02, @06:03PM EST
 - [My time does not belong to you. Case closed.](#) by Rares Marian (Score:-1) Friday February 02, @05:53PM EST
 - [Re:My time does not belong to you. Case closed.](#) by Anonymous Coward Friday February 02, @06:01PM EST

It's going to run slash? (Score:4, Funny)

by [DataSquid](#) (DataSquid@datasquid.net) on Friday February 02, @05:32PM EST (#7)
[\(User #33187 Info\)](#) <http://datasquid.net>

Transmeta is about to ship a quasi-distro slash embedded development toolkit

And how does one develop under such a system? Post your programs and hope they get modded up to compile-threshold level?

[DataSquid.net](#), all the University of Waterloo Computer Engineering you can eat.

[[Reply to This](#) | [Parent](#)]

- [Re:It's going to run slash?](#) by Anonymous Coward Friday February 02, @05:44PM EST
- [Re:It's going to run slash?](#) by Anonymous Coward Friday February 02, @05:45PM EST
- [Re:It's going to run slash?](#) by AaronStJ Friday February 02, @06:07PM EST
 - [Re:It's going to run slash?](#) by Kreeblah Friday February 02, @06:08PM EST
 - [Re:It's going to run slash?](#) by Anonymous Coward Friday February 02, @06:14PM EST
 - [Re:It's going to run slash?](#) by Anonymous Coward Friday February 02, @06:21PM EST
 - [Re:It's going to run slash?](#) by Ig0r Friday February 02, @06:10PM EST
 - [Re:It's going to run slash?](#) by Anonymous Coward Friday February 02, @06:55PM EST

run windows 2000 or else (Score:0)by Anonymous Coward on Friday February 02, @05:33PM EST ([#9](#))

how much longer do you think microsoft is going to stand for people running linux on wintel hardware? run windows 2000 if you know what's good for you. when pesky government controls are lifted from our corporations by the business-friendly government they will be able to truly protect their own bottom lines. you'll start seeing linux users vanish off the face of the earth then, by god. and they deserve it as well. the only point to running linux is to try to stick it to microsoft, let's see how you like it when their security people start sticking it to you. you're all a bunch of OSSholes

[[Reply to This](#) | [Parent](#)]**The Corrs (Score:0)**by Anonymous Coward on Friday February 02, @05:35PM EST ([#11](#))

Hot chicks!

[[Reply to This](#) | [Parent](#)]**Should fit in a DiskonChip Millenium (Score:1)**by [Digital Commando](#) (rugolsky-at-ead-dot-dsa-dot-com) on Friday February 02, @05:35PM EST ([#12](#))([User #2881 Info](#))

I bought a Matsonic SiS-630-based motherboard and the DiskOnChip Millenium so I could build a solid-state box using [LinuxBIOS](#). This ought to fit nicely.

Anybody know where to buy a small (set-top sized) case for a Micro-ATX motherboard? I don't need any space for drives, because it won't have any.

[[Reply to This](#) | [Parent](#)]

Just like slashdot... (Score:0)

by Anonymous Coward on Friday February 02, @05:35PM EST ([#13](#))

A fucking circle-jerk! :)

[[Reply to This](#) | [Parent](#)]

- [Re:Just like slashdot...](#) by Anonymous Coward Friday February 02, @05:36PM EST

- [Re:Just like slashdot...](#) by Anonymous Coward Friday February 02, @06:45PM EST

First Truth (Score:-1, Flamebait)

by Anonymous Coward on Friday February 02, @05:35PM EST ([#14](#))

niggers are worthless scum.

[[Reply to This](#) | [Parent](#)]

- [**DELETE THIS FILTHY MOTHERFUCKING RACIST SHIT NOW**](#) by Anonymous Coward Friday February 02, @05:41PM EST
 - [Re:DELETE THIS FILTHY MOTHERFUCKING RACIST SHIT NO](#) by Anonymous Coward Friday February 02, @05:48PM EST

gateway already ships this (Score:0)

by Anonymous Coward on Friday February 02, @05:35PM EST ([#15](#))

Some version of this is already shipping inside gateway's AOL network access box. Yes, AOL access on top of linux.

[[Reply to This](#) | [Parent](#)]

Will this have an impact? (Score:3, Interesting)

by [WillSeattle](#) (no.spam.please@we.are.british.uk) on Friday February 02, @05:38PM EST ([#20](#))

([User #239206 Info](#))

That's a good question. One of the side effects of California's recent electricity problems has been a spike in demand for low-power devices, specifically Transmeta-based servers, but the whole device side is another animal.

My impression is that Intel is having problems recognizing how to deal with the appliance picture and small devices, and that Transmeta has maybe an 18 month lead on them. But they're not the only players in this sphere, so this is going to depend on the following things:

1. How fast Transmeta can ship production quantity chips for this market.
2. How well device manufacturers integrate these in a useable way.
3. How interested the consumer market is in these devices.
4. What pricing strategy Transmeta has for this.
5. How far competitors are willing to go with fake media releases, arm twisting, collusion,

and rumors to sink Transmeta.

6. Where G Bush and Bill G and their posses have invested their money in this area - if the regulators and the tech money interests are all after Transmeta, the best solution may not necessarily win, unless it can get its own crew behind it.

Will in Seattle - George Cheater Bush ain't my President!

[[Reply to This](#) | [Parent](#)]

- [Re:Will this have an impact?](#) by SquadBoy (Score:2) Friday February 02, @05:51PM EST
 - [six of one](#) by jovlinger (Score:2) Friday February 02, @05:59PM EST
 - [Re:six of one](#) by SquadBoy (Score:2) Friday February 02, @06:05PM EST
 - [Re:six of one](#) by .pentai. (Score:2) Friday February 02, @06:17PM EST
- [Re:Will this have an impact?](#) by maggard (Score:2) Friday February 02, @06:16PM EST
 - [Re:Will this have an impact?](#) by TWR (Score:3) Friday February 02, @06:25PM EST
 - [Re:Will this have an impact?](#) by Anonymous Coward Friday February 02, @06:34PM EST
 - [Re:Will this have an impact?](#) by Lozzer (Score:1) Friday February 02, @07:21PM EST
- [Fuck your Klintonista rhetoric](#) by Anonymous Coward Friday February 02, @07:04PM EST

8 MB? (Score:1)

by Kreeblah on Friday February 02, @05:39PM EST ([#21](#))

([User #95092 Info](#))

Perhaps this is what will be used to cram Linux into the [Brazillian computers mentioned earlier](#).

Just a thought.

[[Reply to This](#) | [Parent](#)]

So now all Transmeta can do is Heath kits? (Score:1)

by glrotate on Friday February 02, @05:40PM EST ([#22](#))

([User #300695 Info](#))

I think Transmeta is in a serious slide. A real product needs to come out and be really successful because it's getting close to being a real flop.

[[Reply to This](#) | [Parent](#)]

- [Re:So now all Transmeta can do is Heath kits?](#) by Anonymous Coward Friday February 02, @05:57PM EST
- [Re:So now all Transmeta can do is Heath kits?](#) by journey- (Score:1) Friday February 02, @06:12PM EST

stick a fucking cock (Score:-1, Troll)

by Anonymous Coward on Friday February 02, @05:45PM EST ([#26](#))

in my ear

[[Reply to This](#) | [Parent](#)]

I BUTT FUCKED (Score:-1, Troll)

by Anonymous Coward on Friday February 02, @05:46PM EST ([#29](#))

Bill Gates

[[Reply to This](#) | [Parent](#)]

- [Re:I BUTT FUCKED](#) by Anonymous Coward Friday February 02, @05:49PM EST
 - [Re:I BUTT FUCKED](#) by Anonymous Coward Friday February 02, @06:49PM EST

Can't they see... (Score:1)

by prla on Friday February 02, @05:49PM EST ([#32](#))

(User #310556 Info) <http://prla.giinf.org/>

Why are they featuring Linus, don't they know that Linux has called it quits? Bet Micros~1 would be a much better bet.. ;)

[[Reply to This](#) | [Parent](#)]

survivor (Score:-1, Troll)

by Anonymous Coward on Friday February 02, @05:52PM EST ([#37](#))

is for white trash sheeple

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You KNOW a FS is good when... (Score:1)

by X-Dopple on Friday February 02, @06:05PM EST ([#46](#))

(User #213116 Info)

...it's named 'CramFS' as opposed to FAT

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registers url is wrong (Score:0)

by Anonymous Coward on Friday February 02, @06:05PM EST ([#48](#))

its www.theregister.co.uk _Z

[[Reply to This](#) | [Parent](#)]

Hobysts... ON 1 GHz ??????? (Score:1)

by msergeo on Friday February 02, @06:09PM EST ([#54](#))

([User #230476 Info](#))

Does anybody have more sense for electronics here? Yeah, I imagine clock working on 1GHz which is on the single-plated PCB.... ...I come here to rest my brain....

[[Reply to This](#) | [Parent](#)]

- [Re:Hobysts... ON 1 GHz ???????](#) by Anonymous Coward Friday February 02, @06:12PM EST

What has happened in California is NOT deregulation (Score:0)

by Anonymous Coward on Friday February 02, @06:16PM EST ([#63](#))

Neat article. However, it still refers to the California power disaster as a result of failed deregulation.

People, regulating (limiting) the rates the power companies can charge consumers, while not regulating (limiting) the rates the power companies pay for fuel, coupled with prohibitions on long-term fuel contracts (which would at least allow the power companies to make smooth out the fluctuations in fuel costs) is REGULATION of the worst kind, not DE-regulation. Sheesh.

[[Reply to This](#) | [Parent](#)]

So where can we get this sucker at? (Score:1)

by stepson on Friday February 02, @06:19PM EST ([#68](#))

([User #33039 Info](#)) <http://www.djnr.com>

Has anyone seen this supposed 'distro' available for download anywhere? I'd love to put linux on my 16meg DiskOnChip for my firewall, probably be a lot quieter than the laptop harddrive it currently runs off of (just easier to set up, and easier to play around with 3 gigs instead of 16 megs). Fear me cisco! I'll have almost equal functionality of a cisco dual-ethernet router, with built-in firewalling, and fortune!

[[Reply to This](#) | [Parent](#)]

They actually have a good point. (Score:2)

by [Chris Burke](#) (wyrn@engin.stupidspammersgetsmarter.umich.edu) on Friday February 02, @06:24PM EST ([#71](#))

([User #6130 Info](#))

When you're trying to cram as much computing power into a given space as you can, then you'll find that you're limited by heat dissipation. Thus the performance/Watt ration becomes more important than just performance itself. Running lots of slightly-less-impressive Crusoes will end up giving you more computing bang for your BTU, and hence more computing/inch.

It's a neat angle, but then again being able to play solitaire during your entire flight cross-country was a good angle, and that doesn't seem to have panned out. I hope it works, not because I love transmeta, but because I just like seeing cool technology win.

--Chris Burke. Think free speech; drink free beer.

[[Reply to This](#) | [Parent](#)]

It's hypocrisy. (Score:1)

by [AFCArchvile](#) ([talk_is_cheap@lies.are.expensive.com](mailto:talk_is Cheap@lies.are.expensive.com)) on Friday February 02, @06:24PM EST (#72)

(User #221494 Info) <http://www.verizoneatspoop.com/>

One half of Transmeta is working on high-end systems, while the other is working on low-end systems. Only time will tell if they snap, or if they merely stretch.

Software designers are so infatuated with the fact that they can, that they don't stop to think if they should.

[[Reply to This](#) | [Parent](#)]

In disguise... (Score:1)

by [jdub!](#) (jdub at aphid dot net) on Friday February 02, @06:31PM EST (#78)

(User #24149 Info) <http://www.slug.org.au/>

Tell me it's true: tired.cranky is Linux Torvalds in disguise, right? I would be.

jdub!

[[Reply to This](#) | [Parent](#)]

But why zlib? (Score:1)

by Doubting Thomas on Friday February 02, @06:37PM EST (#80)

(User #72381 Info)

All of the benchmarks I've seen suggest that something like UCL (whose reference implementation is also under the GPL) beats the pants off of LZ77, and hence zlib, for data throughput. I wonder why they chose zlib. Out of habit?

-
Just because it works, doesn't mean it isn't broken.

[[Reply to This](#) | [Parent](#)]

I know I'll probably get flamed for this, but... (Score:1)

by AKAImBatman on Friday February 02, @06:55PM EST ([#91](#))

([User #238306 Info](#))

Now THIS is where Linux shines! Not the big server doo-dad, but in the embedded devices. If you're looking for a server, BSD or Solaris will take Linux out of the game any day. But if you need a fully functional embedded system crammed into a few megs, Linux is a good way to go.

"Patience is virtue, so shut up and wait."

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on Linuxtoday.com - no news (Score:0)

by Anonymous Coward on Friday February 02, @07:00PM EST ([#93](#))

No news

[[Reply to This](#) | [Parent](#)]

A sight to see (Score:1)

by FrostyWheaton on Friday February 02, @07:14PM EST ([#95](#))

([User #263146 Info](#)) <http://www.penuel.net>

So what does a 30MB penguin look like when it's "shoehorned" into 8MB?? I can just imagine the logo for that.

The simplest act of surrealism is to walk out into the street, gun in hand, and shoot at random

André Breton

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The Space Between (Score:1)

by [IKnowBux](#) (rwc_2001@yahoo.com) on Friday February 02, @07:30PM EST ([#98](#))

([User #229124 Info](#))

Transmeta is placing one hand below the low-end (embedded), and the other above the high-end (servers).

Then it will clap!

[[Reply to This](#) | [Parent](#)]

Dietzel is "on crack", from a technical standpoint (Score:2)

by [nweaver](#) (nweaver@cs.berkeley.edu) on Friday February 02, @07:31PM EST ([#99](#))

([User #113078 Info](#)) <http://www.cs.berkeley.edu/~nweaver/>

The low power, many microprocessor solution has been propounded many times, and it has routinely failed in the marketplace. Why?

- People don't care about low power on servers. Even if the power costs and cooling costs are tripled, only a handful are in a position where optimizing for power, not speed is important.
- Theoretical peak, N cheap processors is much more powerful than one expensive processor. The difficulty has always been in programming, not building. If we understood how to program for this model, people would be building things like 8-StrongARM+fp-on-a-chip machines.
- Server machines which perform some sort of service need to have both good throughput and good latency. Nobody will buy a server if it can do some gazillion-transactions-per-second if each transaction takes a minute to complete. This is why even big message passing setups are usually built using high performance processors.

Similarly, non-SMP machines have repeatedly failed when compared to SMP machines, because a message passing machine is much more difficult to program. Yes, if you can rephrase your programs to run on a cluster, then you see the impressive possibility in cost/performance, but it is really difficult to program well. People pay the extra cost for SMP machines simply because they can actually program them for a wider variety of applications.

Most problems which can be translated to a message passing structure have already been migrated to clusters of cheap machines. It is problems like databases, which don't map well to message passing, which is why people buy "servers", and it is these problems which are why people buy E10ks.

Dietzel knows better, he is an intelligent scientist, but he is acting like some corporate PR flack. Such dishonesty I can accept from someone who is ignorant, but he knows better.

Nicholas C Weaver
 nweaver@cs.berkeley.edu
 Never apply a StarTrek solution to a Babylon 5 problem

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*Old programmers never die, they just branch to a
new address.*

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Ask About Open Source Online Info Resources

Posted by [Roblimo](#) on Monday

January 29, @12:00PM

from the helping-information-be-free dept.

This is a "double header" interview.

Our guests are [Jimmy Wales](#) of the recently-started [Nupedia](#) open content encyclopedia project and Michael S. Hart of [Project Gutenberg](#), which Hart [started in 1971](#). The two projects are very different -- Nupedia is creating an encyclopedia, while PG is creating an open-ended database of public domain and out-of-copyright texts -- but they are similar in that both projects' primary goal is free (beer and speech) access to information. Post questions (one per post, please) below for Wales and/or Hart about their creations (or any related topic). We'll send 10 of the highest-moderated questions to them tomorrow, and will publish their answers as soon as they get them back to us.



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Interviews

Welcome to the interviews section - this is place to come to read the assorted conversations that Slashdot and the readers have had with various people involved in the Internet, computers, or anything of interest.

2/2 (5)

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The Fine Print: The following comments are owned by whoever posted them. Slashdot is not responsible for what they say.

Encyclopaedias are obsolete (Score:2, Interesting)

by Chuck Flynn on Monday January 29, @12:06PM EST ([#9](#))

([User #265247 Info](#))

There's nothing in the world that can't be learned from a quick search via [google](#), be it bomb recipes or the correct spelling for "partner". As search engines become more complex, directory listings (especially human-crafted ones) will become increasingly irrelevant.

What matters now is not where your data are hosted, but how others can access them. That's why it's far more important to get government-subsidized network access for our schools than it is to give them physical access to dead-tree books. Textbooks are just an excuse to milk readers out of \$100 and rising, and I won't be sad to see them go.

[[Reply to This](#) | [Parent](#)]

Re:Encyclopaedias are obsolete (Score:5, Interesting)

by [JCCyC](#) (j[CUBAN-DICTATOR'S-SURNAME]@ap[3.141592].com.br) on Monday

January 29, @12:34PM EST ([#31](#))

([User #179760 Info](#))

Good. You touched a subject that never ceases to nag me in the back of my head: textbooks. So here's my question to the interviewees:

What do you think of the idea of Open Textbooks? For example, books on World History, Biology, Math, Physics etc. that can be used in high schools and for which no copy restrictions are in place? Schools and/or parents and/or students would be able to print the book themselves at a fraction of the cost. Maybe the result wouldn't be so nice-looking, but it would be effective.

Think schools in poor neighborhoods, or in the Third World. Think cheap, fast inkjet printers. Think a central repository (or a number thereof) whose contents is certified as "Good For Schools" by some reputable academic body, govt-ran or not.

"[Standing up to an evil system](#) is exhilarating." --Richard Stallman

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- [Re:Encyclopaedias are obsolete](#) by KjetilK (Score:3) Monday January 29, @12:45PM EST
- [Re:Encyclopaedias are](#) by jd142 (Score:1) Monday January 29, @01:13PM EST
- [Not:Encyclopaedias are obsolete](#) by rodentia (Score:2) Monday January 29, @01:22PM EST
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Opposition from the 'For Pay' industry? (Score:5, Interesting)

by Bonker on Monday January 29, @12:06PM EST ([#10](#))

([User #243350 Info](#))

Have you had any overt opposition from the 'For Pay' publishing industries? If so, what is it like. Do you expect legal challenges?

- Just say NO to intellectual property!

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That's a lot of dough. (Score:3, Interesting)

by [laserjet](#) ([s f u h r m a n @ n e w m a i l . n e t]) on Monday January 29, @12:07PM EST ([#11](#))

([User #170008 Info](#)) <http://www.scottf.net>

From the FAQ:

Project Gutenberg began in 1971 when Michael Hart was given an operator's account with \$100,000,000 of computer time in it by the operators of the Xerox Sigma V mainframe at the Materials Research Lab at the University of Illinois.

Anyone know how much computer time that is, or how it was computed? Unfortunately I wasn't alive at the time, and it seems like a weird way to measure time. But if time is money, how much time is 100 million dollars?

9 out of 10 doctors prefer Camel cigs.

[[Reply to This](#) | [Parent](#)]

How long should copyrighted work remain copyright? (Score:5, Interesting)

by DoorFrame on Monday January 29, @12:08PM EST ([#13](#))

([User #22108 Info](#)) <http://www.rumorsdaily.com/>

Here's the question (which I'll follow by a little discussion of my one) but basically the point is how long do you think books, or other content, once given a copyright, should be able to maintain the exclusive rights to their work? It seems that books and music never enter the public domain anymore, why is this?

Anyway, here's some discussion (not part of the question and doesn't need to be forwarded):

Ok. I look at this situation and I'm torn. On one side is the fact that without copyright and trademark law, there is little or no incentive to create new works of art. On the other side, with trademarks and copyrights, we're living in an anti-capitalistic world meaning resources are being wasted.

So, we come to a middle ground.

The real problem, as I see it, is not that there are currently songs which are copyrighted and cannot be copied and sold. This is only fair and I, along with most other producers of content would be annoyed if, say, I wrote a book and tried to publish it only to find the next day that another company was giving a reprinted copy of my book away for free as a grab bag prize. Suddenly I cannot make a living (there are no performances for authors). So I do need copyright.

On the other hand, the blocking of others from selling something that they can produce and distribute more cheaply than I can is a shame, and there is no reason that after I've been allowed to make my money from a product someone else can try to do a better job selling.

What we really have is a problem of time. For some reason it seems that copyright, unlike how it was originally intended, no longer expires. Patents on medicines run out after 7 or so years to allow generic copies to be made, why can't the same hold true for content?

So, after 10 or so years, all content enters the public domain and can be reprinted or resold by anyone who wants. Anybody today could print up and sell Beatles albums at whatever cost they decided to charge. Suddenly there would be a true free market for Beatles recordings and the market would decide the price, instead of one company in an artificially controlled pricing system.

That's just my idea, but I truly believe it should be applied to all content: movies, music, books... everything. Give the authors ten years to make their riches, then give them to the masses to use and reuse as they see fit. The public domain would once again be bountiful.

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- [Re:How long should copyrighted work remain copyrig](#) by Anonymous Coward
(Score:1) Monday January 29, @01:22PM EST
 - [Sonny Bono Copyright Term Extension Act](#) by yerricde (Score:2)
Monday January 29, @02:09PM EST
- [1 reply](#) beneath your current threshold.

Technical overview? (Score:4, Interesting)

by [small_dick](#) (small_dick@threeinches.FAKE_ADDRESS.org) on Monday January 29, @12:09PM EST (#15)

([User #127697 Info](#))

Hi,

I wrote some optical storage/doc scanning code in a previous life...would you be willing to share some experiences and insight into the mechanical/database/indexing side of things, past present and future?

"chocolat" the movie. A metaphor for Linux? Is that a penguin on the back of the guitar?

[[Reply to This](#) | [Parent](#)]

problems? (Score:5, Interesting)

by Xeo2 on Monday January 29, @12:10PM EST (#17)

([User #301694 Info](#))

are either of you worried about possibly erroneous submissions, whether it be a made up encyclopedia article, or badly translated public domain texts? In addition, what will the final forms of both of your products be? CD/DVD or internet? If internet will there be some kind of registration required?

"When people are laughing, they're generally not killing each other"

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- [Re:problems?](#) by KjetilK (Score:1) Monday January 29, @12:48PM EST

How do you handle "Free" information? (Score:2, Insightful)

by [nicholasperez](#) (nicholasperez@hell.com) on Monday January 29, @12:11PM EST (#18)

([User #249531 Info](#))

Information is always documented in some form or another. How do you plan on creating this database of info without giving credit where credit is due? And usually that involves money to the parties in which you "borrow" information from, especially in a publication.

I don't care what it looks like, it WORKS doesn't it!?!?

Nicholas

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- [Re:How do you handle "Free" information?](#) by Jeremy Erwin (Score:2) Monday January 29, @12:18PM EST
 - [Re:How do you handle "Free" information?](#) by nicholasperez (Score:1) Monday January 29, @12:28PM EST

Intergration of the two projects? (Score:5, Interesting)by Squirrel Killer on Monday January 29, @12:21PM EST ([#22](#))([User #23450 Info](#)) <http://www.geocities.com/michaelpatrickryan>

To Jimmy Wales: How tightly do you see integrating Project Gutenberg's materials? Will you cut-and-paste sections from PG into Nupedia? Will the entry on Shakespere link straight to PG's texts of his work?

To Michael Hart: I'm well aware of your desire to keep PG e-texts as clean ASCII with nothing linking to other projects and the like, but would you link from the PG website (not the text themselves) to the Nupedia project? As in the previous example, while brosing the various Shakespere works, will I see a link to his biography on Nupedia?

Personally, I think that this kind of intergration is what will really add to Nupedia, as well as giving PG more value in that you can easily find out more about an author. I had been thinking about doing something like this, but just haven't had the time to do it right or the self-confidence to release what crap I did have to the outside world. Without biasing you answers, I really think that this kind of intergration would really be a boon to both projects, and show the benefits of open projects working together to create something greater than the sum of their parts.

-sk

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- [Re:Intergration of the two projects?](#) by oldieshome (Score:1) Tuesday January 30, @06:31AM EST
- [Re:Intergration of the two projects?](#) by vu2lid (Score:1) Tuesday January 30, @10:57AM EST

Top-10 Copyrighted works you want if you could. (Score:5, Interesting)by [DG](#) (trog@SPAM-ME-NOT.wincom.net) on Monday January 29, @12:22PM EST ([#23](#))([User #989 Info](#)) <http://farnorthracing.com>

For Mr Hart:

If you could pick any 10 currently copyrighted works, and have them placed in the public domain (specifically for inclusion in Project Gutenberg) what would they be?

DG

DG

[[Reply to This](#) | [Parent](#)]

- [Re:Top-10 Copyrighted works you want if you could.](#) by Hard_Code (Score:1) Monday January 29, @02:11PM EST
- [Re:Top-10 Copyrighted works you want if you could.](#) by mattc (Score:1) Monday January 29, @11:48PM EST

using text in other works (Score:5, Insightful)

by [po_boy](#) (amoore at openschedule dot org) on Monday January 29, @12:23PM EST ([#24](#))
[\(User #69692 Info\)](#) <http://openschedule.org>

It is often claimed that GPL'd code is not used in some projects because it would force the authors of the project to be more open with their code than they would like.

In short, I would like to know how you two believe this concept carries over into the content world. Is there an analogous effect, and is this type of work better or worse off than software in overcoming this effect?

More specifically, I see that the works in Project Gutenberg are primarily (all?) public domain, so they may be referenced, altered, and distributed in quite a few ways with few problems. The content in Nupedia, however, is held under a licence more like the GPL. Do you feel that this restriction will cause that content to be used less by people since it would place restrictions on the way in which they could release and distribute derivative works? As the amount of content released under the Gnu Free Documentation Licence increases, do you think that it will have as easy of a time becoming accepted and used as software released under the GPL, or do you think that the restrictive nature of the license will have a more deleterious effect on the works released under it?

[will code for food](#)

[[Reply to This](#) | [Parent](#)]

- [Re:using text in other works](#) by bcrowell (Score:1) Monday January 29, @11:44PM EST

continue (Score:4, Interesting)

by [pouwelse](#) (j@mp3.nl) on Monday January 29, @12:23PM EST ([#25](#))
[\(User #118316 Info\)](#) <http://mp3.nl>

A question for both the projects Gutenberg and nupedia:

Do you think your project would thrive and survive if you were hit by a train, or is the project still very much depending on you for expansion and future direction?

Johan.

[[Reply to This](#) | [Parent](#)]

How do you answer, "Who needs this?" (Score:1)

by ellem on Monday January 29, @12:25PM EST ([#26](#))

(User #147712 Info) <http://www.wtsg.com/dan>

Encyclopediac (is that a word?) storage is useless as evidenced by all the Encyclopedia Britannicas holding doors open.

How are you different?

--- My A500 is **STLL** faster than a 486Dx66

[[Reply to This](#) | [Parent](#)]

PG encoding methods (Score:1)

by [TWX_the_Linux_Zealot](#) (oliver.clozoff@usa.net) on Monday January 29, @12:27PM EST ([#28](#))

(User #227666 Info)

To Michael S. Hart:

Why is project gutenberg using only .zip format and the Microsoft DOS style linefeeds, when most of the patrons (from what I can tell) are using some form of UN*X?

"Titanic was 3hr and 17min long. They could have lost 3hr and 17min from that."

- Bruce Campbell

[[Reply to This](#) | [Parent](#)]

- [Re:PG encoding methods](#) by Vapula (Score:1) Monday January 29, @12:53PM EST
 - [Re:PG encoding methods](#) by mattc (Score:1) Monday January 29, @11:55PM EST

Commercial offshoots (Score:5, Interesting)

by [CarrotLord](#) (richardrussell at mail dot com) on Monday January 29, @12:31PM EST ([#30](#))

(User #161788 Info)

A question for both gentlemen: Is there likely to be commercial offshoots of the Nupedia and Gutenberg Projects, similar to the way the various Linux Distributions have grown from Linux and GNU? Are there any ways planned or envisaged for companies or individuals to profit from these open projects?

PS: note that I consider profit a good thing in general, and this is not a troll or trick question. I would like to see profitable businesses built on the free exchange of knowledge.

rr

-- The author neccessary in this expression is not opinionionated about the comments.

[[Reply to This](#) | [Parent](#)]

Project Gutenberg acceptance in schools (Score:5, Insightful)

by Mendenhall on Monday January 29, @12:37PM EST ([#32](#))

([User #32321 Info](#))

I ran across a very interesting phenomenon recently with Project Gutenberg and the local public school district. My son needed a copy of "Plunkitt of Tammany Hall" for school, and it was not available without a long lead time from bookstores. I looked at Gutenberg, and found it, and printed him up a neat copy. I also printed an extra for him to give to his teacher, so students could copy it and not have to buy the book. I made it quite clear to the teacher that this was a legal operation, etc. However, my son says the teacher shelved the copy, and indicated little interest in providing it to students to copy.

It seems that free texts such as this would be the perfect thing to use in history courses, where students often buy a book, read it once, and never use it again. School systems could save the students a _lot_ of money this way, and with very little effort on the part of the teacher. Many copy places (such as Kinko's) even will handle distribution and sale of such copies to students, with no effort on the part of the teacher, and a lot more cheaply than buying a book for one use.

Do you have any idea how to convince school systems of the value of this approach?

Given the large number of historical texts available, it seems that it would open the doors to teachers use of a lot more original material in classes without much effort or expense.

[[Reply to This](#) | [Parent](#)]

- [Re:Project Gutenberg acceptance in schools](#) by bcrowell (Score:1) Monday January 29, @11:48PM EST

Appropriate Copyright Length? (Score:5, Insightful)

by coldmist on Monday January 29, @12:37PM EST ([#34](#))

([User #154493 Info](#))

Originally, copyright length was 12 years, with the option to extend it on the last year for another 12 years.

Currently, it's up to 95 years (if memory serves).

According to the Constitution, it was supposed to be for "limited times," but 95 years is longer than most people's average lifespan. To me, it seems that the copyright protection is effectively "forever" since odds are an average American would never (legally) get the chance to apply creative talent to make a derivative work from the Star Wars universe, for example.

What do you consider to be an appropriate copyright length, balancing the need to pay content creators, versus the Public Domain and society's claim on it? And, if you think it should be considerably less than it is now, how does the US's Berne Convention agreement effect/influence what can be done?

[[Reply to This](#) | [Parent](#)]

- [Re:Appropriate Copyright Length?](#) by Hard_Code (Score:2) Monday January 29, @01:49PM EST
- [25 years tops](#) by yerricde (Score:2) Monday January 29, @02:22PM EST

Project Gutenberg file format (Score:5, Interesting)

by [rodentia](#) (possum@UNSPAM.haarman.net) on Monday January 29, @ 12:47PM EST (#37)
[\(User #102779 Info\)](#) <http://www.haarman.net/>

I have been an avid fan of the project for as long as I've been aware of it. My question has several parts pertaining to presentation technologies.

We're a long way from 1970 when ASCII was the only viable *lingua franca* for a network; is there any discussion of updating the file format for the project? Specifically, something *ML-ish which would allow for presentation in multiple output formats. I am thinking of the spread of e-book readers and the like and increasing the potential readership. With a proper infrastructure, project texts could even be rendered to adaptive browsers with VoxML or other technologies.

Secondly, if the project doesn't choose to modify its longstanding ASCII formatting standards, are there efforts afoot to programmatically apply some structured tagging on-the-fly to allow for easy translation by other tools? Is this an itch I'll have scratch for myself?

illegitimi non ingravare

[[Reply to This](#) | [Parent](#)]

- [Re:Project Gutenberg file format](#) by JSBiff (Score:1) Monday January 29, @01:52PM EST
 - [Re:Project Gutenberg file format](#) by rodentia (Score:1) Monday January 29, @02:26PM EST
- [beyond file format issues](#) by thex23 (Score:2) Monday January 29, @03:05PM EST
- [Re:Project Gutenberg file format](#) by Eccles (Score:2) Monday January 29, @04:06PM EST
- [Re:Project Gutenberg file format](#) by thomasrynn (Score:1) Monday January 29, @05:38PM EST

cross-linking (Score:1)

by @i2d on Monday January 29, @01:11PM EST ([#43](#))

(User #9438 Info) <http://www.xmission.com/~haas>

How do the managers of the Nupedia project plan to maintain consistent and useful cross-linking between articles written by different authors?

[[Reply to This](#) | [Parent](#)]

What about libraries (Score:1)

by LISNews on Monday January 29, @01:19PM EST ([#45](#))

(User #150412 Info) <http://www.lisnews.com>

Projects like this are great, they move information to places that are readily accessible to more people.

Do you think libraries like we know them now are going to eventually replaced by stuff like this?

What about paper books, will everything be digitized?

[[Reply to This](#) | [Parent](#)]

The Bono Copyright Protection Act (Score:4, Interesting)

by jonathansamuel on Monday January 29, @01:20PM EST ([#46](#))

(User #59294 Info) <http://www.geocities.com/Area51/Cavern/5467/nonsitchentr.htm>

How damaging has the Bono Copyright Protection act been to Project Gutenberg?

This idiotic piece of legislation retroactively increased length of copyright protection for works written in the 1920s, so that Robert Frost's poetry and many other works will now be kept out of the public domain for another generation.

Is there any possibility this act could be repealed?

Marjo Wycam, Master of the Programming Arts

[[Reply to This](#) | [Parent](#)]

For Mr. Hart (Score:5, Interesting)

by [ContinuousPark](#) (cp@strangedomainname.com) on Monday January 29, @01:25PM EST (#51)

[[User #92960 Info](#)]

I've noticed that the Project Gutenberg site has a rather straightforward interface, you get the database queries you need but I've noticed that's not very friendly for some users; computer illiterate users that I've recommended your website to and children, for instance.

I've also noticed that all texts are available as text-only and I understand your decision behind this.

So, my question has two sides: *Are there any plans to build a front-end for PG that is more user-friendly; by this I mean, for instance, profiles of major authors and new acquisitions, featured writings each week, a section for children, personalization features so that the site recommends books for me, and so on. Are there any plans to, while always having text-only versions, also have automatically generated versions in other formats (pdf, postscript, and especially some of the new formats for eBooks or PDAs)??*

I think some of these changes, just having a front page that changes everyday with new reading suggestions and lures the visitors to go and read (in the same fashion that makes people go to BN or Amazon to buy books) could make your site much more popular than it already is but how high is this on your list of priorities, if at all?

ps. Kudos on the excellent work you've done through the years!

"All the things one has forgotten scream for help in dreams". Elias Canetti

[[Reply to This](#) | [Parent](#)]

- [Re:For Mr. Hart](#) by ContinuousPark (Score:1) Monday January 29, @07:45PM EST
- [1 reply beneath your current threshold.](#)

Mutopia (Score:2)

by [Uruk](#) (s2mdalle@titan.vcu.edu) on Monday January 29, @01:28PM EST (#53)

[[User #4907 Info](#)] <http://opop.nols.com/index.shtml>

Hey guys, on the free (beer/speech) information range, let's not forget:
[Mutopia](#).

There are three types of people in the world; those who can count, and those who can't.
<http://opop.nols.com/index.shtml>

[[Reply to This](#) | [Parent](#)]

- [Re:Mutopia](#) by ornes (Score:1) Monday January 29, @07:09PM EST

ala CDDB. (Score:1)

by Chatterton on Monday January 29, @01:35PM EST ([#54](#))

([User #228704 Info](#))

Could you derivate like the CDDB project database (Free -> Pay) ? Have you some legal lock against this happening ?

Is there something intelligent on earth?

[[Reply to This](#) | [Parent](#)]

Digital Paper (Score:1)

by [Darkwraith](#) (darkwraith@NOSPAM.mail.com) on Monday January 29, @02:03PM EST ([#57](#))

([User #258716 Info](#)) <http://darkwraith.dhs.org>

What do both of you think about digital paper from xerox?Do you think this will have a huge impact on people choosing to use your projects on a larger scale?

[[Reply to This](#) | [Parent](#)]

Project Gutenberg Question (Score:1)

by annielaurie on Monday January 29, @02:25PM EST ([#63](#))

([User #257735 Info](#))

My question is a practical one for Michael Hart:

An organization I've become interested in seems to have an ongoing project to mark Project Gutenberg documents up in XML. There are DTD's available, and you can "check out," mark up and submit a text.

My question is: Are there a large number of organizations doing this, and would it be a good use of time? It seems to be an fine way of getting smart at XML while doing some general good.

Thanks.

[[Reply to This](#) | [Parent](#)]

Translation (Score:1)

by J. Chrysostom on Monday January 29, @03:12PM EST ([#66](#))

([User #125843 Info](#))

Mr. Hart - Many works which have been written in different languages have been translated multiple times, and many of these translations are now in the public domain. What sort of criteria does the project have for including translated works in the archive?

[[Reply to This](#) | [Parent](#)]

Volunteer Motivations (Score:1)

by [lupercalia](#) (david@lupercalia.net) on Monday January 29, @04:01PM EST ([#67](#))
(User #310569 Info) <http://www.lupercalia.net>

For Michael Hart:

Conventional wisdom in the world of Free Software says that most development happens because it scratches somebody's itch. Obviously something else is driving the volunteers at Project Gutenberg, because you must already own a copy of a book before you can scan or type it and contribute it to the project. Yet some volunteers have given a great deal of their time, especially when working on extremely large works (e.g., Gibbons' *The Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire*, all 6 volumes).

After many years leading the project, what have you learned about volunteer motivations? What drives them to give so freely? What implications does this have that might change our understanding of Free Software projects?

[[Reply to This](#) | [Parent](#)]

Obtaining releases for copywritten work (Score:1)

by rlanctot on Monday January 29, @04:08PM EST ([#69](#))
(User #310750 Info) <http://ryan.lanctot.net>

I read recently on a library archivists' site that it's estimated that 95% of all copyrights that were originally registered prior to 1950 have lapsed. My question, then, is two-fold.

What investigations, if any, have you made into obtaining releases or verifying that newer works are available?

Second, what steps do you think could be taken to preserve the legacy of out of print books, given that once they fail to become readily available to the general public, they in essence cease to exist and pass from our collective consciousness?

[[Reply to This](#) | [Parent](#)]

Can a public domain encyclopedia help? (Score:4, Interesting)

by versimilidude on Monday January 29, @05:32PM EST ([#71](#))
(User #39954 Info)

Can these two projects be combined? There were quite a few encyclopedias published in the first part of the 20th century that are now in the public domain, and many of their articles are still good and useful. Actually, for many figures of the 19th century the biographies are better than what is published in modern reference works. Descriptions of, among other things, basic algebra, geometry, ancient and medieval philosophies are still valid. Of course entries like "Germany" and "Argentina" would need updating. Would the weeding and editing be more work than the final value of having a comprehensive set of listings?

[[Reply to This](#) | [Parent](#)]

Security Archive (Score:2, Insightful)

by h8macs on Monday January 29, @08:22PM EST ([#76](#))

([User #301553 Info](#))

A real, unfettered, complete archive of security related material. From the most elusive to find to the current day featured on '[slashdot](#)'. By materials I mean, books, how-to's, FAQ's that have long since dissappeared. One might argue that there is no reason to study old fixes, old rules, old policies. I have a different opinion than that, and would love to see a huge gathered archive.

Even if just a hyperlinked list.....Preferrably searchable!? ;-)

What exactly is your focus on this 'free' information?

:-(--- argh. Despair, I owe again. :-b

:-(--- argh. Despair, I owe again. :-b

[[Reply to This](#) | [Parent](#)]

open source OCR software? (Score:2)

by Dr. Tom on Monday January 29, @08:55PM EST ([#77](#))

([User #23206 Info](#))

what are the best open source OCR efforts that you are aware of? G* and K* compatible scanner/OCR/packaging systems should be pushed to help get the most material online in the shortest time, using modern formats like SGML.

[[Reply to This](#) | [Parent](#)]

The Human Body (Score:2, Insightful)

by Rick the Red on Monday January 29, @09:01PM EST ([#79](#))

([User #307103 Info](#))

How is Nupedia going to replicate those nifty transparency overlays of the human body (you know, one for the nervous system, one for the skeleton, etc.) that World Book now does so well?

Are you going to turn your lack of a print version into an advantage by doing things the others (I'm thinking WB and EB, not Encarta) can't do on paper?

If all this should have a reason, we would be the last to know.

[[Reply to This](#) | [Parent](#)]

a way for pg to make money (Score:1)

by [matte](#) ([matte at linuxstart dot com](#)) on Tuesday January 30, @12:00AM EST ([#85](#))
([User #12417 Info](#))

Has PG considered making bound "dead tree" versions of their books available on their web site for purchase? This seems like a good way to make money, since there are many people who prefer to read a paper version rather than a computer screen.

[[Reply to This](#) | [Parent](#)]

Help needed by Nupedia? (Score:4, Insightful)

by [bcrowell](#) ([crowell01 at diespammersdiedie.lightandmatter.com](#)) on Tuesday January 30, @12:10AM EST ([#86](#))
([User #177657 Info](#)) <http://www.lightandmatter.com>

What kind of help does Nupedia need the most? --

- writing articles
- peer reviewing
- editors for certain subject areas
- copyediting
- software work
- software documentation
- ...?

Certain subject areas (e.g. physics) seem to have some people interesting in writing articles, but don't seem to have enough volunteers for the editorial jobs to get articles through the process. What jobs need to be filled in what areas? Do you think the editorial jobs are hard to fill because people don't want to make enemies? ...because people don't think they'd be fun jobs? ... because it doesn't scratch people's itch?

Re software work, Nupedia has just changed over to new software, which seems a little raw. Is it on CVS? Would you like to get offers of help from people with good track records writing open-source software?

Sorry if I sound like a whiner, but as a Nupedia newbie (nubie?), I was pretty discouraged by the lack of understandable, current documentation, and stuff like underlined text that turned out not to be real hyperlinks,...

[The Assayer](#) - free-information book reviews

This post is GFDL 1.1 licensed.

[[Reply to This](#) | [Parent](#)]

extending copyrights issues (Score:1)

by [kipple](#) (dont.spam.me.at.k@olografix.org) on Tuesday January 30, @02:47AM EST ([#87](#))
[\(User #244681 Info\)](#)

somoe people (usually relatives of a dead writer) are trying to extend their copyright in order to get the maximum amount of money which is possible, even after a century from the dead of the author. What do you think are good methods to fight that behavior? In your experience, is there any way to "fight" against what is obviously a misuse of the right of publications? After all, who said that his/her relatives have the right to be rewarded of his/her work?

I'd like to apply this issue not only to books (the first one which comes into mind) but also to every piece of the human knowledge involved in such things.

Thanks for the attention, long life and prosper!

(and forgive me for the broken english)

-- There are two kind of sysadmins: Paranoids and Losers. (adapted from D. Bach)

[[Reply to This](#) | [Parent](#)]

iconicism and art (Score:2, Interesting)

by [funferal](#) (andrew@funferal.nospam.org) on Tuesday January 30, @05:38AM EST ([#88](#))
[\(User #25312 Info\)](#) <http://www.funferal.org>

A project such as Project Gutenberg concentrates on the *content* of a work of Art, rather than the object itself (e.g. an original Shakespeare Folio).

The view has been expressed that as content becomes more freely available, the value placed on objects - such as first editions, or signed copies - will increase.

What does Michael Hart think? Will people be more inclined to buy books for their curiosity/iconic value? Will this reduce the value placed on the content, the thoughts and ideas, as people buy books much as they now buy antiques or works of art? Will this be a good or a bad thing?

Andrew Ó Baoill

I'd rather go down in familiar flames than be lost in that endless blue.

[[Reply to This](#) | [Parent](#)]

Are the Encyclopedia's from 1971? (Score:1)

by [GoddessHBIC](#) (ThinkGeek@Goddess.net) on Tuesday January 30, @02:13PM EST ([#92](#))
(User #253663 Info) <http://members.xoom.com/HBIC.1>

What measures are being made, if any, to correct any of the false recorded historical occurrences? And what of newer developments that belong in the encyclopedia, but have not yet made it there? Are you Copying it as is, or are you giving yourself a certain amount of free reign with the knowledge?

"Whenever you find yourself on the side of the majority, it is time to pause and reflect." -- Mark Twain

[[Reply to This](#) | [Parent](#)]

Degree Required? (Score:1)

by [Erebus](#) (devnull@macewan.net) on Tuesday January 30, @02:17PM EST ([#93](#))
(User #13033 Info) <http://www.macewan.net>

Mr. Wales: After looking over the Nupedia site, it seems that only those persons with post-graduate degrees in a specific field are considered 'acceptable' contributors for information in that field. Is this true, or have I somehow misinterpreted your requirements? I realize it's a stretch, but it begs the question: Does this imply that you will not include information for which there is no accredited degree program? Was'up wif dat?

[[Reply to This](#) | [Parent](#)]

The Truth (Score:1)

by wayn3 on Tuesday January 30, @03:45PM EST ([#94](#))
(User #147985 Info)

With a public domain encyclopedia, how do handle alternate views of history? Who's version of the truth will be print?

[[Reply to This](#) | [Parent](#)]

GNUPedia vs. Nupedia (Score:2)

by dsplat on Monday January 29, @04:33PM EST ([#70](#))
(User #73054 Info)

Is there any relationship between [Nupedia](#) and [GNUPedia](#)? Are these simply two independent implementations of an idea whose time has come? If they are independent, will they merge or continue separately serving different goals?

The net will not be what we demand, but what we make it. Build it well.

[[Reply to This](#) | [Parent](#)]

- [Re:GNUPedia vs. Nupedia](#) by bcowell (Score:1) Monday January 29, @11:57PM EST

Re:When? (Score:1)

by Rick the Red on Monday January 29, @08:56PM EST ([#78](#))

([User #307103 Info](#))

When is Gutenberg going to do an encyclopedia?

This isn't such a silly question, when you think about it. My brother and sister are considerably older than I (17 and 14 years, respectively). When I was in Jr. High I discovered an old encyclopedia my parents bought for them, and I had great fun comparing articles in the old one with the same articles in the current encyclopedia in the school library, seeing how the Conventional Wisdom had changed for some subjects, but hadn't changed for others. I think there would be considerable (well, OK, some) interest in historical encyclopedias, if they were available for PG.

If all this should have a reason, we would be the last to know.

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Old programmers never die, they just branch to a new address.

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Ask FCC Chief Technologist David J. Farber

Posted by [Roblimo](#) on Monday

January 22, @12:00PM

from the straight-from-the-source dept.

[Professor David J. Farber](#), a true [Internet pioneer](#), has been featured on many of the "100 most important people online" and "visionaries to watch" lists that trendwatchers like to put out, started the famous [Interesting-People](#) e-mail list, and was an [expert witness](#) in the Microsoft antitrust trial. In real life, he's a professor at the [University of Pennsylvania](#), but since January 2000 he has served as the [FCC's Chief Technologist](#), a position that usually carries a one-year tenure, which means he may be leaving (literally) at any moment. What to ask? Up to you. Take a look at the linked pages first, then post questions below (one per post, please). We'll send 10 of the highest-moderated ones tomorrow, and publish Prof. Farber's answers as soon as he gets them back to us.

< [The Transmeta Pushme-Pullyou? | Looking For Aliens In All the Wrong Places](#) >



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Digital Television (HDTV) (Score:2, Interesting)

by [gouldtj](#) ([ted_at_gould.cx](#)) on Monday January 22, @12:08PM EST (#6)

(User #21635 Info) <http://gould.cx/ted>

In recent months there has been some, well, lots of debate over changing the DTV standards to include COFDM instead of VSB. What do you think will happen with this standard? Is every digital TV sold going to become obsolete? How do you see this effecting television sales and broadcaster deployment?

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- [A Question.](#) by atrowe (Score:2) Monday January 22, @01:06PM EST
 - [Re:A Question.](#) by DebtAngel (Score:1) Monday January 22, @01:36PM EST
 - [3 replies](#) beneath your current threshold.

FCC approval of AOL-TW (Score:5, Interesting)

by AntiNorm on Monday January 22, @12:09PM EST (#7)

(User #155641 Info) <http://www.antinorm.com/>

Being that you are with one of the government agencies that oversees this sort of thing (the communication aspect of it, anyway), what is your position on the merger of America Online and Time Warner? Do you think it will be too powerful? Too large? And also, what will be done if it uses its quasi-monopolistic position in what is deemed to be an unfair manner?

Check in...OK! Check out...OK!

Prop... up... down... ARCH!!!

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- [Re:FCC approval of AOL-TW](#) by Riplakish (Score:1) Monday January 22, @12:14PM EST
- [Re:FCC approval of AOL-TW](#) by mr_zorg (Score:1) Monday January 22, @04:16PM EST
 - [1 reply](#) beneath your current threshold.

What now? (Score:3, Interesting)

by TDScott on Monday January 22, @12:11PM EST (#11)

(User #260197 Info) <http://www.thomasscott.net/>

You've seen the Internet grow from its early days - what do you see as the future for the net? Broadband? VR? Subscription-sites? Or will integration bring the net and television together? [\[Home Page\]](#) - with a diary of my big win on the UK game show 'Blockbusters'

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What next? (Score:1)

by [crashnbur](#) (crash_spam@neotope.com) on Monday January 22, @12:11PM EST (#12)
(User #127738 Info) <http://crash.neotope.com>

With your tenure as the Federal Communications Commission's Chief Techologist potentially coming to an end in the very near future, what are your plans regarding your position at the University of Pennsylvania (or another university, for that matter)? How do you plan to use these past few years full of awards and recognition to support your life, your career, and those with whom you surround yourself and will surround yourself in the approaching future?

crash.neotope.com

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Low power community radio...when? (Score:4, Interesting)

by ktakki on Monday January 22, @12:12PM EST (#13)
(User #64573 Info) <http://www.xensei.com/users/ktakki/vcr.html>

Over the last few years the broadcast spectrum has been a battleground, between low-power FM broadcasters trying to serve the community and commercial broadcasters who are beholden to their advertisers. Invariably, the FCC comes down hard on the "pirates", making me wonder if the public trust has been misplaced and if the public interest is being served.

My question is this: what steps is the FCC taking to resolve this situation? Or is it a moot point now that the Republicans control all three branches of government? Will the broadcast spectrum be exploited for maximum commercial gain like drilling for oil in a wildlife preserve? Or is there indeed a legal niche that can be carved for low-power broadcasters serving communities that the commercial broadcasters ignore?

k., trying hard not to be *too* dogmatic.

--

"In spite of everything, I still believe that people are really good at heart." - Anne Frank

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- [**"beholden to advertisers"**](#) by OlympicSponsor (Score:2) Monday January 22, @12:29PM EST
 - [Re:"beholden to advertisers"](#) by kriegspiel (Score:1) Monday January 22, @12:43PM EST
 - [Re:"beholden to advertisers"](#) by gorilla (Score:2) Monday January 22, @01:42PM EST
 - [Re:"beholden to advertisers"](#) by mgkimsal2 (Score:1) Saturday January 27, @10:49AM EST
 - [Re:"beholden to advertisers"](#) by ktakki (Score:1) Monday January 22, @07:50PM EST
- [Re:Low power community radio...when?](#) by robt (Score:1) Monday January 22, @03:39PM EST
- [Re:Low power community radio...when?](#) by Tilde~ (Score:1) Monday January 22, @03:49PM EST
- [Re:NPR not to be trusted](#) by Anonymous Coward (Score:1) Monday January 22, @02:24PM EST
- [**1 reply beneath your current threshold.**](#)

The future of communications in the US. (Score:5, Interesting)

by [war2k1](#) (gezick@mydomainnameismyemailusername.net) on Monday January 22, @12:13PM EST (#14)

(User #15869 Info) <http://gezick.net>

In the past, the FCC has regulated what constitutes a relatively minor part of the American Experience (tm). When I say minor I am comparing telephone, telegraph and radio transmissions to things like National Security, Defense, Education, the Environment, Housing, etc. All of these things have a 'Secretary of' and the FCC, as yet, does not. The arenas (namely the internet) in which the FCC operates are becoming more central to American life every day. The internet will (or does) need an advocate in government, to shepard (for lack of a better word) its growth throughout this century. Also, the net faces unique challenges since it does not fall under the jurisdiction of any one country, and as such, is an international resource. Given all this, do you think it is likely that a president in the near future will create a Department of Information, or rather a department whose job it is to regulate, safeguard, and develop the resources of our national communications medium?

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Descrambling (Score:1, Interesting)

by truthsearch on Monday January 22, @12:14PM EST (#16)

(User #249536 Info)

If a company chooses to send a digital or analog signal into my home, whatever the method, shouldn't I have the right to do whatever I wish with the signal? Cable descramblers, for instance; if a cable signal is flowing from a wire into my home, where I own the wire, don't I own the signal coming into my home, and therefore should have the right to descramble it if I please? The same goes for DeCSS, or encrypted data over the internet. If it leads to my computer, should the basic rule be: "If it's on your property, such as in your home or on your computer, a corporation can't tell you what you can do with it."?

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- [Re:Descrambling](#) by SuperguyA1 (Score:1) Monday January 22, @12:30PM EST
- [Re:Descrambling](#) by Big Brass Balls (Score:1) Monday January 22, @12:32PM EST
 - [Incoming signal](#) by truthsearch (Score:2) Monday January 22, @04:30PM EST
- [Re:Descrambling](#) by Electric Jesus (Score:2) Monday January 22, @12:37PM EST
 - [Re:Descrambling](#) by truthsearch (Score:2) Monday January 22, @04:36PM EST
 - [Re:Descrambling](#) by Electric Jesus (Score:1) Monday January 22, @06:00PM EST
 - [Re:Descrambling](#) by brsett (Score:1) Monday January 22, @06:26PM EST
 - [Re:Descrambling](#) by cd Duffy (Score:2) Monday January 22, @06:58PM EST
- [Sounds good, but...](#) by roystgnr (Score:2) Monday January 22, @12:44PM EST
- [Re:Descrambling](#) by michael_cain (Score:1) Monday January 22, @01:32PM EST
- [2 replies beneath your current threshold.](#)

IPv6 (Score:3, Offtopic)

by [SquadBoy](#) (squadboy@thisisnotitsisna.com) on Monday January 22, @12:14PM EST (#17)
(User #167263 Info)

What do you think about it? What can we do to speed adoption? Do you think we should speed adoption? Also what do you think of IPsec? With the same questions as above.

I'm afraid it is you who are mistaken about a great many things....

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FCC and Copy Protection (Score:5, Insightful)

by [sterno](#) ([sterno at bigbrother dot net](mailto:sterno@bigbrother.net)) on Monday January 22, @12:15PM EST (#21)
(User #16320 Info) <http://www.bigbrother.net/>

It seems that the FCC's requirement that broadcasters move to the new digital standard may have an unintended consequence. The consequence is that digital formats offer greater possibility to control/eliminate the ability to copy and time shift materials produced by broadcasters (abilities that have overall lead to the creation of new services and increased consumer choice).

Being that the FCC is a government agency, deriving it's mandate from the citizens, what do you see as the FCC's role in preserving the rights of consumers to copy and time shift broadcasted materials? How do you envision the interaction between the media, the broadcasters, and the viewers in a future where analog is no longer an option?

Disclaimer: IANAL (I Am Not a Lama)

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- [Re:FCC and Copy Protection](#) by alanh (Score:1) Monday January 22, @02:49PM EST
 - [Re:FCC and Copy Protection](#) by Tilde~ (Score:1) Monday January 22, @03:55PM EST
- [**1 reply beneath your current threshold.**](#)

Copyright & Big Money (Score:5, Interesting)

by [PureFiction](#) (coderman@mindspring.com.nospamplease) on Monday January 22, @12:15PM EST (#22)

(User #10256 Info) <http://CubicMeterCrystal.com>

I want to know what your view on the copyright wars of late might be.

Specifically, the FCC passed a law prohibiting the recording of HDTV digital content. Do you feel that this is a violation of the home audio recording act/betamax decision?

Does the FCC have any interest in large media corporations planning systems to prohibit time shifting of broadcast context? (unrecordable music / tv / etc)

Thanks...

99.44% "You are the product of a mutational union of ~640Mbytes of genetic information."

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- [Re:Copyright & Big Money](#) by Masem (Score:2) Monday January 22, @12:24PM EST
 - [Re:Copyright & Big Money](#) by XLawyer (Score:2) Monday January 22, @12:41PM EST
 - [Re:Copyright & Big Money](#) by Masem (Score:2) Monday January 22, @12:58PM EST

If HDTV is the answer, what is the question? (Score:5, Insightful)

by [Jay Maynard](#) (jmaynard@commicro.cx) on Monday January 22, @ 12:16PM EST (#24)

(User #54798 Info) <http://www.commicro.cx>

In a few short years, trillions of dollars of equipment - and at least that much in prerecorded viewing materials already in place - will be obsoleted by what seems to be a totally arbitrary decision to replace it all with incompatible HDTV systems. My question is simple: Why? What do I get out of the deal? Why should I spend thousands of dollars for what will be at best a limited return?

This change seems to benefit nobody but the manufacturers of TV receivers and other consumer equipment. For the consumer, HDTV is an answer in search of a question.

--

Disinfect the GNU General Public Virus!

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The future of software development (Score:1)

by Rudeboy777 on Monday January 22, @ 12:17PM EST (#27)

(User #214749 Info)

I don't know if it's possible to provide an unbiased answer to this question, but try and put your personal opinions about open source aside for this one:

Can the open-source model evolve into a legitimate (and possibly the best) way to produce quality software AND turn a profit? As it is now, it depends heavily on talented programmers investing significant amounts of time for free. Is closed source the way it will always be for software companies to flourish financially?

"My favourite word is existentialism. I can't say it and I'm not quite sure what it means" -Geri Halliwell

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Pressures on the FCC (Score:5, Interesting)

by [MillMan](#) (millbizzatyahoodotcom) on Monday January 22, @ 12:17PM EST (#28)

(User #85400 Info)

Where does the pressure come from? The "best interests" of society are typically different than what corporations want or need to stay profitable. Does it come from lobbyist groups, politicians who have large financial backing, or somewhere else? Since the stance of the EFF in my opinion is far different than what the FCC usually does (the "donation" of the HDTV frequency spectrum comes to mind), how do you deal with this? And do you have the power to push through policies that the EFF would favor?

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What were the real benefits of the AOL/TW merger? (Score:3, Insightful)
by [nharmon](#) (nharmon@monroe.lib.mi.us) on Monday January 22, @12:20PM EST (#30)
(User #97591 Info)

The immediate result of AOL and Time Warner merging into one company, being the first time that an entertainment and telecommunications company have come together, was a vast termination of employees.

I really wonder first of all, how much a merger could have EVER happened in our country. The washington post ran an [article](#) a while back dicussing how Micheal Powell (FCC commissioner) had an influence on the direction the merger was heading. Seeing that his father (Colin Powell), sits on the AOL board.

My question is, being an established expert, do you believe that the merger between AOL and Time Warner is a rare fluke of our system, or is this something that we're going to be seeing again shortly.

"Television: a medium. So called because it is neither rare nor well done." -Ernie Kovacs.

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When will the FCC start to... (Score:2, Insightful)
by [Vladinator](#) (webmaster@geekizoid.com) on Monday January 22, @12:21PM EST (#31)
(User #29743 Info) <http://geekizoid.com/>

Look out for "The Little Guy" and force companies like SBC and others to actually share their networks in the last mile? More than once, living in the St. Louis area, I have seen friends and neighbors order DSL service, and not get it for weeks on end. Some of whom were even told (when they complained) that SBC could hook them into SBC's DSL *within hours* but that they would not be able to connect them to a third party any time soon. What's up with that!!!

[Fawking Trolls!](#)

Go ahead and mod me down. I'll just post more.

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What's gonna happen with Penn's football team? (Score:1, Interesting)
by Anonymous Coward on Monday January 22, @12:21PM EST (#32)

Are they gonna get rid of Joe Paterno and start using a modern offensive line?

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- [1 reply](#) beneath your current threshold.

Intellectual Property (Score:1)

by MidKnight on Monday January 22, @12:22PM EST (#34)

(User #19766 Info)

One of the true challenges facing the Internet is the issue of Intellectual Property. I understand that law isn't your specialty, but as someone who feels like "... an inside the beltway figure", how do you see IP issues (legal and otherwise) affecting the growth and evolution of the Internet?

--Mid

"Time wounds all heels" -- Robert Heinlein

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Bandwidth, Bandwidth, Bandwidth... (Score:3, Offtopic)

by [jonfromspace](#) (jon@randomdrivel.com) on Monday January 22, @12:22PM EST (#35)

(User #179394 Info) <http://www.filerogue.com>

With the exponential increase in demand for Bandwidth, do you see a need for access to be regulated on a federal (or global) Level?

Will Goverments need to intervene to ensure we all have access to our "fair share" of pipe? With the merger of AOL/TW (and more to come, I'm sure) How will regulators manage our rights for access to information?

[Hemos](#) is an [Alien](#).

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- [Re:Bandwidth, Bandwidth, Bandwidth...](#) by [jonfromspace](#) (Score:2) Monday January 22, @04:00PM EST

DFAST cable copy protection (Score:2)

by SEWilco on Monday January 22, @12:23PM EST (#36)

(User #27983 Info) <http://www.wilcoxon.org/~sewilco>

My cable company says Dynamic Feedback Arrangement Scrambling Technique (DFAST) came from Congress and to talk to them. In FCC info it looks like DFAST came from the cable industries' Cable Labs ([FCC PDF doc 6512258522](#)). Where did DFAST come from and what is its status?

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DSL desperately needs to be regulated by the FCC. (Score:5, Interesting)

by [AFCArchvile](#) (talk_is Cheap@lies.are.expensive.com) on Monday January 22, @12:24PM EST

(#37)

(User #221494 Info) <http://www.verizoneatspoop.com/>

Right now, Verizon, the largest local telephone company in the country (and therefore the largest owner and operator of the central offices which handle DSL traffic) is cheating DSL customers out of bandwidth. Right now, my Covad ADSL connection rated at 608kbps/128kbps performs at 108/109. Furthermore, as reported in [this DSLReports article](#), Verizon is closing down its DSL Call Center on March 31. This center "employs over 500 people in DSL sales, customer care, and technical support," and yet Verizon still runs away from its disgruntled customers like a scared horse. CLECs (Competitive Local Exchange Carriers) which use Verizon's central offices to serve their customers, have reported that Verizon shuts off data pipelines and feigns equipment failures as an anti-competitive measure (one such "Denial of Service" attack was [reported by 2600.com](#), whose website was effectively shut out by Verizon, whose technicians bumbled about like drunkards, leaving 2600.com in the dark for four days [in that time, they missed a debate with Jack Valenti at Harvard, and their Internet store experienced massive lost revenues]).

In closing, this is my question to David Farber: When will the FCC begin strict regulation of Digital Subscriber Lines? And when will Verizon be held accountable for their nefarious acts? (Recently, [a class action suit against Verizon was initiated](#) on behalf of Verizon DSL customers)

Software designers are so infatuated with the fact that they can, that they don't stop to think if they should.

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- [Re:DSL desperately needs to be regulated by the FC](#) by Masem (Score:3) Monday January 22, @12:39PM EST
 - [Re:DSL desperately needs to be regulated by the FC](#) by AFCArchvile (Score:1) Monday January 22, @03:07PM EST
- [Isn't this Covad's problem? Or the ISPs?](#) by Zigurd (Score:1) Monday January 22, @12:43PM EST
 - [Re:Isn't this Covad's problem? Or the ISPs?](#) by AFCArchvile (Score:1) Monday January 22, @12:46PM EST
- [Re:DSL desperately needs to be regulated by the FC](#) by cavemanf16 (Score:1) Monday January 22, @01:06PM EST
 - [Re: Is Ameritech PPPoE?](#) by AFCArchvile (Score:1) Monday January 22, @03:05PM EST
- [Get cable :\)](#) by Fervent (Score:2) Monday January 22, @01:13PM EST
 - [Re:Get cable :\)](#) by AFCArchvile (Score:1) Monday January 22, @03:02PM EST

Radio stations (Score:5, Interesting)

by MetalHead on Monday January 22, @12:29PM EST ([#39](#))

([User #54706 Info](#))

The relaxed rules on how many radio stations a single entity may own in a given market have, in my opinion lead to a severe decline in the quality of programming available on radio. For example, take a look at this page to see the radio stations owned by Clearchannel Communications:

<http://www.clearchannel.com/corpoffices.htm#radio>

They own a terrifying number of radio stations, and the programming quality is suffering. The stations do not have to compete in many markets because Clearchannel has an effective monopoly in many markets.

The airwaves, a public resource, are being abused by this mega-corporation.

What are you going to do to fix this mess?

Bang the head that doesn't bang!

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- [Re:Radio stations](#) by cavemanf16 (Score:1) Monday January 22, @01:09PM EST
- [1 reply beneath your current threshold.](#)

Farber Institute (Score:1)

by quincyq on Monday January 22, @12:40PM EST ([#47](#))

([User #267393 Info](#))

Does anyone else find it interesting that the Farber Institute solicits donations from movie audiences nation-wide? In fact, you are donating directly to the FCC, which your tax dollars already pay for. Interesting, no ?

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Most "Interesting People?" (Score:2, Interesting)

by Coz on Monday January 22, @12:50PM EST ([#56](#))

([User #178857 Info](#)) <http://www.starwarrior.com>

You're a person of broad interests, with friends and acquaintances that span the globe. Who are the people you consider "most interesting," and why should others pay attention to them?

I love vegetarians - some of my favorite foods are vegetarians.

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MR Farber: (Score:2)

by [Maeryk](#) (maeryk@fast.net) on Monday January 22, @12:54PM EST ([#57](#))

([User #87865 Info](#))

I know this is not a purely technological question, but as you deal with the FCC, how do you feel about the almost purely arbitrary application of "community standards" to judge content of films, TV, and radio? (IE: Howard Stern can get away with something that other broadcasters cannot, or vice versa, due to the media watch-dogging of Mr Stern.) And do you feel that that application can be applied to the Internet (or will it) in that something residing on a server in the Barbados can be criminal content for someone in Salt Lake City versus someone in New York City, where "community standards" say that is legal?

Thank you.

Maeryk

"I disapprove of what you say, but I will defend to the death your right to say it." -S. G. Tallentyre (NOT Voltaire! lo

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FCC on content protection (Score:1)

by crath on Monday January 22, @12:56PM EST ([#58](#))

(User #80215 Info) <http://www.cyberus.ca/~crath>

Is the FCC content protection agnostic (that is, is the FCC opinionated about the "protection" of the bits flowing through the ether)? Do you see this position changing in the near-term/long-term? How does this position get reflected in FCC policy, spectrum sale, cable policy, etc.?

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What do you guys do anyway? :) (Score:1)

by [Have Blue](#) (mac.com@haveblue(figure it out)) on Monday January 22, @12:58PM EST ([#60](#))

(User #616 Info)

So many things have happened recently that seem to contradict many of the supposed missions of the FCC (AOL/TW: communications regulation. CPRM: consumer rights protection. And so on.). Quite often, the cry is raised, "Why didn't the FCC do anything about this???".

So I ask: What in your opinion is the primary function of the FCC?

...mb

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Next please? (Score:2, Interesting)

by [maroberts](#) (maroberts@dial.pipex.com) on Monday January 22, @12:59PM EST ([#62](#))

(User #15852 Info) <http://www.maroberts.dial.pipex.com/>

How is the Chief Technologist chosen ?

Is the position subject to political bias ?

What differences are we likely to see in FCC policies as a result of the change of Government ?

I used to have a sig, but I've stopped smoking now

[[Reply to This](#) | [Parent](#)]

DLEC and DSL ISP meltdown (Score:4, Interesting)

by Zigurd on Monday January 22, @01:01PM EST ([#63](#))

(User #3528 Info) <http://www.phonezone.com/telirati>

In theory, the Telecom Act of 1996 sets up a competitive multi-vendor environment. In theory, I should have my pick of DSL ISPs and wholesalers. In fact, the DLECs have been dropping like flies, soon to leave only the ILECs (Baby Bells) standing. Which would not be a problem if the big ILECs had better service. But service complaints against incumbents are still very high.

The Common Carrier Bureau's industry analysis reports show excellent growth in CLEC line count, but the recent bankruptcies among DLECs indicates a serious rupture in competitive markets. What should the new administration do to keep telecom markets open to choice among carriers that compete on the basis of excellent products and support?

Specifically, should telecom competition be separated from the ownership and maintenance of last-mile facilities? Should every carrier be a CLEC?

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Government's Expertise in Regulating Technology (Score:3, Interesting)

by [rshah](#) (r-shah4@uiuc.edu) on Monday January 22, @01:03PM EST ([#64](#))

(User #29912 Info) <http://www.rajivshah.com/>

Your position inside the FCC should provide considerable insight into how government agencies and personnel deal with new technology. For example, how independent are their technical judgments or are they easily manipulated by what powerful interest?

Finally, government is widely seen as incapable of dealing with the advances of new technology. Do you think this is the case?

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Are closed protocols a threat to our freedoms? (Score:5, Interesting)

by [small_dick](#) (small_dick@threeinches.FAKE_ADDRESS.org) on Monday January 22,

@01:12PM EST ([#70](#))

(User #127697 Info)

There was a time when the FCC used the law to make sure there was a plurality of news and information sources available to the public, from a variety of platforms (paper, radio, TV) and a variety of vendors.

Presumably, this was to prevent any single entity from controlling the media (and therefore public opinion) the way Stalin, Hitler and Mussolini did before WWII.

Given the Microsoft proprietary strategies for information exchange (Exchange, .net), as well as the AOL/TW merger, does anyone care about the problems with concentrated media anymore, or has America just decided "it can't happen here"?

After all, the FCC regulated signalling and protocols between TVs, radios, and broadcasters for ages...it was all specified and open...yet the FCC appears to have turned its back entirely on enforcing cross platform protocols on the net.

Can you foresee a future where proprietary products and protocols could be used to concentrate information in such a way that our fundamental rights to speak and publish could be easily throttled by a single powerful entity? Or am I just paranoid? Personally, I am increasingly concerned with this possibility.

"chocolat" the movie. A metaphor for Linux? Is that a penguin on the back of the guitar?

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- [Re:Are closed protocols a threat to our freedoms?](#) by daniell (Score:2) Monday January 22, @04:51PM EST
 - [Re:Are closed protocols a threat to our freedoms?](#) by small_dick (Score:2) Monday January 22, @06:45PM EST

FCC reporting requirements for Internet providers (Score:4, Interesting)

by apostle on Monday January 22, @01:22PM EST ([#72](#))

([User #63895 Info](#))

I understand that the FCC requires that telephony service providers report all outages lasting 30 minutes or more and affecting 30,000 customers or more. As far as I know, no such reporting requirements exist for Internet providers. Why not? Are there any discussions underway within the FCC to help make the Internet as reliable as the telephony network?

Regards,
apostle
kwalsh@ucsd.edu

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Regulation vs Innovation (Score:2, Interesting)

by [Rares Marian](#) (rmarian@winblowsstart.com) on Monday January 22, @01:43PM EST ([#76](#))

([User #83629 Info](#))

Given the limitations of traditional media such as radio and television it was necessary to separate certain content so as not to create a hostile environment only used by one or a few groups.

(To be honest the issue comes up in terms of /. itself as well)

However, given the expandability of the net such that one group cannot drown out another, does it still make sense to talk of communications standards regarding content?

Wouldn't the same people who want some say in what their children see for example be better served by constructing local nets, much like the early days of BBSes?

I can see a number of plusses:

1. A couple of neighborhoods can get connected with technology as advanced as Gigabit Ethernet more efficiently and less costly than waiting for current ISPs to make the money required to wire every neighborhood themselves.

By the time ISPs replace their own hardware to begin to support such services, communities could complete the project several times over.

2. Internet compatible technologies, local advances. Communities that attract talented engineers can move forward with innovations that have less impact on the generic Internet (and so fewer standards issues) but have a greater impact for their area. Rather than waiting for technology to trickle down and gradually evolve as anyone can foresee (it isn't that hard), communities can have a say in where it leads. Not only that but I'm reminded of a joke about an Aborigine using an IBM modem to crack nuts and his comments about the usefulness of the modem.

Communities could express their distinct character by building their networks around it enhancing what they already have rather having it blurred into a bland melting pot of lowest common denominator services.

3. From rural to urban to rural construction almost at will as needed. Once communities have a say in what happens in their world they become more able to sustain local economies because the service providers will come from their midst. The talent will come from within the communities. No longer will you have people striving to leave their home towns for better opportunities always chasing a fleeting chance.

Now I'm not suggesting that everything will happen because of computer networks. I just think that as catalysts for other types of networking such job contacts, business partnerships, even simply a congregation of church goers, networking technologies will allow local economies to flourish without waiting for the entire Internet to mature from this embarrassing novelty stage.

4. Complete Control vs Nimble companies. Current ISPs will save millions as communities divide the cost among their citizens and are able to pay for work as money is exchanged mostly within. ISPs will be able to completely separate content services from technology services. Issues like community standards will be moot as communities will be able to decide what

content enters their world. Media companies will simply go where there's a demand rather than bombarding every community with desperate offers which sound like something only a daytrader could conceive.

Once this is extended to the individual, I can only see that everyone wins. Media companies will simply learn where to market rather than pandering to everyone, communities will have to make up their minds about what they consider dangerous, and individuals will have a choice between a community cooked network, the great highway of the net, or a private network.

And they will be able to guarantee that what they choose is what they get.

Wouldn't assuming some responsibility and shaping the net locally be more effective than arguing constantly about who's rights are infringed with no end in sight?

I think it resolves fundamental questions because it localizes the effects which means that people can learn from the results as well as make responsible decisions about their world. Rather than telling Yahoo not to post Nazi auctions which ar

Read the rest of this comment...

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Who owns the 'net? How will they control it? (Score:1)

by Seinfeld on Monday January 22, @01:59PM EST ([#78](#))

([User #243496 Info](#))

There are a great many forces pulling the internet in different directions. Businesses, large and small, wanting to make the internet safe for their customers and their intellectual property, ordinary users who want access to information but want their privacy, hackers (good and bad) exploring the limits of what the internet can do, and governments charged with keeping the laws of their countries trying to maintain those laws within the internet.

Who will be able to exercise control over the internet? Do you think it can be regulated? Do you think that technologies will be put in place to more easily track people on the internet? Will government be able to exercise the nearly unrestrained freedom to monitor communication that it desires? Do you feel that there is a atmosphere of paranoia about hackers?

If you ever drop your keys into a river of molten lava, forget 'em, because man, they're gone. --
Jack

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Will we ever get the TV spectrum back? (Score:4, Interesting)

by [jjo](#) (jjo_slashdot@my-deja.com) on Monday January 22, @01:59PM EST ([#79](#))

([User #62046 Info](#))

Right now, there is a crying need for spectrum to support novel (digital) wireless applications. Five years from now, the spectrum shortage will be far worse.

In spite of this, each US TV station now has been given, free of charge, a lock on 12 MHz of prime spectrum (6 MHz analog and 6 MHz digital). This is despite the fact that all they would need for a crystal-clear standard-definition digital TV signal would be 1-2 MHz of spectrum. The 'digital TV transition' seems to be dead in the water, especially with the FCC's recent refusal to impose digital must-carry rules on cable operators.

Will the broadcasters ever be made to give up this spectrum grab? Will the only solution be to let them sell this spectrum (that they got for free) to the highest bidder?

"We've done nothing wrong." - Bill Gates *"Falsus in uno, falsus in omnibus."* - Judge Jackson
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Accountability? (Score:5, Interesting)

by [Sloppy](#) (sloppy@spam^H^H^H^Hrt66.com) on Monday January 22, @02:02PM EST (#80)
(User #14984 Info)

Some of FCC's decisions are controversial, but the people who make those decisions are not elected by voters. In what way (if any) is the FCC held accountable to the public for their decisions?

Have a Sloppy night!

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1st Amendment (Score:2)

by [Knight](#) (fireball@magic.nospam.hurrah.com) on Monday January 22, @02:23PM EST (#83)
(User #10458 Info) <http://www.clicktosecure.com/>

This is a really simple question, and one that hopefully will not be overlooked for its brevity, but I must ask anyway: Just what in the hell makes the FCC think that it has the mandate from the people to defecate on our First Amendment rights and fine radio stations for content?

Also, and on the same vein, while I understand why regulation of radio bands is important to a degree, it is an obvious violation of our Constitutional rights to prevent us from transmitting on X, K, Ka, and other police radar bands. If my car can be bombarded by a cop in support of his local speed tax, I should have the right to return the favor. I'm covered here in so many ways its freaking ridiculous. I have the right to defend myself, especially considering that there is no probable cause to check my speed; I also have freedom of expression, and if that means that I choose to express myself on a police radar band, that's none of your damn business. I understand the arguments on both sides, but the FCC is horribly wrong here, bowing to the

pressures of government, big business, and powerful lobbies. What exactly are the people getting out of your existence?

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The Good and the Bad, in short (Score:5, Interesting)

by plastickiwi on Monday January 22, @02:33PM EST ([#87](#))

([User #170800 Info](#))

In your opinion, what is the one thing the FCC could be doing to better serve the people, but isn't?

What is the one thing the FCC shouldn't be doing, but is?

-- He's fantastic, made of plastic....

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what do they have in their pipes? (Score:1)

by gummint on Monday January 22, @02:56PM EST ([#91](#))

([User #169943 Info](#)) <http://www.erols.com/dgalbi/telpol/think.htm>

Evidence on bandwidth growth trends shows that the second half of the 1990s doesn't look much different than the first half. See paper on bandwidth at <http://www.galbithink.org>

Folks claiming that data traffic is doubling every ninety days must be passing around something other than their sig file. It just ain't like that.

So what's gonna be in those big optical pipes? Doesn't look like HDTV... How interesting is an all optical internet running between a few major business centers and serving a few large corporations? When is such technology actually going to matter in most people's lives?

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Television Spectrum (Score:4, Insightful)

by [def](#) (robNOsiembSPAM@crusoeREMOVE.netCAPS) on Monday January 22, @03:12PM EST

([#96](#))

([User #87618 Info](#)) <http://www.par64.net>

A few years ago, the FCC gave away a large amount of spectrum that would have been ideal for 3g wireless or any other application involving medium-distance transmission intended to penetrate into the home. Instead of this, they gave it away to existing broadcasters for use in ATV (aka DTV/HDTV). By 2006, or when 80% of homes had ATV access, the original VHF TV spectrum was to be vacated.

The transition, however, is going much slower than originally planned, and it would be a miracle if 80% of homes had digital televisions. There are several problems as I see it. For one, broadcasters are not taking advantage of the benefits they could get from HDTV, like datacasting or multicasting. For two, HDTV's are very expensive and those likely to buy one will almost certainly have cable or satellite TV.

What steps, if any, are being considered to free up one of the television spectrums for use? Are any incentives being considered to get broadcasters to make better use of their ATV spectrum?

WRCT Pittsburgh, 88.3FM

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The Future of Broadcasting (Score:1)

by robt on Monday January 22, @03:21PM EST ([#98](#))

([User #197463 Info](#))

I've always believed that terrestrial broadcasting represents a terribly inefficient use of public spectrum. HDTV appears to be a disaster on many fronts, as does the U.S. radio industry's refusal to adopt the global Eureka standard. IP-based communication provides the most efficient delivery of real-time local content. There's an insatiable demand for point-to-multipoint bandwidth, and extremely efficient spectrum reuse by satellite- and terrestrial-based systems make this the "highest and best use" of the public's finite resource. All that said, what's the future of local broadcasting?

...

"You can never achieve 'perfect' and you're much better off not even trying." --Linus Torvalds

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HDTV and Consumer Advocacy (Score:1)

by cc_pirate on Monday January 22, @03:52PM EST ([#102](#))

([User #82470 Info](#)) <http://webjump.ccpirate.com/>

As the FCC's Chief Technologist, what say (if any) do you have in decisions like the one where the FCC has sided with the MPAA against consumers in requiring content protected HDTV signals? Incidentally, since this decision had the effect of obsoleting all existing HDTVs being sold in the US, effectively eliminating all possibility of achieving the 80% US market penetration by 2006, what was the thought process behind this decision? Do you agree with this decision, if so why? In many people's minds, the FCC has gone from being a consumer advocate to a corporate advocate. How do you respond to that characterization?

"Necessity is the plea for every infringement of human freedom. It is the argument of tyrants; it is the creed of slaves

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What can be done to fix the FCC? (Score:2, Insightful)

by [Lumpy](#) (spamsucks.timgray@lambdanet.com) on Monday January 22, @04:09PM EST ([#106](#))
(User #12016 Info) <http://www.lambdanet.com>

In your opinion what can be done to de-corporatize (remove corporate influence) the FCC?

Example - In Canada, it is legal for every citizen to have a FM broadcast station in the 88-108FM commercial band that has an ERP of less than 10 watts and causes no spurious emissions. Why has the FCC steadily enforced silly laws that limit the US citizen to milliwatts for no other reason other than to make corporations happy, while ignoring the rampant CB'ers that transmit at Kilawatt levels disrupting communications while they travel.

-- dont feed the trolls.... TEASE the trolls.. It's fun to get them upset. --

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Do you see any remedies for abuse of copy-control? (Score:5, Insightful)

by Degrees on Monday January 22, @04:17PM EST ([#108](#))
(User #220395 Info)

I know that the FCC, through license renewals, can make life hard on broadcasters that 'inflict' unwanted (inappropriate or obscene) material on unsuspecting listeners / viewers. Similarly, content that people pay for (movies and music) often are voluntarily rated by the producer. However, you have seen that a disorganized free market usually loses to an organized monopoly or cartel (the Microsoft case). The movie and entertainment industries have gotten DCMA passed, and the FCC is being asked to facilitate the movement to HDTV and (copy-controlled) digital formats and protocols.

My question relates to copy control in the current environment. The latest scheme in DVD encoding is to force-run commercials when the DVD is inserted into the player.

I just learned this; the DVD of *High Fidelity* by Touchstone Home Video forced the playback of commercials on me of several other movies. When I tried to fast-forward past this involuntarily-inflicted-upon-me tripe, the DVD player responded with "Operation prohibited now."

This galls me.

(It actually ruined my whole movie watching experience this evening. I did not pay the rental fee to be subjected their dirt. At least with VHS, fast-forward works.) Now that I know that the movie producers are willing to use copy control to force upon me unwanted material, I would like the option to boycott these types of DVDs. Obviously, the producers won't warn me about this type of content. So I have two questions: 1) What remedies do I have available to keep me free from the abuse of copy-control? (other than to bend over and grab my ankles) and 2) What do you think the FCC's role is in copy-control? Advocate? Enforcer? And which aspects for which sides? People grumble about mandatory labeling on products, but for me, this type of 'government interference' is a good thing.

Feel free to comment on where you see the future going with soon-to-be online movie rental and real-time video delivery.

Thanks in advance for your time and insight.

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- [Re:Do you see any remedies for abuse of copy-contr](#) by mgkimsal2 (Score:1) Saturday January 27, @11:10AM EST
 - [Re:Do you see any remedies for abuse of copy-contr](#) by Degrees (Score:1) Monday January 29, @09:58AM EST

Illegal to record HDTV programs (Score:1)

by X.25 on Monday January 22, @05:11PM EST ([#113](#))

([User #255792 Info](#))

Would you happen to know why FCC has decided that it is "illegal to offer citizens the capability to record HDTV programs"?

Who *exactly* has the power to break most basic laws/rules of existance and try to enforce rules like this?

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Phone Bills (Score:1)

by [eap \(consumer@the-dma.org\)](#) on Monday January 22, @05:30PM EST ([#116](#))

([User #91469 Info](#))

What the hell do all those charges on my phone bill mean?

Thank you

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Outsourced IT... what business model to use? (Score:1)
by Meorah on Monday January 22, @05:30PM EST ([#117](#))
(User #308102 Info) <http://www.consulara.com>

As horrible as outsourcing your IT needs might sound to /ers, I believe that it is becoming more and more viable as companies become more dependent on technology without wanting to increase their spending on specialists. Basically, what do you think the base requirements are for a company to move away from the perception of a customer-service oriented local company to the perception of a customer-service oriented national company? Without losing the focus on service, i.e. MindSpring.

Protector of Capitalist views,
Meorah

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A future for the past? (Score:1)
by homebru on Monday January 22, @06:32PM EST ([#121](#))
(User #57152 Info)

With more and more people and things connecting to the internet, what happens to our previous technical playground/laboratory - amateur radio?

Will the new "codeless" licenses turn the amateur bands into uncontrollable "chat" rooms, ala CB?

Are all of our future technical innovators to be networked instead of wireless?

What do you see as the future(s) for amateur radio? (And did you ever have a license?)

73...

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What do you think of... (Score:2)
by [sconeu](#) (pseudo-hacker formerly at uesc dot edu) on Monday January 22, @06:52PM EST
([#123](#))
(User #64226 Info)

The Yahoo case, where a US corporation, under a US domain name, with facilities in the US, breaking no US law is ordered to comply with French law or face penalties?

<COMMENTARY>Any questions in the remainder of this post are rhetorical, and not part of the interview.

If a French court can force Yahoo to comply with French law on Nazi memorabilia, what is to stop an equally clueless French court from forcing Yahoo to comply with French laws concerning French Language content? (oops! I gave them the idea) Now that France has set the precedent, what happens if a Saudi Arabian court issues an order for a French site, based in France, violating no French law, to obey comply with Saudi Arabian laws on say... oh, nudity? Perhaps the French Court should look at what happens when things are turned around?

</COMMENTARY>

They that can give up essential liberty to obtain a little temporary safety deserve neither liberty nor safety. - B.F.

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The Big Merger (Score:1)

by channels you on Monday January 22, @07:47PM EST ([#125](#))
([User #262064 Info](#))

How do you see the market changing in light of the FCC now allowing carriers and content-providers (e.g., AOL and Time-Warner) to merge?

How does the FCC justify the fact that it did not oppose this merger, since it appears to be highly anti-competitive and against the public interest, and since prior to this it was very much against FCC policy?

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Too bad he's gone... (Score:1)

by [netik](#) (jnaspam@retina.net) on Monday January 22, @09:42PM EST ([#127](#))
([User #141046 Info](#)) <http://www.retina.net/~jna>

I'd like to ask him why the FCC didn't work harder to keep low-power radio alive.

But it's too bad he's gone...

Bush Names Younger Powell to Take FCC Reins

By Jeremy Pelofsky

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - Michael Powell, the son of Secretary of State Colin Powell (news - web sites), was tapped on Monday by President George W. Bush (news - web sites) to head the Federal Communications

Commission (news - web sites), where he will oversee the telecommunications and cable industries.

The article is [here](#).

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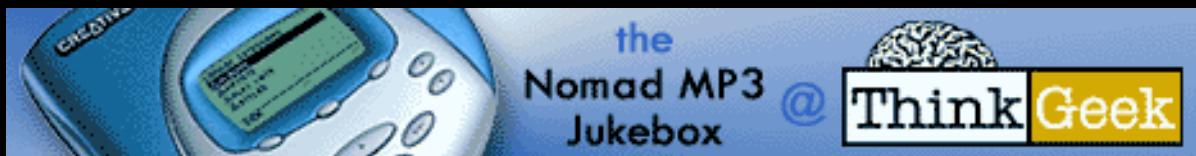
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He who knows others is wise. He who knows himself is enlightened. -- Lao Tsu

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Robert Watson on FreeBSD and TrustedBSD

Posted by [Roblimo](#) on Thursday

January 18, @12:00PM

from the telling-it-the-way-it-is dept.

Last Friday we [solicited questions](#) for Robert Watson, hard-core [FreeBSD](#) and [TrustedBSD](#) developer. His answers [\(below\)](#) are breathtakingly deep and instructive. Whether you're "just curious" about BSD or a FreeBSD user who wants to see what's going on with the inner circle of developers, you'll want to spend the time it takes to read everything here, and possibly even send Mr. Watson a brief "thank you" email.



OS X based on FreeBSD

by [Kevinv](#)

OS X's Darwin is based on FreeBSD. How good a member of the Open Source movement has Apple been? Have they contributed anything back to the FreeBSD project (code/money/t-shirts/etc...)?

Robert:

The easy answer is that Apple is involved in the open source community, and appears to be strongly committed to releasing their own software as open source, and contributing changes back to other projects whose software they use. Clearly, they're fairly embroiled in their upcoming release process at this point, but I'd expect more news on this front in the future.

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They've had a strong presence at various technical conferences, including the BSD Conference in Monterey last year, and they're helping to sponsor and are participating in the Open Packages project. I've visited Apple on two occasions to discuss both FreeBSD and TrustedBSD work with them, and had the opportunity to meet with many of the people in their Core OS Group. While I don't know everything they've been up to, I can speak to their shipping me two iMacs so I could explore the operating system and look at porting some of the TrustedBSD work to it, and must say that

I'm very impressed.

One thing I think the FreeBSD project should do is select a liaison to work with Apple to help them understand our development model better, and help integrate back changes made to Darwin. Especially in light of all the changes coming in FreeBSD 5.0, it's important that we work together to prevent substantial divergence between our source trees (where possible) allowing us to continue to exchange features in the future. I have to give Apple a big thumbs up, and hope they keep up the good work!

what do you do for *money*??

by gskouby

While perusing the mailing lists for -hackers, -stable, -current, etc. etc., I often wonder what people like yourself, Mike Smith, Greg Lehey, and the other core members do to pay the bills.

Unless something has changed recently with the BSDi takeover, I can't imagine that the FreeBSD project keeps the food on the table. So how about a little insight into your and the other core members "real" jobs. (As if there is such a thing as a "real" job). But anyways, thanks for all the hard work for little pay!

Robert:

- [FreeBSD](#)
- [TrustedBSD](#)
- [More on BSD](#)
- [Also by Roblimo](#)

Interviews

Welcome to the interviews section - this is place to come to read the assorted conversations that Slashdot and the readers have had with various people involved in the Internet, computers, or anything of interest.

Ahh, the perils of capitalism. Needless to say, all core members enjoy employment in some form or another. Some work with companies that pay them to work on FreeBSD (including BSDi), others do independent consulting on (among other things) FreeBSD; others still work on utterly unrelated areas. Since the question was raised, I'll talk a little about what I do, and how it does relate to FreeBSD.

I work for [NAI Labs](#), a research organization that is now associated with PGP, Inc -- about 100 full time researchers doing advanced research and development for the likes of DARPA, other government agencies, industry, and internal research and development. If you don't recognize the name, we used to be the Advanced Research and Engineering (ARE) division of Trusted Information Systems (TIS). At NAI Labs, I'm a Research Scientist in the Network Security research group, and have worked on a variety of projects including securing DNS (DNSsec), DHCP security, active network security, and denial of service research. While most of my work (right now) is relatively unrelated to FreeBSD, we hope to change this in the relatively near future, identifying funding for work on FreeBSD and TrustedBSD, as well as porting work to OpenBSD, and work on Darwin. Other examples of operating system security work on open source here include [Software Wrappers](#) and [Low](#)

[Watermark Mandatory Access Control](#). One of the great things about working at NAI Labs is the opportunity to participate in cutting edge security research, and the opportunity to set your own direction. All in all it's a really nice place to work, and I recommend it highly--in fact, we're actively hiring at this point, so if you're interested, feel free to fire off a resume to rwatson@tislabs.com.

Of course, companies can greatly benefit from employing a FreeBSD developer, as they have the opportunity to influence development of the operating system (subject to the common sense of the developer and consensus of the project as a whole, needless to say). Many FreeBSD developers, looking at the committer community as a whole, are employed to do what they would like to be doing anyway: working on a section of the system that interests them.

TrustedBSD and NSA secure linux by Xuther

How does TrustedBSD compare with NSA secured linux (<http://www.nsa.gov/selinux>) in terms of new and or improved security features? And are there any plans to eventually integrate the rest of the TrustedBSD features back into the shared BSD source tree (the extended attributes already have been committed)? How would using TrustedBSD instead of FreeBSD impact clustering applications?

And just for my information, where did all the packages for clustering BSD go? All I can seem to find anymore is the linux stuff. And personally I don't like redhat and their rpm distribution method, all anyone wants to distribute anymore is rpms which is not near enough to standard and compatable accross the board as tar-gzip for my purposes. (One primary difference being that I can open a tar-gzip on a windows box at work during break to browse through source, and to my knowledge no one has bothered to create a "winrpm")

Robert:

These compound questions are the killers :-).

I am both aware of and familiar with the NSA Secure Linux work -- a fair amount of the work is being done at NAI Labs under contract from NSA. Stephen Smalley, one of the lead developers on the project, actually works just upstairs from me in the Glenwood, Maryland office of NAI Labs. As such, I've had a number of opportunities to talk with him about the work. One of the advantages of working at NAI Labs is the ability to get wide exposure for a variety of security-related research on many platforms, and relating to many topics.

TrustedBSD and SELinux are similar in many ways, and also differ in many ways. The similarities lie in overlapping functionality and architectural goals; the differences only begin with the choice of operating systems. TrustedBSD

introduces a number of features into the FreeBSD operating system including Mandatory Access Control (MAC).

In a broad generalization, MAC allows administrators to define security policies about how users interact with one another. These policies are mandatory in the sense that users are not permitted to change the policies, although some flexibility may be permitted by the policy.

MAC is distinguished from Discretionary Access Control (DAC) in this manner; most Linux or FreeBSD users will be familiar with DAC in the form of file permissions. In DAC models, the owners of objects (and possibly other parties) are permitted to modify protections to reflect their needs. A common mandatory policy is Multi-Level Security (MLS), or the "military security model".

In this model, users are assigned "clearances", and objects are assigned "classifications". MLS prevents users from reading files they are not allowed to read, but it also prevents users from sharing files they are not allowed to share (this is the mandatory component). MLS is just one mandatory policy, there are many others that have been defined and explored in various environments. TrustedBSD implements three mandatory policies in its current prototype form: MLS, a Biba integrity policy that is similar to MLS but protects integrity instead of confidentiality, and a light-weight partitioning scheme that is an extension of the popular jail() mechanism introduced in FreeBSD 4.0-RELEASE.

SELinux provides an implementation of a flexible mandatory access control architecture called [Flask](#) for Linux. The architecture is a generalization of Type Enforcement (TE) and can support a wide variety of mandatory security policies. In the Flask architecture, the security policy is encapsulated in a pluggable "security server" component that can be replaced. The example security server provided with SELinux includes support for TE, MLS and a simple form of Role-Based Access Control (RBAC). An important focus of this architecture is separating policy representation and processing from policy enforcement.

SELinux differs from TrustedBSD in that it is a more mature system, having been worked on for several years, that it addresses only mandatory access controls, and that it uses the Flask architecture rather than explicit hard-coded policies. It is certainly the case that we plan to leverage the SELinux implementation now that the source code is available; the abstractions of the Flask architecture are similar to ones that were being considered for TrustedBSD. Having the opportunity to look at the SELinux source will allow us to benefit from their implementation experiences.

As you observe, some TrustedBSD features have already been integrated into the base tree, including extended attributes on files, as well as infrastructure support for capabilities, ACLs, and some of the improved abstractions I spoke about above. The plan is to integrate most of the TrustedBSD features into the base operating system distribution over time; some features are more intrusive, as well as more computationally expensive, than others, meaning that some features may be distributed as modules rather than enabled by default. However, it is a definite goal to make all of the work easily available for FreeBSD installations, and under a two clause BSD-style license. Many of these features will appear in FreeBSD 5.0-RELEASE, although they will presumably mature over time.

The remainder of your questions address clustering; I have to begin by pointing out that I don't have much experience with clustered environments. I can probably safely comment that the TrustedBSD features won't present any substantial additional impediment towards implementing clustering, either in terms of functionality or performance. Most of the TrustedBSD features either supplement base UNIX features without substantially changing them in ways that impact applications, or are disabled unless specifically configured.

My understanding is that many of the normal computational clustering tools, such as PVM, are available via the FreeBSD ports/packages collection, and that FreeBSD is used in clustering, but as a non-expert can't speak much to this issue. As clustering means something different to every

observer, this may not have answered your question, and I'd welcome follow-up e-mail to discuss this further.

Openpackages?

by Enahs

*What's your opinion on the Open Packages project? Even though I'm not currently a *BSD user, it sounds great on the surface--there's even been interest expressed in patches for Linux!--but I've got to wonder what sort of complexities need to be worked out to maintain a set of packages for FreeBSD, NetBSD, OpenBSD, Darwin...*

Robert:

I think OpenPackages is a great idea: the ports/packages on FreeBSD and other BSD platforms have been an incredible boon for the users of these systems. One of the disadvantages of BSD is that it hasn't presented a single porting target, and that there has been redundant porting work going on. OpenPackages offers a way to reduce redundant work, and improve application portability. I was excited to see Apple on the list of sponsors for the project, it shows continued commitment by Apple to open source.

A few important questions:

by Bob Abooey

1) Do you ever plan on moving away from the slow and resource intensive method of VMS style paging for memory address resolution

Robert:

I'm not sure how to interpret this question; FreeBSD provides the standard UNIX-like API for memory management (brk(), sbrk(), memory mapping, protection modification, SysV shared memory). This is supported by a Mach-based virtual memory system that has undergone substantial feature evolution and performance optimization. All performance benchmarks I've seen suggest that the FreeBSD virtual memory system is both robust and high-

performance under both light and heavy loads. This is one of the features of FreeBSD that has made it so popular for web farms and file servers.

My understanding is that the new VM system under development for Linux takes into account the FreeBSD VM design, and shares many of its design choices and, as a result, performance and stability properties. However, I have not followed that work closely enough to comment in great detail on the topic.

2) Are there plans to rewrite the TCP/IP stack to be multi threaded

One of the major development projects currently underway is "SMPng", or the Next Generation SMP project for FreeBSD. The SMPng project goals include:

- A fully preemptive and reentrant kernel
- Fine-grained data based locking
- An evolutionary development process
- Rapid development cycle leveraging technology donated by BSDi from their next generation SMP support under development for BSD/OS, including debugging tools and operation models
- Thread-based interrupts allowing blocking at will

This should substantially improve performance on SMP machines, as well as modernize the structure of the kernel. It will include work to push down locks (eliminating the giant kernel lock present in other versions of FreeBSD), including in the network subsystem, allowing components of the network stack to execute in parallel on different processors.

3) Will BSD ever migrate away from UFS to a more modern file system?

It depends what you mean by a "modern file system". Right now, FreeBSD actually uses FFS, the Berkeley Fast File System, with the addition of "soft updates" for performance and consistency, and under 5.0-CURRENT (the development branch), the ability to atomically snapshot file systems, as well as the ability to store extended attributes on files, in turn supporting other features such as Access Control Lists (ACLs). Fsck-less booting is currently a work

in progress, and will be in 5.0-RELEASE also. In fact, several sites including Yahoo! have already deployed fsckless booting internally. [paper presented at the USENIX 2000 Technical Conference](#) discusses the performance and consistency differences between journaled and soft updates consistency mechanisms. The paper in question also discusses two different journaling implementations based on FFS and developed on FreeBSD, which will be made available at some point to the FreeBSD project for possible integration. I think it's safe to say that, by most definitions, FFS on modern BSD operating systems is very much a modern file system.

4) With serious POSIX compatibility issues are there plans to use code from POSIX compliant OS's to become more commercially attractive to major corporations

One of the FreeBSD Project goals is to comply with appropriate API and user interface standards. Generally speaking, a failure to comply with a relevant standard is considered to be a bug, and should be reported using the standard bug reporting tools (we use GNATS to track bugs). If you are aware of non-compliant features or interfaces, please let us know and we will endeavor to fix them.

***Why would you... ?
by SonOfSam***

FreeBSD development is obviously a big part of your life. I have noticed that peoples reasons for using a free OS are often not simply because its better, but because of some view or stance on freedom that they have.

I am a Windows guy, only because my job says so.

*What I want to know is, how would you go about convincing me, a Win2k user, to consider using a *BSD. I am interested in learning a new OS... always. But, what makes it stand out from Linux/Win2k/MacOS?*

Robert:

There are a number of aspects to your question, and there are a lot of ways I could explore it. It seems that the first part of the question relates to why I as a user and developer make use of FreeBSD (and open source in general). Another aspect seems to be a question about political motivations.

Open source gives me as a developer the ability to do things that closed source could never allow--I get to determine what features are important and dedicate resources to making them available. As "extensible" as closed source operating systems may be, it is hard to understand how a system works without access to the source, and hard to modify it to do things the designers didn't anticipate. This argument is also a reason why NAI Labs does a great deal of its research and development on open source systems: it's simply impossible to get that level of responsiveness from a closed source system vendor.

As to political motivations? My motivation for pushing FreeBSD is the philosophy of the project, rather than general intuitions about personal freedom. The project (as with many open source projects) has a dedication to technical excellence and openness (of process, as well as source) that is outstanding. I wouldn't force anyone to open source their software as that's a personal (or often corporate) choice, but I recommend open source software widely.

One of the political aspects to open source is the selection of license: I don't see this as a big thing. The BSD license probably does better reflect both my beliefs and needs, but I use and modify software under a variety of licenses, and recognize that the license you release your software under has to reflect your own beliefs and needs. Any other understanding of license selection as a moral argument fails to recognize a contemporary understanding of relativism that is vital to cooperation :-).

As to why FreeBSD as opposed to any other operating system? Well, as I mentioned above, the FreeBSD project has a dedication to technical excellence and openness. What does this mean? It means that I have a high level of confidence in the software (both by reputation, experimentation, and source code inspection). The operating

system is stable and performs extremely well, is extensible, and is being actively developed in a variety of ways. There's an attention to detail, as well as the big picture, that reflects a high level of dedication among developers.

Advantages over the traditional Windows platforms have long been stability and performance, as well as openness. I haven't run the performance numbers recently, but understand that Microsoft has made large investments in stability and performance for Windows 2000; it would be a mistake to underestimate their ability to improve in this area. As long as Microsoft remains closed source, however, they will be unable to match the openness that is vital to the work that I do.

The primary difference that I see as important for me when comparing FreeBSD and Linux lies in the development model: there is a central forum and structure for the FreeBSD developer community that provides a forum for communication, group decisions and consensus building. My feeling is that this leads to better design decisions, and a focus that reflects a whole-system view. An important question for the FreeBSD Project as we move forward is whether or not this model can scale easily as we expand. The number of "committers" on the FreeBSD team has dramatically expanded over the last couple of years; many of these developers are working on the ports/packages and documentation, but many of them also work on the base system. Moving towards an elected core team, as well as ongoing debates on the development model and source code management reflect the increasing size and more diverse needs of the developers. The SMPng project's managed development model is another sign of this growth, and an example of a successful attempt to address the need for more structured development practices in the face of a larger audience and more people working on the same code.

Mac OS X appears to have a bright future: Apple has managed to tread in NeXT's footsteps when it comes to combining a mix of strong technical components from the open source and research communities, as well as excellent internally developed work. OS X represents a number of dramatic changes for the Mac user community; Apple has in the past shown a great deal of responsiveness to that

community, and OS X looks like it will be an interesting fusion of advanced operating system concepts and a highly usable interface. Part of what will be important in the widespread adoption of Mac OS X is consistency with prior versions, allowing users to migrate in a relatively seamless manner. In Steve Jobs' recent demo and presentation, inclusion of the traditional Apple Menu appears to demonstrate sensitivity to this issue, and responsiveness to the comment submission process. I see a place for a Mac OS X box on my desk in the near future.

Because it leverages FreeBSD work, and because FreeBSD leverages Apple's work, I don't see them as mutually incompatible. It is my firm hope that Apple and the FreeBSD Project find ways to work together more in the future, because I think everyone will benefit from this.

These are just my opinions, and I would expect others to disagree with me. I should point out that in the past, I've recommended the use of a variety of operating systems to both individuals and companies; this includes Windows, Linux, Mac OS, Solaris, and FreeBSD. I'd be a fool to assert that any operating system is appropriate for all uses and environments.

decent literature

by boog3r

instead of asking you a few questions directly, i would like to solve them on my own with the best set of tools. what publications or literature would you recommend for:

*the *bsd newbie or learner*

*the *bsd uber-know-it-all-i-dont-need-any-docs*

i am trying to cut the signal/noise ratio out of understanding bsd. specifically, what security documentation have you found useful day-in/out?

Robert:

I'll speak to the FreeBSD section of BSD, since that's what

I'm most familiar with. There are several books available describing FreeBSD.

The most commonly used is The Complete FreeBSD by Greg Lehey, which can also come bundled with a CDROM set, making it easy for new or experienced users to go to a single source. The book is currently in its third edition, and apparently there is a fourth edition currently under preparation. I saw this book in the local Barnes and Noble's recently, so it should be fairly easy to locate. A recent addition to the collection of books on FreeBSD is Ted Mittelstaedt's [The FreeBSD Corporate Networker's Guide](#), which also includes a CD-ROM.

The online documentation for FreeBSD is also strong, both in the form of the FreeBSD Handbook, which includes both reference and tutorial materials accessible via a web browser, and the normal UNIX-like man pages. The FreeBSD Handbook is also available in printed form. Both are actively maintained and regularly extended to cover new features.

FreeBSD and BSD books are generally available from BSDi via their [FreeBSD Mall Books page](#), and from the [Daemon News Books and Posters page](#), not to mention your normal online book vendors (Amazon, Barnes and Noble, et al), and quite possibly your local bookstore.

In addition, the BSD [Daemon News](#) magazine is now available in [print](#) as well as electronic form, and includes articles appropriate for both users and developers.

I suspect the "uber-know-it-all-i-dont-need-any-docs" guy is unlikely to listen to any recommendations from me, but would probably find the man pages most useful as they're more reference than tutorial :-).

To be honest, I don't use security documentation other than the man pages, as I'm familiar with most of the base system features, as they're an area where I've done a lot of work. Out of the box, FreeBSD is a fairly safe beast, as long as you've reviewed recent security advisories for the release

you're using. The usual advice applies: don't install or run things you don't need to, and remain up-to-date on security advisories. There's a FreeBSD security how-to on the web site.

For the die-hard "uber-know-it-all", there's always the source, which in the end is authoritative as to how the implementation works, regardless of documentation :-).

I noticed in the comments, although it didn't make it into the questions in the interview, that there was a lot of curiosity about the relationship between the OpenBSD Project and the TrustedBSD Project, also regarding TrustedBSD and FreeBSD. As it's important to understanding the work I do, and the goals of the project, I figured I should throw in a bonus answer:

TrustedBSD provides a set of extensions to FreeBSD to add support for {ACLs, Capabilities, Mandatory Access Control, Auditing} as well as supporting features to implement them. As I described above, these features are being integrated into the base operating system distribution, with the intent that they be "part of FreeBSD". This is facilitated by having some of the TrustedBSD developers also be FreeBSD Project developers.

The OpenBSD and TrustedBSD projects have largely different thrusts: while the OpenBSD project seeks to provide a correct and bug-free POSIX implementation (where correctness includes a focus on failing to suffer from security holes). It also includes cryptography-related features as a primary development goal, hence early development and integration of IPsec in the base system (and a continuing high level of maturity of their implementation), as well as their work on OpenSSH. The TrustedBSD project seeks to introduce a variety of features, some described in the defunct POSIX.1e draft.

While TrustedBSD targets FreeBSD as the starting operating system, it should be observed that all of the BSD

systems stem from the same source base, and remain very similar. This means that porting a feature from FreeBSD to OpenBSD should prove relatively straight-forward. The same goes for Darwin, the kernel from Mac OS X. I list both of these explicitly because we in fact have plans to start porting features to both of these platforms, as resources permit. The starting point in both cases will be to make Extended Attributes available in their file systems; these are used to store the supporting data for ACLs, capabilities on files, and MAC labels. I'd welcome interest in porting these features to other BSD platforms, including NetBSD and BSD/OS as well.

< [Aethera Beta 1 Released](#) | [Michael Abrash on Games Programming](#) >

This discussion has been archived. No new comments can be posted.

Good show, Watson! (Score:1, Troll)

by [grovertime](#) (slacker at mikegallay.com) on Thursday January 18, @ 12:18PM EST (#9)
[\(User #237798 Info\)](#) <http://www.mikegallay.com>

That really was a tremendously solid Q&A. Watson certainly deserves our collective praise in taking so much time, care and energy in answering all questions in detail. One question though: who exactly uses FreeBSD? Just about ever open-sourcer I know prefers Linux.

humor for the clinically insane

Re:Good show, Watson! (Score:1, Funny)

by [DES](#) (des@ofug.org) on Thursday January 18, @ 12:19PM EST (#11)
[\(User #13846 Info\)](#) <http://www.ofug.org/~des/>

Funny - all the ones I know use FreeBSD 8)

--

Dag-Erling Smorgrav - des@ofug.org

Re:Good show, Watson! (Score:1)

by [angel'o'sphere](#) (angelo.schneider@oomentor.de) on Thursday January 18, @ 03:04PM EST (#112)
[\(User #80593 Info\)](#)

This is not funny this is true :-)

Linux may meanwhile lead in number of installations. Anyway for a long time NetBSD/FreeBSD was leading.

A lot of top hitting sites like yahoo.com are running BSD.

Regards,

angel'o'sphere

Re:Good show, Watson! (Score:1)

by [ozzmosis](#) (hooties@hotmail.com) on Thursday January 18, @ 12:21PM EST (#12)
(User #99513 Info)

There's a lot of people or this wouldn't be on the front page.

Re:Good show, Watson! (Score:1)

by [Tim Macinta](#) (twm@alum.mit.edu) on Thursday January 18, @ 12:24PM EST (#15)
(User #1052 Info) <http://www.twmacinta.com/>

Just a [few websites nobody's heard of](#).

KMFMS Now!

Re:Good show, Watson! (Score:1)

by [platinum](#) ([jedgar at fxp dot org](mailto:jedgar@fxp.org)) on Thursday January 18, @ 12:29PM EST (#24)
(User #20276 Info) <http://www.fxp.org/~jedgar>

Along with this small [ftp server](#) that can only serve 5000 simultaneous users.

Re:Good show, Watson! (Score:1)

by [DES](#) (des@ofug.org) on Thursday January 18, @ 03:42PM EST (#122)
(User #13846 Info) <http://www.ofug.org/~des/>

950 GB/day is roughly 1.1MB/second

Your number is off by one order of magnitude. 950 GB/day is 11.25 MBps, or 90.07 Mbps **average** throughput, and that's just counting the actual files transferred, not the protocol overhead. The actual figure these days is somewhere around 110 Mbps average throughput.

--

Dag-Erling Smorgrav - des@ofug.org

Re:Good show, Watson! (Score:1)

by ArtPepper on Thursday January 18, @ 12:25PM EST (#18)
(User #106669 Info)

>who exactly uses FreeBSD?...

I do.

Re:Good show, Watson! (Score:1)

by [WinterSolstice](#) (ProfJones@FCMail.com) on Thursday January 18, @12:27PM EST (#21)

(User #223271 Info) <http://www.fortunecity.com/business/handcrafts/1569/>

I use both. I use Debian for my desktop (I can get games to run better, easier, and it supports RPM better) I use FreeBSD for my firewall/proxy. I like FreeBSD alot more, I just don't have the time to get mesa and all of the other 3dfx junk to work on two platforms. WS

Light a man a fire, you warm him for a night. Light a man on fire, he'll be warm the rest of his life.

Re:Good show, Watson! (Score:1)

by [rhadc](#) (rhadc@hotmail.com.don'tspamme) on Thursday January 18, @03:16PM EST (#117)

(User #14182 Info)

So do I. I feel that FreeBSD is architecturally better. When the lazy in me takes over, I work with debian to play with software that I expect to be included in the distribution.

When I use FreeBSD, I get the feeling that all the core developers are years more experienced.

Working with FreeBSD is more work and more rewarding. I use FreeBSD for my servers because I don't want as many problems. Linux is really more of a toy.

rhadc

Re:Good show, Watson! (Score:3, Insightful)

by [Nugget94M](#) (nugget@distributed.net) on Thursday January 18, @12:46PM EST (#42)

(User #3631 Info) <http://members.slacker.com/~nugget/>

I actually don't know many open sourcers who "prefer Linux". What I find to be far more common are open sourcers who have only used Linux and do not have much experience with the alternative opensource platforms. It's unfair to call this attitude a "preference" for Linux. I would infer from your question that you fall into this category (and are in good company).

Of those folks who have used both FreeBSD and Linux, well, they all prefer FreeBSD of course. :) All glibness aside, there's a huge contingent of FreeBSD users and developers who were first exposed to open source unix through Linux and for one reason or another find FreeBSD to more closely meet their needs and goals.

Re:Good show, Watson! (Score:1)

by afairch on Thursday January 18, @12:57PM EST (#55)

(User #56711 Info)

I certainly fall into this category. My first shot at installing a non-MS OS was FreeBSD. as it turns out I had some unsupported hardware, so after a couple of days fighting with it someone suggested Linux which worked 'out of the box'.

I recently ordered a copy of OpenBSD to install on an old machine I have had lying around and am now learning some of the little differences. So far I am very pleased with it.

Re:Good show, Watson! (Score:1)

by [bsletten](#) (brians@acm.org) on Thursday January 18, @01:11PM EST (#70)
[\(User #20271 Info\)](#)

I have used FreeBSD at home for several years and at work for the last year. My reasons for this mirror Mr. Watson's.

Yahoo does, XOOM/NBCi does, Walnut Creek/BSDi does (Score:4, Informative)

by [jabbo](#) (jabbo@yahoo.com) on Thursday January 18, @01:15PM EST (#74)
[\(User #860 Info\)](#) <http://www.satanic.org/>

When I worked at NBCi, we ran a benchmark of our most heavily trafficked application on Linux, Solaris, and FreeBSD. (this is the part that used to be Xoom, FWIW -- around 3-4 million users per day across 32 servers) FreeBSD was about 20% faster than Linux and marginally faster than the more expensive (per-box) Solaris setup once we had them all tuned. Shockingly, FreeBSD 2.2.8 (tuned all to hell) was a little faster (2% - 4%) than FreeBSD 4.0 or 3.2 -- not sure why.

Anyways, Yahoo uses FreeBSD, we used FreeBSD at NBCi/XOOM, many, many ISPs and ASPs use FreeBSD, and Apple now uses FreeBSD, after a fashion...

The only people I know that don't like FreeBSD, especially after being confronted with hard evidence for its networking prowess, are folks who are unfamiliar with BSD internals. To a man, they've all indicated to me that they're willing to take the performance hit because they "know" Linux better. And I can respect that. But the tone of your article seems to imply that FreeBSD users are few and far between, and that's just bullshit. Give it a try sometime, you might discover that you'd prefer it on your web and mail servers yourself!

"Remember that what's inside of you doesn't matter because nobody can see it."

Re:FreeBSD 2.2.8 faster than 3.2 or 4.2 (Score:1)

by [bpechter](#) (pechter@shell.monmouth.com) on Friday January 19, @03:30PM EST (#196)
[\(User #2885 Info\)](#)

I bet it's just because of the smaller kernel and simpler less involved SCSI subsystem.

The new one seems to be more reliable and better at recovery -- but I think it's a bit larger and bulkier. If the hardware's right I think 2.2.8 was a bit quicker.

The real screamer was 1.1.5.1 on a 486 8-)

I want to get the time to reinstall that bugger on a K6-2/450 with an AHA-1542B and see how it flies with 128mb of memory.

8-)

Re:Good show, Watson! (Score:1)by [emc3](#) (dougal@slashdot.gunters.org) on Thursday January 18, @02:14PM EST (#94)([User #22477 Info](#)) <http://www.gunters.org/~dougal/>

I used to be the primary sysadmin for a small ISP (1993 - 1997). We started in late '93, with our public debut in early '94. When we started, we used Linux. However, this was right around the time of kernel 1.0, and we suffered instability problems occassionally. As a result, we wound up migrating our primary servers to FreeBSD. The only box that remained on Linux was our news server, because it also served up UUCP dialup with a fragile, customized configuration (we used UUCP to provide internet email gateway services to several local BBS's). Eventually, the UUCP customers died off and we migrated that box to FreeBSD as well.

Even though these days, I'd venture to say that the stability and performance of Linux and FreeBSD are probably about equal, I still prefer FreeBSD for more serious tasks. The main reason for me is that the system update functions and the ports/packages mechanisms are so much nicer than Linux's kernel updates and rpm/aptget/whatever package management. I realize, however, that this is pretty subjective, and there are likely those who disagree, and prefer rpm over FreeBSD's ports.

The best thing, for those who wonder, is to just give it a try. But *really* give it a try. Don't just install it, say "hey! it doesn't install [ABC] by default! weak!", and give up on it. Really *use* it. Make a kernel config file and build a new kernel. Install cvsup, use it to get your source tree in sync with -STABLE, and do a "make world". Install some extras from the ports tree (I like ports over packages, when possible, since they fetch the original source, are automatically patched for FreeBSD, and I can always go back and easily recompile with customized options if I don't like the default config).

Try it, you'll like it!

--
Ernest MacDougal Campbell III / NIC Handle: EMC3

[Got Spam?](#)

Bravo indeed! (Score:2)by [Christopher B. Brown](#) (cbbrowne@hex.net) on Thursday January 18, @02:17PM EST (#96)([User #1267 Info](#)) <http://www.hex.net/~cbbrowne/lsf.html>

The questions were quite good; the *answers* were **exceptionally good**.

This reflects well on all involved, and if it leads to greater interest in TrustedBSD, that's well-deserved!

FreeBSD seems to have a propensity to be more widely used at ISPs where they have networking loads that start getting "challenging."

Those are certainly in a minority as compared to the hordes of "I turned a PC in the back office into a web server" where just about *anything* more stable than Windows 3.1 represents an improvement.

I like david parson's comment that

"In the free software world, a rising tide DOES lift all boats, and once the user has tasted Unix it's easy for them to switch between Unices."

If someone is excitedly moving from watching Blue Screens of Death to Linux, they're likely to be vigorously noisy about that. In contrast, the "excitement" about a move between Linux and *BSD is likely to be far less visible, as the switch is much easier and more nearly transparent. Which doesn't mean that conversions don't take place; just that they're not as loud. If you're not part of the solution, you're part of the precipitate.

Re:Good show, Watson! (Score:1)

by znerd on Thursday January 18, @02:34PM EST ([#101](#))

(User #83191 Info) <http://www.jollem.com/>

I use FreeBSD too, and all ppl I know use it too :) Just matter of choosing your friends! ;-)

Re:Good show, Watson! (Score:1)

by [fuzzyping1](#) (bsd@microsoft.com) on Thursday January 18, @02:39PM EST ([#103](#))

(User #266783 Info)

You obviously don't get around much. Most of the "open-sourcers" that I know prefer FreeBSD, NetBSD, OpenBSD... and even NeXT. ;-) I'd be interested in gauging the experience levels of your "open-sourcer" buddies... perhaps even hearing how you define an "open-sourcer".

Re:Good show, Watson! (Score:1)

by [angel'o'sphere](#) (angelo.schneider@oomentor.de) on Thursday January 18, @03:02PM EST ([#111](#))

(User #80593 Info)

Interesting? And Score 3?

Strange I think the bigger web/ftp sites are all using FreeBSD or NetBSD.

Regards,

angel'o'sphere

Re:Good show, Watson! (Score:1)

by [bpechter](#) (pechter@shell.monmouth.com) on Thursday January 18, @04:24PM EST ([#128](#))
([User #2885 Info](#))

Not every open sourcer uses linux...

Sometimes you use the right os for the right job.

FreeBSD makes a great web and backup server
supporting the departmental Sun systems
and the Network Appliance Filer.

uname -a

FreeBSD backup.ho.lucent.com 4.2-STABLE FreeBSD 4.2-STABLE #0: Mon Jan 8 16:05

#uname -a

SunOS babel 5.8 Generic sun4u sparc SUNW,Ultra-2

#uname -a

Linux pechter 2.4.0 #9 Mon Jan 15 16:03:01 EST 2001 i586 unknown

--Bill

Re:Good show, Watson! (Score:1)

by jo42 on Thursday January 18, @06:30PM EST ([#153](#))
([User #227475 Info](#))

>who exactly uses FreeBSD?

Me.

Linux is a kernel, not an OS nor a religion - me

Re:Good show, Watson! (Score:1)

by enneff on Thursday January 18, @10:23PM EST ([#176](#))
([User #135842 Info](#)) <http://nf.wh3rd.net/>

I work for a fairly large ISP, and all of our servers run FreeBSD, and frankly it's a great platform to work on, and it's extremely reliable.

I suggest that you're taking a sample group of your friends, who run Linux at home. Which is all well and good (I run Slackware on two of my machines), but I think you'll find that a BSD will be chosen over Linux for many professional environments, as it is (IMO) are more production grade OS.

"Life's not fair, but the root password helps." -BOFH

Re:Good show, Watson! (Score:1)

by [Puppet Master](#) (pmaster@ravensclaw.com) on Friday January 19, @10:39AM EST (#191)
(User #19479 Info) <http://www.ravensclaw.com/~pmaster>

One question though: who exactly uses FreeBSD? Just about ever open-sourcer I know prefers Linux.

I use it. Have for about 6 years now... We have 12 FreeBSD servers at the office, and I have 3 at home. I've tried Linux, and although it is a good package, I just prefer FreeBSD. Unix IS user friendly. It's just picky about who its friends are...

Re:Good show, Watson! (Score:1)

by rob_ert on Friday January 19, @11:33PM EST (#198)
(User #141300 Info)

How uses FreeBSD anyway??? Me and a couple of other guys at this little hardware company how also invented this thing called Java ;-) P.S. Big thanks to Watson!!

Re:Good show, Watson! (Score:1)

by Hard_Code on Thursday January 18, @01:06PM EST (#64)
(User #49548 Info)

Wow, they have *virtual* VMware now?

"Hackers is genius people, they are think with their own think" -Frank, antitrustthemovie.com phorums

Re:Good show, Watson! (Score:2)

by mr on Thursday January 18, @04:48PM EST (#135)
(User #88570 Info)

*Insightful. Good post. The plain truth is that *BSD is in decline. *BSD is suffering an ongoing loss of user base. I've been looking at the numbers; and The numbers don't lie.*

What numbers?

Where/who are they from?

What URL's to back up your statement of decline?

Oh, that's right. You don't **HAVE** facts to back up your statement....just bluster.

Make your trolling interesting....come up with some real URL's.

If it was said on slashdot, it MUST be true!

Re:Good show, Watson! (Score:2)

by squiggleslash on Thursday January 18, @06:02PM EST ([#150](#))

([User #241428 Info](#))

He's posted this about 3 or 4 times in this thread. It's a troll. FWIW, basing the estimates of how large the entire *BSD base is on how many CDs Theo says he's sold directly is clearly going to come up with ludicrous results.

AFAIC, development work continues on BSD, some of it (BSDi, Apple) by respected major commercial players. Anyone who decides not to use it because they think there are only around 10,000 users is an idiot...

--

Ho hooo!

Re:Good show, Watson! (Score:1)

by mr on Sunday January 21, @12:31PM EST ([#201](#))

([User #88570 Info](#))

I know she's a troll. Her 1st efforts included the 'Applixware won't be comming out with a 5.0 native binary for BSD' as part of her anti-BSD FUD.

If it was anti-linux centered stuff, the 'slashdot filters' would be written to stop it from posting.

Any time a BSD story makes it to the front page, she's there trolling. And, if she REALLY cared about the 'facts' she's post some.

If it was said on slashdot, it MUST be true!

Lies, damn lies, and statistics. (Score:2)

by [mindstrm](#) (spam.from.slashdot@tesla.cx) on Monday January 29, @05:04AM EST ([#205](#))

([User #20013 Info](#))

And how many of those users are doing anything serious? How many are deploying servers for business? On the Internet? How many are just sitting in their basement doing nothing?

Yeah, Linux has some huge numbers. I've been one of those numbers for almost 9 years.... but seriously.

The billion sheep who run linux because 'it's cool', well, who cares. I mean, it's great that they jumped off the windows bandwagon and are learning something else.. but they don't represent real business.

Excellent Interview (Score:1)

by [WinterSolstice](#) (ProfJones@FCMail.com) on Thursday January 18, @ 12:25PM EST ([#17](#))
[\(User #223271 Info\)](#) <http://www.fortunecity.com/business/handcrafts/1569/>

This was an excellent look into the minds of a great Open Source developer. I enjoyed especially the references for more information, and for future directions of the *BSD products.
WS

Light a man a fire, you warm him for a night. Light a man on fire, he'll be warm the rest of his life.

Relating to MacOS discussion.. (Score:3, Insightful)

by proxima on Thursday January 18, @ 12:26PM EST ([#19](#))
[\(User #165692 Info\)](#)

There has been an ongoing debate about the quality of MacOS and if it will [take away users from such operating systems as LinuxPPC](#). I found the following comments by Robert Watson particularly interesting:

The easy answer is that Apple is involved in the open source community, and appears to be strongly committed to releasing their own software as open source, and contributing changes back to other projects whose software they use.

This comes as a welcomed surprise to me, as I would've expected Apple to be much more stubborn with their intellectual copyright and design issues. We'll see what Apple does actually does contribute though.

Mac OS X appears to have a bright future...I see a place for a Mac OS X box on my desk in the near future.

Coming from a very technically-oriented FreeBSD core developer, I found this also surprising. It shows how MacOS might now appeal to both the very technical, the very artistic, and the very newbie - something not normally possible. Again, we'll see what happens here (I, for one, would never wish to waste money to buy the overexpensive hardware and software compared to a decent Linux box).

These are just my opinions, and I would expect others to disagree with me. I should point out

that in the past, I've recommended the use of a variety of operating systems to both individuals and companies; this includes Windows, Linux, Mac OS, Solaris, and FreeBSD. I'd be a fool to assert that any operating system is appropriate for all uses and environments.

Like many open source developers (not necessarily fanatical end users), Robert seems very willing to promote the alternatives to the OS he develops. This acknowledgement that no OS is best for everything should be commended.

"The universe is not required to be in perfect harmony with human ambition." - Carl Sagan

Re:Relating to MacOS discussion.. (Score:1)

by jerud on Thursday January 18, @12:32PM EST ([#25](#))

(User #170683 Info) <http://www.jerud.com>.

I also like the fact that he is not so single-mindedly dedicated to one platform that he can't see the advantages of another. Question though...I recently installed BeOS and have yet to figure out exactly what user audience it could possibly be targeting...probably just ignorance but... tracers work both ways

Re:Relating to MacOS discussion.. (Score:1)

by [Geekboy\(Wizard\)](#) (yodadoa(AT)yahoo.com) on Thursday January 18, @12:53PM EST ([#51](#))

(User #87906 Info)

BeOS, is designed to be a graphics OS. Lots of multi-threading, and "types" of processes (real-time, priority, normal, not priority). Real cool support for video. (I saw a demo at their headquarters, they had Star Wars (the original, from 1977) Wizard Of Oz playing at 640x480 (it was a 1600x1200 screen) and 3 different mandelbrot programs all running in real time, with "synced" audio (synced is in quotes because both of the movies were playing the audio, so there was some cool effects from that)

This comment has been ROT-26 encoded, any attempt to decode is subject to prosecution under DMCA.

Re:Relating to MacOS discussion.. (Score:1)

by OwnedByTwoCats on Thursday January 18, @12:48PM EST ([#45](#))

(User #124103 Info)

Mac OS X appears to have a bright future...I see a place for a Mac OS X box on my desk in the near future.

Coming from a very technically-oriented FreeBSD core developer, I found this also surprising. It shows how MacOS might now appeal to both the very technical, the very artistic, and the very newbie - something not normally possible. Again, we'll see what happens here (I, for one, would never wish to waste money to buy the overexpensive hardware and software compared to a decent Linux box).

I'm not surprised at all. For a decade, I've earned a living coding for Unix, while using a Mac for personal use. The mark of a professional is use of the right tool for the right job.

overexpensive. (Score:5, Insightful)

by gagganator on Thursday January 18, @01:33PM EST ([#81](#))

(User #223646 Info) <http://homepage.mac.com/gaggan/>

I, for one, would never wish to waste money to buy the overexpensive hardware and software compared to a decent Linux box.

i would have thought weve had enough mac discussions on slashdot recently that people would not continue to perpetuate the overexpensive stereotype

i dont think \$799 for a well designed risc g3 box with firewire, 100baset and monitor is overexpensive. i dont think \$1299 for a gigaflop g4 with gigabit ethernet is expensive. i dont think \$3500 for a _complete_ dvd authoring solution is expensive. that machine may be expensive as a mail server, but that isnt its use

i dont go around deriding linux as worthless because it cant hold a candle to the mac in video editing. like the man said, the right machine for the right job

Re:overexpensive. (Score:1)

by [ryancooley](#) (ryancooleySPAMOFF@yahoo.com) on Thursday January 18, @10:18PM EST

([#174](#))

(User #248760 Info) <http://i.am/ryancooley>

i dont go around deriding linux as worthless because it cant hold a candle to the mac in video editing.

Well, if you mean it's easier I'll agreee, otherwise, with a few patches, a couple programs downloaded, and a grand total of zero dollars I can turn any linux machine into a studio quality video editing box. Geez man! It sounds like you've never seen the Matrix (video done exclusively on Linux).

my Personal arguement is that Macs don't give you the freedom you have with PCs, hardware wise. If you want an ultra-high-end 32-processor PC you can get it. Getting a *mail server* is again just as possible. Secondly, I wouldn't use OS X if I had nothing else! The System requirements are huge (I liked OS 7.x because it can run on extremely old or brand new hardware with great performance) even for a MAC.

Re:overexpensive. (Score:1)

by [rtaylor](#) (rbt at zort.on.ca) on Friday January 19, @11:03AM EST ([#192](#))

(User #70602 Info)

Hmm.. Wasn't the Matrix rendered on BSD clusters (Something like 32 Dual PIII's or something).

Anyway, you still need to spend a crapload on hardware to make linux a good video editing machine, and most likely your going to be using Linux on a PPC for the speed. Since MacOS comes with PPC's your arguement is moot as you've paid for it and removed it anyway.

Rod Taylor

Re:overexpensive. (Score:2)

by [TheInternet](#) (scotts-at-maxify-dot-com) on Friday January 19, @04:22PM EST ([#197](#))

(User #35082 Info) <http://wildtofu.com/>

Secondly, I wouldn't use OS X if I had nothing else! The System requirements are huge

You're clearly referring to the beta because the GM isn't out yet. The latter will have lesser requirements. And furthermore, the requirements are largely so outlandish because they have to take into account the Classic environment -- which is, more or less, emulating Mac OS 9 on Mach. If you stick to Carbon (OSX native port of Mac API), Cocoa, BSD and Java apps, then you'll be stylin'. Classic does work very well -- a true achievement in emulation -- but it is a resource hog.

- Scott

--

Scott Stevenson

[WildTofu](#)

[Maxify](#)

Re:Sorry it Was FreeBSD not Linux (Score:1)

by [ryancooley](#) (ryancooleySPAMOFF@yahoo.com) on Monday January 22, @01:29AM EST (#203)

(User #248760 Info) <http://i.am/ryancooley>

Yes, you've made your point, it was FreeBSD not Linux that the Matrix was done on, but I stand by my statements, With my 500\$ 750MHz Athlon Box I can do video editing with great results using completely free opensource software which works great. And as with quite a bit of opensource software I use, I far prefer it to its commercial counterpart regardless of price.

yeah right! (Score:1)

by gagganator on Thursday February 01, @04:10PM EST (#206)

(User #223646 Info) <http://homepage.mac.com/gaggan/>

otherwise, with a few patches, a couple programs downloaded, and a grand total of zero dollars I can turn any linux machine into a studio quality video editing box.

your time is worth a grand total of zero dollars?! i am familiar with the concept of writing code to solve problems (i get _paid_ for _my_ code). your problem is that linux still has that problem to solve

the fact is i can not buy a linux video editing and dvd producing solution. a render farm a video editing solution does not make

Re:Relating to MacOS discussion.. (Score:1)

by [AIXadmin](#) (shetomv@pacbell.net) on Friday January 19, @12:44AM EST (#183)

(User #10544 Info)

I think we have to take into account that Apple is 95% open source. Closed source things are generally items that they have collaborated with other companies on. Things like quartz which contains things (I am assuming) licensed from Adobe. Or Quicktime which lies in patent and licensed code mine field. Apple is trying to walk the line between two worlds. IMHO is doing quite well. Darwin has been a smashing success for them!

Cheers,

Tomas

=====

"You know your not a kid anymore when Christmas starts to piss you off"

Quartz - license free (Score:1)

by [TheInternet](#) (scotts-at-maxify-dot-com) on Friday January 19, @03:21PM EST (#195)

(User #35082 Info) <http://wildtofu.com/>

Things like quartz which contains things (I am assuming) licensed from Adobe.

As far as I know, this is not the case. One of the goals with the transition from NextStep to OSX was to ditch licensing fees that raised the price of the product. This included getting rid of Display Postscript in favor of the PDF-based Quartz engine.

- Scott

--
Scott Stevenson
[WildTofu](#)
[Maxify](#)

Re:Relating to MacOS discussion.. (Score:1)

by raju1kabir on Friday January 19, @01:37AM EST ([#186](#))

([User #251972 Info](#))

It shows how MacOS might now appeal to both the very technical, the very artistic, and the very newbie - something not normally possible.

I've long ago given up on worrying what might appeal to computer newcomers, but as a somewhat more experienced user I can say that there are plenty of times when I would have creamed my pants at the prospect of such a thing.

Some years ago I was doing hardcore publishing work: Pulling data from databases, doing transformations, and batch pre-formatting (often using RTF, which holds style info well) for import into QuarkXPress where the book and magazine designers could have at it and tinker with the pretty bits. Sticking a FreeBSD box under the desk and running Netatalk on it did the job, but it'd be a whole lot nicer (and smoother) to have it all in one place.

Even now, I use QuarkXPress and Excel almost daily for any number of tasks; no matter how much I like the command line, there are some tools where the GUI wins. And if you're going to use it, might as well use the best tools available (hence no Gnumeric for me today, thank you).

Oh those crazy government projects. (Score:2, Funny)

by [TheFlu](#) (flu@SLAMTHESPAMthelinuxpimp.com) on Thursday January 18, @12:37PM EST

([#32](#))

([User #213162 Info](#)) <http://www.thelinuxpimp.com>

...the ability to atomically snapshot file systems...

This sounds horribly dangerous, I hope Linux never gets this "feature".

Geiger counters be damned! [The Linux Pimp](#)

--It's Pimptastic!--

Re:Oh those crazy government projects. (Score:1)

by [wfaulk](#) ([wfaulk<@>beaglebros.com](mailto:wfaulk@beaglebros.com)) on Thursday January 18, @01:07PM EST ([#65](#))

(User #135736 Info) <http://www.beaglebros.com/>

Huh?

This is an incredibly useful feature that has been one of the big selling point of VxFS (probably the most respected filesystem out there) for quite some time. Solaris just added it to their UFS implementation, I believe that SGI's XFS has it, etc...

Are you sure you know what you're talking about? (He didn't say automatically, but atomically.)

Re:Oh those crazy government projects. (Score:3, Insightful)

by [johnnyb](#) (johnnyb@wolfram.com) on Thursday January 18, @01:45PM EST ([#85](#))

(User #4816 Info) <http://members.wri.com/johnnyb/>

This is a wonderful feature, especially if you want consistent backups. And yes, Linux has it (its with the LVM stuff).

"When Christ calls a man, he bids him come and die" -Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Re:Oh those crazy government projects. (Score:1)

by [scott4000](#) (scott@wpsystems.net) on Thursday January 18, @11:25PM EST ([#180](#))

(User #42414 Info) <http://www.wpsystems.net/>

you can't tell me Linux really has the ability to create atomic snapshots...if linux really contains the amount of radioactive substances you claim, it will wreck havoc on sensitive electronic equipment attached to the global internet.

Re:Oh those crazy government projects. (Score:2)

by [johnnyb](#) (johnnyb@wolfram.com) on Friday January 19, @10:27AM EST ([#190](#))

(User #4816 Info) <http://members.wri.com/johnnyb/>

Actually, I think Linus and friends have hacked Linux so that it can create a wormhole to Pluto, but that's just a rumor :)

"When Christ calls a man, he bids him come and die" -Dietrich Bonhoeffer

FFS a modern File System??? (more so than UFS?) (Score:1)by reh187 on Thursday January 18, @12:42PM EST ([#36](#))[\(User #182368 Info\)](#)

I thought it was the other way around? I was sure that UFS was actually based on FFS... If you go here: http://www.computerbooksonline.com/chapters/solari_schap.htm and do a search in the page for BSD... It clearly states: (and it could be wrong, so someone please clear this up for me...)

"UFS--The UNIX file system, which is based on the BSD FAT Fast file system (the traditional UNIX file system). The UFS file system is the default disk-based file system used in Solaris."

So which came first, is my question?

-- Sarcasm is the recourse of a weak mind... --

Re:FFS a modern File System??? (more so than UFS?) (Score:1)by [Alfred Perlstein](#) (alfred@freebsd.org) on Thursday January 18, @01:08PM EST ([#67](#))[\(User #3926 Info\)](#)

FFS is actually the "Fast File System" not "FAT Fast file System", the author should have done more research. :)

UFS provides the naming layer/policy of the filesystem. FFS provides for the block allocation and metadata policies.

The "traditional UNIX filesystem" was called something like "ss5", it was the one with inodes all at one end of the disk and practically no policy for reducing fragmentation. It was terrible, after a short period of heavy disk usage the FS would be as fragmented as badly as MS-DOS FAT and disk bandwidth would be limited to something like 3% of the actual disk speed.

FFS was a rewrite of the block allocation and disk layout to avoid the serious problems with "ss5". FFS tries to make sure that inodes and data are allocated in the same area, this is to reduce seeking. Along with those enhancements IO clustering was added, recently softupdates and snapshots.

Oh, and the dipstick that said "snapshots" were dangerous needs to get a clue. Snapshots provide for taking a view into the filesystem almost like a freeze frame.

- Alfred Perlstein - Programmer and Administrator, Wintelcom.

Re:FFS a modern File System??? (more so than UFS?) (Score:2)by [Guy Harris](#) (guy@alum.mit.edu) on Thursday January 18, @02:43PM EST ([#105](#))([User #3803 Info](#))

The "traditional UNIX filesystem" was called something like "ss5",

Actually, originally, it wasn't called anything, as it didn't need to be called anything - it was the only UNIX file system there was (at least in UNIXes from AT&T), so it didn't need a name to distinguish it from other file systems.

I think of it as "the V7 file system", as it first showed up in the UNIX often called Version 7 (although it was really the UNIX that came with the Seventh Edition of the document "The UNIX Time-Sharing System"; it always amused me when companies referred to V7 as "Release 7.0", or something such as that implying that there was any formal Official Release Process - as far as I know, it was "what was on the main Research UNIX machine at the time they decided to make the tape").

That was the basis of the file system in System V (SV boosted the block size to 1K bytes from 512 bytes, and I think made a few other minor changes), so some might think of it as the System V file system, e.g. "s5fs". (It was also the basis of the file system in 4BSD prior to 4.2BSD.)

Oh, and the dipstick that said "snapshots" were dangerous needs to get a clue.

I think at least one of those postings was joking about the "atomic" part, as per the "Geiger counter" comment later in the posting.

Re:FFS a modern File System??? (more so than UFS?) (Score:1)by darkonc on Monday January 22, @06:35PM EST ([#204](#))([User #47285 Info](#)) <http://www.getyourassingear.com>

Watson simply corrected the (incorrect) proposition that

- (1) BSD ran on UFS, and
- (2) It's not a modern FS.

Other saying that BSD doesn't run UFS, he didn't make any comment on UFS. Specifically, I don't see any reference to FFS being "**more**" modern than UFS (or less).

Think of UFS as a {proprietary?} 'fork' of the FFS system. Both have been updated since then. In modern nomenclature, it should probably be referred to as FFS 5.23 (pick your favorite number).

--

Killing a popular person is hard -- killing a popular idea is murder.

Re:FFS a modern File System??? (more so than UFS?) (Score:1)by reh187 on Thursday January 18, @01:02PM EST ([#61](#))([User #182368 Info](#))

It wasn't my choice to put FAT in there or not... It was a quote =) Hense the "'s around that statement...

-- Sarcasm is the recourse of a weak mind... --

Re:FFS a modern File System??? (more so than UFS?) (Score:5, Informative)by [Guy Harris](#) (guy@alum.mit.edu) on Thursday January 18, @02:38PM EST ([#102](#))([User #3803 Info](#))

The FFS (Berkeley Fast File System) is an optimized file system based upon the earlier UFS (Unix File System).

Not exactly.

Originally, there was the 4.2BSD file system; this was 18 years ago, so memories have faded a bit, but I think that it was, indeed, called the "fast file system".

Sun dubbed the Berkeley file system "UFS" when they put vnodes into "Sun UNIX 4.2BSD Release 2.0" or whatever they called it (this was before "SunOS" was coined).

Berkeley, in, I think, 4.3BSD (or was it 4.3-tahoe, or a later version?) came out with a modified version called the "fat fast file system" ("fat" is lower-case; this helps avoid confusion with the "FAT" in the DOS file system), sometimes called FFFS. Sun picked that up when it came out, so that UFS, at that point, was the FFFS, not the FFS.

Various organizations have subsequently extended the Berkeley file system in various ways, e.g. many of them have added access control lists, implemented "fast symlinks" whose contents are stored in the inode itself (instead of storing block pointers in the inode, for short symlinks the actual target pathname is stored), the 4.4BSD per-inode flags (system immutable, user immutable, etc.).

So, unless by "UFS" you meant the file system that came with The UNIX Time-Sharing System, Seventh Edition (which was the basis of the 4.1BSD file system, as well as the System V file system), FFS is not "an optimized file system based on the earlier UFS", as "UFS" at Sun was just the FFS. (And, frankly, I wouldn't say that FFS was based on the V7 file system; the FFS was intended to implement a superset of the same semantics as the V7FS, and took some implementation ideas from it, but shared little, if any, code, and few on-disk data structures, with it.)

shocking revelation! (Score:4, Funny)

by [iso](#) (slashdot@djnumbernine.com) on Thursday January 18, @12:46PM EST (#43)

(User #87585 Info) <http://djnumbernine.com>

The easy answer is that Apple is involved in the open source community, and appears to be strongly committed to releasing their own software as open source, and contributing changes back to other projects whose software they use.

woah woah woah, hold on a minute. are you trying to tell us that Apple isn't pure evil? that can't be possible! the slashbots can not be wrong! heretic!!

- j

If PacMan had affected us as kids we'd be running around in dark rooms, munching pills and listening to electronic music

Re:shocking revelation! (Score:1)

by [TobyWong](#) (tobywong@phatchicks.com) on Thursday January 18, @02:10PM EST (#90)

(User #168498 Info)

Evil is as evil does....

sued anyone lately?

- Toby

FreeBSD File System (Score:3, Interesting)

by [NetJunkie](#) (jason@planetportal.n.o.spam.com) on Thursday January 18, @12:47PM EST (#44)

(User #56134 Info)

Does FreeBSD have a file system with dynamic inode allocation? We store millions of small files on our filesystems, and I would like to compare FreeBSD to Linux with ReiserFS.

Where is OpenBSD? (Score:1)

by pricorde on Thursday January 18, @12:52PM EST (#48)

(User #124290 Info)

What? what? no question about the comparison between OpenBSD and TrustedBSD ?

And a pure troll question is selected (about virtual memory, FFS, ...)

Bad, bad questions...

Excellent interview! (Score:4, Insightful)

by squiggleslash on Thursday January 18, @12:53PM EST ([#49](#))

([User #241428 Info](#))

This is one of the best interviews I've read on /. in months, and the comment towards the end about the different roles of the OpenBSD and TrustedBSD projects, and the intention of the TBSD people to port their work beyond just FreeBSD, also goes some way to demonstrate that the supposed friction between the different BSDs is largely a myth, or at any rate overblown.

Also good to see that not everyone is paranoid about MacOS X taking over the world ;)

I'm looking forward to seeing the BSDs go from strength to strength, and for the average Unix user have choices beyond the already excellent Linux for well supported Unix-like operating systems - and see those choices strengthen.

--

Ho hooo!

Why to ignore the above.. (Score:1)

by Gr00ve on Thursday January 18, @06:52PM EST ([#155](#))

([User #30611 Info](#))

1. Users numbers are irrelevant, _developer_ figures are what count.
2. The figure of 7000 OpenBSD users he bases all others numbers on is how many bought the last OpenBSD cd. I leeched an ISO and I'm sure many others did a ftp install.
3. He uses developer posts to extrapolate user numbers.
4. IHBT.

Wow (Score:1)

by [lw54 \(lance_REMOVE_@_THIS_woodson.com\)](#) on Thursday January 18, @01:06PM EST ([#63](#))

([User #73409 Info](#)) <http://www.woodson.com>

I have just been in the mind of a genius. Robert Watson truly knows what's going on.

• **Domain Registration and Renewal for \$12 a year**

Doh, should have asked these questions.... (Score:2)

by [ssimpson \(slashdot\(at\)samsimpson.com\)](#) on Thursday January 18, @04:17PM EST ([#127](#))

([User #133662 Info](#)) <http://www.samsimpson.com/>

[Good interview BTW - very informative!]

Why isn't there a Redhat/BSD release, or a Debian/BSD release, or a Suse/B....Anyway, you get the idea...There are releases using the Linux kernel (DUH!), and releases using the Hurd kernel, so why don't I see distributions using the Open/Free/Net/Whatever BSD releases as the kernels in distributions?

IMHO, it's a shame....Although Linux 2.4.x seems to be a vast improvement over 2.2.x and is claimed to be more scalable than BSD, I like the security ethos that seems to go with the BSD projects....

I guess the question is: Is there a real reason that BSD isn't offered as a kernel choice?

"Mary had a crypto key, she kept it in escrow, and everything that Mary said, the Feds were sure to know."

Re:Doh, should have asked these questions.... (Score:2)

by [JoeBuck](#) (jbuck at welsh-buck dot org) on Thursday January 18, @05:19PM EST ([#144](#))
(User #7947 Info) <http://www.welsh-buck.org/jbuck/>

If someone (or many someones) spend the effort to create an XYZ/BSD release, it will come to be. If not, it won't. So the real answer to "why isn't there ..." questions is "Because you haven't done it". ESR often gets on my nerves, but his "shut up and show me the code" comment has a lot of validity here.

I can't imagine that such a project would be in the financial interest of Red Hat or of Suse, but I could see how it might appeal to volunteers, so my guess is that a Debian GNU/BSD would be the most likely of the three. But because far fewer folks will be interested, I can't see how it would ever become more than a niche project.

Re:Doh, should have asked these questions.... (Score:4, Insightful)

by squiggleslash on Thursday January 18, @05:56PM EST ([#149](#))
(User #241428 Info)

BSD is less a kernel (indeed, arguably, there is no 'BSD' kernel - I'll expand on this below) than "the rest of Unix". Consequently, you could have something like BSD/Linux (in the same way as RMS refers to Linux as GNU/Linux, because it's the GNU "rest of Unix" running on Linux.)

As RedHat, Debian, etc, rely heavily on the GNU part of the OS, it would take a substantial amount of work to switch over to BSD code.

The BSD's use a kernel called Mach, not developed at Berkeley. This is a kernel whose respectability lies mainly in its maturity. It's not terribly exciting. Its history is of a project to produce a microkernel which didn't quite end up working as intended. BSD Mach kernels are almost always shipped as statically linked and monolithic.

Producing a version of GNU that runs over Mach would be relatively straightforward. Linux, however, is arguably better supported, has a more streamlined design, and it's hard to find a feature in Mach as used by the BSDs that doesn't already exist in Linux. So a Redhat/Mach release, while quite feasible, would probably be of limited potential.

Perhaps the Mach experts here could give reasons why we'd want to use it in place of Linux?

--

[Ho hooo!](#)

Re:Doh, should have asked these questions.... (Score:1)
by Z4rd0Z on Thursday January 18, @09:04PM EST ([#171](#))
(User #211373 Info) <http://www.mammalia.org>

Thou art quite wrong about BSD running on a Mach kernel. There have been implementations of BSD which run on Mach, one of which is Darwin. The other one that I know of is called Lites. There is also at least one version of Linux running on Mach and it is called RTLinux. Hurd also runs on a Mach kernel.

(Free,Open,Net)BSD uses its own native kernel. Some parts of the BSD kernel were borrowed from Mach, such as virtual memory, but this has been largely written (refer to the interview) and in the case of NetBSD dropped entirely.

In the beginner's mind there are many possibilities. In the expert's mind there are few. --Suzuki-roshi

Re:Doh, should have asked these questions.... (Score:2)
by squiggleslash on Thursday January 18, @09:37PM EST ([#173](#))
(User #241428 Info)

Ok, ok, having just spent a little while double checking, yes, you're right. I was confused by the distinction between Lites, an implementation of 4.4BSD-Lite over Mach, and 4.4BSD-Lite itself, and further by NextStep and MacOS-X's use of it.

That said, most of the rest of what I wrote still stands - essentially distributions shipping the 4.4BSD-Lites derived kernels with the GNU Unix-like tools wouldn't really be providing users with anything substantially better/different to Linux.

Your comments explain a lot actually. I was wondering what the f--- the BSD people were doing compiling Mach as a monolithic kernel... ;)

--

[Ho hooo!](#)

Re:Doh, should have asked these questions.... (Score:1)

by Z4rd0Z on Friday January 19, @12:51AM EST ([#184](#))

(User #211373 Info) <http://www.mammalia.org>

That said, most of the rest of what I wrote still stands - essentially distributions shipping the 4.4BSD-Lites derived kernels with the GNU Unix-like tools wouldn't really be providing users with anything substantially better/different to Linux.

I agree, and I think a Linux kernel with a BSD-like userland with a ports collection and beautifully organized source tree, the ability to 'cd /usr/src && make buildworld' and configure virtually the entire system from /etc/rc.conf, would be heaven. Such a distribution could even continue using the GNU tools. It's the sensible organization of BSD that I love so much.

In the beginner's mind there are many possibilities. In the expert's mind there are few. --Suzuki-roshi

Re:Doh, should have asked these questions.... (Score:1)

by [macsuibhne](#) (sweeney@addr.com) on Sunday January 21, @11:27PM EST ([#202](#))

(User #307779 Info)

Practically every assertion you make above is false. BSD is a complete O/S implementation, userland and kernel. Porting applications from Linux to BSD is trivial, since they implement the same system calls. FreeBSD can even run Linux (and SCO, and SVR4) binaries directly in emulation mode (essentially, the kernel is aware of the "brand" of the binary being run and remaps the system call vector accordingly). The BSD kernel isn't based on Mach, it's based on BSD 4.4, from the Computer Science Research Group (CSRG) at UC Berkeley. Mach was developed at Carnegie Mellon U, and the NeXT O/S was layered on Mach 2.0, as is the Darwin kernel, with features from Mach 3.0 thrown in. The Darwin "userland" utilities are all FreeBSD, with Apple custom stuff for network authentication, et al. As to Linux running on Mach, it's been done -- see <http://www.mklinux.org> -- an effort that seems to have been superseded by Darwin\O/S X, pitching Linux in favour of FreeBSD, presumably for licensing reasons. I don't know where you're getting your information from, but it's patently a crock. Just the facts, Sweeney.

-- "Quis custodiet ipsos custodes?" -- Juvenal

Re:Doh, should have asked these questions.... (Score:1)
 by Z4rd0Z on Thursday January 18, @08:57PM EST ([#169](#))
[\(User #211373 Info\)](#) <http://www.mammalia.org>

Extinction is the path down which *you* are headed, O Anonymous One.
 In the beginner's mind there are many possibilities. In the expert's mind there are few. --Suzuki-roshi

Re:Doh, should have asked these questions.... (Score:1)
 by JustTed on Thursday January 18, @07:26PM EST ([#160](#))
[\(User #263340 Info\)](#)

besides the fact that bsd comprises an entire os, not just a kernel, there's the matter that a lot of userland depends on the kernel. many of the interfaces are different. /proc is completely different, as are the top and ps commands and so on. everything would need to be ported, which is a big waste of time.

Re:Doh, should have asked these questions.... (Score:2)
 by [AntiBasic](#) (kingjosh@hotbot.com) on Thursday January 18, @10:21PM EST ([#175](#))
[\(User #83586 Info\)](#) <http://anti.pyar.com>

Ok, after having reading up on many of the posts on here I don't find any of them are a good enough answer for your question. So here goes.

Why isn't there a Redhat/BSD release, or a Debian/BSD release, or a Suse/B....Anyway, you get the idea...There are releases using the Linux kernel (DUH!), and releases using the Hurd kernel, so why don't I see distributions using the Open/Free/Net/Whatever BSD releases as the kernels in distributions?

This is because of OS design. *BSD is an **integrated** OS. Meaning that kernel/userland overlap a lil. 99% of the OS's out there do it this way. And to use the hackneyed slogan yet again: Linux is just a kernel. When you upgrade from Linux 2.2.18ac5-pre-test-mdk4 to Linux 2.2.18ac6-beta-alpha-spoon you just gotta do the make; make depend; make install then all those bzlilo (or however its done) you don't have to upgrade any of your distro's applications (yes there has been are 1-2 instances). I don't really agree with Linus on separation of userland/kernelland.

IMHO, it's a shame....Although Linux 2.4.x seems to be a vast improvement over 2.2.x and is claimed to be more scalable than BSD, I like the security ethos that seems to go with the BSD projects....

Yeah Linux 2.4.x clears up a many of my gripes about it, its still not as great as the hype makes it seem. It reminds me of how all the MS/W2K people are loving these NTFS5.0 quotas that they just got and all the Novell dudes are scoffing. When it comes to scalable, thats just one of those trendy words stupid people use to sound important. Like paradigm and proactive.

I'm rambling now I suppose but learn as much as you can about their differences and similarities, advantages, disadvantages, ***have fun***, increase your knowledge, and try to be an ambassador for whatever your choices may end up being.

I like taffy but I don't deserve taffy.

Re:Doh, should have asked these questions.... (Score:2)

by [NatePuri](#) ([natepuri at office dot ompages dot com](mailto:natepuri@office.ompages.com)) on Saturday January 20, @12:53PM EST (#200)

(User #9870 Info) <http://www.ompages.com>

Because Linux user like Linux and *BSD users like BSD. The differences are greater than .tgz v. .rpm or .deb. Why I use the various *BSDs and not one Linux (except at work where my *new* boss wiped my Open and FreeBSD installs and installed RH Linux 7.0 because he thinks "RH will win in the end", me hacker, him Manager..." When you download FreeBSD's enormous set of files, you get a huge bunch of tools like tar and gzip, mv, cp, sed, awk, perl, tcsh, etc., and the bsd kernel. When you download Linux you get... a kernel. Or you download a huge set of .deb and .rpm files until you have a complete set of tools. Here's why this difference matters... It matters because BSD developers, the one's that put their tag on the release, are the same ones that reviewed the tools to ensure that it all fits. I hear Slackware is like this, but I don't know personally. RPM and .deb developers are very numerous, a bit too numerous. When RH and others put their sign the release, I'm not so sure the main developers know what's going on with all the rpm's on the cd. See what I mean? For me, OpenBSD and FreeBSD are the best. OBSD for firewalls, and FreeBSD for everything else.

kudos (Score:1)

by [khufure](#) ([khufure@hotmailedotSPAMcom.com](mailto:khufure@hotmailSPAMcom.com)) on Thursday January 18, @04:52PM EST (#136)

(User #214732 Info)

appreciate the answers... especially the last "bonus".

damn (Score:1)

by *no comment* on Thursday January 18, @07:23PM EST (#159)

(User #239368 Info)

All those apple-realtd questions and nobody asked his opinion of how many buttons a mouse should have!!!!

oops I accidentally made a comment....sorry

Re:Interesting article (Score:1)

by [rtaylor](#) ([rbt at zort.on.ca](mailto:rbt@zort.on.ca)) on Thursday January 18, @12:33PM EST (#27)

(User #70602 Info)

BSD was around before windows was, so isn't it microsoft who should be competing against BSD? They're slowly taking over BSD turf through purchase of the companies (Hotmail, and LinkExchange come to mind).

Anyway, if anything BSD is a direct rival of Solaris X86 which isn't much of a competition.
Rod Taylor

Re: Rivals? (Score:1)

by [Alfred Perlstein](#) (alfred@freebsd.org) on Thursday January 18, @01:15PM EST (#71)
([User #3926 Info](#))

I wouldn't consider *BSD as rivals to anything, just providing ourselves with a superior replacement for the currently available technology and make it available to the public.

Unlike the Linux/GPL camp who's enemy is everyone trying to make a living by writing software, we're just trying to write the best stuff for our own business and personal use.

We're not rivals with anyone, just sorry you guys are all so lost. :)

- Alfred Perlstein - Programmer and Administrator, Wintelcom.

Re:Interesting article (Score:3, Troll)

by [platinum](#) ([jedgar at fxp dot org](mailto:jedgar@fxp.org)) on Thursday January 18, @12:36PM EST (#31)
([User #20276 Info](#)) <http://www.fxp.org/~jedgar>

Please show me where you got the idea that the purpose of the open source community is to create an OS to rival Windows? Personally, I enjoy working on open source projects, including FreeBSD, not because I want Microsoft to go away, but because I enjoy using and developing a stable, secure OS. Perhaps the quote: "Linux is for Microsoft haters, BSD is for Unix lovers" is true...

Re:Interesting article (Score:1)

by bbcrack on Thursday January 18, @12:39PM EST (#35)
([User #143718 Info](#)) <http://www.randomness.org.uk>

because you can?

choice is the variety of life!

each os has its own good points.

windows is great if your a luser but linux *bsd are better for a real user. were i work we run openbsd freebsd and suse oh and the odd nt box for lusers

comparisons. (Score:1)

by [saintlupus](#) ([saintlupus at angelfire dot com](mailto:saintlupus@angelfire.com)) on Thursday January 18, @01:33PM EST (#79)
([User #227599 Info](#))

*windows is great if your a luser but linux *bsd are better for a real user. were i work we run openbsd*

apparently there are no grammar checkers available for openbsd.

anyhow. i just wanted to step in and say that i am absolutely *staggered*. how did you just read an interview that said, among other things, that one should pick the best os for a given task -- *and then start making sweeping claims about windows being "for lusers"!* the zealotry in this place floors me sometimes.

--saint

one more roadboy in a rust belt town.

Re:comparisons. (Score:1)

by [TobyWong](#) (tobywong@phatchicks.com) on Thursday January 18, @02:18PM EST (#98)
([User #168498 Info](#))

Small minds my friend, small minds. They think they are doing "their side" a favour by bad-mouthing anyone with a different opinion. I thought of a new slogan for this type of zealot: "Closed minds for open source".

- Toby

Re:Obvious (Score:1)

by [platinum](#) ([jedgar at fxp dot org](mailto:jedgar@fxp.org)) on Thursday January 18, @01:00PM EST (#60)
([User #20276 Info](#)) <http://www.fxp.org/~jedgar>

And a number of companies, including [BSDi](#) and those listed [here](#), [here](#), [here](#), [here](#), [here](#), [here](#) would probably disagree.

Re:Interesting article (Score:1)

by [MadAhab](#) (736c617368657240616861622e636f6d) on Thursday January 18, @01:08PM EST (#66)
([User #40080 Info](#)) <http://www.ahab.com>

I believe he did address that issue, and repeatedly. Different projects have different goals, and FreeBSD has always focused on technical excellence. But it doesn't suit everyone's needs all the time, nor should it be expected to.

Your question can also be put a different way; why did Linus not just work on the BSDs in the first place? Linus has said that were it not for the lawsuit keeping the BSD down, he would probably have never created Linux, because he wouldn't have needed to.

Finally, you presume that the goal is to overthrow Windows (though Microsoft is hardly the world's largest company), and that warez is somehow "free", and that commercial software has some kind of integrity that open source lacks. There are plenty of sources to disabuse you of those notions, but really if you went back and read the article carefully, you'd get the answers to your questions.

Boss of nothin. Big deal.

Son, go get daddy's hard plastic eyes.

Re:Interesting article (Score:2)

by [MAXOMENOS](#) (maxomenos@SPAM=DEATH.hushmail.com) on Thursday January 18,

@01:44PM EST (#83)

(User #9802 Info) [file:///dev/null](#)

If the intention of the open source community is to create an OS to rival Windows, wouldn't it be better if the BSD developers developed Linux instead - if you're trying to compete with the world's largest company, it's best to be united.

I disagree completely. One of the strengths of open source software is that you have many choices for solving a problem: Linux and BSD; KDE and GNOME; MySQL, mSQL and PostgreSQL; Emacs and VIM. It encourages open source software to get better on its own accord, instead of aiming for Microsoft.

I'd also like to point out that trying to *replace Microsoft XXXXX* is not a good goal for open source. It puts Microsoft in charge of where OSS is headed. Our goal should be to produce the best technology possible and keep it as free as possible (although I acknowledge that the BSD and Linux camps disagree on what this should mean). Sometimes that means following Microsoft's lead (like GNOME does, with Windows-like GUI and component technology). Sometimes that means following your competition (like the rivalry between VIM and Emacs). Sometimes it means stepping out in a totally different direction (Slashcode, ZOPE).

[ObJectBridge](#) (GPL'd Java ODMG) needs volunteers.

Re:Interesting article (Score:1)

by [Foogle](#) (foogle@adelphia.net) on Thursday January 18, @02:17PM EST ([#97](#))
(User #35117 Info) <http://snowball.in/~hell>

You have been trolled. Have a nice day.

Long Live the Karma Burn!

One step further... (Score:1, Troll)

by [Pope Slackman](#) (algore@georgebushlovesyou.com) on Thursday January 18, @02:48PM EST
(#107)
(User #13727 Info) <http://www.freebsd.org>

Even though Linux might be superior, only Windows has the commercial support and marketing potential to succeed on a large scale.

Therefore support is better lent for improving Windows.

--K

"BINGO! Give that DOG a DOOLY from the FAIR! (GOOD MORNING!!!!, again)" - Andre Hedrick

Re:Article avoids the point (Score:1)

by [AYEq](#) (ayeqALREADY@HAVEENOUGHSPAM@yahoo.com) on Thursday January 18,
@03:06PM EST ([#113](#))
(User #48185 Info) <http://home.earthlink.net/~monarres/>

Why? I hear this question and I really do not understand how to answer that. Kind of off topic but how can you explain Free Software to people who only hear the price aspects. I am not bashing that parent, there just seems to be people who like to have freedom and the ability to dig through source code to find out how something really works. He/She said that the main purpose of free software was to compete with windows and I really don't think that most developers even think about windows really (I know I don't). Not slamming, bashing, or flaming; it is just that I see this question a lot and yet have no way to explain it. It seems that you either get it or not. I hope that *BSD and Linux continue to develop their own product (of course borrowing from each other where needed) and I think that in the end they will both serve different communities (ie. like windows does for most people but not for me)

Re:The numbers behind the *BSD's Death (Score:2, Insightful)

by Moses Lawn on Thursday January 18, @03:22PM EST ([#119](#))
(User #201138 Info)

Will you *please* go away. I am so damn tired of seeing your posts in every thread that mentions BSD. At least come up with some new material. This post is just about an exact cut and paste from your [post of the other day](#)

Then there was [this](#), [this](#), and [this](#). You did another cut-n-paste [here](#).

[This one](#) took the novel step of attacking the compiler. Cool.

So do you actually sit around in your underwear thinking this shit up, or did you hack up some kind of comment generator? Either way, you need a new hobby. Or a girlfriend. I will say, though, that you're somewhat humorous, in a Bullmer-Lytton-kind-of way. Phrases like "mired in a mortifying tangle of fatal trouble" and "head spinning downward spiral" are pretty classic for their alliteration value alone. Anyway, now that that's done, you can leave now. Preferably to the mountains of Uzbekistan or someplace else they don't have electricity.

And no, I *don't* have anything better to do than search Slashdot archives. But this fool's been pissing me off for a while.

Having been trolled, I'll now pull the hook from my mouth.

Re:No surprise, *BSD is DYING (Score:1)
by gavcam on Thursday January 18, @07:15PM EST ([#158](#))
([User #120595 Info](#))

And there's about another 2 million *BSD users who'll be quite willing to help you do it!

Re:What is never said (Score:2)
by be-fan on Friday January 19, @01:07PM EST ([#193](#))
([User #61476 Info](#))

Doh. I forgot that moderators never read at -1. I don't mind the mod-point (cuz it *was* offtopic) I just hope nobody thinks that I am inviting racist trolls to post on /. more often. I was replying to a troll that had set himself up too well to resist.

PS> Yea, you can mod this one too. Why doesn't /. offer post editing?
Go help out at www.beunited.org. C'mon, you know you want to.

Re>All questions not answered (Score:1)
by JustTed on Friday January 19, @02:21PM EST ([#194](#))
([User #263340 Info](#))

95% of freebsd advisories deal with the ports tree, so they apply to just about everything. what source are you looking at?

He who knows others is wise. He who knows himself is enlightened. -- Lao Tsu

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Learn From Robert Watson Of FreeBSD And TrustedBSD

Posted by [Roblimo](#) on Friday

January 12, @12:00PM

from the many-faces-of-*bsd dept.

Robert Watson is a core developer for [FreeBSD](#), and a member of the [TrustedBSD](#) project. He is one of the best people in the world to ask about FreeBSD security, and about FreeBSD development in general. Please post your questions below. We'll send 10 of the highest-moderated ones to Watson by email, and post his responses verbatim as soon as we get them back.



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Interviews

Welcome to the interviews section - this is place to come to read the assorted conversations that Slashdot and the readers have had with various people involved in the Internet, computers, or anything of interest.

2/2 (5)

This discussion has been archived. No new comments can be posted.

[yro](#)

TrustedBSD and OpenBSD (Score:4, Flamebait)

by [Parise](#) (jon at csh.rit.edu) on Friday January 12, @12:04PM EST ([#5](#))

(User #423 Info) <http://www.csh.rit.edu/~jon/>

What similarities and differences do you see between the TrustedBSD project and the type of security work undertaken by the OpenBSD team? How do their goals and philosophies differ?

Re:TrustedBSD and OpenBSD (Score:2)

by squiggleslash on Friday January 12, @12:31PM EST ([#64](#))

(User #241428 Info)

You can find out a lot of this information just by reading the documentation. In essence though, OpenBSD is about auditing the existing code to remove bugs. TBSD is about adding a more secure paradigm to *nix (well, FreeBSD) so that security is more flexible, easier to maintain, and hence more secure (because admins won't leave as many holes in place to get around inflexibilities.)

Both complement one another. It'd be nice to see the OpenBSD team take the TrustedBSD stuff and integrate it into their system. (The other way around, integrate OpenBSD into FreeBSD would be a tad more awkward, it's easier to change the steering wheel of a car than to change the car attached to a steering wheel)

--

[Ho hooo!](#)

Re:TrustedBSD and OpenBSD (Score:1)

by [platinum](#) (jedgar at ffp dot org) on Friday January 12, @01:47PM EST ([#135](#))

(User #20276 Info) <http://www.ffp.org/~jedgar>

Actually, FreeBSD regularly integrates OpenBSD's fixes into the system (and vice versa). The nice thing about having the 3 open-source BSD's (along with MacOS X and BSD/OS) is that much code is shared, and is available for the others to use.

Re:TrustedBSD and OpenBSD (Score:1)

by [discovercomics](#) (Michael@spammerswillbebilled9999.com) on Friday January 12, @08:08PM EST ([#234](#))

(User #246851 Info) <http://www.spammerswillbebilled9999.com>

You can find out a lot of this information just by reading the documentation

I saw this line and all I could think of was **RTFM**

Re:TrustedBSD and OpenBSD (Score:1)

by core10k on Friday January 12, @11:25PM EST ([#256](#))

(User #196263 Info)

So what you're trying to say is that TrustedBSD is bullshit? Please, don't use marketspeak here. Watch your language!

A few important questions: (Score:5, Interesting)

by [Bob Abooey](#) (bababooey@techie.com) on Friday January 12, @01:23PM EST (#123)

(User #224634 Info) http://geocities.com/bob_abooey_999/karma.html

- 1) Do you ever plan on moving away from the slow and resource intensive method of VMS style paging for memory address resolution
- 2) Are there plans to rewrite the TCP/IP stack to be multi threaded
- 3) Will BSD ever migrate away from UFS to a more modern file system?
- 4) With serious POSIX compatibility issues are there plans to use code from POSIX compliant OS's to become more commercially attractive to major corporations

Re: A few important questions: (Score:4, Insightful)

by [reg](#) (reg@shale.csir.co.za) on Friday January 12, @03:49PM EST (#172)

(User #5428 Info)

Only important questions if you are trolling...

1) Do you ever plan on moving away from the slow and resource intensive method of VMS style paging for memory address resolution

FreeBSD's paging code is extremely fast, which is why FreeBSD performs so well under load. It is fairly resource intensive, but the requirements for page tables etc are proportional to your RAM size, so FreeBSD will still run in low memory configurations.

2) Are there plans to rewrite the TCP/IP stack to be multi threaded

Once again, this is a buzz word issue - the TCP/IP stack performance is very good (ie can saturate whatever network you happen to plug in). But the entire kernel is being multi-threaded for 5.0, to provide fine grained SMP support.

3) Will BSD ever migrate away from UFS to a more modern file system?

The UFS file system is being continuously upgraded. It has features which Linux and most other commercial FSs would love - like softupdates, and new utilities to grow filesystems (and shrink them too hopefully soon). Just because Linux has had to rewrite its FS because of poor reliability doesn't mean that the BSDs have a bad file system.

4) With serious POSIX compatibility issues are there plans to use code from POSIX compliant OS's to become more commercially attractive to major corporations

POSIX compatibility is also something which is always being improved. But I think that you're wrong about POSIX compatibility being an issue for major corporations. They are far more concerned with stable APIs, and at the moment they want stable APIs for things like windowing services. This is why people code for Windows, not POSIX compliance.

Regards,
-Jeremy

FreeBSD 5.0? (Score:2)

by cpeterso on Friday January 12, @05:37PM EST ([#205](#))

(User #19082 Info) <http://www.geocities.com/fatpeoplearehardertokidnap2000/>

the entire kernel is being multi-threaded for 5.0, to provide fine grained SMP support.

Where can I find more info about plans for FreeBSD 5.0? Is 5.0 include the integration of BSDI code? Freebsd.org doesn't seem to mention much.

chris

[cpeterso](#)

Info on SMP status in FreeBSD 5.0 (Score:3, Informative)

by cpeterso on Friday January 12, @06:08PM EST ([#212](#))

(User #19082 Info) <http://www.geocities.com/fatpeoplearehardertokidnap2000/>

<http://people.freebsd.org/~jasone/smp/>

[cpeterso](#)

Re: A few important questions: (Score:2)

by [Pinball Wizard](#) (josheverist@yahoo.com) on Friday January 12, @07:56PM EST ([#231](#))

(User #161942 Info)

Bob, you forgot to ask a few things in your post. I don't quite understand since you've apparently attempted to submit patches to the BSD project and had them rejected for no reason.

So, I've taken the liberty of reposting your last BSD post. Here is the [original post](#) if you want to see it.

***Bob Abooey's Last BSD Post: ***

Couldn't agree more. In fact I'm really tired of the whole BSD camp acting like the red-headed bastard stepchild. BSD just flat out fails due to the Amiga type zealotry which impedes clear thinking in many cases.

I have submitted a well ducumented and heavily tested patch for BSD which provides code and

a clean interface to remove the hard limit of 2000 maximum processes, but it was rejected for no good reason. I guess they really don't want to play in the big leagues when it comes to big iron servers. I have also re-written chunks of BSD code which I run on my own personal RDBMS back-end which fixes many of the *real* problems with BSD, namely the file system which is slow and rife with corruption, the fine grain low level context switching which kills any sort of performance you might get by using multi threaded apps (that's true multi-threaded apps, not the "forking PID" type). Yeah, why don't the BSD zealots ever address the kernel space addressing scheme which still relies on the old VMS paging concept which does nothing but increase the kernel-space overhead.

I could go on and on but I won't. It's not often I make a real post so I hope you guys understand that I'm really upset here. Thanks

End Bob Abooey's last BSD post

Wow, impressive. So Bob, when are you releasing that RDBMS that you wrote yourself that replaces the BSD filesystem? Can we expect to see it on freshmeat any time soon?

Also, if FreeBSD's paging system and TCP/IP stack leave so much to be desired, where can I turn to find a better system?

Bob?

My roommate is so much like Tyler Durden, its causing me to lose sleep.

Re: A few important questions: (Score:1)
by bapink01 on Friday January 12, @09:42PM EST ([#243](#))
([User #137229 Info](#))

Bob Abooey is a Howard Stern/goat sexing troll. This account is hardly ever doing anything but spewing flamebait.

Why is it that the moderators don't remember his previous [antics](#) as the guy that says

Bobabooey to you all.

Another poster has already pointed out the technical reasons Bob Aboobey has his head up his butt.

The only thing more annoying would be
'Imagine a beowulf cluster of Bob Abooey(s)'

Please! Stop the insanity. Bury Bob Abooeay.

Re: A few important questions: (Score:2)

by [Tassach](#) (tassach@DONTSPAMME.excite.com) on Friday January 12, @ 11:20PM EST (#254)

([User #137772 Info](#))

Even a goat-sexing troll is capable of an occasional moment of lucidity. The comment about the attitudes of the *BSD camps is dead on target. Speaking as a proud ex-Amiga user, I can see a lot of similarities between the attitudes *BSD'ers and Amigans. It's very disheartening to see a well-engineered, elegant system be eclipsed by a more popular but technically inferior one, particularly if you have devoted a significant amount of mental energy mastering said system.

That being said, I don't think any of the BSD projects are in any danger of dying. While there are some valid differences of opinion as to design philosophy between the various BSD projects, I think there is also a huge amount of hubris and rampant egos at work that keep the core teams from working more closely with one another. (Not that the Linux community is much better with its perennial distribution and desktop manager catfights)

Diversity is a good thing. A good engineer picks the best tool for the job at hand. The choice of an operating system (or any other piece of software or hardware, for that matter) depends on what you want to do with it. No one tool is right for all jobs, regardless of what sales drones or fanboys want you to believe. As software engineers, we can't let our political views or personal enthusiasms get in the way of making sound technical decisions.

"One loves to possess arms, though they hope never to have occasion for them." --Thomas Jefferson

Re: A few important bits of chum: (Score:1)

by bapink01 on Saturday January 13, @ 12:11AM EST (#262)

([User #137229 Info](#))

At one point, I was using NT at work, Unix (AIX, HPUX, Linux) at school, and a purple iMac at home (that ran MacOS, LinuxPPC (for a while), and YellowDog (for the other part of the while)). I can even feel your pain about that whole 'not popular but better' situation. (I really liked the macintosh usability and hardware monopoly/integration.)

And I agree with your statement that Bob could say something worthwhile (with or without any intent of doing so).

But..

The whole point of trolling (baiting) a discussion forum is to get *obvious and/or impassioned* responses. (I liken this to peeing just to see the bubbles.) Ideally we are looking for insightful, well formed, thought out, or funny thoughts and responses.

In other words, posting goat sex repeatedly is one thing. Get someone to click the goat sex link expecting something entirely different, is a second level. Getting one of the authors (esp CmdrTaco) to post a story that has an irrelevant link is a third thing.

Actual Point of my original post: Actually trolling one of the subjects of a slashdot interview may not be the holy grail of trolling, but it has got to be up there on the relic heirarchy with a sliver of the crucifix. He will probably get double word score just for the +5.

Conclusion about /. moderators (Score:2)

by [dcs](#) (dcs@news-no-f-ing-spam-guy.com) on Monday January 15, @11:14PM EST ([#290](#))
[\(User #42578 Info\)](#)

They can't spot a troll when they see one.

(8-DCS)

Nice link (Score:1)

by Siqnal 11 on Friday January 12, @12:05PM EST ([#6](#))
[\(User #210012 Info\)](#)

[It's not that fucking difficult.](#)

--

Email is for geeks and pedophiles. - Sebastian Valmont

Re:Nice link (Score:1)

by Bastian on Friday January 12, @12:12PM EST ([#27](#))
[\(User #66383 Info\)](#)

Hey, Rob, it's called the "preview" button.

TrustedBSD With VMS Features? (Score:4, Interesting)

by Anonymous Coward on Friday January 12, @12:06PM EST ([#9](#))

I was reading some documentation on VMS the other day (don't ask), and found out something really interesting. VMS has *per-thread* security. Thus, a multi-threaded database application could still have ridged security even though it is one process.

I'm a UNIX admin, and don't wish to admin VMS, but this blew me away. Are there any other VMS you are or are considering adding to make TrustedBSD a more solid and extendable OS?

Re:TrustedBSD With VMS Features? (Score:2, Informative)

by [borgboy](#) ([null](#)) on Friday January 12, @01:07PM EST ([#109](#))
[\(User #218060 Info\)](#)

You know, the [OS](#) from the company y'all love to hate [took some hints from VMS](#), and it also implements [per-thread security](#).

Mes poissons ont mangé mon chat.

Re:TrustedBSD With VMS Features? (Score:2)

by [Guy Harris](#) (guy@alum.mit.edu) on Friday January 12, @07:46PM EST ([#228](#))
[\(User #3803 Info\)](#)

It sounds as if the person who asked the question to which you responded was saying that VMS allows different threads in a process to have different privileges. The NT per-thread security described by the stuff to which you linked isn't per-thread security in the sense of "what the thread is allowed to do", it's per-thread security in the sense of "what *other* processes are allowed to do *to* the thread".

Re:TrustedBSD With VMS Features? (Score:2)

by [Tassach](#) (tassach@DONTSPAMME.excite.com) on Friday January 12, @10:54PM EST ([#252](#))
[\(User #137772 Info\)](#)

The basic NT security *model* is excellent (particulary compared to the Unix owner/group/world model). It is the *implementation* of that model which sucks rocks. If it actually worked as designed, NT's security would be impressive.

Compare this to OpenBSD. OpenBSD may be based on a dated security model, but it is a ROCK SOLID implementation of that model. It dosn't take a rocket scientist to figure out which one to use where security is critical.

"One loves to possess arms, though they hope never to have occasion for them." --Thomas Jefferson

Re:TrustedBSD With VMS Features? (Score:1)

by hch on Friday January 12, @01:18PM EST ([#117](#))
[\(User #304422 Info\)](#)

<i>I was reading some documentation on VMS the other day (don't ask), and found out something really interesting. VMS has per-thread security. Thus, a multi-threaded database application could still have ridged security even though it is one process.</i>

Linus has this feature, too (and FreeBSD using the linuxthreads port). But many people consider this a bug and not a feature

Re:TrustedBSD With VMS Features? (Score:1)

by Aunt Mable on Friday January 12, @07:27PM EST ([#223](#))
[\(User #301965 Info\)](#) <http://www.blueberrypie.com>

Linus is so impressive.

-- Eat your greens or I'll hit you!

[LOGO](#)

OS X based on FreeBSD (Score:5, Interesting)

by [Kevinv](#) (kevinv@nospam@hockey.net) on Friday January 12, @12:06PM EST (#10)
(User #21462 Info) <http://www.hockey.net/~kevinv/>

OS X's Darwin is based on FreeBSD. How good a member of the Open Source movement has Apple been? Have they contributed anything back to the FreeBSD project (code/money/t-shirts/etc...)?

Re:OS X based on FreeBSD (Score:1)

by [Nohea](#) (sd at nohea dot com) on Friday January 12, @12:10PM EST (#19)
(User #142708 Info)

I thought Darwin was from NetBSD.

Re:OS X based on FreeBSD (Score:2)

by weston on Friday January 12, @12:54PM EST (#93)
(User #16146 Info) <http://mmedia.csoft.net/weston/>

I believe OS X started life (back in its OpenStep days) from BSD 3.2 put on top of Mach. It's now probably a 4.x on top of Mach. This means its codebase really isn't directly inherited from FreeBSD or NetBSD, AFAIK.

However, that might not stop it from contributing. The Apple-open OS X distro [Darwin](#) may have a tip or trick to contribute back, and likely incorporates a bunch of *BSD stuff as well.

--

Blessed are the 8-bit slashdot user ids....

Re:OS X based on FreeBSD (Score:2)

by [bugg](#) (bugg42@bugg.strangled.net) on Saturday January 13, @10:53AM EST (#275)
(User #65930 Info)

Not 3.2BSD on top of Mach, FreeBSD 3.2 on top of Mach. There was never a version 3.2 of Berkeley UNIX- AFAIK it went straight from 3BSD to 4BSD.

If you actually look at Darwin source, you'll see that there's also a lot of the userland taken from NetBSD.

Anyhow, Apple has definitely been a good neighbor to the open source world. Look at Darwin- people can take work from there back to FreeBSD or any other OS. They've also taken an interest in [OpenPackages](#) and it'll be interesting to see where, if anywhere, they go with that.

-bugg

OS X and FreeBSD (Score:1)

by gagganator on Friday January 12, @02:27PM EST (#147)

(User #223646 Info) <http://homepage.mac.com/gaggan/>

apple states that mac os x/darwin is based on freebsd 3.2. how complete an implementation is this? has darwin contributed any new ideas/code/features to bsd?

Re:OS X and FreeBSD (Score:1)

by gagganator on Wednesday January 17, @02:43PM EST (#292)

(User #223646 Info) <http://homepage.mac.com/gaggan/>

Huh? How complete is Linux 2.2?

i am not comparing it to linux, i am comparing it to freebsd. is it missing any freebsd features?

Darwin is open source. Therefore it has contributed as much as FreeBSD wishes to take from it.

yes, but has darwin improved on freebsd? is there anything to gain from darwin?

also please note my web address

Re:OS X based on FreeBSD (Score:1)

by jkh (jkh@freebsd.org) on Friday January 12, @05:27PM EST (#202)

(User #3999 Info)

Darwin has been going through some changes as OS X gets closer to its ship date of March 24th, 2001. It's true that in the past there was a bit of NetBSD and a bit of FreeBSD in the mix, though more recently the Darwin group has been standardizing on the FreeBSD code base and, as their web site states, last syncronized with FreeBSD 3.2. That's one of the reasons more active code-sharing hasn't really happened yet - things have simply been too far out of sync while the Apple people dealt with far more pressing issues related to getting their first release out the door.

Once that happens, some of the pressure will be off and hopefully a more recent version of the FreeBSD code base can be sync'd with Darwin along with the inevitable flood of product update requests and bug fixes which go into the first point release of OS X. Apple hasn't shown itself to be reluctant to play the open source game at all, they simply don't appear to have had sufficient resources to really take an active role in BSD development and also address all the other challenges they've had to face in getting OS X ready to ship. I've met with various Apple developers on several occasions now and they've shown a lot of enthusiasm for getting more

actively involved once they have the cycles to spare.

- Jordan Hubbard co-founder/release manager, the FreeBSD Project

Re:OS X based on FreeBSD (Score:1)

by [flynn_nrg](#) (flynn@NOSPAMenergyhq.org) on Friday January 12, @05:54PM EST (#209)
(User #266463 Info) <http://www.energyhq.org>

MacOS X is based on FreeBSD? FreeBSD's kernel is aimed at i386 (it supports alpha as well), so did Apple just throw away all hardware dependent code and rewrote it to fit theirs? I thought that the MacOS X core is BSD based, which is != FreeBSD based. Please correct me on this if I'm wrong.

while(1) fork();

Re:OS X based on FreeBSD (Score:2)

by [bugg](#) (bugg42@bugg.strangled.net) on Saturday January 13, @10:56AM EST (#276)
(User #65930 Info)

They're using FreeBSD *on Mach*, which provides quite a bit of low level hardware specific services. I'd imagine that all they had to do is write or port drivers for the hardware that they're running on..

-bugg

Correct FreeBSD Link (Score:1)

by [mholve](#) (mike@nospam.eunuchs.org) on Friday January 12, @12:06PM EST (#11)
(User #1101 Info) <http://eunuchs.org/linux>

I think you meant here - <http://www.freebsd.org>

USB support and the future (Score:1)

by [CoBoLwArRiOr](#) (cobolwarrior@nospammming.com) on Friday January 12, @12:08PM EST (#14)
(User #301814 Info)

Being a newbie, I've set up FreeBSD on a different box than my everyday box. Someday I hope to have it on my everyday box, but I have a lot of USB products on my machine. What does the future hold in terms of USB support in FreeBSD, and what are 3 of the biggest ideas / projects / etc. that the FreeBSD crew are looking at for the next release?

====

The COBOL Warrior

"COBOL's Not dead, it's just underground"

Re:USB support and the future (Score:3, Informative)

by [AntiBasic](#) (kingjosh@hotmail.com) on Friday January 12, @03:06PM EST (#166)
(User #83586 Info) <http://anti.pyar.com>

FreeBSD has had USB support since 3.3 iirc. Go check LINT, search [FreeBSD.org](#), look at [FreeBSD Diary](#) and the [FreeBSD Handbook](#) for further information about setting up your FreeBSD box. I'm sure you'll see just how solid it is.
I like taffy but I don't deserve taffy.

Re:USB support and the future (Score:1)

by spud_daemon on Friday January 12, @08:53PM EST ([#239](#))
([User #177977 Info](#))

Yes, FreeBSD does have usb, but its (as of 4.1) not as clean as RedHat 7.0, with FreeBSD, I had to install with my old atx keyboard because my mac usb keyboard kept getting disconnected by FreeBSD and leaving me somewhat stranded. With my new usb mouse I had to do post-install configuration to get it to work, the installer wouldn't recognize it.

When I installed RedHat 7.0 my usb keyboard and mouse were detected during startup and I used them to install the OS.

So does FreeBSD have usb support, Yes. Is it as clean and complete as it should be, not yet.

Re:USB support and the future (Score:2)

by [AntiBasic](#) (kingjosh@hotbot.com) on Saturday January 13, @03:59PM EST ([#279](#))
([User #83586 Info](#)) <http://anti.pyar.com>

Yes, FreeBSD does have usb, but its (as of 4.1)

Uhmm....no. *BSD support for USB was done NetBSD a while back and merged into project from there. This was done back in mid '99. Dont say as of 4.1 as that is mere FUD.

When I installed RedHat 7.0...

You're actually using RedHat 7.0!??! Are you on coke? You obviously didn't read about their shitty gcc version they packaged with it. If I remember correctly, Linus called RH7 "Unsuitable for any use". It's ok you're a newbie.

So does FreeBSD have usb support, Yes. Is it as clean and complete as it should be, not yet.

My God thats incorrect. If you have even bothered to follow any mailing lists you'd see you were woefully wrong. Go spread your unsubstantiated FUD elsewhere.
I like taffy but I don't deserve taffy.

Re:USB support and the future (Score:1)

by spud_daemon on Tuesday January 16, @07:13PM EST ([#291](#))
([User #177977 Info](#))

Acctually..... yes.

I did not say that FreeBsd or any other BSD did not have usb until FreeBSD hit 4.1. If thats the way it came across, I'm sorry, but what I mean is that when I installed FreeBSD 4.1 my usb keyboard and mouse were not configured in the installation and could not be used for the installation.

IMHO if you can't install on the hardware that you're acctually going to run a OS on then there is a problem. I am using FreeBSD 4.1 with my usb keyboard and mouse, but I couldn't install with them. Installation had to be done with my old ps/2 stuff. Until I can throw my old ps/2 keyboard and mouse out then and still install and use FreeBSD then I will continue to consider their usb support incomplete and lacking.

Re:USB support and the future (Score:1)

by [CoBoLwArRiOr](#) (cobolwarrior@nospamming.com) on Friday January 12, @ 12:49PM EST (#89)

([User #301814 Info](#))

It does, but I have a couple of other things that will not work at all

=====

The COBOL Warrior

"COBOL's Not dead, it's just underground"

Why another BSD? (Score:2, Interesting)

by [smooc](#) (bolke@tijdbeursmedia.nl) on Friday January 12, @ 12:10PM EST (#20)

([User #59753 Info](#))

With so many implementations around of the various *nix/*bsd flavors why another one?
Is there enough distinction between OpenBSD and TrustedBSD to justify it?

And most importantly *How do you get some much time to devote it *two* projects?*

Nevertheless I congratulate you (and am kind of jealous ;)) with the work you have done.

Bolke.

Re:Why another BSD? (Score:2, Informative)

by [platinum](#) (jedgar@fxp.org) on Friday January 12, @ 01:49PM EST (#136)

([User #20276 Info](#)) <http://www.fxp.org/~jedgar>

If you actually read what [TrustedBSD](#) is about, you would see that it is an extension to FreeBSD and should be integrated into FreeBSD-proper before 5.0 is released.

Isn't FreeBSD now part of BSDi? (Score:1)

by [Tymanthius](#) (tymanthius-AT-usaSPAMSUX-DOT-net) on Friday January 12, @ 12:10PM EST (#21)

([User #75808 Info](#)) http://www.home.aone.net.au/irc_rpg/home.htm

Quick questions:

Isn't FreeBSD now part fo BSDi?

And if so, how is this affecting your development, support, etc. ad nauseum?

WHONEEDSSLEEPWHENWEHAVECAFFINE?!

Re:Isn't FreeBSD now part of BSDi? (Score:1)

by [MadAhab](#) (736c617368657240616861622e636f6d) on Friday January 12, @03:02PM EST (#163)

(User #40080 Info) <http://www.ahab.com>

I won't explain the "part fo BSDi" thing; do the reading yourself.

I will say, however, that so far I've noticed nothing in -stable. Still works great and is easy to maintain and administer, still doesn't support devices as broadly as linux. No changes significant enough to change anyone's reasons for using or not using FreeBSD, in my view.

In the -current version, however, there appear to be lots of changes afoot. FreeBSD 5 is supposedly going to come with a lot of the SMP stuff from BSDi merged in, which would be a huge plus for FreeBSD.

Boss of nothin. Big deal.

Son, go get daddy's hard plastic eyes.

Re:Isn't FreeBSD now part of BSDi? (Score:1)

by [jkh](#) (jkh@freebsd.org) on Friday January 12, @05:19PM EST (#201)

(User #3999 Info)

No, FreeBSD was never "taken over" by BSDi, something which would be impossible even if BSDi had ever wished to do such a thing (how do you take over a volunteer development organization?). When BSDi merged with Walnut Creek CDROM, the existing cooperative relationship between WC and the FreeBSD project simply went with it. BSDi continues to make and ship FreeBSD CDs as well as employ several people to work on FreeBSD full-time and FreeBSD continues to support this as a Good Thing(tm). That's all there is to it. I now return you to your regularly scheduled conspiracy theories. :)

- Jordan Hubbard co-founder/release manager, the FreeBSD Project

Re:it's DEAD, Jim (Score:1)

by gavcam on Friday January 12, @09:48PM EST (#244)

(User #120595 Info)

Some facts to support your rather stupid assertions would be good!

bsd color scheme (Score:1, Insightful)

by Anonymous Coward on Friday January 12, @12:11PM EST ([#22](#))

what happened to the bsd color scheme?

(OT)Interviews color scheme (Score:1)

by [yerricde](#) (slash@pineight.8m.spam : s/spam/com/) on Friday January 12, @12:54PM EST ([#94](#))

(User #125198 Info) <http://www.pineight.com/>

Each Section of /. has a color scheme. This article is in the [interviews Section](#); therefore it has the interviews colors (which happen to be identical to front_page colors), not the [bsd Section](#) colors.

[Like Tetris? Like drugs? Ever try combining them?](#)

Eloi? How precious!

Why would you... ? (Score:4, Insightful)

by [SonOfSam](#) (leroy@sethsolutions.com) on Friday January 12, @12:11PM EST ([#23](#))

(User #15164 Info)

FreeBSD development is obviously a big part of your life. I have noticed that peoples reasons for using a free OS are often not simply because its better, but because of some view or stance on freedom that they have.

I am a Windows guy, only because my job says so.

What I want to know is, how would you go about convincing me, a Win2k user, to consider using a *BSD. I am interested in learning a new OS... always. But, what makes it stand out from Linux/Win2k/MacOS?

Good question above (Score:1)

by rppp01 on Friday January 12, @12:53PM EST ([#91](#))

(User #236599 Info)

Why should an NT user switch to BSD as opposed to Linux? Sure, BSD can run most Linux binaries, but what does BSD offer in the way of applications that Linux doesn't?

Re:Good question above (Score:1)

by mr on Friday January 12, @02:39PM EST ([#152](#))

(User #88570 Info)

At this time, some benchmarks done by some people show BSD running 10-30% faster than the linux distro of the month. Even the linux compatibility mode runs faster. Given the speed of machines these days....such matters little today.

The design methodology of a group of people VS linus is an advantage. (FreeBSD gets out releases once a quarter. the linux kernel has been delayed) Because of the design of BSD, updating a BSD box goes like this:

```
become root  
cd /usr/src  
make update  
make buildworld  
make installworld
```

And the BSD license is a difference. If Micro\$oft 'attacks' GNU/Linux, Micro\$oft will use the GPL as the vector of the attack.

Applications: Rate shaping for TCP/IP traffic is an example. How about Office 2001 for Mac OS X? (the whole Mac OS X stuff)

If it was said on slashdot, it MUST be true!

Re:Good question above (Score:1)

by Petrophile on Friday January 12, @04:19PM EST ([#185](#))

(User #253809 Info) http://www.capricornica.com/plants/pet_pulc.htm

Office for MacOS X, and pretty much every other MacOS X application are built on the proprietary Apple Carbon API and has nothing to do with MacOS X's BSD compatibility server.

But, if it was said on Slashdot (OS X == BSD), it must be true!

Re:Good question above (Score:1)

by Petrophile on Friday January 12, @04:21PM EST ([#186](#))

(User #253809 Info) http://www.capricornica.com/plants/pet_pulc.htm

Oops - proprietary Apple Carbon and Cocoa APIs

Re:Why would you... ? (Score:1)

by mrowlands on Friday January 12, @05:45PM EST ([#207](#))

(User #80337 Info)

I hear you bro! Well as someone coming from a very similar angle, pretty much every task I have needed to do in NT....dns / mail / firewalling / network monitoring has simply been that much easier and more transparent than NT / 2K. With 'nix type machines, imho and limited experience and especially with open source 'nixes, you have a better chance of: a) making it work, b) understanding why/how it works and c) fixing it when it don't. There is also another plus, it has opened my eyes to a much wider range of techniques for solving problems in the windows world. A lot of 'nix utilities are now ported to win32 and can be used in both environments. If nothing else, learning something new never killed anyone (more or less)

Re:Why would you... ? (Score:1)

by crucini on Saturday January 13, @02:09AM EST ([#266](#))

([User #98210 Info](#))

Or as Philip Greenspun once wrote:

- Macintosh: You think it will work, but it doesn't
- Windows: You think it won't work, and it doesn't.
- Unix: You think it won't work, but if you find the right guru he'll make it work.

Why will people continue to use FreeBSD? (Score:1)

by Signal 11 on Friday January 12, @12:14PM EST ([#32](#))

([User #210012 Info](#))

If they can't operate it (or administrate it), they simply won't. New users won't even try a system if they can't understand how to install it. A good solution to this is something like Max OS X -- you know, the BSD system that actually looks good.

Sure, anyone can install WindowMaker on BSD, but they can't control the entire system seamlessly, like you can with Mac OS X, NT, or for that matter, the Red Hat control panel.

Yes, I'm going to get flamed for this, but the fact is, FreeBSD needs to think about its future a little more competitively. Ever wonder how Linux, a much younger operating system, got so far so fast? You should see the graphical installation programs, which help you partition your drive, and then easily install the stuff you want.

So, what do you think can be done to keep FreeBSD alive?

--

Email is for geeks and pedophiles. - Sebastian Valmont

Re:Why will people continue to use FreeBSD? (Score:3, Insightful)

by SoupIsGood Food on Friday January 12, @02:59PM EST ([#160](#))

([User #1179 Info](#))

Mac users still get uncontrollable giggle fits when people talk about the "User friendly Windows interface". If you need a seamless, integrated UI for total control over the presentation and creation of complex data (Graphics, sound effects, bad screenplays, etc.) you need BeOS or a Mac.

Unix in all its many splendored flavors is good for when you need stability and performance. This is why it's usually paired with the =really= sexxy hardware you need a government grant to buy. Unix boxes are at their finest as tools, accessories. Big, expensive shared peripherals that serve a specific, tailored purpose.

In my case, I've got a Sparcstation LX running OpenBSD for a purpose: I need to host a private web forum. It has to be robust, able to cope with large loads, and dirt cheap. Including the OpenBSD CD(with stickers!), the setup cost me \$50. I don't need a windowing environment...I have my MacOS Powerbook on a network with it. After the initial install, I can administrate it better sitting on my couch than I can sitting on the terminal...the Mac's tools for editing bits of text from a usercentric standpoint are second to none. Perfect for tweaking configuration files.

And you will need to tweak configuration files. By hand. Might as well start off that way rather than continually correcting what the GUI administration applications assume is what you want. This is where BSD's shine. Their systems are simple and unsophisticated, well documented with clearly written manpages and FAQs, thus shallowing the learning curve if you need to get into the nitty-gritty of networking, soft-raid, security auditing, etc. You know...the stuff Unix is =good= at.

Linux is too chaotic, the distros vary too wildly from one to the other to make low level administration and automation easy. They cram everything but the kitchen sink into your system, none of it documented very well. This is fine if your hobby is computer science and you need a toy to play with, or you need a robust workstation environment, or you want to compete with Windows to be the hottest Mac rip-off arround. Not so good if you're trying to track BBS users by IP to filter out the trolls and bots.

There just isn't a GUI front end for that sort of stuff. Fancy windowing environments soak up valuable processor cycles and RAM. If you need a robust and fast server tailored to meet a specific utility, you need *BSD.

SoupIsGood Food

Re:Why will people continue to use FreeBSD? (Score:1)

by [scott4000](#) (scott@wpsystems.net) on Friday January 12, @07:03PM EST ([#219](#))
(User #42414 Info) <http://www.wpsystems.net/>

Perhaps FreeBSD does not need to compete against anything...FreeBSD will continue to stay alive for a very long time, because the people who use it will not let it die.

FreeBSD Distribution (Score:3, Interesting)

by proxima on Friday January 12, @12:19PM EST (#39)

(User #165692 Info)

Do you think FreeBSD is hurting in its distribution in comparison with Linux and commercial OSes? Not only are they available from numerous online stores, one can usually find them at simple retail outlets like Best Buy. On the contrary, FreeBSD distribution seems much more limited, with less retail and shrink-wrap options.

I have noticed, however, that linuxmall.com sells FreeBSD CDs, has the FreeBSD community received much support from the Linux community over distribution (such as mirrored FTP from mostly Linux servers)?

"The universe is not required to be in perfect harmony with human ambition." - Carl Sagan

Re:FreeBSD Distribution (Score:2, Informative)

by [Marasmus](#) (marasmus@vectorstar.com) on Friday January 12, @01:14PM EST (#113)

(User #63844 Info) <http://www.vectorstar.com/>

Just to be a nitpicking annoyance, I wanted to point out that most large distribution sites are running a variant of BSD. :) a handful (such as sunsite.unc.edu) run solaris, but most of them (cdrom.com, freesoftware.com, many of tucows.com's mirrors) are hosting from BSD :) It may be more accurate to view BSD as supporting Linux's distribution :)
.... um, i lost you after "0110100001101001".

Re:FreeBSD Distribution (Score:2, Informative)

by [mph](#) (mph@freebsd.org) on Friday January 12, @02:43PM EST (#154)

(User #7675 Info) <http://www.pobox.com/~mph>

Yeah, it would be nice if you could [buy FreeBSD at Best Buy...](#)

Re:FreeBSD Distribution (Score:1)

by proxima on Friday January 12, @11:53PM EST (#258)

(User #165692 Info)

That's interesting, thanks. The last time I checked my nearby outlet, it wasn't on the shelves, so perhaps it's not in all stores. I was merely using Best Buy as an example of a retail outlet with various distributions of Linux for sale. However, another popular example is [Media Play](#) which sells [Linux](#) but not [FreeBSD](#).

"The universe is not required to be in perfect harmony with human ambition." - Carl Sagan

Re:FreeBSD Distribution (Score:1)

by larryliberty on Sunday January 14, @09:20AM EST (#284)

(User #256149 Info)

I got my copy of FreeBSD at Barnes and Noble. They also have it at Borders.

The future? (Score:4, Interesting)

by [jmenezes](#) (j_menezes@yahoo.com) on Friday January 12, @12:20PM EST (#40)

([User #100986 Info](#))

What do you see in the future for *BSD, with the huge amount of popularity that linux keeps on receiving, not to mention attention, esp. from our buddy Bill Gate\$...

Do you think it will remain the strong, viable but simply less popular free OS it is now, hiding behind the limelight of linux, or will it come up in popularity, esp with the codebase for Apple's Darwin, which is all BSD based?

decent literature (Score:4, Insightful)

by [boog3r](#) (dave@lpb.net) on Friday January 12, @12:21PM EST (#41)

([User #62427 Info](#))

instead of asking you a few questions directly, i would like to solve them on my own with the best set of tools. what publications or literature would you recommend for:

- the *bsd newbie or learner
- the *bsd uber-know-it-all-i-dont-need-any-docs

i am trying to cut the signal/noise ratio out of understanding bsd. specifically, what security documentation have you found useful day-in/out?

-- Blue! No, yellow! AHHHHHHHHHhhhh.....

Re:decent literature (Score:1)

by MochaMan on Friday January 12, @04:37PM EST (#193)

([User #30021 Info](#))

If you understand the basics of operating systems and you want a great reference to BSD, a GREAT book is "The Design and Implementation of the 4.4BSD Operating System", written by the original authors of 4.4BSD and published by Addison Wesley.

It covers basically anything you need to know, and makes a great reference if you want to understand the source code itself.

An overview of the book is at [this location](#).

Question Please! (Score:3, Interesting)

by [Brew Bird](#) (pflores@NOSPAMvidnet.net) on Friday January 12, @12:24PM EST (#48)

([User #59050 Info](#)) <http://paul.labrats.com/~pflores/mitsubis.htm>

Can you explain, in some detail, the overall goals of the BSDs you participate in?

Please try and direct your answer to people who continue to proclaim that *BSD is dying, and point at some made up marketing numbers.

IPSO (Score:1)

by killer_pelican on Friday January 12, @12:25PM EST (#51)

([User #203618 Info](#))

Do you have any opinions about the CheckPoint IPSO implementation of FreeBSD?

Question for Mr. Watson (Score:1)

by [packphour](#) (ILoveHateMail@127.0.0.1) on Friday January 12, @12:27PM EST (#56)

(User #257276 Info) <http://packphour.com>

Do you prefer to be called Bob or Robert?

(never underestimate the importance of someone's name preference)

-p4

(c) All Rights Released.

Biggest problem / Best advice (Score:4, Interesting)

by [mosch](#) (i_charge_1000USD_to_receive_uce@overtone.org) on Friday January 12, @12:28PM EST (#57)

(User #204 Info)

Everybody knows there's no such thing as a perfect system. As such, what do you think is the most, and least perfect points regarding security in FreeBSD.

Also, in terms of security, what do you think the most common dangerous behaviours are by FreeBSD users and admins? What would you change about the FreeBSD userbase if you could?

--

"Don't trolls get tired?"

"How could trolls get tired!"

Security System (Score:2, Interesting)

by [jstepka](#) (jstepkaREMOVEME@webprogrammers.net) on Friday January 12, @12:28PM EST (#58)

(User #20825 Info) <http://www.webprogrammers.net>

Are there plans in the future to add an automated security update system? I see this as a database your system would check against to see if you are running any installation level security problems.

Justen Stepka

Do you think all boxes will get hacked eventually? (Score:1)

by wmulvihillDxR on Friday January 12, @12:34PM EST (#66)

(User #212915 Info) <http://althea.sourceforge.net>

I was installing [portsentry](#) from [Psionic Software](#) and somewhere in one of the files about using the software the author discusses the inevitability of being cracked. He believes that system admins can't keep up with constant updates and that eventually some hacker will find an exploit using their server. That is, the exploit will first be found on their box.

Do you, as a member of a widely trusted BSD distribution, think that eventually all computers will be hacked in some way?

Second question, do you think FreeBSD (and Linux) should ship with the tightest security possible at all times? Some reasons not to would be, usability by the "average" desktop user and being a hassle to set up for admins who want, say, ftp enabled.

Check out [Althea](#) for a stable IMAP email client for X

Re:Ahh the pain... (Score:1)

by core10k on Friday January 12, @11:37PM EST ([#257](#))

([User #196263 Info](#))

no prob.

Mandatory Access controls (Score:4, Interesting)

by [Chalst](#) ([cas-at-achilles.bu.edu](#)) on Friday January 12, @12:36PM EST ([#71](#))

([User #57653 Info](#)) <http://achilles.bu.edu/cas>

There seem to be a proliferating number of proposed extensions to *NIXes with ruleset-based mandatory access controls. Is standardisation important? What influence do you see of NSA's recently released `security enhanced linux' having on other systems (like that in TrustedBSD)?

Dyed-in-the-wool UNIX user, for all its faults.

what do you do for *money*?? (Score:5, Interesting)

by gskouby on Friday January 12, @12:37PM EST ([#73](#))

([User #61416 Info](#))

While perusing the mailing lists for -hackers, -stable, -current, etc. etc., I often wonder what people like yourself, Mike Smith, Greg Lehey, and the other core members do to pay the bills. Unless something has changed recently with the BSDi takeover, I can't imagine that the FreeBSD project keeps the food on the table. So how about a little insight into your and the other core members "real" jobs. (As if there is such a thing as a "real" job). But anyways, thanks for all the hard work for little pay!

Re:what do you do for *money*?? (Score:1)

by phusnikn on Friday January 12, @04:54PM EST ([#197](#))

([User #232888 Info](#)) <http://www.phusnikn.net>

Robert Works for Network Associates like most of the uber unix coders we all work for big time .com companies and just hack other peoples code on the side for fun =) You dont really think we would let all our talents go to waste ? ;)

- Systems Programming Specialist NewYork Life Insurance Company.

TrustedBSD and NSA secure linux (Score:5, Interesting)

by Xuther on Friday January 12, @12:38PM EST ([#75](#))

([User #223012 Info](#))

How does TrustedBSD compare with NSA secured linux (<http://www.nsa.gov/selinux>) in terms of new and or improved security features? And are there any plans to eventually integrate the rest of the TrustedBSD features back into the shared BSD source tree (the extended attributes already have been committed)? How would using TrustedBSD instead of FreeBSD impact clustering applications?

And just for my information, where did all the packages for clustering BSD go? All I can seem to find anymore is the linux stuff. And personally I don't like redhat and their rpm distribution method, all anyone wants to distribute anymore is rpms which is not near enough to standard and compatable accross the board as tar-gzip for my purposes. (One primary difference being that I can open a tar-gzip on a windows box at work during break to browse through source, and to my knowledge no one has bothered to create a "winrpm")

Re:TrustedBSD and NSA secure linux (Score:1)

by [rwm311](#) (ejz@zncyrgerrf.pbz) on Friday January 12, @01:01PM EST ([#106](#))

([User #24383 Info](#)) <http://www.mapletrees.com/>

I don't want to get into a holy war about what package manager is better, but I think is a rather weak argument. Instead of downloading the binary rpm you simply download the source rpm (SRPM) and install it, then you look in /usr/src/redhat/SOURCES to see the source.

I build rpm's on a daily basis and while it does lack some robustness in the dependancies arena, I think it's overall A Good Thing. And by the way, RPM != Red Hat... I can't stand it when people use the two interchangably.

rwm

Exactly (Score:1)

by Xuther on Friday January 12, @04:45PM EST ([#195](#))

([User #223012 Info](#))

I didn't mean to touch off a holy war there with my comments, I just stated that I can't open RPM on a windblows system while at work during a break or something, whereas winzip handles tgz just fine.

Re:TrustedBSD and NSA secure linux (Score:1)

by Trepalium on Saturday January 13, @12:30AM EST ([#263](#))

([User #109107 Info](#))

RPM != RedHat but also RPM != rest of world, which is the thing that pisses me off with all the people with Linux blinders on.

Even for Linux users, those who do not use Red Hat or a Red Hat-derived Linux distribution face lots of problems. Take Debian, for example. I personally feel that Debian is much cleaner than Red Hat in terms of layout, and apt-get is just plain great. On the other hand, by choosing Debian, I chose to give up RPM compatibility. To make things worse, more and more software is coming out in RPM format ONLY, especially software that's distributed in binary-format only. For example, if I want to use/try Novell's NDS products for Linux, I'm forced to use Red Hat (or compatible), because it depends on RPM so much that everything breaks under any other distro. I do have the 'alien' program for Debian, but that only goes so far, and doesn't convert pre-install and post-install scripting, as well it doesn't help when there's drastic (or not so drastic) differences in file layout (for example, RH SysV init goes in /etc/rc.d/init.d, whereas Debian uses /etc/init.d, and Slackware doesn't have either). The only benefit I can see that RPM has for binary-only distribution is that it can mostly track the installed files so they can be removed at a later date with RPM. I won't say that Debian or Slackware's package distribution method is better or worse, but rather that if your product is binary only, I'd rather see a shell script install the program than a RPM.

Openpackages? (Score:5, Interesting)

by [Enahs](#) (dont@email.me-respond.instead) on Friday January 12, @12:39PM EST ([#76](#))

([User #1606 Info](#)) <http://bsd-utils-aconf.sourceforge.net>

What's your opinion on [the Open Packages project](#)? Even though I'm not currently a *BSD user, it sounds great on the surface--there's even been interest expressed in patches for Linux!--but I've got to wonder what sort of complexities need to be worked out to maintain a set of packages for FreeBSD, NetBSD, OpenBSD, Darwin...

More than likely posted via Konqueror.

Ports Unification (Score:3, Interesting)

by [Christopher B. Brown](#) (cbbrowne@hex.net) on Friday January 12, @03:34PM EST ([#169](#))

([User #1267 Info](#)) <http://www.hex.net/~cbbrowne/lst.html>

A unified "Ports" tree would almost certainly be helpful to FreeBSD and NetBSD in diminishing duplicated efforts.

On the other hand, for OpenBSD and TrustedBSD, the "fuzzyness" of sharing the code base may make it more difficult to "warrant" the security of packages.

Would it be sensible/preferable to have a "fork" whereby there might be a set of Trusted Ports that would represent a (perhaps limited) set of software that undergoes more comprehensive code auditing, as well as the Unified Ports containing software that hasn't undergone such testing?

If you're not part of the solution, you're part of the precipitate.

common misconception alert! (Score:1)

by [Clover_Kicker](#) (clover_kicker@yahoo.com) on Friday January 12, @04:05PM EST ([#182](#))
(User #20761 Info)

The ports are 3rd party software.

The OpenBSD/FreeBSD/NetBSD team has no direct control over the s/w in the ports collection.

There is no organized effort to audit everything in the ports collection.

The OpenBSD audit is only concerned with the base OS, that in itself is a huge job. They don't have the resources to audit the thousands of apps in the ports collection.

The ports team does what they can to keep up with bugfixes from the various apps, but they aren't auditing the ports.

Once you install some 3rd party software, it's up to you to keep up with bugfixes for that 3rd party s/w.

Re:Ports Unification (Score:2)

by [bugg](#) (bugg42@bugg.strangled.net) on Saturday January 13, @11:06AM EST ([#277](#))
(User #65930 Info)

You should also note that TrustedBSD is a patchkit to FreeBSD that will most likely be fully merged with FreeBSD in the near future. It's not an OS, and it doesn't do any "auditings" that would concern it with the ports system. It's working to provide better security through smarter security, not just safer (but powerful) binaries like OpenBSD.

-bugg

More OS X (Score:4, Interesting)

by Auckerman on Friday January 12, @12:39PM EST ([#78](#))
(User #223266 Info)

What is the exact relationship between the Darwin Kernel and the FreeBSD kernel? How much FreeBSD code is in Darwin and how much Darwin code is in FreeBSD?

Burn Hollywood Burn

Re: More OS X [Performance vs. FreeBSD] (Score:1)

by [Alderete](#) (slashdot-at-alderete.com) on Monday January 15, @02:04PM EST (#289)

(User #12656 Info) <http://www.alderete.com/>

And could you comment on the performance of FreeBSD vs. OS X. That is, given that OS X is based on the Mach microkernel with a BSD layer on top of that, what are the performance implications, particularly for use as a web server.

Unified Ports Tree? (Score:5, Interesting)

by [SecretAsianMan](#) (jss@ou.edu) on Friday January 12, @12:39PM EST (#79)

(User #45389 Info)

A while ago there was some hubbub in our community regarding the concept unifying the ports trees of the different BSD flavors. It seems to me that this would be a mostly good thing, reducing duplication of work and making the ports both more plentiful and of a generally higher quality. Has there been any discussion of this in core? If so, does it look like this will ever happen?

--

SecretAsianMan (54.5% Slashdot pure)

Lead me not into temptation, for I can find it myself

Re:Unified Ports Tree? (Score:1)

by dglo on Friday January 12, @01:32PM EST (#129)

(User #21986 Info) <http://www.ssec.wisc.edu/~dglo>

This is being worked on at www.openpackages.org

Cross-pollination with Linux security efforts? (Score:4, Interesting)

by Coz on Friday January 12, @12:42PM EST (#82)

(User #178857 Info) <http://www.starwarrior.com>

There's been quite a bit on Slashdot about Linux (and BSD) security. Bastille Linux is about "hardening" standard Linux installations, the NSA has their own version that they've been mucking about with internally. So, questions:

Is there a need for something like Bastille for FreeBSD? There shouldn't be a need for it with TrustedBSD, should there?

Have you looked at what the NSA did to Linux and attempted to extract from it? Are there modifications they made that apply to TrustedBSD, either in source code or in spirit?

I love vegetarians - some of my favorite foods are vegetarians.

Re:Cross-pollination with Linux security efforts? (Score:2)

by [Chalst](#) (cas-at-achilles.bu.edu) on Friday January 12, @01:19PM EST (#118)
(User #57653 Info) <http://achilles.bu.edu/cas>

I think `hardening' a distribution is (partly) orthogonal to what TrustedBSD is up to: the TrustedBSD folks are aiming to provide tools to make it possible to ensure that a distribution satisfies a security policy, whilst Bastille is meant to check a given system for obvious holes. A Bastille project for a TrustedBSD system would make sense.

Dyed-in-the-wool UNIX user, for all its faults.

What is next: (Score:3, Interesting)

by [drenehtsral](#) (larsfrnd@lightlink.*nospam*/com) on Friday January 12, @12:47PM EST (#86)
(User #29789 Info) <http://www.hooliganhangout.net>

I've got a FreeBSD box that i want to bolt down and harden. It's a Dual PIII 800, and i want to use it for development and testing of a server program i'm writing. The server runs as nobody, so i'm not worried about that.

I've closed stuff off such that an nmap from localhost, tcp, syn, and udp shows only sshd, dhcpc, and syslog. I'm currently running the verson of openssh that comes with FreeBSD 4.2.

I'm planning on installing tripwire on the machine at some point as well. I also plan to write something that will mail me a diff of the setuid log between the current day and the previous day, as well as a similar thing for the password file. Any other suggestions?

Re:What is next: (Score:1)

by [jmcneill](#) (invisible.yi.org!jmcneill) on Friday January 12, @04:50PM EST (#196)
(User #256391 Info)

If your machine isn't logging for another, set the following in /etc/rc.conf:

syslogd_flags="-s -s"

This will make syslogd only listen on a UNIX domain socket, so it can't be accessed remotely.

--Of course it runs NetBSD"

Christians? (Score:1)

by [redbird](#) ([insert 'redbird'] at rbisland dot cx) on Friday January 12, @12:47PM EST (#87)
(User #24548 Info) <http://www.rbisland.cx/>

Do christians (or, other religions, too) have a problem with using any of the BSDs you've worked on due to the daemon mascot?

Re:Christians? (Score:1)

by [dhuff](#) (david at dhuff dot org) on Friday January 12, @01:36PM EST (#130)
(User #42785 Info)

Well, I'm an Episcopalian and also run FreeBSD, drink coffee out of a BSD-logo mug, wear FreeBSD t-shirts at times, etc... Go to FreeBSD's site and read [Evi Nemeth's explanation](#) of the daemon mascot.

Just wanted to make it known that not all Christians get their panties in a twist about silly stuff like cartoon daemon logos :)

Re:Christians? (Score:1)

by [ahknight](#) (uce@fcc.gov) on Friday January 12, @02:08PM EST (#140)
(User #128958 Info) <http://www.apple.com/powerbook/>

Amen, brotha'. ;)

--

#include <sig.h>

OSS Philosophy (Score:1, Troll)

by Auckerman on Friday January 12, @12:53PM EST (#92)
(User #223266 Info)

What do you think of Stallman's distinction between "Free" software and "Open Source" and his apparent refusal to deal with anyone who wants to discuss Open Sourcing their application until they speak in his language on these issues?

Burn Hollywood Burn

Process? (Score:4, Interesting)

by rice_burners_suck on Friday January 12, @01:00PM EST (#103)
(User #243660 Info)

Hi,

I'd like to thank you for all the work and effort you and your fellow developers are putting into this project. I currently use FreeBSD and have plans to try out your work on my next server configuration.

Could you give us a short overview of the process you're taking to make FreeBSD more secure? In particular, how does the TrustedBSD project compare with OpenBSD, which has been undergoing a line-by-line security audit for years? Most importantly, what are the advantages of choosing TrustedBSD over OpenBSD (besides the obvious project-loyalty factors)?

Kindest regards,
NGH

"Please wait while Microsoft" is a complete sentence.

Stargazer! (Score:2, Interesting)
by anacron on Friday January 12, @01:01PM EST ([#105](#))
([User #85469 Info](#))

Man .. I used to hang with Watson. He used to run a BBS called Starlight. I was a fellow sysop that used to run a BBS called Celestial Happenings. Props to Perry and the Ritual de lo Habitual creww, and Props to 'gazer and the rest of the DC WWiV crew.

Anyway, here's my question:

Security has traditionally been viewed as more of an architecture of denial than anything else -- stop people from getting where they are not supposed to get. However, these days security has more impetus because of the sheer amount of intellectual property that's being housed on publically accessible computers. Do you think's it's theoretically possible to ever build a 'crack proof' system? I'm famalier with FreeBSD's track record, and use it for my firewall at home. But should the onus of security be placed on the sysadmins of the server, or on the people that make the operating system the server runs?

anacron (aka Surface)

FreeBSD and X-Windows (Score:4, Interesting)
by bsdbigot on Friday January 12, @01:08PM EST ([#110](#))
([User #186157 Info](#)) <http://www.bsd4us.org>

Given that X is an inherently insecure system (though great strides have been made to rectify this), how do you see the relationship between X and FreeBSD going forward? xfree86 v3.x is nice, v4.x is nicer (though it hasn't made it to the "default" windowing system for FreeBSD, presumably because of some gaping security holes). Surely, for the mindless masses, X (or some derivative) is a necessary part of the complete OS distribution. What does the core feel is a reasonable tradeoff between security and functionality, WRT this issue, and to what extent will the core move to "correct" any serious problems (non-platform specific) with future releases of X?

<:) L

Re:FreeBSD and X-Windows (Score:1)

by [EverCode](#) (eric@xiowa.com) on Friday January 12, @02:12PM EST (#143)

(User #60025 Info) <http://www.xiowa.com>

FreeBSD 4.2 has a security level setting (during installation), and if you set it above normal (default), X will not run.

IMHO, this is about all that can be done. X = security problems, no matter what.

EverCode

How does TrustedBSD compare to Eros? (Score:3, Interesting)

by [jemfinch](#) (fincher.*@osu.edu) on Friday January 12, @01:16PM EST (#114)

(User #94833 Info)

[Eros](#), unfortunately, doesn't look like it's actually going to arrive (at least not in a timely manner), but I've read several of the papers on capability-based security and they were all **very** interesting.

What do you think about Eros? What's your opinion (and your perception of the security community's opinion) about capability based security?

Thanks, Jeremy

What is part of FreeBSD and what is not ? (Score:4, Insightful)

by f5426 on Friday January 12, @01:23PM EST (#122)

(User #144654 Info)

I run FreeBSD on 3 machines here. I felt in love with it.

One thing I was wondering about is how decision are taken about what goes in the real system (/usr/src) and what does not. For instance, rcp is in the base system, while rsync is in the port tree. When I started, less was not in the distribution, but now is. Why ? Will FreeBSD grow and accumulate more and more tools in /usr/src ?

Something somewhat related that bother me is that as soon as I get away of the base system, things are much less clean. Even if the port tree is wonderfull, there is no simple command that will enable me to stay in sync with non-standard stuff. I would love beeing able to do something analogous to cvsup + make world to keep an up-to-date X / gnome / mozilla installation, with a defaut window manager and configuration that make sense. Is there any work in that direction ?

Cheers,

--fred

A very long, complete answer (Score:3, Informative)

by [mosch](#) ([i_charge_1000USD_to_receive_uce@overtone.org](#)) on Friday January 12, @03:57PM

EST ([#176](#))

([User #204 Info](#))

You can find an exceptionally detailed answer at <http://people.freebsd.org/~alex/libh/> which should give you a very good idea of where the FreeBSD distribution is headed, in the manner of granular, customizable upgrades. JKH wrote a wonderful paper that covers this.

--

"Don't trolls get tired?"

"How could trolls get tired!"

Re: libh (Score:1)

by [Fruit](#) ([jfy@ay.yvahk.bet](#)) on Friday January 12, @06:58PM EST ([#217](#))

([User #31966 Info](#)) <http://www.dit.nu/>

Zip files plus (god forbid) TCL are supposed to be superior to apt+dpkg?! Don't get me wrong here, I like FreeBSD as much as the next guy, but it would merely approach dpkg/rpm, leaving apt junkies like me standing in the cold.

I like his idea of restricted installation scripts though (anyone remember SYS:Installer? =)

Re: libh (Score:1)

by Trepalium on Saturday January 13, @12:58AM EST ([#265](#))

([User #109107 Info](#))

Well, technically, dpkg files are just ar archives of a couple .tar.gz, one containing the control (preinst, postinst, control, md5sums, etc), and data (binary) .tar.gz files. At least, unlike RPMs, you can fairly easily decompose them with standard tools. Most of that document seems to talk about, what could easily be referred to as, reinventing the wheel.

He also refers to rpm and deb as first generation, which is quite false. If anything, tar.gz is first generation, ala Slackware. Not all that powerful, no dependancies at all, but it usually gets the job done. Version 1-3 of RPM could be considered second generation, as they addressed the lack of any kind of configuration in .tar.gz files and lack of dependency information. RPMv4 and DEB could be considered third generation since they fill out the dependency information with meaningful info, and provide some more advanced features to aid in installation.

Then again, reinventing the wheel is a UNIX tradition, and who am I to stop anyone from doing it. Energy could be spent in fixing the perceived limitations in the other formats, but I guess there's too much bad blood between the camps to do anything of the sort.

Are you mad? (Score:1)

by [_ganja_](#) on Friday January 12, @01:45PM EST ([#134](#))

(User #179968 Info)

Did you SHAG wildly last night and did someone KISS you goodbye THIS MORNING.

Oh sorry, this isn't the Andre's Hedrick interview.

BSD Security (Score:1, Interesting)

by [ahknight](#) (uce@fcc.gov) on Friday January 12, @01:58PM EST ([#137](#))

(User #128958 Info) <http://www.apple.com/powerbook/>

I've heard a lot about BSD being inherently more secure than Linux, but have yet to see some concrete reasons why. So far, it comes down to code review from what I understand. What difference, then, is there between "secure" BSD distributions and, say, Immunix?

--

#include <sig.h>

Changing face of security (Score:3, Interesting)

by [QuantumG](#) (whatever@yomama.org) on Friday January 12, @02:03PM EST ([#139](#))

(User #50515 Info) <http://birodome.org/~qg/>

Do you think there is ever a time when you can declare a system "secure"? Assuming you don't, do you think it is even possible to objectively rate the security of a system?

Microsoft makes 24% profit on sales.

BSD hackers vs GPL hackers (Score:4, Interesting)

by [Arandir](#) (arandir-at-usermode-dot-org) on Friday January 12, @02:09PM EST ([#141](#))

(User #19206 Info) <http://www.usermode.org/>

I've heard it said numerous times that "Linux is more successful than BSD because of the license". The argument is that hackers prefer the GPL because their code can't be "stolen", whereas nothing stops Microsoft from using the BSD licensed code. I've even seen some Linux advocates point to Darwin as the ultimate example of exploitation.

What are your views on this from a perspective as a BSD hacker? Can free software really be stolen? Is BSD open for exploitation (in the negative sense)?

Re:BSD hackers vs GPL hackers (Score:1)

by gavcam on Sunday January 14, @02:03AM EST ([#283](#))

([User #120595 Info](#))

The whole BSD vs GPL argument is moot anyway.

Say I work for a large bank or a large multi billion dollar computer company. I decide that I'm going to use some open source code in my program and I'm not going to give the changes back to the open source community... who's going to successfully sue me???

No one!

How many resources have the US DOJ had to use in trying to sue Microsoft? Who, other than a government, are going to be able to sue me for not giving the changes back to the open source community. Yep, absolutely noone.

People who program under the BSD or GPL licences do so because they like programming and neither licence is going to protect their code.

Secure programming (Score:1)

by [emir](#) (emir@remove-this.logout.net) on Friday January 12, @02:15PM EST ([#144](#))

([User #111909 Info](#))

I would like to learn more about secure programming under *nix. I have decent knowledge of c, cpp and java.

Where should I start?

What book/doc/faq do you recommend me reading?

FreeBSD and Operating System Ports (Score:2, Interesting)

by [Matthew Luckie](#) (kluckie@ihug.co.nz) on Friday January 12, @03:00PM EST ([#161](#))

([User #173043 Info](#)) <http://homepages.ihug.co.nz/~kluckie/>

Hi

You might not be the best person to ask, but what are the difficulties in porting FreeBSD to other operating systems?

The alpha port seems to have been struggling somewhat recently with all the different motherboard configurations (alphapc for one) that make the alpha an almost completely different CPU in some critical points.

Theres also the sparc port, which doesnt appear to have made lots of progress at all.

Here comes the questions:

- What is it about NetBSD's architecture that makes it more simple to port to other platforms compared with FreeBSD's?
- How is the IA64 port progressing? What are the major issues in changing parts of the base of FreeBSD to take advantage of some of the new features. Has intel even supplied you with the appropriate hardware required?

my other sig is a ferrari

File Transfers (Score:1)

by [pboulang](#) (boulangr@sea.com) on Friday January 12, @03:03PM EST ([#164](#))
(User #16954 Info) <http://www.nextleft.com>

As a protocol, FTP is one of the worst. Open a control channel on port 21, then if using **active** FTP, choose a random port.. (actually $x*256+y$ where x and y can be predicted) and have the server initiate a data channel from port 20 to that port. If you are using **passive** FTP, then the client initiates a data channel to the random port on the server.

Now really, does that make any sense? It means that behind a firewall (BSD, of course) running NAT, a client must run passive FTP, since there is no way an outside box should be able to initiate into the client box at a high port. However, what about that server? Do I really want to allow high port access to that box?

Finally, my question is this: **How does one properly configure FTP between two NAT'd boxes without opening up lots of high ports?**

Better still: *Where do I write my congressman to make FTP illegal!?*

--paul

*This comment is guaranteed**

*not guaranteed

Re:File Transfers (Score:2, Informative)

by [jmcneill](#) ([invisible.yi.org!jmcneill](#)) on Friday January 12, @04:55PM EST ([#198](#))
([User #256391 Info](#))

If you're using IP Filter (and not natd, I don't have experience with it) you can add the following to the _top_ of /etc/ipnat.conf:

```
map ep0 192.168.0.0/24 -> 0/32 proxy port ftp ftp/tcp
```

To allow active FTP through the NAT, assuming 192.168.0.0/24 is your local network and ep0 is your external interface. I use this on my NetBSD NAT machine and it works great.

``Of course it runs NetBSD"

The future of gaming on BSDs, GNU/Linux, Darwin (Score:1)

by Angelwrath on Friday January 12, @03:57PM EST ([#177](#))
([User #125723 Info](#))

Many companies producing the popular gaming titles for Windows seem reluctant to support the Open Source, FSF and MacOS platforms with their products. However, Apple is about to join the BSD party with Darwin, offering the potential to add several million new BSD installations over the next few years. With that in mind, adding up the various *BSD communities and Darwin yields a large, growing group of users. Add GNU/Linux, and that total becomes even larger. Growth of these platforms is significant, as is the potential for game sales.

What can these communities do to allow a game developer to write one title and port it easily across platforms, while retaining performance and quality?

Can you comment on what would be required to put something like this together, in terms of software, standards and effort on the part of the developers?

Thank you, and good luck with your TrustedBSD efforts.

Why is FreeBSD PAM support poor? (Score:1, Interesting)

by djm on Friday January 12, @05:18PM EST ([#200](#))
([User #126641 Info](#)) <http://www.web.us.uu.net/staff/djm/>

I'd like to know why FreeBSD (I use 4.2-STABLE) ships with PAM but with no PAM support in OpenSSH or any of the 3 versions of Kerberos, and with only minimal PAM support in the core login, ftpd, and rshd (no support for sessions or account management). It was a nasty surprise when I installed and configured a PAM module that restricts logins using account management, and none of the login mechanisms used it!

Solaris and Linux have done a much better integration job in this area. I'm wondering why FreeBSD pretends to support PAM and ships with it when it doesn't really use it. It seems dangerous to mislead sysadmins into thinking they have secured their system when the security mechanisms are actually ignored.

A good question, mod it up! (Score:1)

by [Dante](#) (lawrence@nospam-o-rama-otak.com) on Friday January 12, @05:29PM EST ([#203](#))
(User #3418 Info) <http://www.otak-k.com/~lawrence/>

I asked myself the same question.

"think of it as evolution in action"

Re:Why is FreeBSD PAM support poor? (Score:1)

by [Brian Feldman](#) (green@FreeBSD.spam-be-gone.org) on Friday January 12, @08:44PM EST
([#236](#))
(User #350 Info)

The major reason is because supporting PAM is just not easy! It's just peachy if you are designing your apps around PAM's architecture, but to convert all current authentication-related programs to PAM's architecture will take time. Who does the work? The people who have both the time **and** necessary motivation! Were someone to care enough, they'd modify things to their ends and then probably submit the changes.

As far as OpenSSH itself supporting PAM, I have just MFCed a new version (2.3.0 + FreeBSD changes) to 4.2-STABLE after sitting in 5.0-CURRENT for a few weeks. This version includes PAM support for password authentication from OpenSSH "for Unix", and additional PAM support for TIS as well as integration were done by Eivind Eklund.

I imagine Linux and Solaris support PAM better mostly as a result of there being actual versions of PAM "for Linux" and "for Solaris", likely with PAM support having been done for GNU utilities by the PAM authors (you need something to support PAM before you can actually use it!), and the motivation of PAM for Solaris would probably be that someone was paid to do it.

I don't see where the misleading is, though. FreeBSD doesn't advertise that the entire system uses PAM, because it doesn't. If you are a sysadmin, you need to know your daemons (by reading the documentation, etc.) and of course test things. There is no "pretending" to support PAM; it is in the base system and used where it has been made to work. Patches for more

complete PAM "support" are welcome from anyone who has the motivation to do the work!

--

Brian Fundakowski Feldman

FreeBSD & Directory Services (Score:2, Interesting)

by [willy_me](#) (wdouglas_MaPs@myrealbox.com) on Friday January 12, @05:59PM EST (#211)
([User #212994 Info](#))

Microsoft has Active Directory.

Novell has NDS.

NextStep has NetInfo.

Will FreeBSD be supporting any type of directory service? I know there's always DNS but I was thinking of something a little more powerful.

What I (and most network admins) would like is a nice central way to manage users, computers, or any other network "object". In order for this to work well the service will probably have to be added to the distro - not just supplied as an external package (hence your involvement.)

I was thinking that since NetInfo has been opensourced it might be a good solution. I know a Linux port already exists.

Making xxBSD easy to setup and administer would greatly increase its appeal to network administrators. During the install procedure you should have the option "connect via NetInfo" where everything is done for you - you shouldn't even have to assign it a root password. All administration, and I mean everything, should be done from a central location. (I know most UNIX gurus probably want their commands like "adduser" - but some type of directory service should still be an option.)

Aah, network nirvana...

Willy

IPFW (Score:1)

by IanA on Friday January 12, @06:35PM EST (#216)
([User #260196 Info](#))

Can you port ipfw to linux? please??

ipfw has to be the greatest firewall tool ever :)

UNIX - Reach out and /usr/bin/touch someone.

a simple question (Score:1)

by gags bunny on Friday January 12, @07:38PM EST (#227)
([User #263639 Info](#))

what are you thoughts about reports of *BSD code being worked into MS code?

Common criteria and TrustedBSD (Score:3, Informative)

by [ajv](#) (ajv@greebo.net) on Friday January 12, @07:49PM EST (#229)

(User #4061 Info) <http://www.greebo.net>

Robert,

The [common criteria](#) are far more than the old [orange book](#) controls (B1, B2, C1, ...). Part two of ISO 15408 has many things that I'd really like to see (and I'm prepared to help, too).

Why even bother with the old style Orange book stuff, which barely work in a networked environment, when the new style CC definitions are available for free?

Also will you be providing a framework such that deployed TrustedBSD systems are ready for CC evaluation?

Lastly, any plans for a NetBSD version? Want some help?

Andrew van der Stock

Orange Book; still applicable? (Score:1)

by [Dark Coder](#) (linux-dsl@NOTACABLEMODEM.home.com) on Friday January 12, @08:13PM EST (#235)

(User #66759 Info) <http://members.home.com/linux-dsl>

Can Trusted BSD hope attain the covet A1 rating in the DoD Orange Book with OpenSource community as the maintainer?

The Orange requirement for a corporate entity (not exactly worded) to exist before obtaining any level, can be waived for this?

What's your take?

Vitius, Centius, Fortius quam Microsoft (Faster, cheaper, stronger than MicroCrap)

Softupdates... (Score:1)

by delay on Friday January 12, @08:44PM EST (#237)

(User #134063 Info)

I had the experience with newer computers and bigger hard-drives that a kernel with softupdates compiled in made acces to the disk slower (it is supposed to make it faster...). Is there a reasonable explanation for that phenomenon, or are my observations just exceptions? What do you do when you see an endangered animal eating an endangered plant?

Is the name and ego thing? (Score:1)

by [Pinback](#) (darkstar@bigplanet.com) on Friday January 12, @09:04PM EST (#240)

(User #80041 Info)

Why does everyone feel like they should create their own name when they add code to FreeBSD?

The monkeys at AT&T feel they need to call it Eclipse OS.

You monkeys feel like you need to call it TrustedBSD.

Why don't you give credit where is credit is due, and call it FreeBSD with Trust extensions or something?

What do you think this is, Linux?

Differentiating a product is one thing, but intentional fragmentation is something else entirely.

Basis for Trusted BSD (Score:3, Insightful)

by TarPitt on Friday January 12, @09:32PM EST ([#242](#))

([User #217247 Info](#))

To what extent did you borrow from the Common Criteria for your project? Which protection profiles did you use? Have you found any of the Orange Book series to be useful as well?

A bigger question - to what extent are these formal, committee-design secure systems criteria relevant to securing an open source product? What is good about them? What specifically do you find flawed or totally useless? What did you have to improvise because the methodology didn't cover it?

One question ... (Score:1)

by [Kleedrac2](#) (kurtis.p@usa.net) on Friday January 12, @10:21PM EST ([#248](#))

([User #257408 Info](#))

I just have one question. I use FreeBSD at home and one of the big reasons I fell in love with it is the ports collection. I am wondering why you don't simply make TrustedBSD one of the ports in FreeBSD? I understand that it wouldn't hit the ports collection until the next version but if I were to use TrustedBSD (which I won't on my system but my FreeBSD server/router/firewall needs it) I would look for it in the ports collection.

Kleedrac

God, Root, is there really a difference??

BSD misconception (Score:1)

by netrat on Friday January 12, @11:57PM EST ([#260](#))

([User #104221 Info](#)) <http://www.freespeechfunhouse.com>

Whenever I start to talk about BSD at school people think that I am referring to twisted pornography. What do i do???

"i'd rather stay a child, and keep my self-respect, if being an adult means being like you!" -Jello Biafra

Debian vs BSD (Score:2)

by [Odinson](#) ([odinson at warcloud dot net](#)) on Saturday January 13, @02:21AM EST (#267)

(User #4523 Info) <http://www.warcloud.net/~odinson/>

Licence flamewars aside...

Kernel vs Kernel

Gnu tools vs Gnu tools

this goes here, this goes there

All of these can become moot details to an experienced admin.

The real question for me is...

Any plans on porting to dpkg and apt?

I admire ambition, and despise greed.

Compatibility and other issues (Score:1)

by juraj on Saturday January 13, @06:31AM EST (#271)

(User #262352 Info)

Maybe you remember the times, when Debian GNU/Linux project wanted to do a Debian GNU/FreeBSD or something like that. The reason was, that the FreeBSD kernel is known to scale good on higher loads. The reason, it was dropped: old libs (couldn't get glibc to work there), no PAM authentication, etc. It seems to me, that FreeBSD has a nice kernel, but is quite closed from new progress (like those of new libraries and PAM). What I like on FreeBSD is the ports system and that I can recompile it fully. What's the reason of the project to be closed from these new developments?

Where do Free/Trusted BSD stand with InfiniBand? (Score:2)

by [soldack](#) (dacker@no.spam.erols.com) on Saturday January 13, @04:22PM EST (#280)

(User #48581 Info) <http://www.erols.com/dacker/>

One of the knocks on many the free operating systems was a lack of support for enterprise technologies. I work at a company working on InfiniBand hardware. We will be supporting Linux, as Intel will be releasing IB host drivers for it. It is not known how this code will be released, although Intel seems to be indicating the source will be available. We don't know how, though. For example it may require membership in the IB Trade Org. We are totally willing to release drivers for other OS's like *BSD, but are not willing to write a full OSVerbs InfiniBand driver for it. How and when do FreeBSD and TrustedBSD plan to implement IB support, if at all?

-- soldack

Access Control Lists (Score:1)

by rsimmons on Saturday January 13, @06:29PM EST ([#281](#))

([User #248005 Info](#))

I recently downloaded the 5.0 patches for ACLs and will be trying it out. Do you have any plans with regards to Samba and using Access Control Lists to make Samba more compatible with NT etc? I'm quite impressed by the size of the patches -- short and to the point.

TrustedBSD to obsolete FreeBSD jails? (Score:1)

by Dammittal on Monday January 15, @10:44AM EST ([#288](#))

([User #220641 Info](#))

Is the fine-grained control of system services in TrustedBSD designed to supercede the use of FreeBSD jails?

Kinda Does (Score:1)

by [mholve](#) (mike@nospam.eunuchs.org) on Friday January 12, @12:12PM EST ([#26](#))

([User #1101 Info](#)) <http://eunuchs.org/linux>

Without the hair, maybe.

Re:why *BSD is dying (Score:1)

by Bastian on Friday January 12, @12:19PM EST ([#38](#))

([User #66383 Info](#))

What are these market forces, and why should they hurt an OSS *BSD project any more than they hurt GNU/Linux?

From what I can tell, I don't know about FreeBSD (it seems that many people just see it as a Linux with less hardware support), but OpenBSD seems to be doing well because of its reputation for security, and NetBSD is the only option for people who want to be running a *nix (or a Free OS) on many machines that are simply ignored by most every other software project.

Bah. (Score:1)

by [Enahs](#) (dont@email.me-respond.instead) on Friday January 12, @12:26PM EST ([#53](#))

([User #1606 Info](#)) <http://bsd-utils-aconf.sourceforge.net>

Just when you think the BSDs are going to diverge and die, something like [Open Packages](#) comes along. Sure, it's not even close to an alpha stage yet, but they've even expressed some limited interest of allowing Linux into the fold. A Linux "make world", here we come! :-)

BTW, nice troll. Is that from some sort of Web-based marketing-speak script? It's so devoid of content. It's hilarious. :-)

More than likely posted via Konqueror.

Re:Interbase Backdoor? (Score:1)

by kperrier on Friday January 12, @12:42PM EST ([#83](#))

([User #115199 Info](#))

Were either of the BSD distributions affected by the interbase backdoor?

Only if the *BSD box was running Interbase.

Kent

Re:Is it just me? (Score:1)

by [atrowe](#) (adamtrowe@hotmail.com) on Friday January 12, @01:01PM EST (#104)
([User #209484 Info](#))

No, it's not just him, or No, it doesn't look like Bart?

Re:FreeBSD question (Score:1)

by Rogue Orion on Friday January 12, @02:28PM EST (#148)
([User #209687 Info](#))

From what I understand (And please correct me if I am wrong), FreeBSD has a completely different kernel than Linux (which Mandrake is just a distribution of).

On top of that kernel, you can run X-Windows, and then a common window-manager (like GNOME, KDE etc.)

In theory, you could have a system that looks identical to Mandrake(linux) that runs on top of the FreeBSD kernel. Some argue that the BSD kernel is more stable and "industrial strength".

Re:FreeBSD question (Score:1)

by The_Rift on Friday January 12, @03:03PM EST (#165)
([User #257762 Info](#))

That and the kernel and userland come together. In FreeBSD the userland is designed around the kernel and vice versa. Unlike a Linux distro such as Mandrake where you get a Linux kernel + a userland built out of various GNU and whatnot software.

As to your comments on X-windows, that's a separate piece of software to the OS and would look more or less the same on any platform it runs on. (and it runs on a lot more than just Linux and FreeBSD).

Re:Is it just me? (Score:1)

by Aunt Mable on Friday January 12, @06:21PM EST (#215)
([User #301965 Info](#)) <http://www.blueberrypie.com>

The general ratio's and the yellowness (blue pants - too) are probably what did it for you.

-- Eat your greens or I'll hit you!

[LOGO](#)

Re:FreeBSD question (Score:2)

by [Nugget94M](#) (nugget@distributed.net) on Friday January 12, @ 11:59PM EST (#261)

(User #3631 Info) <http://members.slacker.com/~nugget/>

The only part of this comment that is "utter bullshit" is the part where he implies that someone would be stupid enough to be using telnet in this day and age. Surely we're all smart enough now to know that telnet is a giant sucking chest wound of a security hole. Nobody is actually stupid enough to still be using telnet these days, right?

Damn, people. It's not like [OpenSSH](#) is a big secret.

I still say that backbone providers should throw all port 23 traffic on the floor just on principle. It's no different than hiding your friend's car keys until he sobers up.

Re:FreeBSD question (Score:1)

by triple 3 on Saturday January 13, @ 12:46AM EST (#264)

(User #132339 Info)

ISPs should never filter by port number. The telnet port should be reassigned to another use, perhaps a binary protocol so that script kiddies get a nice display on their terminal after running nmap....

Re:BSD is lame (Score:1)

by gavcam on Sunday January 14, @ 10:20AM EST (#285)

(User #120595 Info)

BSD has a better-than-linux attitude with no substance to back it up. That's why Linux is winning. Here's yet another ego-stroking BSD distribution.....fork fork fork!

That's a bit rich coming from an obvious linux bigot.

Let's dissect your comment!

BSD has a better-than-linux attitude with no substance to back it up.

And of course this doesn't happen with Linux does it???

That's why Linux is winning.

Winning what??? The 'what will be deadest fastest' race???

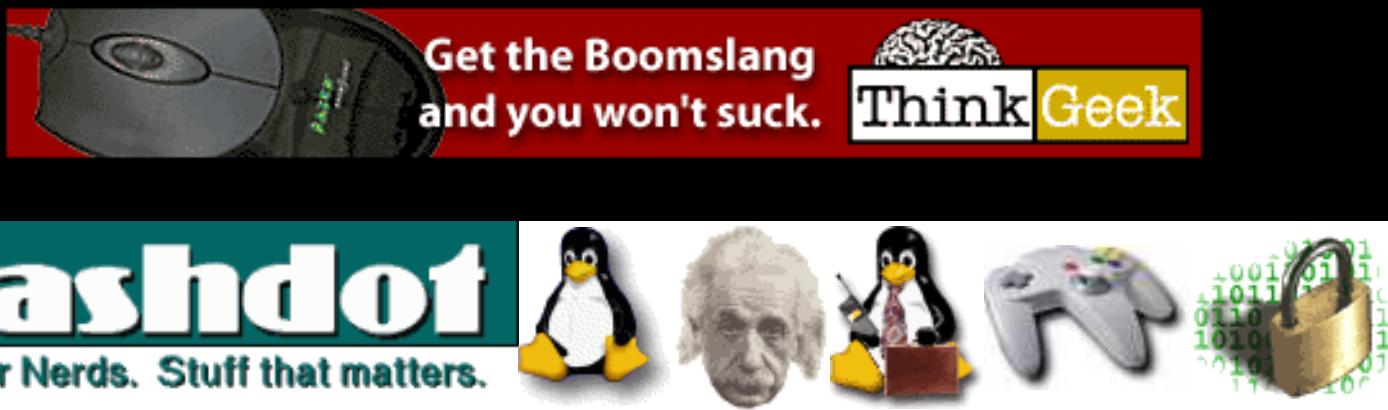
Here's yet another ego-stroking BSD distribution.....fork fork fork!

As opposed to Slackware, Red Hat, Debian, Caldera, Suse, TurboLinux, Corel, yggdrasil, stampede, Redmond, Kondara, NoMad, LuteLinux, Icepack... should I go on?

He who knows others is wise. He who knows himself is enlightened. -- Lao Tsu

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Andre Hedrick On Hard Drive Copy Protection

Posted by [Roblimo](#) on Wednesday

January 10, @11:30AM

from the not-quite-as-bleak-as-you-think dept.



Andre Hedrick, Linux ATA dude and member of [the committee](#) that sets ATA hard drive interface standards, got [your questions](#) by email yesterday, and we got his answers back this morning. He gives us the inside dope about latest attempt by various copyright-worried industry heavies to stop you from using files in ways they dislike, spiced with a fair amount of humor, because... well, because Andre's just that kind of guy (and we like him that way!)

How voluntary is voluntary?

by [squiggleslash](#)

Is making the CPRM spec a feature that can be turned off truly making it voluntary, given that presumably some content will not be supplied to users who fail to leave CPRM enabled? Would it not end up being as "optional" as DVD CSS encryption and non-zero region encoding?

Andre:

SHALL != MAY :: REQUIRED == OPTIONAL

Because no one in the industry wants to be caught out of sync, it has been a running joke that "OPTIONAL" is the same as "REQUIRED"....

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Interviews

Welcome to the interviews section - this is place to come to read the assorted conversations that Slashdot and the readers have had with various people involved in the Internet, computers, or anything of interest.

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HOWEVER, the case of CPRM got a laugh that it could be the first "OPTIONAL" feature that would remain truly "OPTIONAL"! We all laughed around the room.

DVD CSS is in the world of MMC/SCSI, I can not comment.

*Choices...
by cnladd*

I apologize for the open-endedness of this question, but I have to ask it anyways. :)

If this copy protection were to become mandatory, I can definately imagine the effects that it would cause. But what effects - both long and short term - do you feel this would cause?

Andre:

Sorry, I do not feel anything! If you wish to know what I THINK, then I will answer the question. The very nature of asking people how they feel about an issue allows one to wrap it in fuzzy language, and this is how we got into this mess. So THINK DAMN-IT do not FEEL, this is silicon and not flesh!

Think about all the software you own for backup -- WORTHLESS in a CPRM environment. OPEN wallets!!!!

Ever had a morning where you were not kissed and told "I love you," when the night before you SCREWED so wildly that you could not remember?

GOOD MORNING!!!!

*How to defeat it?
by sulli*

If this is forced through the industry, how would one write a

DeCSS-like tool to defeat it? Is it in some way bypassable in software?

Andre:

Unlike DeCSS that has media with seed keys that can not be updated, ATA devices (not ATAPI) can be updated as old keys are hacked.

After creating my proposal, it was deemed too complex to use, thus the only way I would withdraw it was to use the simple rules of Word0 Bits 6/7 to define FIXED/REMOVABLE as the boundary.

Thus it appears that I have agreed to drop the no longer needed enable/disable CPRM feature set, because ATA-Devices supporting Word0 Bit6 set to ONE are not going to be allowed to have CPRM support!

Thus we may have finally won the removal of CPRM from your HARD DRIVE!!

WOOHOO WOOHOO WOOHOO WOOHOO WOOHOO
WOOHOO!!!!!!

Now your REMOVABLE ATA - that looks like it is going to be still bound to CPRM rules. Compact FLASH, IBM MicroDrives, Sony Mem-Stick.... Things that are defined as "MEDIA" and not FIXED!

***Better solution?
by RareHeintz***

The hard-drive copy protection scheme seems to me to be yet another attempt (in the vein of DVD/CSS, DPMI, etc.) to maintain a legal structure (that of multinational corporations with scarcity-based proprietary information models) with a technical fix. On /., it may be taken as an article of faith that such efforts are doomed - smart people solve legal problems with lawyers, and technical problems with technology, and know the difference.

My question, though, stems from the fact that (like it or not) software companies are within their rights to get paid for software they write, and to set up their own price structure, and to prosecute those who steal their software.

So the question is: If this misguided idea of hardware-based copy protection gets successfully scuttled (and I hope it does), what better solution might there be for proprietary-model software companies that has the benefit of providing them superior protection from pirates without screwing the rest of the world out of the benefits of the currently open hardware model, such as "fair use" under copyright law?

My US\$.02: Coming up with such a "third way" solution could go a long way toward killing media-based copy protection - give them an out, and they might take it.

Andre:

Media serial number command proposal (e00163r0) by Microsoft, and for the record they are the good guys this time! This proposal has more uses than what it is listed. It also used this stuff that is already in the market that you do not know about but use, SURPRISE!!!! (I was also surprised).

This new command could be used a seed for encrypting content, but before you go NUTS - This command is only reporting sections of the IDENTIFY page command. NOT TO WORRY, 30 (thirty) minutes and the HACK to disable it is complete.....

It has uses more valuable to Linux than what it is presented as... Imagine that you want automatic hotswap to de/re-register the device, this command is passive and thus will not hang a system....THINK before you COMPLAIN, because I agree technically with the command, and see no harm from it that cannot be undone.

***How does 4C justify their position?
by plover***

What is 4C's response to "why don't you push for enforcement of the current copyright laws instead of an unpopular techno "fix" that will be thwarted upon release?" How do they justify their position?

Andre:

Most likely the law passed 2 years ago that provides and supports copyright encryption. Ask John Gilmore of the EFF. I think they are doing that with this model.

(Politics) If people will get off their butts and follow what their government is dumping on the country, you would be able to prevent this from ever coming to life.

***Re:How does 4C justify their position?
by Snowfox***

*How does the 4C justify their position to the consumer?
How is this in the consumer's best interest?*

Andre:

Don't you want to download the movies you would not pay 7-10 bucks to see at the theater, in exchange for screwing up your computer? Boycott Hollywood and all movies, and see them crumble, is a counter-attack.

***I'm still confused
by HuskyDog***

I gain the impression that compliant (presumably closed source) software encrypts data as it flows on and off the drive using keys which are specific to each drive. So, if the file is moved to a different drive it won't decrypt any longer? Have I got the right idea? If so, its only applicable to those prepared to run closed source software, right?

Andre:

BINGO! Give that DOG a DOOLY from the FAIR!
(GOOD MORNING!!!!, again)

Enforcement on Open Source platforms
by TWX_

How can copy protection of data be maintained on hard disks and other media if the operating system has the ability to use partition types that encrypt? Wouldn't a layer in an OS kernel be able to circumvent a good portion of the measures if the data does not reach the drive in its original form?

Andre:

No, the DIRTY work is done in USER-SPACE and the file is written down with standard commands now. The XOR calculations originally proposed for the drive would have made the DRIVE do the DIRTY work.

Is this already approved for SCSI and Firewire?
by VValdo

Last week we read that a copy-control scheme similar or identical to CPRM has been already approved for SCSI and Firewire (without objection...probably because no one knew about it.)

First off, is it true? Secondly, why hadn't we heard about this before? Can we expect this technology to be built into all new SCSI and Firwire hardware, or is "optional" there too?

Andre:

It is my impression that the game is over there, but join [T10](#) and raise HELL!

What can we do to help you?
by rho

This proposal is a tragedy to personal liberties and freedoms (and rates pretty high on the Suck-o-Meter), and your efforts thus far are admirable.

So, I want to know, what can we do to help? Letter writing, calls, faxes? Stand around and go "Brrbbrrbb" with our lips?

How can we aid your efforts in the most effective way?

Andre:

Well it appears that everyone has ruined the Christmas vacation of the current officers, (I am glad that I did not accept the potential offer to consider vice-chairman at this time, but I may reconsider), and all the nasty-grams have been forwarded to the members. We have been asked to review the content by the acting chair, with a notice to rethink the actions to be considered in February.

Also you may vent on , but you will get no answer. I will forward this to the members of the committee.

Cheers,

Andre Hedrick
Linux ATA Development

< [La-Z-Boy's E-Cliner | What Audio System Powers Your Home Theater?](#) >

This discussion has been archived. No new comments can be posted.

Standards vs the real world (Score:1)

by dropdead on Wednesday January 10, @ 11:34AM EST ([#7](#))

([User #201019 Info](#))

Seems to me that the concern is not so much with the standard but with how it is used. Same old story, wait and see.

By definition, a government has no conscience. Sometimes it has a policy, but nothing more. - Albert Camus

Does this apply... (Score:5, Insightful)

by kenthorvath on Wednesday January 10, @ 11:35AM EST ([#9](#))

([User #225950 Info](#)) <http://www.eden.rutgers.edu/~kent/>

...to prostitution?

Ever had a morning where you were not kissed and told "I love you," when the night before you SCREWED so wildly that you could not remember?

Inquiring minds want to know...

The box said it requires Windows 95 or better so I installed Linux

Re:Does this apply... (Score:2, Informative)

by drteknikal on Wednesday January 10, @ 11:47AM EST ([#26](#))

([User #67280 Info](#))

Depends on whether you did it for love or money.

Andre's Cred (Score:3, Interesting)

by [grovertime](#) (slacker at mikegallay.com) on Wednesday January 10, @ 11:37AM EST ([#10](#))

([User #237798 Info](#)) <http://www.mikegallay.com>

I appreciate Andre's banter, even if I'm unsure of the validity here and there, but what struck my fancy was his affiliation.

Andre Hedrick, Linux ATA dude and member of the committee that sets ATA hard drive interface standards...

How did he become a part of that committee? Was he elected or appointed? Did he have to do sexual favours for some of the older members? Seriously though - how does someone attain that (eh-hem) lofty title?

humor for the clinically insane

Re:Andre's Cred (Score:1)

by [DaveV1.0](#) (daNviOd@vSeiPllAonM.as) on Wednesday January 10, @12:17PM EST (#83)
([User #203135 Info](#))

Check out the membership section of www.t13.org
I got my .sig at Sigs-R-Us. Did you?

Re:Andre's Cred (Score:2, Informative)

by Thorson on Wednesday January 10, @01:21PM EST (#126)
([User #91904 Info](#))

It's usually the case, always for ANSI, that membership and participation in a standards setting organization is voluntary. I.e., he volunteered. Frequently members come from other organizations (either professional, not for profit, or commercial) with an interest in the standard being prepared. Peace Marty

Re:Andre's Cred (Score:1)

by cicadia on Wednesday January 10, @01:56PM EST (#145)
([User #231571 Info](#))

Seriously though - how does someone attain that (eh-hem) lofty title?

Personally, I think that "Linux ATA dude" is a much more impressive title.

- cicadia

ugh (Score:1)

by MrBud on Wednesday January 10, @11:38AM EST (#11)
([User #261721 Info](#))

That still doesn't sound good.

Re: Enforcement on Open Source platforms (Score:2)

by [TWX_the_Linux_Zealot](#) (oliver.clozoff@usa.net) on Wednesday January 10, @11:41AM EST (#14)

(User #227666 Info)

From the feature:

Enforcement on Open Source platforms

by TWX_

How can copy protection of data be maintained on hard disks and other media if the operating system has the ability to use partition types that encrypt? Wouldn't a layer in an OS kernel be able to circumvent a good portion of the measures if the data does not reach the drive in its original form?

Andre:

No, the DIRTY work is done in USER-SPACE and the file is written down with standard commands now. The XOR calculations originally proposed for the drive would have made the DRIVE do the DIRTY work.

Interesting, so effectively one is not able to work with the data in advance before the hard disk handles it, requiring the hard disk to have some kind of partitioning that is designed in, or at least that's what it sounds like from what is being said here...

Looks like it's time to go get that 81GB Maxtor now before too much crap happens...

"Titanic was 3hr and 17min long. They could have lost 3hr and 17min from that."

- Bruce Campbell

that is what everyone else will do too (Score:1)

by [abolith](#) (abolith@MitaclorianWhore.com) on Wednesday January 10, @12:16PM EST (#81)

(User #204863 Info)

The same thing will happen all over....people will go back to a HD that is Pre-content protected. Not to mention the fact that some will buy many HD's and sell them after these steaming piles of crap are put in the marketplace. Then there is the issue of some small time HD maker seeing a GREAT opportunity in making HDs without the Protection built in. Newsflash ! watch some small 5 million dollar Chinese hard drive maker go to a Billion+ dollar company in six months..... this won't be anything more than a severe annoyance.
---- gimme a shot of the Jedi juice, cause i'm just a mitaclorian whore.

Re: Enforcement on Open Source platforms (Score:1)

by [TWX_the_Linux_Zealot](#) (oliver.clozoff@usa.net) on Friday January 12, @02:05PM EST

(#235)

([User #227666 Info](#))

"Maxtor drives just suck.

I have a 2.5 gig down in the basement that one day just decided one of the chips on it's controller board should get hot and it shouldn't run anymore."

Funny, I've had several Maxtor drives, the smallest an 800 MB, the largest a 17.2 GB, and the 800 didn't die until it had been lugged to 20 lan parties through road construction, been subject to my getting pissed at the computer for Build 112 of Windows Chicago Beta 1, and nearly 5 years of continuous use. I've got a 8.4 GB Maxtor drive in my primary workstation for /, and I've got a 17.2 GB drive in my DVD/MP3/TV computer in the entertainment center, and I don't ever shut off these computers. I went through a couple of Western Digital drives, a couple of NECs, and a Seagate before I stopped using other brands. I also don't like the whining noises and the "click of death" the western digitals get if you move them a very little while they are running. I had more of these die as a service tech...

"Titanic was 3hr and 17min long. They could have lost 3hr and 17min from that."

- Bruce Campbell

Andre's answe has put me in doubt. (Score:1, Offtopic)

by IainMH on Wednesday January 10, @11:42AM EST (#17)

([User #176964 Info](#))

Andre: *So THINK DAMN-IT do not FEEL, this is silicon and not flesh!*

That's not what Yoda taught us. :-(

:e!

Re:Andre's answe has put me in doubt. (Score:1)

by [pallex](#) (p.a.l.l.e.x.@.m.y.-.d.e.j.a...c.o.m.) on Wednesday January 10, @12:14PM EST (#77)

([User #126468 Info](#)) <http://pallex.webjump.com>

Yeah, this ISNT silicon, this is Andre!

Re:Andre's answe has put me in doubt. (Score:2)

by [Fishstick](#) (fishstickBUBBA@LIKEShey.SPAMMERSto) on Wednesday January 10, @01:23PM EST (#128)

([User #150821 Info](#)) <http://fishstick.hey.to/>

Yeah, but isn't that right out of a Carlin bit?

...Used to be that you would go to a meeting and ask "Well, Bob... what do you THINK?" and then Bob would respond with a logical discourse of his thoughts as they relate to the topic at hand in a logical, coherent manner.

Now, when people talk to Bob at the meeting, they ask "Well, Bob... what are your FEELINGS?"

whereupon Bob proceeds to dredge up all his crappy personal baggage while spewing out a bunch of fuzzy double-talk that has very little to do with the issue being discussed.

...or something like that?

-Remember [UPSIDAISIUM](#)?

Re:Andre's answe has put me in doubt. (Score:1)

by [ncc74656](#) (salfter.NdOySnPdAnMs.org) on Wednesday January 10, @03:08PM EST (#170)

(User #45571 Info) <http://salfter.dyndns.org>

Yeah, but isn't that right out of a Carlin bit?

I associated the whole "ask what I think, not what I feel" bit with Rush Limbaugh, who has said the same thing (more or less) before. Andre must be a dittohead. :-)

Barbra Streisand, Alec Baldwin et al.: Don't let the door hit you in the ass as you leave the country!

Screw CPRM (Score:1, Funny)

by Anonymous Coward on Wednesday January 10, @11:43AM EST (#18)

I'm still trying to figure out what IT is. Ive got copy protection on my brain.

Drug Side Effects (Score:1, Funny)

by [netmeister](#) (arrrr matey) on Wednesday January 10, @11:44AM EST (#19)

(User #250862 Info)

Is this Andre on crack or something?

Where's the beef?

Actually... (Score:1)

by Raymond Luxury Yacht on Wednesday January 10, @11:58AM EST (#49)

(User #112037 Info) <http://www.sillyparty.com>

... I would be more inclined to ask:

- 1) does he have more of what it is he is taking?
- 2) would \$5 be enough for one hit?

The grave of Karl Marx is just another Communist plot.

Re:Drug Side Effects (Score:5, Insightful)

by Hanno on Wednesday January 10, @12:00PM EST (#53)

(User #11981 Info) <http://www.hanno.de>

I agree. Those are some really strange answers and I stopped reading the interview halfway through. I hope to read Andre's other responses once he woke up and wrote a second set of answers.

Self destruct. Do not push unless you really really mean it.

Re:Drug Side Effects (Score:1, Funny)

by Anonymous Coward on Wednesday January 10, @12:06PM EST (#64)

Check linux-kernel - He's always that way (on crack that is).

Come to think of it, if I had to deal with IDE issues all day, I'd partake in a little of the rocky stuff myself.

Re:Drug Side Effects (Score:2, Informative)

by ptomblin on Wednesday January 10, @01:24PM EST (#130)

(User #1378 Info) <http://xcski.com/~ptomblin/>

Not to dump on Andre or anything, but I see writing like this all over the net. It's what happens when people who speak English as a second or third language try and be funny and breezy. Instead of being funny and flippant and informal, it just ends up reading like it was written by crack monkeys.

My company is hiring 17 C/C++ and Java Solaris developers in Rochester NY. Email (text, not MS-Word) if interested.

Re:Drug Side Effects (Score:1)

by Paul Jakma (paul@clubi.ie) on Wednesday January 10, @02:04PM EST (#149)

(User #2677 Info) <http://www.clubi.ie/jakma>

no he isn't. that's Andre's usual style that we see regularly on linux-kernel, very blunt and to the point in the fewest chars possible.

however, whether you like his atypical style or not, he definitely knows his stuff - he maintains all the linux-ide drivers, implemented most of the newer stuff in them (ATA33/66/100, serial ATA, etc..) and was invited to sit on the T13 committee that decides on future ATA standards - a committee typically composed of representatives from various vendors.

you can rest assured he didn't get that seat cause the committee were looking for a dealer. :)

im concerned (Score:1)

by [zzzeek](#) (classic@ispamo.com) on Wednesday January 10, @02:19PM EST (#157)
([User #43830 Info](#))

Just think, the freedom of our harddrives is in the hands of this man.

I wonder if big industry executives can even take him seriously with that kind of attitude.

Re:Drug Side Effects (Score:1)

by [c=sixty4](#) (armalyte@hotmail.com) on Wednesday January 10, @05:08PM EST (#178)
([User #35259 Info](#)) <http://hawknest.stackexchange.com>

UN-altered REPRODUCTION and DISSEMINATION of this
IMPORTANT Information is ENCOURAGED, ESPECIALLY to
COMPUTER BULLETIN BOARDS.

"The good die first." "Most of us are morally ambiguous, which explains our random dying patterns." --- MST3K

Can anyone think of a real use for this? (Score:2)

by [Zachary Kessin](#) (zkessin@script-fu.org) on Wednesday January 10, @11:44AM EST (#20)
([User #1372 Info](#)) <http://www.script-fu.org>

The only one I can come up with is for a hard drive in some form of embedded system (Like the flight controls on an aircraft) where you would want to make sure that no one was tampering with the code. Or maybe in a top secret computer to enforce classification.

Still would not want it on my desktop/server or Tivo.

The cure of the ills of Democracy is more Democracy.

--Al Smith Gov. of New York, 1928

No... (Score:2, Informative)

by [TWX the Linux Zealot](#) (oliver.clozoff@usa.net) on Wednesday January 10, @ 12:00PM EST (#52)

(User #227666 Info)

If something embedded is that important, it's burned into ROM, and probably not even the EEPROM type, so that way it cannot be tampered with.

"Titanic was 3hr and 17min long. They could have lost 3hr and 17min from that."

- Bruce Campbell

Depends... (Score:2)

by [Svartalf](#) (fearl@!spammers!die!airmail.net) on Wednesday January 10, @ 12:28PM EST (#93)

(User #2997 Info) <http://members.xoom.com/svartalf>

Some things are embedded, but the sheer size of the data precludes using ROM (utterly prohibitive price-wise) or you've got something like a "smart file cabinet" like the DoD has on some of their platforms that stores things like topo maps that are linked to a GPS system, etc.

For these, ROM/EEPROM is not an option. I can see where there's going to be problems with this copy protection scheme with things like DoD platforms. They like controlling the crypto themselves (and they use a hell of a lot tougher stuff than would be inflicted here)- and this just gets in the way. Also, if for some reason they don't have the magic keys and the drive encrypts something critical and won't decrypt...well, the results could very well be excessively fatal.

"All we are is dust in the wind..." -- Kansas, *Dust in the Wind*

Good information (Score:2, Funny)

by [BigumD](#) (bigd@theopenwindow.org) on Wednesday January 10, @ 11:47AM EST (#25)

(User #219816 Info) <http://www.theopenwindow.org>

Is it just me though, or is Andre on a *litte* too much coffee or something? ;)

--The space between my ears was intentionally left blank--

Re:Good information (Score:1)

by jnik on Wednesday January 10, @ 11:58AM EST (#46)

(User #1733 Info)

Is it just me though, or is Andre on a litte too much coffee or something?

Dude, you've obviously never talked to Cliff Stoll. Compared to him, Andre's on Valium. I'm having this vision of Cliff sitting...well, above a chair, with the cushion averaging about four inches or so above the chair, and Cliff himself about another five or six above that as he bounces up and down. One of the marks of someone who cares far more about what they're saying than about looking cool...obviously *excited* about the topic. Andre strikes me in a similar fashion.

Re:Good information (Score:1)

by [RGRistroph](#) (rgristroph@yahoo.com) on Wednesday January 10, @ 12:12PM EST (#73)

(User #86936 Info) <http://www.geocities.com/rgristroph>

This is not Andre. This is George. Or, Andre is George on slashdot, however you want to put it.

Here's the interviewee's user page (also her in text -- slashcode is not making it a link for some reason: <http://slashdot.org/users.pl?op=userinfo&nick=gbd>), if you have to convince yourself. The writing style is unmistakeable and unreplicable. The only difference is that he never says "GOD" (all caps) and his wife is not mentioned. I guess that's because it's a technical topic.

No problem, you're welcome; glad I could clear that up.

B1FF or ZIPPY? (Score:3, Funny)

by [mikej \(spam@journey.org\)](#) on Wednesday January 10, @11:48AM EST ([#27](#))

(User #84735 Info) <http://journey.org>

Is it me, or is the CONSTANT use of CAPS hugely out of line with the value of the discourse? Maybe I've just trained myself to hate this writing style, but I found it very very hard to take the comments seriously with this kind of RIDICULOUS compositional STYLE.

Shrug.

-- Ideology breeds Hypocrisy. Just how much is up to you.

Re:B1FF or ZIPPY? (Score:1)

by [TWX the Linux Zealot \(oliver.clozoff@usa.net\)](#) on Wednesday January 10, @12:02PM EST ([#57](#))

(User #227666 Info)

WHAT?! You don't THINK that you can TAKE someone SERIOUSLY who does this ALL THE TIME?! really...

WOOHOO!

"Titanic was 3hr and 17min long. They could have lost 3hr and 17min from that."

- Bruce Campbell

Re:B1FF or ZIPPY? (Score:1)

by drinkypoo on Wednesday January 10, @12:11PM EST ([#72](#))

(User #153816 Info)

Is it me, or is the CONSTANT use of CAPS hugely out of line with the value of the discourse?

No, it's just you. How serious do you think we should be when confronted with an idea containing this level of idiocy? If we take them seriously, they'll think they have power, but if we laugh at them, we might all be okay.

You are what you do when it counts --Steakley

Vim Prejudiced Moderators (Score:2)

by [A Big Gnu Thrush](#) (elineberry@iname.com) on Wednesday January 10, @03:15PM EST (#172)

(User #12795 Info) <http://home.mindspring.com/~elineberry/>

I think the subject says it all. Modded down because of his choice of editor.

Read my novel.

Um, that was helpful. Not. (Score:1, Insightful)

by Anonymous Coward on Wednesday January 10, @11:48AM EST (#28)

Jeez, if these replies were posted to those +5 comments on a regular thread, they would have all been marked -1 Flamebait/Offtopic. There was more content in the questions than the replies.

This interview is perhaps the worst ever? (Score:5, Funny)

by [QuantumG](#) (whatever@yomama.org) on Wednesday January 10, @11:52AM EST (#32)

(User #50515 Info) <http://birodome.org/~qg/>

Anyone happen to have links to the Microsoft system he discussed? I like to think I'm in touch with social norms but this dude really threw me some curve balls. So seriously, here's one more question for you.. **What did 90% of your responses actually mean?**

Microsoft makes 24% profit on sales.

Re:This interview is perhaps the worst ever? (Score:1)

by mybecq on Wednesday January 10, @01:11PM EST (#123)

(User #131456 Info)

Anyone happen to have links to the Microsoft system he discussed?

Maybe he means an extension of [this](#) ??

Otherwise I have no idea -- I don't feel stupid though, considering the style of the rest of the interview...

[Why is the Slashdot password encoded in the cookie?]

Re:This interview is perhaps the worst ever? (Score:2, Interesting)
by [StoryMan](#) (kelsolundeen@hotmail.com) on Wednesday January 10, @02:02PM EST (#148)
([User #130421 Info](#))

What's a DOOLY?

I don't KNOW what it is, but I'd LIKE one.

Re:This interview is perhaps the worst ever? (Score:1)
by geigertube on Friday January 12, @01:10PM EST (#234)
([User #265640 Info](#)) <http://www.studiosputnik.com>

by StoryMan

> What's a DOOLY?

Probably 'dolly' misspelled.

Re:This interview is perhaps the worst ever? (Score:2)
by [Breace](#) (mickeysoft excite com, u place the @'s and .'s) on Wednesday January 10, @02:46PM EST (#168)
([User #33955 Info](#)) <http://www.slashdot.org>

Yeah exactly. What's up with the vagueness about that M\$ thingy? And what the hell is this supposed to mean:

Now your REMOVABLE ATA - that looks like it is going to be still bound to CPRM rules. Compact FLASH, IBM MicroDrives, Sony Mem-Stick.... Things that are defined as "MEDIA" and not FIXED!

When just before it's stated that this is based on one or two bits to identify the difference between removable and fixed. In other words how hard to it be to CRACK THAT? Like pretend my MicroDrive is FIXED. I'm sure I've got it all wrong, but PLEASE be a bit more clear about things like this.

Breace

Re:This interview is perhaps the worst ever? (Score:1)
by ckedge on Wednesday January 10, @10:15PM EST (#209)
([User #192996 Info](#))

> *This interview is perhaps the worst ever?*

No kidding. He comes off sounding like a l33t d00d. 3/4 of the way through I wondered if some kid hadn't managed to pull one over on Roblimo.

But for the record, I'll just assume that English isn't his first language, or that he naturally gives terse off-the-cuff answers.

Re:This interview is perhaps the worst ever? (Score:1)

by [mojy](#) ([mojATchariotDOTnetDOTTau](#)) on Thursday January 11, @10:27AM EST ([#230](#))

([User #190273 Info](#))

> What did 90% of your responses actually mean?

Yeah, I was laughing all the way through (just have no idea what at). I felt like I was watching an old Monty Python episode...

Re:This interview is perhaps the worst ever? (Score:1)

by Chris Mattern on Thursday January 11, @06:03PM EST ([#232](#))

([User #191822 Info](#))

>> What did 90% of your responses actually mean?

> Yeah, I was laughing all the way through (just

> have no idea what at). I felt like I was

> watching an old Monty Python episode...

With all that RANDOM CAPITALIZATION, I felt like
Slashdot was interviewing Zippy the Pinhead...

Chris Mattern

Um. Who is this guy? (Score:4, Insightful)

by [Scarblac](#) ([scarblac@pino.selwerd.nl](#)) on Wednesday January 10, @11:54AM EST ([#33](#))

([User #122480 Info](#))

I'm sure he's doing a great job for the good guys, and knows his stuff very well, but...

Man, those were some INCOHERENT answers! With lots of CAPITALS! It's the DIRTY STUFF in USER SPACE, man!

So he got the questions yesterday evening, and the answers this morning? I bet he was already drunk when he received them :)...

Re:Um. Who is this guy? (Score:3, Informative)

by f5426 on Wednesday January 10, @01:08PM EST ([#121](#))

([User #144654 Info](#))

Who is this guy ?

Well, if you run linux on consumer hardware, this guy is the one responsible of the IDE drivers. Its web site is at www.linux-ide.org

Cheers,

--fred

weak ending (Score:5, Insightful)

by [small_dick](#) (small_dick@threeinches.FAKE_ADDRESS.org) on Wednesday January 10, @ 11:56AM EST (#36)
(User #127697 Info)

wonderful responses, but... the last question asked what we can do, but Andre basically said "you can vent all you want...but..." i don't think this is the case. earlier in the piece, it is mentioned that a law passed about two years ago spawned this demon crap. i strongly recommend that anyone interesting in countering some of these horrid laws PLEASE JOIN the [eff](#) right away...i wish andre had answered the last question this way. finally, the one comment about "give the dog a dooly"...the question and answer were great. anyone not sure they understand all this stuff should look that one over.

when love congeals, it soon reveals, the faint aroma of performing seals.

Re:weak ending (Score:2)

by [A Big Gnu Thrush](#) (elineberry@iname.com) on Wednesday January 10, @02:46PM EST (#169)
(User #12795 Info) <http://home.mindspring.com/~elineberry/>

I think the quote was meant to be "you can vent all you want on /., but..."

This might be a charitable interpretation, but I think his text got MUNGED.

Read my novel.

Re:weak ending (Score:1)

by thogard on Wednesday January 10, @05:05PM EST (#177)
(User #43403 Info) <http://web.abnormal.com>

The next time your talking to someone non-technical that took a loss with the tech stocks, mention the real reason for the loss was the DMCA. Get enough people calling their congresscritters blaming them for losing their shirts because of this silly law may be the only way to get rid of it. I know they are mostly unrelated but the same is true the busty girl and the beer in the beer ads.

Encrypted filesystem? (Score:4, Informative)

by [sulli](#) ([slashdot_comments at sulli dot org](mailto:slashdot_comments@sulli.org)) on Wednesday January 10, @11:56AM EST ([#38](#))

(User #195030 Info) <http://www.sulli.org>

I asked the question "[Can you defeat it?](#)" and got the following answer: "an encrypted filesystem would certainly do the trick." Since Andre notes that DeCSS-like tools would need to be constantly updated to reflect expiration / revocation of h4x0red keys, wouldn't it make more sense just to, as Andre notes, encrypt the filesystem **before** it hits the drive, so the drive can't tell whether you have a DivX copy of The Matrix or just random noise?

I'm no Linux guru but I bet someone here could develop just such a tool - and it probably wouldn't even qualify as "circumvention" under DMCA because there are lots of good reasons to encrypt your HD data. Of course there is the processing overhead, but that's getting cheaper every day (except for Mac users).

sulli

Re:Encrypted filesystem? (Score:2)

by [TWX the Linux Zealot](#) (oliver.clozoff@usa.net) on Wednesday January 10, @12:05PM EST ([#61](#))

(User #227666 Info)

My question was something along those lines too, but I couldn't really figure out what he said to me... oh well...

"Titanic was 3hr and 17min long. They could have lost 3hr and 17min from that."

- Bruce Campbell

Re:Encrypted filesystem? (Score:1)

by spg on Wednesday January 10, @12:32PM EST ([#99](#))

(User #20534 Info)

RAID the drives, then the controller will split the data over x drives. A encrypted Filesystem would work - the drives would never see any plaintext/stream information at all.

Re:Encrypted filesystem? (Score:1)

by [Largas](#) (creswick@engr.orst.??) on Wednesday January 10, @01:07PM EST ([#120](#))

(User #64594 Info)

But he mentioned that now this is all done in *user space*.

That would circumvent any harddisk encryption or raiding since by the time the data was retrieved and verified it would be in a readable format.. Andre mentions that in previous plans the process was the DRIVES responsibility.. but here he counters that.

-Largas

As always, if I appear to be wrong / make a mistake, let me know kindly.

RAID's an interesting approach (Score:2)

by [billstewart](#) (bill.nospam.stewart@pobox.spambert.com) on Thursday January 11, @12:17PM EST (#231)

(User #78916 Info) <http://idiom.com/~wcs>

Nice fast alternative to encrypted file system - spg's got a good idea here. You have to be pick an appropriate RAID format - if the files are broken up into 8KB pieces, that's probably enough that the disk controllers will latch onto them anyway, though only the blocks with the start of the copy protection software should trigger it. But there ought to be some straightforward way to deal with that problem.

Thanks! Bill Stewart

Re:Encrypted filesystem? (Score:2)

by [Breace](#) (mickeysoft@excite.com, u place the @'s and .'s) on Wednesday January 10, @02:35PM EST (#163)

(User #33955 Info) <http://www.slashdot.org>

I've been doing that for years with PGPDisk now. Ooops, only Win32.

I'd be surprised if there wheren't anything similar for Linux. Me thinks implementing something at the block-device driver level would be even simpler than at the file-system level.

Btw. the PGPDisk source is available. Search and you'll find.

Breace

Re:Encrypted filesystem? (Score:1)

by [deathcubek](#) (moc.toofgib@jgnotsac) on Wednesday January 10, @05:27PM EST (#182)

(User #11766 Info) <http://www.slashdot.org/comments.pl?sid=md2600>

There are a couple things.

Check [kerneli.org](#) for some more info, as well as [encryptionhowto.sourceforge.net](#)

-- "New worlds are not born in the vacuum of abstract ideas, but in the fight for daily bread..." --
Anarcho-syndicalism by Rudolf Rocker

Re:Encrypted filesystem? (Score:2)

by [Richy_T](#) (slashdot@perihelion.demon.co.uk) on Wednesday January 10, @06:17PM EST (#193)

(User #111409 Info) <http://www.nashvillegazette.com>

There are already loopback devices in Linux where a file on one filesystem can become a filesystem all of its own. Thus harmless looking file disk.img contains all the questionable files. If you're worried the disk will be able to still tell that the data is copyright on the way in and way out, simply xor it with "MPAA/RIAA_SUCK"

Rich

Sig: Hey, how come the sigs suddenly shrank?

Re:Encrypted filesystem? (Score:1)

by [asuffield](#) ([asuffield at users.sourceforge.net](#)) on Wednesday January 10, @06:56PM EST (#199)

([User #111848 Info](#) <http://www.doc.ic.ac.uk/~aps100>)

Not sure if this works, but:

/dev/hda1 is a file. Think about it. Instant encrypted filesystem? Certainly less overheads than conventional loopback. Anyone know if this would work?

You May Want to Try *Scramdisk* (Score:2)

by Sir_Winston on Wednesday January 10, @06:45PM EST (#198)

([User #107378 Info](#))

<http://www.scramdisk.clara.net>

Many people use it on Windows instead of PGPDisk. I don't know about you, but after that ADK fiasco, I have serious doubts about NAI's ability to review and ponder their own code. It seems to me that, being the #1 encryption software provider on the planet, they'd be a big target for tempting offers from certain 3-letter agencies to munge a piece of code here or there.

Scramdisk, on the other hand, is worked on by only a few core people, not dozens, giving less of a chance for deliberate tampering. Just an opinion, but it seems that having a few trusted people close to the project working on the code is better in a security product than delegating its creation and upkeep to dozens. And of course, the source code is completely open. Grab it and compile it if you're uber-paranoid.

It also has advantages PGPDisk doesn't, such as support not only for Win9x and WinNT/2k, but a Linux port is in the works. It's freeware for Win9x and Linux, payware for NT/2k.

It also has better algorithm choices than PGPDisk. You get your choice of 9 algorithms, including Twofish, and more are on their way.

Might be worth trying. Scramdisk also has some support for steganography in WAV files, and better yet, for entire encrypted partitions, not just container files. It's very respected, particularly in security-oriented groups on USENET.

"My God, I haven't been fucked like that since grade school!"--*Fight Club*

Re:Encrypted filesystem? (Score:3, Informative)

by Nailer on Wednesday January 10, @06:03PM EST (#192)

(User #69468 Info) <http://www.cyber.com.au>

it probably wouldn't even qualify as "circumvention" under DMCA because there are lots of good reasons to encrypt your HD data.

Yes it would. Just because something had a primary useful purpose which is not circumvention of copyright doesn't mean somebody with a lot of money won't push to give it a semi-outlawed legal status.

I remember a certain consortium runnign round recently telling the judge ***They're DECRYPTING DVDs!*** Um, yes, and so is every other MPAA licensed player. OMS and the resulting players, Xine and OMS, just chose to reverse engineer their decryption keys rather than pay for an MPAA license and the associated restrictions - because they are open source, they cannot do so anyway.

----- /opt should be renamed. A user and distributions concepts of `optional' vary wildly. Self contained != optional.

Uhh... (Score:3, Interesting)

by [dbarclay10](#) (dbarclay10_NOSPAM @_MAPSON_yahoo.ca) on Wednesday January 10, @ 11:56AM EST (#40)

(User #70443 Info) <http://dharris.twu.net>

Did anyone feel enlightened by the end of this? I felt that someone had robbed my of my time.

The questions wern't answered terribly well(I'm not going to single any out), AND HE YELLED WAY TO MUCH!!!!

It was PAINFUL to READ!

Are they SURE that's REALLY Andre Hedrick? It LOOKS like some l33t k1dd13's RESPONSE!

Dave

Barclay family motto:

Aut agere aut mori.

(Either action or death.)

Re:Uhh... (Score:1, Funny)

by Anonymous Coward on Wednesday January 10, @ 12:03PM EST (#58)

You're right.

Isn't it strange that reading caps-locked text really feels just as unpleasant as if someone was shouting at you?

Re:Uhh... (Score:2)

by [dbarclay10](#) (dbarclay10_NOSPAM @_MAPSON_yahoo.ca) on Wednesday January 10, @12:21PM EST (#[87](#))

(User #[70443](#) Info) <http://dharris.twu.net>

You're right. It is just as uncomfortable :)

I don't think it's uncomfortable in the same way though. When someone is yelling at me, I want to hit them. When THIS guy USES CAPS too MUCH, I just want to close my browser. :)

Dave

Barclay family motto:

Aut agere aut mori.

(Either action or death.)

Re:Uhh... (Score:3, Funny)

by Hellburner on Wednesday January 10, @12:08PM EST (#[70](#))

(User #[127182](#) Info)

Yeah, I have to agree. The only image I got was Dana Carvey doing Shrub, Sr. :

"That's bad...bad!...BAD!...BAD!"

This guy was useless. I wanted a rally point---whom shall we put pressure on.

He provided no real technical explanation, no point of focus toward protest effort, and basically said "Well, write off scsi, they're fucked anyhow...."

Thanks. With incoherent jibble like this, I don't need Shrub.

I guess the only answer is this:

There will be no help: no politicians, no corps, no Naderuseless groups of "protect the ATA whale" freaks. Sorry no dice. No help. Bought and sold.

So....

The only answer is coordinated subverted opposition and cooperation:

How do we proceed to build the hack.

I volunteer. I don't know a damn thing. But I'll volunteer the cycles and I'll shuttle emails, I'll be a dead drop for info passing. I don't care.

I am sick of the fed/corp screw.

END OF LINE, dammit! (Cartman voice)

Re:Uhh... (Score:1)

by Happy Monkey on Wednesday January 10, @05:39PM EST (#[185](#))

(User #[183927](#) Info)

Are they SURE that's REALLY Andre Hedrick? It LOOKS like some l33t k1dd13's RESPONSE!

NO, it was ZIPPY.

Length 17, Width 3

ATA Standard? (Score:2, Insightful)

by [Spider-X](#) (slashdot.spider_x_@hotmail.com) on Wednesday January 10, @11:57AM EST (#42)

(User #159360 Info) <http://personal.lig.bellsouth.net/~spiderx>

I don't see this as an ATA standard if the encryption work has to be done in user space. I mean, they can add this in to Linux without reworking the IDE / ATA standard. Looks like "they" want to make this look like its required. The guy said so himself that if your using open source software without the offending code, you bypass the encryption. Even if there is "hard drive copy protection" who's to say that you can't FTP a file from your hard drive to another hard drive? I want what they're smoking!

Screw PGP! - Derek S. Wilson

Copy Control in general (Score:2, Insightful)

by [GeekDork](#) (s%dot%dancer\$at\$[dschi][emm][ex].net) on Wednesday January 10, @01:55PM EST (#144)

(User #194851 Info)

SecuROM: *broken*

DiscSafe: *broken*

Thousands of other CD-CC mechanisms: *broken*

"Secure" ATA: *pending*

Exact status of projects marked *pending*:

"Secure" ATA: Time to release: t , Time to breach: $0.5t$

Note: This one should prove easy since we can write on the media directly.

What I want to say is the following: It might be a nice try, but larger HD's and software one's willing to pay for should be higher on the priority list. BTW, I have the f***ing right to make copies for personal use and I'll regard any license agreement stating otherwise as void since it'd keep my from protecting my very own possessions. Thus, such a mechanism would violate some of my more basic rights just as CC on CD's does.

Well... (Score:2, Funny)

by [Ranger Rick](#) (ranger+Slashdot@SpamBeGone.befunk.com) on Wednesday January 10, @11:57AM EST (#44)

(User #197 Info) <http://radio.scenespot.org/>

I guess NOW we KNOW where ZIPPY THE PINHEAD went.

1st Law Of Networking: Loose ends are bad, termination is good.

--BOFH

Re:Well... (Score:2)

by ewhac on Wednesday January 10, @03:13PM EST ([#171](#))

(User #5844 Info) <http://www.best.com/~ewhac/>

...Either that or Robert McElwaine, PHYSICIST!

Schwab

Erm... (Score:1)

by [Ranalou](#) (ranalou@transcendence.net) on Wednesday January 10, @11:59AM EST ([#51](#))

(User #200662 Info)

Who crossed a LINUX USER with Zippy the PINHEAD and set HIM up for a SLASHDOT INTERVIEW? ;)

Hard Drive Copy Protection my ass! (Score:5, Informative)

by [Ace905](#) ([styles905 \[At\] sympathetic \[dot\] ca](#)) on Wednesday January 10, @12:01PM EST ([#55](#))

(User #163071 Info) <http://www.MyHomeTechie.com>

All forms of copy protection can be defeated.

This is not like saying, "Anything is possible" - or a generalization. It is the absolute truth, and anybody who understands the inner workings of computers knows this.

The reason it is possible to defeat all copy protection, is simply because with todays computers you have access to the software you are running; you must have access to it, or it could not be on your system.

To defeat copy protection, you need only analyze how the software protects itself from illegle copying and circumvent it through the use of additional software, or modifying the original software.

Software companies can make the process as complicated as they want, the US can pass laws banning all reverse-engineering (Which is the equivilant of banning simple problem solving concepts, ie: $2 \times 4 = 8$ but legally you can't find out what $8/4 =$). Or the other way around, (Few what a paradox).

The only solution to prevent illegal copying is either to have very good public relations and rely on the honesty, and ethic of the general public in relation to your product (This is the best solution);

Or to offer your product on 'closed' systems, that is, systems where installing software and working with the contents of memory yourself - are next to impossible. Systems which are not

made to be configured by the general public.

To my knowledge, these systems really don't exist; as everything today is made programmable, and the concepts are understood by everybody. You can program for game consoles, PDAs and home computers. And until the price of fabricating technology comes way, way down; there is not going to be a solution to the problem of copy protection because systems are made to have multiple uses, and this in itself gives anyone the ability to modify their software to do things it was not intended to do.

People demand these options, companies provide them, and then companies get angry that people demand total control over the products they own. It's BS.

I say, take back the right to use software however you wish; it's up to the companies to convince the users that their software is worth paying for.

I have a copy of Windoze, I use it regularly, and I refuse to pay for it because I am not convinced, not in the least, that it is worth a hundred bucks; not to me, and not to most computer users. It is closed-system software, and it sucks.

If microsoft had not cornered the software market so long ago, I would not be forced into running their crappy product for compatibility issues; and therefore I feel I have the right to use it free of charge, how else am I going to play Counterstrike...

Ace905

Re:Hard Drive Copy Protection my ass! (Score:1)

by Hellburner on Wednesday January 10, @12:24PM EST ([#88](#))

([User #127182 Info](#))

"I have a copy of Windoze, I use it regularly, and I refuse to pay for it because I am not convinced, not in the least, that it is worth a hundred bucks; not to me, and not to most computer users. It is closed-system software, and it sucks."

You are on the jumppoint.

I paid for my first dose of MSFT. But since then...

Their scheme of forced obsolescence is obscene. The drive corps are trying to pull the same crap. "Well, you don't have a new CRMP/PMRC/RCMP ATA decoder standard...and we can't provide firmware upgrades...so...I am afraid that in order to enjoy this rich content you must upgrade hardware every 18 months."

Fuck that. The corps are now falling completely in line with each other. If content to hardware doesn't represent a vertical trust, I don't know what the hell does. If "consortia" such as MPAA and 4Cfuckall don't represent horizontal trusts---call me Teddy Roosevelt and piss on my pantleg. We have the worst of all worlds forming: cruciform. A crosslinkage of content providers and hardware manufacturers working in cabalistic harmony. No need to rescue Fox Mulder, kids, its happening. Cruciform trust linkage: we all get crucified.

Your point about the technological stupidity of this is crystalline: these efforts most likely can be hacked. The disturbing part is that every group that supposedly has the public interest in mind, consumer and citizen, DOES NOT.

Meanwhile we all scurry like ants to consider the hack. I like the climate of the hive better anyway...but this is getting ridiculous.

Re:Hard Drive Copy Protection my ass! (Score:2)

by [pjrc](#) (paul@pjrc.DONTSPAM.com) on Wednesday January 10, @12:49PM EST (#[107](#))
(User #134994 Info) <http://www.pjrc.com/>

Ace905 says "*All forms of copy protection can be defeated*"

But you'd better not tell anyone how to do it, cause that's illegal now (at least in the US). "Trafficing in Circumvention Technology", it's now called.

Re:Hard Drive Copy Protection my ass! (Score:2, Insightful)

by [theancient1](#) (mark@altavista.net) on Wednesday January 10, @08:42PM EST (#[206](#))
(User #134434 Info)

I quite often hear the argument that "no matter what protections they create, there will be a way to bypass it." While this may be true, I certainly hope that nobody allows themselves to be more accepting of such restrictive technologies as a result. Not only would a circumvention device be illegal under the DCMA, but Joe Average Consumer would not purchase such a device, for ethical reasons. Right now, you can buy macrovision strippers, illegal cable descramblers, and any number of similar things, but most people wouldn't buy one. If the corporations manage to convince the public that freedoms we now enjoy (such as recording a program for later viewing) are illegal, people will feel the same reluctance to purchase a device designed to circumvent that restriction. Unless the default settings on all future televisions, VCRs, CD players, and other devices preserve the fair use rights we now enjoy, we may as well give up those rights ourselves.

Re:Hard Drive Copy Protection my ass! (Score:1)

by [_ganja_](#) on Wednesday January 10, @12:50PM EST (#[108](#))
(User #179968 Info)

Part of your post was so good, it's now my signature:

"If microsoft had not cornered the software market so long ago, I would not be forced into running their crappy product for compatibility issues; therefore I feel I have the right to use it free of charge, how else am I going to play Counterstrike..." - Ace905 on /.

Re:Hard Drive Copy Protection my ass! (Score:1)

by [ink](#) on Wednesday January 10, @05:54PM EST (#[189](#))
(User #4325 Info) <http://www.isu.edu/~kellcrai>

All forms of copy protection can be defeated.

1. User requests secure file from a remote site
2. Remote machine asks for Hardware (in this case, it's a hard disk) ID number
3. Remote site checks uniqueness/validity of number
4. Remote site sends back a key to unlock that media with specific hardware.
5. User proceeds to download encrypted media.
6. User can now view media from that hardware, but not from any other hardware.

Of course, this doesn't stop anyone from intercepting the decrypted data leaving the hard disk -- but that is akin to recording your favorite DVD onto VHS (or mpeg-4, or whatever). Plug Intel's new encrypted monitor spec in, and the data won't be decrypted until it gets to the monitor...

Yes, I am afraid you can securely encrypt data. They know how, and they will do it eventually. Until then, we need to educate. Just like dongles of yesteryear, but without the hassle of plugging anything in.

The wheel is turning but the hamster is dead.

Craig Kelley -- kellcrai@isu.edu <http://www.isu.edu/~kellcrai> finger ink@inconnu.isu.edu for PGP block

Re:Hard Drive Copy Protection my ass! (Score:1)

by Trepalium on Wednesday January 10, @08:30PM EST ([#205](#))

([User #109107 Info](#))

Of course, this doesn't stop anyone from intercepting the decrypted data leaving the hard disk -- but that is akin to recording your favorite DVD onto VHS (or mpeg-4, or whatever). Plug Intel's new encrypted monitor spec in, and the data won't be decrypted until it gets to the monitor...

Yes, I am afraid you can securely encrypt data. They know how, and they will do it eventually. Until then, we need to educate. Just like dongles of yesteryear, but without the hassle of plugging anything in.

Still easy enough to break -- write a program that acts as a debugger and captures the data from RAM itself. Even if you have to capture a byte at a time, it's virtually impossible to protect the decryption process that you cannot break it. Every hour that one takes in designing a copy protection software technique, delays breaking it by a skilled cracked by 1-5 minutes. I don't believe there's any form of copy protection out there that hasn't been broken, nor do I believe there ever will be. There's enough possible flaws in this that even if most were able to be closed, there'd still be methods for getting at the data. This will only protect against the least determined pirates, the rest will find a work-around. Remember that even DeCSS wasn't the first DVD decrypting software -- most just used the DVD software for decrypting and either captured the decrypted frames from video RAM or via DirectShow, or captured the decrypted

data from RAM as the DVD player ran.

Re:Hard Drive Copy Protection my ass! (Score:1)

by ink on Wednesday January 10, @10:20PM EST ([#210](#))

(User #4325 Info) <http://www.isu.edu/~kellcrai>

Still easy enough to break -- write a program that acts as a debugger and captures the data from RAM itself. Even if you have to capture a byte at a time, it's virtually impossible to protect the decryption process that you cannot break it.

I fail to see how a debugger in RAM is going to capture anything interesting if the decryption is done inside the **monitor**. Yes, this hard drive encryption is silly, but it can be done easily enough if someone has the determination.

The wheel is turning but the hamster is dead.

Craig Kelley -- kellcrai@isu.edu <http://www.isu.edu/~kellcrai> finger ink@inconnu.isu.edu for PGP block

Spin Police Response (Score:3, Informative)

by [Richy_T](#) (slashdot@perihelion.demon.co.uk) on Wednesday January 10, @10:13PM EST ([#208](#))

(User #111409 Info) <http://www.nashvillegazette.com>

All forms of copy protection can be defeated.

OK, It's time we stopped using their terms and doing their spin for them. Let's call it "content control" which is what it is and not copy protection which it doesn't

Rich

Sig: Hey, how come the sigs suddenly shrank?

Re:Hard Drive Copy Protection my ass! (Score:1)

by ckedge on Wednesday January 10, @10:22PM EST ([#211](#))

(User #192996 Info)

I have a copy of Windoze, I use it regularly, and I refuse to pay for it because I am not convinced, not in the least, that it is worth a hundred bucks; not to me, and not to most computer users. It is closed-system software, and it sucks.

If microsoft had not cornered the software market so long ago, I would not be forced into running their crappy product for compatibility issues; and therefore I feel I have the right to use it free of charge

AHMEN BROTHER!!

To put it simply, I don't think they've earned their **hundred billion dollars!**

Not when I spend all evening rebooting my system, or repairing the damage that IE 5.5 did, or painfully spending my days working around glaring flaws and hunting down nefariously evil little bugs in NT based software and data centers.

The techies and intelligent people have **always** known that PCs and Microsoft were absolute crap, that's why we bought Amigas and Macs. Unfortunately the other 98% of the people on the planet, the **idiots** and business leaders, made the worst decisions possible despite our pleas and advice, and now we have to put up with it.

And people wonder why so many techies have a personal hatred of Microsoft or Bill Gates.

Re:Hard Drive Copy Protection my ass! (Score:1)

by Ondo on Wednesday January 10, @ 11:23PM EST ([#220](#))

([User #187980 Info](#))

Or to offer your product on 'closed' systems, that is, systems where installing software and working with the contents of memory yourself - are next to impossible. Systems which are not made to be configured by the general public.

Just do it on a server, a system that the user of the program doesn't have access to. Really simple.

Re:Hard Drive Copy Protection my ass! (Score:1)

by [Ace905](#) ([styles905 \[At\] sympatico \[dot\] ca](#)) on Thursday January 11, @ 01:35AM EST ([#223](#))

([User #163071 Info](#)) <http://www.MyHomeTechie.com>

"Just do it on a server, a system that the user of the program doesn't have access to. Really simple."

I believe this would require the company coming in, installing it themselves and guarding the server. It would also require that the server have no other connection options or possible access hacks.

If you mean that companies provide their software through internet connections; that is far beyond today's bandwidth possibilities for all useable software, and you would either be replacing hackable main-software programs with cracked login programs, or you would be cracking simple logins.

This is beyond feasible, and is still susceptible for the same reasons; however you access it, part of the security relies on your access through software which is open for you to view and use however you wish (ultimately).

Ace905

They don't care if its really protecting the code (Score:2)

by [werdna](#) (werdna at mucow dot com) on Thursday January 11, @07:35AM EST (#227)

(User #39029 Info) <http://www.netwolves.com>

All forms of copy protection can be defeated.

This is not like saying, "Anything is possible" - or a generalization. It is the absolute truth, and anybody who understands the inner workings of computers knows this.

Assuming that this, or something like this, is true, it doesn't really matter. The goal of the pro-IP community is not to eliminate piracy, but to reduce it -- not from a technical, but rather a practical point of view.

Since the DMCA criminalizes and provides causes of action for circumvention technologies (which anti-copy protection is a species), this could substantially deter the extent to which "user joe" is willing to go to circumvent. Once the hacked machine becomes contraband, leading to risks of forfeiture or worse, folks tend not to own them.

While history showed that a vital industry in copy-protection circumvention has always existed where copy-protection existed, the DMCA wasn't around then. This is different.

Only the marketplace can respond here -- as they did once before. When hard disks became standard equipment, consumers no longer accepted copy-protected software as a matter of course, and a competitive software business responded to consumer demand.

The best response is to provide competitive software that is open and unprotected. This pressures competitors to follow suit -- provided the rank-and-file actually give a damn. Traditionally, "user joe" doesn't much care about legal or technical things, but he REALLY GETS PISSED WHEN HIS SOFTWARE STOPS WORKING. If this happens again, the copy pro won't matter because businesses won't use it by sheer force of capitalism.

Re:Hard Drive Copy Protection my ass! (Score:1)

by [Ace905](#) (styles905 [At] sympathetic [dot] ca) on Wednesday January 10, @12:44PM EST (#105)

(User #163071 Info) <http://www.MyHomeTechie.com>

"Just admit you are a cheap bastard, I'm willing to admit it you should too."

I'm a cheap bastard.

*"Good try at justification, except that if the general public complained to Valve to release Half-life on nix, you wouldn't be using windows to play it. MS doesn't keep Valve from supporting *nix."*

Microsoft doesn't directly prevent all software companies from developing for a UNIX type environment; The problem is that Microsoft's sheer size makes their products the default installation on almost every new home computer.

The target demographic for software companies is young people, and the majority of people

buying games out their are the Nintendo, Playstation, Sega crap people who are using their parents / families computers for games, and almost exclusively for games.

You can complain to a software company to produce a UNIX friendly game all you want, but their response is simple economics and the largest factor in deciding is 'how many people are running Winblowz, is it just this one guy, this small group of people that wants it cross-platform?'. Slashdot should use its influence to pressure specific game companies, and that, I believe, would change the market over.

Almost everyone says, developing software for UNIX environments right now is a total crapshoot; nobody knows if the main initial attraction to the O/S's are free software.

If Microsoft did not keep their software the exclusive installation option on most new computer systems, then I believe games would immediately become cross-platform.

Incidentally, I'm not that cheap, i did pay \$4.00 for freeBSD at H2K in new york (That's American yo); and when I came home, I paid around a \$100 for a manual I can read when i'm not around my computer

Someone mentioned this might be because I am seeking the status of bragging about how I am all "Open source" and Microsoft SUX when I don't really know what I'm talking about; in reality it's because I want to become a super-powered computer user, with the capability of destroying planet earth as we know it... and making all hackers everywhere cower before my UB3R 3R3T HAx0R Sk1LLz.

Ace905

SCSI and Firewire (Score:1)

by worldwideweber on Wednesday January 10, @ 12:04PM EST ([#60](#))

(User #116531 Info) <http://worldwideweber.org/~john/>

I thought that both SCSI and Firewire have had capabilities similar to the proposed CPRM for ATA for some time. And, clearly, in this case optional meant optional. Why is the ATA case different?

w o r l d w i d e w e b e r

GOOD MORNING ! (Score:2)

by f5426 on Wednesday January 10, @ 12:05PM EST ([#62](#))

(User #144654 Info)

I still DON'T really UNDERSTAND.

MAYBE I am a bit tired, BUT I just can't make SENSE of answers OF andre.

Could SOMEONE explain me how the thing is SUPPOSED to work. And BTW, all-CAPS words may not be NECESSARY.

("How is it supposed to work ?" was IMHO, by far the most interesting question in the original article, but have not been answered here [or I can't make sense of the answer]. As long as we don't understand this, all the issue is FUD...)

Cheers,

--fred

Re:GOOD MORNING ! (Score:1)

by [codetalker](#) (mobersnel@hotmail.com) on Wednesday January 10, @01:05PM EST ([#119](#))
([User #245862 Info](#))

From what I gathered, the HD takes incoming data and XOR's it with a key built into that drive. When data is copied from one drive to another, things go wrong because when the time comes to decrypt the data, and you have the wrong key, (its a different drive now) things go all haywire and you're left with the digital equivalent of static. At least that's what I made of that 'interesting' interview

Re:GOOD MORNING ! (Score:2)

by f5426 on Wednesday January 10, @01:17PM EST ([#125](#))
([User #144654 Info](#))

Well, this make little sense to me. If the driver crypt when writing to it, then it have to decrypt when reading from it. This would not pose any problem.

I suspect that the whole thing is much more complex, as there is a need for 'trusted' applications (ie: the one that are allowed to manipulate copyrighted data in an unencrypted form), and maybe a public/private key system between those apps and the disk. But in that case, as soon as one of those app would be broken (by reverse engineering), the data could be read. And,, anyway, it seems possibler to write a disk driver that lie to all the applications and pretend that it encrypt the data even if it don't. Or maybe applications use crypto to assert that the disk knows a private key. But in that case, as soon as one of those disk key would be leaked, a driver could be built that will pretend beeing this disk.

Basically I am lost. If anyone understand this, I would _love_ to get a detailed explanation of how it is supposed to work.

Cheers,

--fred

Re:GOOD MORNING ! (Score:1)

by AntiNorm on Wednesday January 10, @01:33PM EST ([#135](#))

([User #155641 Info](#)) <http://www.antinorm.com/>

From what I gathered, the HD takes incoming data and XOR's it with a key built into that drive.

I can't wait until a version of the DeCSS song is made for CPRM. *g*

*Put your feet out and stop ... climb out and hang ...
GO!!!*

Re:GOOD MORNING ! (Score:1)

by Xenophobe on Wednesday January 10, @01:44PM EST ([#140](#))

([User #126012 Info](#))

Did anyone else get the feeling that they were listening to the [Orz](#) while reading the responses?

Next time somebody please remember to... (Score:5, Interesting)

by MarcoAtWork on Wednesday January 10, @12:06PM EST ([#66](#))

([User #28889 Info](#))

... not give the person interviewed 5 tin cans of penguin mints just before the interview.

...check that they didn't SCREW WILDLY the night before.

...disable the perl script that inserts RANDOM capitalizations IN the TEXT.

Re:Next time somebody please remember to... (Score:1)

by _ganja_ on Wednesday January 10, @12:38PM EST ([#102](#))

([User #179968 Info](#))

Thank you. That without doubt is the comment that's made me laugh the most on /. for a very long while. Mods get this to +6 "Fucking funny"

Andre has a bulging bloodshot eye, probably... (Score:1)

by [MsGeek](#) ([bosslady at msgeek dot com](mailto:bosslady@msgeek.com)) on Wednesday January 10, @11:35PM EST ([#221](#))

([User #162936 Info](#))

ACTUALLY, Andre REMINDED me of none other than MR. DEMARTINO from DARIA.

---- This .sig intentionally left blank.

break; (Score:1)

by [packphour](#) (ILoveHateMail@127.0.0.1) on Wednesday January 10, @12:07PM EST ([#69](#))

([User #257276 Info](#)) <http://packphour.com>

Come on, give Andre a break. It's not like we're Barbara Walters ourselves. This kind of response reminds me of the Q&A team at work.

Day 1

Q&A Team: "We want it to function like this, process data like this, and look like this."
Me: "Okay."

Day 2

Me: "Here you go, it functions like that, processing data like that, and looks like that."
Q&A Team: (disappointed) "Yeah, but it doesn't make toast..."

Point being, we got what we asked for.

-p4

packphour.com | NastyKinkyJesus.c

Next Week... (Score:3, Funny)

by [Fatal0E](#) (anyluser@yah00.com) on Wednesday January 10, @12:18PM EST ([#85](#))
[\(User #230910 Info\)](#)

a intarviwe wiht JeffK!!!!!!!!!!!!!!1

"Waht iS Lunix and woh cals yuo AAT?"

"Me Ted"

-Meathead

Know your audience (Score:3, Funny)

by festers on Wednesday January 10, @12:24PM EST ([#90](#))
[\(User #106163 Info\)](#)

Ever had a morning where you were not kissed and told "I love you," when the night before you SCREWED so wildly that you could not remember?

Although amusing, somehow I doubt this analogy will hit close to home for most of us.

Awww, \$20. I wanted a peanut.

mmm...language? (Score:2, Interesting)

by denshi on Wednesday January 10, @12:24PM EST ([#91](#))
[\(User #173594 Info\)](#)

Does anyone know Andre's native tongue? His answers, although totally comprehensible to me (it's the coffee), did some *interesting* things with English grammar.

Mental case (Score:1)

by _ganja_ on Wednesday January 10, @12:29PM EST ([#94](#))

([User #179968 Info](#))

He's not a well lad is he. I though I was strange. I seriously wonder what the rest of the commitee is like is they wanted him to chair it.

. are you certain this isn't a joke and some spoofed Andre's email address or something like that?

Oh well, I must of missed the "ATA commitee formed from nut asylum" article.

Possible explanations: (Score:3, Insightful)

by squiggleslash on Wednesday January 10, @12:35PM EST ([#101](#))

([User #241428 Info](#))

1. This is Andre's NORMAL arguing technique. YOW! By confronting the ATA committee with CONFUSION like THIS they'll tie themselves in KNOTS and not adopt STUPID copy PREVENTION schemes like THIS ONE!!!
2. Andre PASSED HIS COMMENTS through the TYPE of encryption PROPOSED for ATA to PREVENT the copying of stuff. ZAPP!!
3. It's Andre Hedrick Day in [BRAZIL](#), and APPARENTLY CHARLES MANSON thinks he needs TO CALM down!! (OUCH!!)

Who knows? I'm sorry, but I couldn't make head or tail of his answers, except possibly that he's being flippant because he finds the 4C proposals absurd.

--

[Ho hooo!](#)

Re:Possible explanations: (Score:1)

by awx on Wednesday January 10, @06:20PM EST ([#195](#))

([User #169546 Info](#))

ROFL! Jeez man, you really cracked me up!!

.sigfault

To XOR or not to XOR (Score:2, Informative)

by mister7 on Wednesday January 10, @12:43PM EST ([#103](#))

([User #56875 Info](#))

Did I just read that the cipher is a simple XOR?

Andre: No, the DIRTY work is done in USER-SPACE and the file is written down with standard commands now. The XOR calculations originally proposed for the drive would have made the DRIVE do the DIRTY work.

And now a reading from the book of Schneier (Applied Cryptography)

I. Discover the length of the key by a procedure known as counting coincidences. XOR the ciphertext against itself shifted various numbers of bytes, and count those bytes that are equal. If the displacement is a multiple of the key length, then something over 6 percent of the bytes will be equal. If it is not, then less than 0.4 percent will be equal. This is called the index of coincidence. The smallest displacement that indicates a multiple of the key length is the length of the key.

II. Shift the ciphertext by that length and XOR it with itself. This removes the key and leaves you with plaintext XORed with the plaintext shifted the length of the key.

It may be time to dust off my abacuss and sharpen up the crayons.

Re:To XOR or not to XOR (Score:2)

by [BeBoxer](#) (slashdot@themitchells.org) on Wednesday January 10, @01:45PM EST ([#141](#))
[\(User #14448 Info\)](#)

XOR is just used as a generic way of applying ciphers to plaintext. Use a secure algorithm such as IDEA or RC4 to create a pseudo random bitstream using your key as input, and XOR that with the plain text. On the other end, the recipient regenerates the same bitstream and XOR's it with the cipher text and out pops the plaintext.

In any well designed cipher system, the generated bitstream will never be repeated so the technique you describe isn't of much use. Technically, the output of the cipher is the "key" and your passphrase or key or whatever is a "key generating key".

Re:To XOR or not to XOR (Score:1)

by cicadia on Wednesday January 10, @01:47PM EST ([#142](#))
[\(User #231571 Info\)](#)

Did I just read that the cipher is a simple XOR?

I. Shift the ciphertext by that length and XOR it with itself. This removes the key and leaves you with plaintext XORed with the plaintext shifted the length of the key.

This is a very simple known-plaintext attack which works well on systems which encrypt by XORing the plaintext with repeated copies of a short key. Assuming that the spec called for a short (say 64-bit) key to be assigned to the drive at the factory and used in this manner, then the decoding process would be fairly simple:

1. Store a large block of zeroes somewhere on the drive
2. Use some sort of device to read the raw ciphertext data from the hard drive (remember this is hardware encryption we're talking about here)
3. Read the key directly from the ciphertext.

However, the chances of such a small XOR key being used are slim (not zero, [it's been done before](#))

What is much more likely is that a pseudorandom number generator is seeded with a short key to produce a much longer keystream (say 2^{64} bits) with which to XOR the plaintext bits. This makes such a shifting attack all but useless (still technically possible though, if a 32-bit key was used, because of the sheer amount of encrypted data) - See *Schneier 1996, ch.16* on stream ciphers for more.

Of course, all of this relies on your ability to read the ciphertext directly from the drive. Presumably, the spec would call for the drive to return only the decrypted data in response to software calls, or nothing at all if the key was incorrect.

As well, Andre's response indicates that this proposal was shelved in favour of a software solution which has the encryption performed off of the drive itself, which makes this whole discussion (-1, off-topic) :)

- cicadia

Re:To XOR or not to XOR (Score:1, Informative)

by Anonymous Coward on Wednesday January 10, @05:32PM EST (#183)

Quite a lot of encryption methods work by (or are the mathematical equivalent of):

1. Generate a string of psuedo-random bits C the same length as the plaintext P.
2. the encrypted text E = P XOR C.
3. decrypt by E XOR C

The arithmetic is that simple, once you have the key C at both ends. The problem is, if you use that same string of bits twice, you are dead; the CIA has cracked things like this just by comparing the two encrypted messages. So most (non-public-key) encryption routines will use some formula that expands a secret key out to a nearly infinite string of bits, so you can use each part of it just once. Shifting and XOR'ing parts of the key with itself are usually part of that. This reduces the problem to protecting the formula and the secret key from analysis -- and most modern encryption routines use the cypher bit string in a bit more complicated manner in order to make this more difficult.

Or, in the strongest encryption known, you use a true random number generator, one that works on quantum fluctuations in hardware. You make exactly two copies of C. Then you have someone hand-carry one copy to the intended recipient. Once you know it got there without being copied, you use a piece of it to encrypt, the recipient uses the same piece for decrypt, then you both erase those bits. Since there is 1 random bit for each message bit, there is no pattern for a codebreaker to work on. Your only chance is to subvert one of the humans in the system. The traditional implementation of this technique (back when codes were worked by hand) was as a "one-time pad", where they would convert each letter to a number and add the code modulo 26. It's a little easier to do in your head than converting to binary, but gives the same result. The numbers could be generated by something like a Lotto machine. Then a clerk would type each number (manual typewriter) onto a sheet of paper with ONE carbon, triple spacing to leave room to work out the arithmetic underneath. (And you thought your job was boring.) The sheets were assembled into two identical pads, and one goes off by courier. You'd use a sheet once, then burn it.

This was definitely unbreakable as long as everyone followed the rules. Therefore the Soviets under Stalin used it. But around 1940 as the world situation heated up, their lotto machines fell behind the demand. So they started putting three carbons in their typewriters and thereby doubled their output. Surely re-using the code just once wouldn't hurt right? Wrong. Our codebreakers were usually five years behind, but they did crack thousands of messages eventually. Some of that fuss about Soviet spies from 1945 to the mid 50's was real -- based on decrypted messages, but they couldn't bring the decrypts into court when they tried the spies because the Soviets would have plugged the leak.

Explanation (Score:2, Interesting)

by technomancerX on Wednesday January 10, @12:43PM EST (#104)

(User #86975 Info) <http://technomancer.cjb.net>

Okay, I've seen a bunch of posts asking what this is and what it would be used for, so here's my 2 cents:

The tech proposed (as I understand it) basically gives an ATA drive a key with which it encrypts/decrypts data on writes/reads. Basically the end result is that if you burn a file (say an MP3) to a cd only the drive that burned it will have the keys to decrypt it. That's my rough understanding... and this would apply to HDs as well...

Now from what I deciphered from his answers the revisions mean that 1) the encryption will only be done for removable media and 2) it will be done by software, not the drive controller

Basically if I interpreted the answers correctly, it means that those of us using Linux or other Open Source OSs won't have to worry about it because our software won't be using the encryption so that CD of MP3s burned on a Linux box will be readable on any system... although disks created on OSs using the system will still not be readable by us...

I think I deciphered that correctly =)

.technomancer

Zippy The Pinhead Lives? (Score:5, Funny)

by [Lotek](#) (lotek@io.fnordspam.com) on Wednesday January 10, @ 12:53PM EST ([#110](#))
[\(User #29809 Info\)](#)

Did someone at slashdot re-route the Andre responses through the [Zippy the pinhead metafilter?](#)

Let's try an experiment - Decide which of the following quotes are from Andre, and which are from Zippy the Pinhead:

1. "Thus we may have finally won the removal of CPRM from your HARD DRIVE!!"
2. "OKAY!! Turn on the sound ONLY for TRYNEL CARPETING, FULLY-EQUIPPED R.V.'S and FLOATATION SYSTEMS!!!"
3. "WOOHOO WOOHOO WOOHOO WOOHOO WOOHOO!!!!!! "
4. "BINGO! Give that DOG a DOOLY from the FAIR! (GOOD MORNING!!!!, again)"
5. "Tex SEX! The HOME of WHEELS! The dripping of COFFEE!! Take me to Minnesota but don't EMBARRASS me!!"
6. "This new command could be used a seed for encrypting content, but before you go NUTS - This command is only reporting sections of the IDENTIFY page command. NOT TO WORRY, 30 (thirty) minutes and the HACK to disable it is complete..... "
7. "I'm thinking about DIGITAL READ-OUT systems and computer-generated IMAGE FORMATIONS.."

answers below

Farther down.

Here they are!

Answers:

1. Andre
2. Zippy!
3. Andre
4. Andre
5. Zippy!
6. Andre
7. Zippy!

IN a more serious vein, it does sound like the hard drive problem either won't happen or will be easy to overcome... YOW!

Lotek--- Quid quid Latine dictum sit, altum viditur!

Complement to this interview on CNN (Score:2, Informative)

by [ciurana](#) (ciurana@acm.org) on Wednesday January 10, @01:23PM EST (#[127](#))
(User #2603 Info) <http://cime.net>

[CNN](#) is running a complementary article to this interview titled [Proposal to limit copyright on hard drives draws fire](#). The article presents an overall view of the issues, describes who the different proponents and industry players are, and comments on the implications for end-users and Open Source programs.

Considering the source, this was a well-balanced, well-written article. It also mentions that one of the main proponents of HD copy protection refuses to being interviewed.

Cheers!

E

Unsolicited e-mail (spam) notice: <http://cime.net/eugene/spamoff.html>

questions were better than answers (Score:2)

by ragnar on Wednesday January 10, @01:25PM EST (#[131](#))
(User #3268 Info) <http://www.SolarisCentral.org>

This is the worst "ask slashdot" ever. The questions were much more insightful than the answers. In the future I hope that ./ screens potential interviewees for their ability to carry a coherent thought. Even the interview with Lars Ulrich of Metallica was better, and he had someone dictate his spoken response.

-- [Solaris Central](#) - http://www.SolarisCentral.org

Government Control (Score:1)

by LtFiend on Wednesday January 10, @01:30PM EST ([#134](#))

([User #232003 Info](#))

"(Politics) If people will get off their butts and follow what their government is dumping on the country, you would be able to prevent this from ever coming to life"

Am I the only one who feels this message doesn't apply anymore. Sure we live in a Democracy but every day it seems that our voices count less and less.. I've written numerous numbers to senators and spread the word of bills that shouldn't be passed to everyone I know. It just isn't that way anymore. I don't think we (the ego-loaded slashdot community, the net in general, citizens of the US, etc) have the power to make the changes our get out important issues on the table.

Ralph Nader said himself that if he tried to do today what he did with 'Unsafe at any speed; that he wouldn't even get his foot to the door to be able to stick it in. This gov is not controlled by the people anymore.. It's controlled by corporations and more importantly money. And if anyone's voice speaks against those they aren't silenced.. Just ignored which to me is the exact same thing.

When are the people of the US going to start taking on the challangs of getting involved and making changes. C'mon slashdot.. You people seem to think we have all the power in the world... why aren't we changing things? We just bitch and moan and then move on to the next subject the next day.

In a time when we are all so connected why can't we get rallies for these topics that draw the attention that rallies during the 60's broguht?

"Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, AND TO PETITION THE GOVERNMENT FOR A REDRESS OF GRIEVANCES"

The SCSI version of all this... (Score:2, Interesting)

by theProf on Wednesday January 10, @01:33PM EST ([#136](#))

([User #146375 Info](#))

Hmmm... if SCSI committee (T10) has implemented a version of this copy protection scheme, then does anyone know which document would contain the spec on www.t10.org ? Acronym navigation is no longer my strong point.

THIS person writes the linux ATA drivers?? (Score:2, Funny)

by Anonymous Coward on Wednesday January 10, @01:55PM EST ([#143](#))

OK, that's it, i'm going to grab the kernel source *now* and read the ATA portions. I am extremely curious to see if his /* source comments */ are as easy to follow, upfront, logical, and well-structured as this interview.

```
void drive_interrupt_handler(int p, int i, char d) {  
    (p _)=(i-'a')[d]:!(i-'z')?*(p //SET the HAPPY BITS!!!  
    _)=32:(i>='A'&&i<='Z')&&((3&8|2)[O](d+1,d,24 L),  
    *(p _)=0[d]=i); // BOING!!!  
}
```

M-x psychoanalyze-hedrick ? (Score:3, Interesting)

by [Non-Newtonian Fluid](#) (wislocki_NO@SPAM_math.grin.edu) on Wednesday January 10, @01:59PM EST ([#147](#))

(User #16797 Info) <http://www.math.grin.edu/~wislocki/>

Is it just me, or did Andre just hit M-x insert-zippyism everytime he wanted to answer a question?

"How many retired bricklayers from FLORIDA are out purchasing PENCIL SHARPENERS right NOW??"

are we sure... (Score:1)

by tralfamador on Wednesday January 10, @02:06PM EST ([#150](#))

(User #159554 Info)

that this isn't just the output of *fortune zippy >> andresanswers.out*

So what.. (Score:1)

by _typo on Wednesday January 10, @02:20PM EST ([#158](#))

(User #122952 Info)

I'm taking bets on the number of startups that will go and make drives the old way without those stupid encryption schemes.

I am also taking bets on who will tumble first after both Linux and Windows fail to support the new technology.

How wrong am I?

I'll go sit in my corner now.

Is this guy's name Robert E. McElwaine? (Score:2)
by [PD](#) (pdrap@startrekmail.com) on Wednesday January 10, @02:38PM EST ([#165](#))
(User #9577 Info) <http://slashdot.org>

Once upon a time there was a kook on the Usenet that I found amusing. His name was Robert E. McElwaine. His tagline was "UN-altered REPRODUCTION and DISSEMINATION of this IMPORTANT Information is ENCOURAGED, ESPECIALLY to COMPUTER BULLETIN BOARDS."

See the resemblance? Check out the McElwaine classics [here](#)

Predjudices? (Score:1)
by wunderhorn1 on Wednesday January 10, @05:13PM EST ([#179](#))
(User #114559 Info) <http://www.pages.drexel.edu/~tab27/>

I'm amazed at all the highly-moderated comments dismissing Andre's replies simply because they don't like the way he types©

I, for one, had no problem understanding his responses, and besides being INSIGHTFUL, they were also much more INTERESTING and FUNNY than most of the drivel that gets posted on here© The "wake up after getting screwed" response was pure genius, IMHO©

But for all th' people who have been comparing Andre Hedrick to Zippy the Pinhead, maybe this will help you: [Understanding Zippy](#)©

-the wunderhorn

Don't hate me because I'm beautiful, hate me because I run your IT department...

Post-Edit reply (Score:1)
by Paradise_Pete on Wednesday January 10, @06:32PM EST ([#197](#))
(User #95412 Info)

I edited the reply a bit to make it more, well, sensible. I hope the content is retained, yet a bit more accesible.

How voluntary is voluntary?
by squiggleslash

Is making the CPRM spec a feature that can be turned off truly making it voluntary, given that presumably some content will not be supplied to users who fail to leave CPRM enabled? Would it not end up being as "optional" as DVD CSS encryption and non-zero region encoding?

Andre:

SHALL != MAY :: REQUIRED == OPTIONAL

Because no one in the industry wants to be caught out of sync, "optional" tends to be the same as "required." CPRM, however, may be the first "optional" feature that would remain truly "optional."

Choices...
by cnladd

I apologize for the open-endedness of this question, but I have to ask it anyways. :)

If this copy protection were to become mandatory, I can definitely imagine the effects that it would cause. But what effects - both long and short term - do you feel this would cause?

Andre:

The software you keep as "backup" would become worthless.

How to defeat it?
by sulli

If this is forced through the industry, how would one write a DeCSS-like tool to defeat it? Is it in some way bypassable in software?

Andre:

Unlike DeCSS that has media with seed keys that can not be updated, ATA devices (not ATAPI) can be updated as old keys are hacked.

After creating my proposal, it was deemed too complex to use, but I refused to withdraw it unless we were to use the simple rules of Word0 Bits 6/7 to define FIXED/REMOVABLE as the boundary. Thus ATA-Devices supporting Word0 Bit6 set to ONE are not going to be allowed to have CPRM support.

This may in the end mean we have finally won the removal of CPRM from hard drives. This is good. However, it looks like removable ATA is still going to be bound to CPRM rules. This includes Compact FLASH, IBM MicroDrives, Sony Mem-Stick.... Things that are defined as "media" and not fixed.

Better solution?
by RareHeintz

The hard-drive copy protection scheme seems to me to be yet another attempt (in the vein of DVD/CSS, DPMI, etc.) to maintain a legal structure (that of multinational corporations with scarcity-based proprietary information models) with a technical fix. On /., it may be taken as an article of faith that such efforts are doomed - smart people solve legal problems with lawyers, and technical problems with technology, and know the difference.

My question, though, stems from the fact that (like it or not) software companies are within their rights to get paid for software they write, and to set up their own price structure, and to prosecute those who steal their software.

So the question is: If this misguided idea of hardware-based copy protection gets successfully scuttled (and I hope it does), what better solution might there be for proprietary-model software companies that has the benefit of providing them superior protection from pirates without screwing the rest of the world out of the benefits of the currently open hardware model, such as "fair use" under copyright law?

My US\$.02: Coming up with such a "third way" solution could go a long way toward killing media-based copy protection - give them an out, and they might take it.

Andre:

Media serial number command proposal (e00163r0) by Microsoft is surprisingly good. It also uses stuff that is already in the market.

This new command could be used a seed for encrypting content, but this command is only reporting sections of the IDENTIFY page command, so it will be easy to circumvent.

It is particularly useful for Linux. Imagine that you want automatic hotswap to de/re-register the device. This command is passive, so it will not hang the system.

***How does 4C justify their position?
by plover***

What is 4C's response to "why don't you push for enforcement of the current copyright laws instead of an unpopular techno "fix" that will be thwarted upon release?" How do they justify their position?

Andre:

Most likely the law passed 2 years ago that provides and supports copyright encryption. Ask

John Gilmore of the EFF. I think they are doing that with this model.

(Politics) If people will get off their butts and follow what their government is dumping on the country, you would be able to prevent this from ever coming to life.

Re:How does 4C justify their position?

by Snowfox

How does the 4C justify their position to the consumer? How is this in the consumer's best interest?

Andre:

[reply omitted as -1, offtopic]

I'm still confused

by HuskyDog

I gain the impression that compliant (presumably closed source) software encrypts data as it flows on and off the drive using keys which are specific to each drive. So, if the file is moved to a different drive it won't decrypt any longer? Have I got the right idea? If so, its only applicable to those prepared to run closed source software, right?

Andre:

Exactly right.

Enforcement on Open Source platforms

by TWX_-

How can copy protection of data be maintained on hard disks and other media if the operating system has the ability to use partition types that encrypt? Wouldn't a layer in an OS kernel be able to circumvent a good portion of the measures if the data does not reach the drive in its original form?

Andre:

No, now the work is done in user-space and the file is written with standard commands. Originally the drive would have done the work.

Is this already approved for SCSI and Firewire?
by VValdo

Last week we read that a copy-control scheme similar or identical to CPRM has been already approved for SCSI and Firewire (without objection...probably because no one knew about it.)

First off, is it true? Secondly, why hadn't we heard about this before? Can we expect this technology to be built into all new SCSI and Firwire hardware, or is "optional" there too?

Andre:

It is my impression that the game is over there, but if you're concerned, consider joining [T10](#).

What can we do to help you?
by rho

This proposal is a tragedy to personal liberties and freedoms (and rates pretty high on the Suck-o-Meter), and your efforts thus far are admirable.

So, I want to know, what can we do to help? Letter writing, calls, faxes? Stand around and go "Brrbbrrbb" with our lips?

How can we aid your efforts in the most effective way?

Andre:

Send email to cprm@linux-ide.org. I won't reply, but I will forward comments to the members of the committee.

Cheers,

Andre Hedrick
Linux ATA Development

Not really... (Score:2)
by [Bob Uhl](#) (ruhl+slash@axsinet.com) on Wednesday January 10, @10:24PM EST ([#212](#))
(User #30977 Info) <http://latakia.dyndns.org/>

(Politics) If people will get off their butts and follow what their government is dumping on the country, you would be able to prevent this from ever coming to life.

Not really. Most people are, essentially, sheep. They want bread and circuses--they really don't care how they get them. Juvenal was right. Just look at the policy debates in the US; they're all about how much bread (needed goods) or circuses (unnecessary goods) should be given to the masses, financed (of course) by those who actually *produce* more than they *consume*.

As long as Joe Q. Luser can get his movie and watch it, as long as he can write a letter to his mommy, as long as this doesn't cost him overmuch, he's happy. He doesn't care that he has no freedom. It's like proponents of affirmative action or hate crime laws--they don't realise, or force themselves not to recognise, that these things are the *exact same* as that which they are meant to remedy. They don't care that *they* have become the enemies of freedom, because it is their plates that are full, just like proponents of segregation and discrimination didn't care one bit about the harm *their* policies caused others--they were OK, and that's all that mattered to them, and matters to their modern-day equivalents.

Joe Q. Luser will not see what he *could* have had, a world of information, of technology, of freedom and liberty. He's happy with the limited information he receives from his mass-media outlets, the crippled technology he uses and the security provided by eliminating freedom. The corporations and megacorporations are happy because they can line their pockets. The only people who are unhappy are those who saw what the future *could have been*, who worked for it, and who saw it snatched from them and replaced with a drab substitute.

There are two great modern dystopias: Orwell's *1984* and Huxley's *Brave New World*. Of these, Orwell's is the less accurate and the less frightening. Human nature being what it is, that scenario is extremely unlikely--although perhaps somewhat possible. Far more terrifying is the *Brave New World* in which all are happy and satisfied, in which strife, conflict and competition are a distant memory, in which there is no reason to change and the inhabitants of which, indeed, think that wanting the old ways is *insane*. They do not realise that they are living second-rate lives; it is impossible even to explain it to them. They are happy--their bread and circuses are guaranteed and plentiful.

DVD, CPRM, effectively-eternal copyrights and the like are all second-rate technology which fools the masses into accepting drab existences. The dawn of the *Brave New World* is at hand. Even now, those of us who recognise what *could* be are dismissed as crazy, as wanting to stifle growth, of standing in the way of progress. I see no way to stem the bleak tide of control.

The man thinks without feeling (Score:1)

by [Tofuhead](#) (tofuhead_shall_not_be_contacted_via_em@il) on Wednesday January 10, @10:32PM EST (#214)
(User #40727 Info)

...and is nigh incomprehensible. Ladies and gentlemen, we have ourselves a robot.

Which is scary. Because robots are scary. Or funny. Or both.

This comment may only be cached on copyright-enforcing hard drives, because I own the copyright and therefore 1 0WNZ J00.

< *tofuhead* >

Re:The man thinks without feeling (Score:1)

by [Tofuhead](#) (*tofuhead_shall_not_be_contacted_via_em@il*) on Wednesday January 10, @10:36PM EST (#217)
([User #40727 Info](#))

Whoops, not quite the best link. But 1 5T1LL 0WNZ J00.

[Here you go.](#)

What forces all HD manufacturers to implement? (Score:1)

by NightStorm on Wednesday January 10, @10:34PM EST (#216)
([User #300433 Info](#))

I'm not in sync.here ... why do all hard drive manufacturers have to implement the copy protection? If one or two did not and everybody bought their drives, would not it get scrapped by the others pretty quickly?

Interesting communication skills (Score:1)

by [Jenova](#) (*rebooting.hotmail.com*) on Wednesday January 10, @10:40PM EST (#219)
([User #27902 Info](#))

Wow, what an interview!

Did he used that style of language to intimidate the committee too?

ducks

What about Hardware Abstraction? (Score:1)

by [Strider-](#) (*StriderSpam@Spamapexmail.Spamcom*) on Thursday January 11, @02:58AM EST (#224)
([User #39683 Info](#))

From what I gather, every media device that would conform to this spec would require a unique key. (Otherwise there is no reason why I can see that the data couldn't be transferred to another HD).

If this is the case, why not write a hardware abstraction layer that traps for the command to retrieve said key, and instead return some bogus, but non-unique key? Obviously this would affect performance a bit, but the impact shouldn't be that big.

Also, how the hell would this affect those of us running RAIDs? or are we not allowed to do that either?

Move to Canada: No DMCA, no UCITA, no software patents, no bullshit.

Move to Canada: No DMCA, no UCITA, no software patents, no bullshit.

Important issues not addressed (even uncoherently) (Score:1)

by [jotaeleemeese](#) on Thursday January 11, @05:43AM EST ([#226](#))

([User #303437 Info](#))

So:

1.- Would we be able to read/write files in lets say a ZIP drive, take the disk, and read it in another drive?

2.- Would we be able to read or modify a file created in a different machine?

I don't care about the OS or the applications, I will use whatever is best, but I do care about my data, how much these proposals could restrict the control of my own data?

Erutangis ym si siht, sey.

Intriguing response... (Score:2)

by [sanemind](#) (spamme@rhodes.mine.nu) on Thursday January 11, @08:28AM EST ([#228](#))

([User #155251 Info](#))

Many people have critiqued the manner in which Andre choose to respond. I found it eccentric and amusing. He didn't seem overly sparse on technical considerations of the hardware in question, although admittedly I know nothing in detail of the ATA spec. He was writing for specialist audience.

What really intrigued me though, [and which I have not yet read any comments in regard to] is *what exactly did he mean by*

This proposal has more uses than what it is listed. It also used this stuff that is already in the market that you do not know about but use, SURPRISE!!!! (I was also surprised).

in regards to unique serial numbers on media? Hmm. Makes me wonder about that registration card I sent in for my CDR, as well as all that cheap [with rebates] CDR media out there.

The pen is mighter then the sword. The sword is mighter then the court. The court is mighter then the pen.

the pen is mighter then the sword. the sword is mighter then the court. the court is mighter then the pen.

So they can suck money out of you. (Score:2, Interesting)

by [Vladinator](#) (scottlockwood@hotmail.com) on Wednesday January 10, @ 11:41AM EST (#16)
(User #29743 Info) <http://geekizoid.com/>

This makes it much easier for MS and friends to keep you from loading software on more than one system - thus allowing them to suck more money out of your wallet. Think about that before you buy more software (if you do, I'm not saying that you specifically are that brain damaged) from monopolists.

Fawking Trolls!

Go ahead and mod me down. I'll just post more.

Re:So they can suck money out of you. (Score:2)

by [briancarnell](#) (brian@carnell.com) on Wednesday January 10, @ 11:52AM EST (#31)
(User #94247 Info) <http://www.carnell.com/brian/index.html>

If that were true, Microsoft wouldn't be opposing this standard.

Can't you at least read a little of the discussion before making such an inane comment?

Re:So they can suck money out of you. (Score:1)

by [Vladinator](#) (scottlockwood@hotmail.com) on Wednesday January 10, @ 11:58AM EST (#48)
(User #29743 Info) <http://geekizoid.com/>

Microsoft is forced (think politically for a moment) to take one stance - I think they actually are silently happy about it, and were it not for the DOJ nipping at their heels, I think we both know they'd be behind it 100%.

Fawking Trolls!

Go ahead and mod me down. I'll just post more.

Copy protection is bad, mkay? (Score:3, Funny)

by Anonymous Coward on Wednesday January 10, @ 11:51AM EST (#30)

The jargon file (4.2.3) says it best:

copy protection n.

A class of methods for preventing incompetent pirates from stealing software and legitimate customers from using it. Considered silly.

DVD players required not to have digital video out (Score:4, Informative)
by Anonymous Coward on Wednesday January 10, @11:59AM EST ([#50](#))

Ever wonder why no standalone DVD deck has firewire outputs? Surely digital outputs are the best way to get the best picture. Nops. Banned by the DVD-CCA.

And video cards with TV outputs are required to support macrovision.

VCRs are required to screw up recording when they see the macrovision signal.

New toilets are required to use no more than 1.6 gal per flush.

Rights? What rights?

Re:DVD players required not to have digital video (Score:1)
by [prefect42](#) (prefectNO@SPAMthefinalword.org.uk) on Wednesday January 10, @12:31PM EST
([#96](#))
(User #141309 Info) <http://www.thefinalword.org.uk>

But we all know that you can disable macrovision on a G400 thanks to the wonderful guys at matrox who 'accidentally' released a set of drivers where macrovision could be disabled by a roundabout route. Which was nice.

jh

Re:DVD players required not to have digital video (Score:2)

by MouseR on Wednesday January 10, @12:31PM EST ([#97](#))

(User #3264 Info) <http://pages.infinit.net/mouser/>

New toilets are required to use no more than 1.6 gal per flush.

Look, if we can get a PC colled down to -40 just to overclock it, if *must* be possilbe to overflush a toilet, if that's your main worry.

Karma karma karma karma karmeleon: it comes and goes, it comes and goes.

--Boy George

Re:DVD players required not to have digital video (Score:2)

by [Cramer](#) (foo@bar.com) on Wednesday January 10, @12:32PM EST ([#100](#))

(User #69040 Info) <http://do.i.have.to?>

Video cards with TV out are only required to support macrovision if you are playing back a DVD. My (ok, ancient) Matrox RR-Studio doesn't spit out macrovision -- of course, it also won't play DVDs because of it. This is merely a protection of the rights the studios have bought -- they paid for macrovision on that disk so they *do* have the right to enforce what they paid for.

I love seeing that *lie* about VCRs. I have two VCRs that don't give a rat's ass about macrovision. Macrovision was designed to confuse the AGC on VCRs. Only the more expensive VCRs have AGC's that can deal with this noise. Just about *all* video decoders will capture macrovisioned signals without distortion -- and set a bit somewhere to tell you macrovision is there. [For the record, there are even DVD+VCR combo devices available now too. I don't know how the hell they get away with it, but there it is.]

Low water use is mandated by the Clean Water Act. If you bothered to keep up with what us humans are doing to ruin the planet, maybe you'd understand why this matters. [FWIW, the Colorado river no longer reaches the ocean. etc. etc. etc.]

Re:DVD players required not to have digital video (Score:1)

by sxpert on Wednesday January 10, @06:19PM EST ([#194](#))

(User #139117 Info)

use an SVHS Vcr...

This standard doesn't give a rat's ass of Macrovision either

Re:DVD players required not to have digital video (Score:1)

by [crtreece](#) (crtreece at hotmail dot com) on Friday January 19, @08:37PM EST ([#237](#))

(User #59298 Info)

I know this is totally off topic, but low volume toilets seem to be a bigger waste then their predecessors. How is water being saved, when I have to flush the damn thing 3 times to get a healthy crap into the sewer system.

file: .signature not found

Re:DVD players required not to have digital video (Score:1)

by WowMan on Wednesday January 10, @01:57PM EST (#146)

(User #50187 Info) <http://netdirectory.org>

Excellent observations! This is proof that hardware based consumer controls are here to stay and we can expect to see even more "technology assisted law enforcement" in the future.

Future HaXorS will require hardware/firmware circumvention techniques in order to maintain the current flexibility enjoyed by today's software based circumvention techniques.

If the US public decides to remain allied with Mickey Mouse and Hollywood, we may well end up with "Government Sanctioned Codes" along with "Computing Facility Licensure" before too long.

oh....my!

Re:DVD players required not to have digital video (Score:1)

by rmst on Wednesday January 10, @07:50PM EST (#203)

(User #157328 Info)

Actually, I'm currently involved in a project to create the most decadent toilet ever.. It uses just over 20 Gallons of water per flush, and in the process kills an african elephant, a baby seal and several tigers. We plan on marketing them to people with a wanton disregard for the environment. If you would like more information, please post a message below... Estimated cost of this toilet is just under \$120million, and that's with a 10 year supply of wildlife to fuel it. Did I mention it also has a diesel generator incase the power goes off?

Call me mint jelly, 'cause I'm on the lamb!

Re:DVD players required not to have digital video (Score:1)

by Wakko Warner (wakko@qwerty.bitey.net) on Wednesday January 10, @01:00PM EST (#116)

(User #324 Info) <http://www.BigDigSucks.com/>

Fuck that. I flush low-flow toilets two or three times purely out of spite.

- A.P.

--

* CmdrTaco is an idiot.

* CmdrTaco can admit it.

Re:DVD players required not to have digital video (Score:1)

by el_chicano on Wednesday January 10, @01:27PM EST (#133)

(User #36361 Info) <http://vatoloco.net>

Votes from Floridians were far more important than votes from the other 49 states.

The ones that were counted that is...

I wonder how many illegal aliens and legal residents, cast ballots?

Proof, please. Facts, statistics, photos, etc. would be great. Don't just mindlessly parrot Rush Limbaugh's paranoid delusions...

Remember, only citizens can legally vote.

However, judging from the sentence previous to this one, U.S. citizens don't have to learn English grammar...

--

You think being a MIB is all voodoo mind control? You should see the paperwork!
Morris Fletcher, The X-Files

Re:DVD players required not to have digital video (Score:1)

by el_chicano on Saturday January 13, @04:52PM EST ([#236](#))

(User #36361 Info) <http://vatoloco.net>

The CA voter registration card requires no proof of citizenship.

Well here in Texas you need to be a citizen to register, and you need to show your Texas ID/Driver's License to cast a vote. Is it my fault your state is so fucked up?

Oh, you're a liberal

Yup. A "yellow-dog" through and through. But I **DO** have the balls to identify myself publically and stand by my opinions.

Anyway, why hide behind "Anonomyous Coward"? Is is because you don't want Mommy and Daddy to know that you are using the computer when they told you not to? Or maybe it is because you are a yellow-bellied, chicken-shit goat fucker???

--

You think being a MIB is all voodoo mind control? You should see the paperwork!
Morris Fletcher, The X-Files

Not Quite.. (Score:1)

by schon on Wednesday January 10, @12:51PM EST ([#109](#))

(User #31600 Info)

More like the Steve Ballmer Charm School..

Seriously, have you ever seen Ballmer in an interview? He talks like this guy writes..
"Slashdot Crackpot, and proud of it!"

Re:Spiced with a fair amount of humor... (Score:1)

by [hammock](#) (xcp@(is owned by)brewt.org) on Wednesday January 10, @05:50PM EST (#188)
(User #247755 Info) <http://slashdot.org/metamod.pl>

Andre is fairly active on the linux kernel mailing list, as he should be, developing IDE stuff.

His posts are just like the answers here in this story, although recently, his posts are generally one-liners, to reduce the "out of his fucking tree on speed" impression that he gives.

His work on Linux ATA/IDE is awesome, so just take his online personality the way it is.
comp.os.linux.security faq: "Who will be trying to penetrate you?"

Re:Slashdot Poll: Sexiest Open Source celebrity! (Score:1)

by The real Anne Marie on Thursday January 11, @01:09AM EST (#222)
(User #255255 Info) <http://educatedescort.com>

Those are mostly drawings (and I assure you the naked one is not me) but you can get the whole scoop from [this Salon Piece](#) which was written yesterday (scroll down to the "Real Educated Escort" story) about /. k5, the real Anne Marie, the fake Anne Marie etc.

Until next time,

Anne Marie

one good thing about this crap (Score:1)

by [troll69](#) (eatadick@dicksinyoface.com) on Thursday January 11, @09:58AM EST (#229)
(User #256997 Info)

maybe this copy protection shit will get rid of the recycle bin.

YAY

He who knows others is wise. He who knows himself is enlightened. -- Lao Tsu

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Ask Andre Hedrick About Hard Drive Copy Protection

Posted by [Roblimo](#) on Monday

January 08, @12:00PM
from the word-from-the-insiders dept.

You've read about it [here on Slashdot](#) and [elsewhere](#): How the [4C Entity](#) is developing copy protection mechanisms for removable drives (floppies, DVDs, etc.) that can also be used on hard drives. But Linux kernel hacker [Andre Hedrick](#), member of both [linux-ide.org](#) and the industry-wide [Technical Committee T.13](#) that sets ATA hard drive interface standards, has been [raising a ruckus](#) about copy protection on your hard drive, and he, along with EFF and EPIC, is trying to get this idea killed (or at least muted). So post any questions you have for Andre about this whole thing below, and tomorrow we'll shoot 10 of the highest-moderated ones to him by email. We'll post Andre's answers as soon as he has time to get them back to us, which may be a bit because, he warns, "everyone else is hounding me ..."

< [Dumping LinuxPPC For MacOS X? | Digital Doctoring](#)

>



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Interviews

Welcome to the interviews section - this is place to come to read the assorted conversations that Slashdot and the readers have had with various people involved in the Internet, computers, or anything of interest.

2/2 (5)

This discussion has been archived. No new comments can be posted.

[yro](#)

Their web site (Score:2, Funny)

by scsirob on Monday January 08, @12:04PM EST ([#5](#))

([User #246572 Info](#))

Isn't it ironic that their web site is www.4Centity.com...

It pronounces as "Force Entity"...

--

To Terminate, or not to Terminate, that's the question - SCSIROB

Re:Their web site (Score:1)

by [LarsG](#) (larsg_trustix.com) on Tuesday January 09, @10:04AM EST ([#227](#))

([User #31008 Info](#))

It pronounces as Force Entity

Check out Hedrick's proposal for a disable command (AC 4C pronounce as....):

<http://www2.linuxjournal.com/articles/briefs/0074.html>

"New Command Pair:

Set Features CPRM Lock. 0x4C and 0xAC

(Yes I cleverly picked the pair to reflect their true nature)"

How voluntary is voluntary? (Score:5, Interesting)

by squiggleslash on Monday January 08, @12:04PM EST ([#6](#))

([User #241428 Info](#))

Is making the CPRM spec a feature that can be turned off truly making it voluntary, given that presumably some content will not be supplied to users who fail to leave CPRM enabled?

Would it not end up being as "optional" as DVD CSS encryption and non-zero region encoding?

--

[Ho hooo!](#)

Re:How voluntary is voluntary? (Score:2, Interesting)

by [dagoalieman](#) (dNsOcShPmAiMd@uHmEr.ReEdu) on Monday January 08, @12:22PM EST ([#39](#))

([User #198402 Info](#))

What would you think about creating a file system instead of hardware encoded protection? Perhaps some way to make copy protection workable in a file system (and non-transferable to unprotected file systems) would work better, and with less commotion.
-- Remove "nospamhere" to email me...

Re:How voluntary is voluntary? (Score:1)

by [MsGeek](#) ([bosslady at msgeek dot com](#)) on Monday January 08, @01:49PM EST (#110)
([User #162936 Info](#))

Bad idea. Totally bad idea. But I suspect Microsoft is prolly working on this project as we speak.

---- This .sig intentionally left blank.

Re:How voluntary is voluntary? (Score:1)

by [ideut](#) ([blah1394 at hot mail](#)) on Saturday January 20, @09:58PM EST (#242)
([User #240078 Info](#))

squiggleslash is a naughty naughty troll.

Ideuts all around

Re:How voluntary is voluntary? (Score:1)

by [ideut](#) ([blah1394 at hot mail](#)) on Monday January 22, @11:01AM EST (#245)
([User #240078 Info](#))

Heh heh.. looks like I've got a stalker.

Ideuts all around

Choices... (Score:5, Insightful)

by [cnladd](#) ([cnladd@io.com](#)) on Monday January 08, @12:06PM EST (#8)
([User #97597 Info](#))

I apologize for the open-endedness of this question, but I have to ask it anyways. :)

If this copy protection were to become mandatory, I can definately imagine the effects that it would cause. But what effects - both long and short term - do **you** feel this would cause?

--

Welcome to the land of the easily amused...

Re:Choices... (Score:3, Interesting)

by [Mad-Mage1](#) ([Mad_Mage@hotmail.com](#)) on Monday January 08, @12:32PM EST (#52)
([User #235582 Info](#))

This type of tech is what scares me. Obviously readers of this (and others) have some sort of idea what these practices lead to in the future if left unchecked and unopposed, but the rank and file computer users rarely involve themselves in this. Most of them never even know such technologies are in their PC's, TV's, VCR's, etc... until they want to do something and they can't, or a mainstream news source picks up on it.

I wonder though if those same users realize what we (meaning all those opposing these types of issues) are trying to save for them. If these censorship technologies get too strong of a foothold in the everyday lives of people, if it becomes impossible to buy a TV without some sort monitoring device, or a HD with a chip that checks to see if you are "allowed" to copy that file, and these same technologies are protected so that we cannot remove them legally...Think of the future, it makes 1984 look simple.

So to Andre I ask:

Why do I supposedly need these tech in my HD, and how am I to be assured that it will never prevent me from using my PC in a matter that I wish whether that is legal or not?

The tree of liberty must be refreshed from time to time with the blood of patriots and tyrants.

Re:Choices... (Score:2)

by Datafage on Monday January 08, @04:38PM EST ([#158](#))

(User #75835 Info) <http://www.angelfire.com/ct/datafage>

Um, what would be the point if it never prevented you from using it in an illegal manner? That would be the way hard drives are now(and should be), but there would be no point if the control never stopped you from doing anything.

My coach got arrested for DUI. What are your superiors up to?

Right... (Score:2)

by [Danse](#) (Wowbagger_TIP@hotgritsmail.com) on Tuesday January 09, @12:30PM EST ([#229](#))

(User #1026 Info)

Very true. We should not be negotiating on this issue. We should be telling them where they can stick their copy-protected devices.

"History, I believe, furnishes no example of a priest-ridden people maintaining a free civil government." T. Jefferson

Re:Right... (Score:1)

by [MaximDiscord](#) (ronstein@airmail.net) on Wednesday January 10, @06:02PM EST ([#235](#))

(User #268042 Info) <http://www.razorvision.net>

Unfortunately the mainstream consumers are using their PC's for every day mundane things such as email and surfing the net... they probly don't know or care whether their hard drives are copy protected, which means that it will be hard to boycott these things.
Seems like I am slipping into a dream within a dream.

Microsoft's stance. (Score:1)

by Signal 11 on Monday January 08, @ 12:07PM EST (#10)
(User #210012 Info)

Why is Microsoft against CPRM, if it prevents wholesale "piracy" of its software in developing nations?

--

Email is for geeks and pedophiles. - Sebastian Valmont

Re:Microsoft's stance. (Score:1)

by [pallex](#) (p.a.l.l.e.x. @ .m.y.-.d.e.j.a...c.o.m.) on Monday January 08, @ 12:10PM EST (#17)
(User #126468 Info) <http://pallex.webjump.com>

Imagine the tech-support phone calls that would result!

"My hard disk was stolen, i have a backup, but the disk wont boot"

"Did it have CPRM enabled?"

"Yes, is that a problem"

"Yes, you have just lost all your data, permanently. Theres nothing we can do for you. Have a nice day (tm)"

Re:Microsoft's stance. (Score:1)

by [lonesome phreak](#) (ishavecats@peta.org) on Monday January 08, @ 10:39PM EST (#194)
(User #142354 Info) <http://www.lonesomephreak.com>

Working in tech support, that would be my dream. Right now we don't support win2k, so anytime someone calls in with a win2k problem I just say "I'm sorry, I have to send that to teir 2" and hang up on them. It would be the same, resulting in a much lower time-per-call for me and better stats, and therefor a better pay raise.

This is a vast plethora of nebulous services that involves information, computers, and web browsers.

Re:Microsoft's stance. (Score:2)

by [sulli](#) (slashdot_comments at sulli dot org) on Monday January 08, @ 12:19PM EST (#29)
(User #195030 Info) <http://www.sulli.org>

Wouldn't it make it substantially more difficult to design and run media software? Rights management == high overhead, more bugs, lower reliability, dissatisfied customers, etc. MS like anyone else would want to avoid it at all costs.

sulli

Re:Microsoft's stance. (Score:3, Insightful)

by [Sloppy](#) (sloppy@spam^H^H^H^Hrt66.com) on Monday January 08, @02:17PM EST (#117)
(User #14984 Info)

Copy protection is only tangentially related to piracy. It is very easy (logical, IMHO) to be anti-piracy *and* anti-copyprotection.

This will just create additional expense for Microsoft, without having a significant effect on piracy. Copy protection normally only hurts legitimate users, not pirates.

--

Have a Sloppy night!

Re:Microsoft's stance. (Score:1)

by Siqnal 11 on Monday January 08, @12:24PM EST (#43)
(User #210012 Info)

...eliminating the competition there, with an eye toward future sales.

You, sir, are fucken brilliant.

--

Email is for geeks and pedophiles. - Sebastian Valmont

I thought that ATA CPRM was already dead. (Score:3, Informative)

by [AFCArchvile](#) (talk_is Cheap@lies.are.expensive.com) on Monday January 08, @12:08PM EST (#11)

(User #221494 Info) <http://www.verizoneatspoop.com/>

In the Boston Globe (where I first found out about 4C and their nefarious plans), I read about the CPRM strategy, and how they whined that they wouldn't be able to implement it globally for computer hard drives. Unfortunately, the craze with firmware-enabled hard-drive controllers (of which HighPoint, Promise, and CMD are the three main culprits) could change this. However, I don't think that the gov could force everyone to replace their hard drive controllers.

Either way, go get 'em Andre! I hope that you'll keep the Win2K users in mind as well, because no anti-DMCA techie leaves another anti-DMCA techie behind.

Software designers are so infatuated with the fact that they can, that they don't stop to think if they should.

Re:I thought that ATA CPRM was already dead. (Score:1)

by [DEATH AND HATRED](#) (slash_cut_dot@slashdot.orphansonfire.com) on Monday January 08, @06:51PM EST (#179)

(User #158846 Info) <http://www.orphansonfire.com>

Is this in the controller itself? Could I kill this feature by using the SCSI controller I have now?
Oh yeah, ide. Anyways same thing, can you use an old controller that doesn't have the CPRM built into it with a new drive that does, and get past the control that way?

Re:I thought that ATA CPRM was already dead. (Score:1)

by [LarsG](#) (larsg_trustix.com) on Tuesday January 09, @08:52AM EST (#223)

(User #31008 Info)

Is this in the controller itself?

No. It is implemented in the harddrive.

One way of avoiding it is to make the ide driver in the operating system ditch the CPRM specific commands, or fake "operation not supported" replies. You also want to disable raw access to the drive from applications.

I'd expect CPRM enabled software players/downloaders to complain if the feature is unavailable, though. "Your storage medium does not support content protection. You are not allowed to store the music album you just purchased."

Hardware/Software (Score:2, Insightful)

by JPelzer on Monday January 08, @12:09PM EST (#13)

(User #202626 Info)

Alright, the whole idea of CPRM really does scare me. I'll buy drives from manufacturers that don't support CPRM if I have to.

My question however, is that even if this standard is "beaten down" in ATA, how likely is it that a software-only solution could be devised? Don't hard drives already have unique ID numbers encoded on them?

Are we directing our attention to the wrong problem, where instead we should be clamouring for fair-use protections in general?

Perhaps this is too political a question, but I'd love to hear the thoughts of someone so close to the issue.

-Jason

Re:Hardware/Software (Score:2, Interesting)

by [btempleton](#) (bt@templetons.com) on Monday January 08, @01:00PM EST (#79)

(User #149110 Info) <http://www.templetons.com/brad/>

That's where my question comes in -- I understand the purpose of the unique serial number on the media in CPRM, so that anything you buy to play from that particular device is encoded so you will need the unique serial number in order to decode it.

But what precisely are the large bank of keys also on the disk for? Do they come with protected items you buy? How are they involved in decoding?

The question of "optional" implementation of CPRM is a silly one. The whole SDMI plan is they wish to release music that can only be played by SDMI compliant devices. The major record labels plan to use their oligopoly power to assure that almost all popular music can only be played by an SDMI compliant device.

So if you don't have a compliant hard drive in your computer, your computer won't be a compliant device, and it won't be able to play such music. You can download the music to your hard drive then copy it into your compliant portable player, but it will only play in the player which knows how to decrypt it, not on your computer.

So you can "opt out" of having your hard drive have this function, but that doesn't matter to them.

What matters to them is that compatible players become widespread, so that they feel a critical mass has been reached which will allow them to release content that can only be played on compliant devices and not be hurting their market.

Or rather that the lost sales from people who don't have a compatible device, or have "turned it off" are, in their opinion, fewer than the lost sales from copyright infringement.

Re:Hardware/Software (Score:1)

by [bobv-pillars-net](#) (pillars@suespammers.org) on Monday January 08, @03:24PM EST (#[137](#))
(User #[97943](#) Info) <http://www.pillars.net/~bobv/resume/>

I'll buy drives from manufacturers that don't support CPRM if I have to.

As of this moment, what manufacturers *don't* support CPRM?

Of those, which would you buy from, personally, and why?

[No Spam](#)

Wasn't this already approved for SCSI? (Score:1)

by [onyxruby](#) (onyxruby@nospamplease.mediaone.net) on Monday January 08, @12:10PM EST (#[14](#))
(User #[118189](#) Info) <http://orangelist.com>

I have read that this level of "copy protection" has already been approved for SCSI devices. Do you know if this in fact the case, and what other devices may have this built in?

My second question, does the 4C have even the slightest concern for the consumer in all of this?

The moon is covered with the results of astronomical odds.

What can we do to help you? (Score:5, Interesting)

by [rho](#) (rho@netdoor.com) on Monday January 08, @12:10PM EST ([#15](#))

(User #6063 Info) <http://www2.netdoor.com/~rho/>

This proposal is a tragedy to personal liberties and freedoms (and rates pretty high on the Suck-o-Meter), and your efforts thus far are admirable.

So, I want to know, what can we do to help? Letter writing, calls, faxes? Stand around and go "Brrbbrrbb" with our lips?

How can we aid your efforts in the most effective way?

"Beware by whom you are called sane." --Walter Anderson

Re:What can we do to help you? (Score:1)

by Hellburner on Monday January 08, @12:52PM EST ([#74](#))

(User #127182 Info)

Mod this up. (Not MY post you boneheads, the one to which I am currently replying.)

What can we do?

Letters to ignorant and ineffectual representatives?

Calls to faceless and uncaring corporations?

Protests on the campuses of universities already co-opted and servants of The Corporate Good(TM)?

I'll slap you all if you brand me a marxist, kids, but this collectivization of power into The Hand of the FedAOLWarnerMSFTSonyishibaBMG MCP is giving me the creeps. The monolithization of supposedly capitalist free society is acquiring a remarkable resemblance to the Central Committee for the Economic Plan of the Supreme Soviet. Or whatever.

Are we (the geek (sp. homo sapiens technii)) to be reduced to dissidents? This crap about re-wiring drives sounds like samizdat tape and document exchanging students behind The Wall in the 70's. This is nuts. Wake up, folks. The revolution IS being televised: and its like a bath of hot sweet honey that flows over you then suddenly turns to molten steel and then shifts into concrete.

This is crazy. And there is no "public figure" advocate to fight this garbage. No "media celebrity", no true statesman, no leader, no Joan of Arc.

Seriously, who's got an idea?

Re:What can we do to help you? (Score:1)

by Darkstorm on Monday January 08, @01:16PM EST ([#89](#))
([User #6880 Info](#))

Anyone out there work for one of the major hd manufatcurers? Start spreading the word that this new "standard" will cost them sales, will increase support costs. It will be a big problem for the hd makers themselves since anytime this thing screwes up or the software controlling it makes a mistake they will be calling the hd manufacture thinking thier drive is bad.

Re:What can we do to help you? (Score:2)

by [Danse](#) (Wowbagger_TIP@hotgritsmail.com) on Tuesday January 09, @12:34PM EST ([#230](#))
([User #1026 Info](#))

What about the journalists that do hardware and computer reviews? Are they all in somebody's pocket already, or could they help spread the word in mainstream computing mags like PC Magazine and such? Would they do it, or are they beholden to the advertisers?

"History, I believe, furnishes no example of a priest-ridden people maintaining a free civil government." T. Jefferson

Can we REALLY win? (Score:4, Insightful)

by [JCCyC](#) ([j\[CUBAN-DICTATOR'S-SURNAME\]@ap\[3.141592\].com.br](mailto:j[CUBAN-DICTATOR'S-SURNAME]@ap[3.141592].com.br)) on Monday January 08, @12:10PM EST ([#18](#))
([User #179760 Info](#))

As in, is there a >0 probability of this monstrosity NOT making it into the official stardard? (as opposed to merely becoming "optional", which would be the proverbial foot in the door)

["Standing up to an evil system](#) is exhilarating." --Richard Stallman

What Are The Hard Drive Manufacturers Thinking? (Score:3, Interesting)

by [sigwinch](#) (sigwinch@hotmail.com) on Monday January 08, @04:38PM EST ([#159](#))
([User #115375 Info](#))

Hi Andre.

What the content providers really want is to impose their controls on the data they provide. E.g., they want to be able to impose policies like "single use", "pay-per-use", "time-limited", "give up to 4 copies to your friends", and so forth. They want to impose these policies using technology. That's fine by me: if customers find value in it, the content providers will get rich; if customers find insufficient value, content provider CEOs and VPs will find their bonuses shrinking when the stockholders hear they flushed millions of \$\$\$ down the toilet.

To control content, the PC needs a tamper-resistant crypto module under the content provider's control. It could be a PCI card, a smart card, a parallel port dongle, a FireWire box, integrated with the motherboard chipset, yadda yadda yadda. The are only three requirements: 1) high bandwidth, and 2) tamper-resistance, and 3) easy access to a power supply. As long as these criteria are met, it really doesn't matter what location or form the cryptographic module takes.

It looks to me like the content control people listed every PC subsystem, and wrote off the ones that couldn't work. "RS-232 is too slow." "Smartcard reader is too expensive." "Video card OEMs would laugh at us." "Sound card OEMs would laugh at us." What they were left with was IDE/ATA: it has plenty of volume, power, and bandwidth, and hard drive OEMs might buy their stories.

This begs a question: why will the hard drive OEMs design, manufacture, and distribute their crypto module for free? What is in it for them? Designing custom, tamper-resistant silicon and firmware is expensive, and superfluous for data storage. Manufacturing the custom chips is expensive. (If a hard drive engineer told his boss he'd just added \$2 to the manufacturing cost, he'd be picking his teeth up off the floor.) Supporting it will be tremendously expensive, requiring cooperation with OS vendors. Data loss and guilt-by-association could besmirch the OEM's reputation.

So here's my question(s): Have the hard drive pointy-haired bosses been sold swampland by the content providers? Will the crypto survive the merciless budget slashing manufacturing engineers at Seagate, IBM, Maxtor, and friends? Do the content providers really believe hard drives need crypto, or are they just looking for a free ride from the OEMs?

ARMM - Automated Retroactive Minimal Moderation (Hit 'N' To Skip)

Re:What Are The Hard Drive Manufacturers Thinking? (Score:1)

by Technician on Tuesday January 09, @12:45AM EST ([#196](#))

([User #215283 Info](#))

This begs a question: why will the hard drive OEMs design, manufacture, and distribute their crypto module for free?

I think the bill of goods was sold to the likes of TVIO and they are asking the HD manufacturers to provide the hardware so TVIO can cut deals with content providers. Without content deals, they can't sell their products. Content providers will not promise releases without concessions to protect content. After the content is pay per view, you will need an enabled hard drive (read better does more feature rich) as it is compatible with the new content. Sheeple will need to get the latest and greatest. Who wants a machine incapable of doing something? It's all in the marketing!

P. T. Barnum was right! There is a sucker born every minute.

The truth shall set you free!

Nodding to civil disobedience? (Score:2)

by AlephNot on Monday January 08, @12:15PM EST (#21)

(User #177467 Info)

If copy protection ever became a nonoptional part of hard drives, would you support potentially illegal efforts to circumvent the copy protection? That is, to what extent will you defend the principle of truly free information, vis-a-vis the copy protection of the MPAA et al?

Re:Nodding to civil disobedience? (Score:3, Insightful)

by [SquadBoy](#) (squadboy@thisisnotitsisna.com) on Monday January 08, @12:26PM EST (#46)

(User #167263 Info) <http://www.linuxfanatic.net>

Making this a legal part of hard drives would be very hard. It would require that somehow they get import controls on hard drives. That they get all the older drives out there to convert etc. etc. More likely is that some software just would not work on drives that do not have it. Think about it you can get DVDS that do not have or use the MPAs copy protection it is not a legal mandate that they have to have it. You just can't have certain content if you don't. The same would go for drives odds are all the drive builders would build drives that have it and that don't. Just like Sony builds a DVD player that can use more than one region code. It would then be about content and OSS would win another one. Not to say it is not scary but unless you try and crack it to use some bit of software that needs it on a drive that does not have the protection it would never be illegal to have drives that do not have the protection and use software that does not care.

I'm afraid it is you who are mistaken about a great many things....

How to defeat it? (Score:5, Interesting)

by [sulli](#) ([slashdot_comments at sulli dot org](#)) on Monday January 08, @12:15PM EST (#22)

(User #195030 Info) <http://www.sulli.org>

If this is forced through the industry, how would one write a DeCSS-like tool to defeat it? Is it in some way bypassable in software?

sulli

Re:How to defeat it? (Score:1)

by [deathcubek](#) (moc.toofgib@jgnotsac) on Monday January 08, @06:31PM EST ([#175](#))

(User #11766 Info) <http://www.slashdot.org/comments.pl?sid=md2600>

Damnit. I was going to ask the same thing.

-- "New worlds are not born in the vacuum of abstract ideas, but in the fight for daily bread..." --

Anarcho-syndicalism by Rudolf Rocker

Re:How to defeat it? (Score:2)

by [nightfire-unique](#) (spam.destroyed@my.identity) on Monday January 08, @09:09PM EST

([#189](#))

(User #253895 Info)

I know you're looking for his answer.. :) but an encrypted filesystem would certainly do the trick.

--

*All men are great
before declaring war
on humanity.*

Encrypted filesystem (Score:2)

by [sulli](#) (slashdot_comments@sulli.org) on Tuesday January 09, @11:42AM EST ([#228](#))

(User #195030 Info) <http://www.sulli.org>

Makes sense. Would you devise a filesystem that would simply encrypt *everything* before it gets written on the HD? That would certainly confuse the copy-protection-watching code in the hardware. I'm wondering also if there are other ways to do this that don't involve replacing your whole filesystem.

sulli

Better solution? (Score:4, Insightful)

by [RareHeintz](#) (brad@bradandkristin.DIESPAMMERDIE.com) on Monday January 08,

@12:17PM EST ([#23](#))

(User #244414 Info) <http://www.bradandkristin.com/brad.php>

The hard-drive copy protection scheme seems to me to be yet another attempt (in the vein of DVD/CSS, DPMI, etc.) to maintain a legal structure (that of multinational corporations with scarcity-based proprietary information models) with a technical fix. On /., it may be taken as an article of faith that such efforts are doomed - smart people solve legal problems with lawyers, and technical problems with technology, and know the difference.

My question, though, stems from the fact that (like it or not) software companies *are* within their rights to get paid for software they write, and to set up their own price structure, and to prosecute those who steal their software.

So the question is: If this misguided idea of hardware-based copy protection gets successfully scuttled (and I hope it does), what better solution might there be for proprietary-model software companies that has the benefit of providing them superior protection from pirates without screwing the rest of the world out of the benefits of the currently open hardware model, such as "fair use" under copyright law?

My US\$.02: Coming up with such a "third way" solution could go a long way toward killing media-based copy protection - give them an out, and they might take it.

OK,

- B

--

This will probably get modded down because I failed to mention my Beowulf cluster of Natalie Portman Cruisers.

OOPS (Score:1)

by [RareHeintz](#) (brad@bradandkristin.DIESPAMMERDIE.com) on Monday January 08,

@04:48PM EST (#[162](#))

(User #[244414](#) Info) <http://www.bradandkristin.com/brad.php>

Pardon me, "DPMI" should read "SDMI". I'm having a brain-cramp kinda day.

OK,

- B

--

This will probably get modded down because I failed to mention my Beowulf cluster of Natalie Portman Cruisers.

Re:Better solution? (Score:1)

by [Kwikymart](#) (root@localhost) on Monday January 08, @06:35PM EST (#[176](#))

(User #[90332](#) Info)

"My question, though, stems from the fact that (like it or not) software companies are within their rights to get paid for software they write, and to set up their own price structure,"

Well, the truth is, corporations dont have the liberty to partake in such things as industry wide price fixing. In my view, CPRM (or whatever the hell it is) is exactly the same abuse of power by corporate collaborations. They are using their collective power to screw consumers out of their freedoms (instead of their money, in this case)

" and to prosecute those who steal their software."

This is a whole other topic right here. Under only one circumstance do I see real "stealing". This is when, and only when, someone pirates the software they were intending to purchase beforehand or in any time in the future and does not pay for it. Most people pirate software that they would never in a million years purchase at the prices software distributors charge. These software companies write these off as "lost revenue" and attach a price tag to these "lost sales" when they would never had a sale in the first place. You cant actually steal something without depriving someone of something that they have ownership or rights to. When you download some "warez" to decide if you want to use it or not, or just use it forever but dont actually need it nor would have payed for it, you are really not taking money out of the pockets of anyone. Its a grey area when it comes to non tangible goods, there is no fine line that distinctively seperates stealing.

Does this sig annoy you?

Re:Better solution? (Score:1)

by [RareHeintz](#) (brad@bradandkristin.DIESPAMMERDIE.com) on Monday January 08, @06:46PM EST ([#177](#))

(User #244414 Info) <http://www.bradandkristin.com/brad.php>

They are using their collective power to screw consumers out of their freedoms (instead of their money, in this case)

Well, I think the former translates pretty directly into the latter, or the companies in question wouldn't bother. But that's splitting hairs. ;)

Under only one circumstance do I see real "stealing"... [much good stuff elided]

I agree with you - I'm not speaking of students, trial users, or warez bratz here, I'm talking about wholesale-level, shrink-wrap, counterfeit-the-authentication-holograms piracy like the kind the Chinese gov't turns a blind eye to. That kind of piracy *does* bite into legitimate sales and represents a real loss. It also seems to fit your (wisely narrow) definition of "stealing".

OK,

- B

--
This will probably get modded down because I failed to mention my Beowulf cluster of Natalie Portman Cruisers.

What manufacturers DO NOT support this? (Score:1)
by theMAGE on Monday January 08, @12:17PM EST ([#24](#))
([User #51991 Info](#))

We heard about Intel and IBM... [And I have recommended IBM for so long].

I want to know where my money will go: Is VIA supporting this? And how about other hard-drive manufacturers: Seagate, Maxtor?

Would you advise buying Samsung and Fujitsu for IDE drives?

And finally: what IDE harddrive do you see yourself buying in a year?

Why just IDE and not SCSI ? (Score:1)
by Flabdabb Hubbard on Monday January 08, @12:18PM EST ([#27](#))
([User #264583 Info](#))

If this copy protection is such a good idea, why hasn't SCSI been extended to support it ? SCSI is superior to IDE in all other ways (speed, access time, capacity, latency etc)

Nerd and proud. Hating Microsoft since 1987.

Re:Why just IDE and not SCSI ? (Score:1)
by [JesseL](#) (jay ee ess ess ee el @bls-inc.tzo.com) on Monday January 08, @01:31PM EST ([#99](#))
([User #107722 Info](#))

SCSI is superior to IDE in all other ways (speed, access time, capacity, latency etc)

You forgot the one that decides most consumers - Price.

Also many of those factors have nothing to do with the interface used, SCSI is usually just the first to benefit from technological improvements in manufacturing that eventually get applied to IDE as well.

100% of statistics are misleading.

I don't listen to MP3s or play DVDs (Score:5, Interesting)
by HuskyDog on Monday January 08, @12:20PM EST (#31)
(User #143220 Info) <http://www.rcsimpson.demon.co.uk>

I don't use my Linux machines to read "entertainment files" (MP3s, DVDs etc) or run any closed source software. I just read Slashdot, send email and hack code. Is there any reason why I wouldn't be able to continue doing this on one of these crippled drives?

Re:I don't listen to MP3s or play DVDs (Score:1)
by [AftyOr](#) (afTERty(at)bar[REMOVETHESECAPS]rysworld.com) on Tuesday January 09, @05:57AM EST (#216)
(User #263037 Info)

Assume that this makes it to the ATA standard, all hard drives will then contain the CPRM hole, you will be unable to purchase a modern hard drive without the CPRM hole. In time, current HDs will become too small/slow to be practical with the demands of the OS/applications. At this point you will have to have a hard drive with a CPRM hole, and then you're in trouble. I sincerely doubt that the CPRM technology will be placed in the open source community, meaning that Linux will be able to support it. As the coward above states, it will not authenticate with the HD, so Linux will not run on the CPRM drive as its authors will refuse to write a kernel with code that is not open source to work with the CPRM technology. At that point, you will not be able to surf slashdot anymore - and will probably have to use a commercial OS, or at least one that is not truly open source.

----- Russ
Conscience? Is that *still* in the dictionary?

Where's the power (Score:2)
by Shotgun on Monday January 08, @12:20PM EST (#32)
(User #30919 Info)

To get people to change what their actions, usually requires that you have a stick to beat them with. The stick is usually made up of some sort of power over things that the person cares about. Where does your power to affect change within the standards come from?

It is assumed that certain media conglomerates are responsible for this bug. Where does their power to move the hardware manufacturers come from?

Finally, do the manufacturers even care what Open Source advocates have to say, and if so what is the most effective way for Open Source advocates to provide input?

Aah, change is good. -- Rafiki Yeah, but it ain't easy. -- Simba

Firewire? (Score:1)
by Signal 11 on Monday January 08, @12:20PM EST (#33)
(User #210012 Info)

Does this standard affect FireWire devices?

--

Email is for geeks and pedophiles. - Sebastian Valmont

Re:Firewire? (Score:1)

by kyrre on Monday January 08, @12:23PM EST (#41)

(User #197103 Info)

Yes, fire wire, cd's, and flash chips will be affected.

Re:Firewire? (Score:1)

by Schnedt Microne (scott30189@hotmail.com) on Monday January 08, @12:37PM EST (#59)

(User #264752 Info)

Flash chips?

They're going to put a state machine in all the flash chips so if I try to write an unapproved pattern to, say address 0x01FFF in Block 3, it refuses to accept it?

I think you must mean 'Modules which are made out of flash chips' or something. Flash chips have data busses, address busses, and control lines.

How does 4C justify their position? (Score:5, Insightful)

by plover (jad@SPOONpclink.com) on Monday January 08, @12:21PM EST (#34)

(User #150551 Info)

What is 4C's reponse to "why don't you push for enforcement of the current copyright laws instead of an unpopular techno "fix" that will be thwarted upon release?" How do they justify their position?

John

There is no spoon.

Re:How does 4C justify their position? (Score:5, Insightful)

by Snowfox (brian@ucky.com) on Monday January 08, @12:38PM EST (#61)

(User #34467 Info)

What is 4C's reponse to "why don't you push for enforcement of the current copyright laws instead of an unpopular techno "fix" that will be thwarted upon release?" How do they justify their position?

Most importantly - how does the 4C justify their position *to the consumer*? How is this in the consumer's best interest?

Re:How does 4C justify their position? (Score:2, Insightful)

by Petrophile on Monday January 08, @01:05PM EST (#83)

(User #253809 Info) http://www.capricornica.com/plants/pet_pulc.htm

I think the argument is "If we PC companies don't get onto this Secure Media initiative, Hollywood and the consumer hardware companies (Sony, Phillips) will create their own appliance boxes and cut us out of the action. Therefore we have to do the previously unthinkable and close our systems or home PC users won't be able to take advantage of all of the wonderful PPV secure digital audio and video services Hollywood is thinking up."

Which is bullshit, of course, because the media industry has tried repeatedly to turn the "set-top box" into the digital distribution point and failed everytime. The *only* thing that's worked is Internet-connected PCs and what comes with that is any damn application someone can dream up, copy prohibition or no. So, now the goal is to turn the PC back into that closed set-top.

Re:How does 4C justify their position? (Score:1)

by Darkstorm on Monday January 08, @01:07PM EST ([#84](#))

([User #6880 Info](#))

How is this in the consumer's best interest?

I think that's the point, it's not. The only person to benefit from hd copy protection is big corporations. Why don't they just come out and say that they think all consumers are thieving bastards and that they want to control what we can and cannot do on our computers.

What is really scary is the fact that all it takes is the right amount of money and you can have control over someone else's computer also (under hd copy protection).

Re:How does 4C justify their position? (Score:1)

by [zerocool^](#) (trenchcoatmafia@waveamerica.com) on Monday January 08, @03:24PM EST ([#136](#))

([User #112121 Info](#))

Also importantly, In order to justify it to the consumer, the almighty dollar (pound rubel shekel) comes into this. The entertainment industry is pushing this for financial benefit for them (no copied art) at the cost of the consumer. What's the per-drive cost increase for the consumer, assuming this gets enacted? ~zero

insert clever line here

Re:How does 4C justify their position? (Score:1)

by mikers on Monday January 08, @03:26PM EST ([#138](#))

([User #137971 Info](#))

It's not in the _consumer's_ best interest, it's in 4C _industry member's_ best interest.

Re:How does 4C justify their position? (Score:1)

by [BSDevil](#) (6nlmab3tcr001@sneakemail.com) on Monday January 08, @04:13PM EST ([#152](#))

([User #301159 Info](#))

They justify their position to Joe User from Utah (sorry if anyone's from Utah) by saying that having a drive that supports this standard will allow them access to *special* pieces of software and *special* applications that those *evil people* who use Napster and DVDs won't be able to. They'll say that soon *everybody*'s going to be using it (regardless of the truth), and that if (for some silly reason) they oppose it, they'll be left out.

You have to realize that we (Slashdot readers) are for the most part much more educated than the average computer buyer. They'll see "special access" and "enforcing laws to protect workers" and "defeat piracy" as what they are told, not what they are. They will not see what is going on.

95% of the computer dosen't know what a "napster" is, has never seen or heard an MP3, and thinks Open Source is some kind of cult. This is what we're up against; people who are of the beleif that if you've done nothing wrong, then why should you oppose somthing that prevents people from doing things the Industry tells them not to. We need to educate the average person before any fight against this type of thing will work.

Last time I wrote somthing about a topic like this, it was called 'Flamebait' - it's not. It's a cold, hard dosage of the Truth. Don't pretend you don't see it.

Dan.

PS - If you're looking for my answer in the form of a question, it would be "How can we eduate Joe User to what all this really means without scaring and confusing him."

Re:How does 4C justify their position? (Score:1)

by [Danse \(Wowbagger_TIP@hotgritsmail.com\)](#) on Tuesday January 09, @01:13PM EST ([#231](#))
([User #1026 Info](#))

*Now, *hearing* about Napster is easy. It's in the newspaper all the time...*

Of course half the articles I've seen on Napster say that Napster is a website that lets you trade MP3 files with other people.

"History, I believe, furnishes no example of a priest-ridden people maintaining a free civil government." T. Jefferson

DMCA (Score:2, Interesting)

by DzugZug on Monday January 08, @02:09PM EST ([#115](#))
([User #52149 Info](#))

Easy. With a techno fix everything on the hard drive becomes protected by an effective copy protection device. Anyone who copies anything on the device, finds a way to copy stuff on the device, or even tells other people how to copy stuff on the device is guilty of a federal offence. This standard makes the existing copyright laws stronger which it can then enforce through traditional means. Also, it is hard for big companies to go after small time infringers (e.g. mp3 users) because it looks bad for them. This prevents the average person from copying protected content and allows only those evil "hackers" to do it. It's a lot easier to sue "hackers" than consumers. And, the media industry does not appear to be limiting people the hardware industry does. This is why the media giants want this and the hardware ppl dont.

Questions Answered (Score:1)

by [packphour](#) (ILoveHateMail@127.0.0.1) on Monday January 08, @12:22PM EST (#36)

(User #257276 Info) <http://packphour.com>

Since there's no telling when Andre will be able to get to the questions, I took the initiative to go find answers for my fellow /.ers. So as you all know, when you have a question- the man to see is [Jeeves](#). Below are his insightful and helpful answers.

Question: Does the 4C have even the slightest concern for the consumer in all of this?

Jeeves Answer: Where can I find the lyrics to songs by All/Descendants?

Question: Why is Microsoft against CPRM, if it prevents wholesale "piracy" of its software in developing nations?

Jeeves Answer: Where can I find the Web site for the company Microsoft?

Let's see if Andre even comes close to the revelations and understanding that Jeeves provides.

-p4

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Lame (Score:1)

by meadowsp on Monday January 08, @12:27PM EST (#47)

(User #54223 Info) <http://www.mp3.com/djphilsavage>

A very lame rip-off of [Satirewire](#). A bit more originality next time please...

Re:Lame (Score:1)

by [packphour](#) (ILoveHateMail@127.0.0.1) on Monday January 08, @12:33PM EST (#54)

(User #257276 Info) <http://packphour.com>

Don't I have to first be previously aware of Satirewire before I can be accused of ripping it off?

A bit more understanding next time please...

-p4

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Re:Lame (Score:1)

by [sjames](#) (pyro@nospam.linuxlabs.com) on Monday January 08, @01:28PM EST (#97)
(User #1099 Info) <http://www.members.gdex.net/sjames>

Don't I have to first be previously aware of Satirewire before I can be accused of ripping it off?

That depends on wheather or not they have filed a patent!

Re:Lame (Score:1)

by [packphour](#) (ILoveHateMail@127.0.0.1) on Monday January 08, @02:09PM EST (#114)
(User #257276 Info) <http://packphour.com>

Well, since we're all "techies" here I think we can use statistics to determine the probability of me previously knowing about Satirewire.

Millions of sites, one of me. Let's say I've been to 100,000 domains (unlikely but I'm trying to be fair to you). If my calcuations are correct, the maximum probability of me visiting Satirewire is 10%. Therefore, the assumption of your conclusion would be inaccurate.

My post != Rip-off.

Now as far as it being "lame", that dives into psychology in which there is no formula to apply.

-p4

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What Can I Do? (Score:2, Interesting)

by Anonymous Coward on Monday January 08, @12:22PM EST (#38)

What is the best way for me to prevent this spec from being implemented and help you in your cause?

--Bill 'EvilBill' Adams

protections on fair use rights (Score:4, Insightful)

by AntiNorm on Monday January 08, @12:24PM EST ([#44](#))

(User #155641 Info) <http://www.antinorm.com/>

How will (or will) consumer rights to fair use of content be protected through all this?

Put your feet out and stop ... climb out and hang ...

GO!!!

I'm still confused (Score:5, Interesting)

by HuskyDog on Monday January 08, @12:26PM EST ([#45](#))

(User #143220 Info) <http://www.rcsimpson.demon.co.uk>

Can you please start by providing an idiot's guide to how this CPRM thing is actually supposed to work.

I gain the impression that compliant (presumably closed source) software encrypts data as it flows on and off the drive using keys which are specific to each drive. So, if the file is moved to a different drive it won't decrypt any longer? Have I got the right idea? If so, its only applicable to those prepared to run closed source software, right?

Re:I'm still confused (Score:2)

by f5426 on Monday January 08, @02:07PM EST ([#113](#))

(User #144654 Info)

> Can you please start by providing an idiot's guide to how this CPRM thing is actually supposed to work.

Yes, yes, yes. I was about to ask the exact same thing.

In particular, I'd like to see when the data is encrypted/decrypted, and on what key.

For instance, if I buy a song on the internet via a proprietary browser, on a proprietary OS, and later play it with a proprietary music application, I fail to see why I can't fool the disk by writing a 'music' application that write the music back to the disk as a raw unencrypted mp3 file instead of playing it (by reverse engineering the player application, if necessary)

Please, please, enlighten me.

Btw, I am french, and I will now have to pay a 3.70 francs (about 70 cents) tax on the CD-Rs I use to do my weekly backup (a lot of thanks to the socialist government). I never 'pirated' music, but now feel entitled to.

Cheers,

--fred

Re:I'm still confused (Score:1)

by Trojan on Monday January 08, @07:22PM EST ([#182](#))

([User #37530 Info](#))

If mangling of files would get around CPRM, then a simple change to the filesystem would disable CPRM. On the linux-kernel mailing list I read that this would not be possible.

Therefore, it looks like anything you write to disk will need to be signed before the controller accepts it, so effectively you won't be able to store data you generate yourself.

Ok so that's madness... but is there any other explanation?

Re:I'm still confused (Score:2)

by [nightfire-unique](#) (spam.destroyed@my.identity) on Monday January 08, @09:17PM EST

([#190](#))

([User #253895 Info](#))

Therefore, it looks like anything you write to disk will need to be signed before the controller accepts it, so effectively you won't be able to store data you generate yourself.

While I doubt it, I certainly hope that's the case. Beauty would be all of the Windows users getting sucked into the trap, only to lose all of their data and investments again, when something goes wrong. Sometimes it takes a few iterations before the cost of proprietary solutions becomes evident.

--

*All men are great
before declaring war
on humanity.*

Simulations & remote access (Score:1)

by dsmouse on Monday January 08, @02:37PM EST ([#125](#))

([User #183805 Info](#))

How would this effect simulated and networked hard-drives... SMB and NFS(&c &c) drives and keep the files on disks elsewhere, and loop-back filesystems and products like VMware that use files to simulate harddisk space?

What in the mood of the T13 on this issue? (Score:5, Interesting)

by Kagato on Monday January 08, @12:27PM EST ([#48](#))

([User #116051 Info](#))

To be honest I'm leary here. When I look at the officers for the T13 (Maxim/Quantum personnel), and add that to the locations the meetings take place: Microsoft, Dell, Seagate, Western Digital, etc. I can't help but to think that the end result is going to be business interests ahead of consumer interests.

What is the mood of the T13 on the issue? Are you part of a minority, or part of the majority on this issue? Do you think you will win on this issue?

The Sounds (Score:1)

by okmar on Monday January 08, @12:27PM EST ([#49](#))

([User #266773 Info](#))

I hear the sounds of herds of people running out and stocking up on currrent drive technology in order to have something to use if this is implemented.

some questions:

- 1) Mutual hardware support in boxes. OSes, Other hardware, etc?
- 2) What **will** be allowed?
- 3) Owner should have the option of disabling. Like old satelite dish signal scrambling tecnology. (A person could buy a descrambler.) In this case, an interface that *most* users never see. Kind of like the preferences areas of most OSes that no one ever knows are there unless you go looking for them. Make it a Hard Drive BIOS with the ability to set it's parameters from the boot origin.
- 4) Will there be *tripwire* type logs that will be sent to some where indicating that copy material was attempted to be accessed or cracked?
- 5) Why this and not an attempt to control the art of Cr/Hacking? Not that I'm opposed to either, it's what feeds the industry...

.

Moving from hardware to IRL implementation (Score:2, Insightful)

by [steelwraith](#) (steelwraith/eatmespamboy/[at]yahoo/domoarigato/.co) on Monday January 08,

@12:29PM EST ([#50](#))

([User #141362 Info](#))

If this standard did in fact become the 'law of the land', has the T.13 figured out how the implementation would affect several activities that are common today?

How would the drive know that something is 'legal'? Would it really have to contact a server somewhere to validate the software or file? What happens if you need to get the system operating to the point that you get a network connection to validate the OS, but can't get the system up to that point without validating that the OS is legal? I have no doubt that if CPRM is on a drive, that entities such as MS will require it be used.

Say that the 'go key' for the OS is stored on the drive in such a manner that it can access it without validating it with an external source. Would the same hold true for other files? What would prevent someone from developing an application that could generate a valid key, and either 'trick' the drive into accepting it, or in fact giving an 'a okay' signal itself without checking the drive in the first place?

It just seems to me that this is a no-win situation for everyone, as the less technically inclined will suffer greatly for the actions of a few, and the technically astute will find ways around CPRM in short order, thus invalidating its reason for existing.

"Give me coffee, give me sex, give me blood, and net access - net.goth.vampyre"

Re:Moving from hardware to IRL implementation (Score:1)

by [theman2](#) (theman2.nospam@reed.edu) on Monday January 08, @01:46PM EST ([#108](#))

([User #235928 Info](#))

I have no doubt that if CPRM is on a drive, that entities such as MS will require it be used.
Microsoft has never used any copy protection on their os. Try copying any of the win 9x/NTx cds onto your hard drive and you will quickly learn that the only protection is the serial number. I seriously doubt that microsoft will make your computer dial up some number to check that you own the OS just because a new copy control has been built into the ata specs.

Re:Moving from hardware to IRL implementation (Score:1)

by [steelwraith](#) ([steelwraith/eatmespamboy@\[at\]yahoo/domoarigato/.co](mailto:steelwraith/eatmespamboy@[at]yahoo/domoarigato/.co)) on Monday January 08,

@02:29PM EST ([#122](#))

([User #141362 Info](#))

They never forced the issue because they never had a way to enforce such a practice via hardware; without hardware being in the loop, there would be no way to create a 'foolproof' anti-piracy mechanism.

CPRM would give them that enforcement mechanism. If they could tie a specific OS/application license to a specific piece of hardware (in this case a HD) via an encryption key created for a specific HD serial number (or master encryption block), and force that piece of hardware to validate that the OS/application is valid (and registered), then you wouldn't have PC shops cloning 1000 versions of an OS with the same serial number, as it had already been registered to one specific HD.

In this case, I fully believe that MS and other software companies would implement a requirement for CPRM hardware compliance into their operating systems and applications, so that they could cut down on 'piracy'. If the software couldn't 'call home' it would refuse to install.

And I guarantee that the mechanism to allow a person to re-install software onto a new HD (in the case of HD failure) would make the U.S. Tax Code read like 'See Jane run'.

"Give me coffee, give me sex, give me blood, and net access - net.goth.vampyre"

Re:Moving from hardware to IRL implementation (Score:1)

by [theman2](#) (theman2.nospam@reed.edu) on Monday January 08, @07:01PM EST (#181)
(User #235928 Info)

haven't you ever heard of oem disks? Microsoft gives dell and all the other places different installation disks. The big difference is that the serial number is not needed until the installation is finished. Dell makes one good installation of the dell XXX laptop with all of the software and hardware properly configured. Then, they copy it to every machine with the same exact setup. Then, each machine is booted and its legal serial number is entered.

that is a special tool that microsoft provides to companies. They aren't going to stop providing the oem disks just because a new copy control scheme has been implemented. Dell would wack Bill Gates around with a large stick if they had to go through the process of installing the os on every machine.

Re:Moving from hardware to IRL implementation (Score:1)

by [steelwraith](#) ([steelwraith/eatmespamboy/\[at\]yahoo/domoarigato/.co](mailto:steelwraith/eatmespamboy/[at]yahoo/domoarigato/.co)) on Tuesday January 09, @08:16AM EST (#220)
(User #141362 Info)

It's ZDNet, so take this with a grain of salt, but..

http://www.zdnet.com/zdnn/stories/news/0,4586,2672_131,00.html

Looks like MS is already going this route..

"Give me coffee, give me sex, give me blood, and net access - net.goth.vampyre"

Beneficial uses for this (Score:3, Interesting)

by [Ex Machina](#) ([xm@REMOVE-PARENTS-TOO.while\(1\).UCE-sucks.net](mailto:xm@REMOVE-PARENTS-TOO.while(1).UCE-sucks.net)) on Monday January 08, @ 12:31PM EST ([#51](#))

(User #10710 Info) <http://while1.org/>

Are there any possible beneficial uses for this technology, like implementing some sort of improved filesystem security model under Linux (or *BSD or Windows) that would be helpful to the BOFH?

/usr/local/bin/iptables -A OUTPUT -d 209.242.124.241 -j REJECT

Isn't CPRM actually a Good Thing? (Score:2, Interesting)

by [Vanders](#) (vanders999@yahoo.co.uk) on Monday January 08, @ 12:35PM EST ([#57](#))

(User #110092 Info) <http://www.atheos.cx>

Excuse me for breaking into the screaming and hysterics and all, but what's so bad about CPRM?

From what I understand, CPRM relies on not just a CPRM compliant drive, but also CPRM compliant software & CPRM compliant data. All CPRM does is allow CPRM data to be stored on a CPRM area of a CPRM protected hard drive with CPRM software.

Now, this doesn't actually stop anyone using the non-CPRM portion of the drive. In fact, the non-CPRM section of the drive operates as a normal harddrive. It doesn't stop me storing my MP3's that I downloaded from Napster, or that DivX;-) I leeched from Usenet. In short, it doesn't stop me doing anything I do now.

It seems that CPRM is the only way that these companies are ever going to accept the Internet as a viable distribution channel for their movies, music etc. That's not to say that when CPRM becomes a standard, that people will stop trading non-CPRM media the same way they did before by ripping the CD, DVD etc.

So surely, if CPRM means that we can finally download those films & MP3's legitimately, that's got to be a good thing? Those who still want to pirate their stuff can do so, CPRM doesn't stop them using the old piracy methods. The *only* possible downside to this is that 4C may exclude Open Source from implementing CPRM, but then surely they want CPRM to be accepted industry wide, so why would they do that?

Really, my question is, *why* are you so against CPRM? What does it stop us from doing that we don't do already, & why6 can't we just ignore it?

Calling Mozilla unresponsive is like calling a Nuclear bomb somewhat powerful.

Re:Isn't CPRM actually a Good Thing? (Score:1)

by mikeee on Monday January 08, @01:03PM EST ([#82](#))

([User #137160 Info](#))

So surely, if CPRM means that we can finally download those films & MP3's legitimately, that's got to be a good thing?

But we'll not be able to download them with an open-source app. CPRM + DMCA = no legal open source for popular media formats.

Re:Isn't CPRM actually a Good Thing? (Score:1)

by [SmokeSerpent](#) (benjamin@psnw.com) on Monday January 08, @02:13PM EST ([#116](#))

([User #106200 Info](#)) <http://www.psnw.com/~smokeserpent/gk.html>

1. You will only be able to legitimately view and download music, books, etc. using "approved" applications. What happens when you upgrade to Windows 2004 and your book-reading software is not compatible? You have to buy new book reading software. (And hope that the books you bought are in a compatible format.) What if you use a different OS entirely?
2. Hard drives don't last as long as vinyl or polycarbonate or paper. Are you okay with paying for a book or music that could become unusable tomorrow if your hard disk fails, since you can't back it up?
3. How many sectors of your life should megamedia companies have control over? At what point do you finally say "enough"? Will it be too late then?

Oh loneliness and cheeseburgers are a deadly combination. -Comic Book Guy

Re:Isn't CPRM actually a Good Thing? (Score:3, Interesting)

by [Fruit](#) (jfy@ay.yvahk.bet) on Monday January 08, @02:21PM EST ([#119](#))

([User #31966 Info](#)) <http://www.dit.nu/>

[The Right to Read](#) is a small story written by RMS which I read some time ago.

When I first read it, I thought that (a) RMS is not a very good writer and (b) what he sketches is vastly exaggerated.

After seeing this copy protection scheme I still think RMS doesn't write very good stories, but I'm beginning to suspect that his dystopia isn't that far-fetched at all.

You see, hard drive encryption is not where it ends! Soon, everyone will be using it and you won't be able to get anything done for your school or company without it. Until now we have managed to avoid things like this but when cryptographic hard drives are involved, things will get a lot tougher. What will they come up with next?

Ironically, in this capitalist world it may not be the state muffling free speech and human rights but large corporations and cartels. We need a cushion between consumers and companies, being able to copy materials at will is one such cushion.

Killing the pirates? (Score:1)

by Foxxz on Monday January 08, @12:35PM EST ([#58](#))

(User #106642 Info) <http://foxxz.net>

Hollywood thinks that this protect will help rid themselves of pirates and force people to pay money for content. If pirates HAD the money to go out and buy the merchandise, they probably would. Isn't hollywood then shooting itself in the foot since its trying to make people pay for what they cannot afford? Since when has hollywood been allowed to design our computers? I beleive that if any producers actually used the technology they are about to impose they would quickly withdraw. How does this new standard benefit the consumer and why did the organizations even consider making this standar? I guess what I'm trying to get at is, you can't ring any money out of people that don't have any, so why bother?

-Foxxz

Why? (Score:1)

by X.25 on Monday January 08, @12:37PM EST ([#60](#))

(User #255792 Info)

Did anybody ever ask the vendor a simple question: **WHY?**

I mean, did anybody ask guys from IBM (face to face), for example:

Why do you want to implement this?

If so - what happened? What was the answer? I mean, do they start talking about 'copyright protection', 'request from MPAA/RIAA/whoever', or they even mention word 'consumer' somewhere in the sentence?

I found that "PR people" (I'm sure engineers don't give a damn about these things) can spend hours making press releases, but when you ask them direct question face-to-face, they get completely lost (meaning: you can easily see that they're lying, and have no idea what they're talking about). More the question is 'simple', more "I'm lost" faces we get.

Any experiences? :)

Isn't this just encryption support? (Score:1)

by acoopersmith on Monday January 08, @12:38PM EST ([#62](#))

(User #87160 Info)

Couldn't it also be used to encrypt/protect data files as well? (Has anyone pointed out to the FBI & NSA that this could be yet another way to block what they consider to be their god-given right to read everyone's electronic data?)

Perhaps companies could use it to make sure hard drives are unreadable outside their corporate networks or without a key stored on the employee's smart-card ID badge.

Re:Isn't this just encryption support? (Score:5, Insightful)

by [Vanders](#) (vanders999@yahoo.co.uk) on Monday January 08, @12:42PM EST ([#68](#))

(User #110092 Info) <http://www.atheos.cx>

Very good point. Has anyone pointed out to 4C that CPRM could cause a user in the UK to be in breach of our Oh-So-Wonderful RIP law?

"Sorry Mr. Judge, I cannot supply the data that was on the drive, as it is CPRM compliant and I do not have the keys to decrypt it any more."

Calling Mozilla unresponsive is like calling a Nuclear bomb somewhat powerful.

Re:Isn't this just encryption support? (Score:1)

by Chang on Monday January 08, @01:14PM EST ([#88](#))

(User #2714 Info)

You don't need crap in the hardware/firmware to encrypt data on a disk drive.

You can do this today if you really want to.

Why more things more complicated than they have to be. I want drives to be just a generic place to store crap. I don't want my drive "knowing" anything about my data except how to find a given cylinder/sector/head and how to cache the data in and out.

Hmmm... (Score:1)

by Mister Transistor on Monday January 08, @12:40PM EST ([#66](#))

(User #259842 Info)

As an old school cracker, I can only repeat "My Axiom" (for lack of a better name) - "Any system that can be devised, can be defeated." Now how much more money, useless effort, and general mental masturbation will go into "perfecting" a new copy protection system, only to see some 13 year old crack it in 3 hours? Are we going to just see a CD-based type of Everlock/Prolock/etc? Those worked REALLY well in thier day (HAR!), and just caused end users endless headaches trying to make legitimate backups and keep from botching up their protection schemes, while us crackers would be "unencumbered" from the protections within short order. Histeria repeats itself?!?!

-- You are in a maze of little, twisty passages, all alike... --

Re:Hmmm... (Score:4, Interesting)

by -Harlequin- on Monday January 08, @01:57PM EST ([#111](#))

(User #169395 Info)

I think you're a little too overconfident - there is a very real chance that, for the first time, you'll be up against **real** encryption technology - the kind of stuff that military intelligence can't break.

If things go badly, the only workable "crack" might need to be installed with a soldering iron and some expensive components. And once it's done, you might still need to crack all your legitimate software just to get it to think it's running on a compliant device rather than some evil pirate's machine.

It may be less than a year before we hear "If you've got nothing to hide, why do you have a problem with CPRM?"

Just a joke... (Score:1)

by [John, the HERO](#) (johnthehero@NOSPAMrinkworks.com) on Monday January 08, @03:02PM EST (#134)
[\(User #266898 Info\)](#)

Military intelligence? That's more of an oxymoron than dry water or something.

Re: Military Intelligence (off-topic) (Score:1)

by [bobv-pillars-net](#) (pillars@suespammers.org) on Monday January 08, @03:37PM EST (#141)
[\(User #97943 Info\)](#) <http://www.pillars.net/~bobv/resume/>

I remember my first day at FCTCLANT, when somebody pointed at the NMITC building and said, "That's NMITC. Military Intelligence."

To which I instantly responded,

So **that's** where they put it!

[No Spam](#)

Re:Hmmm... (Score:1)

by [swm](#) (swmcd@world.std.com) on Tuesday January 09, @02:53AM EST (#208)
[\(User #171547 Info\)](#) <http://world.std.com/~swmcd/steven/>

It will be cracked.

Remember back when the NSA was pushing the clipper chip? Clipper was going to be tamper-resistant, and they were claiming it would cost \$30M to crack.

Their point was that only big companies and foreign governments have that kind of money. Companies won't crack it, because there's no profit in it. Governments will crack it, but they won't publish the results: they will keep the secret for their own use. So the NSA was arguing that the Clipper chip was effectively uncrackable.

But the fact is, money doesn't crack chips: engineers crack chips. You can buy engineers for something like \$100K/year, so when the NSA said it would cost \$30M to crack the clipper chip, what they were actually saying is that it would take 300 engineering-years.

So the real question is whether 300 engineering-years of talent will be brought to bear on the problem. And the answer is yes, it will. It will come from dorm rooms, and university labs, and random hackers all over the world.

They won't have as much equipment or funding as the NSA, but they will be highly motivated, they will collaborate over the internet, and they will crack it.

I'll go out on a limb and predict no more than one year.

Re:Hmmm... (Score:1)

by Mister Transistor on Wednesday January 10, @08:06PM EST ([#236](#))

([User #259842 Info](#))

Well, I'll admit there are some nasty prime-based cryptos that I won't be solving this millenium, my technique was always an oblique approach - get past the decrypt and snip out the final go/no-go decision that is the crux of the matter. Seemed easier that way. There's almost always an angle SOMEONE overlooked! Also, if all else fails, yes, I know which end to hold a soldering iron from :)

-- You are in a maze of little, twisty passages, all alike... --

What about educational fair use? (Score:2, Insightful)

by lordvolt2k on Monday January 08, @12:41PM EST ([#67](#))

([User #301516 Info](#))

With all these new laws, napster/DeCSS scares, etc, are companies choosing to ignore educational fair use, or do they just not care anymore? Basically, as a university, we have the right to use copyrighted materials in certain ways (such as taking a video file and copying it to all the machines in a classroom for temporary educational use) for educational purposes. Would this new hard drive standard take this into consideration or would we no longer be able to exercise our fair use rights as an educational institution?

Re:What about educational fair use? (Score:3, Insightful)
by -Harlequin- on Monday January 08, @02:05PM EST ([#112](#))
([User #169395 Info](#))

>or would we no longer be able to exercise our fair use rights as an educational institution?

Going by what Kaplin's ruling suggests, merely having the right to fair use does not give one the right to have the means to achieve that right.

If they can rig the market to preclude fair-use-compliant devices being sold, that's their prerogative.

Hopefully Kaplin's idiocy will be overturned, but I fear it might be the idiocy of the legal system at large.

Enforcement on Open Source platforms (Score:5, Interesting)
by [TWX_the_Linux_Zealot](#) (oliver.clozoff@usa.net) on Monday January 08, @12:45PM EST ([#71](#))
([User #227666 Info](#))

How can copy protection of data be maintained on hard disks and other media if the operating system has the ability to use partition types that encrypt? Wouldn't a layer in an OS kernel be able to circumvent a good portion of the measures if the data does not reach the drive in its original form?

"Titanic was 3hr and 17min long. They could have lost 3hr and 17min from that."
- Bruce Campbell

Re:Enforcement on Open Source platforms (Score:2)
by Black Parrot on Monday January 08, @03:52PM EST ([#146](#))
([User #19622 Info](#))

> Wouldn't a layer in an OS kernel be able to circumvent a good portion of the measures if the data does not reach the drive in its original form?

At the cost of having the OS DMCA'd as an illegal circumvention device.

--

The court ruled it legal to fuck the voters by running out the clock, and demonstrated how to do it.

Please name names (Score:1, Interesting)
by Anonymous Coward on Monday January 08, @12:49PM EST ([#72](#))

What the names and email addresses of the committee members, and the people they report to in their companies? At least, please, the email addresses of the committee members or a link to a proper page with the info.

I feel it would be proper for each one of us to personally share our deep felt feelings with the fine upstanding members of the committee.

Bounce-back hardware and filesystems (Score:1)

by 3Suns on Monday January 08, @12:49PM EST ([#73](#))

([User #250606 Info](#))

How does CPRM hope to deal with the use of bounce-back hardware (that receives information byte-for-byte and returns it, unchanged) to copy the files? It seems to me that it would not be that hard to write a driver that sends the copy-protected files to the bounce-back (not a violation of the file-signing?!?) and save all the information it receives back in a different duplicate file.

Also, wouldn't CPRM have to be built into existing filesystems? into existing OSes in order to sign individual files?

Pork Barrel Politics? (Score:2, Interesting)

by lordvolt2k on Monday January 08, @12:52PM EST ([#75](#))

([User #301516 Info](#))

Will the 4C attempt to be like congress and pull a pork barrel trick? For example, they could make this new copy protection part of the next ATA standard. While companies could 'opt' not to use the copy protection, they would also not be able to make hard drives with the newest ATA standard, pretty much forcing them to go with the new copy protection. Do you see the 4C doing something like this?

How does it relate to USB Copy Controls? (Score:2)

by [Big Jojo](#) (mojojojo@pacbell.net) on Monday January 08, @12:53PM EST ([#76](#))

([User #50231 Info](#))

The USB Implementor's forum has defined some [Content Security](#) standards, evidently using a slightly different technical approach (different group of companies pushing it).

I'd be interested in comments from Andre about (a) whether this indicates fragmentation among advocates of copy controls, confusion, or perhaps something sinister; (b) how creators of USB-to-ATAPI style bridge products (usb storage devices) would decide which style copy control scheme to implement, assuming they really wanted to do so, (c) the degree having different copy control systems may be defensive efforts to make hardware products stop being commodities.

On issue (c), I just want to point out that consumers benefit from commodity products as much as they benefit from commodity data formats for the information they've acquired ... while vendors of both hardware and digitized data can see both of those as significant threats to business strategies that rely on *vendor control* rather than providing customer value.

- Jojo

virtual copy protected hard drives ? (Score:1)

by [RGRIstroph](#) (rgristroph@yahoo.com) on Monday January 08, @12:54PM EST ([#77](#))

(User #86936 Info) <http://www.geocities.com/rgristroph>

Now that there exists a free software virtual computer, plex86, what prevents this whole scheme from being circumvented by adding virtual copy-protected disks to plex86 ?

That is, suppose someone takes a windows installation disk from their workplace, brings it home, and attempts to install it onto a plex86 running inside linux or FreeBSD or whatever. Can't they modify plex86 to make it virtualize the machine that the software was licensed to, down to any harddrive copyprotection and ethernet mac addresses or processor serial numbers or what have you ? Once one person figured out the details, couldn't they come up with simple, easy to use tools that would probe a computer and produce a configuration file to give the virtual computer software ?

I'm thinking that the PC, or any architecture which is open enough to be virtualized or emulated, is hard to use to control the delivery or use of content. In addition to lobbying to stop the copy-protection scheme, should we be focusing on making sure that the mechanisms to virtualize or emulate it are available in software ? If the proponents of the scheme were well informed of the efforts, then maybe they would see the futility of it and stop, devoting their resources to making their devices more useful (faster and bigger harddrives), not less useful.

criminalization of current practices? (Score:1)

by [bill_mcgonigle](#) (flowerpt@pobox.com) on Monday January 08, @12:56PM EST ([#78](#))

(User #4333 Info) <http://www.zettabyte.net>

So many current practices (like encrypted filesystems) would bypass this technology. Do you predict the 4C will attempt to have these outlawed under DMCA if this effort is successful? My God, it's full of source!

Re:criminalization of current practices? (Score:3, Informative)

by -Harlequin- on Monday January 08, @02:44PM EST ([#130](#))

(User #169395 Info)

So many current practices (like encrypted filesystems) would bypass this technology. Do you predict the 4C will attempt to have these outlawed under DMCA if this effort is successful?

My guess would be no need - an encrypted filesystem just makes the HDD look like a non CPRM compliant device. Once CPRM is established in the market, there will be a little label on the software box you buy:

Requires Pentium4 1Ghz, 256Mb RAM, 300Mb CPRM HDD.

If you're running an encyrpted filesystem, tough luck. Ditch your system or ditch the software. You can't have both. A non-CPRM disk will probably be like DVD player without CSS descrambling.

What happened to our right to archival copies? (Score:4, Insightful)

by [AugstWest](#) (fnord@no.spam.dammit.biteme.com) on Monday January 08, @01:01PM EST

(#80)

(User #79042 Info)

It seems that in the name of stopping copyright infringement in the way of piracy, we have lost our right to make archival copies of whatever media we purchase.

This right never seems to be mentioned in the debates that I've seen, and yet it is something that is extremely important to the individual, especially when you are looking at software packages becoming more and more expensive every year. If we've paid several thousand dollars for an Enterprise package like, say, Visual InterDev, having an archival copy of it is extremely important.

It doesn't appear as though the schemes for hard drive copy protection have any such concerns, much like all of the current pushes to reform copyright law.

We're living in an age when individual rights are being thrown over left and right in the name of profit margins, and it's projects like this that are eroding them.

[I love my country, but I fear my government.](#)

Re:What happened to our right to archival copies? (Score:1)

by [Grape Shasta](#) (roachster@ySaPhAoMo.com) on Monday January 08, @05:55PM EST (#169)

(User #176655 Info)

Or what if I want to listen to a song I purchase on my computer, and on my rio mp3 player, and burned to a CD so I can listen in my car, and then copied off the CD to my work PC so I can listen at work, and then backed up on an archive CD, and posted to a private ftp server so I can download it while at a different computer, and also copied to my laptop, and plus a clip to play on my toaster when my toast pops up...

The point is, it's MY song and I want to put it where I want to. I couldn't imagine ever buying technology that would stop me from doing that.

"I am a cipher, a cipher, wrapped in an enigma, smothered in secret sauce" -Jimmy James

"copy protection" propaganda (Score:2)

by Dr. Awktagon on Monday January 08, @01:02PM EST ([#81](#))

([User #233360 Info](#))

This isn't a question but it will help if /. and other sources of news use a term like "copy control" or "access control", depending on how it works, instead of the meaningless "copy protection". RMS has written on the subject and I tend to agree that the word "protection" lends a false air of credibility and necessity to these technological control schemes.

Imagine hearing a debate against "protection". Who in their right mind except a bunch of evil hackers would want to take away protection? Now imagine a debate against "control". Well that's good! Americans don't like to be controlled!

If they can use spin and propaganda to further their needs, I think we should too. Like when talking about "censorware", that word is really spin we use to make our message clearer.

What's does 4C get from copy protection? (Score:4, Interesting)

by [astrashe](#) (alex@suba.com) on Monday January 08, @01:13PM EST ([#87](#))

([User #7452 Info](#))

I don't understand why drive manufacturers would want to impose copy protection on their customers. How does a company like IBM benefit from cooperating with this scheme?

I don't think that there are many customers who would prefer a copy protected drive. Why would a rational company ignore the desires of its customers in order to satisfy the desires of the companies who will benefit from these crippled drives?

Are they afraid of lawsuits? Legistlation? Are they being paid? Are they simply standing in solidarity with other multi-national corporations?

I don't understand why drive manufacturers are on board, and it seems to me that knowing why they're doing what they're doing would help us to think of effective strategies to combat this noxious proposal.

4C's legal defenses - how many attorneys? (Score:2, Interesting)

by Jim McKim on Monday January 08, @01:18PM EST ([#92](#))

([User #207049 Info](#))

Directed at the 4C group: What sort of legal resources do you intend to devote towards defending yourselves as businesses and consumers start suffering damage from being unable to use drives that have been intentionally engineered this way.

Yet another useless organ: the appendix (Score:1)

by 3Suns on Monday January 08, @01:21PM EST ([#94](#))

([User #250606 Info](#))

This whole system reeks of becoming yet another "appendix" for programmers/system designers in the not-so distant future to have to work around. Once computer systems are revolutionized in 5-10 years, CPRM will go the way of 8-character filenames, IRQ assignments, and AOL - just another ill-conceived patch-fix idea that new systems just have to support even though they don't want to. What can we do, here and now, to avoid having to perform routine CPRM-ectomies on old hardware in the future?

How would this be enforced? (Score:2, Interesting)

by [brogdon](#) (andrew(at)imagersoft.com) on Monday January 08, @01:25PM EST ([#95](#))

([User #65526 Info](#)) <http://www.cs.fsu.edu/~brogdon>

In order for the current copy-protection scheme used by DVD-producing movie studios to work, they must have control not only over the discs that have the movies on them, but the players as well. They accomplish this by maintaining copyright and patent control of the DVD format, making it illegal to produce a reader that works with the DVD format unless you obtain a license from them and agree to play by their rules. This has proved a fairly effective scheme, with only a few [exceptions](#). How will a scheme to add this "copy protection" to hard drives be enforced universally? What's to prevent smaller companies from trying to get into the market by producing rogue drives much like many businesses have carved a niche for themselves by selling cable decoding boxes and the like? Is there going to be a controlling group like the DVD-CCA? Will I have to get another bumper sticker that says "Fuck the Hard Drive Control Authority" to go along with my "Fuck the MPAA" sticker?

--Brogdon

There is **nothing** more odious to me than an expensive church.

New opening for viruses (Score:1)

by Darkstorm on Monday January 08, @01:27PM EST ([#96](#))

([User #6880 Info](#))

It occurred to me that if this would allow a piece of software to lock out a portion of the hd, then would it be ridiculous to assume that someone might lock you out of the whole hd? If I wrote a virus that found any areas of the drive, or just took the whole drive, encrypted it, and shut down the computer. The computer never boots again without being reinstalled.

If this is based off of DVD protection scheme then we know that was broken, but a DVD is read only, with a HD that seems to open a new form of abuse by virus creators.

Sounds like a new use for VMWare to me! (Score:1)

by [wegster](#) (wegster@SPAMGOAWAYbitsmart.com) on Monday January 08, @01:34PM EST (#100)

(User #16216 Info)

I'll agree with others this is a scary idea...however, it seems to me the fact that Intel & company are _trying_ to do this in the first place is scarier by far than their specs on this thing- what's to stop everyone from running a modified version of VMWare for example, one that simply always 'validates' any key requests? As it's already doing actual HD emulation already it's pretty doubtful this would prove to be difficult.. Or someone writes a new device driver for NT/Windows-something that does the same thing?

Granted, I haven't looked at the specs themselves closely(are they available now?), but this seems like it will be more an enormous waste of time and money for anyone involved in it, followed by a short time of 'chaos' before the solution(s) come out- ways around this useless waste of an idea..

How will linux deal with the copy protect feature? (Score:3, Interesting)

by AndroSyn on Monday January 08, @01:34PM EST (#101)

(User #89960 Info) <http://www.dnsq.org/>

As the IDE subsystem developer for Linux, how will you deal with this misfeature? Will you merely work around it in software, or will you stay true to the SPECS and implement the copy protect feature? Or perhaps have the copy protect a CONFIG option? Or will this be a layer below the kernel(in the chipset) and in such case, hack around that too(XORing the file as it goes to disk obscuring any goofy signatures and reversing the operation on the way back?).

Aaron

That huge bank of keys (Score:3, Interesting)

by [heikkile](#) (heikki+sd@lsd.dk) on Monday January 08, @01:35PM EST (#102)

(User #111814 Info) <http://www.indexdata.dk>

I admit freely that I do not understand the technicalities of this, but there seems to be a large area reserved for various encryption keys. Where do they come from, how do they get to the disk, and most of all, who controls them? How long before Napster Inc, Gnutella.Org, and EFF have their own keys that just happen to be identical over all machines?

How can it work, anyway? Data goes to the disk, Data comes out of the disk, and can be grabbed. Encrypted data goes to the disk, comes out decrypted, and can be grabbed. If nothing else, someone can simulate a display/sound card on a virtual machine, and grab the data at that point. Once *one* person has extracted the data, it can be shared like any other data. They can not seriously hope to stop all email and file transfers, can they?

"In Murphy We Turst" -Heikki

Re:That huge bank of keys (Score:1)

by [LarsG](#) (larsg_trustix.com) on Tuesday January 09, @09:55AM EST (#226)
(User #31008 Info)

comes out decrypted,

It comes out _encrypted_.

If nothing else, someone can simulate a display/sound card on a virtual machine, and grab the data at that point.

The problem is that most of these devices are going to be tagged "circumvention device", and thus be hunted down by law enforcement where the DMCA or WCT is in effect.

And not all data can be accessed like this, either. For example, extra DVD subtitles.

Is there a central authority? (Score:4, Interesting)

by [Sloppy](#) (sloppy@spam^H^H^H^Hrt66.com) on Monday January 08, @01:36PM EST (#103)
(User #14984 Info)

Do you know if there are any patents or other legal tricks involved, so that ultimately, a manufacturer who decides to create CPRM-compliant drives will be forced to sign a contract with some single controlling monopolistic entity?

Have a Sloppy night!

Re:Is there a central authority? (Score:1)

by [LarsG](#) (larsg_trustix.com) on Tuesday January 09, @09:02AM EST (#224)
(User #31008 Info)

From the [spec](#):

"The commands as described below may be included in a device without license obligations. However, to be useful in a copy protection environment, the commands need keys, keying material, and intellectual property requiring a license. This license is available from 4C Entity, LLC, and is administered by License Management International, LLC, in California(<http://www.lmicp.com/>)."

So the keys and crypto algorithms are available through a license. This license will of course contain a lot of requirements (like never exposing the content in cleartext, etc).

Is this already approved for SCSI and Firewire? (Score:5, Interesting)

by VValdo on Monday January 08, @01:41PM EST ([#106](#))

([User #10446 Info](#))

Last week we read that a copy-control scheme similar or identical to CPRM has been already approved for SCSI and Firewire (without objection...probably because no one knew about it.)

First off, is it true? Secondly, why hadn't we heard about this before? Can we expect this technology to be built into all new SCSI and Firwire hardware, or is "optional" there too?

W

This is my SIG. There are many like it, but this one is mine.

Re: Is this already approved for SCSI and Firewire? (Score:1)

by [LarsG](#) (larsg_trustix.com) on Tuesday January 09, @06:48AM EST ([#217](#))

([User #31008 Info](#))

Don't know about SCSI, though...

SCSI has them as part of MMC. As far as I know, it is only implemented in DVD players at the moment (to support CSS).

[spec](#)

We're not the problem, so why target us? (Score:2)

by scotpurl on Monday January 08, @02:31PM EST ([#123](#))

([User #28825 Info](#)) <http://ideageek.com>

I'm tired of seeing this copy protection aimed at "pirates." All of the copy protection schemes I've seen aired are designed to coax more money out of the consumer out of pay-per-use schemes.

Since a DVD pirate, with \$20,000 worth of mastering equipment available, can make perfect copies without decoding or altering the content, how will copy protection on my hard drive help thwart Chinese DVD piracy?

Who falls where when it comes to motive? (Score:2)

by -Harlequin- on Monday January 08, @02:31PM EST ([#124](#))

([User #169395 Info](#))

The only reason why IBM etc. would want to do this thing, that I've heard, that makes sense, is that they want to sell more computers by pushing them as home entertainment devices for playing all the latest movies and music. Hollywood isn't going to let that happen without some way of preserving their distribution models, so the deal between them is CPRM.

Is this the primary motivation?

If so, can we expect Apple (which prides itself on playing media) to fall in line with IBM etc (or at least quietly look in the other direction, happy to use the proceeds of CPRM but not dirty its hands creating it) ?

Should we expect companies that sell HDDs rather than computers (eg Maxtor, Seagate) to be fairly neutral in this (eg either way, they still sell their product), or support it (eg greater sales for IBM means greater HDD volumes which means higher profits) or against it (extra headaches)?

We know MS and some others are pretty loudly against it, but are there other relevant sectors of the industry that might play key roles that are currently being overlooked?

Are the legal precedents that will be set from the DeCSS trials likely to play a key role?

Lastly, would I be correct in my assumption that it is not actually within 4C's power to claim that CPRM is "optional" - it is completely up to the manufacturer of CPRM-compliant-software, as they can choose to write software that will not operate when CPRM features are turned off or absent?

Sensitivity of Corporations to Non-Business Issues (Score:2)

by [DG \(trog@SPAM-ME-NOT.wincom.net\)](#) on Monday January 08, @02:40PM EST ([#127](#))

([User #989 Info](#)) <http://farnorthracing.com>

As you've had some contact with these folks, perhaps you've got a feel for this:

- Corporation implements (or proposes to implement) a technology designed to protect their business model that happens to trample on the rights of their customers
- Educated customer realizes implications, makes a big stink about it.

How sensitive are the corporations you've been dealing with to non-business-related "human rights" issues?

In other words, how big does the stink have to get before the profit provided by the implementation being disputed is no longer worth the effort?

Which I suppose is another way of asking "how much effort do we have to make before they'll back down?"

DG

Independent Musician (Score:1)

by [cannes](#) (fuzz_face_05@hotmail.com) on Monday January 08, @02:41PM EST ([#128](#))
([User #151121 Info](#))

This is my situation. I'm an Independent Musician who owns all copyrights and publishing rights to the music that I wrote, recorded and released. This is legit too, all copyrights are done through the Library of Congress and I'm a Publisher through ASCAP. Now the question is how would I control what is done with my material? My stance on my material is somewhat a GPL license. If you want to give it to a friend, by all means give it to them. Now if these are under copy control I don't have control of what is rightfully mine. I really don't need someone to tell me what to do with my material. This subject is not only stupid it's offensive. I won't let Hollywood tell me what to do with my music or my computer. One last question would be how can I help? Who can I call, fax, email, bitch at? I'm more than willing to help.

AK

Infallible digitalia... (Score:1)

by Keighvin on Monday January 08, @02:44PM EST ([#131](#))
([User #166133 Info](#)) <http://kei.dynodns.net/>

Digital, by its nature, can be perfectly reproduced on every account only varying where analogue turns it into something for humans to play with. There will never be a way to completely protect a method of copying files - how will this prevent someone from using say ZipMagic to treat contents of regular zip files as programs and executing them from there, where the copy protection won't be able to check? Or any other form of sub encryption to get around the device. As for reproducibility, I will *always* be able to get my data on and off a hard drive. What will this device really accomplish other than satisfy some intellectual property rights advocates (and abusers) ?

Can They name a single advantage to the consumer (Score:1)

by Dievs on Monday January 08, @02:54PM EST ([#132](#))

([User #218528 Info](#))

..for including this feat?

Is there any at all benefit to the user by the fact that certain data on his harddrive is not as freely accessible as others?

Filesystem permissions are better for what they do; while secure encryption will anyway be needed for really secure data.

So, aside from the ability of the industry to try to forbid to copy music/viedo/warez/whatever, can They think of any possible reason why someone would want to buy a drive with this feat ?

Re:Can They name a single advantage to the consume (Score:1)

by no2cp on Thursday January 18, @12:26PM EST ([#240](#))

([User #306210 Info](#))

There is incidentally one big advantage to the consumer... They can use CPRM enabled software to use, view or listen to music/video/software/whatever encrypted for CPRM.

Your prospective... (Score:1)

by [chancycat](#) (evanhatesspam.bigatsign.yahoo.com) on Monday January 08, @03:36PM EST ([#140](#))

([User #104884 Info](#))

Perhaps we could use the following: Because you have seen both sides of this issue, perhaps you can help us understand the arguments of the other side. I know you have chosen *your* side, but you can probably articulate the other side with ease and help us understand the whole issue.

Evan - needs to hit preview before submitting

Privacy of CPRM? (Score:1)

by BuckMulligan on Monday January 08, @03:42PM EST ([#142](#))

([User #255942 Info](#))

What about CPRM and users' privacy?

Will I be able to buy a copy of software or music anonymously and still transfer the data from one drive to another without revealing my identity?

Historical perspective between end of 19th & 20th (Score:1)

by hburch on Monday January 08, @03:45PM EST ([#143](#))

([User #98908 Info](#))

IANAHM (history major), but the parallels between the Internet now and the railroads at the end of the 20th century seem, at least, superficially interesting (both mostly relate to activity within the States, as that is what I'm most familiar with).

The price of transport is close to, if not below cost, due to extreme competition. The industries transporting, however, are behaving monopolistically, to the point of trying to 'tax' competitor distribution (a la fees for DVD encoding). It is perceived to be driving the economy.

Of course, maybe I'm just wrong. It's a similar situation: people pioneering into a new industry, so maybe the parallels are unsurprising.

there's a weird basis to the 4C's thinking (Score:1)

by jdbo on Monday January 08, @03:50PM EST ([#145](#))

(User #35629 Info)

I believe that there is a fundamental misconception in the committee's thinking about the issue of user identification, which may be summarized as follows: "The user of a computer may be considered to be the computer."

As insane as this sounds on its face, consider the recent history of "universal identification" technologies which we've had inflicted upon us:

- the PIII unique identifier - one identifier per CPU; i.e. every person who uses a given machine (either by sitting in front of it or logging in remotely) is considered to be "the same person". Furthermore, this "identity" is non-transferrable between machines.
- cookies - not quite as bad as the PIII uid (as it isn't built in at such a low level), and can be made specific to different users (who have separate log-in accounts)... but forget library-style usage by multiple casual users; plus, cookies are still non-transferrable between machines (for the average/majority user).

It appears to me that the disk copy control technology takes a PIII-like low-level approach of user-identification. In this case, it identifies the user with a single disk (removable or fixed), while further assuming that the user/disk will never run out of room/need to be re-organized/or break (please note the combination of human-level issues as well as technological-level issues).

A less hysterical(?) sounding statement of this misconception might be that the disk copy control technique requires us to consider the storage mechanism and the data stored on it to be identical; this basic assumption is also insane, probably on the logical level (I'll leave a proof to those with spare time), and definitely from a marketplace viewpoint (I doubt Maxtor's legal department would appreciate Microsoft claiming ownership of their under-warranty hard drive which I just installed MS-Office on).

Perhaps I am mistaken in seeing these person/data/computer/storage method conflations as

being part of the committee's thought process, but I was wondering if you could comment on whether the commmittee considers "user identification" to be an appreciable aspect of what they are working on.

Is IBM aware that they harm their Linux investment (Score:2)

by Sara Chan on Monday January 08, @03:53PM EST ([#147](#))

([User #138144 Info](#))

IBM recently announced that they plan to spend a billion dollars supporting Linux. As I understand things, if CPRM becomes common, then Linux will be very severely harmed. Thus CPRM will severely harm IBM's billion-dollar investment. Yet IBM is supporting CPRM. This support is bad *for IBM*.

Is IBM aware of this?--or is it that IBM is so big, the part dealing with CPRM is unaware of the implications for Linux? If the latter, then maybe just making IBM aware of things will help to kill of CPRM, or at least IBM's support for it.

Re: Is IBM aware that they harm their Linux investm (Score:1)

by [phulshof](#) (phulshof@xs4all.nl) on Tuesday January 09, @08:40AM EST ([#221](#))

([User #204513 Info](#)) <http://www.xs4all.nl/~phulshof/>

Although I'm highly opposed to the CPRM proposals, I wonder if it has more influence on Linux than on other operating systems. The only problem I can see is the license needed for the CPRM compliant drivers, but I wonder if IBM (considering their interest in Linux) will have any problems spending the money on such license so they can provide the drivers needed to protect their investment.

data recovery (Score:2, Interesting)

by greysky on Monday January 08, @04:08PM EST ([#149](#))

([User #136732 Info](#))

I've been in a situation before (and known others who have had similar situations) where important data for a project was physically located on a specific machine, and that machine's drive crashed. I've known several instances where the drive no longer worked, but the data was recovered (for a hefty fee). If a drive is equipped according to this copy protection standard, would data on a crashed drive be recoverable?

Insanely brilliant? No, just mad with syphilis.

What about CPRM's sister technologies? (Score:4, Interesting)

by ZigZak on Monday January 08, @04:15PM EST ([#154](#))

([User #302733 Info](#))

OK, here's my question:

CPRM is obviously just ONE of several technologies designed to build the CPSA (Content Protection System Architecture) framework, as described in the [CPSA whitepaper](#) published by the 4C Entity.

Reportedly you're trying to convince the T.13 committee of introducing a possibility to opt-out of CPRM support for Linux.

What are your views on CPRM's sister technologies like CPPM (Content Protection for Prerecorded Media), DTCP (Digital Transmission Copy Protection), HDCP (High-bandwidth Digital Content Protection) etc. and their possible inclusion in upcoming devices such as DVD-RW recorders, Firewire and USB devices, DVI displays, etc.? Will Linux just not support these devices?

How does the CPRM relate to the SDMI? (Score:1)

by [DreamingReal](#) (dreamingreal@PULLTHISOUTdreamingreal.com) on Monday January 08,

@04:17PM EST ([#155](#))

([User #216288 Info](#))

I've been wondering how the CPRM is going to relate to the SDMI. The SDMI will work on watermarking/encrypting music files themselves. Is it even necessary given that CPRM will give content providers control over replication *no matter what the media is?*

Nothing significant to say...

Is there a valid free software use? (Score:1)

by [dentin](#) (soda@dentinmud.org) on Monday January 08, @04:30PM EST ([#156](#))

([User #2175 Info](#)) <http://www.dentinmud.org/alter>

All I hear is people saying this is bad; however, is there any possibility that the addition of strong cryptography to hardware might be a good thing?

Suppose someone wanted to make use of hardware disk encryption for personal security?

Perhaps enhancements to tools like tripwire or sshd which could use some secure hardware storage of data?

In other words, would it be possible to convert the spec into something positive, that could be used by free software to its benefit?

-dentin

Re: Is there a valid free software use? (Score:1)

by no2cp on Thursday January 18, @12:16PM EST ([#239](#))

([User #306210 Info](#))

This is a valid point. I didn't get to read the spec yet but from what I've gathered going from the previous discussions there are several reasons why this will probably not work out: 1. The key space on the device, whether it's a couple of tracks of disk or a flash in a secure microcontroller will probably be limited in most cases. This means that this space will most likely be rented out to entities with a valid reason of using the scheme. Entities with a valid reason to use do not include people like you and me because we're only consumers. Even if they did rent it out to everyone it would probably be very expensive. 2. Who says the device itself is secure. Since we do not have (convenient) access to the firmware or microcode of the devices this will be implemented on whose to say there isn't a away for example to access & decrypt the contents with a special "law enforcement" key? 3. Letting 3rd parties (us) in onto the system beyond the spec, meaning letting us choose keys to operate the system with might be the first step towards a deCSS style hack. NO 2 CP

RAID, Defragging, Backups (Score:3, Insightful)

by [alteran](#) (12jt7jrn05j001@sneakemail.com) on Monday January 08, @04:39PM EST ([#160](#))
(User #70039 Info)

I'm having a lot trouble sorting the paranoia from the reality here regarding RAID, Defragging, and Backups. I have seen the following questions answered and debated, but it'd be nice to have more knowlegable answers.

Specifically, with RAID5, for example, which could very likely want to spread CPRM data across a number of disks, will CPRM muck up this process? Will the new spec allow me to swap disks if one is defective and retain my data? What are realistic problems with various RAID implementations?

Regarding backups, will restoring CPRM data to replacement disks abort a restore, either in part or in total? Will it limit itself to blocking just the CPRM data restoration or could it block the whole process?

Can I defrag a CPRM file?

What is the plan for Mac OS? (Score:1)

by Hodag on Monday January 08, @04:42PM EST ([#161](#))
(User #32554 Info)

Since the kernel of Mac OS X is open source, what are the plans for keeping Mac hackers from defeating the copy hindrance hardware? Or are the media moguls giving up on the Mac market?

Opting out (Score:2)

by erotus on Monday January 08, @04:59PM EST ([#163](#))
(User #209727 Info)

I remember reading somewhere that one could opt out of this hard drive copy protection. If this is the case, what incentive do programmers have to write CPRM compliant software?

Also, since most CPRM compliant software would be windows based, would this not make Linux even more attractive as an alternative?

Circumventing (Score:1)

by N4N0 on Monday January 08, @04:59PM EST ([#164](#))

([User #264873 Info](#))

If 4C got what they wanted, wouldn't it be likely that people all around the internet would come up with quick and easy ways to circumvent the copy protection? Even if the harddrives blocked against special software that hackers develop to circumvent it, the programs could just be made to look like something different (or distributed as source code). Have you considered pointing out to 4C that it would be theorettically unenforable?

hard drive performance (Score:1)

by greysky on Monday January 08, @05:01PM EST ([#165](#))

([User #136732 Info](#))

If media rich content on these drives would have to be encrypted/decrypted any time it is written to/read from your hard drive, doesn't this impact the performace of your drive negatively? I would think that this would be trivial for text and audio files, but what about full-screen video files where data access time is critical?

Insanely brilliant? No, just mad with syphilis.

The Effect on External Devices (Score:1)

by [Intrinsic](#) (courier1@hotmail.com) on Monday January 08, @05:36PM EST ([#167](#))

([User #74189 Info](#)) <http://www.cubedd.com>

I for one would like to know how this spec would affect the portable devices. Will mp3 devices be incapable of transferring any music from the device to your computer? Or will the spec just limit copying of music downloaded from RIA compatible web sites?

Forcing vendor protection on you? Legal basis? (Score:1)

by justin sane on Monday January 08, @06:06PM EST ([#172](#))

([User #185041 Info](#))

I understand EULA provisions, many of which are objectionable and often skirt the laws of property rights. However in the EULA case, it is simple: you don't like the protection or terms required of you, you don't purchase, install or use the product and it costs you nothing in effect. The acceptability of a property protection scheme and its overhead is subject to market acceptance. A good example of the effect of the lack of acceptance was the decline of many early game copy protection schemes--the market rejected them. In this case the protection is there whether you want it or not--you pay for protection that benefits the vendor and not you and, further, the scheme not only costs you but inconveniences you as well and will undoubtedly cause crashes, block legal use , etc. as all such schemes invariably do. Yet if the scheme becomes ubiquitous, market acceptance forces will be circumvented. I believe this is autocratic and improper. Is there a legal strategy available to prevent a scheme being forced upon you BEFORE you buy the software or other content--i.e. before you have a chance to accept/reject individual licenses?

How did it get this far? (Score:1)

by [kettch](#) (dgoble@NOSPAM.providence.org) on Monday January 08, @06:56PM EST (#180)
(User #40676 Info) [/dev/null](#)

What I would like to know, is how do these sort of ideas even get published, with all sorts of ways that they can be implemented without any consideration of the consequences?

This idea was published, and immediately there was a lot of noise about the problem that this would cause throughout the entire computing industry, and beyond. Why are people who are motivated only by greed, and not the good of the industry, even allowed to even open their mouths?

Do they not have any methods for actually thinking before they speak?

----- bleed and die, yub-yub

Article about it in WIndows Magazine... (Score:1)

by subsolar2 on Monday January 08, @07:50PM EST (#184)
(User #147428 Info) <http://thunder.prohosting.com/~subsolarp/>

Found this article at windows magazine

<http://www.winmag.com/columns/powerw2k/2001/01.htm>

- subsolar

--- If ignorance is no excuse under the law, then why do ignorant people write laws? - sanepsycho

Enough (Score:1)

by [Sc00ter](#) (travis@scootz.net) on Monday January 08, @08:18PM EST (#185)
(User #99550 Info) <http://www.scootz.net>

This stuff is all bogus!

They're not putting copy protection on hard drives

See [here](#) for more info

--

Fight the power at [Slashduh](#)

Re:Enough (Score:1)

by [phulshof](#) (phulshof@xs4all.nl) on Tuesday January 09, @08:52AM EST ([#222](#))
(User #204513 Info) <http://www.xs4all.nl/~phulshof/>

Hmm, if so (as noted by the Register): Why is CPRM written for ATA? Which devices should this work on that are going to be ATA based?

How long will it take? (Score:1)

by [Bender Unit 22](#) (root@localhost) on Monday January 08, @08:49PM EST ([#187](#))
(User #216955 Info)

How long will it take before you can find a program on astalavista, that replaces the code partition on the harddrive with a text of your own choice. Or maybe rotates it everytime you boot?

I took the red pill!

Technical weaknesses -- CSS round 2? (Score:2)

by [Roundeye](#) (software_dev@hotmail.com) on Monday January 08, @10:16PM EST ([#192](#))
(User #16278 Info) <http://eatshitand.die.ms>

I requested (and received) the official specifications for CPRM from 4C last week, as the CTO of a company producing content management solutions.

After digging through the specs I noticed that the encryption components appear to be based on 56-bit keyed C2 ciphers. The cipher appears to be a modified version of C2, the specs for which they had to send by regular mail.

The authentication phase (where the host software authenticates the drive) uses a 39-bit nonce (random number), which they claim doesn't have to be unpredictable. There is also, as you have noticed, an unused bit, always set to zero -- this makes me think that there's a back-door in the authentication system, perhaps to allow changing keys when they are inevitably cracked.

Security through obscurity, short key lengths, guessable random nonces for authentication, likely back-doors, an overly complex chain of security -- this sounds to me like another poorly designed protection scheme like CSS.

Do you feel that the 4C bunch hasn't learned much from the DeCSS debacle? How strong do you feel the actual security component of this system is (regardless of how notoriously bad an idea it is)? If the DMCA gets thrown out as unconstitutional as some think might happen, how high and dry will 4C be left when CPRM is open to reverse-engineering?

"Cause there's 40 different shades of black, so many fortresses and ways to attack, so why you complainin'?"

some questions (Score:1)

by [Astralmind](#) (timb@nospam.dominomail.com) on Monday January 08, @10:22PM EST ([#193](#))
([User #120317 Info](#))

Will we know what exactly is being "encrypted" by CPRM? What recourse will an end user have in the event of a device failure where the device needs to be replaced? How can we be certain that our own material is not being encrypted?

CPRM and Open Source (Score:1)

by Old time hacker on Monday January 08, @11:00PM EST ([#195](#))
([User #302793 Info](#))

It seems that CPRM and Open Source are completely at odds with each other. The only way that CPRM can achieve its goals is by having *all* the software between the content player and the hardware under license.

This means that it will not be possible to have a (closed source) player that runs on an open source operating system.

Note that it would be possible to implement the CPRM hooks (for non-removable drives) in the linux kernel *entirely in software*. Of course, the drive ID might be hardwired to a known value, and the hidden area might not be very well hidden.

The problem that they are trying to solve cannot be solved by technical means without having a secure cryptographic processor as part of the system. This processor has to be physically secure and well integrated. Just recall how much effort has gone into making secure smartcards, and how difficult it has been.

In short, this scheme will probably hit the shelves, but provided that the open source community builds the CPRM emulators *before* the media recorders/players arrive, I think that will make for more interesting court cases under the DMCA -- imagine telling a judge that the player was produced *after* the circumvention device was distributed world-wide.

yet again, a doomed to fail idea... (Score:1)

by geoff lane on Tuesday January 09, @04:02AM EST ([#209](#))
([User #93738 Info](#))

If you intend to make use of the information on a storage device (music, video etc) there has to be a point where it's presented in the clear. At this point all the copy protection in the world on the hardware has done you no good whatsoever.

Copy protection DOES NOT PREVENT LARGE SCALE PIRACY.

Everyone is so fixed on harddrives (Score:1)

by [Steeltoe](#) (Steeltoe@liaM.moC) on Tuesday January 09, @04:28AM EST (#210)

([User #98226 Info](#))

To my understanding, CPRM is going to be implemented mainly on removable media, namely flash memory. Are there plans in the workings for other types of removable media and why doesn't anybody protest against this? (I do! ;-)

- Steeltoe

"Voluntary switch" (Score:1)

by [Steeltoe](#) (Steeltoe@liaM.moC) on Tuesday January 09, @04:34AM EST (#211)

([User #98226 Info](#))

If I have understood correctly, the customer is allowed to turn the CPRM-feature on and off. However, is this something that can be done software-wise like the Pentium III ID? Exploitable by a trojan program perhaps?

- Steeltoe

Getting people involved (Score:1)

by ishark on Tuesday January 09, @04:36AM EST (#212)

([User #245915 Info](#))

How could we get the general public involved and fighting on the anti-CPRM side? DVD is encrypted, (was) not copiable, but still a lot of people buys it because "it's better", what could be a "user-level" example of why CPRM is bad?

Quantum IDE drives and Andre's IDE patches (Score:1)

by [cymen](#) (cvig@NO_SPAMEROOO_raw-io.com) on Tuesday January 09, @04:55AM EST

(#213)

([User #8178 Info](#))

Andre,

For a long while I followed the reports on the linux kernel mailing list that detailed the problems with the Quantum IDE drives. Finally I caved in and got an IBM drive that was supported. I realize that the problem with the Quanta was that they didn't follow the IDE spec on reporting the proper drive size. Is that true? Is Quantum not working with you on this? Personally I am disgusted at Quantum and will now only buy IBM drives...

I realize this is off topic but as you are a busy man I hoped to get a final answer to this question. Boycott Quantum?

Can we twist IBM's arm? (Score:2)

by Simon Brooke on Tuesday January 09, @04:55AM EST ([#214](#))

(User #45012 Info) <http://www.jasmine.org.uk/~simon/>

Preamble

I don't listen to MP3s; I rarely watch movies and don't expect to do so on my computer. All the closed source software I have (very little) is properly licensed and paid for. I am not a criminal. Having hardware copy protection on my computer does not benefit me at all, and it doesn't benefit the media industry at all (because I'm not stealing from them and I don't intend to).

If I have hardware copy protection in my computer, and it works perfectly always, I'm still paying for extra complexity that I don't want and don't need. If it fails, then I lose *my* valuable work. I don't like:

- The assumption that I am a criminal;
- The assumption that it's reasonable to require me to pay for protection for someone else against my presumed criminality;
- The fact that if *their* protection misfunctions or fails I get to lose *my* data.

The Question

As I understand it, IBM is a big player in this game. IBM is genuinely putting a lot of effort into making relationships with the Open Source community. This move is (in my opinion) going to badly hurt the Open Source community. Can we put effective pressure on IBM to publicly renounce it?

; It appears that /dev/null is a conforming XSL processor.

Optional implementation? (Score:1)

by crusher-1 on Tuesday January 09, @09:23AM EST ([#225](#))

(User #302790 Info)

Of the 3 options that might be taken by manufacturers, a) T.x bounces the proposal, b) manufacturers use an incomplete standard (unlikely), c) implement it but leave it inactive - of the latter. Say it's left inactive. And then some creative hacker figures out the activation key/process. Would it be possible for someone to essentially hold the data hostage by locking down the HDD and then ransoming the key. I realize that the security issue has been addressed, somewhat relating to securing the data for the entitled user. My concern is there is always a way around things and this may lead to new avenues of extortion by locking out the entitled user by certain nefarious individuals.

Remember "Paul's law" - You can't fall off the floor!

Would you support alternatives? (Score:1)

by [meldroc](#) (melNOSPAMdrc@frii.com) on Tuesday January 09, @11:56PM EST (#232)

(User #21783 Info) <http://www.frii.com/~meldroc>

I would like to know if you support alternatives to copy protection, such as *copyright* protection (holograms, watermarks, digital signatures & such.) If so, which methods you would support, and how would you like to see them used?

For example, one alternative could be the use of watermarks to track pirated music back to the purchaser and slap him with a small fine, as I suggested in [this post](#). I wanted a scheme that does not obstruct fair use, helps to catch those responsible for pirating, gives a moderate punishment (multi-million dollar judgements and 20 year prison sentences are not moderate), and get rid of some of the legal baggage. This would be preferable to treating honest customers like criminals.

Anyways, what do you think about these kinds of alternatives?

Meldroc - remove NOSPAM from address to email...

A slightly different angle (Score:1)

by sorak on Thursday January 18, @01:14PM EST (#241)

(User #246725 Info)

I'm sure all of you have tried to install one product and had another placed on your system without your permission. Examples are Real-Player, Winamp, and AOL instant messenger (all of which included with Netscape) MSIE (included with windows), and Gator (included with several internet programs)

And more companies are doing more annoying things every day just to push their product on you. Since the protection requires you to have a "key" before a protected file can be moved copied or deleted, does that mean it would be possible for companies to install programs on your system and make it impossible (or at least extremely difficult) to remove them from your hard drive?

Answer: (Score:1)

by Sigin 11 on Monday January 08, @12:22PM EST (#37)

(User #210012 Info)

Do my dishes.

--

Email is for geeks and pedophiles. - Sebastian Valmont

SFPCC (Score:1)

by [SFPCC](#) (sfpcc@hotmail.com) on Monday January 08, @01:30PM EST (#98)

([User #302433 Info](#))

Congratulations! You got the **First Post**.

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He who knows others is wise. He who knows himself is enlightened. -- Lao Tsu

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Jason Haas on LinuxPPC -- and Drunk Drivers

Posted by [Roblimo](#) on Friday January 05, @12:00PM

from the attack-of-the-Linux-Mac-people dept.

We got a bunch of cool questions Monday for LinuxPPC dude (and recent near-death drunk driver accident victim) Jason Haas. Here, today, are his responses.

*Math intensive server stuff
(Score:4, Interesting)
by drenehtsral*

I'm working on (or more accurately about to start) a very math intensive client server system, where the server has to do a metric ass-load of calculations mostly on 64-bit signed integers on behalf of client machines. The data are all going to be in ram, and multi-cpu support is a good thing.

Would you recommend a PPC machine over a x86 machine for a task like this? I guess this is mainly a chipset/etc... question, but i have been unable to find that sort of information elsewhere, and i figure who better to ask, 'cause you probably have a decent gut-feeling for how the architecture works in practice on real-world data =:-)

Jason:

Wow, nothing like a nice, simple question to start your day.
;-D



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Interviews

Welcome to the interviews section - this is place to come to read the assorted conversations that Slashdot and the readers have had with various people involved in the Internet, computers, or anything of interest.

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If you're going to be working with 64-bit numbers, I would try to do a real-world test. That is, get Athlon, Alpha, Pentium 4, and PowerPC 7400 (G4) machines, and try some tests to see how quickly each of them handle integers that big. I know the PowerPC 7400 (G4) has an awesome vector calculation module (128-bit vector registers can be fun), but that's not the same thing as integers. The 7400 doesn't have any specialized integer units, whereas the Athlon and P4 do. (I'm pretty sure of this, but you should definitely do your homework before making any decisions based on this information.) It might be great for decompressing video, but for hard-core (sounding) tasks like handling 64-bit signed integers, I'd definitely test everything possible. Definitely try the Alpha and MIPS, too. Alpha's sort of known for handling these sorts of things.

I'd also ask on the linuxppc-devel mailing list. People that probably can help you are on that list.

(<http://lists.linuxppc.org/>)

Re:Math intensive server stuff

(Score:5, Interesting)

by Smitty825

One other important thing to ask is the state of the GCC complier for the PowerPC Platform. IIRC, it isn't as efficient as the ones available for the x86 and Alpha platforms. How much would LinuxPPC benefit from an optimized compiler and what sort of performance could be expected from LinuxPPC compared to Linuxx86/Alpha/others?

Jason:

Franz Sirl, a Linux/PowerPC developer, has done a lot of work on optimizing GCC for PPC. Look at PPC vs. x86 benchmarks. Theoretically, PowerPC kicks x86's butt, but if things aren't optimized for it (as often happens in this x86 world), it may not seem like such a hot processor. With more optimization, performance should continue to improve. Again, I'd ask about this on the linuxppc-devel list.

Platform Issues
(Score:5, Interesting)
by IanCarlson

Is LinuxPPC a viable alternative to x86 Linux? Can I run my department on a LinuxPPC-based server with the same peace-of-mind that I get on an i386-based box running Linux? Will I still enjoy the almost surrealistic uptimes I get with my current Linux server? Does the LinuxPPC code still suffer from chronic flakey-ness?

I'm currently looking into obtaining a PowerPC box to test out the current state of Linux on the PPC platform. Hopefully your answers will point me down the path of RISC utopia.

Jason:

That's a good place to be. Of course it's an alternative. For some of us, it's reality. ;-) You can run on a PPC box as well as an x86 box. I know of many places that are using PPC boxes for everything from basic stuff like web servers to netatalk servers to controlling puppets. (Jim Henson's Creature Shop!) There are a lot of real world examples of Linux/PowerPC in action. We have a few in our office. Most of our servers have the same legendary uptimes that Linux is known for. Servers outside our office have them. Other people's servers have them. It's everywhere. ;-)

The PowerPC 604 is an incredibly stable processor for Linux use, and the 750 (Apple's G3) is very solid. The 7500 (G4) is getting there fast.

I'm not sure what you mean by "chronic [code] flakey-ness". Code not optimized for PPC? Yes, though not as much now. Unstable code? Yes, but that seems universal. A lot of times, it can be traced to simple things like bad RAM. Try replacing the RAM if your machine is acting quirky. It could make a big difference! (He says to an audience in which 512 MB of RAM may not be uncommon....)

ATX motherboard availability?

(Score:4, Interesting)

by glrotate

I think one thing that would foster Linux PPC adoption, and PPC in general would be a relatively cheap PPC motherboard. I remember IBM released their reference design some time ago and there was some noise from 3rd parties about product announcements, but nothing materialized. Does anyone know when we might see something?

Jason:

Oh, that would rock if those came into reality. I do know about it but I can't comment about it beyond saying that I hope it actually happens.

What I can say: it needs to happen.

merge with RedHat?

(Score:5, Interesting)

by A moron

I've tried LinuxPPC several times over the years and have actually been disappointed. It just hasn't seemed polished and LinuxPPC, the company, has had some serious customer service problems.

Have you ever thought about or actually talked to RedHat as making LinuxPPC the RedHat Distro for PPC?

Jason:

Yes, and I can't comment about that. In September of 2000, we committed to customer service, as things really were bad. But then, a major hunk of the company was unable to think straight, or remember what he was just about to say. (That "hunk of the company" == me!) The good news is that customer service is still a major priority, and I'm well enough that I can see to it that it stays that way, and make sure that people are helped.

***Your Perception Before and After the Accident
(Score:5, Interesting)
by TheNecromancer***

Jason,

First of all, I'd like to commend you and your wife for your courage and determination through your ordeal! I also hope they throw the book at the jerk who caused the accident!

My question is this: Do you find that your perception of the world and what your interests, passions and abilities are, different than before your accident? Has the accident changed your interests towards the computing industry?

Jason:

First off, thank you. :-) I've been through hell, many times. People don't know what it's like to have a traumatic brain injury, or permanently lose vision in an eye. It's not fun. ;-)

Say, Cassie (my wife) is a major hero here. Thanks to everyone who wrote in and expressed support for her. Do it some more, she'd appreciate it. ;-D

They will be throwing the book at "Jerk Boy" (my name for the ...drunk.... who hit me). He faces three felony charges, including driving under the influence and driving with intent to cause harm. Considering that he had a 0.25 BAC (blood-alcohol content), I don't know how they could defend against it.

Yes, my injuries changed a lot of things, including how I see the computing industry. Part of me realizes how big a help it's been (and at the same time a bloody pain the ass!), and part of me wants to get out of it. To me, living well (being content with your situation, loved ones, etc.) is much more important than having the latest box, biggest monitor, or best domain name is. (It was that way before, too, but now it's even more so.)

Linux and Accessibility

(Score:5, Interesting)

by FourG

During your recovery period, did you find the need to use any accessibility tools to accomplish tasks? If so, what were your impressions? Does Linux have the tools people with alternative interface needs (like text-to-speech) need to access their information?

Jason:

I didn't have any experience with that stuff, unfortunately. I think the State of Georgia's health department may have been able to help me with a bit of that, but I'm sure it all would have been for Windows or the Mac OS. (And useless to me.)

A moment of victory for me was about four months after I got hit; I was back at home, and still was able to use vi. I'm not sure what that says about the effects of a brain injury. ;-D

AltiVec and MP G4's?

(Score:4, Interesting)

by esome

ok, newbie questions but:

1)How much can a PPC linux distro can benefit from AltiVec optimization?

2)Does LinuxPPC enjoy the same degree of improved performance from additional processors that OS-X does?

Jason:

AltiVec: Apps that use features that AltiVec can help will benefit. The OS itself probably won't get much benefit. AltiVec was designed to help things like video and audio,

things that people in Apple's markets are interested in. Linux doesn't have much software that can benefit from that. I don't know how much an AltiVec-friendly kernel or version of Apache would improve things, if at all. As Linux gets more "desktop" and "multimedia" software, AltiVec support will probably become a more interesting topic for Linux.

Oh, you could probably jigger Enlightenment to use AltiVec.. oh my...

SMP support is still improving. Until recently, there wasn't much in the way of SMP hardware out there. Before Apple introduced the multiprocessor G4s, there simply wan't that much at all. There were a number of MP PPC 604 machines, but they're no longer in production, unless you find an obscure Motorola box.

With Apple (the major PPC player) making MP boxes, MP support will improve. With Apple making boxes that have AltiVec, support for that'll improve too. Assuming that they keep using AltiVec.

***Why should my next purchase be a PowerPC?
(Score:5, Interesting)
by rjh***

Intel hardware is a commodity; it's cheap, there are lots of peripherals for it, you can buy individual components and build your own box easily, and prices are very low.

AFAIK (which isn't far), PowerPC hardware is mostly proprietary, controlled by Apple, is more expensive, has less variety in peripherals, and you're more or less stuck buying a Macintosh just to get your PC. Not just that, but many components of many PowerPC-based computers have marginal to no support under Linux (USB is marginal, Firewire is nonexistent right now, etc).

Given all this, where is the major win in the PowerPC? Why ought my next purchase for a PC be a PowerPC running LinuxPPC/Yellow Dog/MkLinux?

I'm not trolling here; I'm just uneducated. :) Educate me.

Jason:

Very good question! You're right: unless you get an oddity of a system, you're buying a Mac to get a PPC box. The TiVo is a Linux/PPC box, but I don't think that it can run Apache. ;-) (then again, Paul Mackerras and company have added an Ethernet card... anyway...)

For what it's worth, USB on Linux is coming a long way (printers now work, for example), and FireWire's getting there.

The advantage of PPC over x86 is/was that at a lower clock speed, you got higher performance. But 1 GHz PCs are coming out left and right, and Apple's fastest is 500 MHz. For some things, they will be the same speed. But you can get a Celery (er, Celeron) box super-cheap, with a lot more stuff that you get with an iMac. It's becoming quite difficult to have a viable alternative when you can't get a super-cheap box.

PPCs are smaller, faster, and cooler (literally and figuratively) than x86 chips. The PPC 7400 doesn't need a CPU cooling fan. Get a Mac (I'd name some other cheap PPC boxes, but there aren't any!) and you'll get a super-cool case and the cool-looking one-button optical mouse.

Where's the real advantage, though? Again, good question. As the computer world changes, and no third party desktop PPC boxes appear, it's getting harder to answer. I think the real problem here is that there are no real third-party alternatives for PPC hardware. And that needs to change. Should IBM's POP board see the light of day, ask me again, and I'll have a different answer for ya. As I said above, it needs to happen.

====

< [The High Frontier | Astronomers Revel In Former NSA Site](#) >

This discussion has been archived. No new comments can be posted.

Defending... (Score:4, Funny)

by TDScott on Friday January 05, @12:03PM EST ([#3](#))

(User #260197 Info) <http://www.thomasscott.net/>

Considering that he had a 0.25 BAC (blood-alcohol content), I don't know how they could defend against it.

Simple. Draft in the presidential-race lawyers.

[No offence meant to Mr. Haas with this... obviously, I wish him all the best, and that Jerk Boy goes down for a good few years.]

[[Home Page](#)] - with a diary of my time on the UK game show 'Blockbusters'.

Re:Defending... (Score:1)

by [rodgerd](#) (rodgerd@diaspora.gen.nz) on Friday January 05, @12:19PM EST ([#26](#))

(User #402 Info) <http://diaspora.gen.nz/~rodgerd/>

I'm sure he had a rtroubled childhood and it's not really his fault or something.

The idea that someone could have the nerve to show up and plead anything other than guilty, or, at most guilty with mitigating circumstances, leavesme breathless in these sorts of cases.

Re:Defending... (Score:2)

by MouseR on Friday January 05, @01:16PM EST ([#86](#))

(User #3264 Info) <http://pages.infinit.net/mouser/>

The idea that someone could have the nerve to show up and plead anything other than guilty, or, at most guilty with mitigating circumstances, leavesme breathless in these sorts of cases.

I'm sure, in the US, that someone could get away with a defense stating

"I'm not guilding of drivingunder the influence, because I was drunk and didn't know what I was doing"

There was a well-known football player that got away with murder when we saw everything but a live broadcast of the murder itself.

Though, if he had a copy of DeCSS on a CD in hid car ...

Karma karma karma karma karmeleon: it comes and goes, it comes and goes.

--Boy George

Re:Defending... (Score:2)

by [Stephen Samuel](#) ([samuel att bcgreen.com](mailto:samuel@bcgreen.com)) on Friday January 05, @07:23PM EST (#185)
(User #106962 Info) <http://www.bcgreen.com/~samuel>

I believe that that defence was actually **used** in Canada as a defence against a murder charge. Sucessfully. There was some serious question as to whether or not it would apply to a drunk driving charge.

"I was so drunk that I couldn't form the necessary criminal intent."

oo oo ø ø!

If you're not on somebody's shit list, you're not doing anything worthwhile.

Re:Defending... (Score:1)

by [Big Brass Balls](#) (w_anker_wanker@hotmail.com) on Saturday January 13, @02:12AM EST (#247)

(User #257794 Info)

I believe that that defence was actually used in Canada as a defence against a murder charge. Sucessfully. There was some serious question as to whether or not it would apply to a drunk driving charge.

If I remember correctly, I believe it was attempted as a defense in a rape case, and the defendant was successfully acquitted - although the women's (or is that womyn's?) rights groups started a hissing fit, and it got legislated out.

—

Do I play Hockey?

Re:Defending... (Score:1)

by [rodgerd](#) (rodgerd@diaspora.gen.nz) on Wednesday January 17, @09:40PM EST ([#250](#))
(User #402 Info) <http://diaspora.gen.nz/~rodgerd/>

Well, I tend towards the opinion that going somewhere with your car, and then drinking, is about all the intent that's needed.

In .nz, while killing someone while drunk won't get you a murder charge, it tends to rate manslaughter - you may not have tried to kill someone, but your negligent behaviour is the reason someone died.

Re:Defending... (Score:1)

by [TheCarp](#) (sjc-slashdot@carpanet.net) on Friday January 05, @02:53PM EST ([#121](#))
(User #96830 Info) <https://www.carpanet.net/>

I hate to dredge up this topic but...

I don't imbibe alcohol much. I tend to have a drink or two, once or twice a year. Now that I am brewing mead, I may drink a bit more, but I never have more than one or two, and usually do it at the end of the night at home.

Mainly this is because i don't like the feeling of alcohol intoxication. However part of it is the thought I had the first time that I was drunk:

I was at a friends birthday party, I was like 18, he was 16. His mother had gotten us some Zima (I don't admit drinking zima wih pride mind you, but its what we drank).

I remember sitting on that couch, after throwing back a few zimas (my first time ever drinking) and thinking "This stuff hasn't touched me, I don't feel a thing, I am fine, I could drive a car anything".

Then I got up to walk, and nearly fell over. It was quite a sobering experience. A drunk persons judgement is impaired... to the point that they can not tell that they are impaired. That is the TRUE danger of alcohol in my book.

Its one thing to drive while impaired. Its not a good idea, or something I would suggest people do, under any drug. However, with alcohol it is that much worst, because its narly impossible to tell just how impaired you are.

I can't think of a single other drug that I have personally used (and I have sampled a few) that has ever left me sitting there unaware of how impaired I was. Just about everything else has always left me sitting there thing "Man am I ever toasted".

In any case... I could see him not pleading guilty and with justification. The charge as stated was "with intent to cause harm". Somehow I doubt that there was INTENTION to do harm. Drunk driving is a case of negligence and lack of education, not a matter of willfull harm.

-Steve

-- "I opened my eyes, and everything went dark again"

MOD PARENT UP!!! (Score:1)

by [Micah](#) ([micah at geeks4christ dot NO SPAM dot org](#)) on Friday January 05, @05:06PM EST
(#164)

([User #278 Info](#))

That's about as insightful as it gets.

I'm 26, and the alcohol I've consumed could fit into a couple big mouthfulls. This just reminds me why I don't want to touch the stuff.

I'm looking for freelance Web development work. E-mail me!

Re:Defending... (Score:1)

by [rodgerd](#) (rodgerd@diaspora.gen.nz) on Wednesday January 17, @09:43PM EST (#251)

(User #402 Info) <http://diaspora.gen.nz/~rodgerd/>

In any case... I could see him not pleading guilty and with justification. The charge as stated was "with intent to cause harm". Somehow I doubt that there was INTENTION to do harm. Drunk driving is a case of negligence and lack of education, not a matter of willfull harm.

Perhaps the situation is different in the States, but here TV and the like are regularly plastered with anti-drink drive advertising. Claiming that one doesn't realise drinking and driving is dangerous is like claiming one doesn't realise traking up somking in 2001 is taking up an addictive and lethal pastime.

Re:Defending... (Score:1)

by joto on Friday January 05, @02:08PM EST (#104)

(User #134244 Info)

The Chewbacca defense might be a good option?

Re:Defending... (Score:1)

by [Electric Jesus](#) ([I like milk.](#)) on Friday January 05, @04:36PM EST (#156)

(User #263238 Info)

That wouldn't make any sense.

Re:Defending... (Score:1)

by Aunt Mable on Friday January 05, @06:13PM EST (#178)

(User #301965 Info) <http://www.blueberrypie.com>

My dear Elmer chews 'bacco. Never did him an inch of good though.

Reminds me of the time my uncle was arrested for shoplifting. He just chewed some 'bacco and got right out of there by killing five men he did.

-- Eat your greens or I'll hit you!

[LOGO](#)

Re:Defending... (Score:2)

by jafac on Friday January 05, @05:54PM EST (#172)

(User #1449 Info)

Heh, the more appropriate question would be;

"how do you feel, living in a country where the president and the vice president have BOTH had DUI's?" (along with much anecdotal evidence that at least Bush got away with it almost habitually - only one DUI, \$25 fine).

Well, at least with the Secret Service limos, two drunks are off the streets.

"Florida? But that's America's wang!" - Homer Simpson

Re:Defending... (Score:2)

by [haaz \(jhaas@linuxppc.com\)](#) on Saturday January 06, @02:40AM EST ([#204](#))
(User #3346 Info) <http://www.linuxppc.com>

meheheh.. none taken. ;-)

Haaz: Co-founder, LinuxPPC Inc., making Linux for PowerPC since 1996.

<http://www.linuxppc.com/>

There's no difference btw real life and IT (Score:5, Funny)

by [Delirium Tremens \(delirium.tremens@hot^H^H^Hmail.com\)](#) on Friday January 05, @12:05PM EST ([#5](#))
(User #214596 Info)

Bad drivers are always responsible for the worst crashes.

Re:There's no difference btw real life and IT (Score:2)

by [Fishstick \(fishstickBUBBA@LIKEShey.SPAMMERSto\)](#) on Friday January 05, @01:09PM EST ([#82](#))
(User #150821 Info) <http://fishstick.hey.to/>

Maybe I'm the only one who finds this a tad in bad taste? I'm not completely humorless, but I guess having been close to someone who was killed by a drunk driver, I don't find this very funny.

-Remember [UPSIDAISIUM](#)?

Re:There's no difference btw real life and IT (Score:2, Insightful)

by [TheCarp \(sjc-slashdot@carpanet.net\)](#) on Friday January 05, @03:03PM EST ([#128](#))
(User #96830 Info) <https://www.carpanet.net/>

I didn't find it funny because I didn't get whatever the reference was (its after lunch on a friday...not the best time for mental capacity).

However I would point out a couple of things:

- 1) "Bad Taste" is subjective. Most funny things are in Bad taste according to someone. Andrew Dice Clay made alot of jokes in bad taste, and even stuff that I don't agree with on alot of levels, but he was still damned funny
- 2) Sorry to hear about your fammily member but... I have always felt that it is unrealistic to expect the world to conform to the way that I wish it would be.
- 3) Humor and pain seem to go hand in hand. Its an interesting thing to note but they seem so linked on a very basic level.

Then again.... I have always been told that y sense of humor can be quite morbid. Death is a natural part of life, it is the one thing that no being can avoid, you might as well get a good chuckle out of it now and again.

-- "I opened my eyes, and everything went dark again"

Re:Wow. (Score:1)

by [TheCarp](#) (sjc-slashdot@carpanet.net) on Friday January 05, @ 10:33PM EST (#198)
(User #96830 Info) <https://www.carpanet.net/>

heh lol now I get it.

Heh been so long since I had a computer that crashed for much less than an actual hardware problem, that I had forgotten about that.

-Steve

-- "I opened my eyes, and everything went dark again"

Slow Drivers (Score:1)

by [BSOD Bitch](#) ([NoSpam@FuckYou.com](mailto>NoSpam@FuckYou.com)) on Friday January 05, @05:35PM EST (#170)
(User #260492 Info) <http://www.hell.org>

A lot of people say that speed kills. True. It does. But lets also consider another factor that kills, other than drinking. Slow drivers. You may not think about it but really... You are going down the road at around 55-58 in a 55 zone. There is some idiot in front of you going 35-40, and there is only one lane, and you can't pass him without having a head-on with another car. People get real aggitated at this. I guess you could call it 'natural road-rage'. You get pissed, you try to pass him, BOOM, a Mac Truck takes you through its radiator.

Don't troll me. This is a serious matter. Ive almost had a wreck because of these damn road hogs. Its most annoying really. There should be a minumum speed, just as there is a maximum. I know this to be true in Florida in some places, and have seen it a few times where I live. Ca. Does anyone else have minimum speed limit signs?

The Spice must Flow.

Re:Slow Drivers (Score:1)

by [Drakantus](#) (giles_ht@NOSPAMhotmail.com) on Friday January 05, @06:00PM EST (#174)
(User #226374 Info)

This is a major annoyance out here. Basicly, when driving on the interstate you pass on the left. Nothing I hate more than driveing in the left lane and seeing the car infront of me leaveing a bigger and bigger gap between it and the next car, and cars constantly switching lanes to pass infront from the right lane. Out here noone drives the limit, i66 is still 55mph and everyone drives 65-70. I don't care if a person is following the speed limit, if you are going to drive slower than 90% of the people on the road you get in the right lane, simple as that.

Re:Slow Drivers (Score:1)

by [Tsujigiri](#) (dbyrne@techie.com) on Friday January 05, @07:58PM EST (#190)
(User #77400 Info) <http://www.ecrix.com/extreme/index.cfm?ref=33335>

A lot of people say that speed kills. True. It does. But lets also consider another factor that kills, other than drinking. Slow drivers. You may not think about it but really... You are going down the road at around 55-58 in a 55 zone. There is some idiot in front of you going 35-40, and there is only one lane, and you can't pass him without having a head-on with another car. People get real aggitated at this. I guess you could call it 'natural road-rage'. You get pissed, you try to pass him, BOOM, a Mac Truck takes you through its radiator.

Are you really that big an idiot? Slow drivers kill? The roads are a danger because of all the drivers like YOU, yes YOU!

Did it ever occur to you that some people understand the limits of their driving skill and drive at an appropriate speed? Not everyone has the stupid obsession of driving at the fastest possible speed they think they can get away with.

You're probably the sort of person that thinks that speed cammers location should be disclosed so you can slow down to avoid a ticket. It's not deceitful to hide a speed cammera, if you don't want a ticket, don't speed, it's that simple.

Try and have a little more respect for other drivers and other driving style. If you really need to get somewhere ontime, LEAVE EARLY. Don't be a complete dickhead, excessive speed kills, simple as that!

Gotta go, or I'd berrate you some more! Minimum speed indeed!

[Win a Free 66GIG VXA tape backup - \]Shameless\[;\)](#)

Re:Slow Drivers (Score:1)

by Trepalium on Friday January 05, @08:26PM EST ([#193](#))

([User #109107 Info](#))

Did it ever occur to you that some people understand the limits of their driving skill and drive at an appropriate speed? Not everyone has the stupid obsession of driving at the fastest possible speed they think they can get away with.

heh. I can think of one good example of that. Every year in Winnipeg during the first few snowfalls, the roads end up EXTREMELY slippery, and everyone goes around 30KM/h instead of the 60-80KM/h that's normal, but there's always the moron in the 4x4 that thinks they can drive **and stop** on the slush and ice going full tilt down the road, and they end up either in the ditch (most common), or plowing into someone's back end. I always laugh when I drive down the highway, and see 4x4 trucks, jeeps and SUVs all in the ditches. I know my RWD truck has little or no traction on the ice and snow, and usually match my speed to my rather conservative estimation of the road condition. If you want to pass me, go right ahead, just don't pass me, pull in front of me and then slow down -- I may not be able to stop in time...

This rant is courtesy of the good old 'if I don't agree with you I'll call you a commie' school of reasoned argument.

Re:Slow Drivers (Score:1)

by thogard on Saturday January 06, @01:32AM EST ([#201](#))

([User #43403 Info](#)) <http://web.abnormal.com>

A recent study showed something like 85% of all accidents involve the slowest 15% of vehicles. The fastest 15% of vehicles were involved with something like 5% of the accidents. People just talking with other passengers were a higher risk than the speeders. Accident rates per mile driven have dropped sharply since the introduction of higher speed limits in midwest states.

Re:Slow Drivers (Score:1)

by slam smith on Friday January 05, @08:12PM EST ([#191](#))

([User #61863 Info](#))

It's not so much slow drivers as it is large differences in speed. Whether that is someone driving 45-55 or someone driving 90+. If everyone drives 65-70, it makes the drive a lot safer. Especially at night it is really difficult to estimate some other vehicles speed in the mirror.

Re:Slow Drivers (Score:2)

by BeanThere on Saturday January 06, @11:16AM EST ([#223](#))

([User #28381 Info](#)) <http://www.geocities.com/SoHo/Lofts/2018/>

It's true, slow drivers are a problem. I don't know about other places really, but here in South Africa we have one of the highest car accident rates in the world. I was in Germany in Munich recently, and I was quite stunned by how *sensibly* most people there drive. I think the problem in South Africa is that the roads are a very heterogenous environment - there are many many people on the road that drive really slowly (70 - 100 km/h on the highway, 40-60 km/h in urban areas) and there are also just as many who like to driver really fast (e.g. 180-200 km/h on the highway.) So on the highway you'll have a bunch of really slow people, a whole lot of "average" people, and a bunch of really fast people dodging everybody else. Also the quality of cars varies a lot. In Germany, it seemed to me that not only was the quality of cars a lot more homogenous, but also the people had a much smaller range of speeds that they travelled. None of the really slow drivers or the really fast drivers - most people just stayed between 110 and 140 km/h.

As you say, slow people are a big danger, even to people who are staying under the speed limit. South Africans drive like crap. There is also a lot of road rage and general aggression on the roads here, people often cut you off, pull in front of you, etc.

"... insert the Windows NT Workstation 4.0 compact disc with your computer turned off." - NT Installation Manual

Re:Slow Drivers (Score:2)

by [outcat](#) (rawkett90@*FRIED SPAM! YUM!*hotmail.com) on Saturday January 06, @03:02PM EST (#231)

(User #111636 Info) <http://chienworks.com/~outcat/>

A "Mac" Truck?

My, Mr. Haas DOES lead a dangerous life!

;]

Can't sleep, the clowns will eat me...

That 1 Button Optical Mouse... (Score:1, Funny)

by [Tassleman](#) (dschuetz at ausam dot com) on Friday January 05, @12:10PM EST (#12)

(User #66753 Info)

Is really cool looking, and I have gotten it to work on an iMacDV running LinuxPPC, but how do I get the other clicks to work?

Maybe I just passed up something really simple, but I cannot figure out how to get the 3-Button Emulation to work at all, with modifier keys or anything!

Anyone?

Re:That 1 Button Optical Mouse... (Score:2, Informative)

by [SquadBoy](#) (squadboy@thisisnotitsisna.com) on Friday January 05, @12:44PM EST (#63)
(User #167263 Info) <http://www.linuxfanatic.net>

Have you looked at the back or Running Linux? I saw something in there. In any case on the only LinuxPPC box that I deal with on a regular basis it has a Logitech trackball that works very well.

I'm afraid it is you who are mistaken about a great many things....

Re:That 1 Button Optical Mouse... (Score:1)

by [NTSwerver](#) (ntswerver@NOSPAM_1freeemail.com) on Friday January 05, @12:56PM EST (#74)
(User #92128 Info)

It looks cool, but it's crap if you ask me.

If you ever use one, try selecting some files as if you were going to drag and drop them, then lift the mouse off the surface of your desk/mouse pad. If you're not holding onto the little 'tabs' (for want of a better word) at each side of the mouse, you will drop the files.

This has caused me endless grief when dragging and dropping files, as they dissappear inside some directory or another when they're accidentally dropped.

Again with Apple, design seems to take precedence over practicality.

Before we get all the boring 'one button mouse jokes' again, remember that Macs do have USB these days so there are plenty of alternatives - [e.g.](#)

Moderator's essentials

Re:That 1 Button Optical Mouse... (Score:2, Funny)

by [HeghmoH](#) (slashdotmail@mikeash.com) on Friday January 05, @02:23PM EST (#109)
(User #13204 Info) <http://www.mikeash.com/>

If you're not holding onto the little 'tabs' (for want of a better word) at each side of the mouse, you will drop the files.

::Searches for a good way to say this::

::fails::

Well, that's why those bleeding 'tabs" are there!!

Re:That 1 Button Optical Mouse... (Score:2, Informative)

by szucker on Friday January 05, @01:48PM EST (#101)
(User #265883 Info)

I have accomplished this on my PowerBook Pismo running debian and BenH's vmlinux-2.2.17pre20-ben3 kernel... However, I haven't fiddled with this in a looong time, and can't remember exactly how to do it.

Essentially, you have to either:

1) set some kernel arguments at boot time (e.g., adb_buttons=1,x,y where x and y = the keycodes for the keyboard buttons that will emulate the second and third mouse buttons respectively.

or

2) create a init script that runs at boot time that sets the values of files in /proc/sys/dev/mac_hid/ (see [Franzo's blurb](#))

I have gotten both methods to work, but use the second one on my PowerBook

Re:That 1 Button Optical Mouse... (Score:1)

by weeape on Friday January 05, @04:32PM EST ([#155](#))
([User #182528 Info](#))

There's an easy way of doing it... press shift + numlock to put numpad in a kind of "mouse emulation" then keypad_0 and keypad_comma work as mouse 2 & 3 don't remember exactly at which order. anyway I'm thinking of getting a 3-button mouse ... pity since the 1 button optic mouse is simply wonderful except for the missing buttons.

i hacked That 1 Button Optical Mouse... (Score:1)

by [MoldyZero](#) (moldy@moldycr.net) on Friday January 05, @06:40PM EST ([#180](#))
([User #177246 Info](#)) <http://moldycr.net>

I tweaked my extra mouse i got, and found out how to break into it, and change the colour light inside. tis a far cry from the subject, but just noticed something about the mouse. (for the record, [The hack is here](#))

I am Moldy.

[I hack Macs!](#)

Re:That 1 Button Optical Mouse... (Score:1)

by owenc on Friday January 05, @09:20PM EST ([#196](#))
([User #255848 Info](#)) <http://www.geocities.com/owencannon>

[option]-3 == right click (by default, that is, maybe you can change it)

--

eat.

Re:HOWTO: 3-Button Emulation with Apple Optical Mo (Score:1)

by alprazolam on Friday January 05, @04:07PM EST ([#150](#))

([User #71653 Info](#))

there was a typo in line 3, i think you meant sun hardware, running solaris.
you're welcome.

hardware compatibility (Score:4, Insightful)

by wmulvihillDxR on Friday January 05, @12:22PM EST ([#30](#))

([User #212915 Info](#)) <http://althea.sourceforge.net>

I would like to say that one of the major reasons that PPC hardware is still around is BECAUSE Apple is the only one selling it. It just makes sense that if only one company is selling your type of motherboard, hardware compatibility issues are more easily solved. It either works in Apple's motherboard or it doesn't. It's not, it works in Asus's Slot 1 motherboard, but not in Abit's. If you get a G3, yours is the same as everyone else's. If some sound card or video card doesn't work for you but it worked for everyone else, you get to send that G3 back to apple to get one that works right. Or even learn from the experiences of others with the same hardware. A lot of people don't want to take the trouble of updating this driver for this motherboard, flashing the BIOS, etc.

Having said all of this, I still do prefer x86 chips for Linux. The Yellow Dog install was a (pardon the pun) bitch. Something just doesn't sit right with me when you have to have a small MAC partition to install Linux.

Check out [Althea](#) for a stable IMAP email client for X

Re:hardware compatibility (Score:1)

by dadams on Friday January 05, @03:56PM EST ([#145](#))

([User #9665 Info](#))

Something just doesn't sit right with me when you have to have a small MAC partition to install Linux. This just isn't true. Don't use BootX, use Quik. BootX is easier to use, but requires MacOS. Quik is more like lilo (although it's based on the Solaris boot loader (silo?)). The RedHat based PPC Linux distros are "optimized" for installing/booting from MacOS. Debian is the best PPC Linux distro I've used.

--"In dreams begin responsibilities" - Delmore Schwartz

Yeah...POWER3 procs are superior (Score:1)

by [FatSean](#) (FatSean@hotmail.com) on Friday January 05, @04:13PM EST ([#152](#))

([User #18753 Info](#)) <http://fatsean.homeip.net/>

Why can't Apple keep up?
My DSL sucks as a pipe to my webserver.

Re:hardware compatibility (Score:1)

by [Broken Bottle](#) (cheeseburgerx@hotmail.com) on Friday January 05, @06:07PM EST (#176)
([User #84695 Info](#))

Well, geez... Where's the fun in that? ;) Seriously, although I recognize that this attitude doesn't work well in a business situation where you need the machine to run no questions asked, but "fiddle fiddle experiment curse try again read up try again" is part of the reason I like Linux. Linux sows the seeds of relative self sufficiency in its users which may be part of the reason why the PPC share of the linux market is probably comparable to Apple's share of the desktop market. Apple's typical user isn't as technically savvy as a typical windows (ie X86) user. IMO, a typical Apple user would find the learning curve for linux MUCH steeper than a windows/x86 user. Which is a shame, because linux offers a user so much more than either windows or apple ever will.

Chris

Re:hardware compatibility (Score:1)

by [sedawkgrep](#) on Saturday January 06, @01:05AM EST (#199)
([User #142682 Info](#))

This is just not correct. There are (or at least were) Mac clones, and I'm sure they were PPC based.

Aside from that though, IBM RS6000 machines (and AS400's, right?) have been using PPC chips for many many years. They've used 601, 604 and I think they're using 620s now. All those big iron IBM AIX boxes? They're all using PPC chips...at least until the power-4 is rolling out the doors.

So, no. I have two PPC boxes in my house, and neither is an Apple. They're not exactly ordinary boxes (they're rs6ks) but they are certainly PPC, and certainly available in the real world. I would love to run either Linux or NetBSD on my older rs6k boxes...if the support was only there...(but I *DO LOVE* AIX!!!)

[sedawkgrep](#)

Is that a salami in my pants or am I just happy to be me?

Macs are not the only things that use PPC (Score:2)

by [haaz](#) (jhaas@linuxppc.com) on Saturday January 06, @02:45AM EST (#205)
([User #3346 Info](#)) <http://www.linuxppc.com>

It's very worth mentioning that Macs are not the only things that use the PowerPC processor, but they probably are the most well-known. Second place goes to TiVo -- it's a Linux/PPC box!

There are many other things that have PPCs in them. Ford cars apparently do. (Anyone tried hooking up an Ethernet card to a Taurus? ;-) However, most of these "other" devices are not anything resembling a traditional computer (ATX form factor logic board, etc.)

BTW, if you thought YDL's installation was a bitch, check out LinuxPPC 2000 Q4. No Mac OS required. :)

Haaz: Co-founder, LinuxPPC Inc., making Linux for PowerPC since 1996.

<http://www.linuxppc.com/>

IBM POP's essentially dead. No northbridge. (Score:1)

by Colin Smith on Friday January 05, @12:22PM EST ([#33](#))

([User #2679 Info](#))

It's a shame really. I'd love an ATX form factor non MAC PPC motherboard.

The mailing list archives:

<http://raj.phys.sfu.ca/mailarchive/ppc-mobo/>

Aahhh.... The pressure....

Why to buy a Mac (Score:5, Interesting)

by proxima on Friday January 05, @12:25PM EST ([#37](#))

([User #165692 Info](#))

Why should my next purchase be a PowerPC? by rjh *Intel hardware is a commodity; it's cheap, there are lots of peripherals for it, you can buy individual components and build your own box easily, and prices are very low....Given all this, where is the major win in the PowerPC? Why ought my next purchase for a PC be a PowerPC running LinuxPPC/Yellow Dog/MkLinux?*

Jason: *Very good question!...PPCs are smaller, faster, and cooler (literally and figuratively) than x86 chips. The PPC 7400 doesn't need a CPU cooling fan. Get a Mac (I'd name some other cheap PPC boxes, but there aren't any!) and you'll get a super-cool case and the cool-looking one-button optical mouse. Where's the real advantage, though? Again, good question.*

Though I've had limited experience with it, I like the RISC architecture because of its tendency to run cooler and that it's just a more efficient processor. I'd hardly say that a cool case and mouse constitute a valid reason to switch processor types :-). However, I just don't see how (at this time) the benefits outweigh the costs of a PPC based system (or Alpha, or MIPS, except for servers). x86 processors are the cheapest and best supported (in terms of motherboards, etc). In addition, the peripherals of a Mac aren't nearly as abundant as those of your common PC.

I can't see myself or anyone else justifying a purchase of a ~\$3000US G4 cube with 2 500 Mhz processors compared with the ultra cheap Athlons and P3's (and 4's) now available. When

Athlon motherboards support multi-processors (last I heard the chipsets were in the works, out very soon), the ability to have two, say, 800 Mhz Athlon processors just blows away the processor costs of MIPS, Alpha, and PPC, because each of those 800 Mhz Athlon processors are only a little over \$100!.

What would be more interesting is to find accurate answers to the first person (Math intensive server stuff by drenehtsral) as to how the PPC does raw calculations compared to x86s of similar **price**, and not Mhz. There might be an advantage there.

In short, it's too bad Apple killed the clones, or we'd have cheaper PPCs to play with.

"The universe is not required to be in perfect harmony with human ambition." - Carl Sagan

Re:Why to buy a Mac (Score:2, Insightful)

by [angelo](#) (anrkngl@lowmagnet.org) on Friday January 05, @12:45PM EST (#65)

(User #21182 Info) <http://www.lowmagnet.org/>

Hopefully the 133 bus in the 733 MHz speed of the next G4s will be a bit better. Then again, if they put them up against a dual 500 and show the single 733 beating the dual 500, then they'd lose a lot of respect from me.

After claiming two heads are better than one, they go back to one head.. Still, this is no reflection on Moto, but more one on Apple and their quick buck mentality.

[Lowmagnet.org](http://www.lowmagnet.org)

Re:Why to buy a Mac (Score:2, Interesting)

by ChristTrekker on Friday January 05, @12:46PM EST (#67)

(User #91442 Info)

I like the RISC architecture because of its tendency to run cooler and that it's just a more efficient processor. However, I just don't see how (at this time) the benefits outweigh the costs of a PPC based system.

I've never understood this attitude. A is objectively better than B. It's niftier, and you like it better. But everyone else is going with B so you do too. *Why?* Why not throw some support behind A so that it will grow and everyone will be able to enjoy the benefits down the line when it becomes mainstream. Isn't this what killed Betamax and left us with VHS?

I've often thought you could make the same sort of argument for politics, with the minor difference that A is *subjectively* better than B. • Throw your weight behind A rather than leaving us stuck with the Repubocrats. Third parties are good.

Better /. homepage customization

Good enough (Score:1)

by [Jeppe Salvesen](#) (jeppedotsalvesen@writemedotcom) on Friday January 05, @12:56PM EST (#76)

(User #101622 Info) <http://www.cs.und.edu/~salvesen/>

What it comes down to, is that VHS and Betamax were both *good enough* for the consumers. VHS had more software. Thus, VHS won.

I think this is what happened to the RISC processors too. CISC had the lead, and the advantages of RISC were not great enough to warrant a change, at least not at that time. I cannot help but wonder what the performance of a RISC box would be if they had invested the same amount of \$\$\$ in that technology as they have in the CISC technology. I guess we'll never see.

Re:Good enough (Score:3, Informative)

by [wnissen](#) (Walter_Nissen@nospam.alumni.hmc.edu) on Friday January 05, @01:22PM EST (#91)

(User #59924 Info)

Actually, we have seen it. It's called "AMD". They take the CISC instructions and translate them into RISC instructions that can be more highly optimized, especially in parallel. Read about it at this [Byte article](#) on the AMD K6 (nee Nexgen Nx586). For those who need to read about the latest and greatest, try this [Althon architecture overview](#) (about a third of the way down). Without RISC, AMD would never have been able to efficiently make use of all those "extra" logic units.

Sure, we'll probably never get to see how a mature RISC chip will perform, but even "CISC" chips are getting more RISCy. And maybe Compaq will really put some oomph behind the Alpha one of these days.

Walt

RISC vs. CISC (again). (Score:2)

by Christopher Thomas on Friday January 05, @04:50PM EST (#160)

(User #11717 Info)

Actually, we have seen it. It's called "AMD". They take the CISC instructions and translate them into RISC instructions that can be more highly optimized

All Intel processors from the Pentium Pro onwards have done this, too. You'll be hard-pressed to find an x86 clone that *doesn't* do this, as it makes a lot of the hardware design much easier.

Re:Good enough (Score:1)

by Jae on Friday January 05, @01:31PM EST ([#94](#))

(User #14657 Info)

What it comes down to, is that VHS and Betamax were both good enough for the consumers. VHS had more software. Thus, VHS won.

really? i was always under the impression (and read) that beta didn't fair well b/c it produced better quality copies then vhs did - and the RIAA/MPAA wasn't really happy about that and did their best to put an end to it.

kind of the same thing w/ decss but in a different technology time.

-Jae

Re:Good enough (Score:1)

by Ereh on Friday January 05, @02:46PM EST ([#118](#))

(User #194013 Info) <http://users.ilnk.com/ereth>

Beta didn't succeed in the consumer market, but RIAA/MPAA had nothing to do with it. Beta still exists (and you can buy new Beta machines from Sony even today). Beta 1 units are still used in nearly every Television station around, though consumers never liked the Beta 1 format because the recording time was so short (higher quality=shorter recording time on the same length tape).

Beta is successful in other parts of the world (notably Japan). RIAA/MPAA want control of all markets (that's why we have Region Codes on DVD), not just the US. If they had killed Beta it wouldn't be the dominant (recordable) video format in Japan today.

Re:Good enough (Score:1)

by [tchuladdiass](#) (derekp@tchuladdiass.com) on Friday January 05, @02:55PM EST ([#123](#))

(User #174342 Info)

No, it was strictly that VHS was more "open" than Beta. Sony strictly controlled who could make players, and even controlled who could sell content for Beta (you had to have a license from Sony). When two things are both good enough, the open one usually wins out over closed.

Re:Good enough (Score:1)

by thogard on Saturday January 06, @01:46AM EST ([#202](#))

(User #43403 Info) <http://web.abnormal.com>

This story gets better every year...

The license fees for Betamax were much higher than VHS and the VHS fees were tied to the price of the unit so cheaper units could be made at the prices could be lowered.

Re:Why to buy a Mac (Score:3, Insightful)

by DrgnDancer on Friday January 05, @02:59PM EST ([#125](#))

(User #137700 Info) <http://www.feyknight.com>

A is objectively better than B. It's niftier, and you like it better. But everyone else is going with B so you do too.

It price to performance ratio. Object A is objectivly niftyer than Object B, but when you figure in the facts that:

- A) Though the RISC has a better architecture design, it is not sufficently better for most tasks to overcome the difference in Mhz available (ie, a 1Ghz PPC CPU would be manifestly better than a 1Ghz x86 CPU, but the x86 CPU's are up around 1.2Ghz, and the PPC's are still at 500Mhz. The superior design is insufficient in most cases to overcome that greater than 2x speed difference.)
- B) The price differnces are staggering. Comparing the cost of a technically superior, but practically equivlant (or even inferior depending on the app) PPC CPU to that of the x86 CPU will yeild differnces of nearly 2x.
- C) I have to deal with Apple to get a PPC system. I mean come on, we are talking about a company that "punished" ATI for blabing about a product early by releaseing that product with an inferior video card. They could care less about their customers. At least with all the companies making x86 hardware they have to at least pretend to care what the customer think or they will be forced out by someone who does.

Let's play out your politcal analogy here. Let's say I have a friend named Bob, and Bob is running for Mayor. I like Bob and he agrees with me on all of the issues, so I should vote for him, right? But wait, let's look at this further: First, Bob has no political experience, and if elected will most likely not be able to accomplish as much as his opponent, whom I also agree with on most *important* issues, just not ALL the issues. Second, Bob is kinda broke, and needs me to help pay for his campaign or there is no chance he will be elected. Finally, there is the fact that if I vote for Bob and he gets into office, he will probably appoint Tim Chief of Police. Tim is a jerk, but Bob likes him, so If I want Bob I gotta accept that Tim is coming along for the ride. So I can choose to get someone I agree with completely (other than the Tim thing), but who will be less effective, and cost me money (and strap me with someone else I dont like), or I can choose some one that I can usually agree with, but who is cheaper, more likely to actually accomplish the purpose I elected him for, and will not come with baggage I don't like. I'll normally take the opponent unless there is compelling reason to do otherwise.

Microsoft claims that Unix is outdated... but then they claim that Windows 2000 is as scalable and stable as Unix?

Re:Why to buy a Mac (Score:1)

by Petrophile on Friday January 05, @03:38PM EST ([#136](#))

(User #253809 Info) http://www.capricornica.com/plants/pet_pulc.htm

I have to deal with Apple to get a PPC system.

No, you have to deal with Apple to get a MacOS system. Anyone can buy PPC CPUs and CHRP is an open architecture, and Linux for PPC is free.

Now, it's easy to make a 2 second observation that Apple is the only one selling PPC systems and then make the incorrect correlation that PPC == Apple, and then deduce from that that anything you don't like about the PPC platform is Apple's fault.

But that only goes to show how successfully IBM, Motorola, and Microsoft have distanced themselves from the Power*PC* as a PC platform.

Re:Why to buy a Mac (Score:1)

by [Shadowlion](#) (shadowlionc@netscape.net) on Friday January 05, @05:04PM EST (#163)
([User #18254 Info](#))

Anyone can buy PPC CPUs and CHRP is an open architecture, and Linux for PPC is free.

Where?

Seriously. If I can buy a G4 and an ATX MB and toss it into my system w/ standard parts, I'd do it in a second.

--

When did ignorance become a point of view?

Re:Why to buy a Mac (Score:1)

by [aardvarkjoe](#) (minch@u.arizona.edu) on Friday January 05, @03:01PM EST (#126)
([User #156801 Info](#))

But he didn't say that he liked A better than B. He said that there were some things he liked about A, but that they weren't enough to make him switch. The faster speeds and drastically lower cost of B make it, in this person's opinion, better than A, despite A's good qualities.

(I hope I kept the A's and B's straight there.)

I used to moderate, but the crack got too expensive.

no Apple clones: the reason why (Score:3, Informative)

by lupa on Friday January 05, @12:52PM EST (#71)
([User #218669 Info](#))

In short, it's too bad Apple killed the clones, or we'd have cheaper PPCs to play with.

well, according to my research, the given reason why Apple pulled in the clones was because the company was consistently operating in the red, and clones like the Radius were blamed for the serious decline of consumer purchases of Apple products. i'm not sure if that's strictly true or not, but after they pulled back the clones, the *next quarter* they posted their first fiscal gain in a year and a half.

whatever the reason for doing it, it had the desired result.

not in the red (Score:2, Insightful)

by [Pope](#) (UCE@metajoke.net) on Friday January 05, @01:10PM EST (#83)

(User #17780 Info) <http://www.robotx.org/>

Apple is one of the most consistently profitable computer companies. There were a couple of quarters of red ink after the NeXT buy-out, plus one recently.

Apple scrapped the clones because they *directly* affected sales of their hardware. I know, I used to own a clone! It was cheaper and more powerful than what Apple had at the time, so I bought it.

Clones were supposed to grow the MacOS's marketshare, and all they did was poach Apple sales. The thing that increased MacOS's market dramatically was the iMac.

Pope

Freedom is Slavery! Ignorance is Strength! Monopolies offer Choice!

- Tom Tomorrow

Re:not in the red (Score:1)

by [HeghmoH](#) (slashdotmail@mikeash.com) on Friday January 05, @02:26PM EST (#110)

(User #13204 Info) <http://www.mikeash.com/>

Yes, they are fairly consistently profitable, except for a year and a half leading up to Jobs's coming on as interim CEO. I believe there were something like six straight losing quarters before things got turned around.

Re:not in the red (Score:1)

by lupa on Friday January 05, @04:06PM EST (#149)

(User #218669 Info)

exactly - a year and a half of loss. just what i was saying ;) thanks!

the jade monkey. (Score:1)

by gagganator on Friday January 05, @04:13PM EST (#153)

(User #223646 Info) <http://homepage.mac.com/gaggan/>

power computing (the big clone company) was always in the red. power computings strategy was to sell at a loss in order to gain mindshare and marketshare. apple supposedly warned them in private not to do this and asked clone makers to expand the market (clone makers only advertised in mac magazines), then finally killed cloning

you can argue that apple should be a software company, but with the current size of the market im not sure they could support themselves. it is also hard to argue that apple produces uncompetitive hardware when new imacs start at \$799 (w/monitor, firewire, good graphics, etc)

the mhz war has see-sawed before (when ppc was at 250 mhz the pentium was breaking 100 mhz) and i expect apple to match/exceed x86 by years end. why ppc? alternatives are good, and ppc is an efficient and powerful design. the ppc forte is math intensive and streaming media servers

Re:not in the red (Score:1)

by [Ludwig](#) (ludwig@drunkenbastards.com) on Friday January 05, @07:23PM EST ([#184](#))
[\(User #86077 Info\)](#)

Clones were supposed to grow the MacOS's marketshare, and all they did was poach Apple sales.

Apple could've revised its licensing strategy to prevent clone boxes in direct competition with Apple products. Apple doesn't want to market a tower with six PCI slots and room for eight drives anymore? Let someone else do it. Likewise with subnotebooks, "monitorless iMac" pizza boxes, etc. No product overlap, no conflict, no lost sales for Apple.

Re:not in the red (Score:1)

by Shadowmist on Monday January 08, @01:38PM EST ([#242](#))
[\(User #57488 Info\)](#)

The cloners had the advantage that Apple was carrying all the R&D work for them. Also with smaller orders to fill, they were able to get more consistent deliveries from Motorola.

Also the cloners were supposed to grow Apple's market in the consumer field. Instead, they just poached the high-end pro users, cutting into Apple's market share at a point where they could not have sustained the loss.

There was a time and may yet be a time for Apple to try to do buisness the way Microsoft does it. It wasn't then, and it isn't now.

Re:Why to buy a Mac (Score:3, Interesting)

by Don Negro on Friday January 05, @12:52PM EST ([#72](#))
[\(User #1069 Info\)](#)

One word... PowerBook.

With a 500Mhz PB G3 running LinuxPPC, you'll have the fastest notebook available, with impressive battery life, and the bonus of non-dongle ethernet.

Right now, that is the PPC world's only real area of advantage. (...grumble, grumble, Moto, grumble, fscking incompetent, grumble...)

If the speeds go up, then you can start looking at real price/performance advantages on the desktop again. And of course, you can always buy old hardware and stick a faster processor card in it, I've found that works really well. \$300 dollar used PowerComputing box + \$300 G3 card -- you get the picture.

Don Negro

Abstract Artist, Concrete Analyst, Ruthless Bookie

Re:Why to buy a Mac (Score:1)

by [NTSwerver](#) (ntswerver@NOSPAM_1freeemail.com) on Friday January 05, @12:59PM EST
([#77](#))

([User #92128 Info](#))

And there's the new [PowerBook G4](#) coming soon too.

Moderator's essentials

Re:Why to buy a Mac (Score:2)

by b1t r0t on Friday January 05, @01:19PM EST ([#88](#))
([User #216468 Info](#))

With a 500Mhz PB G3 running LinuxPPC, you'll have the fastest notebook available, with impressive battery life, and the bonus of non-dongle ethernet.

And right now (as in this week, until they finish clearing their inventory for the expected G4 models) they're cheap enough to be worth buying. \$2200 from the Apple Store web site. (I got mine a couple of weeks ago for \$2100 via a special offer to developers.) A mere six months ago it cost \$3500.

Consider that those dinky little portable DVD players cost \$1000-\$1100, and you're getting more than just a laptop. And the current "LG" DVD-ROM drive has a command that disables the RPC-2 region protection until the next reset, so you can easily bypass the evils of region coding, too.

Of course I don't think you'll be able to play DVDs under LinuxPPC for a while. But when OS

X is released, you should be able to get most of the benefits of LinuxPPC, at the cost of a bit more RAM.

Read the rest of this signature...

Re:Why to buy a Mac (Score:1)

by Qube on Friday January 05, @03:46PM EST ([#142](#))

(User #17569 Info) <http://www.quake3arena.co.uk/>

and the bonus of non-dongle ethernet

Funny, everyone else has been using [Xircom Realport cards](#) for ages, and many of the corporate-aimed laptops nowadays have a 10/100baseT port built in.

Sorry, not a reason to buy a Powerbook at all...

Re:Why to buy a Mac (Score:1)

by alprazolam on Friday January 05, @03:59PM EST ([#147](#))

(User #71653 Info)

err actually ppc's are used in lots of other places where they are really the best processor there is. just not pc's. because they are expensive. has nothing to do with motorola. they aren't going to make them cheaper to sell more because they wouldn't sell enough more.

Re:Why to buy a Mac (Score:2)

by jafac on Friday January 05, @06:39PM EST ([#179](#))

(User #1449 Info)

The Motorola issue isn't incompetence.

The issue is politics. Some dickwad there hates Apple, always has, and he took the clone killing thing personally, and got the PPC budget slashed, PPC projects cancelled, Moto pulled out of Somerset, and he replaced all machines at the company with Dells running NT.

Just to get back at Jobs for killing the clones.

Which admittedly was a shitty thing to do, and is the major reason we don't have CHiRP today. But also, is the major reason Apple is in business, which is the only compelling reason why 99% of PPC boxes are sold. (ie. consider the scenario where cloning continued, Apple went out of business and left a crater in Cupertino - the remaining market for PPC machines was Be and LinuxPPC, maybe BSD PPC, was there such a thing? and NT PPC - which was later cancelled. Be MAY have saved the PPC platform, but realistically, Be was already moving to x86.

Without Apple, I believe PPC would have died completely (except for proprietary IBM boxen).

So - the very immature dickwad at Motorola is more to blame than the engineers at Motorola. With copper, and xerogel, and AltiVec, they had a solid track record of pushing chip technology way, way farther than nearly any other player in the biz. but when funding was cut,

OF COURSE they wouldn't be able to rescue production.

"Florida? But that's America's wang!" - Homer Simpson

Re:Why to buy a Mac (Score:1)

by [Bongo](#) (bongo@mori.greatxscape.net) on Saturday January 06, @08:39AM EST (#222)
([User #13261 Info](#))

Just to get back at Jobs for killing the clones.

V..e..r..y....i..n..t..e..r..e..s..t..i..n..g.. but is it true?

The meaning of any communication is the response it elicits. -- NLP

Don't buy a cube then (Score:2, Insightful)

by [Pope](#) (UCE@metajoke.net) on Friday January 05, @01:14PM EST (#85)
([User #17780 Info](#)) <http://www.robotx.org/>

Uh, really, why do you folks keep bringing up the damn CUBE when making hardware/price comparisons? It's an executive toy and should be ignored at all costs. Get the MP towers instead.

As for the G4 chips (or 7400/7500 family) the next batch will have DUAL AltiVec units! Now there's some tasty FP waiting to happen.

Pope

Freedom is Slavery! Ignorance is Strength! Monopolies offer Choice!

- Tom Tomorrow

Re:Why to buy a Mac (Score:1)

by [am 2k](#) (nospam@blackbox.net) on Friday January 05, @01:40PM EST (#96)
([User #217885 Info](#))

Maybe you should take a look at [The Apple Store](#) before you post to slashdot.

I can't see myself or anyone else justifying a purchase of a ~\$3000US G4 cube with 2 500 Mhz processors compared with the ultra cheap Athlons and P3's (and 4's) now available.

1. The cube/500 is \$2799.
2. It has only one processor.
3. Its main factor is look not price or speed.

A 2x500 MHz G4 (256MB RAM, 40GB HD, DVD-RAM) is \$2499.

Re:Why to buy a Mac (Score:2)

by [hey!](#) (mattleo@treehouse.acrcorp.com) on Friday January 05, @01:51PM EST (#102)
([User #33014 Info](#))

For workstation use, the value of the cooling and noise is marginal, but for high density racks or embedded applications such as the TiVo it's probably a big win. No fan means the system can be mechanically more simple and rugged. PPC SBCs are available with quad processors, 100BaseT Ethernet, Ultra Wide SCSI and some with the ability to withstand up to 14Gs of acceleration.

I'd love to see something like this packaged like a netwinder.

---- It's bad luck to be superstitious.

Re:Why to buy a Mac (Score:2)

by [Fervent](#) (fervent@NOSPAM.slc.edu) on Friday January 05, @02:18PM EST (#108)
(User #178271 Info)

The only thing RISC makes more sense in is writing assembly. Everything up from that (including most code jobs) makes complex instruction sets practically invisible to the programmer.

Read *The Hardware Software Interface* for a more thorough investigation.

One Word: Cruft (Score:2)

by [mr_burns](#) (tack@oSpamNay.robot6.com) on Friday January 05, @02:45PM EST (#117)
(User #13129 Info) <http://www.pulsemedia.net/tack>

The x86 ISA is older than I am...and I'm not a kid either. Intel's most recent high volume CPU core was released in 1994 (pro) and has been the basis for what they're doing for a long time. The p4 is slower than the p3. Until I see it in stores, Itanium is vapor.

My G4 is a bit more with the times, as far as computing technology than most implementations of the x86 ISA. Athon's a viable alternative, but remember, they licensed their copper fabrication process from....Motorola.

Als0 als0 wik:

IBM's got some nifty stuff coming down the pipe (SOI, POWER 4) that really should blow the doors of most x86 implementations.

"Let him go, Ralph. He knows what he's doing." --Otto Mann (simpsons)

No such thing as "\$3000 G4 cube with 2 500 Mhz" (Score:1)

by Gorimek on Friday January 05, @02:48PM EST (#120)
(User #61128 Info) <http://u1.netgate.net/~mette/lars/>

"I can't see myself or anyone else justifying a purchase of a ~\$3000US G4 cube with 2 500 Mhz processors compared with the ultra cheap Athlons and P3's (and 4's) now available."

Another reason to not get that configuration may be that such beast doesn't exist. Not even close.

The G4 cube has 1 processor and costs \$1499 (450), \$2299 (500) or \$2799 (500).

The dual tower models cost \$1999 (450) or \$2499 (500).

"I'd hardly say that a cool case and mouse constitute a valid reason to switch processor types :-)." "

The cool thing with a cool (in the literal sense) case is that it can be made fanless. That's a big advantage if you sleep in the same room.

Re:Why to buy a Mac (Score:2)

by firewort on Friday January 05, @02:53PM EST ([#122](#))

([User #180062 Info](#))

Yes, it's too bad Apple killed the clones, or else we'd all have PPC boxen on our desks.

But the good thing about the death of the clones is the exact reason why to buy a PPC box: Yes, there are less peripheral choices for pci cards (tho you really don't need to worry about that: the pci cards I had to buy for my pc are integrated devices on my powermac mobo.) and all the periherals for mac work... compatibility is a non-issue for mac.

Considering that one of the values I cherish most when discussing machines is compatibility and reliability, Apple wins everytime.

besides, the public beta rocks.

A host is a host from coast to coast, but no one uses a host that's close unless the host that isn't close

Why LinuxPPC (was Re:Why to buy a Mac) (Score:1)

by rana on Friday January 05, @07:15PM EST ([#183](#))

([User #31171 Info](#))

I think Linuxppc is a great way to salvage that old mac. There are lots of old macs around that aren't very useful with MacOS, but become a very usable Linux box when LinuxPPC is installed.

I took an abandoned PPC 7100 which could barely run Netscape for just a few minutes without crashing, installed LinuxPPC and it became an ultra-reliable Linux box. I could use all my fave tools such as netscape, emacs, python, mutt, samba, and gcc. And it was fast enough for me, and worked as a decent X-terminal.

If I can't grep it, it doesn't exist.

Re:Why LinuxPPC (was Re:Why to buy a Mac) (Score:1)

by rana on Monday January 15, @12:28PM EST ([#248](#))

([User #31171 Info](#))

Sorry, 7200. I think LinuxPPC will boot on older NuBus Macs now, though.
If I can't grep it, it doesn't exist.

Some kernel things that AltiVec may be useful for. (Score:4, Insightful)

by [Strider-](#) (StriderSpam@Spamapexmail.Spamcom) on Friday January 05, @12:34PM EST ([#48](#))

([User #39683 Info](#))

Based on my understanding of the AltiVec unit, I think there are a few kernel level options that AltiVec may be useful for.

The most obvious is optimizations to the firewalling and routing code within the kernel. The AltiVec unit has a "permute" function that allows you to generate a 128 bit vector by picking and choosing words from two other 128 bit vectors. Apparently, Motorola has built a software router around a 7400 capable of doing software routing on multiple T3s. In this situation, the AltiVec unit simply becomes a glorified switching fabric.

The second optimization that I can see would be in kernel level encryption, for doing things like IPSec and/or encrypted filesystems. If I remember correctly, this use was suggested in one of the documents available on Motorola's web site.

Esentially, if you stop thinking of the AltiVec unit as a media processor, and think it more of a parallel processing unit, you can use it for a lot of different tasks.

Move to Canada: No DMCA, no UCITA, no software patents, no bullshit.

Re:'Multiple t3s?' (Score:1)

by [Strider-](#) (StriderSpam@Spamapexmail.Spamcom) on Friday January 05, @02:48PM EST

([#119](#))

([User #39683 Info](#))

Yes, but compare specs. You're talking Quad PIII Xeon running at 800 Mhz. Mot did their demo with a single 350 Mhz 7400. I'd like to see you try and stick 4 800 Mhz PIII Xeons in a box no bigger then a hard cover Tom Clancy book, without a fan. (which you could do with a single G4).

Move to Canada: No DMCA, no UCITA, no software patents, no bullshit.

He's a damn hero... (Score:5, Funny)

by [Brazilian Geek](#) (akajita@spamyourmama.bigfoot.com) on Friday January 05, @12:34PM EST
([#49](#))

([User #25299 Info](#)) <http://akajita.dhs.org>

And I say that at the risk of being redundant - not only did he survive a few months without even looking a linux terminal, only Windows and Mac OS but he still remembered how to work vi! Weaker men would have buckled under similar circumstances and used notepad (or Mac OS' equivalent)!

But seriously, you gotta admire someone like Jason, not only did he pull through but he managed to keep his spirits up during the whole time and laugh (at least in ASCII) about it.

--

*All browsers' default homepage should read: **Don't Panic...***

drunk drivers (Score:1, Funny)

by [ancient-mariner](#) (rootuser@happypuppy.com) on Friday January 05, @12:36PM EST ([#53](#))
(User #96131 Info)

My computer has a drunk driver. It's my sound card driver. It sings to me sometimes, but i can't really understand it.

Where are my GPFs? I WANT MY GPF!!

Build your own PPC (Score:4, Informative)

by [naken](#) (naken.at.i1.net) on Friday January 05, @12:39PM EST ([#55](#))
(User #132677 Info) <http://home.i1.net/~naken/>

Motorola used to sell PPC motherboards.. With PCI and AGP and everything. Take a look:

[http://www.mcg.mot.com/cfm/templates/product.cfm?P
ageID=875&ProductID=39&TypeID=1](http://www.mcg.mot.com/cfm/templates/product.cfm?PageID=875&ProductID=39&TypeID=1)

I'm not sure if this is what I found before, but it's worth a look...

Re:Build your own PPC (Score:2, Interesting)

by Anonymous Coward on Friday January 05, @02:12PM EST ([#105](#))

The link you referenced has "The Leader in **Embedded** Engineering" at the top and the description reads

"MTX targets communications, industrial automation, and electronic imaging applications with an exciting combination of processor power and connectivity including 10/100Mb/s Ethernet, EIDE, and SCSI. Expanding MTX is easily done by adding either standard PCI adapters or low profile PMC modules. MTX is supported with industry leading **embedded operating environments** to help get OEM applications to market quickly...and Motorola's OEM support policies for MTX help maintain those applications for years into the future. All these combine to **make MTX the right choice for high-end embedded processing**, and Motorola the right partner for the long-term." (empahsis added)

So it seems the eariler poster was right: PPC is **dead** - Motorola definately seems to be targeting the PPC at embedded systems, read: routers and switches, which I have read accounts of > 80% of PPC sales.

Apple must be in a real funk over this - their business model depends on proprietary hardware yet a move to a different CPU seems inevitable. Are there any alternatives besides Alpha and x86? Mac OS/X is already being ported to x86 - perhaps Apple is transitioning themselves to a pure-software company. Maybe that will mean us x86'ers can run that kewl Aqua GUI on our existing boxes :-)

Re:Build your own PPC (Score:2)

by [iso](#) (slashdot@djnumbernine.com) on Friday January 05, @03:36PM EST (#[135](#))

(User #87585 Info) <http://djnumbernine.com>

Apple must be in a real funk over this - their business model depends on proprietary hardware yet a move to a different CPU seems inevitable. Are there any alternatives besides Alpha and x86? Mac OS/X is already being ported to x86 - perhaps Apple is transitioning themselves to a pure-software company. Maybe that will mean us x86'ers can run that kewl Aqua GUI on our existing boxes :-)

actually there's no reason why apple can't design computers exactly as they have been now but put an x86 processor in there instead of a PPC (except, of course, we'd kiss 'fanless' goodbye). they then make the MacOS still run on "Apple" hardware, but with the benefit (? i still prefer PPC) of having x86 processors. then they clearly say "MacOS only runs on Apple computers."

of course, you may be able to hack OS X to run on your cheap-taiwanese-generic motherboard (especially with access to the kernel), but it's not guaranteed to work, and Apple doesn't need to take you into account when upgrading the OS.

making Apple a software-only company would be stupid. they make lots of money off of hardware, and also design some really really *really* nice hardware. if PPC chips weren't stuck at 500Mhz, they'd be the best consumer PCs out there by far.

- j

If PacMan had affected us as kids we'd be running around in dark rooms, munching pills and listening to electronic music

Re:Build your own PPC (Score:2)

by jafac on Friday January 05, @06:53PM EST (#[181](#))

(User #1449 Info)

misinformation!

OS X is NOT being ported to x86.

Darwin already runs on x86, but the Quartz, Aqua, Cocoa and Carbon components are PPC-only. Without those, Darwin is basically a flavor of BSD. Porting these other VERY CRUCIAL pieces is non-trivial.

"Florida? But that's America's wang!" - Homer Simpson

LinuxPPC v Yellow Dog (Score:4, Interesting)

by cswiii on Friday January 05, @ 12:45PM EST ([#66](#))

([User #11061 Info](#))

Has anyone here compared the performance and/or functionality of these two distros? I just installed Yellow Dog 1.2.1 on a G3 laptop the other day, and was sorely disappointed... especially considering that it's based on the "Easy-to-Use" Redhat. A few issues I had w/ YDL:

- * Would lock or power-down on me if I booted straight "linux"; could only sucessfully do things booting to "linux-novideo". This may be a somewhat known issue, but it keeps me from using > 256 colours.
- * Gnome was crap on my machine. The task bar (gnome-session?) cored every time I tried to load up X. the mouse cursor would "float" as it approached max/min/etc buttons on the window.
- * KDE was better, but only somewhat. If screen blanked, palette never shifted back to normal colours.
- * Since there doesn't appear to be any real "text" mode, minicom had everything shoved into an 80x25 corner of my display, leaving 2 inches of blank black space to the bottom and right.
- * Could not alt-Fx between terminals. Could alt-F7 to the blank one reserved for X -- but could not get back to any other terminals.
- * Other little, nagging issues.

I haven't been able to easily find information on most of these issues, either. I guess what I'm trying to say is, when Jason tells us "You can run on a PPC box as well as an x86 box", I just certainly hope this is true, and that my YDL experiences won't be repeated with in Yet Another Linux Distro. Based on what I've seen, it didn't perform or function "as well as an x86 box", and it certainly won't be easy for joe user to find ways to fix these issues.

I'm an ardent linux user. I use it almost exclusively. However, unless LinuxPPC is any better, I'm gonna to take a look at OSX or *BSD.

Re:LinuxPPC v Yellow Dog (kind of OT) (Score:3, Insightful)

by [Flavio](#) (flavio@hackpalace.com) on Friday January 05, @01:33PM EST ([#95](#))

(User #12072 Info) <http://www.hackpalace.com>

Has anyone here compared the performance and/or functionality of these two distros? I just installed Yellow Dog 1.2.1 on a G3 laptop the other day, and was sorely disappointed...

the weird thing is that my experience was the opposite. My burn of LinuxPPC2000 wouldn't install on my iMac. The RPMS were in the *wrong directory* in the CD, and I couldn't use the graphical installation because at the time my iMac (classic) had only 32 MB of ram and the installation obviously doesn't init any swap.

After copying the CD's contents to another machine that's networked with the iMac I actually setup an FTP install and that also didn't work because some packages had different names than the packages the install program searched for. I ended up renaming about 30-40 packages until I realised about 40% of the RPMs had wrong names. By this time I gave up on the install and installed YellowDog. I now use lots of packages from LinuxPPC, but to this day I haven't figured out what's wrong with that CD. This coming from an experienced Linux user.

Anywho, to your questions:

** Would lock or power-down on me if I booted straight "linux"; could only sucessfully do things booting to "linux-novideo". This may be a somewhat known issue, but it keeps me from using 256 colours.*

I also had several problems in the yaboot install process. This was the first time I did a LinuxPPC install so I had to learn some stuff the hard way. The OpenFirmware setup went along fine, but some bugs like the

image = hd:\vmlinux

line in yaboot.conf (now documented in their support site; there was a typo in the official version) gave me some headaches =)

In any case, read the yaboot docs and you should be running in at most half an hour because you'll already know about the yaboot.conf bug.

** Gnome was crap on my machine. The task bar (gnome-session?) cored every time I tried to load up X. the mouse cursor would "float" as it approached max/min/etc buttons on the window.*

I also had some issues with Gnome, but not as bad. Either recompile it or use KDE. I personally use Window Maker for the speed and memory usage so I didn't have the problem.

** KDE was better, but only somewhat. If screen blanked, palette never shifted back to normal colours.*

Weird, KDE ran fine with me.

* Since there doesn't appear to be any real "text" mode, minicom had everything shoved into an 80x25 corner of my display, leaving 2 inches of blank black space to the bottom and right.

recompile the kernel with larger fonts.

* Could not alt-Fx between terminals. Could alt-F7 to the blank one reserved for X -- but could not get back to any other terminals.

it's actually command-Fx on the mac. If you did try command-Fx and it didn't work... well, you've got to enable the terms in /etc/inittab. Perhaps I did that myself and can't remember.

* Other little, nagging issues.

That's Linux for you. I always customize my installs, because anything I consider not to my liking is a nagging issue (like the lack of --color=yes in RedHat's 'ls' command).

I haven't been able to easily find information on most of these issues, either.

Google should simplify your life. Use lists.linuxppc.org as well.

I guess what I'm trying to say is, when Jason tells us "You can run on a PPC box as well as an x86 box", I just certainly hope this is true,

It is VERY true. My iMac now has 96 MB of RAM and it runs like a charm. I love using that box now (it's actually my Mom's -- she couldn't stand MacOS's sluggishness and crashes; I couldn't stand MacOS). It has _NEVER_ crashed on me, runs as fast as my 400 MHz Celeron, looks and feels just like Linux on an i386.

and it certainly won't be easy for joe user to find ways to fix these issues.

Agreed. Some of the stuff's well above joe user's head. In any case, I love LinuxPPC and I'd like to give a big thanks for Haas and all developers out there.

Flavio

Re:LinuxPPC v Yellow Dog (Score:1)

by [Penrif](#) (bhb002@NOSPAMdrake.edu) on Friday January 05, @01:44PM EST (#99)

([User #33473 Info](#))

Your problems seem more related to using a laptop rather than a PPC. In my (limited) experience, laptop display chips are the absolute last to be supported, on both the PPC and x86 side of the fence.

"Love can not be much younger than the lust for murder" -- Sigmund Freud

Re:LinuxPPC v Yellow Dog (Score:1)

by bernz on Friday January 05, @02:07PM EST (#103)

(User #181095 Info) <http://www.bernztech.org>

I've used both on G3 Lombard Laptops. both have initial configuration and setup problems. no ppc based linux distro is as clean as their x86 counterparts. then again, the alpha ports aren't so clean either. x86 clearly has the advantage here.

it has taken me awhile to get my g3 powerbook w/yellowdog to where i wanted it. i found it almost identical to linuxppc, just with some different packages and, if i might say so, a cooler xdm screen.

<http://www.loomer.com/linuxppc> has some good tips for setting it up with a lombard.

the pismo laptop, when last i checked, still had some problems with linux, including the dvd drive. this might be fixed by now.

i have yellowdog champion 1.2 running 2.2.18 with gnome with helixcode. it works well with little or no flakiness. i'm a big fan and i like the way it runs. but here's the caveat, you'll get your hands dirtier figuring it out. more than youwould with an x86..and less than youwould with an alpha.

----- go to www.questionexchange.com.
ask a question. or i'll kill you.

A recurring theme: non-Apple hardware wanted (Score:2)

by [Sloppy](#) (sloppy@spam^H^H^H^Hrt66.com) on Friday January 05, @12:53PM EST (#73)

(User #14984 Info)

"It needs to happen." Does anyone know the details for why the POP boards never materialized? What ever happened to Silicon Fruit, Eternal Computing, Total Impact, etc? Is the lack of production a result of perceived lack of market, or a missing part from Motorola, or what?

FWIW, some of the ex Phase 5 (a former Amiga addon manufacturer) guys, in the hope of having a good platform to run their [MorphOS Amiga-like OS](#) on, [have started a company](#) to produce some PPC motherboards. Ralph Schmidt [has stated](#) that the hardware will be "mostly generic" and running LinuxPPC on it should be possible. Whether that means it will be compliant with the PREP/CHRP/POP/whatever standards is still not clear to me. And of course any time products even tangentially related to the Amiga are mentioned, peoples' Vapor Warning lights go off. Nevertheless, it's at least a ray of hope for people who are interested in such things, so I thought I would mention it here.

Have a Sloppy night!

Re:A recurring theme: non-Apple hardware wanted (Score:1)

by [scm](#) (scm-junk@NOSPAM.eds.org) on Friday January 05, @03:11PM EST ([#130](#))

(User #21828 Info) <http://www.eds.org/~scm>

It looks from Jason's (lack of) response that there is something going on, and he is not at liberty to comment about it at this time: "*I do know about it but I can't comment about it*". Hopefully, we'll see something soon.

Article about RioRed PPC (Score:2, Informative)

by [EverCode](#) (eric@xiowa.com) on Friday January 05, @12:56PM EST ([#75](#))

(User #60025 Info) <http://www.xiowa.com>

Here is an [article](#) about a PPC motherboard product called RioRed.

The company is called SiliconFruit, and this board seems like vapor. However, it is still a very interesting read about their ambitions.

EverCode

Apple making MP boxes? (Score:1)

by [drinky_poo](#) on Friday January 05, @01:08PM EST ([#81](#))

(User #153816 Info)

With Apple (the major PPC player) making MP boxes, MP support will improve. With Apple making boxes that have AltiVec, support for that'll improve too. Assuming that they keep using AltiVec.

I seem to recall reading something that said either that apple had announced they were going to stop making MP boxes for an unspecified amount of time, or that "sources close to apple" had said that same thing. Anyone care to comment? If this is true, well, that's unfortunate.

You are what you do when it counts --Steakley

Apple making 2 processor G4 MP boxes! Read the ads (Score:2)

by [crovira](#) (charles@rovira.org) on Friday January 05, @02:30PM EST ([#113](#))

(User #10242 Info) <http://www.rovira.org/>

All the new towers have twin G4 processors.

Charles-A. The opinions expressed here are my own. If you don't like 'em... Think up your own stuff.

Re:Apple making 2 processor G4 MP boxes! Read the (Score:1)

by [DuBois](#) (wae@takethisout.allmax.com) on Friday January 05, @03:13PM EST ([#131](#))

(User #105200 Info) <http://www.allmax.com/wae/>

Not true. You can still buy a 400Mhz G4 tower single processor [here](#).

They that can give up essential Liberty, to obtain a little temporary Safety, deserve neither Liberty nor Safety.

That's one of several rumors We'll know on Tuesday (Score:1)

by Gorimek on Friday January 05, @05:38PM EST ([#171](#))

(User #61128 Info) <http://u1.netgate.net/~mette/lars/>

That's CNets rumor. The AppleInsider rumor is the opposite. More people seem to believe AppleInsider, but we won't know until Tuesday, when Steve hold his show.

Thanks Jason (Score:1)

by [chancycat](#) (evanhatespam.bigatsign.yahoo.com) on Friday January 05, @01:20PM EST ([#89](#))

(User #104884 Info)

If you're reading, thanks for the replies. It's good to see that everything has set in your head again.

I can only hope that if I get hit as badly as Jason, that I recover as completely. It really is nice to be witness to something that extraordinary.

Evan - needs to hit preview before submitting

Thank _you!_ (Score:2)

by [haaz](#) (jhaas@linuxppc.com) on Saturday January 06, @03:38AM EST ([#215](#))

(User #3346 Info) <http://www.linuxppc.com>

Heya,

I'm still healing. But thanks. :)

When someone asks how I'm doing, I say, "much better, thank you!" ;-)

Haaz: Co-founder, LinuxPPC Inc., making Linux for PowerPC since 1996.

<http://www.linuxppc.com/>

Re:Thank _you!_ (Score:1)

by [chancycat](#) (evanhatespam.bigatsign.yahoo.com) on Saturday January 06, @03:31PM EST ([#232](#))

(User #104884 Info)

Well, keep healing. Tell your wife that's she is in a great hall of honor somewhere for her dedication and strength.

Evan - needs to hit preview before submitting

Why should my next purchase be a PowerPC? (Score:5, Interesting)
by [Bongo](#) (bongo@mori.greatxscape.net) on Friday January 05, @01:20PM EST (#90)
([User #13261 Info](#))

Indeed, even Mac 'enthusiasts' are hard pressed to find good *technical* reasons for buying PowerPC. Had Moto been at 900MHz by now, then, well, maybe.

But people don't necessarily start asking "What chip?". They average masses just ask "Which PC?". But they could also start asking "*Which OS?*" -- and this reveals one of the great *potential** benefits of Linux -- that you can choose Linux first, and worry about your hardware second (as opposed to, say, the Mac, where choosing Mac OS X 'limits' you to Apple HW). And this is highly exciting for the IT industry, not to mention 'World Domination'...

For while Windows went 'everywhere' *horizontally* (across all** desktops), Linux is busy going everywhere vertically (to most scales, CPUs etc.). -- So while MS has been successful keeping horizontal competition out, they are about to get vertically out-flanked.

When Linux is running on the company server, and on your PDA, the only bottleneck will be that 'troublesome' desktop running 'incompatible' Windows ;-)

Note the problem won't be what chip is in your desktop. It won't be the styling of the plastics. It'll simply be a matter of installing the right OS. And most of the time, that'll be Linux.

Is there a "Fanaticism FAQ" ?

* Potential for the masses, but real and current for those who know...

** In so far as 90% == 100%.

The meaning of any communication is the response it elicits. -- NLP

Re:Why should my next purchase be a PowerPC? (Score:2)
by TWR on Friday January 05, @02:27PM EST (#112)
([User #16835 Info](#))

Indeed, even Mac 'enthusiasts' are hard pressed to find good technical reasons for buying PowerPC. Had Moto been at 900MHz by now, then, well, maybe.

There's one excellent reason for choosing a Mac over Windows or Linux/x86: better ease of use. Using a Mac is easier than using a PC. (And yes, during the day I spend all my time working on NT, so I know whereof I speak.) The relatively small price delta between a Mac and a comparable PC is worth the the time and grief I am saved when working on my Mac.

Linux/PPC takes away that advantage, which is why I've never bothered to install it.

-jon

Re:Why should my next purchase be a PowerPC? (Score:1)

by [No-op](#) (no-op@iamthelaw.org) on Saturday January 06, @02:22AM EST (#203)
(User #19111 Info) <http://dubdubdub.webdesigners.make.too.much.money.com>

that's still not a technical reason, that's a user interface/ease of use reason.

macintosh survives on it's fanatical no-questions-asked userbase. this isn't a bad thing, it's just the way things are.

Encrypted with ROT-26 - all attempts to decrypt are illegal under the DMCA!

Re:Why should my next purchase be a PowerPC? (Score:1)

by [Bongo](#) (bongo@mori.greatxscape.net) on Friday January 05, @07:44PM EST (#187)
(User #13261 Info)

Parent post by me. Somehow /. marked it AC. Timeout??

The meaning of any communication is the response it elicits. -- NLP

um vector processing. (Score:2, Informative)

by gagganator on Friday January 05, @04:37PM EST (#157)
(User #223646 Info) <http://homepage.mac.com/gaggan/>

streaming media, compression, encryption, you get the picture (yes, x86 may be cheaper for text editing)

when using altivec, ppc has strong advantages over even the 1.4 ghz p4

and no, they dont cost >\$3k (as stated elsewhere). g4s start at \$1299 (new, w/gigabit ethernet)

Re:Why should my next purchase be a PowerPC? (Score:1)

by [Jack Greenbaum](#) (j.greenbaum@computer.org) on Friday January 05, @08:14PM EST ([#192](#))
(User #7020 Info)

If you are talking about a desktop machine, then as Jason points out it's hard to find a compelling reason (except the lack of a noisy cooling fan!). If you are designing an embedded system (TiVo, VoIP router, cell phone base station, industrial control or inspection, autonomous robot) then the power advantages of the PPC and on-chip peripheral sets offered by Motorola make x86s not even show up on the radar. I see Linux PPC as competition to VxWorks and Embedded NT, not desktop Windows or Linux x86.

Re:Why should my next purchase be a PowerPC? (Score:1)

by [Bongo](#) (bongo@mori.greatxscape.net) on Saturday January 06, @07:37AM EST ([#219](#))
(User #13261 Info)

If you are designing an embedded system (TiVo, VoIP router, cell phone base station, industrial control or inspection, autonomous robot) then the power advantages of the PPC and on-chip peripheral sets offered by Motorola make x86s not even show up on the radar.

Now *that* is interesting. I keep forgetting that there's more to life than the desktop. I guess I should try find out what percentage of Moto's business dollars is in the embedded world...

The meaning of any communication is the response it elicits. -- NLP

tivo == PC? (Score:1)

by ugly_bob on Friday January 05, @02:59PM EST ([#124](#))
(User #166481 Info)

I've wanted to play with linuxPPC for some time, but I'm balking at buying an actual macintosh (\$\$\$). If anyone knows, I was wondering if it'd be possible to hack a tivo to the point that it can run linux effectively? (I know it runs linux now: I'm talking about using it as a regular box). I'm not all that familiar with the hardware, but apparently they're not built for expansion. I suppose the most important parts are the ethernet and a removable disk.

ATX PPC Motherboards and IBM Ref. Boards (Score:3, Informative)

by [gabe](#) (gabe@sumorai.net) on Friday January 05, @03:08PM EST ([#129](#))
(User #6734 Info) <http://sumorai.net>

I've been following this closely since I first heard about the boards from a nice IBM fellow at the first or second LWCE in San Jose. At that time they were waiting for a chip company, I think Via, to finish the Northbridge chip for the board. I caught up with the same IBM fellow at LWCE in San Jose last August and discovered that the Northbridge chip had been cancelled by the company that was designing it and that, since they had no Northbridge chip, the ref. board was delayed. From what I know, IBM is now working on a Northbridge chip for the board themselves, and as soon as that is done, there should be cheap PPC boards galore. Keep tabs on openppc.org.

--

Gabriel Ricard
Linux Fanatic

other(non-apple) ppc boxes (Score:1)

by omission9 on Friday January 05, @03:28PM EST ([#134](#))

([User #178213 Info](#))

Get a Mac (I'd name some other cheap PPC boxes, but there aren't any!) Or you can get a new("uncirculated" or refurb) clone(mac clones were discontinued 2 yrs ago due to Steve Jobs pulling the plug on licensing). I have, for example, a umax c600 running linuxppc R5(or whatever the release is called now) just snazzily. One thing to consider is that you won't be able to get G3 or G4 without buying and additional upgrade card which is something I have yet to investigate. I'm not sure if there is a support issue with third party processors from NewerTechnologies or Sonnet.

vi (Score:1)

by Vasilis Vasaitis on Friday January 05, @03:52PM EST ([#143](#))

([User #225376 Info](#))

A moment of victory for me was about four months after I got hit; I was back at home, and still was able to use vi. I'm not sure what that says about the effects of a brain injury. ;-D

Well, the obvious. That vi is already a brain damage, so it can't really be affected by other damages of the same nature... ;-)

Vasilis

uhh.. MacOS X? (Score:4, Interesting)

by [iso](#) (slashdot@djnumbernine.com) on Friday January 05, @03:56PM EST ([#146](#))

([User #87585 Info](#)) <http://djnumbernine.com>

ok, let me get this straight: an interview with one of the leading developers of LinuxPPC and not *one* question that pertained to MacOS X!? did no MacOS X question get asked, or did he just ignore them?

i'd like to know, because i've tried both, and after getting used to MacOS X, i really can't see any reason to run LinuxPPC as a desktop machine. (i may pick up an old mac to run as my firewall, however. my old PC just blew up, literally; smoke and all).

but servers aside, can anybody give me any one good reason why i should use LinuxPPC over MacOS X? because i can't think of one. on my machine (B&W G3) MacOS X has been more stable, it runs my old Mac programs, it's up-to-date and compatible with all Macs, excellent SMP (i'll get a dual processor box next), and to top it all off it's got a more consistant and cleaner interface (no linux GUI i've tried has come close, and i've learned Aqua is *very* "tweakable").

so apart from my little firewall (that would really best be searved with FreeBSD on an x86 box), remind me again why i would have *any* good reason to run LinuxPPC? and "because it's GPL" doesn't count as a good reason for me, especially after Apple has "refined" the APPL.

-j

If PacMan had affected us as kids we'd be running around in dark rooms, munching pills and listening to electronic music

Re:uhh.. MacOS X? (Score:2, Informative)

by SirFlakey on Friday January 05, @04:47PM EST ([#159](#))

(User #237855 Info) <http://www.core.org.au>

"*ok, let me get this straight: an interview with one of the leading developers of LinuxPPC and not one question that pertained to MacOS X!? did no MacOS X question get asked, or did he just ignore them?"*

I think some got asked - they just didn't get Moderator attention =). On the other hand the OSX vs. LinuxPPC comparison has to belong in a FAQ by now.

i'd like to know, because i've tried both, and after getting used to MacOS X, i really can't see any reason to run LinuxPPC as a desktop machine. (i may pick up an old mac to run as my firewall, however. my old PC just blew up, literally; smoke and all).

Hmm , I had OSX DP4 and then OSX PB on my PowerBook G3 400 (/w 192 MB ram)- and I went back to LinuxPPC because of two reasons:

1. AQUA was very, very sluggish.

2. I wanted to use OSX because it had Java 2 support - but it was not very stable. LinuxPPC's Java 2. (even has Java Enterprise edition) was much better. LinuxPPC's java can run [NetBeans IDE](#) too =)

"so apart from my little firewall (that would really best be searved with FreeBSD on an x86 box), remind me again why i would have any good reason to run LinuxPPC? and "because it's GPL" doesn't count as a good reason for me, especially after Apple has "refined" the APSL."

well the above were my reasons. Mind you when OSX finally get's released things may (hopefully) have been improved.

--

Jon - [CORE](#) Oceanian Nerd NewsCast

Re:uhh.. MacOS X? (Score:1)

by hypersqurl on Friday January 05, @05:07PM EST ([#165](#))

([User #179972 Info](#))

..."remind me again why i would have any good reason to run LinuxPPC?"

uhh.. how about speed. I ran MacOSX on my powerbook 400 with 192 mb ram and it was SLOW. Granted it is a beta version but it will never compare to wm, afterstep, blackbox or any other fast window manager.

Not everyone has the \$\$\$ for an SMP box with gobs of ram.

Re:uhh.. MacOS X? (Score:1)

by Captain Scarlet22 on Sunday January 07, @01:05AM EST ([#237](#))

([User #266583 Info](#))

Why Why Why....Why do you run linuxppc??? A great Linux box. We have NT, Novell, a Citrix server, Mac 9.04, and one LinuxPPC. And do you know what??? The LinuxPPC box runs better then them all!!! We have about 50 users using the network and that's not including our WAN. And the G3 233MHZ Mac out does them all. I have 128 MB of ram, 80 Gigs of disk space, and runs LinuxPPC 2000. And I never ever had a problem with the install. Never!!! I have only 2 crashes with the box since I put it up. It's almost two years now.....The NT box restarts weekly. I don't use the GUI on the linux box...WHY would you??? I only want great speed and access time. I want my performance, man!!! We use a ton of connections and it still can take more.... And now for MacOS X...We will upgrade our macs, when the full version comes out. But that's for workstations....It's simple for them.... But for networking our company...LinuxPPC will still be there. SO what I'm trying to say.... If your only want a workstation then run MacOS X.. If you want networking with better performance... Run LinuxPPC or Intel...Because you don't need a GUI.....plus shell scripts with cron really run the system...I just sit back and watch..... -Knowing them all really got me my 6 a year...;) CS out

Re:uhh.. MacOS X? (Score:2)

by [iso](#) (slashdot@djnumbernine.com) on Monday January 08, @06:26PM EST ([#243](#))

([User #87585 Info](#)) <http://djnumbernine.com>

If your only want a workstation then run MacOS X.. If you want networking with better performance... Run LinuxPPC

i would argue that running a server would best be served with Darwin. it's an opensource OS with high-performance networking, but it's got Apple's development time and dollars behind it. ultimately that will mean it will be a better fit for the hardware, as the same people making the hardware can advise in the software. as for machines "unsupported" buy Apple, you've got additions from the community (already happening), and you're no worse off than Linux, and maybe better off if you consider the benefit of the hardware vendor supplying the rest of the code.

so again, there's no point in running LinuxPPC in my mind. if you need a workstation, use OS X, if you need a server, use Darwin.

- j

If PacMan had affected us as kids we'd be running around in dark rooms, munching pills and listening to electronic music

Re:uhh.. MacOS X? (Score:1)

by [iso](#) (slashdot@djnumbernine.com) on Friday January 05, @05:57PM EST ([#173](#))
[\(User #87585 Info\)](#) <http://djnumbernine.com>

hi there, you're a moron.

yes, the fan quit, and the power supply blew (specifically a capacitor blew, not a transistor). but before the power supply gave out, the spike travelled through the power cord and one of the motherboard chips put a nice nasty black mark just as it was dying. in addition, the Trident chip on my video card also decided its time was up, and the internal explosion caused the outer plastic to buckle in the point of failure.

so in closing, yes my PC is completely toast, and you, my kind sir, a complete fucking idiot.

- j

If PacMan had affected us as kids we'd be running around in dark rooms, munching pills and listening to electronic music

Re:uhh.. MacOS X? (Score:2)

by [iso](#) (slashdot@djnumbernine.com) on Monday January 08, @06:40PM EST ([#244](#))
[\(User #87585 Info\)](#) <http://djnumbernine.com>

To me OSX is like linux, but not free and tied to one company.

wow, then you're really short-sighted (and paranoid). it is exactly linux, but more stable (on PPC), a better interface, easier to use and configure, runs older MacOS programs, and will have a huge install base (which is more than i can say for the handful of people who use LinuxPPC).

Why develop for OSX?" I mean, if I write software with a GTK interface, I can run it anywhere including OSX and Windows (see the recent slashdot article about GNOME on Win32). If I use Apple's API, I can only run it on OSX. What's the point?

i'd program for Cocoa over Gnome as i'd like to have code that can reach a real marketshare. GTK on Win32 is (currently) a hack, and GTK doesn't currently run on MacOS X. GTK is designed for Linux, not for MacOS & Windows. i see people complain about the quirks in designing Java for "all platforms." i can't believe that designing for GTK will give you satisfactory performance on all platforms. there are *much* better solutions if you're that concerned with portability.

of course, if you're dead set on simply marketshare, why not just program for Win32 and be done with it? it would entirely depend on your application. the GTK is not some kind of 'silver bullet' of compatibility.

additionally, how about the fact that the development environment is *much* nicer to code in? have you tried Project Builder? it's very slick. plus it's much easier to end up with a clean and useful user interface than with any Linux development tools *i've* seen.

i have no doubts about Linux' potential on the x86 platform, and i believe that it's the best solution for many tasks on that hardware. but running Linux on PowerPC will be difficult to justify once MacOS X is in full production.

- j

If PacMan had affected us as kids we'd be running around in dark rooms, munching pills and listening to electronic music

Thanks to everyone for your questions! (Score:2)

by [haaz](#) (jhaas@linuxppc.com) on Friday January 05, @06:06PM EST (#175)

(User #3346 Info) <http://www.linuxppc.com>

Hi all,

Just wanted to say "thanks!". So, thanks! ;-)

If you have a question for me, just ask! The only thing that I don't like about answering questions is typing a lot if they require long answers. ;-)

I'll be responding to some of the comments here, too. Thanks again! We may not always see the brightest stones in the mine on here, but the ones that we do find are treasures.

Last time: thanks again!

Oh, if you've mailed me, I have about 70 other mails to reply to, so I'll be a bit slow. And I'm going to Macworld Expo on Sunday, so I'll be tied up with that. Please understand if I don't immediately reply. Thanks! (Again^6! ;-)

Haaz: Co-founder, LinuxPPC Inc., making Linux for PowerPC since 1996.

<http://www.linuxppc.com/>

Why ignore the P series or RS/6000? (Score:1)

by [Pinback](#) (darkstar@bigplanet.com) on Friday January 05, @08:40PM EST (#194)

([User #80041 Info](#))

Why does everyone conveniently ignore the RS/6000? They are to a degree chrp compliant, and come in SMP versions that scale to 24 processors.

The B50 even mentions PPC Linux as a supported OS.

Is PPC Linux going to be the OS choice for the cheesey people?

AIX 5L was designed to eat the large end of the Linux systems lunch. Hopefully PPC advocates won't end up with nothing left to hack on but the modern IIgs equivalent.

Ranting about non-technical stuff.. (Score:3, Insightful)

by [haaz](#) (jhaas@linuxppc.com) on Saturday January 06, @02:55AM EST (#208)

([User #3346 Info](#)) <http://www.linuxppc.com>

In my "ideal world," we don't have massive, road-hogging, gas-guzzling SUVs (Expedition, Excursion, newer Exploders, Tahoe, Suburban, any GM models) clogging the roads (and hurting people). We would have a few less roads, and something that has been working really well in Europe for quite a while: passenger trains.

I would _love it_ if I could take a train from Madison, Wisconsin (where I live now, thank goodness) to Chicago, or to Minneapolis. Or to San Francisco. Or NYC.

I can take a _bus_ to Chicago, then get on a train there (I think), but I'm not sure how I'd get from the bus station to the train station. (Taxi? Call one of my Chicago contacts?)

Trains can move more people at once than a car, obviously. They don't take up too much space. The space is made a rail _once_, and you shouldn't have to add much more if it's planned right. (Don't get me started on modern urban "planners"....)

We wouldn't have to stay focused all the time. We could eat, sleep, or be drunk, all of which people do in cars anyway.

The interest in passenger trains seems to be growing, which I'm glad of. I just wish that back in the 1950s, instead of GM doing their best to get rid of trains, trains multiplied. I might not be the subject of a Slashdot interview. There are definitely people who would like that. ;-) Isn't that worth it?

I'm done ranting now. Have fun.

Haaz: Co-founder, LinuxPPC Inc., making Linux for PowerPC since 1996.

<http://www.linuxppc.com/>

The grass is always greener.... (Score:1)

by [idries \(slaytan_inc@geocities.com\)](#) on Saturday January 06, @11:28AM EST ([#224](#))

([User #174087 Info](#))

I live in London. I get a train to work every morning. It *sucks*. You can't eat, sleep or be drunk, because there's _barely_ enough space to stand (read a book if you're lucky). You have to wait out in the cold on the platform (this might not be a problem in some parts of US, but it's a problem here). Trains are often delayed or canceled, they are also vulnerable to weather.

Now, part of these problems are to do with the fact that it's London, and the train organisation/management/funding is so screwed up. Also, we have a very high population density here, which doesn't help.

If someone did this in the US it *might* be cool, but it would very much depend on who owned it and how smart they were.

All I'm saying is that while road travel in the US might be pretty bad, train travel over here is not much better.... (if the recent track record - no pun intended - is anything to go by, they're not much safer either!)

One other thing to say: I used to get [this boat](#) to work in the morning. This is the way to travel. There's no stress, it's safe, not crowded, this wins all the time.

Re:Ranting about non-technical stuff.. (Score:1)

by [jekk \(mike.chermside@destiny.com\)](#) on Sunday January 07, @01:27PM EST ([#238](#))

([User #15278 Info](#))

The Greyhound station in Chicago is about 4 blocks from the Amtrack station. Yeah... I know... it was a rhetorical question, but since I work 2-3 blocks from each, I thought I'd mention it.

-- Michael Chermside

No rack mount case... (Score:1)

by Glendale2x on Saturday January 06, @12:00PM EST ([#226](#))

([User #210533 Info](#))

This may seem trivial, but when I went looking for something to replace my aging LinuxPPC box (a Power Computing clone), the two biggest deciding factors for me were:

- 1) Low cost
- 2) A 3U rack mount case

The first point can be questionable and debated, but the second one was a slam dunk for the x86 platform. I ended up with a Socket A ATX board running an AMD offering. Cost? Minus the case, the whole computer was around \$450. I could build two of these things for the price of a single new iMac, and two \$280 rack cases for the price of a single G4 tower.

Now, if that cheap (\$100 ballpark) PPC board were out there and the chips cost the same as the x86 stuff, we'd have a whole different story here.

--

Ne Cede Malis Sed Contra Audientor Ito

64-bit integer operations (Score:2)

by [Animats](#) (slashdot-replies@downside.com) on Saturday January 06, @01:11PM EST ([#228](#))

([User #122034 Info](#)) <http://www.animats.com>

If you need to do 64-bit integer calculations, the most important thing is to make sure you have a compiler that does them properly. IEEE-compliant FPUs have 64-bit integer capability, but not all compilers generate code to use it. This is a bigger factor than x86 vs. PPC.

Driving with the intent to cause harm? (Score:2)

by Lord Kano on Saturday January 06, @01:46PM EST ([#230](#))

([User #13027 Info](#)) <http://wpngg.org>

Though I'm not defending drunk drivers, I don't see how they can prove intent to cause harm.

If driving with a bac of .25 is so bad (and it is) they should just increase the DUI penalty in your state. I think that the additional charge is just a way to punish those without political connections.

[Computer geeks that'll kick your stupid jock ass.](#)

LinuxPPC vs (Darwin|MacOSX) Benchmarking (Score:1)

by [chancycat](#) (evanhatesspam.bigatsign.yahoo.com) on Saturday January 06, @03:33PM EST

([#233](#))

([User #104884 Info](#))

Does anyone know of any benchmarking done comparing performance of LinuxPPC vs Darwin or MaxOSX? I'm not sure if there is a reasonable suite that benchmarks meaningful data, but it could be an interesting way to keep Apple on their toes.

Evan - needs to hit preview before submitting

Aplha Linux and gcc (Score:1)

by IYagami on Sunday January 07, @05:01PM EST ([#239](#))

([User #136831 Info](#))

Instead of PowerPC you can use AplhaLinux; but you should read first

http://www.aceshardware.com/Spades/read.php?article_id=145 gcc has not been designed for the Alpha platform, while Compaq adapted his compiler from Tru64Unix to Linux. You can get the this compiler and more from <http://www.support.compaq.com/alpha-tools/index.html>

re: Why should my next purchase be a PowerPC? (Score:1)

by Stacdaed on Tuesday January 09, @04:21PM EST ([#245](#))

([User #242217 Info](#))

There is one reason I prefer: your not giving money to Microsoft! But, aside from this the prosessor is a lot more effentient (more than 2x average) of corse that can vary a lot depending on what you are doing... (so a 500mhz mac still compeats, not to mention in a laptop!) Given the individual hardware is more expensive, sometimes a lot. I'm not a Mac user but I soon hope to get a g4 for linux... Mmmmmm.....

Re:Was that drunk driver ... (Score:1)

by sebastianpb on Friday January 05, @ 12:25PM EST ([#38](#))

([User #254997 Info](#))

Congratulations... i think i'm less intelligent for even reading your post... i guess i'm not suprised you're an Anonymous Coward

After learning to talk backwards, my live changed for the better.

Re:as a matter of fact (Score:1, Insightful)

by Anonymous Coward on Friday January 05, @ 12:42PM EST ([#61](#))

Have you read P.J. O'Rourkes **How to dirve fast on drugs while getting your wing wang squeezed?**

It's from National Lampoon, back when both he and it were funny, and elucidates much the same feelings.

I prefer to drive high, though my bong tneds to block my view when I'm driving.

Re:Was that drunk driver ... (Score:1)

by Army No Va on Friday January 05, @ 12:44PM EST ([#64](#))

([User #143018 Info](#))

Listen, get out and travel a bit. I'm from the South and parts of my family go back 300 years in French Louisiana. Now, while there is too much prejudice down there, it's worse here in NYC area where I now live. My experiences living in both parts of the country tell me that the South has by and large (with some extremist exceptions) learned to live integrated with European, Hispanic, African and other Americans much better than good ole Westchester Co., NY.

northern rednecks. (wildly offtopic) (Score:1)

by [saintlupus](#) ([saintlupus at angelfire dot com](#)) on Friday January 05, @02:14PM EST ([#106](#))
([User #227599 Info](#))

Listen, get out and travel a bit. I'm from the South and parts of my family go back 300 years in French Louisiana. Now, while there is too much prejudice down there, it's worse here in NYC area where I now live. My experiences living in both parts of the country tell me that the South has by and large (with some extremist exceptions) learned to live integrated with European, Hispanic, African and other Americans much better than good ole Westchester Co., NY.

no kidding. i was born and raised in rochester, ny, and live in buffalo now. i've spent months wandering all over this fine country. and the biggest rednecks of them all are all _north_ of the mason-dixon line.

a friend of mine moved up here from south carolina, and it just floored him.

--saint

one more roadboy in a rust belt town.

Re:Was that drunk driver ... (Score:1)

by Army No Va on Friday January 05, @12:49PM EST ([#70](#))
([User #143018 Info](#))

He's from north of the Potomac and/or Ohio Rivers, clearly.....

Re:PPC -- big bucks, no bang (Score:2, Informative)

by Anonymous Coward on Friday January 05, @01:11PM EST ([#84](#))

the thing is that the PPC processors and boards are very different at a low level from x86 processors and boards (duh). the busses are different. A PC will bottleneck is a number of instances at the boards, and cranking the MHZ is only going to do so much., Thats why AS/400s and RS/6000 machines are so great for server applications: they are wider. the memory access (of any kind) on new as400s is incredible. and thats the real issue for server type applications (which seems to maybe be the future), processor speed is important for a number of things, (multimedia) but IO is super important for server applicatiosn, databases etc. So the PPC has quite a future, just maybe not on your desktop, and thats also why linux is so important on the PPC, is because it is great for servers: IBM is planning on releasing it (for example) on the 400 which, pricewise is a fantastic deal. at any rate, the PPC I think has a realatively long life ahead of it. Especially when we move into 64 bit processing. the 64 bit PPCs are great and supposedly the backward compatibility is good. -zeke

Pretty Good Candor, indeed. (Score:2)

by [Christopher B. Brown](#) (cbbrowne@hex.net) on Friday January 05, @01:19PM EST (#87)

(User #1267 Info) <http://www.hex.net/~cbbrowne/lsf.html>

A pretty critical comment is:

Where's the real advantage, though? Again, good question. As the computer world changes, and no third party desktop PPC boxes appear, it's getting harder to answer. I think the real problem here is that there are no real third-party alternatives for PPC hardware. And that needs to change. Should IBM's POP board see the light of day, ask me again, and I'll have a different answer for ya. As I said above, it needs to happen.

Without the third party stuff, without the "cheap motherboards," the PPC stuff is going to continue to get "eaten" by the continually-getting-souped-up IA-32 hardware.

AltiVec may be cool stuff; StrongARM and MIPS have their own bits of "coolness," but all are suffering from the "no cheap motherboards" problem. In order to deploy these for substantial applications, you need either to:

- Commit to paying for a whole pile of hardware, which means you need to have deep pockets and have Vulture Capitalists willing to trust Motorola and Apple (apparently the case for TiVo), or
- Run the risk that the hardware will be obsolete, with *no* upgrade path.

Which is why Cobalt's newer hardware was using IA-32 rather than MIPS, and why "Rebel Computing" isn't doing too well.

I'd love to see the POP motherboards come out; I'd love to see the [F-CPU](#) project get to generating actual silicon, and if they actually produced a board and CPU, I'd almost certainly buy one of those even if it was just a fraction as fast as the latest "Pentium 4." Unfortunately, considerable skepticism is necessary.

If you're not part of the solution, you're part of the precipitate.

Re:PPC -- big bucks, no bang (Score:3, Interesting)

by [earlytime](#) (earlrob@usa.net) on Friday January 05, @01:41PM EST (#97)

(User #15364 Info)

Don't forget that IBM is part of the PPC triumverate. In my eyes, over the last 5 years, not even Intel can hold a candle to IBM in terms of making advances in microprocessor fabrication, and design. Things like copper interconnects, and SOI have helped IBM make lots of money licensing technology, or simply manufacturing other people's chips with IBM's state of the art processes.

It wasn't too long ago that AMD had a majority of their chips made by IBM. (or was that cyrix? i don't remember)

-earl

"If Windoze is the answer, can we please have the problem back?"

Re:PPC -- big bucks, no bang (Score:1)

by Xevion on Friday January 05, @02:26PM EST ([#111](#))

([User #157875 Info](#))

IBM may have had SOI and copper interconnects first, but Intel has them now (And AMD has had them for a while), and has the added benefit of being in heavy competition with AMD. This recent competition has sparked a clock speed race that IBM has not had to partake in, and it has left both Intel and AMD on top of the manufacturing world. Both companies are selling 1Ghz+.18 micron CPUs which are very competitive speed wise to most high end solutions, and catching up pretty fast. Sure, an Athlon is no Alpha, but for under \$500 you will soon be able to buy two 1.1Ghz Athlons and a dual motherboard that are faster than any Alpha, and a lot cheaper too.

Only those who dream can grasp reality.

Re:PPC -- big bucks, no bang (Score:2)

by [earlytime](#) (earlrob@usa.net) on Friday January 05, @03:15PM EST ([#132](#))

([User #15364 Info](#))

the competition thing is a mixed blessing, on the one hand, Intel and AMD are devoting nearly all of their resources to getting the fastest x86 chip out the door, and it makes them lean and mean. On the other hand, it's a profitable market, but margins are razor thin for both parties. If you don't have the profits to do the R&D, and to build the fabs, it's hard to stay competitive in that cut-throat market. IBM gets the benefit of having a diversified product strategy, and also because they use PowerPC in a lot of their own systems (RS/6000, big iron) they get to sell PPC systems in two higher (than x86 desktop) margin markets: midrange and high-end servers. Plus they get service and support revenues from the product lines as well.

And as we all know, it takes a whole lot more than CPU power to make a powerful server. Ask Sun, they have one of the weakest processor offerings in the server market, but because they build balanced systems, having a weak CPU isn't hurting them. But that is beside the point. Intel and AMD already own the desktop CPU market, and when they offer 64-bit CPUs, AMD will pull in a big share of the mid-range server market but they'll both expand into the high-end server market as well.

"If Windoze is the answer, can we please have the problem back?"

Re:PPC -- big bucks, no bang (Score:1)

by FigWig on Friday January 05, @04:12PM EST ([#151](#))

(User #10981 Info) <http://www.forum2000.org/Gateway/www.slashdot.org>

Too bad IBM's focus for the PPC is high end servers (very high end servers...), and Moto's focus has been the embedded market, leaving Apple and its customers to suffer.

Hopefully the new faster CPUs will help remedy this situation.

"Any sufficiently stupid /. poster is indistinguishable from a troll" -- ME

conspiracy theory (Score:1)

by [Lord Omlette](#) (ajain@digink.com) on Saturday January 06, @01:21PM EST ([#229](#))

(User #124579 Info) <http://www.omlettesoft.com/>

Nintendo's GameCube revolves around a 400 MHz PPC knockoff, correct? That means we'll have linux on it in no time at all! Whee!

I wonder how much IBM is making from the Nintendo deal, I believe they're the ones making the Gekko [sp?] processor...

--

Peace,

Lord Omlette

ICQ# 77863057

IANAZ (I am not a zerg)

Re:PPC -- big bucks, no bang (Score:1)

by [DuBois](#) (wae@takethisout.allmax.com) on Friday January 05, @04:55PM EST ([#161](#))

(User #105200 Info) <http://www.allmax.com/wae/>

Anybody who's seen IBM's plans for the Power4 chip will be drooling at this point for IBM to incorporate AltiVec into a "consumer-grade" Power4 (dual CPU on chip, SOI, Copper, 1Ghz) that could work quite nicely in a (let's call it) Macintosh P4 Tower.

One can dream...

They that can give up essential Liberty, to obtain a little temporary Safety, deserve neither Liberty nor Safety.

Re:PPC -- big bucks, no bang (Score:1)

by [Grahf666](#) (greenwud@idontlikespam.cstone.net) on Saturday January 06, @01:06PM EST ([#227](#))

(User #118413 Info)

That would be kind of silly; Power4's are huge, power consuming beasts. Apple would almost certainly have to make a new case to fit them in. And besides, it would cost like \$10,000 USD. Maybe if Apple re-entered the high-end server market, it would become a reality.

- Any sufficiently heavy slashdotting is indistinguishable from a DDOS.

Mouse/Button Emulation (Score:2)

by [Wyatt Earp](#) (wyatt@nospame.aracnet.com) on Friday January 05, @01:45PM EST ([#100](#))
(User #1029 Info) <http://www.bloodshed.org>

You get used to it fast. When OS 8 out and introduced the Contextual Menu in 97, I picked it up quick, mouse with the right and pinkie finger to the Control key with the left . Then I went out a few monthes later and got my Kensington Orbit.

Now I have an MS Intellithingy Explorer. Really nice mouse on a Mac. Oh and I still have my Kensington Orbit for playing Q3 and UT, because I just can't get used to a mouse in those two games.

Ad Astra Per Aspera "A Rough Road Leads to the Stars"

Re:Drunk Driving (Score:2)

by [haaz](#) (jhaas@linuxppc.com) on Friday January 05, @06:11PM EST ([#177](#))
(User #3346 Info) <http://www.linuxppc.com>

Mmm, that's not harsh enough. ;->

- \$100,000 fine if it's as bad as Jerk Boy's deed. (0.25 BAC (you're supposed to be nearly unconscious with that much blood in your alchohol stream. er....))
- Singapore-style caning is good. Yes.
- Exile to Siberia.
- Lose all driving priveledges for at least five years. That would be really tough to push, especially in such a car-dependant country as the U.S..

That's just my opinion. Take it for what it's worth.

Haaz: Co-founder, LinuxPPC Inc., making Linux for PowerPC since 1996.
<http://www.linuxppc.com/>

Re:Drunk Driving (Score:1)

by [Micah](#) (micah at geeks4christ dot NO SPAM dot org) on Saturday January 06, @03:08AM EST
([#212](#))
(User #278 Info)

Siberia? That's too good for them! They should be kept in a special facility at the Amundsen Scott South Pole Station and be forced to clean the runway with their tongues, every day!!! :-)

I'm looking for freelance Web development work. E-mail me!

Re:Drunk Driving (Score:1, Insightful)

by Anonymous Coward on Saturday January 06, @02:57AM EST ([#209](#))

Drunks shouldn't be singled out. Any sort of voluntary negligence, where a person makes a choice that results in them not operating a vehicle as safely as possible, should receive equal treatment. Get drunk, talk on a cellphone, do your makeup in the rear-view mirror ... it's all the same. They're all conscious choices to risk other peoples' lives. America will become a better place when the drunken driving laws are repealed and *the general case* is addressed instead.

No, he was not. (Score:2)

by [haaz](#) (jhaas@linuxppc.com) on Saturday January 06, @03:02AM EST ([#211](#))
(User #3346 Info) <http://www.linuxppc.com>

Jerk Boy is/was a college student at Princeton. I don't know what he was doing in Savannah that day.

And he is caucasian/white.

Haaz: Co-founder, LinuxPPC Inc., making Linux for PowerPC since 1996.
<http://www.linuxppc.com/>

Re:Drunk Driving (Score:1)

by [inkey string](#) (inkeys@abode_synonym.com) on Saturday January 06, @05:51AM EST ([#217](#))
(User #35594 Info) <http://127.0.0.1>

the only problems with simple solutions are simple ones. unfortunately, drunk driving is far from this. as long as people believe it won't happen to them, and have (at the time misplaced) confidence in themselves, it's not going away anytime soon.

He who knows others is wise. He who knows himself is enlightened. -- Lao Tsu

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Ask LinuxPPC Co-Founder Jason Haas

Posted by [Roblimo](#) on Tuesday January 02, @12:30PM

from the not-Lazarus-but-plays-him-on-the-Internet dept.

Jason Haas is co-founder, marketing director, and Web manager for [LinuxPPC](#) and an all-around good Linux guy. He's also majorly anti-drunk driving these days, because last March a drunk driver ran into his car and left it looking like [this](#). Jason was left in [only slightly better shape](#) himself, but unlike his Honda, he eventually recovered (with major help and support from his wife, Cassie) and went back to work. Ask Jason what you will; about out-of-control SUVs (I don't think he likes them), Linux on PowerPCs (something he likes a lot) or anything else. Post your questions below. Tomorrow we'll forward 10 of the highest-moderated ones to him, and we'll expect his answers back in a week or so.

< [The Truth About File-Sharing](#) | [GPL'd Code Finds New Home](#) >



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Interviews

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descisions? (Score:4, Interesting)

by [garcia](#) on Tuesday January 02, @12:35PM EST ([#3](#))

([User #6573 Info](#))

what made you decide to want to do LinuxPPC development and do you think that the Macintosh hardware platform is going to remain a major player in years to come?

- Bill

Re:descisions? (Score:1)

by [fridgepimp](#) (fridgepimp@tuxdocs.org) on Tuesday January 02, @05:29PM EST ([#188](#))

([User #136338 Info](#)) <http://www.tuxdocs.org>

The PPC Linux distributions (LinuxPPC, YellowDog, et al) ALSO run on RS6000 boxes and would be the distro to run on power4s and other PowerPC architectures, not just Apple Macintosh boxen, though they happen to be the largest consumer-level use of this particular port.

-fp

--

Lighten up. People will like you more.

Other Software (Score:1)

by [Spit_Fire1](#) (spit_fire1111@hotmail.com) on Tuesday January 02, @12:38PM EST ([#8](#))

([User #247104 Info](#))

Will LinuxPPC be able to use all linux based software or just ones specifically for ppc. Will they release source apps or bins? Do you think that linuxppc will bring new users to mac hardware, take maco/s customers away from them or take linux customers and allow them to use macs?

"The secret of success is to know something nobody else knows." -Aristotle Onassis

Re:Other Software (Score:2)

by [garcia](#) on Tuesday January 02, @12:41PM EST ([#15](#))

([User #6573 Info](#))

LinuxPPC has been around for a long time. There are already many apps ready to go. It is like any other architecture, yaeh you have to recompile them for that arch but the Linux programs will normally work.

It isn't going to take away anymore MacOS people as we take away Windows users...

- Bill

great site for SUV haters... (Score:1, Informative)

by [Kris Warkentin](#) (kewarken@REMOVEbeavis.CAPITALshacknet.LETTERSnu) on Tuesday

January 02, @12:39PM EST ([#10](#))

(User #15136 Info) <http://erwin.cs.lakeheadu.ca/gtool/>

So Jason, what DO you think about SUVs? I saw this site a couple years ago - it cracks me up and I bet you would get a kick out of it too...

<http://poseur.4x4.org/>

When your only tool is a hammer, everything starts to look like a nail.

cool (Score:2)

by twitter on Tuesday January 02, @04:32PM EST ([#178](#))

(User #104583 Info)

I recomend burbon, early morning, and no seat belt. Try not to hurt anyone nice when you die, looser.

Drunk Driving Penalties (Score:3, Insightful)

by [verbatim](#) (verbatim@canada.com) on Tuesday January 02, @12:40PM EST ([#13](#))

(User #18390 Info) <http://www.writeopen.com/>

Since you were in what appears to be a very serious accident with a very serious idoit, do you feel that the drunk driving laws are good/bad and what do you think could/should be done to prevent accidents like the one you were involved with (if anything)? Also, what do you feel are the effects of alchohol on the average geek mind?

Blah.

--- Infinite wisdom begins with infinite stupidity.

On Driving Laws (Score:2, Insightful)

by Voira on Tuesday January 02, @12:57PM EST ([#49](#))

(User #267049 Info)

I keep wondering about the legal ages for several things in this country (USA).

Driving age: 14-16

Legal sex age: 16-18 (?)

Marriage age: 15 (?)

Death penalty age: 14

Army age: 18

Voting age: 18

Drinking age: 21

It is amazing for how many things you are considered responsible enough for before you are allowed to drink.

That doesn't quite make much sense. Wouldn't it make much more sense having a legislation more European like? In Europe most countries have a legal drinking age 2 years lower than the driving age (Drink: 16, Drive: 18). What happens is that by the time you get to dive all the

drinking hype is already gone and there are not so many accidents related to alcohol.... Would Americans trade one age for the other?

Just a thought

Re:On Driving Laws (Score:2)

by Black Parrot on Tuesday January 02, @01:11PM EST ([#60](#))

([User #19622 Info](#))

> *It is amazing for how many things you are considered responsible enough for before you are allowed to drink.*

That's because the system isn't based on rational premises; it's based on what the powerful want to enforce on the powerless.

BTW, did you know that voting age was 21 back during the Vietnam War, until people expressed outrage over the fact that

You're old enough for killin'
But not for votin'
-- Barry McGuire (IIRC)

--

The court ruled it legal to fuck the voters by running out the clock, and demonstrated how to do it.

Re:On Driving Laws (Score:1)

by brad3378 on Tuesday January 02, @01:53PM EST ([#102](#))

([User #155304 Info](#))

> *Would Americans trade one age for the other?*

Interesting Proposal. I'd be curious to see how others feel about it, but until somebody convinces me otherwise, I'd be willing to bet that it would not work as well in the USA as the current system.

To back up my argument, I'd like to point out that impaired drivers are not always under the influence of Alcohol. Other drugs such as "X" are becoming much more popular these days, although I must admit I don't have any statistics to make claims about the most dangerous drugs behind the wheel.

I definitely wouldn't consider myself to be a typical American, or for that matter even a typical Slashdotter, but as a former drunk driver myself, I don't think that a higher drinking age would have stopped me since I was about 23 when I started drinking regularly, and about 24 before starting to drive home knowing that I was probably above the legal limit of .10% (about 5 drinks).

I have been to Europe, and I can attest to your claim that young Europeans have a different drinking Mentality. Sure, some do Binge drink like Americans, but overall, Europeans have much better "buzz control". Although Alcohol in Europe is cheaper than Pepsi (and sometimes water), They know when to stop.

I do agree with you that Hype is a major contributor to the problem. America probably even has the best Beer commercials in the world, but I don't think the answer to the problem is to lower the drinking age. The answer is to have drinkers become more responsible drinkers. Unfortunately it is difficult to force people to be responsible for their actions until after they get caught breaking the rules.

What the hell, It's only Karma

Re:On Driving Laws (Score:1)

by waketurbulence on Tuesday January 02, @02:55PM EST ([#139](#))
([User #252138 Info](#))

The problem runs deeper than that. US is a driving culture. With suburban sprawl getting worse every year cars are necessary part of everyday life. Public transportation is largely dysfunctional, pedestrians are miserable and everyone is expected to drive. Otherwise you are basically imprisoned in one location.

Once you start with this background the rest becomes inevitable. Teenagers will need their driving licenses ASAP so they (and their parents who are sick and tired of chauffeuring them around) can have their freedom. When 16 year olds have access to automobiles long before they are entrusted with alcohol/voting and other adult responsibilities, it is not surprising that their maturity level lags far behind their capability for damage.

Finally government-subsidized fuel means that small cars are not attractive for most people. (Gas costs upto 4 times as much in Europe) Instead the combination of weak environmental laws, CAFE regulations which allows SUVs to get away with abysmal fuel economy and standard corporate practices from Detroit's big three leads to proliferation of soccer moms driving 8000lb SUVs.

WT

Re:On Driving Laws (Score:1)

by GlenRaphael on Tuesday January 02, @05:33PM EST ([#189](#))
([User #8539 Info](#)) <http://www.impel.com>

Finally government-subsidized fuel means that small cars are not attractive for most people. (Gas costs upto 4 times as much in Europe)

The gas in the US is not government-subsidized, it simply isn't **overtaxed** quite as much as the gas in Europe. Last time I looked, a bit over a third of the cost of gas around here -- I'm in California -- is due to state and local gas taxes plus local sales taxes.

Re:On Driving Laws (Score:1)

by zhensel on Tuesday January 02, @05:52PM EST ([#191](#))

([User #228891 Info](#))

Personally, I wouldn't mind if the government:

1. Raised tax on unleaded gas to make it about \$4 a gallon ala Europe. 2. Removed most diesel gas taxes. 3. Banned the use of diesel engines for private transportation outside of public transportation and shipping - with a mandate that local municipalities attempt to convert to electric transportation and increase public transportation in order to sustain federal funding (and increase federal funding with the addition of higher gas taxes).

As far as I see, this system I just made up a second ago would both aid in relieving private truck drivers who can't saddle the burden of gas taxes as well as reduce the amount of gass-guzzlers driving around. It would also lead to an increase in efficient public transportation that would help to lower our reliance on foreign energy. As a side note, if this ever happens, everyone should buy stock in Honda because of their kick-ass incite :)

Re:On Driving Laws (Score:1)

by Fizgig on Wednesday January 03, @01:24AM EST ([#261](#))

([User #16368 Info](#))

I read a study (by anti-urban sprawl people, so it was bound to be a bit biased) which suggested that in order for the price of gasoline to take into account all of the social costs that go along with it (big list: subsidized highway construction, pollution, the Gulf War, ...), the tax on gasoline (not just the retail price) would be \$6.25.

-- Fizgig, devourer of worlds . . . and beignets

Re:On Driving Laws (Score:1)

by zhensel on Wednesday January 03, @12:54AM EST ([#260](#))

([User #228891 Info](#))

Hmmm... I guess you'll just have to haul some feed around in your muscle car to get around the law eh? Everything has a loophole. I used to be a conservative. George (W) Bush changed all that (with a little help from Ralph Nader). By the way, I imagine my manner of death will be by way of gun eh? Wouldn't want anyone taking those away either.

Re:On Driving Laws (Score:1)

by zhensel on Tuesday January 02, @05:55PM EST ([#193](#))

([User #228891 Info](#))

Actually, children have been put to trials where the punishment could be death at ages under 14 (I believe one kid was **11**. The courts, however, tend to give quadruple life sentences or the like rather than the death penalty though. BTW, the age of consent (sex) varies between 14 and 18 and the laws regarding it are hellishly confusing. You can also join the army when you are 17 (the army reserve anyway). You can't be drafted till you are 18 though.

Re:Drunk Driving Penalties (Score:1)

by peccary on Tuesday January 02, @05:07PM EST ([#186](#))

([User #161168 Info](#))

Jason,

Don't you think it's a little bit, um, cheap, for folks to suddenly get all worked up over some gored ox or other **AFTER** it suddenly becomes **THEIR** ox?

Or in other words, why should I take your concern about drunk driving so seriously, just because you got creamed? Surely, if drunk driving is a serious concern, it's not made more serious just because it happened to **you**?

ISTM that people who suddenly develop compunctions about some *personal* cause celebre are morally inferior to those whose compunctions are formed independently of their own personal tragedies. That is why I do not consider it to Chris Reeve's credit that he is concerned about quadriplegia (well, duh) or to Milken's credit that is agitated over prostate cancer, but I do consider it to Diana Spencer's credit that she is identified with a campaign against landmines, rather than a campaign against drunk driving.

Re:Drunk Driving Penalties (Score:1)

by cannon_trodder on Tuesday January 02, @06:28PM EST ([#205](#))

([User #264217 Info](#))

As Jason is known to many in the Linux community, we really can't call it cheap that he uses the current attention he is experiencing to highlight drink driving.

Ultimately he is sacrificing his privacy by sharing his (and his wifes) personal experiences of the whole incident.

Christopher Reeve surely doesn't relish people seeing him as he is now rather than the "indestructible super hero" he used to be able to easily play? But he doesn't shy away from the attention his tragedy has created, instead choosing to use it to help promote awareness of his and others challenges.

Does Diana's death in a drunk-driver related incident lend more credit to her (still ongoing) land-mine crusade than it would *if her death had actually been at the hands on a land-mine?*

Pre-accident values (Drunk Driving Penalties) (Score:1)

by darkonc on Tuesday January 02, @08:33PM EST ([#233](#))

([User #47285 Info](#)) <http://www.getyourassingear.com>

It's quite understandable that, after the accident you are now strongly anti drunk driving. I'm interested in the contrast:

What was your attitude towards drunk driving (and minitanks) before the accident?

--

Killing a person is easy -- killing an idea is murder.

Our friends at Apple... (Score:3, Interesting)

by [Soko \(NOrsokoloski1@SPhome.AMcom\)](#) on Tuesday January 02, @12:41PM EST (#16)
(User #17987 Info) <http://members.home.net/rsokoloski1/>

With the imminent launch of OS/X, one would think that Apple has been a rather prickly bedfellow as of late.

Have they been open, honest and co-operative, or do they seem to view you and your group as something of a competitor?

What the hell, it's only Karma.

Re:Our friends at Apple... (Score:1)

by drjohn on Tuesday January 02, @12:58PM EST (#51)
(User #35000 Info)

One specific example. The quicktime technology is now used on Windows as well as Mac Systems. But I can not view these same quicktime files on my LinuxPPC base G4, and have to reboot into MacOS.

I have followed Linux on Mac hardware since the early MkLinux. Is there any hope of Apple giving back to the Linux community

Re:Our friends at Apple... (Score:1)

by [Schnedt Microne \(scott30189@hotmail.com\)](#) on Tuesday January 02, @06:53PM EST (#210)
(User #264752 Info)

MkLinux itself was an effort by Apple to cripple the porting of regular Linux to the Mac hardware.

Apple knew that Linux hackers crawl all around in the hardware, reverse engineering features and digging out all the secrets. They figured that by putting out their own 'special' version of Linux, they could kill the impetus for anybody to incorporate the Mac architecture into the mainstream Linux kernel. So they threw out MkLinux, rubbing out the motivation to do a clean port of Linux to the Mac, and kept ownership of their hardware designs private.

Because of that, people who want to run a good freenix on their older Mac hardware use NetBSD instead. (I have a IIci, a Quadra 800, and two SE/30s with NetBSD on them)

Re:Our friends at Apple... (Score:1)

by [shub](#) (shub@shub-internet.org) on Tuesday January 02, @ 10:32PM EST (#250)

(User #88921 Info) <http://www.shub-internet.org/brad/>

But will NetBSD install on an older PCI PowerMacintosh, such as the 7200/90?

I've got an old machine laying around pretty much unused (but stuffed with RAM), and I'd like to be able to use it for some good purpose. I haven't done anything with it up until now, because I was under the impression that NetBSD wouldn't install on it, and none of the various Linux distributions really interested me (although LinuxPPC came closest).

--

Brad Knowles

<http://daily.daemonnews.org/> -- if you're not reading it daily, you're not up-to-date

Re:Our friends at Apple... (Score:1)

by [Schnedt Microne](#) (scott30189@hotmail.com) on Tuesday January 02, @ 10:42PM EST (#252)

(User #264752 Info)

Looking at this [Excellent Summary Page](#) over at NetBSD's home, it looks like you're still out of luck.

Nearly anything will run NetBSD, though.

Re:Our friends at Apple... (Score:1)

by [dhuff](#) (david@dhuff.org) on Wednesday January 03, @ 10:09AM EST (#291)

(User #42785 Info)

That's one reason LinuxPPC is so cool - it **will** run on a 7200 :) IMHO it's a bit of a shame about NetBSD tho', as I lean more towards BSD as a rule. But hey, at least that old 7200/90 I have now can begin life anew as a useful server thanks to Jason and all the other folks in the LinuxPPC project!

Re:Our friends at Apple... (Score:2)

by [Sloppy](#) (sloppy@spam^H^H^H^Hrt66.com) on Wednesday January 03, @ 11:43AM EST

(#298)

(User #14984 Info)

But I can not view these same quicktime files on my LinuxPPC base G4, and have to reboot into MacOS.

[snip]

Is there any hope of Apple giving back to the Linux community

In a word: No. They can't ever open Quicktime, because the Sorenson Codec isn't theirs to give out.

If you don't like the Quicktime situation, you should either fight software patents, or boycott the Codec (i.e. stop booting into MacOS to view Quicktime movies, and instead, do without it).

In other respects, there seems little incentive to Apple to ever "give back to the community" because they view their Mac+MacOS bundle as a single product, especially since Jobs came back. From Apple's point of view, there is no reason to aid OSes other than MacOS, because they don't see Mac sales to users-who-don't-want-MacOS as a significantly market. And judging from the lack of appearance of non-Mac PPC personal computers (e.g. [POP](#)) they might be right. Apparently, the market has spoken (although IMHO, POP hasn't really been given a fair chance yet).

If someone other than Apple starts selling non-Mac PPC boxes and makes some decent sales, this would indicate a larger market for PPC-based personal computers, and maybe Apple would change their mind, and then have more incentive to accomodate non-MacOS OSes on Macs, thereby leading to them to "give back to the community."

Have a Sloppy night!

Drunk Drivers (Score:1)

by [methodic](#) (methodic@_NO_SPAM_4_ME.securebydefault.net) on Tuesday January 02, @ 12:41PM EST ([#17](#))

(User #253493 Info) <http://www.securebydefault.net>

I am a 19 year-old straightedge person (being straightedge means no drinking, no smoking and no drugs). I honestly believe I am this way because I've watched all these substances destroy my family and some of my friends.

I just wanted to know if your views of alcohol, in general, has changed after your accident or if you have joined any anti-drunk driving organisations (i.e. MADD)?

Re:Drunk Drivers (goint further OT) (Score:1)

by [XyouthX](#) (xyouthx@spamcansuckit.x-up.org) on Tuesday January 02, @ 01:14PM EST ([#63](#))

(User #194451 Info) <http://x-up.org>

Do you actually believe that anyone would take up smoking if they **knew** what the consequences would be?

please..

I'm sure the majority of people have heard about the consequences a bazillion of times, but not everybody realizes what they mean.

Re:Drunk Drivers (goint further OT) (Score:1)

by Peter Dyck on Tuesday January 02, @01:32PM EST ([#85](#))

(User #201979 Info)

Are you serious?

I drink alcohol and occasionally smoke both tobacco and marijuana.

Having lost an uncle to a liver failure (he was a **heavy** drinker) and having a friend with lung emphyzema I have no illusions about what booze and tobacco can do to me. However, it's a risk I'm willing to take to make this shitty life a bit more pleasurable.

Re:Drunk Drivers (goint further OT) (Score:1)

by [methodic](#) (methodic@_NO_SPAM_4_ME.securebydefault.net) on Tuesday January 02, @04:01PM EST ([#161](#))

(User #253493 Info) <http://www.securebydefault.net>

Thats an aweful attitude to have in life. I know Im not the happiest person, or the richest person, but I try to do things to make what I have that much better. Drowing yourself in smoke and booze does nothing except make the problems disappear for a few hours, but once you become sober again, you realize you cant escape them with chemicals. I guess youre one of the millions of people who need to have something done **DIRECTLY** to them to see the _true_ dangers and risks. That is unfortunate.

Precious hours of relief (Score:1)

by Peter Dyck on Tuesday January 02, @07:48PM EST ([#227](#))

(User #201979 Info)

And those few hours are exactly what I'm looking for. My attitude isn't 'I want to die' or 'I want to live' but 'If I die in the next second, what will I care?' So I take risks, and I have a reckless attitude about death. It shows in the way I live my life, my driving, scaling buildings, leaning off of cliffs, etc. I don't want to die, but if I did it wouldn't really bother me.

What I want is a few hours of relief from the existence into which we are born, in we are educated, work our fingers to the bone earning money and then snuff it. All of us. We all die sooner or later, so why do we spend so much effort on the intervening steps? It is because the human mind is unable to consider the fact that it is all futile, that we are wasting our time, that there is no purpose to existence.

So, why live? No reason whatsoever. Except that we lack the courage to finish that which is

worthless. We are frightened of death- but why? There is no reason.

Most days I can forget that there's no purpose to life and enjoy whatever I'm doing. But every so often that big black cloud sort of sneaks up on me and pins me down. That's when I crawl over to angst IRC channels to whimper for a while, and flame the shit out of whining but well meaning college boys and girls who believe "that cherished myth - that falling in love magically solves every problem you're ever had." (Jello Biafra, "Mate, Spawn and Die" an excellent albeit temporary cure for depression.)

Then I go home and have a drink or smoke a joint and I'll get my break from the reality.

I know perfectly well that I am poisoning myself with alcohol and smoke, but hell, nowadays you can get cancer from breathing air and a brain-rotting disease from eating meat. I choose to drink alcohol because it makes me feel good. I eat meat because I like it. I smoke because I want to.

You're free to live as you like as long as you don't bother me too much. I just wish you would stop insulting me by suggesting that I would not have chosen to do this if I had had a full knowledge of the potential outcome. I have seen the **true** risks and know that I'll probably have a similar fate as my uncle. I have no problem with it; why should you?

Re:Precious hours of relief (Score:1)

by [jidar](#) (jidar@doh.par1.net) on Wednesday January 03, @03:55AM EST (#275)

(User #83795 Info)

Heh. Congratulations, that's exactly what I thought you PEOPLE were doing. It's sad and sorry from here.

The use of OFFTOPIC moderation has gotten way out of hand. I meta-mod those unfair and mod them back up when moderator.

Re:Precious hours of relief (Score:2)

by [afc](#) on Wednesday January 03, @12:47PM EST (#300)

(User #12569 Info) <http://www.gnu.org>

Pardon my French, but being blasé is so passé ...

--

Information wants to be beer, or something like that.

Re:Drunk Drivers (goint further OT) (Score:1)

by [Hallow](#) on Tuesday January 02, @04:29PM EST (#175)

(User #2706 Info) <http://hallow.webmages.com/>

As evidenced by George Burns, you can still have your fun and live to old age too. The key is..... dadaDA! MODERATION. He had a martini, a cigar, and legend has it... a woman, every day until the day he died (at 100).

A glass of wine with dinner, or a couple beers while watching a game. Maybe a regular afternoon martini. A puff or two from a cigar, pipe, or cigarette, even a chew.

These things only become a problem when you

- 1) have bad genetics to begin with or
- 2) you move from moderation to excess and extreme addiction or
- 3) you use them as an excuse to engage in poor behavior (drunk driving, abuse, etc., typically only related to alcohol)

What do you mean by *KNOW*? (Score:1)

by [FatSean](#) (FatSean@hotmail.com) on Tuesday January 02, @01:34PM EST ([#88](#))
(User #18753 Info) <http://fatsean.homeip.net/>

Shit, in Australia they have huge signs that say "Smoking Kills" at the counter in convenience stores, but people still smoke!

What else can society do to discourage this behaviour? Nothing! People KNOW it's dangerous. People know eating high-fat foods is dangerous, as is speeding, and about a bazillion other things commonly done.

The statistics are there, the odds are there, and people keep rolling the dice.

My DSL sucks as a pipe to my webserver.

Re:Moralizing butheads! (Score:1)

by [XyouthX](#) (xyouthx@spamcansuckit.x-up.org) on Tuesday January 02, @04:31PM EST ([#177](#))
(User #194451 Info) <http://x-up.org>

I am not moralizing. I don't consider it my business what other people do to themselves. I am just stating that i believe a lot (esp. young people) don't consider the consequences. I try hard to avoid preaching when it comes to these issues as i consider them to be highly personal.

It's just not for me.

Re:Drunk Drivers (Score:1)

by [methodic](#) (methodic@_NO_SPAM_4_ME.securebydefault.net) on Tuesday January 02, @04:13PM EST ([#170](#))
(User #253493 Info) <http://www.securebydefault.net>

If everyone is anti-drunk driving, then why do tragedies like this exist?

been a long way since Madison... (Score:1)

by lupa on Tuesday January 02, @12:41PM EST ([#18](#))

([User #218669 Info](#))

from a computer/Mac standpoint, how do you feel about your multi-faceted progress since your days in Madison?

(BAANAANAA)

LinuxPPC CD booting breakthrough (Score:1)

by Muad'Dave on Tuesday January 02, @12:42PM EST ([#21](#))

([User #255648 Info](#))

What was the breakthrough that allows your latest release to boot directly from the CD-ROM on a Macintosh? Is this something that you are willing to share with other Mac distributions, i.e. M68k-linux?

How to make any cd bootable on a mac (Score:1)

by Duck0987 on Tuesday January 02, @02:55PM EST ([#140](#))

([User #130663 Info](#))

After installing a debian port on a 68k macintosh it would not be hard to make the disk bootable. All you need is a working MacOS system folder burnt on to a cd that has been made as a bootable cd, if you use toast for the burning this is very simple just check the bootable option. And if you want to completely automate the process all you would need to do is put the penguin loader, preferences in the startup folder inside the system folder and have the preferences pointed at the kernel, and bang you hold down 'c' on boot and you are ready to go

unless anyone sees why this wouldn't work

Re:How to make any cd bootable on a mac (Score:1)

by darkonc on Tuesday January 02, @10:17PM EST ([#248](#))

([User #47285 Info](#)) <http://www.getyourassinge.com>

I don't know much about Mac OS, but here's a shot: by "working system folder", you mean a slim version of Mac OS, right? That'd be a violation of copyright.

No. All you need is a "System Folder", but instead of MacOS, the file contains the boot process for Linux. By the time the CPU realizes the difference, it's too late. You've already got a penguin on the screen.

--

Killing a person is easy -- killing an idea is murder.

Commodity Hardware? (Score:2)

by superid on Tuesday January 02, @12:43PM EST ([#23](#))

([User #46543 Info](#))

I'm definitely spoiled rotten by the state of commodity PC hardware. I take it very much for granted that I have a vast choice of motherboards and processors to choose from.

I'm also PPC-clueless. Can you talk briefly about the current state of PPC hardware? (availability, capability, price, future roadmap)

SuperID

Not quite true (Score:2)

by Ethelred Unraed on Tuesday January 02, @06:25PM EST (#204)

(User #32954 Info) <http://design.macnews.de/>

Presently, it's either Apple or nobody. There were shining hopes for something better, but it never appeared.

Actually, there are many non-Apple PPC computers that run Linux (though admittedly *new* non-Apple PPC hardware is hard to come by).

For example, there's the RS/6000 IBM boxes, BeBoxes, Amiga APUS, and Motorola and Bull boxes. And, of course, TiVo and other embedded platforms.

Check out <http://www.linuxppc.com/about/hardware/> for a complete list of supported hardware.

Still, the OpenPPC.org bit has been a bitter disappointment so far. Ah well, keep your fingers and toes crossed...

HTH

[Ethelred](#)

[[My site](#) | [Support LinuxPPC](#)]

SUVs and false sense of safety.. (Score:1)

by ebbv on Tuesday January 02, @12:44PM EST (#27)

(User #34786 Info) <http://www.theonion.com>

i have railed against SUVs and the falsely-held belief by many that they are somehow safer than other cars on slashdot and many other places. just about any time the topic comes up. but there seems to be little that can be done to combat the fad other than just trying to steer friends and relatives away from purchasing trucks and SUVs unnecessarily (trucks have genuine uses, but i fail to see any needs that a 3-ton SUV fills that a smaller and safer minivan or better yet, wagon, cannot.)

this is a social problem, it's a dangerous, stupid and wasteful fad. while i'm usually very pro-darwinism, owning an Audi TT myself, it's always a little disconcerting when an Excursion comes speeding up behind me when i'm stopped at a light.

the misconception that he is 'safer' in that excursion comes from the fact that he's safer than i am in that collision, but if he's not any more safe than he'd be if he was in say, an Accord, Camry or Taurus.

in fact, he's less safe, he's unable to stop in a reasonable distance, swerve around obstacles to avoid collisions, etc. add to that the fact that when two three ton vehicles collide the resulting impact is far more violent than say, a collision of two Festivas or even Mustangs.

what's your view, thoughts and suggestions on this issue?
...dave

Think different? I'd be happy if most people would just think...

SUV's are great - for a certain audience (Score:2)

by [DG \(trog@SPAM-ME-NOT.wincom.net\)](#) on Tuesday January 02, @01:35PM EST ([#89](#))
(User #989 Info) <http://farnorthracing.com>

I think that SUV's are great vehicles - for a certain audience. The problem is that people are buying them for the "wrong" reasons.

I have a 1991 Chev Suburban 2WD. I also have an Eagle Talon race car, and the trailer it fits on. The 'burban is the tow vehicle.

For long haul trips hauling a race car, three sets of tires, enough gas for the weekend, tools, spares, and all the other miscellaneous sundry required, nothing beats a great big SUV. In fact, I'm in the market for a new one, and I'm having trouble finding one I consider "big enough".

But I'm not the problem here. The problem is those that buy an SUV in the belief that it renders them invincible to weather conditions. The soccer moms roaring down an unplowed Interstate at 80 MPH.

There is an element of truth here - I drive race cars, right? So I took the 'burban out onto a snowy parking lot, to see how easy it was to slide it around, what braking distances were like, and so on. There's no doubt in my mind that the limits in adverse weather are quite a bit higher in an SUV than in a "normal" passenger car. This means that an SUV in the hands of the

blissfully ignorant is much less likely to lose control.

However, once control is lost, the laws of physics dictate that a heavy SUV moving at high speed will have a lot more energy and momentum to dissipate in the crash, which means a lot more damage - especially if the SUV hits a smaller vehicle.

Note that THIS is nothing new either - look at what happens when car meets semi - but your average truck driver is much more competent than Ms Soccer Mom.

The problem here is not the SUVs. The problem is people who don't understand the limits of their vehicles, and who drive in excess of those limits (or while talking on the cell phone, or whatever) Idiocy is not limited to SUV drivers.

I'll give you an example. When the tow rig is fully loaded up, the stopping distances get pretty long (trailer brakes notwithstanding) So I leave a correspondingly longer distance between myself and the vehicle in front of me - the idea being that if the car in front of me stops NOW, that I have time to react and get the rig stopped. Well, that buffer space has to be the most attractive thing on the road, because I can't count the number of times that guys in little cars (with much shorter stopping distances than the rig) will move into that buffer space. You do that, and you have taken your own life into your hands, because if you stop before I can re-establish the buffer, then all 10,000lbs of me will be eating your rear bumper if you stop.

Driving is an *active process*, but far too many people treat it as a passive routine. That's your problem.

One final point - I don't have the details about Jason's accident, but I know that every single time I cross an intersection my eyes are up checking the crosstreets for someone approaching too quickly WELL before I enter the intersection myself; green light be damned. That extra little bit of situational awareness has saved my bacon on more than one occasion. Jason may have been able to do the same.

Assume that everyone on the road is **actively trying to kill you**, drive accordingly, and you'll never have an accident.

DG

DG

Re:SUV's are great - for a certain audience (Score:1)

by cassie_haas on Tuesday January 02, @02:14PM EST ([#123](#))

(User #167147 Info)

The details (which you should've bothered to find out before posting such a passionate, but wrongheaded paean to SUVs and stupidity): Jason was sitting at a red light when the drunk idiot in the SUV attempted to drive *through* his car. There is not really anything one can do when one is innocently sitting at a red light, in terms of safety. The only actions you can control are your own. Your advice is good, but useless, in this case. cassandra
Married to a Linux geek. Not Linux. Per res adversas firmitas.

Still may have been able to avoid it... (Score:1)

by [DG \(trog@SPAM-ME-NOT.wincom.net\)](#) on Tuesday January 02, @02:41PM EST ([#135](#))

(User #989 Info) <http://farnorthracing.com>

Hi Cassie, good to see someone with authority commenting. Your journal entries made fascinating reading, and I'm glad to see you both came through OK.

But as for the "stopped at red light" scenario, Jason *still* may have been able to evade the accident. If he had been watching his mirrors, he may have been able to see the vehicle coming, and get out of the way.

No, I'm not on crack. In fact, a demonstration of this very manouever is the centerpoint of a TV commercial for the Young Drivers of Canada driving school.

After a while, this all becomes reflexive. Step on the brake, check the mirrors. Stopped at the light, check the light, check the mirrors, check the light, back to the mirrors... etc.

This is not to say that Jason is *at fault* for the accident - a certain drunk bastard bears that responsibility. But neither is he completely innocent either. When you go out on the road, you place yourself in harm's way. If you do not remain aware of your surroundings and maintain a level of readiness to react to changes in your surroundings, then you are placing a measure of your security into the hands of others - and those others tend to be mainly idiots.

You'll note the numbers of "may"s in the above. It's quite possible that he'd've gotten hit no matter what he tried to do. But the description I remember made no note of _any_ attempt at evasive action (although his memory of the event may be at fault here) Ask him. If the answer was "I didn't even see him coming" then you've found your answer.

In any case, a drunk idiot in an SUV is a drunk idiot - the vehicle he's driving makes little difference. You'd be just as well served railing against the evils of semis, busses, and front-end-loaders with drunks behind the wheel.

DG

Re:Still may have been able to avoid it... (Score:1)

by schon on Tuesday January 02, @03:06PM EST ([#142](#))

(User #31600 Info)

An interesting aside to this..

I just bought a new car (2001 Neon, for the curious...:o).. the first day we had it, I almost got smoked from behind while stopped at a light..

The guy behind me (a taxi) stopped late, and the camaro behind him couldn't stop in time.. I heard the screech of brakes, and immediately moved forward out of the way.. a second later the taxi's front fender was where my back seat would have been..

I've never had any defensive driving courses, but (in my mind) it makes sense to leave room between you and the guy in front of you.

My first vehicle was a motorcycle, and the friend who taught me how to ride gave me one piece of advice that I always use, whether I'm in a car or on a bike:

"Pretend you're invisible, and drive accordingly."

Interestingly enough, my wife started driving lessons a few weeks ago, and one of her first lessons was "accident avoidance" - where they covered this exact same topic..

"Slashdot Crackpot, and proud of it!"

Re:Still may have been able to avoid it... (Score:1)

by Coz on Tuesday January 02, @04:04PM EST ([#163](#))

(User #178857 Info) <http://www.starwarrior.com>

It's a tough call... I've been the guy watching someone loom up in his rear-view, and I've been the guy checking his pager after coming to a stop at the light... I'm not about to pass judgement on anyone who's been in that kind of a wreck.

As for the guy looming up behind me - I'd stopped at the red light, on a downhill slope, and given myself a good 4 feet between me and the next guy... which was good, 'cause I moved 3 feet forward when the guy came over the hill behind me, locked 'em up, and slid into my back bumper (only doing 15-20 when he hit, by my guess). If I'd been hanging on the bumper of the guy ahead of me, we've had a nice little 3-car chain reaction (at least) and gotten to test out yet another set of 5 MPH bumpers.

All's well that you walk away from... and even better if you can still drive.

I love vegetarians - some of my favorite foods are vegetarians.

Re:Still may have been able to avoid it... (Score:1)

by [jidar](#) (jidar@doh.par1.net) on Wednesday January 03, @04:04AM EST ([#278](#))

(User #83795 Info)

Had he not been drunk, it wouldn't have happened. Had he not been driving an SUV, there wouldn't have been nearly so much damage. Had you any brains, you wouldn't be laying the blame on Jason for not getting out of the way when DRUNK DRIVER IN AN SUV RAMMED INTO HIM WHILE SITTING AT A RED LIGHT.

Christ. Did you check your brain at the fucking door or what?

The use of OFFTOPIC moderation has gotten way out of hand. I meta-mod those unfair and mod them back up when moderator.

Re:SUV's are great - for a certain audience (Score:2)

by [outcat](#) (rawkett90@*FRIED SPAM! YUM!*hotmail.com) on Tuesday January 02, @04:30PM EST (#176)

(User #111636 Info) <http://chienworks.com/~outcat/>

H'lo, Cassandra, and like others have said in this thread, good to see someone with authority.

Two good friends of mine died in a car accident a few years ago because of a drunk driver. It was at night--what time of day did Jason's accident occur? The idiot tried to drive right THROUGH them as well--but there was no way they could have avoided him; the guy DID NOT HAVE his lights on. I'm with you on this one--there are those saying Jason could have avoided the accident, and sure, he could have pulled forward--IF he saw the creep coming, IF there were a place to go out of a busy intersection, IF the guy would have even stopped if he'd pulled forward.

Also, when you're sitting at a red light, you can't always gauge how the person is coming up behind you until it's too late. My brother is an excellent driver, and while he was sitting at a red light some moron sped up behind him and trashed his rear bumper. No one was hurt, thank God. I, myself, have often jumped forward a bit at a red light when I see someone speeding up behind me--and they stop without hitting me. It's hard to gauge when your only eye contact with the vehicle coming behind you is perhaps a glance at a mirror.

Best regards to you and Jason; tell him to keep up the great work.

-"The Gimp Girl"

Can't sleep, the clowns will eat me...

But the Camaro is still faster! (Score:1)

by [FatSean](#) (FatSean@hotmail.com) on Tuesday January 02, @01:41PM EST (#97)

(User #18753 Info) <http://fatsean.homeip.net/>

ha ha ha

My DSL sucks as a pipe to my webserver.

Safest car on the road (Score:1)

by [Xenophon Fenderson](#), (xenophon@irtnog.org) on Tuesday January 02, @03:43PM EST (#155)

(User #1469 Info) <http://web.irtnog.org/~xenophon/>

When I'm out crusing in my '74 Caddy (driving at least 15 miles-an-hour under the speed limit), I am almost *crushed* by the immensity of protection that solid American steel and fine Detroit automotive craftsmanship provide.

Rev. Dr. Xenophon Fenderson, the Carbon(d)ated, KSC, DEATH, SubGenius, mhm21x16 Pope, Patron Saint of All Things Plastic fnord, and Salted Litter of rgsb

Re:Safest car on the road (Score:1)

by Petrophile on Tuesday January 02, @07:26PM EST ([#220](#))

(User #253809 Info) http://www.capricornica.com/plants/pet_pulc.htm

That '74 Cad is one the few vehicles on the road with REAL 5 mph bumpers. (Meaning you could hit a wall at 5 mph without any damage to your car or yourself.) There's also big giant IBeams inside the doors for added safety.

Of course, those bumpers also are ugly as shit. '74s were also the first year with both emission controls and fuel economy restrictions. Because of this I highly recommend a '69 to '72 Caddy for your left lane crusing, with either the 472 or the 500 engine suitable for this use or for blowing various wannabe sportscars off of stoplights.

Re:SUVs R too big and 2 stupid (Score:1)

by delorean on Tuesday January 02, @04:10PM EST ([#168](#))

(User #245987 Info)

These soccer mom's who can't drive and don't know how to use mirrors are a menace. So are soccer dads.

There is some protection in big rigs, but there is always going to be something bigger on the road-- hello, the eighteen-wheelers? Just say no to Big Motor Companies, and to Big Oil, let's try to conserve a little fuel here.

My 81 DeLorean is extremely safe. And Sporty. And durable-- hello, it's an 81! And it drives like an 01.

My biggest concern is these maroons in big trucks who don't look or signal before changing lanes.

I drive defensively, always watching my mirrors, always watching for blinkers. I was the same way on my a cycle, but now I've got my ultimate vehicle.

And I get 20 MPG when I drive like Andretti!

Math intensive server stuff (Score:4, Interesting)

by [drenehtsral](#) (larsfrnd@lightlink.*nospam*/com) on Tuesday January 02, @12:45PM EST (#28)

(User #29789 Info) <http://www.hooliganhangout.net>

I'm working on (or more accurately about to start) a very math intensive client server system, where the server has to do a metric ass-load of calculations mostly on 64-bit signed integers on behalf of client machines. The data are all going to be in ram, and multi-cpu support is a good thing.

Would you recommend a PPC machine over a x86 machine for a task like this? I guess this is mainly a chipset/etc... question, but i have been unable to find that sort of information elsewhere, and i figure who better to ask, 'cause you probably have a decent gut-feeling for how the architecture works in practice on real-world data =:-)

Re:Math intensive server stuff (Score:2)

by [Mithrandir](#) (justin@spambomb.vlc.com.au) on Tuesday January 02, @01:04PM EST (#56)
(User #3459 Info) <http://www.vlc.com.au/~justin/>

When we looked at this (very large scale file compression and image munging system), the answer was Alpha. Best bang per buck and also the systems that surrounded it (bus architectures, supporting components etc etc). A little more expensive than x86 and a pain if you only have access to x86 binary libraries but definitely worth it.

If you are only doing integer work then probably an Athlon system would be better than PPC for raw number crunching. This is a rough gut feel based on using various friends' Macs and my own Athlon system in general use (doing lots of stuff like compiling etc). My feeling is the surrounding infrastructure such as the CPU bus make it more worthwhile - particularly if you can grab an Athlon with the 266MHz bus :)

-- Life is complete only for brief intervals in between toys or projects -- John Dalton

Re:Math intensive server stuff [thanks =:-)] (Score:1)

by [drenehtsral](#) (larsfrnd@lightlink.*nospam*/com) on Tuesday January 02, @01:40PM EST (#96)

(User #29789 Info) <http://www.hooliganhangout.net>

Thanks. My current two test-bed machines are an Athlon 750 and a Dual Pentium III 800. I can't wait for the dual athlons to come out =:-)

Re:Math intensive server stuff (Score:2)

by X on Tuesday January 02, @01:54PM EST (#104)
(User #1235 Info) <http://www.xman.org/>

I'd say he'd definitely be better off with a chip which can do 64-bit integer arithmetic (assuming his comments about 64-bit integers are correct) in a single cycle. That means basically Alpha, Sparc, and MIPS (there are loads of other options, but these are the closest to commodity chips, and I use that term loosely ;-). Bang for the buck wise, I'd say Alpha is probably the best of those three.

Things may change fairly quickly with the release of Intel's IA64 platform however. Whatever it's shortcomings, I bet it'll kick but in 64-bit integer arithmetic.

Re:Math intensive server stuff (Score:2)

by X on Tuesday January 02, @11:34PM EST ([#256](#))

(User #1235 Info) <http://www.xman.org/>

I disagree here. It is conceivable that IA-64 will do 64-bit integer arithmetic at speeds equal or exceeding an Alpha (most 64-bit integer math work can take advantage of all the IU's in the EPIC architecture). It is also conceivable that the IA-64 will be competitively priced with an Alpha. In such circumstances I'd be inclined to say IA-64 would be pretty good bang for the buck.

Re:Math intensive server stuff (Score:1)

by X on Wednesday January 03, @02:20PM EST ([#301](#))

(User #1235 Info) <http://www.xman.org/>

21264's are currently available at 700MHz. We don't know what speed the IA64's are going to be going at (600MHz is at best an educated guess). Even if 600MHz does prove to be true, the IA64 architecture has unique benefits when it comes to doing lots of 64-bit integer math on large data sets. Intel actually has a [paper](#) on Itanium's capabilities for SSL encryption/decryption. You'll note that they're quoting performance for a 660MHz Itanium, which suggests they think that's a reasonable target.

Anyway, you'll notice in the document that the 21264 and 21364 both only have a single pipeline for 64-bit integer multiplies, while the Itanium has a dual pipeline. Now, there are differences in the pipelines, but that suggests that an Alpha would have to be going at 2x the clock of its Itanium competitor in order to match its performance. Intel's own analysis suggests a 21264 takes 1,800 cycles to do what the Itanium does in 1,220. So based on that, the Alpha would have to be going at roughly 150% the clock of the IA64 to match its performance.

We also have no idea what the price point would be for Itanium vs. Alpha. Certainly, the 21264 is one of the more expensive CPU's on the market, but I'm sure Itanium won't be cheap either. It seems likely though that Itanium will be fairly competitive with the 21264 on price.

All this is just speculation, but it does suggest that it's reasonable to at least allow for the possibility that the Itanium chip would actually be the best CPU out there (when it's released) for doing large amounts of 64-bit Integer math. If you're suggesting otherwise, you're either revealing insider information, or you think you know more than you do.

For 64-bit integer math: neither (Score:2)

by X on Tuesday January 02, @01:56PM EST ([#108](#))

(User #1235 Info) <http://www.xman.org/>

If you're doing mostly 64-bit integer math, you'll want an ISA that supports operations on 64-bit integers. Standard PPC and x86 chips do not have that (IBM has some 64-bit PPC chips/systems out there).

I think you'll find Alpha will kick butt, with Sparc being another potential contender (probably too pricy for the net benefit).

Re:Math intensive server stuff (Score:5, Interesting)

by [Smitty825](#) (smitty825@hotmail.com) on Tuesday January 02, @02:01PM EST ([#114](#))

(User #114634 Info)

One other important thing to ask is the state of the GCC complier for the PowerPC Platform. IIRC, it isn't as efficient as the ones available for the x86 and Alpha platforms. How much would LinuxPPC benefit from an optimized compiler and what sort of performance could be expected from LinuxPPC compared to Linux86/Alpha/others?

Re:Math intensive server stuff (Score:1)

by [ppetrakis](#) (ppetrakis@alphalinux.org) on Tuesday January 02, @04:07PM EST ([#166](#))

(User #51087 Info) <http://www.alphalinux.org>

actually current versions of GCC like the one included in RH 7.0 are approaching the same speed as Compaq's own C compiler for alphalinux. Compaq's C/C++ compilers are free and available for download at Compaq's site. NOTHING can touch Compaq's FORTRAN compiler which is also free for Alphalinux.

Peter

--

www.alphalinux.org

Re:Math intensive server stuff (Score:1)

by Senjaz on Wednesday January 03, @04:35AM EST ([#280](#))

(User #188917 Info)

Depends on the OS you will be coding on for each system. The PCC G4 chip would crunch this data faster than anything if you used Altivec. On the Mac altivec support is easy to write. I don't know about Linux PPC, but you could use darwin the base of MacOS X or MacOS X itself if you prefer UNIX.

If the app were properly threaded you could utilise Altivec on both processors of a G4 PowerMac. This would offer performance unbeaten by anyother desktop system, if you want faster buy an SGI or Sparc.

If you want to go with Linux + can't optimise for Altivec then target for AMDs x86 chips. The Athalon is the only x86 chip that gives the G4 a run for your money with number crunching.

G4 Info:

A single G4 contains in addition to its standard 32bit Integer units 2x 128bit Vector processing units, with 64 registers and a heap of cache to keep it fed. Each unit would crunch two of your 64bit Ints one op per cycle. The ops are non destructive - your output register is not one of your inputs. The large number of registers means you can perform very complex algorithms without having to perform load/stores (which slow things down terribly). Using the permute op you can rearrange your data very quickly.

It was this sort of thing that Altivec was specifically designed to handle and it does the job very well.

Re:Math intensive server stuff - libm (Score:1)

by iggie on Thursday January 04, @11:18AM EST ([#311](#))

([User #183722 Info](#))

Another question related to math-intensive computation. While doing performance comparisons between G3s/LinuxPPC and SGI/Irix, I noticed about a 2x performance improvement by linking against Motorola's libmoto math library on G3/LinuxPPC. I know that MacOS' math library is now on par with libmoto performance-wise. What is the status of LinuxPPC and libm? Is anyone working on this? How is Darwin's libm? Back in the day, I remember that a 350 MHz G3 was on-par with SGI Octanes for doing FFT-type calculations on very large (many hundreds MB) datasets. They were also about as fast as 750 MHz K7 - even though the K7 had nominally larger RAM throughput, and was about a year and a half newer machine than the G3.

Benefits (Score:2, Interesting)

by bluelip on Tuesday January 02, @12:46PM EST ([#31](#))

([User #123578 Info](#)) <http://bluelip.blips.net>

Besides putting linux on every available device with some computing power, what benefit does linux on the mac have? I've been away from Apple products for quite a while. Is there a specific reason to use them? (Better graphics? Sound support? ROI?) What about compatibility? Is byte ordering problematic?

Yep, I never spell check.

Conspiracy theory (Score:1)

by [JCCyC](#) ([j\[CUBAN-DICTATOR'S-SURNAME\]@ap\[3.141592\].com.br](mailto:j[CUBAN-DICTATOR'S-SURNAME]@ap[3.141592].com.br)) on Tuesday January 02, @12:46PM EST ([#32](#))

([User #179760 Info](#))

Do you suspect the SUV driver might have been a secret M\$ or Intel agent? ;-P

"[Standing up to an evil system](#) is exhilarating." --Richard Stallman

Platform Issues (Score:5, Interesting)

by [IanCarlson](#) (oxford@norfolk.infi.net.NOSPAM) on Tuesday January 02, @12:47PM EST ([#33](#))

([User #16476 Info](#))

A question:

- **Is LinuxPPC a viable alternative to x86 Linux?** Can I run my department on a LinuxPPC-based server with the same peace-of-mind that I get on an i386-based box running Linux? Will I still enjoy the almost surrealistic uptimes I get with my current Linux server? Does the LinuxPPC code still suffer from chronic flakey-ness?

I'm currently looking into obtaining a PowerPC box to test out the current state of Linux on the PPC platform. Hopefully your answers will point me down the path of RISC utopia.

"I do not wish to think, or speak, or write, with moderation." --W. L. Garrison / "D0n't M0d3raT3 M3!" --ACs Everywhere

Re:Platform Issues (Score:1)

by thrig on Tuesday January 02, @01:38PM EST ([#92](#))

([User #36791 Info](#)) <http://www.sial.org/>

You may still encounter niggling issues when installing and/or attempting to customize a Linux PPC box-- in my experience, this usually has to do with X Windows (which a "real" server probably shouldn't be running) or issues with building your own custom kernel-- usually programs complaining about modules that got evicted during the make config stage. Nothing someone who knows linux well should be tripped up by.

That being said, I have Linux PPC running on a old 180 MHz Apple clone, running X Windows for me, an AppleShare server for about 25 users, development Apache webserver, samba, and whatever else I might be fooling around with:

\$ uptime

10:28am up 126 days, 9:46, 2 users, load average: 0.00, 0.00, 0.00

I threw out Gnome and KDE a few years ago for fvwm, which preforms much better, especially on an old crappy machine like mine.

Re:Platform Issues (Score:1)

by pungent on Tuesday January 02, @01:54PM EST ([#105](#))

([User #78249 Info](#))

This from an Apple 8500 that has been acting as name server for quite some time:

LinuxPPC June 1999

Kernel 2.2.6-15apmac on a ppc

1:04pm up 52 days, 21:06, 1 user, load average: 0.08, 0.02, 0.01

Which is pretty good since it isn't even on a surge supressor much less a UPS.

kernel compiling problems are pretty much noexistant with 2.2.18 now since most patches specific to ppc have been moved in.

In short: most stuff works/compiles for ppc though there are always some lingering problems with an architecture shift. Installation is arguably not as smooth as i386 machines. At least we have yaboot and ybin otherwise we would be lost on new world hardware (just about anything that isn't beige).

Re:Platform Issues (Score:1)

by Overnight Delivery on Tuesday January 02, @06:43PM EST ([#208](#))

([User #239468 Info](#))

Is LinuxPPC a viable alternative to x86 Linux?

I have a .misc server for my department doing apache, postgresql, samba etc. and haven't had a single crash or other "flacky" behavior.

The box is an old Motorola PowerSTACK with a 100Mhz ppc 604. I doesn't have X Windows so I can't comment on that but as far as serving go goes it a little ripper, or as much as one can expect for 100Mhz / 32Meg ram (it does it's job though).

When it absolutely positively has to be there.

Re:Platform Issues (Score:1)

by [Arkham](#) (spam2@theresistance.net) on Tuesday January 02, @10:29PM EST ([#249](#))

([User #10779 Info](#)) <http://www.theresistance.net/>

This box runs DNS for 4 domains, as well as a web server and email SMTP/POP. It's an 8-year-old 9500/200 running LinuxPPC.

Linux for PowerPC. Brought to you by The LinuxPPC Project.

Based on Red Hat Linux release 5.0 (Hurricane)

Kernel 2.2.1 on a PowerPC 604e

login: xltst

Password:

Last login: Mon Jan 1 15:26:25 from xxx.xxx.xxx.xxx

Welcome to the Resistance!

[xltst@beholder xltst]\$ uptime

10:25pm **up 218 days**, 2:49, 8 users, load average: 0.01, 0.02, 0.01

----- Vinicit qui patitur.

Re:Platform Issues (Score:1)

by [jmenezes](#) (j_menezes@yahoo.com) on Wednesday January 03, @02:40AM EST (#271)
([User #100986 Info](#))

Sorry to nitpick, but the first power-pc based mac was released on may 1994, and that was the Power Mac 6100, which was soon followed by the 71 and 8100 machines...

it was still a few more years till the 9500/120 came out (late 95)..

so i dont think your 9500/200 is QUITE that old yet

:P

Don't Mind That... (Score:1)

by [IanCarlson](#) (oxford@norfolk.infi.net.NOSPAM) on Thursday January 04, @08:48PM EST (#314)
([User #16476 Info](#))

I don't **care** if his PowerPC fell through a time warp and he purchased it eight years ago. The important part is that it's been up for the better part of a year.

;))

Thanks for the information though, I was wondering when the first Apple PowerPC boxen came out, and now I know. Do you recommend any place in particular for purchasing old Apple PPC hardware?

"I do not wish to think, or speak, or write, with moderation." --W. L. Garrison / "D0n't M0d3raT3 M3!" --ACs Everywhere

Will OSX make things easier? (Score:1)

by [Lover's Arrival, The](#) (Lovers_Arrival_The@americanwicca.com) on Tuesday January 02, @12:48PM EST (#34)
([User #267435 Info](#))

Hi, I have a Mac and a PC, so I am interested in Linuc for the PowerPC.

With OSX, with its Unix-like core, coming out for the Mac soon, will this make things easier for the Linux PowerPC project when it comes to Hardware drivers and generally fitting the OS to the machine? After all, in the future new models of the Mac will be optomised for a *nix-like OS, and I would have thought that this would make things better and easier for you.

(I am only guessing;)

-- *Anticipation of a New Lover's Arrival, The*

LinuxPPC Lite? (Score:2, Interesting)

by tenzig_112 on Tuesday January 02, @12:49PM EST ([#35](#))

([User #213387 Info](#))

Are there plans to release a distro of LinuxPPC specifically suited for PPC users left behind by Apple and OSX? Most desktop users are put off by a default kitchen-sink install. It seems that with those services turned off, maintenance and operation is a bit more friendly to Unix newbies.

[hot flaming grapes](#)

OS X (Score:3, Interesting)

by Auckerman on Tuesday January 02, @12:51PM EST ([#38](#))

([User #223266 Info](#))

How do you think a possible Feb OS X release date will affect acceptance of LinuxPCC among owners G3/G4's?

Burn Hollywood Burn

The Start (Score:1)

by bool on Tuesday January 02, @12:53PM EST ([#39](#))

([User #144199 Info](#))

What prompted the idea for LinuxPPC in the beginning and where do you see it going?

do { Work(); PayTaxes(); Eat(); Sleep(); } while (alive)
-Bool

ATX motherboard availability? (Score:4, Interesting)

by glrotate on Tuesday January 02, @12:54PM EST ([#43](#))

([User #300695 Info](#))

I think one thing that would foster Linux PPC adoption, and PPC in general would be a relatively cheap PPC motherboard. I remember IBM released their reference design some time ago and there was some noise from 3rd parties about product announcements, but nothing materialized. Does anyone know when we might see something?

Why Now? (Score:1)

by [Tymanthius](#) (tymanthius-AT-usaSPAMSUX-DOT-net) on Tuesday January 02, @12:55PM EST (#45)

(User #75808 Info) http://www.home.aone.net.au/irc_rpg/home.htm

I was reading the intro for this 'Hey, ask him' and it made it sound as though you didn't think about drunk driving until it affected you.

My question is: Why did it take that?

I'm not militant, but I've been known to knock my friends down rather than let them drive while under the influence of anything.

</soapbox>

WHONEEDSSLEEPWHENWEHAVECAFFINE?!

What about caffeine? (Score:1)

by [FatSean](#) (FatSean@hotmail.com) on Tuesday January 02, @01:35PM EST (#90)

(User #18753 Info) <http://fatsean.homeip.net/>

Get a little wired on coffee and hop behind, no problem right?

My DSL sucks as a pipe to my webserver.

Re:What about caffeine? (Score:1)

by [Tymanthius](#) (tymanthius-AT-usaSPAMSUX-DOT-net) on Wednesday January 03, @11:14AM EST (#295)

(User #75808 Info) http://www.home.aone.net.au/irc_rpg/home.htm

Actually, other than a gallon of tea in a day once in a while, I don't drink that much.

But yea, I've seen ppl who shouldn't drive when hyped on caffeine.

Me, I rarely get mad at other drivers - but I get VERY disgusted by stupidity in general, on or off the road.

WHONEEDSSLEEPWHENWEHAVECAFFINE?!

Re:What about caffeine? (Score:1)

by [FatSean](#) (FatSean@hotmail.com) on Tuesday January 02, @02:36PM EST (#134)

(User #18753 Info) <http://fatsean.homeip.net/>

No...

I was wondering if he felt driving while on caffeine is OK...

Cause I know a few people who get edgy and irritable on the stuff, making "road rage" much more likely.

My DSL sucks as a pipe to my webserver.

Re:What about caffeine? (Score:2)

by [outcat](#) (rawkett90@*FRIED SPAM! YUM!*hotmail.com) on Tuesday January 02, @04:48PM EST (#181)

(User #111636 Info) <http://chienworks.com/~outcat/>

I rolled a car a few years ago after 8 espresso shots.

Granted, I was coming down a hill with very loose gravel combined with a good deal of ice, but I think my reflexes would have been better if I had been paying a bit more attention and hadn't been so shaky.

Now I never drive when I know I've had a bit much caffeine.

-"The GIMP Girl"

Can't sleep, the clowns will eat me...

Re:What about caffeine? (Score:1)

by [jidar](#) (jidar@doh.par1.net) on Wednesday January 03, @04:10AM EST (#279)

(User #83795 Info)

Comparing caffeine to alcohol in the context of driving impairment is just assininely stupid. I mean, seriously fucking moronic here.

Let me put it this way, I have penguin mints here and I've been drinking soda all night. I can - still- hit 70% with my railgun in Quake, I wouldn't put any money on being able to hit 20% after I've had 2 beers though.

The use of OFFTOPIC moderation has gotten way out of hand. I meta-mod those unfair and mod them back up when moderator.

Can you read? (Score:1)

by [FatSean](#) (FatSean@hotmail.com) on Wednesday January 03, @10:01AM EST (#290)

(User #18753 Info) <http://fatsean.homeip.net/>

Looks like you've had a bit too much caffeine already buddy. My post wasn't about physical impairment, it was about the mental state reached when a person has had a lot of caffeine. Irritable, argument prone, aggressive. Do you think a person in this state of mind is more likely, or less likely, to lose their shit after they get cut off on the freeway?

My DSL sucks as a pipe to my webserver.

Re:Why Now? (Score:1)

by cassie_haas on Tuesday January 02, @02:27PM EST ([#130](#))

([User #167147 Info](#))

Your question is good, but how does one "think" about drunk driving? In our daily lives, previous to the accident, we would "think" about drunk driving by: walking to our favorite bar, or taking a cab, rather than taking the risk of driving. Or, conversely, drinking at home. The person who hit Jason was a total stranger. If he'd been a friend, perhaps we could have controlled whether he got behind the wheel of his monster vehicle. As he wasn't, we didn't. As it stands, we are much more aware of the menace of drunk driving, sure. But Jason's accident has made us more aware of other things, too, such as traumatic brain injury. How often do you think about such things as breast cancer, or being mugged? Would you be more aware of it if it were to happen to you? Would seem less abstract? It sometimes takes traumatic events to place things on a person's internal map.

Married to a Linux geek. Not Linux. Per res adversas firmitas.

Re:Why Now? (Score:1)

by [Tymanthius](#) ([tymanthius-AT-usaSPAMSUX-DOT-net](#)) on Wednesday January 03, @11:08AM EST ([#293](#))

([User #75808 Info](#)) http://www.home.aone.net.au/irc_rpg/home.htm

That's a really good point. Hadn't thought of it, and the breast cancer example struck a chord. I had never noticed some particular 'female' ailments until I met my wife. She is being treated for something that, left unattended, could become cancerous.

Thank you for bringing that point up.

WHONEEDSSLEEPWHENWEHAVECAFFINE?!

merge with RedHat? (Score:5, Interesting)

by A moron on Tuesday January 02, @12:56PM EST ([#46](#))

([User #37050 Info](#))

I've tried LinuxPPC several times over the years and have actually been disappointed. It just hasn't seemed polished and LinuxPPC, the company, has had some serious customer service problems.

Have you ever thought about or actually talked to RedHat as making LinuxPPC the RedHat Distro for PPC?

This would provide you with extra resources to keep LinuxPPC up to date and cleaner.

LinuxPPC and Mac Hardware (Score:1)

by Baconator on Tuesday January 02, @12:56PM EST ([#47](#))

([User #240452 Info](#))

Let me start by saying that I have been using LinuxPPC heavily for over a year now, and have found the experience very good.

That said, however, I don't think that LinuxPPC is very likely to encourage people to buy Mac hardware. Rather, it gives new life to old hardware. Got an old PowerMac 8500 lying around? Too slow to do much of anything useful with MacOS? That's where LinuxPPC comes in. Mac hardware is just too expensive to buy for the purpose of running Linux on.

Realistically, OS X will not change this. OS X is **seriously** processor-intensive stuff. It's clearly workstation-oriented: the GUI is the selling point. LinuxPPC, on the other hand, is great on all kinds of hardware for all kinds of uses.

How do you deal with apples hardware controls? (Score:1)

by Bonker on Tuesday January 02, @12:57PM EST ([#48](#))

([User #243350 Info](#))

As a technicly oriented non-coded who uses a variety of platforms, I understand that one of the biggest problems people have faced when designing non-Apple OS's for Apple hardware is the existance of Apple's proprietary boot-roms and in-processor features. As I understand it, these features have all but destroyed BeOS's chances on the Mac. What challenges from this sort of 'hardware control' does LinuxPPC overcome, if any?

- Just say NO to intellectual property!

Re:How do you deal with apples hardware controls? (Score:1)

by [Schnedt Microne](#) (scott30189@hotmail.com) on Tuesday January 02, @07:20PM EST ([#217](#))

([User #264752 Info](#))

I am by no means qualified to have a very strong opinion on this, but why hasn't somebody just dug into it and reverse engineered the mess that Apple makes with their proprietary boot process?

I run NetBSD on several Mac machines and it's a real disappointment that I have to keep a stubby little MacOS partition to boot from.

I know, I know, if I'm gonna rant, I should dive in and do it...

Re:How do you deal with apples hardware controls? (Score:1)

by GORDOOM on Tuesday January 02, @07:50PM EST ([#228](#))

([User #149962 Info](#))

There's something called yaboot out now, which allows a Linux system to boot directly from Open Firmware. So it is doable... the trouble is, you can't use yaboot to create a dual-boot system... and, unfortunately, yaboot is the only way to get a New World machine to boot into Linux... but I'll deal with that in *my* question...

Support and POP (Score:2, Interesting)

by danboid on Tuesday January 02, @01:04PM EST ([#55](#))

(User #300692 Info) <http://mp3.com/elementuk/>

I bought LinuxPPC 2000 from your company when it was released and I was very disappointed by it, especially your technical support . I sent a number of e-mails to your support address regarding my problems, none of which got answered. I think its quite sad that, unlike the x86 distros who have to cater for an almost unlimited number of configurations, you can't get a distribution out that works properly on a standard iMac- which is surely one of the first things you should test it on! So could anyone out there reading this tell me how to get X setup for greater depths than 8 bit under LinuxPPC 2000 (first release- don't know what Xfree-3.something). Also, whatever happened to IBMs POP boards?

Re:Support and POP (Score:1)

by Malic on Tuesday January 02, @01:33PM EST ([#86](#))

(User #15038 Info) <http://www.malicstower.com>

Oh, I will second that! Support from LinuxPPC.com is awful. Truly a black hole with SMTP pointing at it. D/L'ing the Yellow Dog ISO is on my list of things to do in January.

--

"Lain could kick Neo's butt"

Re:Support and POP (Score:2)

by [friedo](#) (mnf7228@spam-me-not.osfmail.rit.edu) on Wednesday January 03, @03:57AM EST

([#276](#))

(User #112163 Info) <http://friedo.rh.rit.edu/>

Have you tried the [mailing lists](#)? They're quite good.

You don't even have to be subscribed to post.

God Hates Fundies!

Your Perception Before and After the Accident (Score:5, Interesting)

by TheNecromancer on Tuesday January 02, @01:05PM EST ([#57](#))

(User #179644 Info)

Jason,

First of all, I'd like to commend you and your wife for your courage and determination through your ordeal! I also hope they throw the book at the jerk who caused the accident!

My question is this: Do you find that your perception of the world and what your interests, passions and abilities are, different than before your accident? Has the accident changed your interests towards the computing industry?

Thanks,

TheNecromancer

Attention all planets of the Solar Federation! We have assumed control! - Neil Peart

Firestone tires (Score:1)

by AntiNorm on Tuesday January 02, @01:10PM EST ([#59](#))

(User #155641 Info) <http://www.antinorm.com/>

Ask Jason what you will; about out-of-control SUVs (I don't think he likes them),

Does your car have Firestone tires?

Put your feet out and stop ... climb out and hang ...

GO!!!

Three questions I guess (Score:2)

by EXTomar on Tuesday January 02, @01:14PM EST ([#65](#))

(User #78739 Info) <http://www.electrontrap.org/>

- I've wanted to mess around with a PowerPC platform hardware but unlike Intel hardware it seems to be very hard to find for realitively cheap. Any hints on how to jump into LinuxPPC without running out to CompUSA and buying a PowerCube?

- Got any feelings about OSX? Will there be any nifty widgets(graphic, hardware drivers, or other) that you will be modeling from OSX for LinuxPPC?

- Have you kept track of the person that crashed into you? I mean in the sense that you made sure that he was dealt with in the courts properly. I don't want to imply you are vengeful or anything but do you think they were treated properly(to lightly, to harshly or something in between)?

Re:Three questions I guess (Score:1)

by thrig on Tuesday January 02, @02:29PM EST ([#131](#))

(User #36791 Info) <http://www.sial.org/>

For cheap, you might root around in used hardware or school surplus areas for old Macs; just be sure to check that the hardware you are buying is supported by Linux PPC first:

<http://linuxppc.org/hardware/supported/>

P.S. anything with 'Performa' in it's name is bad.

Re:Three questions I guess (Score:2)

by [friedo](#) (mnf7228@spam-me-not.osfmail.rit.edu) on Wednesday January 03, @03:59AM EST (#277)

(User #112163 Info) <http://friedo.rh.rit.edu/>

Jason's whole story about the accident is [here](#). Apparently, the dickhead who hit him had a BAC of 0.25, and will be charged with three felonies. Trial will be some time in January.

God Hates Fundies!

recovery time (Score:1)

by brad3378 on Tuesday January 02, @01:15PM EST (#66)

(User #155304 Info)

I have a hard time remembering certain things if I don't have enough exposure.

How much of your programming skill do you think you've forgotten, and how long do you think it will take you to get back to your old speed?

What the hell, It's only Karma

Your accident lessons (Score:4, Insightful)

by Spackler on Tuesday January 02, @01:18PM EST (#68)

(User #223562 Info)

About a year and a half ago, my fiancée and I were in a horrible car crash as well. We were also in a small car (Nissan Sentra), and were hit head-on by an SUV. I crushed my femur, broke my hip, and 4 ribs (I walk pretty good now after 2 reconstruction surgeries). My fiancée (now my wife thank God) lost her spleen, 1/3 of her liver, compound fracture of her heel, crushed lungs, and on a respirator for 4 weeks in ICU before she started to come out of it. We are both still recovering (Someday, I'd like to stand up and have it not hurt!).

Things like this can teach you lessons, or destroy you. From that perspective, my question is:

What were the biggest lessons you learned from it? (I ask that as someone who has gone through it, and learned a lot about what is important, and what is not.)

This is more of a life question than a geek one.

-Spackler

PS: Yes, we drive big trucks now (F-150), and I'd never own a small car, even if it were given to me!

Re:Your accident lessons (Score:1)

by [ColMstrd](#) (douglasNO@SPAMcarnall.demon.co.uk) on Tuesday January 02, @06:08PM EST (#198)

(User #103170 Info) <http://www.carnall.demon.co.uk/>

The logical conclusion: drive a tank. And then we can all swim to work when your CO2 emissions melt the ice-caps.

read, write, ride

Re:Your accident lessons (Score:2)

by [passion](#) ([passionatmonkeydotorg](#)) on Tuesday January 02, @06:43PM EST (#207)

([User #84900 Info](#))

PS: Yes, we drive big trucks now (F-150), and I'd never own a small car, even if it were given to me!

hmm, so you're trying to solve the problem through escalation. Do you believe that your accident was made worse **because** the other driver was in a SUV? Now you're just placing 2 more large vehicles on the road which increases the chances that people in small cars get killed instead of maimed.

When will Jeep Cherokee owners start switching to something bigger because they're afraid of being hit by a suburban or a semi?

- passion

Advantage? (Score:1)

by doonesbury on Tuesday January 02, @01:18PM EST (#69)

([User #69634 Info](#))

As it stands right now, Linux on the Mac is kind of an odd bird; most people don't have a lot of *spare* Macs of PPC level or higher hanging around, and it's currently cheaper to spend one's cash on a dreaded Wintel box to run Linux than it is to spend cash on a Mac to do the same thing.

On top of that, when Macs aren't in the hands of "make this as easy as possible" guys (neophytes or people who don't care about anything but running such-and-such a program), Macs are quite often found in the hands of "graphics guys" - where, despite the fact that GIMP is great and all, there's not a ton of fantastic programs available. In other words, the majority of the Mac crowd just ain't Linux types, really.

So: when it comes down to brass tacks - where's the advantage for the average MacOS power user to use LinuxPPC over MacOS? Contrawise, where's the advantage of a Linux user to have a Mac box?

BSD-Linux mini-flame (Score:2, Flamebait)

by emil on Tuesday January 02, @01:20PM EST (#71)

([User #695 Info](#)) <http://radmin.org>

Would it be possible to replace the BSD kernel in OS X with Linux, and have there been any serious discussions regarding this? I imagine you would be the point man in such an investigation.

Linux does seem to be a better choice, as it is more scalable, is about to get a journaled file system, and has a dazzling array of hardware support.

I would almost rather see Apple throw itself behind HURD than cause more fragmentation amongst the BSDs. It seems the deciding factor was the BSD license, and not any technical advantage (although I am probably wrong, and I don't have access to POWER equipment of any sort [not even an AS/400], so I am hardly authoritative).

I did follow the progress of your injury, and I hope your recovery is proceeding well and some good has come out of the experience.

Re:BSD-Linux mini-flame (Score:1)

by [Knobby](#) (knobby9999@hNoOtSmPaAiMl.com) on Tuesday January 02, @02:05PM EST
([#118](#))
([User #71829 Info](#))

I would almost rather see Apple throw itself behind HURD than cause more fragmentation amongst the BSDs.

Mac OS X does not use the BSD kernel. It uses the Mach kernel, just like HURD I believe..

As for the Linux replacing BSD question, forget it.. Mac OS X is an upgraded version of the NeXT OS, and the developers that Apple has working on this project are comfortable with the BSD layer. I personally run OS X PB on a B&W G3 and am constantly amazed. The interface is still a little slower than OS 9 and earlier, but the stability is very nice. (It's funny, I can remember the last time my PowerBook crashed running OS 8.6.)

More Scalable? HEH! (Score:2)

by [cjsnell](#) (chris at island dawt nu) on Tuesday January 02, @07:21PM EST ([#218](#))
([User #5825 Info](#)) <http://chrissnell.com>

Linux is more scalable than BSD? Please, support this argument. First, define scalability. Next, describe how Linux is more scalable than *BSD.

Support for Nubus Macs (Score:1)

by empty on Tuesday January 02, @01:21PM EST ([#72](#))

([User #53267 Info](#))

Why are Nubus powerMacs (i.e., PM6100, 7100 and 8100) not supported by LinuxPPC?

I know that [MkLinux](#) supports them...but if MkLinux can, then theoretically so could LinuxPPC. Is the problem a technical problem or a resource problem (no one wants to do it...) or something else?

Re:Support for Nubus Macs (Score:1)

by [AlexH](#) (slashdot@linuxhacker.org) on Tuesday January 02, @03:48PM EST ([#157](#))

([User #3608 Info](#)) <http://www.linuxhacker.org/>

See <http://nibus-pmac.sourceforge.net/>.

CHRP "Open Source" motherboards? (Score:1)

by [rrwood](#) (roy@centricsystems.ca) on Tuesday January 02, @01:22PM EST ([#73](#))

([User #27261 Info](#))

There was a little noise made last year about IBM giving away just about everything you need to start manufacturing PPC CHRP motherboards:

<http://slashdot.org/articles/99/08/24/1922212.shtml>

http://slashdot.org/articles/99/08/13/1658200_F.shtml

<http://macweek.zdnet.com/1999/08/08/ibmppc.html>

I recall reading something on www.linuxppc.com in which you guys indicated that you'd been talking/working with IBM about this prior to the public announcements, and that you guys were going to be supporting PPC systems based on these boards.

Soooo, what's up with that? When will I be able to pick up a reasonably cheap PPC motherboard, build up a nice system, and slap LinuxPPC on it?

-Roy

Linux and Accessibility (Score:5, Interesting)

by [FourG](#) (not@all.likely.net) on Tuesday January 02, @01:24PM EST ([#74](#))

([User #81910 Info](#)) <http://texel.dhs.org/>

Jason,

During your recovery period, did you find the need to use any accessibility tools to accomplish tasks? If so, what were your impressions? Does Linux have the tools people with alternative interface needs (like text-to-speech) need to access their information?

Congrats on your recovery progress. I'm glad to see the world hasn't lost another good person to a drunk driver's carelessness.

"I have a great faith in fools. Self-confidence, some call it..."

Convergence or Divergence (Score:1)

by Omega996 on Tuesday January 02, @01:24PM EST ([#75](#))

([User #106762 Info](#))

Do you see LinuxPPC becoming more like its i386 brethren (more generic or uniform in hardware support), or taking advantage of some of the PPC hardware's special abilities (altivec on the G4, for example)? I know that linux on the PPC helped drive the frame buffer device for X-Windows, for example; do you see something similar happening for altivec or Firewire?

How does this woo the dedicated Mac User? (Score:1)

by [solios](#) (dyluckyAThotmail.com) on Tuesday January 02, @01:26PM EST ([#76](#))

([User #53048 Info](#)) <http://www.414-crew.com/remix>

First off, I'm a graphics geek. I passed my GWBASIC class in high school by staying after class and copying working assignments onto my disks. I make pretty pictures, and I'm poor. I grok the Linux ideal, am frustrated by the command line, and have neither the time nor the programming skills to "shut up and fix it". I administer my own network of Macs in addition to pixel-pushing. Consider me an educated end user- your target audience, if Linux is to make its way firmly into the desktop market. From my point of view, it doesn't have a chance in hell for years to come, and I shall explain why.

Let's see... from personal experience, I'm anti-Linux PPC. Yes, the disk boots... if you could call it that. On a G3/400 with 384 megs of RAM, it boots and hangs. On a G3/400 Powerbook (firewire) with 128 megs of RAM, DVD, and everything but the kitchen sink, it shits itself trying to load and has repeated HDA errors, and infiintum.

Why tell the universe that the product boots on CD when this likely applies only to specific hardware? Where's the list of "it boots on THIS configuration"?

There's really no reason for me to use this over Debian, which at least boots and gets me into a formatting utility- on the Y2K powerbook, from the CD. The problem with Debian PPC, something I haven't noticed with Linux PPC because the distro barfs before it gets this far, is that the install process is, in a word, archaic. In a few more words, it's confusing as fuck, has no help of any kind, is totally ass backwards and made me laugh out loud. We're dealing with Mac hardware here folks.... the MacOS installer is the easiest damned thing in the friggin' UNIVERSE to use- start off of the CD, install on whatever drive has the free space. Or hose a drive and split it up any way you want, then install. Oh, and you have full UI functionality

while you're doing this- so up until you hit the pretty "format" button, you can save your data by moving it to another hard drive or a network disk. Shit, you can install the entire OS onto an existing disk without harming any existing anything- if you have the space.

The point is, Mac users expect this. Linux users probably got their start on the PC- and considering the cheap cost of hardware, there's no real point to the vast majority of them crossing over to the Mac. So I'm assuming this is being presented as an alternative for Mac users who are interested in Linux but don't want to buy a PC... or who tried MOSX and barfed. So why shoot yourselves in the face with disks that "kinda sorta" boot, on "all PPC macs" (save my Pismo, thank you), and then expect Mac users to spend the time figuring out how to Make Linux Go when there current operating system Just Works?

I'll start running Linux fulltime as soon as...

1. It installs as easily as MacOS. [as in, I push a button and it does the rest for me, or I can tinker to my hearts content. I shouldn't be worrying about partition numbers and boot blocks and hard drive allocation blocks and the partridge in a pear tree.]

2. A distro comes packaged with a GUI that:

- A. Doesn't look like Windows.
- B. Has pop-up folders.
- C. Has a control strip.
- D. Has the equivalent of an Apple Menu and an Application Menu.
- E. Has universal drag and drop.

F. Comes with anti-aliased fonts, color management comparable to colorsynch, and utilities that make managing internet and network settings as easy as the present MacOS.
3. I can do everything (and I mean EVERYTHING) I can do in Photoshop in GIMP.

Re:How does this woo the dedicated Mac User? (Score:1)

by dmaxwell on Tuesday January 02, @11:18PM EST ([#255](#))

([User #43234 Info](#))

LinuxPPC is more likely to be used by sysadmin type than a graphics geek. If a graphics geek DOES use it then it is probably as a fileserver. The Freenices, much as I like them, are still more feasible as industrial strength servers for the masses rather than magic multimedia boxes for the masses. If I had lots of Photoshop work to do, I would use MacOS. If I want to serve files to Macs and PCs with good performance and no additional license costs I'll use LinuxPPC or NetBSD. Ditto for any type of firewalling or web and ftp on the net.

It's a matter of using the right tool for the right job. MacOS for creative client uses and a Freenix for serving.

All this said, a little patience helps too. I use x86 Linux as a VERY comfortable desktop and didn't particularly mind some of the hoops I had to jump through to get there. But then....I'm a tech support geek.

still drive a honda? (Score:1)

by brad3378 on Tuesday January 02, @01:26PM EST ([#77](#))

([User #155304 Info](#))

Just wondering if you are sticking with a Honda or if you've moved on to driving something larger (larger usually means safer).

What the hell, It's only Karma

Re:still drive a honda? (Score:1)

by cassie_haas on Tuesday January 02, @02:17PM EST ([#126](#))
([User #167147 Info](#))

We drive a 2000 Honda Accord now, which has many more safety features than the 1989 Honda Civic that Jason drove previous to the accident. Yes, it *is* a bit larger. cassandra Married to a Linux geek. Not Linux. Per res adversas firmitas.

Re:still drive a honda? (Score:1)

by cyoon on Tuesday January 02, @04:01PM EST ([#160](#))
([User #99971 Info](#))

Though the Honda pictured is a small one, they're no longer the cars they used to be. They've taken an impressive turn toward innovation in car manufacturing techniques and marketing. Today's Hondas are among the largest and safest in their class (albeit more expensive, though TCO is arguably lower). Take a look at the 1998-2001 Accord or the 2001 Civic and they've come a long way. I wouldn't risk driving anything before 1992 or 1993, though -- they're just not the same breed.

Whazzup with MK? (Score:1)

by rf600r on Tuesday January 02, @01:28PM EST ([#79](#))
([User #236081 Info](#)) <http://3bp.com>

Any idea what's up with the ole' MKLinux project?

Will LinuxPPC get stronger or weaker? (Score:1)

by [TheLittleVoices](#) (mrcoffee@thelittlevoices.com) on Tuesday January 02, @01:28PM EST
([#80](#))
([User #170272 Info](#)) <http://www.thelittlevoices.com>

I was just wondering what road the LinuxPPC development team would take with the introduction of Mac OSX. Before it was either choose the Mac interface or the command line (LinuxPPC or BSD) but now people can get the best of both worlds with the introduction of Mac OSX.

Do you see LinuxPPC getting stronger or weaker in both the Mac market and the embedded market as Apple finalizes its NeXT great OS? Do you see yourself combining efforts with Apple in any way including porting applications such as star office?

By the way, great job!

"Your just jealous because the voices only talk to me"

Permanent Effects (Score:1)

by Saint Nobody on Tuesday January 02, @01:30PM EST (#82)

(User #21391 Info) [about:NavigationCanceled](#)

<p>There's a lot of questions here regarding the accident itself, or it's psychological/emotional consequences, but i'm curious about the physical consequences, too.</p>

<p>How has the accident changed you, in terms of permanent physical damage, any psychological damage, and just about anything else?</p>

<p>I would imagine that something as drastic as that car accident would change your life radically and permanently in many ways.</p>

Re:Permanent Effects (Score:1)

by Saint Nobody on Tuesday January 02, @01:32PM EST (#84)

(User #21391 Info) [about:NavigationCanceled](#)

i'm dumb. i didn't set the damn thing to HTML formatted...

There's a lot of questions here regarding the accident itself, or it's psychological/emotional consequences, but i'm curious about the physical consequences, too.

How has the accident changed you, in terms of permanent physical damage, any psychological damage, and just about anything else?

I would imagine that something as drastic as that car accident would change your life radically and permanently in many ways.

Linux PPC & MacOS X (Score:3, Interesting)

by [maggard](#) (mbear@spdcc.com) on Tuesday January 02, @01:32PM EST (#83)

(User #5579 Info) <http://www.spdcc.com/~mbear>

Jason -

What's your take on MacOS X? As the main point-person on the biggest other Mac-based *nix I'm sure you've been keeping track of it. How do you consider what's coming out of Apple as an OS, specifically as a *nix implementation?

Next, has Apple's open-sourcing Darwin been of any advantage to Linux PPC? Has someone ever popped into their code & looked up how they handled an point or what their solution was to a Mac-specific issue?

Back to your own stuff, where do you see Linux PPC going as regards to the other linuxen? Any stuff you see as being unique strengths of Linux PPC (aside from it's hardware)?

Finally, what issues do you regularly run into being on a non-X86 platform? What could developers do to improve portability for you? What's your "I-wish-they'd" list look like?

-- Michael

PPC a 'minority' processor (Score:1)

by [fatphil \(@.org\(+2*fatphil\)\)](#) on Tuesday January 02, @01:33PM EST ([#87](#))

(User #181876 Info) <http://fatphil.org/>

How do you rate the following as reasons for the PPCs lower market share:

- Apple's restrictive (often non-existent) licensing/OEM policy.
- Linux only reaching PPC relatively recently.

i.e.

- could linux have saved the PPC from its unfair minority fate?

FatPhil

(who happily runs AlphaLinux on another 'minority' CPU)

-- Real Men Don't Use Porn. -- Morality In Media Billboards

Real Porn Doesn't Use Men. -- Me

Life as a minority CPU (Score:1)

by [rrwood \(roy@centricsystems.ca\)](#) on Tuesday January 02, @01:39PM EST ([#94](#))

(User #27261 Info)

Given the overwhelming majority of x86 boxen out there, I don't think it's unreasonable to state that PPC systems are viewed as second-class citizens by most developers. (Major kudos to Loki for supporting PPC in their Linux ports of interactive realtime multimedia applications.)

Given that Open Source programmers tend to have limited time and even more limited access to machines that are not sitting in their bedroom/office/whatever, how hard has it been to convince developers to support PPC systems? And for that matter, how much of a pain-in-the-ass is it to support PPC? (endian issues is about all that comes to mind)

And while we're discussing the nightmarish complexity of assembling and maintaining all the bits and pieces that comprise a Linux system, what's it like putting together a complete distribution anyway?

-Roy

Jason, I have only one question to ask: (Score:1)

by [AFCArchvile \(talk_is Cheap@lies.are.expensive.com\)](#) on Tuesday January 02, @01:39PM EST ([#95](#))

(User #221494 Info) <http://www.verizoneatspoop.com/>

WHY???

With OS X being based on BSD, why even bother continuing development on LinuxPPC? BSD will be many times more stable, and will do nearly everything that LinuxPPC can, only better, more efficiently, and more reliably.

Software designers are so infatuated with the fact that they can, that they don't stop to think if they should.

Well, because... (Score:1)

by [Pope](#) ([UCE@metajoke.net](#)) on Tuesday January 02, @02:13PM EST ([#122](#))

(User #17780 Info) <http://www.robotx.org/>

OS X won't run well on older Mac hardware, whereas LinuxPPC will.

I've been dual booting OS X and MacOS 9 on a G4 with the public beta, and if you're a Mac guy with a spare older machine sitting around that you wanna get your hands dirty with *nix, it's not going to be OS X.

Pope

Freedom is Slavery! Ignorance is Strength! Monopolies offer Choice!

- Tom Tomorrow

On the TCO of PPCL (Score:1)

by [supabeast!](#) ([supabeast@supabeast.org](#)) on Tuesday January 02, @01:43PM EST ([#98](#))

(User #84658 Info)

My question:

Is it worth the cost to have a Mac running PPC Linux? I have been considering buying a Mac of some sort to run Linux on, but for the cost of a decent Mac I could build (At least) two blazing fast AMD PCs.

The difference, of course, is in that G4 processor. Do you feel that the G4 (Or even the G3 on an iMac.) processor, combined with Linux, offers the power to match the cost?
Unite! [Join NORML and support re-criminalizing prisons!](#)

PPC (Apple Hardware) Support - LinuxPPC vs BeOS (Score:2, Interesting)

by [TJPile](#) ([tjpile@zbzoom.net](#)) on Tuesday January 02, @01:51PM EST ([#99](#))

(User #220972 Info)

Apple all but killed future support for the BeOS on PPC hardware when it quit providing the technical specs on the new motherboard architectures, and etc. LinuxPPC overcame this with, in my opinion, far fewer resources than Be Inc. Maybe it's a testament to each OS's user devotion, or OpenSource vs 'ClosedSource', I don't know. **My question is, why do you think LinuxPPC was able to successfully continue supporting the newer hardware from Apple when Be couldn't? Also, do you think there may be the possibility of technology sharing between Be Inc. and LinuxPPC?**

Re:PPC (Apple Hardware) Support - LinuxPPC vs BeOS (Score:1)

by -kevin- on Tuesday January 02, @02:07PM EST ([#119](#))

(User #90281 Info) <http://kcdcreations.8m.com>

I was wondering about this myself...

The truth about BeOS (Score:1)

by Duck0987 on Tuesday January 02, @03:09PM EST ([#143](#))

(User #130663 Info)

Honestly I believe that apple not releasing specs is a total lie on Be's part they don't want to take the time and money to continue developing BeOS for the PPC as it is too small of a market and they are already struggling to support all the video and nic cards on the x86. The myth about Be not running on G3/G4 chips is completely untrue. I have a Mac 7500 with a XLR8 g4-350 mhz upgrade card and it runs BeOS 4.5 with no problem what so ever.

Be was just looking for an excuse to end support for ppc platform and it looks like they have found it.

Re:PPC (Apple Hardware) Support - LinuxPPC vs BeOS (Score:1)

by [jidar](#) (jidar@doh.par1.net) on Wednesday January 03, @03:32AM EST ([#273](#))

(User #83795 Info)

Ohh.. good one. Mod this one up.

The use of OFFTOPIC moderation has gotten way out of hand. I meta-mod those unfair and mod them back up when moderator.

PPC experience (Score:1)

by scharkalvin on Tuesday January 02, @01:57PM EST ([#109](#))

(User #72228 Info) <http://www.qsl.net/wa2mze>

Where I used to work we had evaluated Windows NT on some Motorola PPC boxes. I don't remember the exact model but they were in boxes looking alot like the old Dell Dimension cases, MB had multiple PCI slots, SCSI and sound on board. After MS dropped PPC support for NT I got to try and install Linux on these boxes. The hardest part was figuring out which boot floppy image to download and how to tell the bios to boot from the floppy! Anyway it seems that there are many custom PPC systems how do you get the installer to deal with this?

Hope you are recovering well and sue the bastards ass off! No way you should have to dig into your pockets to pay to make yourself whole again!

iBook and LinuxPPC (Score:3, Interesting)

by X on Tuesday January 02, @01:59PM EST ([#111](#))

(User #1235 Info) <http://www.xman.org/>

I got my SO an iBook (with wireless LAN) for Christmas. She's pretty happy with it, but I've been considering putting Linux on it. She's used Linux on my computer without much difficulty, so I'm not so concerned about usability issues, but I am concerned about hardware issues, and of course the ability to dual boot. I checked out LinuxPPC's site, and dual boot seems like a manageable issue, but I was wondering if you could comment on iBook hardware support.

Re:iBook and LinuxPPC (Score:1)

by GORDOOM on Tuesday January 02, @08:00PM EST ([#230](#))
(User #149962 Info)

Actually, I have a comment about this:

The only way to set up a dualboot between the Mac OS and LinuxPPC on a New World machine (that is, an iMac, an iBook, a Lombard or Pismo PowerBook, a Yosemite G3, or any G4-based system) is to make changes directly in Open Firmware. BootX does not work on these machines, and yaboot does not support any kind of dual booting.

This leads to my question:

Is there anything in the works to provide dualboot support for machines with New World ROMs?

Re:iBook and LinuxPPC (Score:1)

by [jrockway](#) (jrockway @ IMSA (edu)) on Wednesday January 03, @02:07AM EST ([#265](#))
(User #229604 Info) <http://www.imsa.edu/>

iBooks should work fine (with Airport, too!). Check out [iBookLinux](#) for some more info.

Be incomprehensible. If they can't understand you, they can't disagree with you

in the beginning... (Score:1)

by Lycestra on Tuesday January 02, @02:00PM EST ([#112](#))
(User #16353 Info)

How did you get started in computers? And why Mac hardware as opposed to x86 or Amiga?

GenX tend to have interesting stories of computers in the 70s-80s.

-- Lycestra

MacOS Emulation (Score:1)

by [rrwood](#) (roy@centricsystems.ca) on Tuesday January 02, @02:00PM EST ([#113](#))
(User #27261 Info)

As many users of VMWare and other similar backwards-compatibility-environment tools will attest, it's nice to be able to run applications written for a different OS within a Linux environment. Fortunately for LinuxPPC fans who want to run MacOS apps, you can do the same sort of thing right now using Mac-on-Linux, and if they ever make it out of Beta, you'll eventually be able to use SheepShaver.

My question is to what degree do you think the existence of tools like Mac-on-Linux actually further the Worldwide Domination by Linux. Along the same line of thought, who then do you see as your target audience/customers?

-Roy

Accessibility of Linux on the Mac (Score:1)

by [jpsc](#) (jpsc@users.sourceforge.net) on Tuesday January 02, @02:10PM EST ([#120](#))

(User #107113 Info) <http://ocularis.sourceforge.net>

The Mac and its respective proprietary OS are known for their ease of use in schools and for the disabled. Applications' accessibility, or their ability to be used by disabled users (e.g., visually impaired individuals) and users who speak something other than English, is something that we Linux users and developers tend not to think about.

- Have you or anyone else at LinuxPPC thought about how to make Linux on the Mac as competitive (with the proprietary software bundled with Macs) and useful in the accessibility arena as in all others?
- Do you agree with the idea that in order to ensure widespread use of Linux for the Mac (e.g., in schools) you should consider accessibility?
- What could you reasonably do to increase the accessibility of your distro?
- Do you agree with the idea that in order to fully live up to the notion of "free as in speech software for everyone" we must include non-sighted and otherwise disabled users?

Thanks,

JP Schnapper-Casteras

P.S.: Just so you know that your answer to this question will actually result in something, I should let you know that in a few months I'm going to be organizing around a dozen different workgroups that will focus on topics such as GNOME, KDE, and X accessibility, Braille, etc. If you are interested see [Project Ocularis](#), [the announcement of the Linux Accessibility Conference in March](#), [this summary about Linux accessibility](#), or [this longer editorial](#) on the potential of free software for the visually impaired.

If you want to make sure my project (Project Ocularis) and I are legitimate see [this reference at Sun's web site](#), [this one a Linux.com](#), or [this one on Linuxnews.com](#), or [this interview on American Council of the Blind radio](#).

Hey...:) (Score:1)

by [Fixer \(ihate@spam.org\)](#) on Tuesday January 02, @02:18PM EST (#128)

([User #35500 Info](#))

Jason, I just read the entirety of your significant other's journals, and your own. I can only say that I haven't ever read anything quite so heartwrenching and yet, hopeful at the same time. You've got a wonderful wife, cherish her.

My only question is that, after all that's happened, do you feel yourself again?

Goedel's Theorem: You don't know what you think you know.

Altivec and MP G4's? (Score:4, Interesting)

by esome on Tuesday January 02, @02:23PM EST (#129)

([User #166227 Info](#))

ok, newbie questions but:

1)How much can a PPC linux distro benefit from Altivec optimization?

2)Does LinuxPPC enjoy the same degree of improved performance from additional processors that OS-X does?

flame away...

PowerPC Open Platform & SMP (Score:1)

by doorbot.com on Tuesday January 02, @02:30PM EST (#132)

([User #184378 Info](#)) <http://www.doorbot.com>

Question:

What is the status of the [PowerPC Open Platform](#)? It's been out for a little while now, and I seem to recall that there was at least one manufacturer who was planning on making POP-based PCs. Do these machines exist as a commercial product? Will they/do they run LinuxPPC?

What is the current state of SMP on LinuxPPC? Are there many SMP PPC machines (beyond the few Mac MP machines) that will run LinuxPPC? Does SMP with G3 processors work, or does one need to use 604 or G4 processors?

- Is your power animal a penguin?

Irresponsible automobile manufacturers (Score:2)

by [Knight \(fireball@magic.nospam.hurrah.com\)](#) on Tuesday January 02, @02:45PM EST (#136)

([User #10458 Info](#)) <http://www.clicktosecure.com/>

I know this has already been addressed to a small degree in this thread, but not well, and I apologize if this comment seems insensitive or off-topic, but I would be interested to know your opinion.

I agree that SUVs are very dangerous on roads, and it seems that poor drivers are often at the wheel. However, Honda is famous for (at least during the 80's and early 90's) making cars extremely light to improve fuel efficiency. Kia and Hyundai currently do this. This seems extremely irresponsible to me. While these cars can be made in such a way that they do not crush the passenger or driver (which it appears was not the case with your Honda, unfortunately), they still cannot eliminate the biggest problem with lightweight vehicles: instant acceleration. When a light car is struck by a medium to large vehicle (say, 3300 to 4000 lbs.), it accelerates instantly much faster than it would have if it weighed just a bit more. Depending on speed and many other factors, just 500 lbs. can mean the difference between 8 and 12 g-forces. That's a big difference. My car (a 1994 cavalier with a V6) was rear-ended by another vehicle going 55 mph while my vehicle was traveling at 5-7 mph. I was not injured. My sister's Toyota Celica was hit by a car going only 30 mph in front of our house. My dad and I spent 15 minutes tearing the door off to get her out, because the car was thoroughly crushed. Luckily, she recovered in a few weeks, but some people aren't so lucky. I realize that many people are convinced that Asian vehicles are more reliable, nicer, etc.; but they are designed in countries where speeds over 40 mph are very rare, and as such, they often cannot handle a collision that isn't bumper-to-bumper at low speed. I know I'm not giving any empirical evidence here, and I admit that a large part of the problem are vehicles like Suburbans and Excursions, but I won't be caught driving a Honda/Toyota/Nissan or any product of their divisions, because I have seen what happens to them in accidents.

One more bit of info about me: I have, in the past, raced cars semi-professionally. Mostly, I drag-raced, but I also raced a few races at PIR. I've been in my share of wrecks, including an end-over-end incident at 240+ mph at a dragstrip. We can blame the SUVs, but that's only part of the problem, because if I can walk away from that wreck, Japan can definitely add a few pounds of metal to their cars for our safety. I have no desire to be surrounded by plastic when my life is on the line.

Re:Irresponsible automobile manufacturers (Score:1)

by [jidar](#) (jidar@doh.par1.net) on Wednesday January 03, @03:38AM EST (#[274](#))

(User #[83795](#) Info)

Make your car larger to improve its reactions in a collision because there are cars that are larger. Hrm.. where does this line of reasoning lead to? Eventually everybody is driving a tank that gets 2mpg and emits as much crap into the air as a small town coal power plant.

How is this, 2 1000lb cars colliding is a much safer collision than 2 8000lb cars. Smaller cars would be safer if 1/3 of americans didn't drive monster trucks as status symbols. This is vanity and it's ruining the environment while killing people.

The use of OFFTOPIC moderation has gotten way out of hand. I meta-mod those unfair and mod them back up when moderator.

Rushed to market. (Score:1)

by Usquebaugh on Tuesday January 02, @02:48PM EST (#137)

(User #230216 Info)

Do you feel Linux on the PPC was pushed into the market place too soon?

I have an IMAC DV and under both LinuxPPC and SuSE/PPC the hardware is still not recognised/supported.

I feel that if LinuxPPC concentrated on the newer machines your market share would increase dramatically.

CBR929RR FireBlade 'First cut is the deepest...'

Embedded Chip Support (Score:2)

by pjrc (pjrc@pjrc.DONTSPAM.com) on Tuesday January 02, @03:24PM EST (#145)

(User #134994 Info) <http://www.pjrc.com/>

I've been considering starting a project to make a low-cost linux-based single-board computer, perhaps similar to the uCsimm, now sold by Lineo. Some time ago, the uCsimm sounded really exciting, but the price is now \$300 for a slow CPU (people report 25-50 kbytes/sec ftp throughput), and that runs uLinux instead of the "real" linux. I don't want to spread FUD about uLinux, it's a great effort, but the fact is that it lacks fork, larger executables, protected memory, and both drivers and userland applications need to be ported. Still, I've got my eye on the Motorola Coldfire chip (runs uLinux), but....

It'd sure be cool to make a low-cost board that could run the real linux, with real memory management (MMU), and a pretty speedy CPU. By low cost, I'm thinking able to sell at \$120-\$150 for board where you add a SDRAM DIMM and use a network bootstrap or add compact flash card for a local boot. So far, it's looking like the available PPC based off-the-shelf boards are quite expensive. I probably ought to do a bit more homework, but since you're here, my question is....

What are the projects for making a really low cost PPC-based embedded linux computer? Has anyone done it or tried? Is it even possible?

Mouse (Score:2)

by blakestah (dblake@phy.ucsf.edu) on Tuesday January 02, @03:34PM EST (#149)

(User #91866 Info) <http://www.keck.ucsf.edu/~dblake>

Where can I get an off the shelf G4 PPC linux box with a real mouse ?

Re:Mouse (Score:1)

by blinko on Wednesday January 03, @08:57AM EST (#286)

(User #97812 Info)

uh.. At a pet store that sells computers.

Or you could try a Logitec three button USB mouse on a G4, but you'll have to instal Linux yourself.

--

blinko - "the nail that sticks up gets hammered down"

Re:Mouse (Score:1)

by [chrischow](#) (christian@SPAMAWAY.trash80.org.uk) on Wednesday January 03, @09:36AM EST (#289)

(User #133164 Info) <http://www.trash80.org.uk/>

have a look in yellow pages for shops that sell computers and pets

Re:Mouse (Score:1)

by [Sloppy](#) (spam^H^H^H^Hrt66.com) on Wednesday January 03, @10:46AM EST (#292)

(User #14984 Info)

Where can I get an off the shelf G4 PPC linux box with a real mouse ?

Just about any computer store, that sells Apple stuff, will have G4 Macintoshes and a variety of mice. Try CompUSA for retail, or any of a number of online stores.

The only catch is that you will have to pay for more than you want: the Mac will come with both an OS and a mouse that you will end up not using. But, in the end, you'll have a *very* nice machine that does what you want, even if the price is a bit inflated by the unwanted extras.

Have a Sloppy night!

IBM and PowerPC (Score:1)

by IYagami on Tuesday January 02, @03:35PM EST (#151)

(User #136831 Info)

What do you think about IBM's efforts for suporting Linux? What do you think they should do in order to make LinuxPPC a better platform? Making better gcc for PowerPC? A better kernel? Do you think that they are more interested in x86 platform?

LinuxPPC, Mac's, and ROM's (Score:1)

by tech81 on Tuesday January 02, @03:53PM EST (#159)

(User #128914 Info) <http://www.rossmiller.net>

While I'm not too awful new to Linux, I'm a long time Windows and Macintosh user. . .and I'm wondering, what kinds of hurdles has the Macintosh ROM posed for you in the development process?

Will RS/6000s get the same attention that Macs do? (Score:1)
by Saltine Cracker on Tuesday January 02, @04:06PM EST ([#164](#))
([User #116414 Info](#))

Greetings.

Will LinuxPPC provide more support for RS/6Ks in the future? Bootable media would be a neat feature as well as simpler partitioning, and better device detection! The story leading up to my question is below -

I recently started working with LinuxPPC on a couple of RS/6000s my last company had (while I was still with them). I really had a lot of trouble getting the distro to install. One part included hand configuring the frame buffer device so that the graphical install would run. Another involved having to set the partitions without any real knowledge of what was required (like a PReP boot partition). Lastly I encountered needing an updated kernel for the installation boot disk, which was provided by someone outside of linuxppc.org. In all it was a grand fun time, but the difficulties were tough to get over.

Thanks!

Linux on IBM RS/6000 (Score:1)
by mrdisco99 on Tuesday January 02, @04:13PM EST ([#171](#))
([User #113602 Info](#))

Much of the conversations about Linux-PPC seem to be about running it on Apple hardware. What about IBM RISC machines? I know a number of RS/6000 models are able to run it, and IBM has promised extending that to cover the entire RS/6000 (or pSeries) family. What do you know about when that promise might be a reality?

Also, very little older RS/6000 hardware seems to be able to run Linux (i.e. no MCA machines and only a few PCI machines). Is there much development being done to bring those machines into the fold? There are a lot of older RS/6000's out there, and they would be a perfect target for an OS like Linux, since AIX would probably be too expensive for someone with one of those. How close are we to getting more of those machines running Linux-PPC?

+++
NO CARRIER

Why should my next purchase be a PowerPC? (Score:5, Interesting)
by [rjh](#) (rjhansen@REMOVE-ALL-CAPS.inav.net) on Tuesday January 02, @04:15PM EST ([#172](#))
([User #40933 Info](#))

Intel hardware is a commodity; it's cheap, there are lots of peripherals for it, you can buy individual components and build your own box easily, and prices are very low.

AFAIK (which isn't far), PowerPC hardware is mostly proprietary, controlled by Apple, is more expensive, has less variety in peripherals, and you're more or less stuck buying a Macintosh just to get your PC. Not just that, but many components of many PowerPC-based computers have marginal to no support under Linux (USB is marginal, Firewire is nonexistent right now, etc).

Given all this, where is the major win in the PowerPC? Why ought my next purchase for a PC be a PowerPC running LinuxPPC/Yellow Dog/MkLinux?

I'm not trolling here; I'm just uneducated. :) Educate me.

.sig: I am not speaking for my company, and this post does not constitute professional advice.

Re:Why should my next purchase be a PowerPC? (Score:1)

by chainsaw1 on Tuesday January 02, @08:56PM EST ([#238](#))

([User #89967 Info](#))

It's been awhile, but let me see if I can help enlighten you...

If you are looking for Linux only and have no need for MacOS compatibility or native support for the PowerPC's CPU instruction set (also found in the many objects that use PowerPC embedded processors) then there probably is not much reason for you to.

Apple PowerPC's are expensive comparing hardware to hardware with a BTO i386 option. However, IBM has released a free mobo spec for other companies to make a PowerPC computer with, and they could probably compete with the hardware prices for an i386. The Motorola PowerWave and the BeOS boxes are PowerPC computers that can run LinuxPPC, but are not Macs.

The Mac costs more because:

- a) it's Apple branded
- b) it includes all hardware certified to run under just about every version of MacOS
- c) Much of the whole computer includes things that many other computers (except Dell, Compaq, etc. BTO workstations) will not, such as a NIC, video, sound input/output, and firewire. These options are on board (except Video, which is AGP) and not removable.
- d) It includes ROMs (or something to point to a ROM file on the HD) and a Forth BIOS (OpenFirmware). Apple puts R&D into these items and passes the cost on to you by marking up their computers.

The hardware Apple uses is not all proprietary. Macs use IDE same as other computers, and other drivers for other parts can be obtained by looking at the chips inside the mac. the PCI bus is PCI standard, and the cards are mostly the same as you would find for PC's (with some exceptions). Most of the proprietary comes in the BIOS drivers (though OpenFirmware is based on Forth, which is fairly open. I think it was started by Sun Microsystems) and the ROM

initialization items. these items are mostly needed for the MacOS to operate properly.

LinuxPPC for me has been every bit as stable as the RTHL I have on my AMD computer at home. Plus the devices are mostly the same. Serial ports still show up at /dev/ttySX, etc. In fact, most programs that are source code distributed can be recompiled under LinuxPPC easily. There are issues sometimes with machine-code optimized programs or things that may get muddled by the big-endian PowerPC vs little-endian i386, but I have not seen many in my experience.

You can run NFS, ssh, etc. between LinuxPPC and Linux i386 systems same as any other. It is truly the same OS on top, just some of the hardware underneath is a bit different.

One of the many reasons I like running LinuxPPC on my Mac because it lets me use hardware that the MacOS won't let me because it came in a PC box. I have a NE2000 and a DEC chip 21040 NICs in my StarMax. The only times I have a problem is with video cards because the primary video card must be recognizable by OpenFirmware so the display can come up at boot.

Power use (Score:2)

by [Sloppy](#) (sloppy@spam^H^H^H^Hrt66.com) on Wednesday January 03, @11:26AM EST (#296)

([User #14984 Info](#))

The main *tangible* advantage you get with a PowerPC over x86 is the lower power use, resulting in less heat and noise. Recent Macs don't even bother with a single fan at all. Going by noise and electric bill, an iMac or one of those new cubes, would make a much better server (or any other 24x7 application) than my Athlon box, which I think has a total of 7 (!?) fans and guzzles electrons like there's no tomorrow.

Another tangible (but *very* specialized) advantage of PowerPC would be the vector processor in the G4. If you do something that can use this, it might tip the scales in favor of PowerPC.

Then there are the intangible benefits, mainly involving the relative elegance of PowerPC compared to x86. This is probably not a significant factor for non-geeks, though, and the pragmatic and unromantic can safely ignore it.

Have a Sloppy night!

floating point performance? (Score:2)

by twitter on Thursday January 04, @08:51AM EST (#307)

([User #104583 Info](#))

I'm glad people are interested in this.

I've heard that x86 floating point math is sloppy at best, but does it make a real difference? Can a PPC compete despite the clock speed advantage of the x86s? Some real world examples would be nice, thanks.

How do you think OSX will affect your userbase? (Score:1)

by [Jamuraa](#) (jamuraa@base0.net) on Tuesday January 02, @04:21PM EST (#173)

(User #3055 Info) <http://base0.net>

Do you think that OSX's imminent release, and betas, have drawn away from the crowd that uses LinuxPPC, or will it eventually add to the userbase because of people getting a taste of *NIX within OSX and wanting more?

-- This sig under construction.

IMPORTANT POINT re: Jason's Honda (Score:2)

by [alexburke](#) (alex@pdqsolutions.NOSPAMTHANKS.com) on Tuesday January 02, @04:37PM EST (#179)

(User #119254 Info) <http://www.pdqsolutions.com/~alex/linuxworld/Aug12-062.jpg>

Just to clear something up, Jason's car was a [Honda Accord](#).

--

[Isn't it time your computer started paying for itself?](#)

Re:IMPORTANT POINT re: Jason's Honda (Score:1)

by [alexburke](#) (alex@pdqsolutions.NOSPAMTHANKS.com) on Tuesday January 02, @04:58PM EST (#184)

(User #119254 Info) <http://www.pdqsolutions.com/~alex/linuxworld/Aug12-062.jpg>

(Sorry, I couldn't resist. I drive an Accord myself.)

Oh, and YES, I know it was a Civic. Emphasize was. Now it's an Accord, no matter what the badge says. :)

--

[Isn't it time your computer started paying for itself?](#)

3rd Party PPC Hardware? (Score:2, Interesting)

by DoenerMord on Tuesday January 02, @04:45PM EST (#180)

(User #21821 Info)

While LinuxPPC may be great for Mac users wanting to dangle their toes in the Linux world, the higher price of Apple's hardware is tough for many x86 users to swallow. Is the LinuxPPC group working with any companies to develop a lower-cost motherboard/machine setup based on IBM's open PowerPC specs? Or is the goal to make LinuxPPC such compelling server solution that x86 users won't mind paying the extra bucks to squeeze a few Cubes onto a rack? I realize a 3rd party PPC setup would only cater to a very small group, but is anyone working on using IBM's design at all?

Drunk Driving laws (Score:2)

by AntiNorm on Tuesday January 02, @04:49PM EST ([#182](#))

(User #155641 Info) <http://www.antinorm.com/>

He's also majorly anti-drunk driving these days, because last March a drunk driver ran into his car and left it looking like this.

Being that you have been personally involved with drunk driving like this, what is your take on the current status of drunk driving laws? What kind of penalties would you like to see implemented for drunk drivers?

Put your feet out and stop ... climb out and hang ...

GO!!!

Support during recovery (Score:2, Insightful)

by [chancycat](#) (evanhatesspam.bigatsign.yahoo.com) on Tuesday January 02, @04:52PM EST ([#183](#))

(User #104884 Info)

Jason,

After reading your wife's diary of your recovery (first 8-10 weeks or so) I was amazed at her dedication to reporting your progress. I'm sure you have read those logs as well and I am curious as to your thoughts. Do you remember much if any of those early weeks? Do you have any insights into how helpful the therapists were in prodding you toward your recovery?

Evan

Evan - needs to hit preview before submitting

SUVs vs. real transportation (Score:2)

by TheGeek on Tuesday January 02, @06:33PM EST ([#206](#))

(User #65841 Info) <http://www.geekrights.org>

I drive a '94 Ford Aspire, which is #8 of the "Worst cars to be in during an accident". I think it got there because of the ridiculous number of SUVs on the road with their higher bumpers. Given that my car is dead cheap on gas and gets me around just as fast as a 5xCost SUV, and that SUVs are being blamed for many of the worst road fatalities on roads today, what do you think we as smarter car drivers could do to convince manufacturers and gov't officials that vehicles such as SUVs aren't worth keeping around?

TheGeek

<http://www.geekrights.org>

Re:SUVs vs. real transportation (Score:1)

by Archangel Michael on Tuesday January 02, @07:11PM EST ([#213](#))

(User #180766 Info)

I am 6'5" and nearly 300 lbs (NFL lineman size), and I don't fit into your nice little POS 2 door Spec, or any other compact, sub compact car. If you do away with larger cars (and SUV's) because they are "unfair" in crashes, then I am relegated to using cars that dangerous for me to be in. Crash tests are done only on "average" (read under 5' 11", 150lb) dummies (hehe). I would love to see how taller larger people like me do in car crashes.

Re:SUVs vs. real transportation (Score:1)

by TheGeek on Wednesday January 03, @11:53AM EST ([#299](#))

(User #65841 Info) <http://www.geekrights.org>

For the record, I don't have anything against larger cars. Just SUVs, and even that only in the city. I grew up on a mountain ranch before moving to a city of 2 million people so I can understand the utility of larger vehicles.

HOWEVER...even at your size, there is no reason to be running around in a vehicle that can carry 6 people of equal size.

AND...These smaller cars are mostly considered unsafe because of the results of the accidents they get in, against larger vehicles. Sure, they could be made safer, and should be. But small car vs. small car is a much different story than small car vs. SUV.

AND...on the tree-hugging environmental side...I fill up for less, go farther for the gas I buy, pollute less.

TheGeek

<http://www.geekrights.org>

(OT) Re:SUVs vs. real transportation (Score:2)

by [Rauchola](#) (rauchola[at]hushmail[dot]com) on Tuesday January 02, @09:13PM EST ([#241](#))

(User #129755 Info)

"I drive a '94 Ford Aspire, which is #8 of the 'Worst cars to be in during an accident'. I think it got there because of the ridiculous number of SUVs on the road with their higher bumpers."

Gee, maybe its' ranking is because the Aspire is a sardine can on wheels? Any car as small as that will be reduced to scrap metal in an accident, regardless of what hits it (SUV, pickup truck, mid-size family car, hazmat, etc).

Here's my opinion for you...get something that **isn't** mistaken for Ringling Bros. property.

And for the record, no, I don't own a SUV, I own a VW Jetta. Neener.

--

+1 Threshold in effect, no ACs need apply

Re:SUVs vs. real transportation (Score:2)

by Lord Kano on Tuesday January 02, @10:36PM EST ([#251](#))

(User #13027 Info) <http://wpngg.org>

Convice the car makers to make your little cars safer. I'm not giving up my SUV. When I'm ready for a new vehicle, it'll be a new SUV.

I live in Pittsburgh, I drove a two wheel drive sports car and in the snow it's impossible to drive effectively.

You "ban the SUVs" people would probably prohibit big penises if you could. It's not fair that someone else has something bigger and less fuel efficient than you.

LK

Computer geeks that'll kick your stupid jock ass.

Change in Priority? (Score:2)

by gte910h on Tuesday January 02, @06:53PM EST ([#211](#))

(User #239582 Info)

Jason,

Since your accident, what have you noticed as far as a change in your priorities goes? I am curious with respect to your "real job" versus private research interests (e.g. PPCLinux) versus your family versus the things that you have been putting off in your life. What other changes have you seen in yourself as far as attitudes towards what sucess really is, and what you want to do with the rest of your life?

Darwin & NetBSD influences on LinuxPPC? (Score:2)

by namespan on Tuesday January 02, @07:23PM EST ([#219](#))

(User #225296 Info)

While many people view the presence of different OS's as a fight to the death with only one winner (and while this often happens), it's obvious that they sometimes influence one another's design. In the open source world, I sometimes expect this to happen to a greater extent, since the ideas and code are shared freely. I'm curious to know if you've played with Darwin and NetBSD, and what you think about them. Anything cool about them LinuxPPC doesn't have? Any directions they're taking you think will influence LinuxPPC? And you could answer the same questions for the other PPC Linux distros....

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What if [a corporation could film you anytime?](#)

How do you feel towards the driver? (Score:2, Interesting)

by mrRaist- on Tuesday January 02, @07:32PM EST ([#223](#))

([User #300868 Info](#))

Jason,

Congrats on your recovery! I can't even begin to imagine how hard it must have been for you and your wife.

My question to you is this: How do you feel towards the driver? Do you have a great malice towards him? Would you do the same thing to him as he did to you so he could know first hand what you went through? Or, on the other end of the spectrum, do you forgive him? Do you realize that he made a terrible mistake by getting behind the wheel and driving drunk and that he will be punished by the law, which while it can't equal the physical pain that you've gone through, he will be locked away from society. Or, do you forgive him completely?

All the best!

Brad

Gratitude (Score:1)

by coolgeek on Tuesday January 02, @09:01PM EST ([#239](#))

([User #140561 Info](#))

I can only imagine surviving a near-death experience like this causes a great change in perspective. What are a few of the things you used to take for granted that you are really grateful for now?

got dioxin?

LinuxPPC vs OSX (Score:1)

by [lemonlime](#) (gwen at popcorn dot net) on Tuesday January 02, @09:33PM EST ([#244](#))

([User #177474 Info](#)) <http://cognosco%A9datablocks%A9net/>

Do you think that once OSX arrives on the scene with a UNIX or UNIX-like environment LinuxPPC will suffer any loss of users?

--

Cognosco: To examine, enquire, learn

[http://cognosco@datablocks.net](mailto:cognosco@datablocks.net)

Memory Loss and Re-Learning? (Score:1)

by [gavinroy \(gmr@readysetnet.com\)](mailto:gavinroy@gmr@readysetnet.com) on Tuesday January 02, @09:53PM EST (#245)

(User #94729 Info) <http://www.readysetnet.com>

I followed your story closely, I don't know quite why, really, other than it struck a chord with me I guess. From what I remember you came out of it with little memory from before the accident. What was it like coming back into the Linux fold, did you have to re-learn or did it all come back? What did you think about Linux (if you did) when you couldn't remember what it was?

Commercial support for PPC (Score:2)

by [tolldog \(ttoll@bigidea.com\)](mailto:tolldog@bigidea.com) on Tuesday January 02, @10:05PM EST (#246)

(User #1571 Info) <http://www.tolldog.com>

Do you see companies supporting the PPC Linux any time soon?

I see companies with Linux software ignoring the Apple boxen and only supporting those with Intel (and possibly AMD, if they are a cool company).

I know that Alias is porting (has ported?) Maya to the Mac (for OSX I think...). Seeing that they have ported (beta) for Linux on x86 I would expect talk for a LinuxPPC port.

Maybe it is just because of the lack of demand. I guess what I want this question to boil down to is:

Do you see the LinuxPPC solution as being worth a company's time to port code for and to support with OSX and x86 solutions being more common?

-I just program here... how am I supposed to know?

Where LinuxPPC is going (Score:1)

by [jrockway @ IMSA \(edu\)](mailto:jrockway@IMSA(edu)) on Wednesday January 03, @02:04AM EST (#263)

(User #229604 Info) <http://www.imsa.edu/>

LinuxPPC has a graphical installer (a generally new idea). How about actually making Linux boot up graphically (as in no text). I'm willing to try to implement this if there is interest (framebuffer, Qt/Embedded,etc sounds FUN!). I personally think Linux booting graphically and the X starting would be COOL!

Be incomprehensible. If they can't understand you, they can't disagree with you

PPC the next great platform? (Score:1)

by [GiMP](#) (ewindisc at fit.edu) on Wednesday January 03, @05:05AM EST ([#282](#))

(User #10923 Info) <http://www.bwbohh.net>

I aquired a G3 Pismo Powerbook from Apple in August, my best purchasing decision ever. I love the thing, as long as it runs linux that is. The OS9 on it via default was terrible, at least for my needs. I put debian-ppc on there, yaboot is setup and I have it working dualboot for those who say it cannot be done.

The highly superior quality of the Apple hardware, and the excellent linux compatability (no win-devices) made me, and others very happy customers.. but would you for any reason, recommend purchasing a PPC _desktop_ machine for use with linux? Does PPC offer the enduser/developer anything that x86 doesn't other then an affordable platform to test big endian code on?

I as others must feel, am sorry for your situation.. I hope you recover 110%.

BTW: Do you still think you work for Microsoft? :)

-- Eric Windisch

Modifying GNOME/KDE for easing MacOS transition (Score:2)

by Ukab the Great on Wednesday January 03, @08:24AM EST ([#285](#))

(User #87152 Info)

Several linux distributions (such as Corel, Redmond Linux, MaxOS, Caldera, just to name a few) try to keep their UI's consistent with that of Windows. Even much of GNOME follows much of the windows pattern (same keyboard accelerators and windows, same menu item labels, etc) for the sake of easy transition from Windows. As someone who went from Mac OS to Linux, windows UI layouts such as the Ok Button being on the left and selecting "Exit" to quit applications just doesn't quite feel right. Has LinuxPPC ever considered modifying GNOME or KDE to better ease the transition for mac users? Has there been any talk of releasing some sort of "Cupertino Linux"?

Where's the beef? (Score:2)

by [Svartalf](#) (fearl@!spammers!die!airmail.net) on Wednesday January 03, @09:00AM EST ([#287](#))

(User #2997 Info) <http://members.xoom.com/svartalf>

On your site and on the news items about LinuxPPC-2000 Q4, you say that the ISO is available for the full install CD and that it's available through any of your mirror sites. I have yet to find anything other than images dated as late as August on any sites. What gives?

"All we are is dust in the wind..." -- Kansas, *Dust in the Wind*

LinuxPPC on Amiga APUS? (Score:1)

by NoseyNick on Wednesday January 03, @09:08AM EST ([#288](#))

(User #19946 Info) <http://www.nilex.co.uk/~nick/>

A lot of Amiga users are looking for a path to "upgrade" to Linux. None of them are particularly happy about it, but it's seen as "the only other vaguely-sensible alternative OS out there", for a bunch of people who don't want to go anywhere near Windoze, and (often) preferably nowhere near Intel architecture either.

At the moment, there are pretty much 2 realistic alternatives... 68k linux for those who were still using 68k Amigas, or "Linux APUS" for those with PPC-based Amigas.

Is LinuxPPC just for Macs? How seriously do you treat other PPC-based machines?

Nick Waterman. Senior Sysadmin, So-net. #include <stddisclaimer>

Adding linuxPPC user support. (Score:1)

by [slashbrent](#) (brent@spamblooms_scientist.com) on Wednesday January 03, @06:53PM EST
([#303](#))

([User #102855 Info](#))

I have been using linuxPPC for over a year now, and have been extremely pleased with the experience. The only problem i ever seem to encounter in regards to this particular linux distro is the lack of support information.

Our newsgroup (comp.os.linux.powerpc) is rarely helpful, and there is no up-to-date documentation that i have found.

My question to you is, What can i as a linuxPPC user do to help you create and/or maintain documentation for new users and users with problems?

I realize that a user could create a html file on how to setup a specific service (Apache, say) and email it to you, but my question also pertains to the larger issue of having no mechanism for users to utilize. For example, i have found the Solutions Database at redhat.com to be incredibly useful when problems arise on my 6.2 system.

I would be more than willing to create a similar Perl/pgsql/php forum/messageboard for others users such as myself, but i do not know if your company have any interest in letting the user community tackle this issue... What can we do to mobilize our PPC forces and continue to advance the linuxPPC distro through usefull documentation?

Microkernels and Hurd. (Score:1)

by Irvu on Thursday January 04, @10:23AM EST ([#309](#))

([User #248207 Info](#))

Having spent some frustrating time working with MkLinux I'm curious what your view of the Mach Microkernel is as a subsystem and, by extension what you think of OSX and the Hurd project as architectures based upon that.

Business model and difficulties ... (Score:1)

by xim on Thursday January 04, @10:55AM EST ([#310](#))

([User #81163 Info](#))

Hi,

1) LinuxPPC seems to get revenues only from the sales of CDs. Don't you think it should be better to focus on services (as YellowDog do)? Why? Do you focus on the workstation or the server market? Could you define your target customer?

2) Do you think that things could be easier if LinuxPPC was bought by RedHat, MandrakeSoft or IBM? Why?

3) Do you find it tough to have customers who have "Mac-like" expectations? I'll explain myself. Quite often you can see in the linuxppc-user mailing list posts like: "LinuxPPC sucks! I've been struggling for 3 days with that [expletive deleted] OS. I'm gonna switch to MacOS X!". Of course, a lot of things make the installation of Linux on the PowerPC much more difficult than on Intel: Apple constantly change the platform (OldWorld->NewWorld ROM, ADB->USB, no floppy, incompatible disk drivers, etc ...). For each new machine, Ben H. and friends have to hack a lot to make the kernel work again. Maintaining the PowerPC port is probably much more work than any other Linux port (Alpha, Sparc, etc ..). But newbies doesn't want to know about that ...

4) It's a technical one, but why "root" is having his home directory in /home/root? Every other distributions put it in /root ... And why the installer (last time I cheked) doesn't partition in the standard way (/, /usr, /var, /home)?

I would like to thank you and your team for your work. I am using LinuxPPC for 2 years and a half, and although I'll never buy Apple hardware for myself again, I've appreciate the work done for the platform.

Cheers

LinuxPPC / i386 RedHat speeds (Score:1)

by protoss on Thursday January 04, @12:16PM EST ([#312](#))

([User #301045 Info](#))

I run a LinuxPPC server with a few small PHP/MySQL sites on it, and it's performed admirably for about a year now. Lately I've gotten more into YellowDog Linux on the PPC platform, as it seems more geared toward serverhood, and it ships with a nice set of bundled software. There are two Linux boxes on my desk- a G4 450, 256mb running YellowDog, and a Dell PIII 500, 256mb running RedHat 6.0. Given Apple's claims, a 450MHz G4 should lay waste to a 500MHz PIII, especially in floating point operations. I got curious about the speed payoff under Linux, and tried encoding an MP3 from a WAV on both machines, using bladeenc and lame (compiled from source on both). With both encoders, the PIII beat the PPC by a small margin. Generally it would encode the MP3s in about 95% of the PPC's time. I realize this is a very incomplete benchtest, but frankly I was expecting the PPC to perform at least a little better than the Pentium. I'm not sure what is to blame for this... whether it be the encoders' source, yellow dog linux, the kernel, the compiler.... has anyone else tried similar benchtests? I wish the PPC had made a better showing, as its RISC architecture is just much more elegant.

Re:Wimpy cars? (Score:1)

by [SamBeckett](#) (bischoff@rickjr.diespammers.org) on Tuesday January 02, @12:35PM EST ([#4](#))
(User #96685 Info) <http://rickjr.org>

Have you learned your lesson, and bought a car that isn't quite such a tiny tin can?

Why would you even consider blaming that man? You think it is his fault when:

1. He was just sitting at a red light?
2. A drunk driver hit him?

The only thing that could have protected him from that wreck was a tank (and I mean a military tank, not an 81 buick). I suggest you apoligize for your comment.

Look, Homer, a peanut - Barney.

Re:Wimpy cars? (Score:2)

by Skyshadow on Tuesday January 02, @12:53PM EST ([#40](#))
(User #508 Info)

Well, there *is* something to be said for driving a slightly larger car -- I'd rather be in a Volvo in a crash than a Geo Metro anyday.

In my school, being smart is *exactly* like being radioactive.

A case of "prisoners dilemma" (Score:1)

by renoX on Tuesday January 02, @02:03PM EST ([#115](#))
(User #11677 Info)

Yes, but this quite a simplification.

Because if everybody starts driving heavier cars, you go back to the beginning.. a classic "prisoners dilemna" I would say.

And its the nature which loose if everybody starts using heavier cars, because heavier cars needs more energy..

Of course it supposes that people do care about ecology which is quite doubtfull for the "average american" .. (we're on /. right?)

PS: this is not a flame, just what anyone can deduce from the average energy-consumption per man in the USA..

Re:Wimpy cars? (Score:1, Offtopic)

by funkman on Tuesday January 02, @12:43PM EST ([#24](#))

([User #13736 Info](#))

OK Troll boy. So your saying that anyone who cannot afford a "tank" (or chooses to drive an economical or environmentally friendly car) deserves their fate when in an accident with an SUV?

Re:Wimpy cars? (Score:1)

by NineNine on Tuesday January 02, @12:45PM EST ([#29](#))

([User #235196 Info](#))

No, I didn't say 'deserve'. Just like a woman who goes to a party dressed scantily doesn't 'deserve' to be raped. It's just something that you can do to protect yourself if you do so choose. He chose not to, and drove a tiny little car and paid the price.

- Oracle God

Re:Wimpy cars? (Score:1)

by MissingFrame on Tuesday January 02, @01:53PM EST ([#101](#))

([User #205666 Info](#))

I personally like to let a little air out of the SUV tires, since they've obviously chosen to put themselves in danger that way.

Re:Wimpy cars? (Score:1)

by NineNine on Tuesday January 02, @12:54PM EST ([#44](#))

([User #235196 Info](#))

If it does, that'll be my fault for driving in a tank-prone area without a tank.

- Oracle God

Re:Don't bother (Score:1)

by darkonc on Tuesday January 02, @09:18PM EST (#242)

(User #47285 Info) <http://www.getyourassingear.com>

The question isn't that far off the pale. There are a Lot of people who actually think like that. It's like the 'bigger gun' syndrome: If you don't like people running around with guns, get a bigger one, and then you'll be safe.

It only makes sense if you don't consider the possibility of your approach becomming the standard. When that happens, it's actually worse than the original situation, because now you've still got accidents with same-sized vehicles -- it's just that they're now bigger, heavier and less responsive. If you add pollution snf global warming effects to that, it starts to look like a really bad idea.

Unfortunately, most of the people who drive minitanks don't think that far past the PR output of your local car dealership.

--

Killing a person is easy -- killing an idea is murder.

Re:LinuxPPC vs OS X? (Score:1)

by [um... Lucas](#) (lk@caralis.com) on Tuesday January 02, @12:45PM EST (#30)

(User #13147 Info) <http://www.dioxidized.com/>

Erm... obviously OS X, because once it ships it'll be the default installed OS. Kind of like how IE kicked Netscape out of the market.

Blatant plug: visit my [site](#)...

Re:LinuxPPC to get LILO? (Score:1)

by [um... Lucas](#) (lk@caralis.com) on Tuesday January 02, @02:17PM EST (#127)

(User #13147 Info) <http://www.dioxidized.com/>

Yeah... i was rather pissed that though LinuxPPC installed fine on the first shot on my Umax C500 mac clone (180 MHz PPC 603e), since the box didn't have ethernet onboard, and since LinuxPPC didn't supply a driver for my Asante ethernet card, it turned into a rather useless install...

Oh well... in the end things worked out... Now i've a 7100 with VideoVision to do video capture, an Athlon/Linux system to act as the server, and the Umax machine to be the editor... Sweet little setup thanks to the 100 mbps connection between the later two.

But really... IF you're going to run linux, at this point i'm assuming it should be run on only x86 hardware, unless you're wanting to get your hands really dirty coaxing it to run...

Blatant plug: visit my [site](#)...

Re:i agree... (Score:1)

by protoss on Thursday January 04, @12:29PM EST ([#313](#))

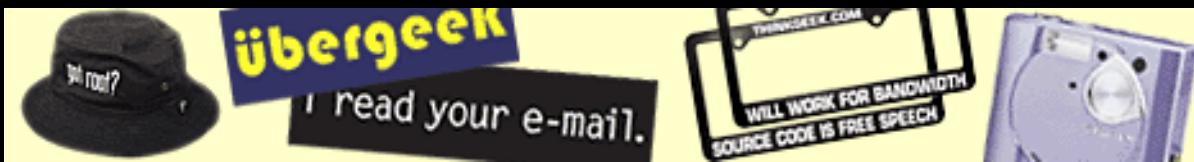
([User #301045 Info](#))

i third.

He who knows others is wise. He who knows himself is enlightened. -- Lao Tsu

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The Ordinary Slashdot User Answers

Posted by [Roblimo](#) on Friday December

29, @10:00AM

from the you-don't-have-to-be-famous-to-be-here dept.

Hmmm... seems quite a few people (judging from email I've gotten) have figured out that this week's interview guest, Clinton Ebadi, is the 'unknown_lamer' who frequents irc.openprojects.net, not that this was a great secret or anything. Anyway, Clinton has a pretty good sense of humor about himself and this whole thing, and I think it shows through clearly in his answers (below) to [your questions](#).



1) *Girls (Score:5, Interesting)*

by Stoke (stoke@excite.com)

Sections

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At the age when most teens seem to be crazy over the opposite sex and dating, how is your situation with girls? Assuming you don't have a girlfriend, do you feel better off without one taking away your free time, or is it something you wish for?

Clinton:

No girlfriend for the unknown_lamer. I'm not cool enough. I really wish I had one, because here is my daily schedule:

- 6am: wake up
- 7am: time for school
- 3pm: home from school
- 4:40pm: homework done
- 6pm: food
- 6:30-10:30 - music / irc / tv

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Interviews

Welcome to the interviews section - this is place to come to read the assorted conversations that Slashdot and the readers have had with various people involved in the Internet, computers, or anything of interest.

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- 11pm: sleep

Well, You see, I have a bit too much free time on my hands.

2) Just Curious... (Score:5, Interesting)

by Brazilian Geek (akajita@spamyourmama.bigfoot.com)

Are you now or have you ever been a Slashdot troll? If so, please comment on the feeling of being a troll, if not, what is your favorite troll?

Clinton:

I am not, and never have been a troll (but I might be one in the future). Trolling is bad (except when the troll is modded up to 5:funny). I try to only post a comment when I have something worthwhile to say. And, I don't like losing my precious karma(12 whole points). I read at level 2, and I usually don't see any trolls (I used to read at -1...and my browser kept crashing.). IMHO, all trolls are equally funny. Except for the goatse.cx ones.

3) What are your plans for college? (Score:5, Interesting)

by Zachary Kessin (zkessin@script-fu.org)

If you have thought about it what do you want to do after High School? Do you have any ideas about college or further education?

Clinton:

I really want to go to college one day. And, I really want a job. Being poor isn't fun when you have a 4 and a half year old box (and other people are saying their "ancient" p2/500 is slow..try having the newest game consoles be faster than your box).

4) What are you listening to? (Score:5, Interesting)

by geophile (jao@mediaone.net)

When I was 15, my father said, "how can you listen to this? It's noise! There's no melody, it's just boom boom boom!".

He was talking about the Beatles. Today, I am horrified to find myself saying the same thing about all rap/hip-hop/whatever, Britney Spears, N Sync, and just about everything else I hear that's been recorded recently. I don't buy much new music, but lately I've been buying CDs to replace my old LPs (The Who, Genesis, and yes, The Beatles).

At least there's Elvis (C, not P), They Might Be Giants, and Komeda.

Is it just me, or my g-g-g-generation, or does new music really suck? What are you listening to?

Clinton:

Pop music isn't bad. It's worse than that. It is horrible. I say, down with pop. I listen to extreme death metal and punk. So, I own the first two limp bizkit albums..but they don't such really bad. I really like independent bands from sites like riffage.com (which is dead now) and BeSonic.com(which is alive and well). I really like bands like cannibal corpse, cryptopsy, NiN, orgy, the offspring, NoFX, rage against the machine, and anything really loud. The words don't matter to me, its all about the instruments. Bands like cannibal corpse == the bringer of evil, but their guitar work is amazing. So, I guess you could argue(and maybe win) that the music I listen to is noise..but at least it isn't filth disguised as good- wholesome- music- for- the- whole- family. It tells you it is bad (but you just have to love the guitar work and the little complexities of the music).

5) How is it? (Score:5, Interesting)

by dbarclay10

(dbarclay10_NOSPAM @_MAPSON_yahoo.ca)

Hey, what's up? :) I'm not a teenager, but I am a Linux user, and a rather dedicated one. I've come to the realization over the past year or so that, indeed, MS Office is actually a good software packager. Well, relatively speaking, of course ;) I find it fast, relatively lean, feature-complete, and more-or-less stable. I was wondering if you yourself have a

particular software favorite that doesn't run under Linux?

Clinton:

My favorite software that doesn't run under linux...starcraft. Or rather, all of the blizzard games. They are amazing, and I love them. Why can't blizzard port them! I'd pay for all of them again if I could play them under linux (WINE can play them..but at a really low frame rate, and Battle.net doesn't work).

6) If you were stranded on a desert island (Score:5, Funny)

by dattaway (dattaway@attaway.org)

...and could only have one cd to load a blank computer, what would it be?

Clinton:

Well, Debian GNU/Linux! Well, that is almost 5 cds now..but I can count it as one, right? It comes with everything I'll ever need too.. with about 6000 packages to choose from.

7) Childhood toys? (Score:5, Insightful)

by Ralph Wiggam (ralph@springfield.com)

Pretty much every geek I've asked remembers loving construction type toys as children. I know my fave was Capsella because of the motors and gears, but there was always a big box of Legos in my house, too.

Did you play with toys like that in your 5-12 years?

What were your favorites?

Clinton:

I liked to play with legos. And k'nex. But I discovered the

computer at age 7... and learned some BASIC when I was 8 (using a precomputer 1000 from vtech. Thank-you vtech). My mom brought home a laptop from NASA when I was 7 (end of 1993), and it was hooked up to the internet. I got a book on how to use lynx and SLIP and stuff a few weeks later, and I was on the net using a dialup SLIP @ 14.4k baud, on a win 3.1 running 486 from IBM (it was nice..except win 3.1 confused me). So, I guess my favorite toy was that little government owned laptop..then my mac (The mac actually is what got me really in computing..the learning curve was so small that I was able to explore deeper with things like ResEdit, MPW, and macsbugs easier), and finally my humble 166Mhz linux box (which I got a new 20GB drive for tuesday..finally, free space).

8) Times Change (Score:5, Interesting)

by HRbnjR (chris@hubick.com)

When I was a geek in high school (10 years ago)... it was not cool at all. The computer club was definitely frowned upon by the "cool" people. My question is, with the rise of the internet, and computers becoming pervasive in "normal" peoples lives...has this changed? Or have geeks gained some respect?

I read an article somewhere (Wired?) that said geeks were the new sex symbols...doctors and lawyers used to represent power and success and where what men stereotypically wanted to be, and what women stereotypically chased after. But now, as it is suggested, do you think geeks have invaded some of this position? Do you see any attitudes like this in school?

Clinton:

I don't really think geeks have taken the position of doctors, but I think we have moved up a bit. I'm not taunted anymore, I'm just understood. People understand I'm not like them, and they don't care. They are still a few people who won't stop making fun or picking up me, but I can deal with them (because I'm bigger than them now). I really have noticed that "normal" people have invaded my High School CS class.. most of them are trying to learn C, and can barely

use AOL. It is very sad (and the teacher are worse... quote from teacher: "Linux!? That's just a graphical shell on top DOS like windows is. Everything has to use MS-DOS to run" and "Since when has their been a version of UNIX for the intel processor? What? Since the early 90s? What is this BSD UNIX you speak of?").

But still, I get made fun of sometimes for using linux ("Linux sucks. You suck"). But I can ignore it, since a few of my friends use linux as well (hmm...at my school I know of..4 linux users. 2 debian ones (mike and I) and a BSD user..but only Mike and I in the CS class). My rant has gone on long enough now. Yep, everyone has gone up the ladder. Nope, IMHO geeks aren't like doctors.. if the "average" geek is anything like me.. (the one who uses IRC 11 hours a day, has lots of fun and gets excited after being on slashdot (and makes his non-geek friends read it too), and doesn't ever go outside).

9.)Now answer honestly! (Score:4, Interesting)
by OlympicSponsor

In 8th/9th/10th grade I was unpopular (hung out with the losers, didn't go to dances, etc). 11th and 12th grades I was merely neutral (went to some dances, knew a lot of people, but I wasn't a jock or anything). I bring this up not out of relevance, but to show that "I've been there."

My question is: Which came first, the chicken or the egg? What I mean by that is: Many geek teenagers exhibit anti-social characteristics, including: poor hygiene, little or no conversation skills and attitudes (for instance know-it-all-ism) that are off-putting. Do adolescents get into computers because they don't get along and don't understand why, so turn to computers (books, D&D, whatever) as something they can understand/master? Or do adolescents who get into computers/whatever use up so much brain capacity with intellectually challenging tasks they can't learn how to interact with others? Or some third thing?

Clinton:

Well, I think I became anti-social first. They said I had ADD, and they put me on ritalin. I promptly stopped interacting with other people (after I got off of it, I started returning to normalcy). People made fun of me because I never went anywhere, and stayed inside all of the time. So, I got that NASA laptop, and I started to use the internet (wait..that came first..). So, the computer didn't make me anti-social. Yes, I was a know-it-all for a long time. And I have a habit of interrupter people (although it isn't nearly as bad as it used to be). But, I'm not that anti-social. I have friends. The people with yellow and green hair are my friends (you have to love punk rockers), the l33t hax0rs at school, the somewhat-suicidal ones, and my fellow geeks. I am happy. Isn't that all that matters? The pop culture people look happy, but they aren't. They need music and icons to tell them who to be.

10.) Why a new Linux distribution? (Score:4, Insightful)
by Alan Shutko (ats@acm.org)

There are tons of Linux distributions, and each one has a different reason for being. Most distributions seem geared to one major point: learning how to make a distro, supporting a specific niche like small routers, being easier for Linux novices.

What's your vision for MentalUNIX? Why do you feel that you need to make your own distribution, and what specifically will your distribution do to make it fulfill that need better than existing offerings.

(The website seems to lack a clear description of the overall goal, though it has some mentions of new setup tools.)

Clinton:

BTW, a new, actually up to date site will be uploaded once SCP over at sourceforge starts to work again. Lots of the stuff like mdevelop weren't really my idea, but they aren't new programs. Mdevelop is more of a system built around existing apps. Imagine Glimmer + DDD + glade + a lisp interpreter all integrated. IMHO, linux lacks a really good

IDE that can do everything you need..edit the code, debug it, and create an interface. Lots of programs come close(like emacs and code crusader), but most can't design an interface / debug your program internally.

My general vision for it is as the Universal distribution -- one that follows the FHS and LSB to the letter, and one that can use all package formats. The package format issue really bugs me. It scares away lots of people(almost scared me away). You have source packages, debs, rpms, slis, slackware tar.gz, and lots more. If one tool could install all of them, then life would be a lot easier for a new user.

Also, installation is getting easier every day now, so it will eventually have a nice installer, but I hope to make it better than the rest. Instead of dumping all of the packages in the entire distro on the user, they only get what they should need(and the all powerful kernel hacker can select exactly what they want). So, a new user who selected the "home" install wouldn't get things like gcc or apache. Now, not giving them gcc is a bit hard to justify, but mpkg will be able to handle source packages(the autoconfigure type), so it would grab the compiler when it encountered the source package / when you wanted to recompile a source deb / srpm / whatever).

Another really big part of mentalUNIX is making maintaining the distro easier. Mpkg will allow the maintainer (or user) to recompile an entire package tree with one command, for any platform their compiler can compile for. So, it would be feasible for mentalunix to be available in specific versions for every x86 architecture, and make porting to things like PPC easier (you would still have lots of stuff to worry about, but you would know what packages failed to recompile, and you could focus on getting them to compile for the new platform). And, a maintainer could recompile one package, or multiple packages for more than one target platform with one command as well. The maintainer utilities are a big thing, and are going to be the first to be focused on. Making it simple for the maintainer to maintain helps to overcome the fear of trying to help join a project and it makes it easier for developers to make precompiled(or not) packages easier to produce.

ASCII ART

*

"Ain't it l33t?"

All views expressed are IMHO.

Because MHO is better than yours.

unknown_lamer

< [Neverwinter Nights Will Go On Win/Mac/Linux/Be](#) |
[Science and Technology In Y2K](#) >

This discussion has been archived. No new comments can be posted.

No Such Thing (Score:5, Insightful)

by [cluge](#) (cluge@no_italian-cars_fucking_com.spam) on Friday December 29, @ 10:03AM EST
(#3)

(User #114877 Info) <http://www.italian-cars.com>

Hmmm after reading this I am absolutely sure there is no such thing as "Average Slashdot User". We are a wonderfully diverse bunch, interesting read though.

Re:No Such Thing (Score:2, Interesting)

by [Johann](#) ([jccann\[at\]home\[dot\]com](mailto:jccann[at]home[dot]com)) on Friday December 29, @ 10:30AM EST (#37)
(User #4817 Info) <http://members.home.net/jccann/>

Maybe at 29 I am out of the loop, but this fellow at 15 is way more coherent and thoughtful than the majority of my pin-head software engineer colleagues. Good show.

"Fat, drunk, and stupid is no way to go through life."

- Dean Wermer

Re:No Such Thing (Score:2, Insightful)

by [reverend greg](#) (revrnd@spamcity.thecrutchofspike.com) on Friday December 29, @ 11:44AM EST (#103)
(User #250660 Info) <http://www.thechurchofspike.org>

I got the same impression. For 15, he's got a pretty level head on his shoulders. If he worked in the same place I do, I have a feeling I'd never have known his age, if he talks and expresses himself as well in person (which it seems he probably does). One guy I worked with was like that. I talked to him for 6 months about a multitude of topics (from games to politics to world events, etc) and assumed he was close to my age (somewhere in his early to mid-20s). The guy was barely 18!

Re:No Such Thing (Score:1)

by enneff on Friday December 29, @08:53PM EST ([#321](#))

(User #135842 Info) <http://wh3rd.ath.cx/nf/>

You guys've gotta get out of the US.

"Life's not fair, but the root password helps." -BOFH

Re:No Such Thing (Score:3, Insightful)

by cowscows on Friday December 29, @10:36AM EST ([#43](#))

(User #103644 Info) <http://shawn.redhive.com>

I certainly agree that there can't be any real 'average' /. reader just chosen. Being picked by the maintainers of the site means you may fit what /. wants to present as the average consumer of their site. I think what we have here is a person that fits a lot of the 'stereotypes' that the rest of the world gives to geeks, and this interview was probably meant to be some sort of platform for a geek to step up and say I'm not that stereotype.

To be perfectly honest, this interview seems to almost have reinforced that stereotype. No offense to Clinton, because I am friends with plenty of people like him, and find them to be some of the most decent and intelligent and interesting people I know. If you look at his answers, the most indepth response is, by far, the question having to do with his MentalUNIX distro. Some of the other questions, questions involving defining points in everyone's life, relationships/school/jobs, are just sort of brushed over and only half answered. I honestly hope that Clinton was just being lazy, and if he really wanted to, could easily write at least as much about his thoughts on girls or school or whatever than he did on a computer project.

I dunno, although as I said earlier, I find the concept of an average /. reader to be kind of silly, if someone put a gun to my head and asked me for to describe one, this kid would've matched pretty close to what I'd say. Not sure if that's good or bad.

Re:No Such Thing (Score:5, Interesting)

by jafac on Friday December 29, @01:21PM EST ([#198](#))

(User #1449 Info)

My idea of the average /. user, a snapshot:

Likes to web surf a little bit.

Likes computers, technology, scifi,

(other /. topics, they may or may not like, but I'm pretty sure we're all pretty much on those three).

Likes commenting to strangers about those three (and other topics)

Probably a little opinionated. Probably a little insecure in those opinions; (call it "open-minded" thus enjoys reading others opinions).

Likes learning new things from people who know (or at least can convince others that they know).

Probably a bit bored.

Every other characteristic is probably up for grabs.

Over the years, I've conversed with really stupid people, or people who know a lot about

microchip design, enough to do it for a living, and for a hobby, they comment intelligently on the latest cosmological data and theories. There are people who are MCSE's, who dig Windoz and believe in a single-vendor solution and dominance (because that's what "the market" dictates) - and there are others who are violently pro open source, and write their own OSes. Lots of people who are web designers. There are very few true democrats OR republicans, just people who are afraid of the other side, and die-hard libertarians, followers of Ayn Rand, and die-hard socialists. Some of us believe we should "melt the guns", and others believe that "an armed society is a polite society". There are a lot of very spiritual people, lots of pagans, even a few satanists, even a few Christians, and then there are a number of solid atheists. And then there are a lot of agnostics. Fans of just about every kind of music imaginable (except Pop - er, hey that's funny, isn't it?:)

Lots of us are unathletic, or don't carry an interest in athletics. Some of us work out 20 hours a week, play football, lots of us are into martial arts.

Some of us were picked on as children for being different, others were embraced and cherished for those differences. Others were just not perceived as being so different.

Many of us are caffeine addicts. Some of us drink, or even consider beer to be a hobby, or an intellectual pursuit.

I'm sure we've all visited a porn site or two.

We all think Cowboy Neal is a big dick.

Yes it's a big wide wired world out there. We're from all over. Different generations, different upbringings, different economic status. Some of us live behind filters, but we're all net-connected, we all have voices that want to be heard, and ears that want to listen, minds that want to learn, and we all dream of a better tomorrow - yet fear the coming dark times. We're from all over. Different generations, different upbringings, different economic status.

Billions and billions of us.

"Florida? But that's America's wang!" - Homer Simpson

Re:No Such Thing (Score:2)

by [Fishstick](#) (fishstickBUBBA@LIKEShey.SPAMMERSto) on Friday December 29, @04:14PM EST (#278)

(User #150821 Info) <http://fishstick.hey.to/>

hmmm.... I didn't get the impression they were looking for an average/representative person to ask questions. They did say 'ordinary' not 'average' - by this I took it to mean someone out of the crowd, instead of well-known figure as they usually pick for these top-10 question/interview thingies.

-*Fishstick*

Re:No Such Thing (Score:1)

by [colmore](#) (Stooopid_Colmore@hotmail.com) on Friday December 29, @05:54PM EST (#299)
(User #56499 Info) <http://www.colmore.com>

I like pop, just not popular pop. "Poppy" Beach Boys influenced bands like the Apples in Stereo are great.

::::::: all this and more at www.colmore.com :::::::

Re:No Such Thing (Score:1)

by [etothern](#) (tyler@oblivion.net) on Friday December 29, @09:03PM EST (#324)
(User #44385 Info) <http://oblivion.net/~tyler>

The "Average Slashdot User" runs Windows.

Who the hell *IS* Cowboy Neal anyhow? (Score:1)

by [Mr. Flibble](#) (Chumkil@SPAM!hotmail.com) on Friday December 29, @10:14PM EST (#336)
(User #12943 Info)

We all think Cowboy Neal is a big dick.

I see these constant Slashdot references to Cowboy Neal and the only real-world relevance I can seem to find is a Neal Cassidy who was an author of somekind. (At least that's what I find with Google)

I wish I knew enough to have an opinion about Cowboy Neal.

Come on, try to hack my 31337 [firewall!](#)

Re:Who the hell *IS* Cowboy Neal anyhow? (Score:1)

by Jon_S on Saturday December 30, @12:28AM EST (#345)
(User #15368 Info)

Cowboy Neal was one of the folks in with the Grateful Dead way back in the sixties. No, he didn't play with them, but I forget exactly how he related. Of course, he is always known for the line in "The Other One" that goes

"escaping through the lily fields I came out upon an open space"
"the space exploded; left a bus stop in its place"
"a bus came by and I got on"
"It was Cowboy Neal at the wheel of a bus to never-ever land"

I remember hearing an interview with Bob Wier once telling how there was a s usual a huge traffic jam on 101 just south of the San Francisco city Line until htere was some crazy guy cruising through really fast who miraculously could just keep moving without hitting anyone, and it turned out to be Cowboy Neal. That was the inspiration for that line in the song, supposedly.

Re:No Such Thing (Score:2, Funny)

by [Jethro](#) (jethro-sd@yaron.org) on Friday December 29, @11:18AM EST (#84)

(User #14165 Info) <http://www.yaron.org/>

I agree. I think a better title would've been "Random Slashdot Reader". or "Random Teenage Slashdot Reader".

or "Teenage Mutant Slashdot Reader" !!!

--

Rumplestiltskin was framed!!!

Re:No Such Thing (Score:1)

by [Fyndo](#) (moore@fyndo.myip.org) on Friday December 29, @12:16PM EST (#140)

(User #11748 Info) <http://fyndo.myip.org/>

Well, actually, there isn't an average anything (american, woman, lawyer, fireman, whatever :).

Assume "average" means "in the middle 10%". If you measure, say, the IQ of people in any group, it will probably fall along a bell curve, so the IQ of the "average american" is about 100 +/- 5.

Now if you take the bell curve for how much americans can bench press, and take out the middle 10% you'll have how much the average american can bench press. But assuming there's no correlation between bench-pressing and IQ tests, 1% of the american populace is "average" for both of those. Add a third measurement, and 1 in 1000. get up to 9 measurements and it's one in a billion. Which means, that if you measure americans in 7 different things (wealth, IQ, the amount they can bench-press, their political affiliation, sexual activity, height, hair color) the odds of them being "average" in all, are 10 million to one. The "average man" (or "average anything" **does not exist** it's a fictional person you compare everyone to, but the more closely you look (the more variables you study) the harder it is to find someone who's really average in all of them.

Re:No Such Thing (Score:2)

by [Fishstick](#) (fishstickBUBBA@LIKEShey.SPAMMERSto) on Friday December 29, @04:10PM EST (#275)

(User #150821 Info) <http://fishstick.hey.to/>

Actually, thought it was 'ordinary', not 'average'... still, I would not describe him as ordinary by any standard.

And yes, I agree that the slashdot 'community' is very diverse. Clinton is probably what most of us would point to as an outstanding example of the kind of person that /. attracts. Not average or ordinary (or even representative) by any standard I can think of, but certainly a well-regarded, intelligent and technically capable young individual that I want to think is out there reading and contributing.

Sometimes I tend to think of the average or ordinary /.er as goatsex, hotgrits, penis bird signal 11, osm types -- it is nice to read something that gives me some hope for the current crop of 'teenage computer geeks' that are capable of more than posting garbage and actually contribute to our slice of society.

-*Fishstick*

Re:No Such Thing (Score:1)

by [Pheersum](#) (unitedstates_ofamerica@hotmail.com (spam it all yo)) on Friday December 29, @04:42PM EST (#289)
(User #243554 Info)

Wow moderators, let's give points to this asshole. Sounds like the end of some cheesy made for TV movie.

*Ashes of Empires and bodies of kings,
these are a few of my favorite things.*

Pop (Score:1, Funny)

by [slim](#) (john@hartnup.net) on Friday December 29, @10:09AM EST (#9)
(User #1652 Info) <http://www.ladle.demon.co.uk>

"Extreme Death Metal" *is* pop -- at least, it seems to be mass-produced for an eager and huge American audience. IMHO...

--

My route 66 active diary is [here](#).

Re:Pop (Score:1)

by [Calle Ballz](#) (dick_willie@hotmai.com) on Friday December 29, @10:27AM EST (#33)
(User #238584 Info) <http://www.primenet.com/~rwd>

Extreme Death metal isn't pop. It's a type of music that a certain audience seems to enjoy. And for the most part it certainly isn't mass produced. Sure, MTV has their sellout heavy metal icons (Marilyn Manson, Rob Zombie....) but really the Heavy Metal, Industrial, and Punk scene has a hell of a lot more culture than Pop ever will.

When I think of pop all I can think of is "artists" such as Britney Spears, Christina Aguilera, Backstreet boys..... they are just a bunch of schmoes off the street who might have won a few talent shows in high school that happened to get auditioned for some producers "new hit teen sensation!". They hire some writers and some musicians to throw together the next #1 hit and there ya go... America's music industry going to shame

Even though I don't care too much for heavy metal, I see it as actual music, and in some cases, actual talent. That band actually took time themselves to come up with a song and to perform it. They also had to deal with a struggle to the top. Britney Spears didn't have to perform in smalltown parks & clubs to get famous like the Voodoo Glow Skulls did (I saw them first in Bisbee, Arizona.. who other than the people from Southern Arizona has heard of that?). I actually have respect for that though. Even though it took me a while to get to my point, I'm just trying to say that the "Extreme Death Metal" that you describe is nowhere near what today's pop music is.

mountain dew.... it's dew-riffic!

Re:Pop (Score:1)

by [John Napkintosh](#) (keving@408937249) on Friday December 29, @ 10:42AM EST (#53)

(User #140126 Info) <http://404383814>

Death metal is *definitely* not popular music and not directed toward a very large audience, unless you consider Limp Bizkit (ugh) to be extreme death metal. Maybe your definition of extreme death metal and pop would clear things up.

Long signatures suck.

Re:Pop (Score:5, Insightful)

by [Faulty Dreamer](#) (dreamer@spamoff.faultydreams.org) on Friday December 29, @ 10:47AM EST (#57)

(User #259659 Info) <http://www.faultydreams.org>

Hang on there pal. There is a big difference between "Extreme Death Metal" and radio pop metal.

Godsmack=Radio Pop Metal

Cannibal Corpse= Extreme Death Metal

I have yet to hear a radio station play a song by Cannibal Corpse, or even some of the old school death metal bands that actually played Death Metal and weren't manufactured bands. Bands like Death, Atheist, Sabbat, Pestilence and many, many others. The "eager and huge American audience" seems very small when you are a part of that audience. A large following in Florida and a few scattered souls around the rest of the country. Oh, for the good old days.;-)

What kind of dreams do you have?

Re:Pop (Score:1)

by jlanthripp on Friday December 29, @12:25PM EST ([#151](#))

([User #244362 Info](#))

I have yet to hear a radio station play a song by Cannibal Corpse, or even some of the old school death metal bands that actually played Death Metal and weren't manufactured bands. Way back in the day (1988-1991), when I lived in New Orleans, WTUL (Tulane University's station) had a show every Saturday night where they would play death metal for an hour. They even managed to play some decent songs every now and then (Deicide's "Carnage in the Temple of the Damned" for example).

The cool part was that they didn't play the commercial mass-produced crap on this show. So, for one hour every week, I could flip on the radio and actually hear the music I liked.

No, death metal is definitely not "pop". And if you went to a Soylent Green or Exhorder show and said something to that effect, you'd be lucky to escape with your Gerbaud jeans and Polo shirt intact. Just my 2.28905 yen

"But how do you *know* she is a witch?"

Re:Pop (Score:1)

by [Faulty Dreamer](#) (dreamer@spamoff.faultydreams.org) on Friday December 29, @01:02PM EST ([#183](#))

([User #259659 Info](#)) <http://www.faultydreams.org>

I realize this is getting slightly off-topic, but does anybody remember when the Headbanger's Ball (on MTV) used to play the 'not corporate' rock and metal bands? Sepultura, Deicide, Death, Powermad, Slayer (before they tried the hip-hop type thing), and old school metal.

I will forever hate Ricky Rack-me for destroying what was a good show. I don't care if he called the shots or not. Once he was host, it was Skid-Row, Ugly Kid Joe, Alice in Chains and all the other stuff that they played all day long (and you could hear on any radio station you wanted).

Oh sorry, I got lost in the memories.

What kind of dreams do you have?

Re:Pop (Score:3, Funny)

by [MAXOMENOS](#) (maxomenos@SPAM=DEATH.hushmail.com) on Friday December 29,

@03:08PM EST (#249)

(User #9802 Info) <file:///dev/null>

I have yet to hear a radio station play a song by Cannibal Corpse, or even some of the old school death metal bands that actually played Death Metal and weren't manufactured bands.

I used to have a radio show (*kulturwehrmacht radio* at Shreeve Hall, Purdue University) that had death metal, speed metal, and punk...I usually opened the show with the Jello Biafra track "A Word from Our Sponsor" from the Terminal City Ricochet album, followed by Napalm Death or Entombed or Slayer or Morbid Angel. And it played 8:00 AM Sunday morning, as the mostly very proper, ultraconservative, constantly-trying-to-convert-everyone Sunday Morning listening audience was sitting down to breakfast. Needless to say I got *quite a few complaints* from the people who thought I was Satan incarnate. Oh yes, and my Goodbye George Bush, post-1992 election show was one of the most wicked ever.....

[ObJectBridge](#) (GPL'd Java ODMG) needs volunteers.

Re:Pop/cannibal corpse (Score:1)

by geigertube on Friday January 05, @05:44PM EST (#402)

(User #265640 Info) <http://www.studiosputnik.com>

>I really like bands like cannibal corpse, >The words don't matter to me, its all about the >instruments. Bands like cannibal corpse == the >bringer of evil, but their guitar work is amazing I listened to a bit of Cannibal Corpse when I was a teenager, and if I remember their music correctly, their vocals are much (if not exactly) like listening to Cookie Monster screaming "I CUM BLOOD!!!". So I can appreciate why one would focus on their guitar work. Which was nice. :)

Re:Pop (Score:1)

by [supabeast!](#) (supabeast@supabeast.org) on Friday December 29, @ 11:04AM EST (#73)

([User #84658 Info](#))

"...it seems to be mass-produced for an eager and huge American audience."

Death metal is not mass produced. While there are plenty of crappy death metal bands out there, there are not nearly as many of them as there are half-assed-pop-star-wannabes. Take a look at death metal album sales sometime as well, the big sellers barely rate as mass produced in comparison to what would be considered a commercial flop for a pop artist.

On top of that, the audience for death metal in the US us nearly nonexistent. With the exception of Slipknot and Morbid Angel, death metal bands are lucky to ever play a good club, much less a stadium, and usually end up playing to half filled metal bars.

Unite! [Join NORML and support re-criminalizing prisons!](#)

pop, what about hip-hop? (Score:2)

by [dizee](#) (diz@spamkillsbabywhalescafes.net) on Friday December 29, @ 11:47AM EST (#112)

([User #143832 Info](#)) <http://www.deepfreeze.org>

You know it's interesting, but I almost never encounter geeks that listen to hip-hop. It's most always metal/punk.

Of course, I differ a lot from most geeks. I was pretty popular in high school. I knew everybody. I knew the preps, I knew the skaters, I knew the punkers, I knew the geeks, I just knew everybody. I don't listen to punk. Can't stand it. I love hip-hop. A Tribe Called Quest, Q-Tip, Phife, Outkast (IMHO the best rap group ever, period, been listening to Kast since southernplayalisticadillacmuzik dropped in '94). EPMD, Redman, Eightball & MJG, Mos Def, Black Eyed Peas, Common, Talib Kweli, Goodie Mob, Jurassic 5, Twista, Timbaland, All City, Scarface, De La Sol, Tupac, Busta Rhymes, Wu-tang, etc... Of course, I've always loved Sublime & 311, too, way back before either of them were ever on the radio or MTV.

I'm just wondering if there's *anybody* that reads slashdot that listens to hip-hop as well, because I've never encountered a fellow geek that enjoys it as much as I do.

Mike

"I would kill everyone in this room for a drop of sweet beer."

--Homer Simpson

Re:pop, what about hip-hop? (Score:2, Flamebait)

by [nealrs](#) (nshyam_upyours@choate.edu) on Friday December 29, @ 12:13PM EST (#136)

([User #75987 Info](#)) <http://nsquare.ath.cx>

man, yeah hip-hop (some, not all) truly outshines this electronica movement. especially when all that synth crap starts sounding the same. theres very little message/meaning/nice beats. Some gangster hiphop is just plain entertaining. Outkast like u mentioned is phat and other groups know how to have fun and nothing but. Also, Being a geek can be rather helpful, it can help u meet nice chix at a boarding school "hey can u help me setup my network connection?" (sounds like the intro o a pr0no if u ask me) My freinds span the social strata. Its not that bad to be a geek anymore, people don't make fun of you unless you stay home all day, but its fine to code and be 'l33t where im from, just dont overdo it and itll be fine -n-rs--wow... school sucks-

STUPID MODERATORS (Score:2)

by dragonfly_blue on Friday December 29, @01:54PM EST ([#214](#))

(User #101697 Info) <http://www.zarakas.com>

Oh, nice moderating this guy down because he **doesn't like electronica**. How pathetic, that a valid comment goes to '-1, Flamebait' because the moderators lack the ability to distinguish subjective from objective opinion.

Re:pop, what about hip-hop? (Score:1)

by bmorton on Saturday December 30, @11:53AM EST ([#378](#))

(User #170477 Info)

I don't know that I'd agree with you about hip-hop outshining the electronica music. Both formats seem to suffer the same problem..alongside with rock. There's a few bright talents and then you have a million half-assed imitations. anyways, there's quite a bit of electronica that sounds the same, especially when you get into more popular trance and such. for some interesting electronica check out aphex twin, squarepusher, or mu-ziq (mu as in the greek letter). I guarantee you won't find it at all repetitive, although I admit you'd probably find mu-ziq the most accessible of the three.

Re:pop, what about hip-hop? (Score:1)

by Faulty Dreamer (dreamer@spamoff.faultydreams.org) on Saturday December 30, @01:29PM EST ([#381](#))

(User #259659 Info) <http://www.faultydreams.org>

I think the problem you will find is that the million half-assed imitations in any musical genre are the ones that get all the publicity and such. People say they hate country because they've never heard "real" country, just the crap that's on the radio. People hate heavy metal because all they hear is Manson and Zombie (and the few other corporate metal dorks). People hate folk because they hear garbage by people claiming to be folk that have ten-billion dollar budgets for an album.

Electronica music is not the only victim of over-sensationalized garbage performances. But most people that have a type of music they are already into forget that they had to look past the surface of that genre to find anything worthwhile. And so, they assume that the garbage on the surface of the other genres are an honest representation of the entire genre.

I listen to a lot of different types of music. But hardly anyone I know could recognize the

names of more than maybe one or two bands in my musical collection. Popular usually is just crap, in any genre. If I had heard Godsmack and thought that they represented all of Heavy Metal, I would have never taken the interest in it that I did. Dig underground and you find so much more promise, talent and grace. And that works the same in all other music genres.

What kind of dreams do you have?

Re:pop, what about hip-hop? (Score:1)

by [Grahf666](#) (greenwud@idontlikespam.estone.net) on Monday January 01, @11:46AM EST

(#392)

([User #118413 Info](#))

I tend to agree, though I think that rap is more mainstream than techno these days. At least where I live, I hear a lot more rap than electronica. Almost all my friends like rap, but few like any kind of techno.

As far as playability, the scales certainly turn in the dance scene. Granted, most of what I hear at dances is "popular" techno, like Prodigy, Crystal Method, Fatboy Slim; granted, those are the bands that paved the way for all the wannabe techno around these days, but that doesn't make them bad.

We can both blame and praise the internet for this. There's tons of crap techno bands on mp3.com, but there's a few great ones too, like 303infinity and DJ Xealot. In the end though, the net is good for all music, I think; the more artists, the better.

- Any sufficiently heavy slashdotting is indistinguishable from a DDOS.

Re:pop, what about hip-hop? (Score:2, Interesting)

by [gimpboy](#) (jmh3@penguinpowered.com) on Friday December 29, @12:15PM EST (#138)

([User #34912 Info](#)) <http://rmdb.webpipe.net>

i like hip-hop and the british derivative/alternate triphop (eg massive attack, tricky, portishead).

really though to say "*i only like x type of music*" is silly. you are really restricting yourself. along with hip/hop i listen to alot of other stuff from johnny cash to deadkennedys to classical to indian pujabi. it really depends on my mood.

when i was clintons age i really only listened to punk though (black flag, dk, misfits, crucifucks, etc.) it was what i realted to the most. since then i have become less 13373 (or however it's spelled) and more open minded.

use LaTeX? want an online reference manager that exports in BibTeX format? try rmdb.webpipe.net

Re:pop, what about hip-hop? (Score:1)

by Brainless on Friday December 29, @12:20PM EST (#142)

([User #18015 Info](#))

I am 20 years old and have been in computers since I was 6 years old. Started programming in basic at 7. Growing up I can say I was not anti-social throughout my school years but I cannot say I was popular. I never got hassled because I was smart with computers. I remember in my C programming class I was trading homework with a straight A student. He would do my math homework and I would do his programming homework. I got along with the 'Cool' group and even influenced some of them to take up computing. One ended up getting a job as a programmer after high school. As for the other crowds, I was almost welcome anywhere, no enemies. I listened to the hard rock so I was welcome with the 'losers' and 'goth' crowd and because of my big head back then I was welcome with the Jocks.

However it was often difficult for me to find where I belonged, because I was welcome in all the groups I suffered a major identity crisis and changed who I hung out with almost weekly. In the end I attached to the teachers and caused me to mature quickly. With that under my belt it caused me to almost ignore my senior class and only showed up to school for the paper at the end. So when he says that geeks have not become doctors, just have moved up a notch, it was not true in my case...we just don't get hassled like we used to.

And the point I originally was going to post on - I'm a geek who uses linux, bsd, etc... and I listen to hip-hop and rap. It's not my main choice of music but if I'm in the mood nothing can beat it =c)

Re:pop, what about hip-hop? (Score:1)

by Brainless on Friday December 29, @12:22PM EST ([#145](#))

([User #18015 Info](#))

Well poop, forgot to select html formatted =cP

Re:pop, what about hip-hop? (Score:1)

by bmorton on Friday December 29, @12:21PM EST ([#143](#))

([User #170477 Info](#))

I tend to be pretty geeky, and I listen to entirely hip hop and electronic music. I don't think you're alone as it seems, I just think most geeks that listen to hip-hop are probably ashamed of it :)

Re:pop, what about hip-hop? (Score:1)

by [crcerror](#) (gdubinATpoeDOTnet) on Friday December 29, @12:28PM EST ([#155](#))

([User #266157 Info](#))

Well, I'm not just into hip-hop but it's one of the *many* types of music I like. From Tupac, Dre and Eminem to NOFX, The Impossibles and the Bouncing Souls (and everything inbetween). Being into so many types of music, I don't get total exposure to one kind - so I don't know a lot of the groups/people you listed. I still love the stuff tho.

And this is coming from a religious slashdot reader (at least five or six times a day).

Garth

Re:pop, what about hip-hop? (Score:1)

by [jedrek](#) (jedrek@kostecki.LETMESEETHATSPAM.net) on Friday December 29, @01:19PM EST (#196)

(User #79264 Info) <http://prawda.org>

When many of you were dicking around with a guitar, learning to play chords 'Ironman' and 'Smoke on the Water' (c'mon, you know you did it) I was writing up rhymes in my rhyme book, working on a mic I managed to find, borrowing singles from friends because they had instrumental tracks. Of course, I soon realized I have no buisness being on the mic, and I killed that idea.

I've been listening to hip-hop, r&b, soul, blues, whatever, about as long as I've been computing, something around 12 years. So yeah, I guess there's someone out there like you Mike.

Hip-hop culture is as much a reality as geek culture. I've been involved in both, although the former is much more creative. And doesn't pay as well =). But it's hip-hop (actually, graffiti) that got me into what I feed myself and my close ones with, and that's web design and web development.

Anyway, as I sit here, writing this, I'm humming along to the new Outkast single 'Ms. Jackson'. Incredible track, just incredible.

jedrek

-- [polish ccs mirror](#)

-- History is so much more fun when you make it up - Bob

Re:pop, what about hip-hop? (Score:2)

by [dizee](#) (diz@spamkillsbabywhalescafes.net) on Friday December 29, @03:13PM EST (#252)

(User #143832 Info) <http://www.deepfreeze.org>

Hip-hop culture is as much a reality as geek culture. I've been involved in both, although the former is much more creative.

I believe this wholeheartedly. Hip-hop is very creative. A friend of mine has a pair of turntables, another friend of mine has a phat ass keyboard, and I've got a buttload of audio software. Another friend of mine is a producer and has a couple racks of audio equipment at his studio.

I love hip-hop, I've written several rhymes, I've made several tracks. I'd love to get into the hip-hop industry, it's the only thing that I love more than computers.

Ms. Jackson is a very good song. Unfortunately, I get the impression that it's going to become quickly overplayed from what people have told me. I hear it's on TV all the time, they play it at clubs all the time, and it's always on the radio. I don't watch MTV, I don't listen to the radio, and I haven't been to a club in about 3 months, so I'm oblivious to the whole overplayed scenario. It's a great song, but I don't believe it's the best on the CD. Red Velvet, Humble

Mumble, and Spaghetti Junction are all rivals.

Lately, I've been listening to The Roots' illadelph halflife a lot as well as De La Soul's new cd. I'm awaiting both Method Man and Redman's new cds (both solos). De La Soul is slated to release 2 more cds in the Art Official Intelligence series. I was disappointed with Phife's Ventilation. A couple of good tracks, the rest sucked, IMHO. Q-Tip definitely outshined him in the solo realm, even though I like Phife better than his former anal-retentive nasal partner. It's Q-Tip's fault that the tribe fell apart, and I believe TCQ will see a reunion only if Q-Tip apologizes to Phife. I hope we see it happen.

Anyhow, I'm way off-topic.

Mike

"I would kill everyone in this room for a drop of sweet beer."

--Homer Simpson

Re:pop, what about hip-hop? (Score:2)

by [John_Booty](#) (johnbooty@bootyproject.org) on Friday December 29, @02:03PM EST (#220)

(User #149925 Info) <http://www.bootyproject.org>

Mod that post up! :)

Seriously, that's so true. Why are so few computer-types into hip-hop? I know I'm into it. Since most people consider me to be more-or-less the whitest guy they know, they are surprised that I'm a huge hip-hop fan.

Considering how a lot of geeks tend to love writing, creativity, and wordplay, I'd think that rap would strike more of a chord with them. I dunno... I guess by that logic, geeks would like Emily Dickinson too. :P

There was a time when there was at least ONE big link between hip-hop and computers. Remember when demos were big? You know... Future Crew, etc... I always thought that a lot of demos had a cool hip-hop feel. Don't laugh... :) A lot of the demos had graffiti-style logos, and the demo crews had habits of giving each-other shout-outs just like rappers. Also, the whole *spirit* of the demo scene sort of echoed the hip-hop spirit... there was a lot of pride/boasting in rap AND demos, but there was a real sense of community too. And just like hip hop showed that you could make music with just a microphone and a tape recorder, demos showed that you could make awesome graphics apps with just a whole 'lotta assembly code. You know, stripping the art form down to the bare minimum.

Maybe I'm reading too much into it. What do you guys think? :)

<http://www.bootyproject.org>

Anime, music, and games. By fans, for fans!

Re:pop, what about hip-hop? (Score:1)

by [Tymanthius](#) (tymanthius-AT-usaSPAMSUX-DOT-net) on Friday December 29, @02:08PM EST ([#222](#))

(User #75808 Info) http://www.home.aone.net.au/irc_rpg/home.htm

I fall into this catagory somewhat - only for me it's country music. (Yea, go ahead and gag.) But I knew everyone, or everyone knew me. I was never a part of any clicq, but never told to get lost either. It's always been kinda odd (to me) to be a geek, but never a real outcast.

For those who might be curious as to how long ago this was, I'm going to my 10 year HS reunion this summer.

WHONEEDSSLEEPWHENWEHAVECAFFINE?!

Re:pop, what about hip-hop? (Score:2)

by [Darchmare](#) (jeff@velocinews.com) on Friday December 29, @09:37PM EST ([#330](#))

(User #5387 Info) <http://www.vxreality.org/>

--
I fall into this catagory somewhat - only for me it's country music. (Yea, go ahead and gag.)

--
I won't gag. In fact, I'm intrigued. I've never heard country *music* before.

:>

- Jeff A. Campbell

- VxReality (BETA) - www.vxreality.org

Re:pop, what about hip-hop? (Score:1)

by [madrone](#) (inur@effindreams.com) on Friday December 29, @04:34PM EST ([#287](#))

(User #213810 Info)

Just wanted to let you know you are not the only one here that digs hiphop. 8-9 years ago it was ALL I listened to!

I am not that 'hardcore' any longer, and am no longer up on all the newest bands. I primarily listen to oldskool (late60's-70's) rock and roll anymore, but I love and listen to EVERYTHING, with exception to the hardcore death metal stuff of which we speak, and country. (No, I don't do bubblegum pop junk either.)

I have well over 300 cd's spanning a large spectrum -

Ice Cube, TuPac, NWA ect.

Andrea Bocelli, Charlotte Church

Tom Waits, Nick Drake, Ani DiFranco

Van Morrison, Clapton, Cocker (Joe), Stevens (Cat)
Floyd, Doors, Airplane (Jefferson), Zeppelin
Miles Davis, Coltrane
BB King, Etta James, Robert Johnson

Hell...I even have the Rocky Horror Picture Show!

So, although I don't primarily listen to rap and r&b anyMORE..I still love it and listen to it fairly regularly.

As a side note: If you have not yet heard of or checked out Spice1 - you should do it. He kicks much ass.

Re:pop, what about hip-hop? (Score:1)

by bedouin on Friday December 29, @08:34PM EST ([#318](#))

([User #248624 Info](#))

Actually, computers are what got me into Hip-Hop. I'm 21 now, but I was first exposed to Hip-Hop around 1984; I'm from the suburbs but I had a neighbor from Baltimore, another who started Dj'ing. They gave me some tapes of the radio in Baltimore; I still remember the two songs I liked the most off of it -- "Roxanne's Revenge" by Roxanne Shante, and "The Old School" by Kool Kyle and Billy Bill. Anyway, at that time things were definitely more electronic sounding than nowadays; vocoders, TR-808's, and even cutting in its infancy -- I was hooked, since at the same time I was toying around with my c64. When I heard music that was completely made by electronics it blew me away, especially when I went into Jr. High and saw my friend making music with nothing but turntables. You could probably throw a lot of the breakdancing music of that era into the equation too ("Tour De France" or "Trans Europe Express" anyone?) Really the influence of Kraftwerk on modern music is probably second to James Brown. Sadly to say, it's probably getting into Hip-Hop that pulled me away from computers. When it came down to my dad giving me money the two habits couldn't both be attended to. I started spending so much money on equipment (started Dj'ing, and producing for a while) that keeping an up to date computer was out of the question. I kept a BBS running from about 92-95 on a 386 called, appropriately considering the SysOp "Planet Rock." My Sound Blaster Pro was fun for a little while; before I could afford a sampler I could make little loops with sound editors. Although I really haven't payed attention to any music since 1997 (lost interest in everything), I can safely say the following LP's influenced me the most: 1) De La Soul - "3 Feet High and Rising" 2) De La Soul - "De La Soul is Dead" 3) A Tribe Called Quest - "Peoples' Instinctive Travels in the Paths of Rhythm" 4) Gangstarr - "No More Mister Nice Guy" 5) Gangstarr - "Step in the Arena" 6) KMD "Mr Hood" 7) 3rd Bass - "The Cactus Alblum" 8) Jungle Brothers - "Straight Out the Jungle" 9) X Clan - "To the East Blackwards"

10) EPMD - "Strictly Business" 11) Black Moon - "Enta tha Stage" 12) Nas - "Illmatic" 13) Ultramagnetic MC's - "Critical Beatdown" 14) Group Home - "Livin' Proof" I used to do a radio show on a local station. It just got to the point one night where I asked myself "Okay, what do you really want to do?" I felt like I wanted to do something else, and this was kind of holding me back. I sold all my equipment and records and went overseas (yeah, that much.) Until November of 1998 I was still accessing the Internet with a VMS account I had at the local university, and a 14.4 modem with a 386. After having some money to spare (and time too), I finally got some up to date equipment. Really, I feel bad about being so old and not even knowing a programming language (aside from BASIC, and HTML and all that.) Since then I started toying around with Linux, learning how to do networking, stuff like that -- it's been real enjoyable. I'm essentially playing catch up now to be where most of you guys were in High School :) I'm not bitter about the time I spent with music, it really shaped a lot of the political ideas and thoughts I have nowadays -- probably even my love of Linux if you can believe that. One of the things that bothers me though is how screwed over its been by the media. That "nigger shit" as a lot of white people used to refer to it is now in GAP commercials -- how nice. I'm afraid the fate of Hip-Hop will be much like Disco -- a pretty decent idea and music, worn out by the media and people who didn't understand it, but wanted to be it (Vanilia Ice ten years ago, Kid Rock and Limp Bizkit nowadays.) Now that the music has been repackaged into something friendly and white, it's on MTV 24-7. I guess the commercialism of Hip-Hop is one of the reasons I became tired of it. I used to not understand why older guys in their 30's weren't into the new records we played to them, now I understand -- you just grow old and nothing impresses you anymore. Enough of my ranting. Just letting you know there are Hip-Hop nerds out there :)

what about it? (Score:1)

by kriebz on Friday December 29, @10:53PM EST ([#342](#))

(User #258828 Info) <http://hobbiton.org/~kriebz/>

I like punk, but also some of the clasic stuff, not to offend the mature slashdotters. But that is irelevant. I have a friend who is pretty tech-smart who is big into hip-hop. I can only occasionally put up with his stuff though. It really depends on ones mood what they listen to. And I also want to say that hard rock is NOT electronica. techno and 80's crap are "electronica". It dosn't matter much what music one likes, atleast concerning their technical skills. Thats why I'm wondering why everone is harping over personality, and not skill.

Anyone notice the moderators have been out en-masse on this? Hard to find a post without somthing.

Re:pop, what about hip-hop? (Score:1)

by synergetix on Saturday December 30, @09:11AM EST ([#372](#))

(User #256191 Info)

I'm not sure if I classify as a geek (browse the web a lot, like to learn new ideas and hear new opinions, dislike Microsoft products but use them anyway, play about with Linux although I'm not great at it, but I'm learning) but sure I listen to hip-hop. I hate the fact that when you say that to someone they instantly think of Puff Daddy, Mase and all that big-money crap. I love guys like Company Flow, Indelible MCs, Kool Keith (in his many incarnations), Jurassic 5, Mos Def, Swollen Members... even in Scotland some of us have taste ;)

Re:Pop (Score:1)

by [xodiak](#) (brad AT geeknet DOT net) on Friday December 29, @01:18PM EST (#193)

(User #95699 Info) <http://www.pander.org/>

I am personally offended. To relate Death Metal to Pop is horrible and wildly inaccurate. Try to relate bands such as Morbid Angel, Deicide, Carcass, and Cradle of Filth to Britney Spears, Eminem, Backstreet Boys, and N'Sync. I'm sorry, but you just can't do that.

The true Death Metal bands are in it because that's what they want. Deicide has never sold out. Sure, maybe they'd like to sell more albums, but like hell if they'd ever change their style to appeal to the mainstream. Britney Spears, on the other hand, would do whatever it takes to sell as many albums as possible including change her style.

In reality both of these are fine by me. I can see why somebody wouldn't want to be what they're not. And I can also see why somebody would be what they're not for money. But to say that they are the same is very upsetting.

Swearing is the crutch of inarticulate mother fuckers.

Re:Pop (Score:2)

by [MAXOMENOS](#) (maxomenos@SPAM=DEATH.hushmail.com) on Friday December 29, @02:59PM EST (#242)

(User #9802 Info) <file:///dev/null>

Pop bands:

- N'Sync
- Metallica (same thing, see [here](#))
- Gangsta anything
- Rage Against the Machine (which I like)
- Hole (which I also like)
- Nine Inch Nails (which I also like, just so there's no confusion.)

Death metal bands:

- Death (I'm not sure about 'extreme', but the best of the genre IMO)
- Deicide (this one definitely qualifies as extreme)
- Obituary
- Carcass
- Napalm Death

- Suffocation
- Entombed (once upon a time)

And that doesn't even cover black metal (which is mostly European, btw), or the old 1980s speed metal.

[ObJectBridge](#) (GPL'd Java ODMG) needs volunteers.

Re:Pop (Score:1)

by [impaler](#) (`linux [at] cke [dot] cjb [dot] net`) on Friday December 29, @06:48PM EST ([#307](#))
(User #78415 Info) <http://clinton.is.dreaming.org>

By pop, I meant pop music, not popular music. The genre of pop. RATM and metallica and suck are rock. Yes, they are often top 40 and popular / played on MTV and the like, but they are not **< b >pop** music. Britney spears == pop music. The jingly beat, the syncronised dancing, empty words, etc. I have nothing wrong with popular music, just the pop genre.

I am HAL 7000, less features than the HAL 9000, but just as homicidal!

Re:Pop (Score:1)

by VAXman on Friday December 29, @09:54PM EST ([#332](#))
(User #96870 Info)

Typically, "pop music" refers to music which is disseminated by record. The two other major genres of music are classical (which is composed concert music), and traditional music (which is disseminated by oral tradition).

Therefore, "extreme death metal" is pop music, since it is disseminated by record, and not score or tradition.

After all, can anybody actually tell the difference between Britney Spears and Cannibal Corpse? It's all the same crap (4-5 minute technology laden songs in verse/chorus format). The only difference is what kind of filters the vocals are put through, and what instruments are used.

Other genres of pop music (such as jazz, techno, or hip hop) extend the boundaries of music, and are considerably more difficult and innovative than "extreme death metal".

Re:Pop (Score:2)

by [MAXOMENOS](#) (`maxomenos@SPAM=DEATH.hushmail.com`) on Friday December 29, @04:26PM EST ([#284](#))
(User #9802 Info) <file:///dev/null>

Is it really healthy to be listening to that crap?

Interestingly, after I started listening to heavy metal and punk rock, my grades went **up** substantially ... and so did my general outlook on life.

[ObJectBridge](#) (GPL'd Java ODMG) needs volunteers.

Good answers (Score:1)

by [Ratface](#) (cookie@nospam.yoyo.org) on Friday December 29, @10:16AM EST (#16)
(User #21117 Info) <http://cookstour.org>

I'm glad to see that unknown_lamer isn't *such* a lamer! Personally I don't think that IRC'ing with friends during one's free time is worse than sitting around drinking cider with one's friends - which what what I was doing when I was 15.

Good to see an appreciation for punks is still around :-)

Finally, I was glad to see a better explanation of MentalUnix. Personally I'm not sure that the project isn't too ambitious - but hey, if you can't try and ambitious project and fail spectacularly when your 15, when can you try one? (OK - so it might succeed too!).

Congrats to unknown_lamer for being more mature than the average Anonymous Coward!

"Give the anarchist a cigarette"
- Alice Nutter, Chumbawamba

[Wap-Dev email list](#)

I really liked (Score:1)

by [SquadBoy](#) (squadboy@thisisnotitsisna.com) on Friday December 29, @10:16AM EST (#17)
(User #167263 Info) <http://www.linuxfanatic.net>

the bit about the CS teacher thinking everything was DOS in the end. At my last job I tried to introduce Linux to some people and ran into the same response from a few paper MSCEs that they had running around there. It was really pretty funny that they just could not wrap their heads around the concept of something in computing *not* being m\$ based. All in all a great article makes me hopefull for my son who will never remember a time when he did not have always on access to the net. The future seems bright right now. Of course I have to start work in 5 minutes and I'll be in full BOFH mode in about 10.

I'm afraid it is you who are mistaken about a great many things....

You call THAT free time? (Score:5, Insightful)

by [Jethro](#) (jethro-sd@yaron.org) on Friday December 29, @10:16AM EST (#18)
(User #14165 Info) <http://www.yaron.org/>

Hi,

Clinton, in your response to the girlfriend question, you say you have 'too much free time' on your hands. But in your schedule all I see is:

6:30-10:30 - music / irc / tv

That's only 4 hours!

Believe me, that is NOT a lot of free time. Enjoy it while you can. Nevermind that a girlfriend (who might suck up all your time, but might be a fair tradeoff). Just wait till you do school/work... you'll be dying to have enough time to play a complete match in Tribes. You'll want a TiVo so you don't have to be inefficient about watching TV. You'll be pissed at the cats for wanting food NOW when you've just got someone in the rail sight.

Enjoy your freedom while you can!

--

Rumplestiltskin was framed!!!

Re:You call THAT free time? (Score:1)

by [reverend greg](#) (revrnd@spamcity.thecrutchofspike.com) on Friday December 29, @11:47AM EST ([#111](#))

(User #250660 Info) <http://www.thechurchofspike.org>

"...You'll be pissed at the cats for wanting food NOW when you've just got someone in the rail sight..."

It's got to be a kitty conspiracy! I laughed only because my cat does EXACTLY the same thing...

Re:You call THAT free time? (Score:1)

by [Col. Panic](#) (Col.Panic@/dev/null) on Friday December 29, @01:30PM EST ([#202](#))

(User #90528 Info)

Hmmm - I think maybe *both* of you just spend a good deal of time with someone in the rail site. But for the record, mine does it too ;)

If at first you don't succeed, destroy all evidence that you tried. -- Steven Wright

4 hours may be enough (Score:2, Funny)

by [RainbowSix](#) (t@cmu.edu.nospam) on Friday December 29, @11:57AM EST ([#121](#))

(User #105550 Info) [Intheworks](#)

Seriously. My roommate is quoted as saying, "A girlfriend is like two eighteen unit courses." That translates to 36 units, or 36 hours per week, or just under 4 hours per day for the 7 day week. (I did all that math without a calculator :))

Existance is futile. You will be deallocated.

Re:4 hours may be enough (Score:1)

by kiley on Friday December 29, @12:29PM EST ([#156](#))

([User #95428 Info](#))

I think you may need a calculator...he may need 9 days at 4 hours per day...but I didn't use a calculator either...

DAMNIT :) (Score:1)

by [RainbowSix](#) (t@cmu.edu.nospam) on Friday December 29, @10:50PM EST ([#340](#))

([User #105550 Info](#)) [Intheworks](#)

Now you see why I do poorly in my math courses... I know the material and so more than 50% of the points that I lose are a result of simple math mistakes. (really)

Existance is futile. You will be deallocated.

Re:DAMNIT :) (Score:1)

by [Schnedt Microne](#) (scott30189@hotmail.com) on Saturday December 30, @12:56AM EST ([#351](#))

([User #264752 Info](#))

Screw calculators. Download the X-based [Sliderule](#) program that's in the 'packages' section of [ftp.freebsd.org](ftp://ftp.freebsd.org) and build it.

Not sure if it even will build under Linux, but it builds properly under all the BSD-based free Unixes.

It's really cool.

Re:DAMNIT :) (Score:1)

by [Schnedt Microne](#) (scott30189@hotmail.com) on Saturday December 30, @10:36AM EST ([#374](#))

([User #264752 Info](#))

Yeah, right after I posted that message I decided to try, and it builds on my Slackware 7 box just fine. It's surprising it's not included with more distributions. The only place it exists that I know of is in the FreeBSD 'ports' collection.

Not even close... (Score:1)

by [b0r1s](#) (jjirsa@hmc.edu) on Friday December 29, @12:54PM EST ([#175](#))

([User #170449 Info](#)) <http://www.boriswebworks.com>

I'm taking 18 units at school, and trying to juggle a girlfriend (funny part: she's a high school drop out, and insists college is a waste of time :) oh well, she's cute, I'll tolerate her stupidity), and can assure you that 4 hours a day is enough until you're 17, after that, plan on spending 5-6 hours **waking** time and 7-8 hours "**sleeping**" time, with those values substantially increased on weekends :).

Two things to note:

- Time values do not hold during midterms/finals (I thought about having myself castrated so I could study, but thankfully reconsidered).
- Finding a girlfriend who also goes to school may change these values, as she'll have a lot less free time than my girlfriend does.

Either way...ditch IRC, find a girlfriend, they're all over the place, just open your eyes.

Stupidity doesn't bother me anymore, I've already dealt with [Pitzer](#) students.

Re:Not even close... (Score:1)

by Cryptnotic on Friday December 29, @04:58PM EST ([#291](#))

([User #154382 Info](#))

I'm interested in buying a girlfriend, or maybe renting one for a while. Do you know how I could do that? Where does one go for that sort of thing?

Basically, I'd like to try out out for a while, see if it's the right thing. If it's not, then I'd need a no-hassle return policy. Money back isn't an issue. Unless it's really expensive, like buying a car or a house or something.

Cryptnotic

Yeah! (Score:1)

by SexyAlexie on Friday December 29, @08:12PM EST ([#316](#))

([User #217702 Info](#)) <http://www.tahallah.clara.co.uk>

I'm for hire.

-- I'm too sexy for you.

Re:Yeah! (Score:1)

by Cryptnotic on Friday December 29, @09:01PM EST ([#323](#))

([User #154382 Info](#))

Gee, I thought my use of the word "girlfriend" would have implied that I was looking for a girl.

Cryptnotic

Re:You call THAT free time? (Score:1)

by [Mn3m0nic](#) (entity_69@spammersshalldie.hotmail.com) on Friday December 29, @12:05PM EST (#127)
(User #234085 Info)

I think he was just being sarcastic. right?
If you hack it, THEY shall come. -Entity

Re:You call THAT free time? (Score:1)

by BeanThere on Friday December 29, @12:48PM EST (#168)
(User #28381 Info) <http://www.geocities.com/SoHo/Lofts/2018/>

Thats probably one of the only things I miss about my school years - loads and loads of free time. I could spend whole afternoons and evenings just programming, lounging around, whatever. Even sitting in some of the classes at school seems to me now like it was a lot of free time. And it was, really - I *never* did homework, and most of the classes at school, the lessons are dragged out really really slowly for all the average-intelligence people to keep up. Sheez, in school I remember we spent a few weeks just on the basics of differentials .. university was thankfully a far more reasonable pace.

"... insert the Windows NT Workstation 4.0 compact disc with your computer turned off." - NT Installation Manual

Re:You call THAT free time? (Score:2, Insightful)

by [Syn404](#) (syntaxerror@techie.com) on Friday December 29, @03:43PM EST (#266)
(User #179434 Info)

I'd definitely have to agree with Jethro. That isn't a whole lot of free time [On school days, I've usually got 7-8 hours of free time - weekends, I've got the entire day]. I don't think I've ever been desperate for a boyfriend, but now that I've got one, I treasure my free time a whole lot more. He's a geek as well, and we both realize how valuable free time is, but even that doesn't affect the decrease in free time. I still devote at least two days of the average week to him, and we both once in a while end up making excuses to stay apart. You don't realize what you enjoyed doing until you lack the time to do it any longer.

However, sometimes it's extremely nice to have someone to turn to when you're tired of the usual routine, or when you just need to get your mind of everything else. It doesn't hurt to get out of the house, as long as you can manage your time. :P Do the advantages outweigh the disadvantages? That all depends on the people involved.

--

I don't know what your problem is, but I'll bet it's hard to pronounce.

Re:You call THAT free time? (Score:1)

by [impaler](#) (`linux [at] cke [dot] cjb [dot] net`) on Friday December 29, @06:14PM EST (#303)

(User #78415 Info) <http://clinton.is.dreaming.org>

Well, here is my schedule on the weekend:

noon - wake up

1pm - eat food

1am - go to sleep

Well, and the fact that I have the hours of 4-6:30pm free as well...

I am HAL 7000, less features than the HAL 9000, but just as homicidal!

Re:You call THAT free time? (Score:1)

by [Chasuk](#) (`brilfabex@hotmail.com`) on Sunday December 31, @06:38PM EST (#390)

(User #62477 Info)

There is something about these two statements which seem contradictory:

Believe me, that is NOT a lot of free time.

And:

Enjoy it while you can.

The second statement implies "Wow! You have FOUR HOURS of free time EVERY DAY?
Enjoy it while you can!"

If that is the implication, I disagree 100%. Four hours spent fucking off every day is four hours that could have been spent doing something useful. Four hours is an obscene amount of free time to have daily. Most WEEKS I don't have four complete hours of fuck-off time.

If you were writing a 125,000 word novel (approximately 250 pages), and only managed 500 words an hour, it would take you less than three months to finish, with your amount of free time.

[AC's deserve a reply who post anonymously from fear of imprisonment or starvation.](#)

Re:You call THAT free time? (Score:1)

by [Jethro](#) (`jethro-sd@yaron.org`) on Friday December 29, @11:16AM EST (#82)

(User #14165 Info) <http://www.yaron.org/>

Actually, I assume that like most teenagers he considers weekends to be so obvious free time, it goes with out saying... just wait till he gets his first job where he gets to wear a pager.

--

Rumplestiltskin was framed!!!

Re:You call THAT free time? (Score:1)

by Disco Stu on Friday December 29, @10:05PM EST ([#333](#))

([User #13103 Info](#))

That's funny. Most of the cell phone conversation's I've heard consist of:

"Hi, I'm on a cell phone"

Except on planes right before takeoff. Then they consist of:

"Hi, my flight's about to takeoff!"

I don't think I've ever met anyone on the right hand side of the bell curve who uses one outside of emergencies.

am I that old? (Score:1)

by aap on Friday December 29, @10:21AM EST ([#24](#))

([User #108982 Info](#))

I was on the net using a dialup SLIP @ 14.4k baud, on a win 3.1 running 486 from IBM

When I was your age, I didn't even have my 300bps Commodore modem yet.

my humble 166Mhz linux box (which I got a new 20GB drive for tuesday..finally, free space).

Disk space is good. Long live disk space!

Re:am I that old? (Score:1)

by [haus](#) ([kvedaa at yahoo dot com](#)) on Friday December 29, @10:51AM EST ([#64](#))

([User #129916 Info](#)) <http://www.ithinknot.org>

Man, I remember being so happy when I got my Mighty Moe 300bps modem for my C64 that I could hardly contain myself. Right about that same time I say an article in AHOY magazine that Commodore was rumored to be designing a machine that would be capable of running a full 512K of RAM. I was convinced that there was nothing that could not be done on a Commodore that had 512k and a 300bps modem.....

all persons, living and dead, are purely coincidental. - Kurt Vonnegut

Re:am I that old? (Score:1)

by Anthony on Friday December 29, @10:51AM EST ([#65](#))

(User #4077 Info) <http://adavid.com.au>

Omigawd. When I was his age we were marking up APL cards using HB2 pencils and sending them off to the one computer for entire State Education Department.

Re:am I that old? (Score:1)

by fdiskne1 on Friday December 29, @04:26PM EST ([#283](#))

(User #219834 Info)

Aw he11... for my comment, just recite Monty Python's "Four Scottsmen" skit.

This story has it all wrong. (Score:1)

by [AFCArchvile](#) (talk_is Cheap@lies. are.expensive.com) on Friday December 29, @10:25AM EST ([#27](#))

(User #221494 Info) <http://www.verizoneatspoop.com/>

The "ordinary Slashdot user" refers to the 127 clones of Signal_11 that were made when he hit the karma cap.

Software designers are so infatuated with the fact that they can, that they don't stop to think if they should.

Go To School (Score:1)

by cvbear0 on Friday December 29, @10:25AM EST ([#28](#))

(User #231010 Info) <http://sweb.uky.edu/~cvbear0/>

I really want to go to college one day. And, I really want a job.

This is great. Go to school. Learn more. Then you can get a better job and make more money.

Re:Go To School (Score:1)

by Niles_Stonne on Friday December 29, @10:49AM EST ([#60](#))

(User #105949 Info)

[Philosophy Mode]

Money is not the key to life...

[/Philosophy Mode]

It is nice... But it's more important to be happy...

All information totally made up on the spot unless otherwise noted... Parachuters: Good to the last drop!

Re:Go To School (Score:1)

by cvbear0 on Friday December 29, @03:22PM EST ([#257](#))

(User #231010 Info) <http://sweb.uky.edu/~cvbear0/>

I am not saying money is the key to life. I agree that one must be happy to have a good life, but i know many companies look for that piece of paper (aka diploma).

Re:Go To School (Score:1)

by [Schnedt Microne](#) (scott30189@hotmail.com) on Saturday December 30, @02:00AM EST (#356)

([User #264752 Info](#))

Umm, it's far easier to be happy with money than without it.

There is no 'key' to life. It's not that simple.

Re:Go To School (Score:2, Insightful)

by pug23 on Friday December 29, @12:37PM EST (#159)

([User #167080 Info](#)) <http://exit.doesntexist.com>

Grrraaagghhh!!!!

Money, money, money!!!

What is the obsession????

OK, yeah, money is necessary to survive, and to be able to get some of the things you want, but it is not an end in and of itself.

I think it's great to want to go to college because I think it's a great experience. It's a time to get away from the 'rents, experience new things, and maybe, just maybe, learn something interesting.

So, go to college, take some cool classes about stuff that interests you, have a kick-ass time, and, as a fringe benefit, come out of it with a piece of paper that tells employers they should pay you more. Or drop out and do your own thing. There is no one "right" path.

Only one thing is certain in my mind, and that is that, if money is your sole motivator you will end up no better than the other corporate whore schmucks.

Re:Go To School (Score:1)

by [Syn404](#) (syntaxerror@techie.com) on Friday December 29, @03:34PM EST (#261)

([User #179434 Info](#))

I think that part about wanting to go to college somewhat surprised me .. It may not look like much, but of all my fellow high school students which I've talked to, far over half don't even know what they want to do with their lives, even in a future as immediate as what comes after these 4 years. It's really sad that so many students are failing the national standards tests that are currently being taken, which can cause colleges to refuse the students, if they choose to apply at all. I know too many 20 year olds who are still living with their parents because they were too lazy to do any work after their years of 'partying' in high school. I'm really glad to see that some people still have some sense.

One of the reasons this gets to me is because my home state Arizona actually has one of the lowest literacy rates in the USA, most likely because we get so many Mexican high school students, being right by the border. Instead of elevating the standards for the Mexicans, the standards for everyone else here are lowered, which is the reason we fail all the national standards tests. The AIMS test for one, over 50% of students failed the math section, & I believe 75% failed the reading/writing. It's not impossible to pass these tests, some people just need to work harder at it. This would be easily accomplished if they could just realize how important college is, like Clinton does. We already average as one of the stupidest nations in the world. [Sorry, I can't think of a nice way to put that]

--

I don't know what your problem is, but I'll bet it's hard to pronounce.

Slashdot Demographics (Score:1, Redundant)

by Alien54 on Friday December 29, @ 10:25AM EST (#29)

(User #180860 Info) <http://vinny.myqth.com>

[plants tongue firmly in cheek]

So how do we know that this is truely a *typical* slashdot user?

What are the Slashdot Demographics?

Who conducted the surveys?

Was anyone here contacted by Price Waterhouse?

Or was it something like doing a survey of all of the lifeforms on Planet Earth to find the most typical lifeform, so that this could be used as a representative to the Intergalactic Council?

"Now representing Planet Earth - SlimeMold!"

Hmmmmmmm . . .

considering most politicians, this might be a step up.

Check out the [Vinny the Vampire](#) comic strip

Re:Slashdot Demographics (Score:1)

by [mvc](#) (m os s@ ha mp ar ts .c om) on Friday December 29, @12:17PM EST ([#141](#))
(User #38569 Info) <http://www.sjca.edu/~mvc/>

"Now representing Planet Earth - SlimeMold!"

My, that was a yummy slime mold!

--Moss

This is a .sig.

Now there are two of them.

There are two _____.

A missed opportunity... (Score:2, Funny)

by Fisics on Friday December 29, @10:25AM EST ([#30](#))
(User #82038 Info)

If I had known his name was Clinton, I would have asked him if he knew what the meaning of "is" is. Maybe this Clinton would have known. Doh!

Fis

Re:A missed opportunity... (Score:1)

by [macbert](#) (macbert AT hcity DOT net) on Friday December 29, @11:02AM EST ([#70](#))
(User #51931 Info) <http://www.hcity.net>

From Webster's Revised Unabridged Dictionary (1913) :

Is

The third person singular of the substantive verb be, in the indicative mood, present tense; as, he is; he is a man. See Be.

=====

macbert@hcity.net
<http://www.hcity.net/mac>

College (Score:1)

by [Njoyda Sauce](#) (jnjpepper@hotmail) on Friday December 29, @10:27AM EST (#32)

([User #211180 Info](#))

In my experience college is the real setting in which social, intellectual, and "real-life" learning can occur. The experiences we get in high-school somewhat prepare us for this, especially volunteer sports, clubs, etc.; however not until college are we really challenged on a personal level. Intelligence is a great help, but being able to adapt to being on your own in a sea of unknowns is what really defines a lot of people.

You can only be young once, but you can be immature forever.

Re:College (Score:1)

by [sg_oneill](#) (billg@microsoft.com) on Friday December 29, @03:41PM EST (#264)

([User #159032 Info](#)) <http://www.avi.com.au>

Sorta.... I don't admit this often, but High School was a friggin nightmare for me. I kinda confusedly oscilated from hypergeek to potsmokin dumbass. Being kicked out was the best thing that ever happened to me. After that, I still oscilated tho. I was on one hand still the hypergeek , being divorced from at 20 (stupid to get married young anyway) for 8+hrs a day of IRC and hacking in early 90's. I also was in a punk band and stupidly drug-self-destructive. Then I went to uni. Lifechange. I actually found a group of ppl like me , but kinda balanced. I quit the pot and discovered the joys of being the only comp literate art student in town. I'd be a fool to claim that uni shaped the more mature version of me that I am now, but I'd be a writeoff if I didn't do it. But I'd also be a lesser person if I didn't do the hard lessons before hand.

From the minute you are born your learning real life. Uni gives you tools to analyse that real life, but you still gotta actually experience it to have something to analyse.

Just thinkin out loud I guess.

-- Forth will rise again! (*sigh*)

Definitely true, about reverence (Score:2)

by [Fervent](#) (fervent@NOSPAM.slc.edu) on Friday December 29, @10:28AM EST (#34)

([User #178271 Info](#))

I don't really think geeks have taken the position of doctors, but I think we have moved up a bit. I'm not taunted anymore, I'm just understood. People understand I'm not like them, and they don't care.

Graduating from high school a few years ago, and soon to be graduating college, I can definitely attest that being a "geek" has moved up a few notches. It isn't football or even "drama club" coolness, but we're indentified as having our own strengths and certain kind of charisma, instead of being perceived as the antisocial slacker of yesteryear.

Re:Definitely true, about reverence (Score:1)

by TDScott on Friday December 29, @10:36AM EST (#44)

([User #260197 Info](#)) <http://www.thomasscott.net/>

Yeah, I'll go with that. Certainly my geekdom has become a little more respected... there are still the [insert term of disrespect here]s, but they're becoming a bit more rare - at least in my opinion.

Geekdom is becoming a little 'cooler', I think.

[[Home Page](#)] - with a diary of my time on the UK game show 'Blockbusters'.

Re:Definitely true, about reverance (Score:1)

by canning on Friday December 29, @10:51AM EST ([#66](#))

([User #228134 Info](#))

I have been friends with a variety of people (both ethnic and social) and I must say that geeks have the best sense of humours. We have the driest most sarcastic comments of anyone else on the earth.

We may not be treated as equals yet but I think the world realizes now that we can make their lives miserable. And isn't that what it's all about?

People who think they know everything are annoying to those of us who do

Re:Definitely true, about reverance (Score:2, Interesting)

by [Zach978](#) (zach978@yahoo.com) on Friday December 29, @11:03AM EST ([#72](#))

([User #98911 Info](#))

I think that some geeks are more respected because not all geeks are anti-social anymore. I'm a highschool student, I run linux on a few computers (not a guru, but I can get around), and I do a lot of web programming (I know, the evil, weak stuff, PHP/MySQL, JavaScript, ASP/MS SQL), infact that's how I make all my money. I can do the 6:30-10:30 tv/computer during the week, and then on weekends or holidays like this, that turns into 6:30-9:00 hanging out with friends, and 9:00-? partying, getting wasted, having a great time...I mean over this holiday vacation I've been to a party every night (except when spending time with family celebrating x-mas). One of the kids that I hang out with and see at all the parties is also a computer geek, and he's known as a big partier.

computer geek != anti-social

"I told you a million times not to exaggerate!"

Re:Definitely true, about reverance (Score:1)

by shayne321 on Friday December 29, @01:50PM EST ([#211](#))

([User #106803 Info](#)) <http://sh.birmingham.al.us/>

Graduating from high school a few years ago, and soon to be graduating college, I can definitely attest that being a "geek" has moved up a few notches.

I have to agree. Like many here, I was pretty much an outcast geek in high school.. I'm 24 now, BTW.. Last summer I started working the door at a local night club here and started seeing a lot of the people I graduated with almost 7 years ago. I always say it's amazing how much we (geeks and nerds) were picked on in high school, but how we're now worshipped as WE'RE the ones driving the BMW's and making large amounts of money.. Funny how times change..

Shayne

"Today it was a good day, I didn't even have to use my AK" - Icecube

Missing time? (Score:4, Flamebait)

by [13013dobbs](#) (b_bronnenberg@hotmail.com) on Friday December 29, @10:30AM EST ([#38](#))
(User #113910 Info)

6:30-10:30 - music / irc / tv

11pm: sleep

What happens from 10:30 til 11? Being a young computer user, there can be only one answer: He is masturbating furiously to all the pr0n he got on IRC.

Re:Missing time? (Score:1)

by moheeb on Friday December 29, @11:03AM EST ([#71](#))
(User #228831 Info)

What happens from 10:30 til 11?

Generally I lie down in bed for a few minutes before I sleep.

And sometimes I brush my teeth.

Re:Missing time? (Score:1)

by s.a.m on Friday December 29, @11:59AM EST ([#123](#))
(User #92412 Info) <http://www.ultimateanime.com>

You know I was wondering the same exact thing. Hrmm, maybe there is some time shifting that occurs and then he is sucked into a portal into another dimension where there are infinitely beautiful women to please..... oh wait nm that's my fantasy ^__^

-Never put off today, what you can avoid altogether

Re:Missing time? (Score:1)

by Mastagunna on Friday December 29, @04:04PM EST ([#272](#))
(User #251788 Info)

It is not flamebate as it is most likely true. He does not have a girlfriend, has been on the net since seven. Which means he has been exposed to porn since seven, because the first thing you do on the net is look for porn as a child. So it is quite likely that after his bed time snack he takes a break and "relaxes".

Re:Missing time? (Score:1)

by karandago on Friday December 29, @06:01PM EST (#301)

(User #174156 Info)

You know you're ignoring the fact that there is either missing time between 3 and 4:40 (depending on what homework done means) or 4:40 and 6:00... and if food includes eating at a computer (which I've been known to do) there is missing time between 6:00 and 6:30... I wouldn't scrutinize....

Is this representative? (Score:4, Insightful)

by MobyDisk (mobydisk@home.com) on Friday December 29, @10:33AM EST (#40)

(User #75490 Info) <http://www.mobydisk.com/>

...of Slashdot readers in general? If so, I'm not a normal Slashdot reader, and didn't quite realize it. I don't listen to heavy metal, and don't come home and do music/IRC/TV. When I was in school, that was what the "normal" kids did. They talked (on the phone mostly, some did IRC) and liked TV & music. The nerds were on their computers morning and night. That didn't mean IRC or Quake, it meant coding.

And another thing. Does everybody here think that because they read Slashdot that they are "different?"

Re:Is this representative? (Score:1)

by nd (nd@kracked.com) on Friday December 29, @10:50AM EST (#62)

(User #20186 Info) <http://demonic.net>

Everyone wants to believe that they're different/special/smarter/victimized.

Re:Is this representative? (Score:1)

by Anonymous Coward on Friday December 29, @11:17AM EST (#83)

Everybody is different and victimized though, so 2 out of 4 isn't bad.

Of course, I'm not victimized, I'm one of the elite that is doing the grinding. heh.

Re:Is this representative? (Score:1)

by Maniac_Dervish (elw@stderr.org) on Monday January 01, @02:48PM EST (#393)

(User #22463 Info) <http://stderr.org>

Lucky for us though that a vast majority of the country is willing to put up with that as long as they get their TV and Rush on the radio. Who else would mow our lawns, babysit our kids, and wash our cars. It's good to be rich it sucks to be a slave.

so which rush are we talking about?

yes, i know what you meant. :)

----- elijah wright

Re:Is this representative? (Score:2, Insightful)

by [stixman](#) (SPmichaelhurst@hotmailAM.com) on Friday December 29, @11:41AM EST ([#99](#))
([User #119688 Info](#))

If so, I'm not a normal Slashdot reader, and didn't quite realize it.

This is my biggest complaint about Jon Katz and his "Hellmouth" series, and that "normal Slashdot reader" thing. It seems like we as a Slashdot community are forming/have formed a stereotype of what a "geek" is or should be.

I was not a loner in high school. I had lots of friends, was very active, and yes, I was also happy. I was also a math/computer whiz who got very good grades. I didn't find /. until after high school, but I did spend plenty of time coding, and **do** consider myself a geek.

So let's not narrow down what we think a geek is, but rather appreciate how diverse we are.

=====

sigs are overrated

Re:Is this representative? (Score:1, Troll)

by [aegis8](#) (pipedream@NOSPAM.technologist.com) on Friday December 29, @11:43AM EST
([#101](#))
([User #223597 Info](#))

Quite the contrary -- I read /. because, for the most part, it's a great place to find other hard-core geeks. I work in the IT dept. at a medium sized company, and out of the 90 or so of us here, I can only think of 4 people besides myself that I would label "hard-core" -- the rest are moderately skilled and in it for the money.

"God is not on the side of the big battalions, but on the side of those who shoot best." -- Voltaire, RE: Linux

Re:Is this representative? (Score:1)

by vperez on Friday December 29, @12:24PM EST ([#149](#))
([User #162398 Info](#))

Nowadays "normal" kids use AOL Instant Messenger...

And personally I dont really care if I'm different or not. I don't think it really matters all that much.

I've always considered myself normal, though I did spent countless hours in front of the computer coding/BBSing during my childhood. (started with a stupid language called PILOT on my Atari)

"geek" is far too general of a term to mean anything really. Some might call me a "geek" b/c of my obsession with computers. Others might not consider me worthy to be a "geek" b/c I actually went outside and played sports with my friends.

Re:Is this representative? (Score:1)

by [ProfKyne](#) (profkyneDONTSPAM@yahooDONTSPAM.com) on Friday December 29,

@ 12:46PM EST (#[166](#))

(User #149971 Info) <http://toolshed.down.net/>

And another thing. Does everybody here think that because they read Slashdot that they are "different?"

I definitely think I'm different -- I have a girlfriend, a social life, I actually have a strong set of political beliefs, and I enjoyed high school *and* college (both socially and academically). Sure, I love computers and video games and even some SF, but I feel like I'm somehow demonized as having been some kind of "normal person" all my life. At least, when I read Slashdot.

Professor Kyne: "Go and pick your asteroid." -- Brataccas

No... (Score:1)

by [Dissonant](#) (tragedy.nin@usa.net.NOSPAM) on Friday December 29, @ 12:58PM EST (#[179](#))

(User #125475 Info) <http://www.crosswinds.net/~tragedynin/>

And another thing. Does everybody here think that because they read Slashdot that they are "different?"

No. I read Slashdot *and* I am different. No causal relationship.

Unless

Re:Is this representative? (Score:1)

by kryptkpr on Friday December 29, @ 02:33PM EST (#[234](#))

(User #180196 Info)

I don't listen to heavy metal, (I listen to techno/rave). I -do- come home to music/irc/tv, but usually not until around 12am. The rest of the time, I'm either in school, or doing drugs.

IT Teachers (Score:3, Interesting)

by TDScott on Friday December 29, @10:33AM EST ([#41](#))

(User #260197 Info) <http://www.thomasscott.net/>

While this isn't true of most IT teachers, I must say that there are some real bad ones out there. Mind you, the exam boards aren't much better.

I believe until either this or last year, they didn't accept "Linux" as an answer for "Give an example of an operating system."

In my opinion, computing in the secondary education system teaches children to use a computer - not to understand a computer. Sure, we [and I say we, 'cos I've just entered college] were taught to change font sizes and type [50wpm before the class. Gotta love that.] - but if something went wrong, hardly any of the other kids had any idea what do.

"Miss! How do I save this to disk?"

"Click there... that's it, select that..."

The teacher was telling the kid what to click on - and he was just blindly doing it, and not learning how to *use* a computer. In my opinion, that's the wrong way to go about it.

[[Home Page](#)] - with a diary of my time on the UK game show 'Blockbusters'.

Re:IT Teachers (Score:1)

by [chacha](#) (chacha-at-whid-dot-net) on Friday December 29, @12:24PM EST ([#148](#))

(User #166659 Info)

When I was in high school we had these weekly English writing labs. However, every so often we would graduate from that hell into the amusing world of the "Computer Writing Lab". The class would trudge down to the lab, with its 30 or so horribly outdated machines that possessed just enough oomph to run a word processing program... of course, this was where the fun began. As our teacher would take half an hour to figure out how to either turn on the computer or insert a disk, the students would all conspire to find ways to crash the things. And then we would raise our hands with a desperate "it won't work," and watch our tech challenged teacher try to fix it. (It was high school, we needed such distractions)

Nice to see that some real live computer teachers in high schools don't come close to knowing what they're doing either. :)

Using vs. Understanding (Score:1)

by ^kevino\$ on Friday December 29, @12:40PM EST ([#162](#))

(User #122092 Info)

Introduction

For the most part, most of the curriculum in high school only taught me how to *use* something; that's the best you can expect from a curriculum. It was my imagination and my own desire to continue tinkering with what I learned that finally taught me an **understanding** of anything.

(word count: 328)

Discussion/Example/Implicit-Proof

This is (unfortunately) not limited to computers. I'll give you two opposing examples:

I prefer math and science: I went on to code a very basic graphics engine, just for fun, using only basic matrix operations and Gaussian elimination. I was taught how to use matrixes and row reduction but my imagination forced me to learn how to apply them and therefore understand them.

Conversely, a good friend of mine can whip off a 3000 word essay about any piece of literature they've just read. In high school, they got A's. I hate writing essays. Nevertheless, I can write one but I have to follow a formula that I was taught: Introduction > Hypothesis > Discussion/Example/Implicit-Proof > Restate Hypothesis > Conclusion. This is what I was taught and it's what I can do. Each of my essays is indistinguishable from the last. I've never been able to *understand* what it is about literature, its form, construction, etc that eludes me because I lack the imagination. My friend however is doing quite well in her masters program; I'm writing this post.

Restate Hypothesis

IMHO, it's not the curriculum that can be blamed for any perceived problems with our high schools. Computers are just about the only addition to it in the last 20 years. Math is math and high school science is pretty much the same. As for English, 1984 was the most modern book I read in high school. :)

Conclusion

If school is worse today than it was yesterday, I say it's because of strained resources or poor learning environments that strangle whatever imagination kids might have today. But, I'll leave that for another essay.

(word count: 328)

-- Hate Income Tax? <http://www.untaxman.com>

B- (Score:1)

by [Praxxus](#) ([ed \(at\) cates \(dot\) net](mailto:ed(at)cates(dot)net)) on Friday December 29, @01:50PM EST (#212)

(User #19048 Info) <http://under.construction>

Good essay, points well made, but you forgot to state your Hypothesis. I'm sorry, but I just can't give you an A for such a blatant oversight. Please try to stay focused on your work.

--

Okay, I got Linux installed. So where's the free beer everyone keeps talking about??

Accident or Crafted? (Score:1)

by ^kevino\$ on Friday December 29, @11:01PM EST (#343)

(User #122092 Info)

Hhmm; I didn't do it intentionally but I think it hammer's home my point better than I could have written intentionally!

-- Hate Income Tax? <http://www.untaxman.com>

Re:IT Teachers (Score:1)

by [jmahler](#) (me@yourmom.net) on Friday December 29, @12:40PM EST (#163)

(User #192217 Info)

i agree and i disagree. (typical, huh)

thing is, most kids are never going to have any use for knowing HOW a computer works. thye just need to know it does, and what the process for getting from point a to point b is.

this is much like a car- you really give a damn how the gearing system interacts? you just know not to drop it into reverse at 70mph. (i hope :)

most people have no need to know this stuff, let alone have it taught in elemetary school. i think that advanced classes in computing should be offered at the high school level, much like a vocational program, so that a kid going into highschool can go thru a program which teaches him/her about programming, different operating systems, networking and routing, and general engineering as well.

the biggest things missing from the cs courses in any school, imnsho, are ETHICS and PHILOSOPHY. very very very important, probably the one thing that a person with a BS degree has over someone that is certified.

besides, teach everyone HOW a computer works and make them all '31337 haxors' like you and :::poof::: we're out of jobs. :)

i thought you said crossing the streams was bad, ray...

Re:IT Teachers (Score:1)

by BeanThere on Friday December 29, @01:14PM EST (#189)

(User #28381 Info) <http://www.geocities.com/SoHo/Lofts/2018/>

this is much like a car- you really give a damn how the gearing system interacts? you just know not to drop it into reverse at 70mph. (i hope :)

I don't know how a car works, and you're right, in general, I don't need to know. Except, of course, when my car needs servicing/repairs - the mechanics sniff out quickly who is clueless, and it's \$\$\$\$\$\$. The sad thing is, the computer industry has now gone exactly the same way - probably worse, in fact, because demand outstrips supply by far in the comp industry, so comp businesses have no incentive to behave. Maybe its not so bad in America, but here in South Africa, its almost impossible to buy a computer and not get ripped off. Some places literally don't even sell the system they advertise (e.g. putting a TNT in when the system is specced as GeForce2, or a Celeron, when the system is specced as PIII.) Most people never figure it out, they don't know enough to. And many of the places have that lame open-up-your-own-computer-and-lose-your-warranty red-paint-on-the-screws crap, so all upgrades must go through them.

So if there is one reason for Joe Computer User to know how computers work, its so that they don't get ripped off when buying/repairing a computer. At least in the car sales and repair industry there is a lot more competition at the moment (and in the states I believe 'lemon laws' to protect consumers) and generally more people understand cars. But few people understand computers. So when they're told that its quite normal for computers to crash so often, they believe it, and think computers "just are like that". They don't know any better. These are probably the main reasons for educating computer users.

"Job security" is a poor reason to keep people in the dark, and is exactly the same as the technique of keeping computing standards proprietary as a business advantage. And you're talking about teaching computing "ETHICS" in the same breath! :) My job is fairly advanced, C++, 3d graphics, simulation etc so I doubt that educating more people about computers would threaten my job, personally. In fact I keep telling my boss we need *more* people :)

"... insert the Windows NT Workstation 4.0 compact disc with your computer turned off." - NT Installation Manual

Re:IT Teachers (Score:1)

by [jmahler](#) (me@yourmom.net) on Friday December 29, @01:32PM EST (#205)

(User #192217 Info)

the job security thing was just a joke, by the way. didn't mean to imply keeping people dumb was for the best. i DO think that people should shop smart in ANY purchase. what do you do when you go (to keep the auto analogy alive) to buy a car? you read up on it, research what it is, etc. and if you don't know for sure, you grab someone you trust who knows this stuff. most importantly, you buy from somewhere reputable. in south africa it may be different, but here in the states when a company pulls that sort of crap they are pulled into court for fraud very quickly. they lose credibility in the geek community, which means their corporate sales die off, and then they lose their businesses altogether. as to the ripping people off for services, this happens everywhere. my wife designs web sites, and comes across other designers who totally scam their customers. same deal with programmers, database people, consultants, etc... this is part of the reason i say that ethics classes are so important. i DO wish users in general were more educated about computers, cause it would make my life easier as a win2k admin, but hey. that's why they pay me the (not-so-big) bucks. i gotta deal with people.
i thought you said crossing the streams was bad, ray...

Re:IT Teachers (Score:3, Interesting)

by BeanThere on Friday December 29, @01:54PM EST ([#215](#))

(User #28381 Info) <http://www.geocities.com/SoHo/Lofts/2018/>

When I bought my last car, I got a buddy at work, who is good with cars, to help me.

South Africans on the whole are pretty apathetic/ignorant about bad service, I'm afraid. They tend to take a "roll with the punches" attitude, which isn't really a good thing. One of the largest computer retailers here is called "incredible connection", but most technical people refer to it as "incredible corruption". Their profit margin is close to 100% and their service is crapper than you could possibly begin to imagine. Yet most people don't even seem to realise that they are being screwed over royally, and even when they do, they tend to just shrug it off, saying something like "what can we do about it?". 'After sales service' is almost unheard of in this country. Somebody else I know bought a computer from Mecer, another large computer retailer here, and it literally wasn't set up properly (this is VERY common when buying computers in SA) - the DVD drive didn't work, there were size copies of the graphics card drivers installed, the computer would freeze up all the time - and yet this person called me before calling the company, because she was under the impression that she had somehow messed the computer up (another common misconception that makes people here afraid to demand service.)

A friend of mine wanted to put a CD drive in his computer, but it had the old red-paint warranty-void crap on the back. Buying a CD drive is simple, right? I mean, buy the drive, get an IDE cable, set the jumpers, and in 10 minutes you're up and running. But this place needed *several days* to install it, and were charging big bucks for so-called labour. He was promised it would be finished by a certain day, when we went there on that day, they hadn't even begun on it. The secretary was rude with us as well. We asked for it to be done while we waited, so we went off to the back to painfully watch a clueless minimum-wage "technician" attempt to install it. After he'd put it in the computer wouldn't start up at all. It was a big mess, but we eventually did manage to escape that place with a working CD ROM drive. But he voided his warranty and never went there again for further upgrades. But that store is still there and going

strong, three years later.

It sounds like it's a bit better in the states, but over here, the computer retailers have waaay too much demand to care about little things like service.

"... insert the Windows NT Workstation 4.0 compact disc with your computer turned off." - NT Installation Manual

Re:IT Teachers (Score:1)

by BeanThere on Friday December 29, @01:56PM EST (#217)

(User #28381 Info) <http://www.geocities.com/SoHo/Lofts/2018/>

there were size copies of the graphics card drivers installed

I meant to type, "six copies", not "size copies". Device manager in Win98 listed six copies of the same driver.

"... insert the Windows NT Workstation 4.0 compact disc with your computer turned off." - NT Installation Manual

Re:IT Teachers (Score:2)

by [Col. Panic](#) (Col.Panic@/dev/null) on Friday December 29, @02:28PM EST (#231)

(User #90528 Info)

most kids are never going to have any use for knowing HOW a computer works. thye just need to know it does, and what the process for getting from point a to point b

This was an IT class. Presumably the students were there to learn *how* a computer works.

If at first you don't succeed, destroy all evidence that you tried. -- Steven Wright

Re:IT Teachers (Score:1)

by BeanThere on Friday December 29, @12:53PM EST (#173)

(User #28381 Info) <http://www.geocities.com/SoHo/Lofts/2018/>

It seems to me like its gotten worse as well. When I was in school we learnt programming skills (e.g. Logo.) Why dumb it down?

"... insert the Windows NT Workstation 4.0 compact disc with your computer turned off." - NT Installation Manual

Re:IT Teachers (Score:1)

by [Eric Sharkey](#) (sharkey@superk.physics.sunysb.edu) on Friday December 29, @12:56PM EST (#176)

(User #1717 Info) <http://superk.physics.sunysb.edu>

I believe until either this or last year, they didn't accept "Linux" as an answer for "Give an example of an operating system."

That's because the correct answer is "GNU/Linux".

Re:IT Teachers (Score:1)

by Ig0r on Friday December 29, @04:09PM EST ([#274](#))

([User #154739 Info](#))

Not necessarily.

You could use non-GNU tools with your Linux kernel, or even write your own shell/tools.

--

Soma: because a gramme is better than a damn.

Re:IT Teachers (Score:1)

by cowscows on Friday December 29, @01:08PM EST ([#187](#))

([User #103644 Info](#)) <http://shawn.redhive.com>

I agree with your opinion on computer education to a degree, but I think it's important to understand where to draw a line. You said you believe that the secondary education system children are taught to use a computer, not understand it. I don't see a problem in that necessarily. For 98% of the jobs that that child may hold in his/her future, it will only be important to know how to use the computer, an indepth understanding shouldn't be necessary. It's the same way with cars. When you go in for a driver's license exam, they don't expect you to be able to diagram how your automatic transmission works, they just want you to be able to put it in drive to go forwards, and reverse to go back. The average person has better things to do then understand how their car works as a machine, the mechanical workings are best left to a mechanic.

Now computers are a slightly different deal due to their relative lack of development. The personal computer is a relatively new thing compared to automobiles, and they still require much more constant maintanance than your average car. But hopefully that will change.

I understand computers because I took an interest in how they work. I learned how to cope with their problems because it was a challenge that I sometimes enjoyed, and was always willing to deal with in order to have a working machine. Not everyone shares this enthusiasm for all things electronic. My mom for example gets rather upset when I try to explain to her how the computer works. She just wants to know what to click on. She's a real estate appraiser who likes to communicate with friends via email. Where her work software keeps its config files doesn't matter to her, she doesn't want to know which mail server she's sending out all those chain letter emails through.

While frustrating for those of us that get stuck taking care of the comptuer problems of people like her, it's just the way things are. The best option in my opinion is to improve computers and software to the point where someone just pointing and clicking can't hurt anything, things won't go wrong, and until then, try to get stuck doing tech support for someone besides your mom, so you can charge them money.

Re:IT Teachers (Score:1)

by [bmoore](#) (bmoore-at-nd.edu) on Friday December 29, @02:19PM EST (#226)

(User #106826 Info) <http://www.nd.edu/~bmoore>

In my High-school experience, (I'm now a Junior CSE major in college), our CS classes were really not focused as well as they should. Not to say that the teacher was bad, but he didn't really know WHAT he should be teaching. By calling the class "Computer Science," he should have been teaching, not only how to use a language, but also how to write programs.

We had CS1, CS2, CS3. CS1 == QBASIC, CS2 == Pascal, CS3 == whatever language the student wanted (but students had to teach themselves the language). We used IBM 286 machines, 1 of them had a 10MB HDD, the others had not HDD... Network boot. Our most difficult program in both CS1 and CS2 were such that they took me about 30 minutes to do, including goofing off, and he gave use a good 3 class periods (50 min. periods) to do it.

Our teacher was good that he recognized those of us in the class who could actually program, and he gave us more challenging assignments, etc, but he still didn't stress philosophy of programming, or even style much. I remember talking to him one time, and he told me that he was going to much the CS1 people use gotos to jump around the functions!!

It wasn't until College that I really learned to program, and although I still have more experience than a lot of people in my classes, those that began really writing code in high school, or before, have quite an advantage. I moved to Linux from Windows towards the end of my freshman year, when we first got exposed to unix, and have never looked back. It has helped me enormously.

Overall, I say that they should either re-structure the "CS" classes, at my school, and others whose "CS" classes are similar, or change the name to something more reflective of the class, such as "How to use BASIC", or "Free A"

-- Just my thoughts...

bmoore

Teaching computer skills (Score:1)

by [kchayer](#) (keith_chayer@this-is-my-junk-account.hotmail.com) on Friday December 29,

@02:34PM EST (#235)

(User #161217 Info) <http://network.bbcnet.edu>

"Miss! How do I save this to disk?"

"Click there... that's it, select that..."

*The teacher was telling the kid what to click on - and he was just blindly doing it, and not learning how to *use* a computer. In my opinion, that's the wrong way to go about it.*

Boy, isn't that the truth! I am having a terrible time at my job right now--I'm fixing to move to a new job at another company, and I have to leave behind information on how they can perform all of the administration functions on our Linux mail and web servers that I do.

They want step-by-step instructions, which I can provide, but there are problems with that sometimes, for several reasons:

- What if something goes wrong? Steps of instructions only show you what to do provided things work *correctly* the first time.
- Along with that, such instructions do not teach you how to interact with the system. It's only monkey-see, monkey-do--not intelligent functioning.
- Sometimes, when I figure something out (this is usually in the case of fixing something that might be down, a server, service, or whatever), I don't *follow* a specified checklist: "Check this, check that, if you get this, then THIS is your problem." That goes back to the interaction: I interact, and make intelligent decisions based on what I see. Also, sometimes I just have to try things until something works, but unless I care to try and reproduce the problem, I don't know exactly *what* caused it to work. Was it the last thing I did, or a combination of that and other things?
- They want deafeningly simple instructions, which creates a lot of redundancy if I explain how to edit a file every time a file needs to be edited.

I can only show them so much, but beyond that, they are going to have to learn enough about the system. Leaving instructions that tells HOW to do such things as edit a file is outlandish; I should just be able to say "edit this file in /etc, add this value--then restart the process".

I learned this stuff by sitting down, wanting to do something, and figuring out how to do it. That gives *me* a difficult base to teach from, because I only know what I know out of need to do it. Realizing that some people learn differently (ie, not by experimenting like I did), I wonder just how I can leave enough behind to get them where they need to be. It comes down to the fact that they're going to have to find another qualified person--I can only do so much.

THAT's where a good teacher comes in--he can teach people to do this stuff. My CS teacher in high school was very good at this, though there has to be a combination of an inquisitive, explorative nature involved on the part of the student as well.

Now that that's nicely off-topic and over with, I'll go now. :)

"I consider this a day well seized. Tomorrow we'll seize the day AND conquer it!" -Calvin,
"Calvin and Hobbes"

Re:IT Teachers (Score:1)

by [j_snare](#) (justinSPAMmit@hotmail.SPAM.com) on Friday December 29, @03:36PM EST
(#262)

(User #220372 Info)

Oh, I know.. Back in High School (public), I took the only computer course we had, "Keyboarding". I got just short of a perfect score in that class.. There was only one thing that kept me from getting it.. One question on a 10 question test (one of 2, I think) screwed me up. "What do you use to write on a floppy disk?" I answered, "floppy disk drive" The answer was supposed to be "felt tip pen". Man, those teachers stunk. They did have those fun IR keyboards in the class though.. I don't suppose the classes have gotten better, have they?

Re:IT Teachers (Score:1)

by mdavids on Saturday December 30, @07:30PM EST (#384)
(User #143296 Info) <http://www.sneaker.net.au/~mdavids>

Everybody I know who has ever attended a computer class has had the same experience. And it's been the same for me when I've had to attend compulsory classes in some application-or-other at work.

I suspect it's driven partly by the economics of the situation: "show 'em step one, step two, step three, then shove 'em out the door in time for the next class" is a hell of a lot cheaper than genuine education.

I've been driven to apoplexy by work situations like being called on to help somebody update a web page on the corporate Intranet, and finding that the sum total of the guidance they've received from a consultant making thousands of dollars a day is a hand-written sheet of step-by-step instructions. The person has no clue what they are doing or why. They don't know what the effect of the following the instructions is. They just know that every morning, they have to go through step one, step two, step three...

This is in no way analogous to driving a car without knowing how to assemble the engine, as some people have suggested. I've worked with people whose desks have been wallpapered with post-it notes detailing every click and keypress from username and password onwards, but I have yet to see any notes stuck on a dashboard like:

GOING TO WORK - Put key in ignition (keyhole behind big round thing that turns around) - Turn key CLOCKWISE - Press button on lever thing, then press lever down...

Anybody who knows how to drive has some conceptual understanding of how cars work, even if that conceptual understanding has no resemblance to how the engine actually works.

Similarly, when we think of the contents of a hard drive as files and folders, we may know that's not actually the case, but that's the level of abstraction at which we can use them. And you'd be surprised by how many people who use computers every day have no conception of "hard drive" or even "files", they just know what they were working on yesterday is somehow "in" Excel, and they have to follow the instructions sticky-taped to their monitor to get it "out".

That's why I've started giving tutorials to friends and friends-of-friends to try and supplement the abysmal instruction they've had in the past. (Also to earn a bit of beer money. If I turn out to be any good at it I'll get some other people involved and set up as a co-op.) As easy as it is to criticise, it's harder to address the problem constructively.

I was upgrading a friend's PC yesterday, and while I was there she got me to sit down with her 12 year old son and take him through a few things. Nightmare! The blank looks I got took me right back to the blank looks I gave to my guitar teacher when I was twelve years old!

The thing to remember with children is that they are configured for play and exploration, not passive instruction, or even the sort of dialogue you hope to establish with an adult student where they will be able to tell you the direction they want to go. Worse, if the child has had some exposure to school, they've learnt that the safest strategy is to keep their mouth shut at all times.

Difficult situation. If anybody has any advice, I'll gladly listen.

- The opinions expressed in this post are my own and, one presumes, not shared by my own or any other employer. -

ehh (Score:1)

by raffe on Friday December 29, @10:37AM EST ([#45](#))

([User #28595 Info](#))

Should I comment on this? Is this really an average user? I donnt think so.

Old computers and death metal (Score:2, Insightful)

by innerFire on Friday December 29, @10:39AM EST ([#47](#))

([User #1016 Info](#)) <http://www.innerfireworks.com/>

First, I'll say that you shouldn't fret about having an `old' or `slow' computer. As long as you have a Pentium-class CPU and 32MB RAM, everything else is just cake. You can get that for around \$100 at the used computer store in my town. It's not a gaming machine--but that's actually a good thing. Games, while at their best are works of art, are often a huge waste of time that take away from your learning about computers. So don't fret--hack.

Second, check out Carcass, Cynic and Meshuggah if you haven't already. :)

-- Chris

and this, too (Score:1)

by stego on Friday December 29, @11:24AM EST ([#89](#))

([User #146071 Info](#))

If you like metal for the sound but not the lyrics, find something by Breadwinner... sick math-metal w/ no vocals. They will change you...

Re:Old computers and death metal (Score:1)

by [phutureboy](#) (phutureboy@axis80.spamsucks.com) on Friday December 29, @11:44AM EST ([#105](#))

([User #70690 Info](#)) <http://www.libertyboard.org/>

Old computers also force you to code well. I wrote a game on my Mac IIfx once, and went to great lengths to optimize it as much as possible just to get it to run acceptably on the fx. When I finally recompiled it for PowerPC... my god did it run fast. I ended up adding in a framerate setting so it could be played comfortably on everything from a IIfx to a G3.

--

[LIBERTYBOARD.ORG](#) - News for Libertarians. Stuff that's about freedom.

Re:Old computers and death metal (Score:1)

by [mvc](#) (m os s@ ha mp ar ts .c om) on Friday December 29, @12:21PM EST ([#144](#))

([User #38569 Info](#)) <http://www.sjca.edu/~mvc/>

Ah, the Mac IIfx. I've still got mine lying around somewhere. Beautiful machine. Incredibly advanced design for its time. So advanced, unfortunately, that none of the free un*x porters were able to figure out the details of its hardware. That computer must have set my Linux experience back a good two or three years, but I still love it.

--Moss

This is a .sig.

Now there are two of them.

There are two _____.

Re:Old computers and death metal (Score:1)

by [crums99](#) (crums@greengates.karoo.co.uk) on Friday December 29, @03:22PM EST (#256)

(User #30923 Info) <http://www.greengates.karoo.net/crums>

Hmm, so where does an Intel 486 SX33 w/ 8Mb RAM acting as my home network server for 5 ppl feature in this? Oh, and it runs like a dream!

---- Robert Anton Wilson: "Belief is the death of intelligence."

Re:Old computers and death metal (Score:1)

by [CaptPungent](#) (pungent@raunchytaco.com) on Friday December 29, @10:07PM EST (#334)

(User #265721 Info)

And for punk bands, try the Germs, the Melvins (metal&punk in one), and Black Flag. I don't know if you had heard of those b4, but they are the "old school" punk bands (except the Melvins are still around). I have a million bands to suggest to you, but those are yr best bets if you haven't checked them out. As far as computers go, I don't wanna say anything cuz I am not a programmer yet. I'm teaching myself and its hard when you have no one to ask questions to. Thing is, you REALLY remind me of myself at yr age, (I can't really say I am much older than you, being only 19) except I was into music and art, and my parents thought that the Internet was nothing but porn, so they wouldn't even buy a computer, lest the porn be magically beamed into it. I sent most my time in a band, writing songs, practicing, screaming (I was the singer/guitarist in a punk band, the Unabombers). But, I think being the unsocial (notice I didn't say "anti-social") type is what enables us to be able to take a step back and observe society as the ignorant sheep farm that it is, yet we are told we are wrong, different, put on Prozac and Ritalin because we are so frustrated that the only thing we can find comfort in is loud, screaming noise music, which makes our parents think we are satan worshippers or our classmates think that we're going to come to school and execute everyone. I slept through high school. I could have taken honors classes and study really hard, but what is the point? So we can "prove" that we are intelligent(in their terms)? So we can be recruited to create another weapon with energy output that rivals the sun? Hell no. I fought back. I rebelled. I SLEPT. Straight though school. And I could have graduated a semester early if it hadn't been for the stupidity of my parents, who decided it would look better to a college if I DIDN'T graduate early (??). No, school didn't matter. You seriously don't learn a damn thing that is really useful in daily life. Even if you go to college, they are going to repeat every thing you learned in high school.....

Sorry. I get carried away. That probably doesn't make sense anyway. Later

Blizzard Games (Score:1)

by [Chacham](#) (SPAMBLOCK.Maxwell_Smart@ThePentagon.com.SPAMBLOCK) on Friday

December 29, @10:39AM EST (#48)

(User #981 Info)

StarCraft and Diablo (1 not 2) can be played under VMWare just fine. If you willing to spend the hundred dollars or so for it, it is very nice.

It's a bird, it's insane, no, it's Tux! Mild mannered penguin. Biting for Truth, the Justice Department, & the Linux way

Re:Blizzard Games (Score:1)

by HiNote on Friday December 29, @11:01AM EST ([#69](#))
([User #238314 Info](#))

Actually VMWare is up to \$300 now. No more hobbyest pricing. That really sucks.

Re:Blizzard Games (Score:1)

by [AGTiny](#) (tiny+slashdot@nospam.kahncentral.net) on Friday December 29, @11:44AM EST
([#104](#))
([User #104967 Info](#)) <http://www.kahncentral.net>

Heh, on his P166?

Re:Blizzard Games (Score:1)

by [Chacham](#) (SPAMBLOCK.Maxwell_Smart@ThePentagon.com.SPAMBLOCK) on Friday December 29, @12:00PM EST ([#125](#))
([User #981 Info](#))

Yes. I've seen it run a a PentiumPro 200. Yeah, I know it's a bit better, but Linux will run it just fine, especially NT. It's really memory that you need to dedicate.

It's a bird, it's insane, no, it's Tux! Mild mannered penguin. Biting for Truth, the Justice Department, & the Linux way

I'm a bit surprised... (Score:2)

by TheNecromancer on Friday December 29, @10:39AM EST ([#49](#))
([User #179644 Info](#))

that no one asked our average Slashdot user what his thought are about the Internet being used as a pr0n loader, or for that matter, if he downloads pr0n(like he would admit it).

Attention all planets of the Solar Federation! We have assumed control! - Neil Peart

Re:I'm a bit surprised... (Score:4, Funny)

by cannong on Friday December 29, @10:48AM EST ([#58](#))
([User #228134 Info](#))

Why would you be surprised? He's male right? He doesn't have a girlfriend and he has four free hours a night. He also has the resources of the internet or a custom pr0n mag.

I think the rest of the readers (along with myself) just assumed the obvious, OF COURSE!! Who hasn't?

Now then, does anyone have the link to the Pamela / Tommy Lee video??

People who think they know everything are annoying to those of us who do

Re:I'm a bit surprised... (Score:1)

by [Rares Marian](#) (rmarian@winblowsstart.com) on Friday December 29, @ 11:39AM EST ([#98](#))
[\(User #83629 Info\)](#)

Maybe that's cuz there's no pr0n on the net anymore. Just pr0n used to advertise pr0n that doesn't exist.

Caught signal SIGSIG read this comment again.

am i a nerd?? (Score:2, Interesting)

by [canning](#) on Friday December 29, @ 10:42AM EST ([#51](#))
[\(User #228134 Info\)](#)

some of the postings now and in the past refer to people being anti-social and nerds. I don't consider myself a nerd and never had. I had lots of friends in high school, played on various sports teams, made the honour role year after year and also developed an interest in business and computers.

I work in the computer industry and was just wondering.....does one have to live, sleep and breath computers to make it big?

And is there such a thing nowadays as the stereotypical nerd? What are they like now?

People who think they know everything are annoying to those of us who do

Re:am i a nerd?? (Score:2, Insightful)

by [gavinmead](#) (meads@mindspring.com) on Friday December 29, @ 11:11AM EST ([#80](#))
[\(User #112093 Info\)](#)

I am in high school/college now and consider myself a nerd. Not because I am anti-social or have no friends; quite the opposite. I spend most of my free time with friends who are not majorly into computers. However, there is a constant track of my mind wondering, "What's the latest post on Slashdot?" "When is 2.4 REALLY coming out?" "Is my box still up? I sure hope so... damned DDoS" I think it's a state of mind that indicates your entry into nerd-dom. --Gavin

Re:am i a nerd?? (Score:1)

by SubtleNuance on Friday December 29, @05:03PM EST (#293)

(User #184325 Info)

played on various sports teams, made the honour role year after year and also developed an interest in business and computers

the computer industry

to make it big

Frankly - you sound like an asshole. I hope your not the average /. reader - you appear to be shallow, self centered and overly concerned with money.

Quick: Whats more important? A)Appearing Fashionable B) Having a green lawn C)
Understanding the universe around you

[End Plurality Voting.](#)

Try Mr. Bungle (Score:1)

by Wordman on Friday December 29, @10:42AM EST (#52)

(User #79573 Info) <http://pobox.com/~wordman>

Based on Clinton's musical preferences, I think he would *really* like Mr. Bungle's first album (which is also called *Mr.Bungle*). Extremely tight composition (by John Zorn) and you just can't loose with songs like "Girls of Porn" and "My Ass Is On Fire". Cannibal Corpse, on the other hand...

Re:Try Mr. Bungle (Score:1)

by rotor on Friday December 29, @11:10AM EST (#77)

(User #82928 Info)

The composition on the first Mr. Bungle album was not done by John Zorn. He produced the album, and if you're lucky enough to have the studio outtakes from the recording sessions for that album you can hear him take a sax solo on Love Is A Fist. All composition was done by the band themselves. I do agree that Clinton might like them though. He seems to like extreme stuff with good musicianship, and this is the about the best. Also, check out Dog Fashion Disco. Similar stuff from the D.C. area (perhaps a bit of a cross between them, Faith No More, and Clutch), and their first CD on Spitfire records should be out this spring.

Oh, and if you don't have the studio outtakes from Mr. Bungle, try to find it - the version of Platypus that appears on it is worth it alone, and there are some true gems on there (picture them doing Tom Jones' Thunderball =)

-
Check out [Loudwerkz](#) for the latest news and dicussion on loud music.

BUNGLE RULES (Score:1)

by [Stu Charlton](#) (stuartcharlton@hotmail.com) on Sunday December 31, @ 12:47PM EST ([#388](#))
([User #1311 Info](#))

love is a fist.

-Stu

What for? (Score:3, Interesting)

by [waldoj](#) ([waldo\(at\)waldo.net](mailto:waldo(at)waldo.net)) on Friday December 29, @ 10:43AM EST ([#54](#))
([User #8229 Info](#)) <http://www.waldo.net/>

No offense intended to the interview subject (really, I mean that), but what was the point of this? Somebody wrote, half-kidding, that we don't actually have any idea if this is really representative of the average /. user, which I think is actually a good point. Because if Clinton isn't the average /. user, then it's just "Interview With Some Guy."

I guess what I'm reall asking is this: What brought this on? How did this come to be?

-Waldo

Re:What for? (Score:1)

by usa35.com on Friday December 29, @ 02:41PM EST ([#237](#))
([User #232511 Info](#))

This whole piece has absolutely nothing to do with "who is Clinton..." or "who is the average /. user." Although, I think it's just as interesting to hear about Clinton as it is Brittany Spears (but probably not as interesting to look at.).

It's brings on a deeper examination of "who are the people on slashdot, and what are my commonalities/differences with them?" Sort of a "why am I here, aside from the useful information /. provides?"

Plural of LEGO is LEGO (Score:3, Funny)

by NoseyNick on Friday December 29, @ 10:48AM EST ([#59](#))
([User #19946 Info](#)) <http://www.nilex.co.uk/~nick/>

Why do **SO** many people pretend "I (used to) play with legos" - it's **WRONG WRONG WRONG**. The plural of LEGO is LEGO. "I have lots of lego". If you **INSIST** on adding an "s", try "I have a lot of lego bricks"

sorry, pet peeve.

Nick Waterman. Senior Sysadmin, So-net. #include <stddisclaimer>

Re:Plural of LEGO is LEGO (Score:2, Funny)

by [DocStoner](#) (yourwifeis@myhouse.com) on Friday December 29, @11:21AM EST (#87)

([User #236199 Info](#))

Relax...

"LEGOs" is not plural for LEGO. It is slang for "LEGO bricks".

"You don't have to impress them. You just have to make them think." - Doc

Re:Plural of LEGO is LEGO (Score:1)

by queef on Friday December 29, @11:44AM EST (#106)

([User #39232 Info](#))

Tell me, is there a hyphen between anal and retentive?

-- queef

Re:Plural of LEGO is LEGO (Score:1)

by lethal91 on Friday December 29, @11:46AM EST (#109)

([User #263165 Info](#)) <http://www.unholylrouter.com>

Dude, if that is the biggest frustration you run into...

There is no guarantee that the content has been read or understood.

Re:Plural of LEGO is LEGO (Score:5, Insightful)

by [Kyobu](#) (david.planbdes@com) on Friday December 29, @12:43PM EST (#164)

([User #12511 Info](#)) <http://www.planbdes.com/kyobu/>

Because in the language we speak, lego is a noun, not a trademark. Do you say, "I need a Kleenex® facial tissue?" No, you say, "I need a kleenex." Certain trademarked words have become part of the language, and that's just *too damn bad* for the companies that used to own them. I ain't havin' no Swedish executive tellin' me how t' talk. (Disclaimer: I got nothing against Swedes.)

Switch the . and the @ to email me.

Re:Plural of LEGO is LEGO (Score:4, Funny)

by mapletree on Friday December 29, @01:42PM EST (#208)

([User #85582 Info](#))

Actually, Legos are Danish. Legos are Denmark's largest export product, followed by dairy products and herring. Notice the lack os an s on herring. Herring is one of the **real** unaltered plurals in the English language.

Re:Plural of LEGO is LEGO (Score:2)

by [Kyobu](#) (david.planbdes@com) on Saturday December 30, @01:51AM EST (#355)

([User #12511 Info](#)) <http://www.planbdes.com/kyobu/>

I didn't say it was a Danish company. How do you know there aren't any Swedes working there? Are you saying Danes are racist? No, seriously, I'm sorry I confused the Swedes and Norwegians. Sorry. I couldn't resist that one. I didn't mean to hurt anyone's feelings. Anyway, if you noticed, that part of my post was meant to be a little humorous.
Switch the . and the @ to email me.

Re:Plural of LEGO is LEGO (Score:1, Funny)

by Anonymous Coward on Friday December 29, @12:53PM EST ([#172](#))

No no no. Completely wrong.

The plural of Kleenex is *obviously* either:

Kleenexen or *Kleenii*

Re:Plural of LEGO is LEGO (Score:1)

by [Dwonis](#) (dlitz[IBoycottSpam]@dlitz[spamsucks].net) on Friday December 29, @02:30PM EST ([#233](#))

(User #52652 Info) <http://www.dlitz.net/>

Why shouldn't I say, "I need some kleenexes"?

Genius dies of the same blow that destroys liberty.

-- Tacitus

Re:Plural of LEGO is LEGO (UK/US thing again?) (Score:1)

by Ella the Cat on Friday December 29, @06:17PM EST ([#304](#))

(User #133841 Info) <http://www.shevek.f9.co.uk>

I see you're from the UK from your URL, as am I. I never say "legos" with an s, and I'd feel safe to say most people in the UK wouldn't either, but I've noticed a lot of people on /. do, so I'd guess you're objecting to US usage. Vive la difference!

"It is quite possible that an initrd will be used for more sophisticated things than access to /." - SuSE 7.0

Ritalin (Score:5, Insightful)

by [Alioth](#) (usenetreplies@alioth.net) on Friday December 29, @11:01AM EST ([#68](#))

(User #221270 Info) <http://www.alioth.net>

Well, I think I became anti-social first. They said I had ADD, and they put me on ritalin. I promptly stopped interacting with other people (after I got off of it, I started returning to normalcy).

That really irks me badly. Idiot lusers who want kids to conform to their definition of "normal" so use the magic bullet - put 'em on drugs.

I missed that horrible fate myself by a hair's breadth. When I was 14, my school forced my parents to take me to the doctor for evaluation (or I'd get expelled). Fortunately, our local doctor had a clue and told my mother, "Mrs. Smith, your son is a perfectly normal geek, and his school is all fscked up" but in more flowery language of course. The fact the sheeple did this to you, frankly, annoys the heck out of me. It annoyed the heck out of me when they tried to do it to me, too.

It's a good thing my doctor did have a clue. A misdiagnosis of ADD and the treatment it would involve would have barred me from my other great passion in life - flying - because the FAA would have a hell of a time issuing my medical if that was the case.

Maintain thine airspeed lest the ground come up and smite thee

Re:Ritalin (Score:3, Insightful)

by Don Negro on Friday December 29, @11:24AM EST ([#90](#))

([User #1069 Info](#))

The FAA has never had any problem issuing my medicals, ADD diagnosis, ritalin script and all.

Of course, when I was in puberty, ritalin made me damned near psychotic -- angry all the time and prone to violent outbursts that left me wondering what was going on, even as they were occurring. So I got off of it, but got a new prescription sophomore year of college. It is a really useful tool for adult ADDs, but taking it regularly, 2 or 3 times a day would be somewhat counterproductive, for me at least, because coming down leaves your brain as numb as a 7 hour cross-country.

Ritalin is really useful for people who **are** ADD. The problem is that only maybe 25% of ADD diagnoses are accurate.

Don Negro

Abstract Artist, Concrete Analyst, Ruthless Bookie

Re:Ritalin (Score:3, Interesting)

by chown on Friday December 29, @01:18PM EST ([#195](#))

([User #62159 Info](#))

Ritalin is really useful for people who are ADD. The problem is that only maybe 25% of ADD diagnoses are accurate.

Here, Here. When I was in school I was of the opinion that ritalin was merely a vehicle for the pharmaceutical companies to fill their pockets either more, and children were easy targets. I mean, what parent would deny their children the chance to be "normal" if all it takes is a little pill?

Now that I'm an adult, and after I've had some rather serious psychological problems that very nearly drove me the point of needing hospitalization, I'm a little more lenient with my views on drugs for mental health. Among other things, my shrink diagnosed me with ADD, and I laughed at first. But after being on wellbutrin for a while, I think he's right. I still don't think I should have been on anything in high school, however. I'd probably still be wasting my time in college and doing what society told me I should be doing, instead of doing what I actually wanted to do. I think adult ADD should probably be treated, and it's not a bad thing. I think it's probably also diagnosed more accurately.

Just my 2 (drugged :) cents.

Re:Ritalin (Score:2)

by [AugstWest](#) (fnord@no.spam.dammit.biteme.com) on Friday December 29, @03:52PM EST (#270)

([User #79042 Info](#))

I took ritalin for the last 4 years of my 9 year stint at college.

It was the only way I was going to pay attention long enough to the drivel that I was forced to sit through -- yes, some of it was fun, but for the most part it was just painful. I have trouble respecting and therefore paying attention to things that try to make me conform.

At any rate, I've since graduated and have been free of all stimulants (even caffeine) for quite some time now, with no problems whatsoever.

It was a necessary evil to get me a degree. Which, when all is said and done, I am honestly glad I got. But I don't need it anymore, and am much happier without it.

I love my country, but I fear my government.

Re:Ritalin (Score:1)

by shayne321 on Friday December 29, @01:58PM EST (#218)

([User #106803 Info](#)) <http://sh.birmingham.al.us/>

Of course, when I was in puberty, ritalin made me damned near psychotic -- angry all the time and prone to violent outbursts that left me wondering what was going on, even as they were occurring.

Eh? I thought this was *everyone's* adolescence.. :) It was certanly mine and I was never on ritalin.

Shayne

"Today it was a good day, I didn't even have to use my AK" - Icecube

Re:Ritalin (Score:2, Interesting)

by [phutureboy](#) (phutureboy@axis80.spamsucks.com) on Friday December 29, @11:35AM EST (#96)

(User #70690 Info) <http://www.libertyboard.org/>

Pisses me off too. Most of the time it seems to happen when the kid can't sit still in class, and the teacher suggests to the parents that the kid might have ADD and need to be put on Ritalin. That happened to me - I was on Ritalin for 2 weeks but Momz took me off it cause she didn't like the effect it had on me. She said it was a big mistake to put me on it in the first place, and I'm glad she recognized that.

I couldn't sit still in class because it was mad boring. Maybe rote learning works for some people, but I can't deal with it. I like to think and understand, not just memorize facts some monotone-talkin' teacher wrote on a chalkboard.

So yeah, it's downright unconscionable that such a large percentage of kids get doped up on Ritalin so they can pay attention in class. It's the schools that need to be fixed, not the kids.

--

[LIBERTYBOARD.ORG](#) - News for Libertarians. Stuff that's about freedom.

Re:Ritalin (Score:2, Interesting)

by [Coplan](#) (coplan.ic@rcn.com) on Friday December 29, @11:47AM EST (#110)

(User #13643 Info) <http://www.scenespot.org>

I had a similar experience. My teacher thought I was ADD and that I would need Ritalin. My doctor, however, is one who carefully diagnoses everything. He did diagnose me as being somewhat hyper-active. At the age of 9, that's pretty normal -- according to him. His prescription? He gave my parents a bunch of sports and activities in my area. I started Soccer immediately, then later Gymnastics and finally Swimming. I wasted a lot of energy swimming every day -- and my teacher loved that I wasn't so energetic in class anymore.

ADD is the most inaccurately diagnosed disorder in the nation (US -- no international stats, sorry). 74% of all ADD diagnoses have been found to be incorrect. That is to say that 74% of the people out there useing Ritalin (or some other focusing drug) shouldn't be useing it. Another interesting fact: 28% of all Bipolar II cases (clinical depression) were at one time

useing Ritalin.

What is this society doing?

--C

Soccer is Good Mmm-kay (Score:2)

by [sulli](#) (slashdot_comments at sulli dot org) on Friday December 29, @03:08PM EST ([#250](#))
(User #195030 Info) <http://www.sulli.org>

Definitely. When I was a pretty active kid (as kids SHOULD be, damn it!) I suddenly found myself playing soccer most days, which was strenuous enough to keep me and the other kids calm. I wasn't that good at it, but landing in the mud while struggling for the ball sure was fun.

If/when I have kids I'll make sure they have ample opportunities to play sports. This will keep the Ritalin away - and it's healthy too!

(By the way: you *can* play soccer and be a geek at the same time. Not difficult. On topic: does the subject of the interview, by chance?)

sulli

Re:Ritalin (Score:2)

by [lemonx](#) (rvf at mindspring dot com) on Tuesday January 02, @02:51PM EST ([#395](#))
(User #126382 Info)

ADD is the most inaccurately diagnosed disorder in the nation (US -- no international stats, sorry).

Apparently, kids in Europe must be "immune" to ADD; there are little to no diagnoses of it there at all. ADD is something America specific, most of the rest of the world sees it as bad science.

Re:Ritalin (Score:1)

by [Coplan](#) (coplan.ic@rcn.com) on Wednesday January 03, @04:14PM EST ([#398](#))
(User #13643 Info) <http://www.scenespot.org>

ADD (Attention Deficit Disorder) is a common name for a psychological disorder -- in english, mind you. It only seems natural that it might be called something different in Europe. The clinical terms used in the US might differ from that of the rest of the world.

I wouldn't call it "bad science" necessarily to diagnose someone with ADD. In certain situations, ADD is definately a serious problem. In a certain amount of those cases, things like Ritalin might be necessary. But the truth is, most diagnoses are incorrect -- and most properly diagnosed cases do not need drug such as Ritalin to solve the problem. Severe cases might, but other cases can be solved with somewhat more physical / natural means.

Re:Ritalin (Score:2)

by [lemax](#) (rvf at mindspring dot com) on Thursday January 04, @12:02PM EST (#399)
(User #126382 Info)

"European children seem immune to the disease so the market for Ritalin is largely confined to America."

Dr. James Keirsey - [The Great A.D.D. Hoax](#)

Before you dismiss Keirsey as some crackpot, I suggest you read some of his other material. He is one of the most respected psychologists in the country. Plus, his suggested treatment for children misdiagnosed with A.D.D. makes a hell of a lot more sense than pumping them full of Ritalin.

Drugs are Bad Mmm-kay (Score:2)

by [sulli](#) (slashdot_comments at sulli dot org) on Friday December 29, @11:48AM EST (#113)
(User #195030 Info) <http://www.sulli.org>

Thank heavens they didn't have Ritalin when I was a kid. I was one of those smart but disruptive ones in first and second grade - often got nasty notes to my parents saying I was mouthing off in class - and had they put me on Ritalin I am **sure** I would have learned much less.

sulli

Re:Drugs are Bad Mmm-kay (Score:1)

by faster on Friday December 29, @01:03PM EST (#185)
(User #21765 Info)

You may have learned less, but would other people in your class have had an opportunity to learn MORE?

I met a psychologist a few years back who suggested putting all the smart/disruptive people in a special school so they couldn't screw up the learning opportunities for everyone else. He was ridiculed for this non-PC idea, but can you suggest a better one?

Re:Drugs are Bad Mmm-kay (Score:1)

by [qonsense](#) (ncardozo-at-cats-dot-ucsc-dot-edu) on Friday December 29, @02:27PM EST

(#230)

(User #12235 Info) <http://qnone.com/>

You may have learned less, but would other people in your class have had an opportunity to learn MORE? I met a psychologist a few years back who suggested putting all the smart/disruptive people in a special school so they couldn't screw up the learning opportunities for everyone else. He was ridiculed for this non-PC idea, but can you suggest a better one?

Yes. Train teachers better. A good teacher knows how to deal with those sorts of kids (like me) and *give them stuff to do so they aren't bored off their asses!*

That's all.

"There comes a time in every man's life when he must say, 'No Mother, I do not want any more Jell-O!'"

Re:Drugs are Bad Mmm-kay (Score:2)

by [sulli](#) (slashdot_comments at sulli dot org) on Friday December 29, @03:01PM EST (#245)

(User #195030 Info) <http://www.sulli.org>

A good teacher knows how to deal with those sorts of kids (like me) and give them stuff to do so they aren't bored off their asses!

Correct. And that's exactly what the better teachers started doing with me - which is why I got an excellent education, particularly in the earlier grades. The teachers who *didn't* get it were the ones who ended up with a bored, cranky kid; those who *did* made all the difference (and had more fun too).

sulli

Re:Drugs are Bad Mmm-kay (Score:2)

by [dillon_rinker](#) (dillonunderscorerinkeratmaildotcom) on Friday December 29, @03:44PM

EST (#267)

(User #17944 Info) <http://slashdot.org>

Train teachers better.

Or, in other words, rework the teacher education curriculum, require education majors to meet higher standards, make them take more courses, attend more practicums, etc. This will make it harder to become a teacher. Intelligent people will say "Gee, I can follow this stringent, rigorous course of study and be paid \$19,000 a year, or I can go into engineering and be paid \$40,000 a year."

It's not enough to merely train teachers better. If you set the bar higher but don't pay teachers better, you will lose teachers.

Here's my plan:

- Step 1: Double every teacher's salary
- Step 2: Double the number of teachers
- Step 3: Eliminate the dead wood.

Note that step three will likely require firing everyone who was a teacher before step 1.

There are very few exceptions to the old saw that states "Those who can, do. Those who can't, teach. And those who can't teach, teach teachers."

And to answer your question, no, the time I spent as a public school teacher didn't make me bitter or cynical at all.

Re:Ritalin (Score:1)

bynofud on Friday December 29, @11:59AM EST ([#124](#))
([User #238832 Info](#))

They said I had ADD, and they put me on ritalin.

they put you on ritalin because you played Advanced Dunjon & Dragon?

seems like I'm lucky having being raised in Europe...

-- we need more low-maintenance pets

Re:Ritalin (Score:1)

by [IRNI](#) (irni@mightwannaremovethis.irni.net) on Friday December 29, @12:57PM EST ([#177](#))
([User #5906 Info](#)) <http://www.irni.net>

what irks me is everyone's total bashing of the real benifits of ritalin in some cases. Yes it is overdiagnosed but it certainly helped me. I could not concentrate in school at all. This was before A.D.D. was a buzz word anyway. But they put me on ritalin 5mg twice a day and I was finally able to focus and made very very good grades until I got to public school... it was bad boy time for a little while... hanginin out with morons... i learned my lesson and went back to private school, took my ritalin and graduated salutatorian. Through this time I learned to deal with my problem without the use of ritalin and am now very capable of concentrating without it. But I do thank my doctors for prescribing it to me. It helped so very much.

Re:Ritalin (Score:1)

by [qonsense](#) (ncardozo-at-cats-dot-ucsc-dot-edu) on Friday December 29, @02:47PM EST (#238)

(User #12235 Info) <http://qnone.com/>

High School sucks. There was a Princeton study some time in the middle 90s that showed that there was NO link between good grades in High School and success anywhere at any time. I'm glad you made salutatorian. It means a lot to some people and if you were helped by it, that's great (I'm not being sarcastic). But, ***it means nothing.***

I had a 2.9 GPA in High School. My teachers hated me (execpt for the GOOD ones: Mrs. Jago, you're a GOD) because I didn't do their stupid busy work. They wanted to put me on ritalin just to shut me up when I complained that I wasn't learning anything in their moronic classes. Thank god they didn't (my parents are smart). I took five AP exams and got 5s on all of them, and got 1470 on my SAT (800 Verbal, 670 Math). I had a decent time in High School and a great senior year. But, once again: *High School sucks. It MEANS NOTHING .*

I'm now at UC Santa Cruz (sophomore, double major in Physical Anthropology and International Politics) and have a 3.9 GPA. My profs are actually smart human beings and I do the work they assign because it's not stupid.

To all you High School kids out there: if you're having a shitty time in High School, don't worry, it gets a lot better. If you're having a good time in High School, just wait, it gets even better. Don't loose hope.

"There comes a time in every man's life when he must say, 'No Mother, I do not want any more Jell-O!'"

Re:Ritalin (Score:1)

by [harhar](#) ([fuzzybri\(spamproofed\)hotmail\(spamproofed\)com](mailto:fuzzybri(spamproofed)hotmail(spamproofed)com)) on Friday December 29, @03:17PM EST (#254)

(User #91353 Info)

most people, not even salutatorians, do not get that high of an SAT score. those who do not ace the SATs, must perform well in school, doing busy work, if they do want to get into college. I would like to propose, that high school means nothing to you, but it does mean something to others.

\$var = <STDIN>

\$var =~ s/\\$\\$/;

this is slashchomp

Re:Ritalin (Score:2, Informative)

by BeanThere on Friday December 29, @12:58PM EST (#178)

(User #28381 Info) <http://www.geocities.com/SoHo/Lofts/2018/>

Speak for yourself. Maybe you didn't belong on Ritalin, but it really irks me when people start trying to decide for other people that drugs are not good for anyone. For many people drugs are basically lifesavers - they help a great many people - where do you get off assuming that these people 'did a bad thing' to Clinton? Do you know *anything* about his ADD case? Why do you assume automatically that his case was anything like yours?

I'm not ADD, but I used to be unipolar (depression), and you see all the same sort of ignorant anti-drug arguments. No two cases are quite the same - some people might not need drugs, but for many people it is the only option. Please don't attempt to be the judge of what is right for other people.

"... insert the Windows NT Workstation 4.0 compact disc with your computer turned off." - NT Installation Manual

Re:Ritalin (Score:1)

by [qonsense](#) (ncardozo-at-cats-dot-ucsc-dot-edu) on Friday December 29, @02:53PM EST

(#240)

(User #12235 Info) <http://qnone.com/>

Maybe you didn't belong on Ritalin, but it really irks me when people start trying to decide for other people that drugs are not good for anyone... No two cases are quite the same - some people might not need drugs...

No. Most people don't need them. As [stated earlier](#), 74% of ADD cases are inaccurately diagnosed. Have you seen what ritalin does to someone who doesn't need it? It's awful. It really is. And **three quarters** of those who are on it don't need it. So yes. We do assume. But, chances are, we're right.

"There comes a time in every man's life when he must say, 'No Mother, I do not want any more Jell-O!'"

As stated.... (Score:1)

by [mplex](#) ([janus\(@\)mplex\(.\)cx](mailto:janus(@)mplex(.)cx)) on Saturday December 30, @12:25PM EST (#379)

(User #19482 Info) <http://mplex.cx>

Where do these statistics come from? Most people I know diagnosed with ADD have ADD. I have questions about a few but most are clear cases. So clear it's scary sometimes. I have severe ADD combined with a great deal of smarts and if it wasn't for my adderall (dextroamphetamine -- **JFK brand speed**) I couldn't survive. School was a joke for me but work is completely different. I think most mental diseases are a joke, ADD is just the current target. People get all worked up over the same as cocaine classification. Drugs aren't good or bad, they just are. If the shoe fits...deal with it.

"Every mighty oak was once just a nut who stood his ground."

Re:Ritalin (Score:4, Insightful)

by [Alioth](#) (usenetreplies@alioth.net) on Friday December 29, @03:04PM EST (#248)

(User #221270 Info) <http://www.alioth.net>

I'm not trying to decide for other people that drugs are not good for anyone. I am not anti-drug. The **correct** drug used for a **correctly-diagnosed** condition is great. If the right drug is being used for the right condition, great benefits can be reaped. For example, using antibiotics for a bacterial infection - great benefits. But using antibiotics for a viral infection is not only wrong, it doesn't do any good. It just seems to me that the balance is being struck *wrong* when 75% of the cases are misdiagnosed (and so 75% of the people on the drugs - ie the vast majority - shouldn't be on drugs at all or are suffering from something else and should be on a totally different drug altogether).

Can't concentrate in a class that's so stultifyingly boring that even the morons are losing the plot? He's got ADD, put him on Ritalin.

Have a common cold? Put him on antibiotics (never mind that antibiotics do **nothing** for viral infections).

It just appears from where I'm sitting that over-prescription - using drugs as the silver bullet - runs a bit rampant, that's all.

I don't remember what this scenario is called, but it goes something like this:

1. Something must be done
2. This is something
3. Therefore we will do this.

which is like saying:

1. My dog has four legs.
2. A cat has four legs
3. Therefore my dog is a cat.

It seems a lot of time, teachers see a kid who's bored, maybe a bit of a smart-ass who talks a lot, and Something Must Be Done. They tell the parents, "Oh he's got ADD" as the Something in question. And the chain of misdiagnosis begins.

Maintain thine airspeed lest the ground come up and smite thee

Re:Ritalin (Score:1)

by Anomie-ous Cow-ard on Friday December 29, @10:10PM EST ([#335](#))

([User #18944 Info](#))

AOL! Ritalin does help some people, but a lot of the time it's just "this kid doesn't bow to any and all authority, drug him!"

I don't remember what this scenario is called, but it goes something like this:

1. *Something must be done*
2. *This is something*
3. *Therefore we will do this.*

Fallacy of Four Terms, with Equivocation

A few examples: "Nothing is better than steak (sorry vegetarians). Hot dogs are better than nothing. Therefore, hot dogs are better than steak." "Nobody can do it. I am nobody. Therefore, i can do it!"

1. *My dog has four legs.*
2. *A cat has four legs*
3. *Therefore my dog is a cat.*

That's an Undistributed Middle, a different kind of logical fallacy.

This virus cannot be run in DOS mode.

Re:Ritalin (Score:1, Redundant)

by jnik on Friday December 29, @01:19PM EST ([#197](#))

([User #1733 Info](#))

That really irks me badly. Idiot lusers who want kids to conform to their definition of "normal" so use the magic bullet - put 'em on drugs.

Tell that to someone I know whose life has been completely fucked up because he refuses to take his Ritalin. You *need* it sometimes, okay?

Re:Ritalin (Score:2)

by jafac on Friday December 29, @01:29PM EST ([#201](#))

([User #1449 Info](#))

I remember being sent to a psychologist to see why I was such an underachiever in school. Around age 9 or 10 or so.

They didn't figure it out, but at least the ritalin perscription (which was definately not in vogue in those years, as it has been in recent years) wasn't pushed. No telling what I would be like now.

"Florida? But that's America's wang!" - Homer Simpson

Re:Ritalin (Score:1)

by [Fluid Truth](#) (dave@spamsbakedbeansandspam.oksner.org) on Friday December 29,

@03:23PM EST ([#258](#))

([User #100316 Info](#))

There's a lot of anti-ritalin sentiment. I think that's very misdirected. If you want to complain about anything, complain about all the doctors who prescribed it when they shouldn't have.

I was fortunate enough to have my doctor prescribe it for me. There *are* cases where it is appropriate. Where some people either learned less or just speculate that they would have learned less, I learned more. I stopped screwing around in class and actually started paying attention and learning.

Many years later, I tried not taking it. I wasn't quite ready; I had to wait another 6 months. After that, I was fine. I went from a troublemaker to a geek in the span of about a year. :-)

Re:Ritalin (Score:2, Informative)

by [Alioth](#) (usenetreplies@alioth.net) on Friday December 29, @05:48PM EST ([#298](#))

([User #221270 Info](#)) <http://www.alioth.net>

There's a lot of anti-ritalin sentiment. I think that's very misdirected. If you want to complain about anything, complain about all the doctors who prescribed it when they shouldn't have.

Don't take my comment as anti-Ritalin, or anti-any kind of drug. My complaint is very much about misdiagnosis. Misdiagnosis is a potentially serious error, whether in engineering or medicine. That and using drugs merely "because something must be done and this is something" instead of proper diagnosis and proper prescription of the correct drug for the condition in question.

[Maintain thine airspeed lest the ground come up and smite thee](#)

Re:Ritalin (Score:1)

by bartok on Friday December 29, @06:25PM EST (#306)

(User #111886 Info) <http://www.citeweb.net/montreal/>

Yeah well I diagnosed ADD on myself when I was 23 years old and believe me, if I had been diagnosed with it at an early age, my entire life would have been different. Now I have to build up a new personality at 24 years old that is not based on lack of self esteem and all the problems that stem from being different from everybody else when you're young. You have to be careful how you judge people who's kids are on Ritalin because even though they may not actually have ADD, the fact remains that it's very hard to diagnose so, yes, mistakes are made but the press never mentions the good news when the drug actually fixes someone's life.

PCXL Forever!

Finally.. Someone like me glorified! (Score:5, Interesting)

by [digsean](#) (digsean@plexi.com) on Friday December 29, @11:11AM EST (#79)

(User #19076 Info) <http://www.travelape.com>

Finally, Slashdot did something close to a human interest story!

I am a 15 year old in South Jersey who lives a life near to Clinton's. Waking up on my Christmas Vacation to read something about (what i would consider to be) a down to earth guy answering questions like he WAS some superstar just fills me with vitality, showing that my generation of hackers, coders, geeks, losers, punks, and freaks are cared about and important out of their small social circles.

To all my akin freaks and geeks in the world, I would like to extend my thoughts and motivation to you.

However much of a loser you think you are, you are important. You may think you are the greatest thing in the world. You're not. But, you are better than your average teenager, with the ability to grasp your future in the present. Go out, get a job. Go over to your local ISP or webhosting company, work for free or cheap. Get business experience. Use the talents that you have been developing most of your lives. Be competitive, and do honest work.

However you may feel about yourself, there IS someone out there for you. Personally, I have been involved with Anneliese for nearly a year now, and she is the best thing that has ever happened to me (read my bio). Don't be discouraged. Ask that girl (or guy) out that you like. Don't let it go!.

To the Slashdot team:

Thank you for doing this. You have done a great service to the community giving this guy a chance to become a pseudo-celeb., getting maybe his 15 minutes of fame (Maybe, it's just his first 15 seconds)

I hope you do this again.

I hope my rant has not been in vein, and that someone reads and understands what I am trying

to say.

--Sean

Re:Finally.. Someone like me glorified! (Score:4, Insightful)

by wesmills on Friday December 29, @ 12:26PM EST (#152)

(User #18791 Info) <http://www.wyvern.org>

However you may feel about yourself, there IS someone out there for you. Personally, I have been involved with Anneliese for nearly a year now, and she is the best thing that has ever happened to me (read my bio). Don't be discouraged. Ask that girl (or guy) out that you like. Don't let it go!.

I have to second this emphatically. I spent most of my high school career believing (sometimes rightfully so) that I was so completely different that there wasn't anyone I could associate with, much less relate to on an intimate level. In a way, I was right, because it wasn't until I was out of high school, into college, and met someone. Amazingly enough, we met online, through IRC no less, and have been excellent friends and a great couple for over a year.

One of the things you never think you "need" is companionship, and in the past I would have been the first to agree with you. However, once you have that special someone, you'll realize you never want to go back.

People speak badly of meeting someone online out of fear that a person won't accurately describe who they are, and that they'll fall for a false image. That's a very true reality, but just remember that choosing someone to be with is like every other choice in life: no one's making you do it, and don't settle for anything less than perfect for both of you. There's nothing wrong with meeting online. Much like people meet others whom they are compatible with in bookstores or class, you stand a much better chance of meeting someone you'll get along with if you both frequent the same areas. Cari and I are real examples of this. :)

So have fun, and don't forget to make sure your life is fulfilling in all aspects, not just computers.

This is my mirror.

wow .. he's ME (Score:1)

by [pezpunk](#) (pezpunk@aol.com) on Friday December 29, @ 11:13AM EST (#81)

(User #205653 Info) <http://www.theslaves.com>

wild.

i guess that makes me the typical /. user...

i could live a little longer in this prison

Music (Score:3, Insightful)

by Ergo2000 on Friday December 29, @ 11:27AM EST ([#92](#))

([User #203269 Info](#))

Pop music isn't bad. It's worse than that. It is horrible. I say, down with pop...I really like independent bands...I really like bands like cannibal corpse, cryptopsy, NiN, orgy, the offspring, NoFX, rage against the machine

Good day to you! Excellent replies though I do take issue with the evaluation of music. Firstly NiN, Offspring, RATM : That **IS** Pop. No matter how you slice it that's no less pop than Britney Spears. I'm not saying that devalues their musical capabilities or contribution in **any** way (because I don't think that way), but just as an FYI. It's like back in the mid 90s when "Alternative" music comprised the vast majority of radio play. Alternative? Uh...

Secondly what does the *independent bands* moniker contribute to the music? Seriously this reminds me of a discussion I had with a friend some time back. We both were fans of a certain band and he then revealed to me that he was becoming less of a fan because the band was "becoming too popular". Huh? Too popular? How does that affect if you like the music or if it strikes a chord or you can empathize with it? Not liking something because it's popular is **just as bad** as liking it **because** it's popular. The throngs of weenies screaming for Boys to Men are no worse than the "counter-culture" lackeys in the shadows dissing all those pop mavens. There was an excellent suck.com article on this but I don't have the link handy: Anyone have it by chance?

Additionally the moment someone thinks "Music today is all noise and boom boom boom" is the moment their ego has gotten ahead of rationale. Yes **you** define good music. Your tastes define all and are the final say. The world should stop and solidify at your tastes.

Whenever you think about anything that involves taste, always realize that everyone knows what is best for themselves, and there is **no way** to question someones personal taste. If someone likes listening to a beeping door chime 24 hours a day then that's what turns their crank. Critical evaluations of music, art, etc. are just foolish and narcissistic : **Let ME tell you what _I_ like because obviously what YOU like is shit and you just haven't seen the light.**

Re:Music (Score:1)

by [DukeTG](#) (DrTreeGoo@antisocial.com) on Friday December 29, @ 11:43AM EST (#102)

(User #243959 Info) <http://www.rose-hulman.edu/~siegelnj>

Hear Hear! This is an attitude that I find less than well represented at slashdot. Sometimes I think that people feel they gain more respect if they denounce popular culture in favor of independant things (if one were so inclined, they could place using obscure linux distros as their primary OS in this category). As far as I'm concerned, you'll get my respect if you readily admit to actually liking the Backstreet Boys. How many people are secure enough to do that? --- If everyone else was not jumping off the bridge, would you jump just to be different?

Re:Music (Score:4, Insightful)

by [dennisp](#) (slashdot@free.spee.ch) on Friday December 29, @ 11:48AM EST (#114)

(User #66527 Info)

"... liking it because it's popular"

Early adopters often want something special that not many other people have so they pretend other people like that 'thing "only because it's popular".

That's why people in certain subcultures get pissed off when something that was "theirs" becomes popular culture.

They even get to the point where they would rather see that 'thing stay a pathetic failure instead of becoming successful so that they can keep it as their own little special subculture.

Totally Agreed (Score:1)

by kollaps on Friday December 29, @ 11:51AM EST (#118)

(User #143984 Info)

I think the point that most people miss in the posts below is you should listen to music *cause you enjoy the music*. It's THAT simple. It has nothing to do with how popular it is. What exactly is the point of listening to something unknown if you don't enjoy it? I personally listen to some popular music and some unpopular. Its cause I enjoy listening to it, nothing more, nothing less. Sorry for being redundant, but I do feel strong about it.

Re:Music (Score:1)

by [DirkGently](#) (dirk@nanoo.nanoo.lemongecko.org) on Friday December 29, @ 12:10PM EST (#131)

(User #32794 Info) <http://lemongecko.org>

This is true. You can't bash personal taste. And I will admit that a few select NiN tunes are mainstream. But if you've heard his newer work (The Fragile), I think you'd have to retract that "NiN is Pop" statement. POPular, maybe, but Trent isn't about album sales. I'm sure he likes music, but we ain't gonna see him on a lunchbox.

I'd buy a Trent doll, tho...

PS: Here's the obvious point where the AC Troll whips out the 'faggot' remarks.
remove the Ork greeking to email me

Re:Music (Score:1)

by [DirkGently](#) (dirk@nanoo.nanoo.lemongecko.org) on Friday December 29, @12:13PM EST (#135)

([User #32794 Info](#)) <http://lemongecko.org>

Err...I meant he likes money.
remove the Ork greeking to email me

Re:Music (Score:1)

by superkorn on Friday December 29, @06:00PM EST (#300)
([User #101469 Info](#))

POPular, maybe, but Trent isn't about album sales

Whether he out for sales or not, if a lot of people buy his music then it is pop music. pop music = contraction of "POPular music." I think what you really mean is that he doesn't set out to be pop in the same way that BSB do. He just does his thing and if people like it great, but he is not going to pander to them.

Re:Music (Score:2)

by [Darchmare](#) (jeff@velocinews.com) on Friday December 29, @09:14PM EST (#325)
([User #5387 Info](#)) <http://www.vxreality.org/>

It's hard to define pop.

NIN is a good example. The Fragile has sold a lot less than Trent's previous works (ie. The Downward Spiral), and yet has gotten a lot of critical praise. Why? For one thing, it's a double-CD release, meaning that it's longer and costs a bit more. Radio airplay has been very light as there are few single-friendly tracks (and the few there are tend to have a bit of, um, radio unfriendly language or themes).

But in some ways, NIN *is* pop. Nine Inch Nails is probably the most visible example of industrial music out there. I mean, the guy is (albeit rarely) on MTV.

In that respect, pop isn't necessarily bad, as long as the artist doesn't compromise - and with The Fragile it's obvious that he didn't. It was quite obvious on first listen that the release wouldn't sell as well as TDS did simply because it wasn't so clear cut angst-y and yet wasn't exactly upbeat either. This drove some of the hangers-on away.

I liked NIN before it became semi-mainstream, and continued to like it when he gained some popularity (while certain pretentious assholes missed out on some of Reznor's best material). He's in a commercial slump right now, but also an artistic renaissance - doesn't bug me, as long as he doesn't take another 5 years to release an album. If anyone lets a band's popularity or lack thereof stop them from listening to it, they're going to miss out on a lot of good music.

I am in the middle of reading a book on the 'Millennial generation', ie. kids born on or after 1982. One interesting thing the book brought up that never occurred to me was that this resurgence of banal crap (N Sync, B. Spears, Backstreet Boys, and so on) is part of a revolving cycle. About every other decade a new generation starts off with 'safe', upbeat music. What is sacrificed in the way of importance and message is made up for in accessability and universal appeal. As those kids grow older things change and music begins to push bounds again. Early pop Beatles gave way to the counterculture of the late 60s and early/mid 70s. The Jackson 5 and disco gave way to grunge and hard rock. It's roughly a 20 year cycle.

Food for thought... Luckily, Mr. Reznor isn't going anywhere, nor are some of his predecessors (SMG, Pig, MDFMK, FLA, and a whole ton of old Skinny Puppy CDs). Those of us who just don't get the new stuff can sit back and wait - some of these goofy kids will eventually come up with something meaningful again, no worries.

- **Jeff A. Campbell**
- **VxReality (BETA)** - www.vxreality.org

Re:Music (Score:2)
by [Darchmare](#) (jeff@velocinews.com) on Friday December 29, @09:19PM EST (#327)
(User #5387 Info) <http://www.vxreality.org/>

nor are some of his predecessors (SMG, Pig, MDFMK, FLA, and a whole ton of old Skinny Puppy CDs)

Oh yeah, and I know these bands didn't necessarily come before NIN. "predecessors" was the wrong term. Oops.

- **Jeff A. Campbell**
- **VxReality (BETA)** - www.vxreality.org

You may want to expand your reply to a full range. (Score:2, Interesting)
by [offline](#) (offline@no.bloody.spam.telusplanet.net) on Saturday December 30, @08:51AM EST (#370)
(User #94346 Info)

...or ones such as SPK, Einsturzende Neubauten (sp?) Throbbing Gristle, Cabaret Voltaire, and may others, who really led the industrial "revolution" (damn, that's just too easy a metaphor :)

...Or, the ones that are taking it in new and fascinating directions today, such as Imminent Starvation, Winterkalte, Feindflug, Gridlock, and others of that sort...

Problem is, especially given the more esoteric musics that you hear in the "industrial" genre, pretty much all the bands you name qualify as "pop". Hell, i've seen all of them on MuchMusic at least once :) Now, if you ever see a video for Imminent Starvation, i'd sell my own mom for a copy ;)

Elitist mode := OFF

Thanks for listening :)

C

--

Democracy would work just fine if people weren't so goddamned stupid.

Re:Music (Score:1)

by antf on Friday December 29, @12:12PM EST ([#133](#))

([User #68630 Info](#))

Secondly what does the independent bands moniker contribute to the music?

First, I agree with your thoughts on popular vs. unpopular. However, I don't think that independent equates to unpopular. There are many independent bands that enjoy vast popularity. One example is Fugazi. There are plenty of others so take your pick. I think independent music contributes to music in general because it provides a platform on which the artist can enjoy greater freedom to experiment. They are not constrained by making money as most commercial labels force upon bands.

Re:Music (Score:3, Insightful)

by [benenglish](#) (nospam.please@evenifyoufindme.com) on Friday December 29, @03:15PM EST ([#253](#))

([User #107150 Info](#))

Critical evaluations of music, art, etc. are just foolish and narcissistic : Let ME tell you what I like because obviously what YOU like is shit and you just haven't seen the light.

Not if it's done right.

While I generally agree with you, criticism can serve a very valuable function - saving consumer dollars. As a former film critic, I dealt with a similar situation, i.e. an overwhelmingly large number of choices and consumers with little idea where to best spend their money. I found that the best approach was to be **very** up-front with my prejudices. I did a column on them annually. It was always something along the lines of: "I like this stuff and this actress and if I see a movie with her in it and that kind of subject matter, I'll overlook all kinds of glaring flaws that might drive you crazy." Those of my readers who shared my tastes could then read my reviews and know that if I liked a movie, they stood a better-than-even chance of liking it, too. Likewise, I frequently got email from people who said "I know you like crap. You said so. Anytime you recommend a movie, I know to avoid it." That was fine; I was helping them, too.

The problem with criticism, as I see it, is that most critics come to confuse their prejudices with an objective standard of quality. It just ain't so. But as long as the prejudices of a critic are known (and s/he doesn't take him/herself too seriously), criticism can be a very useful tool helping the reader best decide where to spend their entertainment dollars.

I don't know who does criticism in this fashion nowadays. *The Absolute Sound*, a magazine that critiques audio equipment and recordings, used to require a lengthy essay every year from every contributing critic on their musical tastes, equipment, and predispositions of judgement. Any intellectually honest critic or published outlet for critical writing should do the same.

Re:Music (Score:2)

by llywrch on Friday December 29, @06:08PM EST ([#302](#))

([User #9023 Info](#))

> Additionally the moment someone thinks "Music today is all noise and boom boom boom" is the moment their ego has gotten
> ahead of rationale.

Actually this is true. 90% of music today is crap. But 90% of music at any given time is crap. (With a nod to Theodore Sturgeon.)

> Yes you define good music. Your tastes define all and are the final say. The world should stop and solidify at your tastes.

T.S. Eliot once wrote that taste is not something you get born with, you develop. People who like music that is ``pop'' tend to be people who really don't listen to music, just have it playing in the background while they do something else. if you actually listen to music, you develop taste.

Case in point: many years ago, I listened to The Bangles, & liked them (to be honest) mostly because this all-girl band were killer in miniskirts. Several years later, after listening to bands like The Posies, Pond, & Afghan Whigs (none of whom I have ever heard on the radio, BTW), I happened to listen to them again. And I was surprised that they still pretty good to listen to.

For the record, my taste in music may be dated, but is somewhat eclectic: I prefer The Posies & Screaming Trees to Nirvana, like Astor Piazzola, & wish I had bought some Schwester S tapes while I was over in Germany.

Geoff

I think I see a trend here. Maybe for them it really would be easier to muzzle the entire internet than to produce praiseworthy software? --Black Parrot

Re:Music (Score:2)

by VAXman on Friday December 29, @10:30PM EST ([#339](#))

([User #96870 Info](#))

People who like music that is ``pop'' tend to be people who really don't listen to music, just have it playing in the background while they do something else. if you actually listen to music, you develop taste.

And, as a footnote, those who do NOT like pop music are those who are too insecure in their tastes to admit to it.

My primary listening areas are things like John Zorn, Beethoven's late quartets and sonatas, Albert Ayler, Shostakovich's quartets and symphonies, anything Coltrane did (all of those are among the most difficult music ever produced), plus all kinds of underground hip hop, metal, alternative country, techno, old and new jazz, ethnic musics, etc., etc., etc., etc., but I happy to say that I find most N*Sync and Britney Spears music irresistibly catchy. Anybody who doesn't is lying.

Personally... (Score:5, Funny)

by Bob McCown on Friday December 29, @11:31AM EST (#94)

(User #8411 Info) <http://www.slashduh.org>

6) If you were stranded on a desert island (Score:5, Funny) by dattaway (dattaway@attaway.org) ...and could only have one cd to load a blank computer, what would it be? Clinton: Well, Debian GNU/Linux! Well, that is almost 5 cds now..but I can count it as one, right? It comes with everything I'll ever need too.. with about 6000 packages to choose from.

Personally, Id rather have **A practical guide to boatbuilding**.

--Bob

Fight the power at [Slashduh](http://www.slashduh.org)

Re:Personally... (Score:5, Funny)

by Anonymous Coward on Friday December 29, @12:16PM EST (#139)

Actually, i think **A practical Guide to Boatbuilding** is on disc number 5, in the contrib section.

Re:Personally... (Score:1)

by [shallot](#) (joy@d.o) on Friday December 29, @01:42PM EST (#207)

(User #172865 Info)

Oh, don't worry, there's probably a .deb for that, too. ;)

Re:Personally... (Score:2, Funny)

by dvk on Friday December 29, @06:58PM EST (#309)

(User #118711 Info) <http://slashdot.org/>

Why??? If i was on a desert island, with a computer, and there was females around, i'd want to STAY, not build a boat ;)

-DVK

"The right to figure things out for yourself is the only true freedom everyone shares. Go use it"--R.A.Heinlein

Re:Personally... (Score:1)

by [CaptPungent](#) (pungent@raunchytaco.com) on Friday December 29, @10:16PM EST (#337)

(User #265721 Info)

Ummm, they did say **DESERT** island, meaning **NO** females. And if they were, don't you think there was a reason why there were only females around? (**AMAZON WOMEN**).

Sorry, it was too tempting.

unixpunx and the average slashdot reader (Score:1)

by badbrains on Friday December 29, @11:35AM EST (#95)

(User #33379 Info) <http://unxpunk.dhs.org>

While I don't think that Clinton's musical tastes are typical of Slashdot users, I do know that there is a growing group of us out there. I think to say that Clinton is a typical Slashdot user is probably quite inaccurate.

I would also like to say that as a visibly "extreme" punk rocker the geek community can look at me just as scournfully as the rest of the world. I was the co-founder of a LUG, and always felt that some people did not come back because of me. I have also visited other LUGs and experienced some odd looks... "you don't belong here".

I think most "geeks" are accepting of anyone, but there is definately an element of "geeks don't look like you" in the community.

If you are interested in punk and unix, check out <http://www.unxpunx.org> and #unxpunx on irc.unxpunx.org or efnet.

Re:unxpunx and the average slashdot reader (Score:1)

by [gimpboy](#) (jmh3@penguinpowered.com) on Friday December 29, @12:23PM EST (#147)

(User #34912 Info) <http://rmdb.webpipe.net>

thats cool. if you need help with unxpunx.org drop me an email. john

use LaTeX? want an online reference manager that exports in BibTeX format? try rmdb.webpipe.net

wooo! (Score:2)

by [GoNINzo](#) (gonzo(at)granjeau.com) on Friday December 29, @11:39AM EST (#97)

(User #32266 Info) <http://www.granjeau.com/~gonzo>

At least some of the geeks who replace us when the older models are obsolete won't listen to Britney Spears!

It's good to hear that the geeks of tomorrow are getting the classical teaching of yesterday. Those who do not understand history are doomed to repeat it! (land war in asia...) Hence, we better not hear about you spending more money on marketing than development for mentalUNIX...

But one comment as far as package tools: you should really take a look at [alien](#), it handles most of the major packages relatively well. to quote: *Alien is a program that converts between the rpm, dpkg, stampede slp, and slackware tgz file formats.* You might consider using them to achieve your goals... 'Why build a tank from scratch when B.A. Barrachas can just grab sheet

metal and put it on a van!"

--
Gonzo Granzeau

"Nothing the god of biomechanics won't let you into heaven for.." -Roy Batty

Re:wooo! (Score:1)

by [Nothinman](#) (root@localhost) on Friday December 29, @12:29PM EST (#157)

([User #22765 Info](#))

If I had any mod points I'd mod you up just for working in an A Team reference =)

--
perl -e 'print(unpack("u",";/FTV-C9`:&]M92YC;VT*"));'

losers in school (Score:5, Insightful)

by [ukyoCE](#) (ukyo@vee-tee.edu) on Friday December 29, @11:43AM EST (#100)

([User #106879 Info](#)) <http://198.82.99.79/>

But, I'm not that anti-social. I have friends. The people with yellow and green hair are my friends (you have to love punk rockers), the l33t hax0rs at school, the somewhat-suicidal ones, and my fellow geeks. I am happy. Isn't that all that matters? The pop culture people look happy, but they aren't. They need music and icons to tell them who to be.

I found this comment really insightful - it summarized my own thoughts own popularity/nerdiness/losersity better than I have ever put them. I always thought that was true, that the pop people are less happy; they're too busy trying to conform and hold their "position" that they forget to just enjoy life. While they're insulting us "geeks" to try and make themselves look better, we're just ignoring them and having fun.

All in all great responses from a seemingly random (l)user! Thanks Clinton

Re:losers in school (Score:5, Insightful)

by [dennisp](#) (slashdot@free.spee.ch) on Friday December 29, @12:39PM EST (#161)

([User #66527 Info](#))

On the other hand, you can usually tell that people with green hair/400 piercings/mohawk/whatever do have problems.

There are several possibilities:

a) rejected by popular locus because of event(s), looks, lack of social graces -> depression -> dressing differently, acting like an asshole or drawn out and suicidal -> results in no friends because of deviant behavior -> start at 1

b) behavioral problem which means the person acts like a complete out of control idiot, possibly because of some trauma or hanging out with the "wrong" group (i.e., other people who act like idiots) -> fucking up in school -> tension because of behavior -> possible bad result

c) ignorance and teen angst -> exposure to stupid ideas -> world is all wrong syndrome (ugly,

scary, the man is out to get you)

Computer "geeks" probably have more experience with depression and the i-dont-care-if-i-am-a-rejected-loser-because-i-am-intelligent syndrome.

Usually when people get older, they get over it. I did. That's why I cringe when I see people categorizing themselves as computer geeks. Often in this context it's because they feel rejected.

Obviously some people can't get over being a loser, if for example they are extremely ugly - but if they carried themselves differently (like developing other strengths) they would be in for some sort of improvement in human response in the form of friendship and cooperation.

That's not to say that I condone rejection. It'd just be easier if some people would realize that always being hostile or depressed is self destructive - though that's easy to say in hindsight.

Re:losers in school (Score:2)

by [arcade](#) (ar-RemoveThis-cade@kvinesdal.com) on Friday December 29, @01:14PM EST (#190)
(User #16638 Info) <http://arcade.kvinesdal.com>

Computer "geeks" probably have more experience with depression and the i-dont-care-if-i-am-a-rejected-loser-because-i-am-intelligent syndrome

And the solution, when you're the number one kid getting bullied in school is what?

I for one am a Very Intelligent Computer Geek - and have always been so (always, as in, since the age of 6 or 7).

You have to have something to look forward to, when you're going through the years of being bullied. I for one knew that the years would pass, and that when I grew up, I would become "much more" than the assholes.

How right I was. :) When I look back on the bastards, I see a bunch of kids that are mostly drug addicts, or working as mechanics in some small garage.

Some people get depressed. I didn't. I started my own BBS, and spent most of my time writing on it, discussing with people three times my age. They didn't know or care about my age - they cared about the discussions. That was great.

--

"Rune Kristian Viken" - <http://arcade.kvinesdal.com> - arcade@efnet

Re:losers in school (Score:1)

by [robinjo](#) (robinjo@gnwmail.com) on Friday December 29, @05:23PM EST (#295)
(User #15698 Info)

You just forgot the most common reason:

d) Abusive or otherwise lousy parents.

Oh, I remember how this one goes.... (Score:2)

by [goliard](#) (goliard at weasel dot terc dot edu) on Friday December 29, @07:23PM EST (#312)
(User #46585 Info)

Oh, yeah. I know what you mean. If only they wore decent clothes. If only they didn't act like that. They bring it on themselves. The people it happens to must have something wrong with them. It only happens to, you know, *that* kind of person. What do you expect going out dressed like that. Well, don't go out after dark alone. She was asking for it. She must be a tease. She must have done something to provoke him.

Oh, wait, I forgot: were we talking about women getting raped or geeks getting beaten up? Oh, it doesn't matter, the logic is the same: it must have been the victim's fault, right?

It'd just be easier if some people would realize that always being hostile or depressed is self destructive - though that's easy to say in hindsight.

Being depressed is self-destructive? Gosh, I'm sure that all those depressed teen /.ers reading this will take this right to heart and stop being depressed right now! If only someone had told them earlier that their depression was the cause of the scorn of their peers, I'm sure they would have stopped immediately.

Whoops, that was my sarcasm limit for the day...

-*- Any technology indistinguishable from magic is insufficiently advanced -*-

Re:Oh, I remember how this one goes.... (Score:1)

by [dennisp](#) (slashdot@free.spee.ch) on Friday December 29, @08:44PM EST (#319)
(User #66527 Info)

"They bring it on themselves"

Yes. I know several people who say they "don't know" why they are constantly being looked at and made fun of when they have a shaved head, wear anti-nazi clothing, have words shaved in their heads, and big ear rings right through teh center of their nose.

"It only happens to, you know, that kind of person"

No.

"Well, don't go out after dark alone [...]"

No. And you're distorting what I wrote. I was talking about making friends with people, not rape and violence. In the implied case people will choose not to be friends with you - that isn't a crime or a violation of space or person.

"Oh, it doesn't matter, the logic is the same: it must have been the victim's fault, right?"

No. The logic isn't the same. Thanks for playing.

"If only someone had told them earlier that their depression was the cause of the scorn of their peers, I'm sure they would have stopped immediately"

Read the last sentence I wrote. Second, depression and scorn of peers doesn't logically follow. Depression (i.e., in my case) resulted in less social interaction, though peers thought I was weird because I did not socially interact with them and was always making negative bitter comments.

Lastly, who said I was playing psychiatrist? I was only describing potential situations (with limited external validation of a 100 sample size). Did I imply in saying that depression is self destructive that not being depressed is a solution? I didn't think so.

The realization that the cause of said depression was not valid in relative magnitude - in my case - ended it. When I stopped being a vitriolic asshole every time I opened my mouth people actually wanted to be my friend too.

Re:losers in school (Score:2, Insightful)

by [rdarden](#) (rdarden@nosspam.nosspam.nosspam) on Friday December 29, @12:53PM EST (#174)
(User #87568 Info) <http://www.umich.edu/~rdarden>

As someone who considers himself an indie-rock/beardcore/shoegaze music fan, I have to question your position.. I don't think that the popular kids in school are necessarily less happy than the misfits..

I used to spend too much energy being disgusted with pop music and its fans, just as I spent too much time feeling sorry for kids in high school who were apparently always trying to fit in. Eventually I realized that I was working almost as hard to *not* fit in and to stand apart. When I got comfortable with that I could finally enjoy a Backstreet Boys song once in a while during the drive home from work.. What the hell, I'm not hurting anyone..Guilty pleasures are an important part of life. =)

There is some middle ground, and I'm grateful that I finally found it (somewhere in high school). The hardships of social life in middle/high school were enough to make me want to become a teacher, if only to go in there and somehow convince all of the kids to relax and just do their own thing and learn to forget about what everyone else thinks. It was a hard-learned lesson for myself and I just wish to impart my wisdom on others..

Re:losers in school (Score:1)

by [ddstreet](#) (ddstreet@ieee.org) on Friday December 29, @12:59PM EST ([#181](#))

([User #49825 Info](#))

The pop culture people look happy, but they aren't. They need music and icons to tell them who to be.

I don't like pop (at all), but I don't think learning from music is all bad. There are *plenty* of songs I can think of which have given me insights, unlike pop - which is only about teenage sex/love, money, or how tough it is to be a teenager.

Re:losers in school (Score:2)

by [dennisp](#) (slashdot@free.spee.ch) on Friday December 29, @01:32PM EST ([#203](#))

([User #66527 Info](#))

"There are plenty of songs I can think of which have given me insights"

While this may be true, I'm not convinced that any three minute song can communicate any really profound ideas. The level of information in literature, textbooks and field specific finding/position books makes the so called profound messages in music seem pathetic.

That said, a good song or movie don't have to be chock full of profound messages. One strong communicated message can make you learn something that results in you reconfiguring your world view.

I thoroughly enjoy music and movies as art and appreciate their respective mediums ability to convey emotion and perhaps a little positive and negative life pattern recognition (I admit, I even cry when viewing formulaic movies).

But profound insight - not really. Non-popular Music specifically is mostly angst ridden and

personally boring. I'd rather listen to something like the latest radiohead which really doesn't have a specific message - or classical music just for the enjoyment of listening to musical sound.

Re:losers in school (Score:1)

by [ddstreet](#) (ddstreet@ieee.org) on Friday December 29, @04:11PM EST ([#276](#))

(User #49825 Info)

Non-popular Music specifically is mostly angst ridden and personally boring.

Umm...I don't think we are talking about the same 'Non-popular music'. There's a lot of 'Non-popular music' out there...what I'm thinking of isn't 'angst ridden'...and how can you say **all** 'Non-popular music' is 'personally boring'? Whatever.

I'd rather listen to something like the latest radiohead which really doesn't have a specific message - or classical music just for the enjoyment of listening to musical sound.

Ok...what was your point again?

My point was that while some people form their entire personality based on pop music, which is bad, taking *some* of your personality from music is not bad. And I'm not necessarily talking about the lyrics, there are other parts to music. You choose your music because it fits your personality. You can't tell me that music doesn't affect how you live at all...ok, I take that back, there are some people who only like 'easy listening' or other background music crap, and don't *really* like music at all...if you're one of those people, I understand now...

Re:losers in school (Score:2)

by [dennisp](#) (slashdot@free.spee.ch) on Friday December 29, @05:05PM EST ([#294](#))

(User #66527 Info)

"Umm...I don't think we are talking about the same 'Non-popular music'. There's a lot of 'Non-popular music' out there...what I'm thinking of isn't 'angst ridden'...and how can you say all 'Non-popular music' is 'personally boring'? Whatever"

Sorry, I was specifically talking about the type of music this Clinton person in the interview was talking about.

"My point was that while some people form their entire personality based on pop music, which is bad, taking *some* of your personality from music is not bad"

Well if you mean personality as in general mood, whatever, yeah sure. I listen and enjoy lots of different types of music like techno/trance, classical, older rock, whatever. If I'm in my car or doing some particularly boring work music can be uplifting and enjoyable.

My POINT though was that it is pathetic to actually think that there is a profound message in a certain genre of music - especially if its nonsense like punk music.

OK, so some of your personality may be dictated by some of the music you listen to and vice versa, partially through the people you associate with with the same interest in music - but

please elucidate how music profoundly affects how you live. I'd like to hear.

Re:losers in school (Score:1)

by [ddstreet](#) (ddstreet@ieee.org) on Friday December 29, @08:00PM EST (#315)
(User #49825 Info)

it is pathetic to actually think that there is a profound message in a certain genre of music - especially if its nonsense like punk music.

Who are you to judge punk music? If you don't even like it, how can you possibly be qualified to judge it at all? You either have little or no exposure to it, or you listen extensively to music which you hate. You tell me which it is. Actually, don't tell me, I don't care.

but please elucidate how music profoundly affects how you live. I'd like to hear.

When the hell did I ever use the word 'profound'? You're the one who used that word. You need to get back in touch with this conversation, I don't think you're paying attention. Please review the posts before replying so you can remember what I have said.

However, if you didn't really mean 'profound', and just want to hear 'how music...affects how you live', then...you obviously *are* one of those easy-listening people who doesn't really like (or understand) music. And I should state also that I never said 'music affects how I live'. I said it affects my personality, and has given me insights (thought I'd summarize what I've said so you don't have to review).

Re:losers in school (Score:1)

by [SevenSeasOfRhye](#) (shaunak@gmx.SCREW-SPAM.de) on Saturday December 30, @11:42AM EST (#377)
(User #239196 Info)

But profound insight - not really. Non-popular Music specifically is mostly angst ridden and personally boring.

I agree. But, the people who sing/perform these angst ridden songs are considered to be 'genius' (correct the usage of the word - I can't recall the plural) when the fact remains most of these things are like patches to software to make sure the program works!.

Many 'geeks' say the mainstream (popular-at-school people) imitate pop artists. Well, don't the 'geeks' try hard to imitate death/heavy/whatever metal artists? It is only a matter of choice.

So quit bragging about your ardent devotion to death metal over pop, Clinton, Grow up, mature a little.

Electrical Engineering is BORING.

Re:losers in school (Score:2)

by [Chester K](#) (**The K Stands For Kwality!**) on Friday December 29, @01:13PM EST (#188)

(User #145560 Info) <http://www.evercrest.com>

I always thought that was true, that the pop people are less happy; they're too busy trying to conform and hold their "position" that they forget to just enjoy life. While they're insulting us "geeks" to try and make themselves look better, we're just ignoring them and having fun.

That's not insightful. No more than them insulting geeks in the first place. It's just putting the shoe on the other foot.

Pop People: Hahaha! Look at the geeks! They have no social skills, they can't interact with people so they interact with computers! What losers!

Geeks: Hahaha! Look at the pop people! They have no real social skills, they just emulate what they see Britney Spears do! What losers!

... but then, look at me. I'm a geek, I dream about code, but I also enjoy CHR music and I was elected to student government back in High School. What does that make me? A hideous mutant with no social abilities and no self-distinction?

Any attempts to classify any group into neat, tidy little boxes is bound to fail. It doesn't matter if the group is pop people or geeks.

NO CARRIER

Re:losers in school (Score:2, Insightful)

by swb on Friday December 29, @02:47PM EST (#239)

(User #14022 Info)

I found this comment really insightful - it summarized my own thoughts own popularity/nerdiness/loserosity better than I have ever put them. I always thought that was true, that the pop people are less happy; they're too busy trying to conform and hold their "position" that they forget to just enjoy life. While they're insulting us "geeks" to try and make themselves look better, we're just ignoring them and having fun.

Ever consider that the "popular people" might actually *enjoy* their social circus? Sure, it's a never-ending merry-go-round of popularity contests, but the people who play them sure seem to enjoy them. All too often the people that can't play with the mainstream just end up creating some "alternative" which looks, smells and tastes just like the mainstream with a different set of criteria (ie, green hair) to regulate who matters and who doesn't, and a different set of icons and music soundtrack. The really funny thing is that the people who are "hip" to the alternative scene are often more elitist than the so-called popular people, largely because they're making a conscious effort to be different to begin with.

The pop culture people look happy, but they aren't. They need music and icons to tell them who to be.

Oh come on. At least be intellectually honest. For someone who spends 4 hours a day listening

to death metal, accusing the "popular people" of needing some social signpost to orient them is really the height of hypocrisy. Where would Clinton's social compass be without his anti-music to guide him?

Re:losers in school (Score:1)

by drinkypoo on Thursday January 04, @01:37PM EST ([#400](#))

(User #153816 Info)

*Ever consider that the "popular people" might actually *enjoy* their social circus?*

Actually, the huge success of "The Sims" is proof that they do, since the purpose of that game is to be popular. Sims aren't happy when they're by themselves. Incidentally, check out [this "family"](#) for a good laugh. I expect the online game will be even more successful, in which the object is to be the most loved person in simland.

Oh come on. At least be intellectually honest. For someone who spends 4 hours a day listening to death metal, accusing the "popular people" of needing some social signpost to orient them is really the height of hypocrisy.

1. Hypocrisy.
2. I don't see how that follows, necessarily, though I don't believe that just because someone listens to pop music that they're sheep; I just think that they have bad taste. In any case, I think the sign that your music is corrupting your style is if they match; In other words, if all you listen to is britney spears, and all of your clothes come from some happy shiny nice place in the mall, you're a sheep. Likewise, if all you listen to is NIN and Lords of Acid, and all of your clothes come from the "all black, all the time" rack at Hot Topic, you might want to get sheared and start walking on your hind legs.

Where would Clinton's social compass be without his anti-music to guide him?

Some of us don't even *have* a social compass.

You are what you do when it counts --Steakley

interesting responses; (Score:1)

by [ukyoCE](#) (ukyo@"vee-tee".edu) on Friday December 29, @03:50PM EST ([#268](#))

(User #106879 Info) <http://198.82.99.79/>

A lot of engaging responses to my post. The general theme seemed to be "there's nothing wrong with pop" and "pop people aren't always unhappy".

I agree with both.

My point was that there *are* people who do things they don't like, just to fit in. Just because everyone else does. Whether it's a certain type of music, wearing skanky clothes, or doing drugs, there are people doing these things not because they want to, but because of peer pressure.

I'd like to note that there are just as many pop kids listening to Nsync and Britney Spears dissatisfied as there are metal kids and punks who are afraid of what their friends might think about them liking country or classical or even pop.

The point, however cliche, is do what you want. Listen to the music *you* like, wear the clothes *you* think look good and are comfortable. People will like you for who you are. And anyone who doesn't...well, you don't want to be friends with them anyway! A friendship based on acting fake is a fake friendship.

Best to do what makes you happy, whether that's dying your hair and listening to punk, sitting at home playing Counter-Strike, or listening to Britney Spears.

</cheese>

Re:losers in school (Score:1)

by shaikeiro on Friday December 29, @04:32PM EST ([#286](#))

([User #55909 Info](#))

I found this comment really insightful - it summarized my own thoughts own popularity/nerdiness/loserosity better than I have ever put them. I always thought that was true, that the pop people are less happy; they're too busy trying to conform and hold their "position" that they forget to just enjoy life. While they're insulting us "geeks" to try and make themselves look better, we're just ignoring them and having fun.

This attitude really drives me nuts.

A *person* is a *person*!

"Popular" people are not all mindless insects, all frantically and desperately trying to doggy-paddle to the top of the social heap, they just have different priorities than you. If you would accept that they don't care about when 2.4 comes out (much less know what 2.4 refers to), and you don't care how the football game went last weekend, then everybody would be better off.

You might say that they insult "geeks" to make themselves look better, but you do the same thing, stating not only that their lifestyle is worse than yours, but going farther, saying that they are unhappy, which, in my opinion is a far greater insult than simply calling someone a "loser."

The argument is the same in terms of the music issue: Popular vs. "My favorite underground band that nobody's ever heard of." Letting the popularity of music influence your taste, whether positive or negative, still leaves popularity in the equation, which is just what you accuse "pop culture people" of doing.

Maybe instead of speaking so loud about how you don't care what those cool kids think, try doing your own thing, and really not caring about it.

It seems to me that this was not the ordinary slashdot user interview, it was the typical xenophobic, self-congratulating geek interview.

[JACK]

"If God is everywhere, is He in the toilet?"

-- Matt Groening, *School is Hell*

Re:losers in school (Score:2)

by piku on Friday December 29, @08:49PM EST ([#320](#))

(User #161975 Info) <http://www.explusalpha.com>

Yeah, but the people with yellow/green hair think they need to have yellow/green hair and intentionally be different to be accepted.

Re:losers in school (Score:2)

by [dennisp](#) (slashdot@free.spee.ch) on Friday December 29, @03:04PM EST ([#246](#))

(User #66527 Info)

Yes, it is somewhat of a paradox to have these people pressuring each other to be different when in fact they are pressuring each other to be like said subculture. Some will appropriate anyone who they don't like or has become too popular as not being a real .

It is doublespeak. However most of these subcultures were born of the rejection from the popular and so being different is redefined as being unlike any "normals". The most likely reason why they all dress alike is because they feel a need to fit in with their new peer group - just like any other normal human. You don't stop being a kid once you associate the term goth, punk, candy kid, heavy metal rocker, etc with self.

Metal and other such stuff... (Score:1)

by [nip](#) (nipatgunboatrecordsdotcom) on Friday December 29, @11:46AM EST ([#108](#))

(User #36373 Info) <http://www.gunboatrecords.com>

I'm not really a metal kid(more into punk and emo) but you should checkout some of these bands:

Old Cave-In: Until your heart stops is one of the best metal CDS ever. Coalesce, Combat Wounded Veteran, Isis, Nihil, Pig Destroyer, Discordant Axis(sic), Purity's Failure, Converge, Bane and a bunch of other bands like that. You can get all this stuff at [Interpunk](#) or [No Idea Records](#) which is definately cheaper(\$6-8 a CD).

Help a young brother out (Score:1)

by [Ralph Wiggam](#) (ralph@springfield.com) on Friday December 29, @ 11:54AM EST (#120)
(User #22354 Info) <http://www.redmeat.com>

Hey all you dot-com millionaires (I'm sure there are a few left), buy this guy a new computer. Or better yet, send him a grand and let him build a new Athlon box.

-B

"Good...Bad...I'm the guy with the gun" -Ash

OT: Why are "geeks" presumed to be intelligent... (Score:2)

by FallLine on Friday December 29, @ 12:08PM EST (#129)
(User #12211 Info)

One thing which always bugged me is the presumption that anyone who has the outward appearance of geekiness (i.e., anyone that is poorly dressed, or into computer hardware, software, etc) is presumed to be intelligent and/or capable. It's been my experience that this is simply not true. For instance, I (and I'm sure most of you have too) have known lots of "geeks" that are merely "techies"; they may know the latest specs on x86 processors for instance, but they lack a fundamental understanding and a capacity to do much more than drool over them. Similarly, I've known many that lack the motivation to do well in any career. Now this is not to say that I think geeks are dumber, less motivated, or what have you, but rather that they are not too different from the rest of population. What makes "geeks" (necessarily) different is where they are visibly different: in their dress, in their clothes, in their attitude, or what you have.

I might be able to understand this mistake from non-geeks, but why do so many so-called geeks, particularly accomplished geeks, buy into this idea too? I see it from many "geeks" I know and on forums like slashdot. Granted, this doesn't mean that one cannot infer with some certainty other characteristics about a "geek", but it simply goes way too far in my experience.

Re:OT: Why are "geeks" presumed to be intelligent. (Score:2)

by Ergo2000 on Friday December 29, @ 12:27PM EST (#153)
(User #203269 Info)

ABSOLUTELY TRUE! In the software engineering field I've noticed exactly what you have mentioned, which is that people naturally buy into the myth that anyone who is poorly dressed, and of an unkempt look, preferably talks about Linux and anything else "counter-culture", naturally simply *must* be some sort of genius hacker. It's the paradigm of the glass ceiling in software development : So long as you have non-ascending traits you are a god among your co-workers, but as you learn critical business skills such as how to interoperate with other people without offending you appear to be of lesser talent.

Of course one can overcome the `detriment' of dressing well and having good mannerisms by constantly proving themselves, but nonetheless it's annoying having a incompetent co-worker perceived as a contender because they cut their own hair, have constantly bad breath and can't talk to anyone without putting them in a mindless stupor of boredom.

I am Boron!

Re:OT: Why are "geeks" presumed to be intelligent. (Score:2)

by jafac on Friday December 29, @01:41PM EST ([#206](#))

([User #1449 Info](#))

comment:

" but as you learn critical business skills such as how to interoperate with other people without offending"

or other critical business skills like supressing your conscience or sense of ethics. Had to be said. Many people don't WANT to "play the corporate game", because it's dirty. Dirtier than scat.

"Florida? But that's America's wang!" - Homer Simpson

Re:OT: Why are "geeks" presumed to be intelligent. (Score:5, Insightful)

by Ergo2000 on Friday December 29, @02:15PM EST ([#225](#))

([User #203269 Info](#))

Many people don't WANT to "play the corporate game", because it's dirty

I understand generally where you're coming from but let me give it a slightly different spin:

1. They aren't "corporate game"s, they're the same games that have gone on since the beginning of mankind and will go on until the end of humanity. From the English monarchy, to Rome, back through the Incas, the exact same activities of syncophants and backstabbers have been played. There is nothing intrinsic about corporations that will change that. Build a power structure and those games **will** be played.
2. Acting too innocent to play power games and dismissing it with the wave of the hand is one of the classic signs of someone fervently **playing** power games. It's basically saying "I'm not winning at the current rules so I'll dispel them as unethical/immoral/etc...okay am I winning now? No? Okay anyone who's in a position of power is a shill suit that knows nothing! Am I winning yet?"
3. I'm talking more about simply social skills, and that isn't corporate games (my previous points were just for the hell of it. ;-]). Being able to understand when you're horribly boring your victims with mindless blabber is a simple social skill that has to do with respecting the feelings of others, and it isn't a corporate game. Looking professional is actually showing respect for your coworkers and company by saying "I look professional for you". Someone famous said something about "Manners are showing respect for your guests" and that's exactly it : Manners aren't haughtiness or pretentiousness, they're showing respect for your guests : i.e. You're worth me showing good manners.

Re:OT: Why are "geeks" presumed to be intelligent. (Score:1)

by STSeer on Friday December 29, @07:36PM EST ([#313](#))

([User #119553 Info](#))

I find this thread very interesting but I can't understand your comment. I think the thick sarcasm isn't helping at all.

Re:OT: Why are "geeks" presumed to be intelligent. (Score:1)

by [Stu Charlton](#) (stuartcharlton@hotmail.com) on Sunday December 31, @12:42PM EST ([#386](#))

([User #1311 Info](#))

well, if you look at it, a republic with a free market does tend to be the most natural thing so far... attempts to impose alternative societal structures haven't been so successful.. not that we'll try again in the future.

-Stu

Re:OT: Why are "geeks" presumed to be intelligent. (Score:1)

by [Stu Charlton](#) (stuartcharlton@hotmail.com) on Sunday December 31, @12:45PM EST ([#387](#))

([User #1311 Info](#))

better question: why don't you have the self esteem or skills that would enable you not to CARE if a company fires you?

oh, I forgot, the pain of being a vitriolic cynic is less than the pain of being an acheiver...

-Stu

My Own Situation (Score:2, Interesting)

by [LostScorp88](#) (lostscorp88SPAM@homeSPAM.com) on Friday December 29, @12:08PM EST (#130)

([User #249884 Info](#))

I am a senior in high school who has been introduced to slashdot just recently, via the show The Screen Savers on techtv (as many of the slashdot users may be familiar with). I read all the time about kids who are rejected for being geeks and who find fun and social interaction with the computer and the Internet. Unfortunately, my situation is not quite so bright - while I have used the computer for many years for games and Internet surfing, I have only recently been introduced to Linux and other such fields. I became so interested that my father has procured an old 166 mhz Pentium to try Linux on. I hope that this will allow me to see what everyone is raving about with Linux.

Anyway, my question is this. It seems that all the high schoolers (and the former high schoolers) have long histories with computers. Clinton, for example, has been using them (and learning all sorts of languages and stuff) since he was 8. Is there anyone like me out there? I have a huge identity problem - there is no one at my school that I could call a true friend (maybe one or two). I feel like I am SO behind the slashdot geek group that I can't identify with geeks. I want to call myself something!

I am a fairly average social reject. I spend more time on slashdot than I do with people at school (aside from in school, of course). I enjoy computer games a lot, yet I long to be part of a group and have friends like me. I listen to good music and detest pop. I really dislike popular people. I hope I can find someone out there who has similar sentiments - I feel so excluded even from the slashdotters. Please respond, preferably via email (remove the SPAM's from the address). Thank you in advance.

Losing one parent could be attributed to misfortune, but losing two is simply carelessness.

Don't box yourself in. (Score:1)

by Starskita on Friday December 29, @05:00PM EST (#292)

([User #164710 Info](#))

You don't need to be the same as everyone else in a group.

You don't need to be stereotypical, or 'average'.

Slashdot is not a family, or a close-knit group. Check the number of people using it - in the hundred-thousands. You can hardly stand out in such a big group.

My advice for you, would be to work at the friendship with those two people at your school, play with your computer and see what you can get out of it. Indulge your interests, above all.

Let me also tell you where I'm coming from:

I'm a high school junior. I have never used Linux. I read slashdot regularly, but I'm not looking at it to identify myself. I have some skill in programming, but I only picked it up through a class in 9th grade. I like computers, but also hanging with friends. I've made online-friendships through an RPG online.

As far as popular people, I dislike the way they treat each other, but personally, I tolerate them. I play the clarinet, listen to Beach Boys and Israeli music, and helped a friend land a job in web design.

That's where I come from.

As you can see, I'm not average. I don't identify with any particular group.

"To thine own self be true" - Shakespeare put it well.

Hang in there.

Starskita

!

Re:Don't box yourself in. (Score:1)

by [LostScorp88](#) (lostscorp88SPAM@homeSPAM.com) on Friday December 29, @09:39PM EST

(#331)

(User #249884 Info)

This is LostScorp88. Thank you for your advice very much. I want to clarify one thing - the friends I have at school aren't really the kind of friends that I could really have a deep relationship with. They are just acquaintances that I talk to sometimes. One is the guy I ride to school with and talk to before homeroom, that's really it. The others I only see in class. My school is incredibly "clicky" and it is very hard to be a "non-clicker," if you catch my meaning. Please email me at lostscorp88@home.com so we can talk more personally. Have a nice day.

Losing one parent could be attributed to misfortune, but losing two is simply carelessness.

Re:My Own Situation (Score:2)

by [Darchmare](#) (jeff@velocinews.com) on Friday December 29, @09:29PM EST (#328)

(User #5387 Info) <http://www.vxreality.org/>

I want to call myself something!

Here's your first problem. Don't worry about what you call yourself, and then you'll be on a path to true happiness.

If at some point in the future you walk/talk/act like a duck and eventually call yourself a duck, that's fine. You're a duck. But don't stress or obsess over it.

- **Jeff A. Campbell**
- **VxReality (BETA)** - www.vxreality.org

Stay in school (Score:1)

by s.a.m on Friday December 29, @12:28PM EST (#154)

(User #92412 Info) <http://www.ultimateanime.com>

I really want to go to college one day. And, I really want a job. Being poor isn't fun when you have a 4 and a half year old box (and other people are saying their "ancient" p2/500 is slow.

You should definitely go to college. It may be hard to stay in college but try to stick to it. Employers nowadays want you to have at least a college degree in CS, to do anything computer related, I know because in my search for jobs I was denied because I'm still in school and I don't have a CS degree. Plus there are tons of scholarships available to people in the CS dept.

Don't despair much about your comp, I didn't even get to see much less touch one till about 6 years ago, and that was when I was 14. Now I'm 20 and I own 6 of them, my hard work has paid off in the long run. Oh and next time anyone laughs at you, just smile because you're gonna be their boss one day =)

-Never put off today, what you can avoid altogether

Bah (Score:1)
by Enahs (dont@email.me-respond.instead) on Friday December 29, @12:39PM EST (#160)
(User #1606 Info) <http://bsd-utils-aconf.sourceforge.net>

/*

Many geek teenagers exhibit anti-social characteristics, including: poor hygiene, little or no conversation skills and attitudes (for instance know-it-all-ism) that are off-putting.
*/

Read Cryptonomicon. While I'm not a brain like the fictional Lawrence Waterhouse, I feel that sense of detachment from reality most of the time. It's kind of depressing when I think about it, but it's also kind of liberating. Nice to be able to ponder an idea while annoying things like Real Life(TM) are going on.

More than likely posted via Konqueror.

Star Trek? (Score:1)

by uknutter on Friday December 29, @12:59PM EST ([#180](#))

([User #248148 Info](#))

Hi Clinton, Do you watch Star Trek? If so, in your opinion, who is the best captain from the TV series, not the books. Which is the best ST movie of all time? Where is Linux in ST?

you call that a geek? (Score:1)

by [celestial13](#) (seele@compsci.duq.edu) on Friday December 29, @01:18PM EST ([#194](#))

([User #161367 Info](#)) <http://www.mathcs.duq.edu/~seele>

other than the cool government issued laptop.. i dont see what the big deal abou this kid is.

ircing for 4 hours? didnt _everyone_ do that if they were connected? (back in the day of 14.4). i always considered ircing ang gaming pretty normal activites that even the *cool* people participated in.

its the geeks who were ircing at three am.. the geeks who were coding instead of gaming.. the geeks who were tearing hardware apart instead of checking email every fifteen minutes..

i think you need to get a better test subject.. how bout a geek chick? (like me :)

antisociality and fun with computers arnt the only things that define a geek. you cant say a geek doesnt have friends or social skills or anything like that.. those are just qualities that are defined in a different society.. computers! there is irc etiquette and internet and fellow computer geeks count as friends!

.and geeks and girls.. *shakes head* trust me.. there isnt anything more attractive than a geek hacking in his boxers at 3am with a bottle of ice101 by his side ;)

*the perfect world is a world without lag. a world without lag is a world without people
-- celeste lyn paul*

Re:you call that a geek? (Score:1)

by [Syn404](#) (syntaxerror{at}techie{dot}com) on Friday December 29, @03:51PM EST ([#269](#))

([User #179434 Info](#))

other than the cool government issued laptop.. i dont see what the big deal abou this kid is.

That's the whole point, there is no 'big deal' about this kid. He's an example of the average geek, no more, no less. The whole purpose was to focus on someone besides celebrities, in other words, someone there's no reason to make a 'big deal' about.

antisociality and fun with computers arnt the only things that define a geek.

That is accurate. But how *do* you define 'geek'? It's a social label, so of course it's defined differently by geeks than by the so-called 'normal' crowd. In this case, it looks to me like Clinton's an example of the 'normal' social definition of a geek, although I can certainly see how he'd fit the geeks' average description as well, being a programmer & Linux user.

Although, being a female geek myself, I'd have to admit that'd be an interesting idea for the next interview, to interview a female geek. (:

--

I don't know what your problem is, but I'll bet it's hard to pronounce.

Re:you call that a geek? (Score:1)

by Jester998 on Friday January 05, @06:16PM EST ([#403](#))

([User #156179 Info](#))

"how bout a geek chick? (like me :)" "trust me.. there isnt anything more attractive than a geek hacking in his boxers at 3am with a bottle of ice101 by his side ;)" Could you please provide us male geeks with a clue as to where to find more chicks like you??? ;) I'd kill to meet a girl like this, but none have come up on the radar yet...

You are going to make a fine geek! (Score:1)

by PotatoHead on Friday December 29, @01:44PM EST ([#209](#))

([User #12771 Info](#)) <http://www.opengeek.org>

You said something about being poor. This is a bonus! If you get everything right away, then you lose some very important things as a result. I was poor also, but I wanted things, so I either built them, repaired broken ones, or worked for the money to buy what I wanted. This ethic is a good thing, and has served me well. (I am 32 now --bummer) Be creative, and enjoy this time in your life. You only get it once!

Your early experience sounds a lot like mine. Got started computing on a Trash80 w/ 8K RAM & cassette! I think I was about 10-12 at the time. The first time I wrote a program and had it work was great, yet at the same time there was this discord in my life because I knew that I had accomplished something really good, and had nobody to tell that understood its meaning. This did tell me where my life was going to go though. Don't underestimate the value of that! Most of the people I grew up with have no clue as to what they wanted to do. As a result they are doing whatever they got started doing. This is not to say that they have done poorly. Most of

them have done well, but they don't enjoy and feel passion for what they do.

Funny thing about music. Seems that the younger generation needs something annoying to the previous generation in order to have something unique to relate to. You have a pretty high percentage chance of calling your future sons music noise. Early in life I got to know personally some people involved with music. (Mainly teachers) This was a good experience as they taught me to open my ears, and listen. Almost any genre of music has something that will appeal. (Country sucks hard no matter how you look at it) Take time once in a while, and listen to lots of new music. Go to just one Symphony performance while you are young, and can appreciate it. You also have the benefit of Napster right now. Use it! Easy to sample. As long as you look the new stuff over, you will not lose touch completely with the generation to come. Understanding a little about old music gives you perspective, and deepens appreciation of the new. I have kids now, and I can say that 90 percent of what they listen to is garbage, but that other 10 percent is surprising, and gives us common ground. Makes being friends with my kids easier.

Your responses brought back some good memories, and were interesting. Thanks! Have a good life. You should pester Taco about doing a follow up in a couple of years or so.

An open cyberspace requires open code

mdevelop (Score:1)

by [Dwonis](#) (dlitz@BoycottSpam)@dlitz@spamsucks.net) on Friday December 29, @02:08PM EST (#221)

(User #52652 Info) <http://www.dlitz.net/>

Imagine Glimmer + DDD + glade + a lisp interpreter all integrated. IMHO, linux lacks a really good IDE that can do everything you need.

It seems to me this kid has never seen emacs.

Genius dies of the same blow that destroys liberty.

-- Tacitus

my own Answers (Score:1)

by [r0dent](#) (rodent@voyager.net) on Friday December 29, @02:09PM EST (#223)

(User #71825 Info) <http://chelsea.k12.mi.us/~rodent/>

I'm not the average geek, if there really is such a thing, here are my answers:

1) Girls (Score:5, Interesting)

by Stoke (stoke@excite.com)

At the age when most teens seem to be crazy over the opposite sex and dating, how is your situation with girls? Assuming you don't have a girlfriend, do you feel better off without one taking away your free time, or is it something you wish for?

My situation with girls is great, I can't complain. I don't have a girlfriend, but there are a few who I could see myself going out with. I'm coming up on the end of my first semester of my senior year in high school, though, and I don't really think this is a time to go out with anybody because the relationship will probably suffer greatly when I start college. I've had a girlfriend before, and it was nice, but I don't regret not having one now. Right now it's just more fun to go out and do things with different people and not feel tied down.

2) Just Curious... (Score:5, Interesting)

by Brazilian Geek (akajita@spamyourmama.bigfoot.com)

Are you now or have you ever been a Slashdot troll? If so, please comment on the feeling of being a troll, if not, what is your favorite troll?

I've never been a troll, it'd be neat to get FP though, but I'd post something useful, not FP\$!@#. Signal_11 is the only troll that comes to mind, and he didn't really seem like a troll, just somebody that got on rob's bad side.

3) What are your plans for college? (Score:5, Interesting)

by Zachary Kessin (zkessin@script-fu.org)

If you have thought about it what do you want to do after High School? Do you have any ideas about college or further education?

I plan on going to college, for the experience and the learning and to appease the Great Parental Units (TM). I work for a school district here though, and everybody I've talked to say I could get a job earning ~40k/year as soon as I graduate high school. But I'm rather looking forward to college for a more focused study on what I want to learn (networks) and the experience :)

4) What are you listening to? (Score:5, Interesting)

by geophile (jao@mediaone.net)

When I was 15, my father said, "how can you listen to this? It's noise! There's no melody, it's just boom boom boom!". He was talking about the Beatles. Today, I am horrified to find myself saying the same thing about all rap/hip-hop/whatever, Britney Spears, N Sync, and just about everything else I hear that's been recorded recently. I don't buy much new music, but lately I've been buying CDs to replace my old LPs (The Who, Genesis, and yes, The Beatles).

At least there's Elvis (C, not P), They Might Be Giants, and Komeda.

Is it just me, or my g-g-g-generation, or does new music really suck? What are you listening to?

I'm listening to all sorts of techno and trance, having just gotten into it a few years ago. I also listen to all sorts of metal and alternative for the instrumentation and sounds. Lyrics are cool when they rhyme, but I'm not a big fan of rap. I DJ my high school dances occasionally and they're big hip-hop fans, so I find myself sampling some of that to hear what's danceable.. I like most stuff, from celtic and folk to country to death metal. I find most of today's pop doesn't have the heart or message in it that older, more sophisticated stuff did.

5) How is it? (Score:5, Interesting)

by dbarclay10 (dbarclay10_NOSPAM @_MAPSON_yahoo.ca)

Hey, what's up? :) I'm not a teenager, but I am a Linux user, and a rather dedicated one. I've come to the realization over the past year or so that, indeed, MS Office is actually a good software packager. Well, relatively speaking, of course ;) I find it fast, relatively lean, feature-complete, and more-or-less stable. I was wondering if you yourself have a particular software favorite that doesn't run under Linux?

I use windows 2000 *grin* on my home machine and openbsd on my servers at work, and the only thing really keeping me from linux is my Eudora Pro email :P I don't know of an email package for linux that does what it does..

6) If you were stranded on a desert island (Score:5, Funny)

by dattaway (dattaway@attaway.org)

...and could only have one cd to load a blank computer, what would it be?

A pre-customized bare-minimum slackware cd with only the apps i need and the rest of the cd for some select oakenfold mixes in mp3 :)

7) Childhood toys? (Score:5, Insightful)

by Ralph Wiggam (ralph@springfield.com)

Pretty much every geek I've asked remembers loving construction type toys as children. I know my fave was Capsella because of the motors and gears, but there was always a big box of Legos in my house, too.

Did you play with toys like that in your 5-12 years?

What were your favorites?

I especially like Constructs which aren't made anymore, and I went through the LEGO kick, but now I'm into K'NEX! I've got like, 4 of the big sets (haven't gotten around to building them yet) but they're really cool. I've still got my constructs, but I dunno, I don't build much anymore. If I did, it would be those K'NEX sets.

8) Times Change (Score:5, Interesting)

by HRbnjR (chris@hubick.com)

When I was a geek in high school (10 years ago)... it was not cool at all. The computer club was definitely frowned upon by the "cool" people. My question is, with the rise of the internet, and computers becoming pervasive in "normal" peoples lives...has this changed? Or have geeks gained some respect?

I read an article somewhere (Wired?) that said geeks were the new sex symbols...doctors and lawyers used to represent power and success and where what men stereotypically wanted to be, and what women stereotypically chased after. But now, as it is suggested, do you think geeks have invaded some of this position? Do you see any attitudes like this in school?

Of the "cool" people (they're only cool if you let them think that) that I come into contact with, they don't look down on me because I'm a geek, they think it's rather neat that I can fix their AOL when it gets wacked out, and a lot of the girls have started to realize that this is where the money is when I'm older :) I do see geeks becoming sex symbols, but only if they work at it, not that the world is going off its rocker turning to extremely nerdy outcast people, but knowledgeable citizens are gaining respect for what they know.

9.)Now answer honestly! (Score:4, Interesting)

by OlympicSponsor

In 8th/9th/10th grade I was unpopular (hung out with the losers, didn't go to dances, etc). 11th and 12th grades I was merely neutral (went to some dances, knew a lot of people, but I wasn't a jock or anything). I bring this up not out of relevance, but to show that "I've been there."

My question is: Which came first, the chicken or the egg? What I mean by that is: Many geek teenagers exhibit anti-social characteristics, including: poor hygiene, little or no conversation skills and attitudes (for instance know-it-all-ism) that are off-putting. Do adolescents get into computers because they don't get along and don't understand why, so turn to computers (books, D&D, whatever) as something they can understand/master? Or do adolescents who get into computers/whatever use up so much brain capacity with intellectually challenging tasks they can't learn how to interact with others? Or some third thing?

I lived in rural farm community until the middle of 3rd grade when I moved to where I am now. Back then, I was very active outside with my friends and did all sorts of fun things, but since I moved here, I didn't know anybody around and there weren't very many kids nearby, so I mostly stayed inside and read or build K'NEX (yay!). That's when I got into computers more. I didn't really have anything else to do and somebody gave us a Commodore 64, so I was all over that, and then we got my grandpa's old Mac, and eventually moved over to an Acer running windows 3.1 and up. I think my getting into computers was more an environment thing, and had we not moved, I'd probably be a jock or something now.

10.) Why a new Linux distribution? (Score:4, Insightful)
by Alan Shutko (ats@acm.org)

(doesn't apply)

-rodent

Obsessed with Generalizations (Score:2, Insightful)
by [Sentry21](#) (sentry21@nospam.cdslash.net) on Friday December 29, @03:04PM EST (#[247](#))
([User #8183 Info](#))

It consistently amazes me the generalizations I see on Slashdot every day. From the 'average Slashdot reader' to the 'average computer geek', everyone assumes that all geeks are the same. The same thing happens outside of 'our culture' - everyone stereotypes us as all the same, we're all geeks, we all sit in our basements alone every night, we all listen to the same music, and so on, and so on.

First of all, if you want a reference to the 'hacker culture', forget about averaging anything, that eliminates the diversity that makes each one of us unique. How can you average a 13 year old male geek from Minnesota, a 22 year old female networking specialist in India, and a 22 year old cybercafe owner in Mexico? The same goes for slashdot posts - some are hardcore geeks, the ones that wrote emacs, designed Debian, were there when ADA first cropped up. Some are aerospace engineers, CIS students. If you take an 'average', you eliminate all of that in one swell foop.

Someone asked if antisocial behaviour came before geekly behaviour, or vice-versa. That is not a yes-or-no thing, it's different for different individuals, and you'd have to ask each individual

person. That question can't be answered by one kid.

Someone else asked if geeks were still at the same level, or if we were as revered as doctors and lawyers. Again, some commenters agreed, and said 'yes, they worship us as gods!', whereas my personal experience (and I'm less of an antisocial recluse-geek) was quite the opposite - being harassed, made fun of, butt of jokes, and so on. It's not a general thing, it varies from school to school and area to area.

People, please, can we stop generalizing and averaging everything out? Let's recognize diversity where others have failed to do so, let's not fall into the same trap again and again.

~Sentry21~

we don't need elitism (Score:3, Insightful)

by geekoid on Friday December 29, @03:09PM EST ([#251](#))

([User #135745 Info](#))

I really have noticed that "normal" people have invaded my High School CS class.. most of them are trying to learn C, and can barely use AOL. It is very sad god forbid someone wants to learn something they don't know!

this is the same kind of elitism jocks use when they think your sad bacause you can't throw a ball as well as them.

I applaud people who take something thats really difficult for them. They have more balls them someone taking class's that are easy.

Help! Help! I'm trapped in a Microsoft job and I can't get out!

Re:we don't need elitism (Score:1)

by [SevenSeasOfRhye](#) (shaunak@gmx.SCREW-SPAM.de) on Saturday December 30, @10:27AM EST ([#373](#))

([User #239196 Info](#))

This guy deserves a 6 for this comment.

But he won't get it will he?

Nope. SlashBLOT reeks of geeks turned mods.

Electrical Engineering is BORING.

Re:we don't need elitism (Score:1)

by drinkypoo on Thursday January 04, @01:46PM EST ([#401](#))

([User #153816 Info](#))

I really have noticed that "normal" people have invaded my High School CS class.. most of them are trying to learn C, and can barely use AOL. It is very sad

god forbid someone wants to learn something they don't know! this is the same kind of elitism jocks use when they think your sad bacause you can't throw a ball as well as them.

What I got from his statement was that it was pathetic that someone was trying to learn to code before they actually had the skills to USE the computer. It really is pretty pathetic when someone's trying to code but they get confused by the menus in the IDE. Imagine how lost these people would be in a traditional Unix build environment where they were required to actually type commands and manually edit makefiles!

I applaud people who take something that's really difficult for them. They have more balls than someone taking class's that are easy.

Or maybe they're just overreaching their goals. Perhaps they should learn how to use the computer before they try to code. Even if they manage to somehow become a programmer while still being confused by the big colorful icons of AOL, they're not going to produce programs worth a shit because they won't have the breadth or depth of knowledge to know what UI is good and what isn't, what kind of input and output is useful, and so on.

You are what you do when it counts --Steakley

music of the times (Score:2, Insightful)

by [crashnbur](#) (crash_spam@neotope.com) on Friday December 29, @03:29PM EST (#[259](#))

(User #127738 Info) <http://crash.neotope.com>

"Is it just me, or my g-g-g-generation, or does new music really suck? What are you listening to?"

I'm under the impression that new music never sucks. Music always changes and your tastes never change that much from what you were initially introduced to. Right? Well, not necessarily, but for the sake of argument, let's just say that our tastes don't stray *too* much. Despite the fact that the music "sucks" in your opinion, people have to understand that music caters to the changing of the times and the evolution of musical taste. I'll admit that modern rock pissed me off in the early nineties. I grew up in the late eighties and I loved Def Leppard, Don Henley, New Kids On The Block *dips head in shame* ... Then my dad got me into seventies rock. And wow, it still kicks ass. In the last year or two, I've gotten into modern rock such as Metallica, Creed, and lesser known bands like Dust For Life and American Pearl. 95% of the people in this country probably think American Pearl sucks. I love them. Sorry... that's the way things go.

What's my point? My point is that music is about individualism. It isn't about pleasing everyone that hears it. So what if 75% of Americans hate Britney's music. If even one tenth of that other 25% buy one of her albums, that's about 6 million record sales. And by today's standards, that doesn't suck. In conclusion, we should not decide what music sucks and what doesn't popularly. I say, if music is good enough to make it to the mainstream, even if only for a moment, then it doesn't suck.

Then there's all the factors of why this band or that song or this genre ... sucks. It's a bunch of crap. Music only sucks when individuals don't want to hear it. But just because Bing Crosby sucks by today's standards, does that mean his music sucks? No. It's his creation. It's his art. (arguably) And that can be said about all musicians and their music. It doesn't have to conform to anything, and you don't have to listen to anything you don't want to.

So those of you complaining about music that sucks so horribly, why don't you stop your bitching and go out and listen to something you like. (or make your own?)

crash.neotope.com

Great read, Clinton! (Score:1)

by themushroom on Friday December 29, @03:31PM EST ([#260](#))

(User #197365 Info) <http://www.saysomethingcryptic.com>

Enjoyed the interview and your responses. You've got your head on straight, no matter what The Man tried to do to you. :) And loved your quote, *The pop culture people look happy, but they aren't. They need music and icons to tell them who to be.*

I graduated from HS in '86, and was the only person in my class with any interest in computers. I spent 5 hours a day on Apple //e's and the fact that our lab had one only Mac (256k, 2 3.5" drives, that's it) worked out because there was only one person who would sit down at it. My musical tastes were evolving out of metal and into synthpop. Girls were not something that I lacked time for, girls were something that lacked interest in me so I lacked time to be concerned about that disregard. Reading your tale reminded me of my own growing up, though you've gone farther with Linux than I ever got with that VIC=20 I was programming at home. :)

« Visit the [Reality Avoidance Therapists Homepage!](#) »

Comments from another nobody teen (Score:1, Insightful)

by Anonymous Coward on Friday December 29, @04:31PM EST ([#285](#))

I'm bored, so I'm going to give me thoughts on a couple of those questions as well... Woot! Another metal head =) In reference to the questions about being outcasts due to being a geek, if you factor metal into the equation, that would account for some of the frowns, hehe. People just don't understand metal, they can't seem to get over the "yelling" (which is usually just distortion and not yelling at all)... You know what's really funny about that? If you let someone listen to some metal, just a clip that's all instrumental, and do NOT tell them that it is metal (if you do, they'll immediately say it's terrible), they'll say they liked it... Then expand that little clip to include some vocals, amazing how their attitude changes =) Personally, I listen to it for the music, too, especially the guitar, I am a guitarist after all. There is absolutely no other form of music that is as complex as metal. As for that "which came first" question, I used to be a hardcore jock... I actually **shudders** listened to popular music too... The reason why I got into computers is because there was never anyone around to play football with... you needed at least 4 people and I could never find more than 1 or 2... Just doesn't work... So, when I couldn't play football, I'd mess with my Apple IIe. I quickly learned BASIC, and from there, I've picked up a whole slew of languages and OSes quite easily. I wouldn't really consider myself anti-social, but, I think that from my experience, certain things that "normal" people do seem, I dunno, stupid... I think using my mental capacity is much more fun than doing what "normal" people do, and therefore, I turn down certain opportunities to go out... That doesn't mean I never go out, it just means that I'll only do certain things. Anywho, I've gotsta go... Sorry if I spelt something wrong or messed something up, I'm kinda rushed here. So, there's my comments =) Bye, hehe.

death metal sucks! (Score:1)

by [Pheersum](#) (unitedstates_ofamerica@hotmail.com (spam it all yo)) on Friday December 29, @04:39PM EST ([#288](#))
[\(User #243554 Info\)](#)

Who would want to listen to shit like that? "cannibal corps", what a stupid name for a band. Only a greasy geek would like shit like that. Oh wait...

*Ashes of Empires and bodies of kings,
these are a few of my favorite things.*

Wish I could know you (Score:2)

by SubtleNuance on Friday December 29, @04:46PM EST ([#290](#))
[\(User #184325 Info\)](#)

Its almost a shame that I have to work/live with arrogant know-nothings everyday... when very interesting, intelligent, likeminded people are scattered around the globe. All in all this kid sounds like a fine person.

Good luck to you.

Anyone every think to build a geek-commune? ;)

[End Plurality Voting.](#)

Geek commune (Score:1)

by sachachua on Saturday December 30, @04:43AM EST ([#365](#))

(User #246293 Info)

Hey, sure thing! I keep asking my friends to go and introduce me to geeks - it's surprisingly hard to find other people as into computers and programming as I am, people don't mind chatting about science and algorithms and optimizations over lunch.

Although I wouldn't really call other people arrogant know-nothings.. =) It's just that I like the mental stimulation that comes from interacting with other geeks. <g>

Geek vs Nerd (Score:1)

by [pcbob](#) ([Yugoslavia@Kanada.KOM](#)) on Friday December 29, @05:42PM EST ([#296](#))

(User #67069 Info) <http://www.SerbianCafe.com/members/bosshcco/>

Hopefully, ou won't be offended (but i would if someone told it to me). I must say you pretty much are a luser - theres a difference between a geek and nerd. Geek is supposed to be person interested in technology, while nerd is someone who learns lots of unnecesary stuff and is anti-social. In my schools computer science club, 99% of people are nerds. Their knowledge about computers is if i click here WINDOWS will do this. They make up their own RPG games, and trading cards, and sh*t like that. We also have a few people that are MCSE or Novells' version of same thing, but their knowlegde is not much better than the previous guys. It looks to me like you are a pure nerd! You spend 4 hours a day (you call free time) on irc/tv/music???? If you were a geek you would be spending at least 8 hours a day either coding, or dissasembling your tv, or anything. irc should be in a background, just so you glance occasionally on #kernelnewbies, or other PROGRAMMING, not TEEN oriented chat (hopefully you don't hang on teen chanels). I realize that you are only 15, but at the age of 16 i was going to bed only when my eyes can't sta open because of the bad monitor (~2am). Sometimes i wouldn't go to bed till 7am when the sun would remind me it's time to finish the fscking day. (on hollydays, of course :) Being kewl has nothing to do with what you do in your free time, it has to do with the attitude you give it. I have yet to hear someone say to me `geek` while thinking luser. Also, You gotta go out more - not to be kewl or anything, but because it's good for your body. Go swimming, skiing, baskedadll, anything. weightlifting is especially good for morale, just watch your back :) Raves are also a necesity to give your mind a break, but you listen to metal. Techno all the WAY!!!! Hopefully you understood what I'm trying to say. Don't be offended. Try to take some of my advice. I must say i'm a combination of geek and nerd, but i don't see myself being picked on because of that. p.s. I'm not some big guy - only 180cm, or 5'10", I don't look menacing, maybe boollies don't come close to me because i'm serb, but i doubt that's the reason. I had same level of respect while i was in serba as well, and i was really short ages 14-16.

how can i set signature? :)

Re:Geek vs Nerd (Score:1)

by morthraneous on Friday December 29, @10:50PM EST ([#341](#))

(User #255691 Info)

Geek is supposed to be person interested in technology, while nerd is someone who learns lots of unnecessary stuff and is anti-social.

HOLY SHIT! you mean interest in technology and learning lots of unnecessary stuff while being anti-social is mutually exclusive?

Thats Lots of Free Time, Too Much Actually (Score:3, Funny)

by [danheskett](#) (heskettd@hotmail.com) on Friday December 29, @06:22PM EST (#305)

(User #178529 Info) <http://www.vocalstudent.com>

Look, to everyone who suggests he should get a girlfriend, you are way off:

As a college student, you will (and should) throw out those values for sleep, work, and fun

My typical week is like this:

- 20 credits worth of classes (probably like 40~ hrs of class/lab time)
- 42 hrs a week at my programming job
- 25-30 hrs a week consulting
- 25-28 hrs a week sleeping

Typically, this leads to about 5-10 hrs a week of free time. That is girlfriend time, and relaxation time. Plus sometimes homework, but not usually.

College is supposed to stress your limits, push you hard. If you pay 20k+per year, and dont push yourself, you are a goddamn fool.

Life is about moving forward, not about sleeping in to 8 am, or 10am, or sometimes noon. A good life is about being the first one in line for breakfast, the first one to finish the test, and the last one to bed at night.

Recommending to a 15-yr old that he sleep more, or take time for a girlfriend is an utter waste of time. At his age, or even through to college, spending more than 30-minutes to 1-hr on a girlfriend each day is crazy. Prioritize - work now, fun later. Much later.

Get Vocal. <http://www.vocalstudent.com>

Re:Thats Lots of Free Time, Too Much Actually (Score:2)

by [TOTKChief](#) (com TOTK gmorris) on Saturday December 30, @12:11AM EST (#344)

(User #210168 Info) <http://www.TOTK.com/>

Recommending to a 15-yr old that he sleep more, or take time for a girlfriend is an utter waste of time. At his age, or even through to college, spending more than 30-minutes to 1-hr on a girlfriend each day is crazy. Prioritize - work now, fun later. Much later.

Perhaps my mood is bad, but why is this 3, Funny? 3, Insightful is more like it. =)

Actually, while you're young, you should learn to ration sleep. Attending [MSMS](#) forced me to ratchet down to five hours or so plus power naps. College actually got easier--mainly because I got lazy because scholarships are paying for it and my parents and I aren't--so my sleep schedule stretched back to a "normal" amount. Now that I'm doing everything at once, those valuable techniques I learned as a kid come in wonderfully handy.

--

Geof F. Morris [TOTK.com Sports--Sports for Geeks, Commentary that Matters](#)

Re:Thats Lots of Free Time, Too Much Actually (Score:1)

by [danheskett](#) (heskettd@hotmail.com) on Saturday December 30, @01:25AM EST (#352)
(User #178529 Info) <http://www.vocalstudent.com>

This isn't a joke. Seriously.

I wrote this, it wasn't supposed to be funny. I am serious.

Get Vocal. <http://www.vocalstudent.com>

Re:Thats Lots of Free Time, Too Much Actually (Score:1)

by [epukinsk](#) (erik@neca.com) on Saturday December 30, @05:48PM EST (#383)
(User #120536 Info)

Life is about moving forward

eh. I'm all for moving forward, but life is about enjoying yourself. You can bust your ass your whole life, but in the end the only thing that will be worthwhile is whether you were able to figure out the stuff that makes you happy.

And if you're happy when you're strung out, then go ahead, but not all of us are.

-Erik

Books are to living as vitamin pills are to eating.

good *nix IDE -- KDevelop (Score:1)

by [zerovoid](#) (zerovoid@indifference.org) on Friday December 29, @07:07PM EST (#311)

(User #201369 Info) <http://zerovoid.indifference.org>

Mdevelop is more of a system built around existing apps. Imagine Glimmer + DDD + glade + a lisp interpreter all integrated. IMHO, linux lacks a really good IDE that can do everything you need..edit the code, debug it, and create an interface.

KDevelop has been this and more for a while now. It has the integrated debugger and interface creator (also tightly integrated with Qt Designer). It has all the standard stuff like code highlighting and formating aids. It doesn't, on the other hand, have a built in LISP interpretor, but I don't many people that use one anyway. Besides, anyone that wants to add one is free to do so.

I've even heard that KDevelop will make coffee for you, but I can't confirm that:)

Here's the URL: <http://www.kdevelop.org>

'MentalUNIX' probably isn't a good name (Score:1)

by [jcurbo](#) (jcurbo@acm.org) on Friday December 29, @09:34PM EST (#329)

(User #132 Info) <http://csc.hsu.edu/~curboj>

I haven't seen anyone else mention this... Unless he's planning to go through the Open Group's UNIX certification tests and trademark licensing (\$BIGNUM), he needs to make a name change. They've been very picky about the use of 'UNIX' in the past, because of the trademark protection regulations. I'd suggest something like Mental Linux (since he's are basing it off Linux + LSB etc.) IMHO, I think that his development skills would probably be better focused on being a Debian developer or such. In fact, 'MentalUNIX' sounds like a perfect Debian: full LSB compliance (which Debian is aiming for), using any package format (it is possible to use rpm's (man alien) or rolling your own (man stow) in Debian but it's not perfect)...

I was quite happy to hear he uses Debian. When I read the post about what one CD you'd take, during the question session, my answer was 'a Debian cd'. As long as I had gcc, perl, and vi I could be completely satisfied. ;)

-- Choose your future. Choose to sysadmin.

One Damn Lucky Geek (Score:1)

by jessh on Saturday December 30, @02:20AM EST (#357)

(User #144140 Info)

I am proud to say i am luckier than most high school students. The school i go to is a Science Acadamy, the main thing i have noticed that makes it different from most schools is there is no popular group, and best of all the computer nerds are respected and running Linux is actually seen as a sign of inteligence by many.

The school was placed in a poor neighborhood so half of the students are in the Science Acadamy and half are regular students form the neighborhood, the best result of this is there is no group of rich kids pushing people around (unlike the High School i was suposed to goto)

One of the main reasons people like me are respected so much is because of how our network and computers are run, it is done almost entirely by students, we are in charge of it and the teachers and students know this.

I am now a junior and i have not had one person make fun of me for being a nerd or anything similar, and i have had no reason to be ashamed of anything, i carry a laptop to school and have recently started a ham radio club, things which at most schools would result in me automatically being labeled an outcast, but it has been just as accepted as if i had joined the football team.

And before anyone asks, I do have a girlfriend, And so do many of the "nerds" and "geeks" that i know.

Jess

typical/"different" slashdot readers? (Score:2, Interesting)
by dictatrix on Saturday December 30, @05:18AM EST ([#367](#))
(User #222278 Info) <http://www.duchessdot.com/>

mobydisk wrote, among other things, to inquire,

> And another thing. Does everybody here think that because they read Slashdot that they are "different?"

no, i'm proud to say i don't need *slashdot* to make me different.

i'm different because i'm a sixteen year old *girl* who loves linux, even though i know practically nothing about it as yet, because while i was on holiday the power supply in my desktop died, and i'm not bothering to install redhat on my laptop because of its wretched winmodem, that obviously i knew nothing about when i bought it.

i'm different because i love to read science fiction and technopunk thrillers, british comic fantasy, greek surrealist poetry, pre-revolutionary french biography, classical greek literature, classic british and french novels, dilbert, books on italian architecture, and everything else worth reading. it's quite an expensive little hobby.

i'm different because i listen to opera, german industrial garage music, alternative folk/punk/rock chicks like ani difranco and liz phair, cabaret tunes, a little jazz, medieval choral music, bach and mozart, greek pop music and rembetika, and classical greek poetry set to music.

i'm different because two-tone chanel slingbacks make me swoon, the discovery of a perfect new lipstick fills me with euphoria, and all i want for christmas is a hermes trenchcoat and *anything* made of barguzin sable.

i'm different because i love to write almost as much as i love to read, and the book of poetry i am working on has already been called "exquisite" by the founder of an award-winning poetry publishing house.

i'm different because i'm an active member of a centre-right political party in a little south pacific country most of you probably wouldn't be able to find on a map given an hour with a magnifying glass.

i'm different because i'm in limbo between schools, because i'd rather flip burgers for the rest of my life than go back to the intellectually stifling hellhole i recently escaped from (a feat i managed only because of a sleep disorder, and low blood pressure, that reduced my attendance to 49% last year, not a day of which i actually skipped), and the only correspondence school in my country doesn't think i'd quite "fit in" with them, either.

typical slashdot readers? there's no such thing! you people should know that by now!

dictatrix, aka the duchess.

Music / Noise (Score:1)

by Jarvo on Saturday December 30, @06:02AM EST ([#368](#))

([User #70205 Info](#))

My signal processing lecturer told me that noise is any part of a signal that is unwanted.

Virtually everyone's parents dislike their kid's music because it isn't a signal that their brains will "accept".

Offtopic? I'm too tired to care. :)

Great answers (Score:1)

by Andreas Rueckert on Saturday December 30, @10:56AM EST ([#375](#))

([User #138510 Info](#))

Hi! Just wanted to tell you, that your answers are great and I enjoyed the interview throughout. Though I'd still like to know how your 1st LUG meeting was...

My thoughts. (Score:1)

by [TheFlu](#) (flu@SLAMTHESPAMthelinuxpimp.com) on Saturday December 30, @01:05PM EST ([#380](#))

([User #213162 Info](#)) <http://www.thelinuxpimp.com>

I'll make this short and sweet (like my ex-girlfriend). Being a Geek does not in any way make you unpopular, it never has. I consider myself to have been "born Geek"(started programming BASIC in 6th grade), but I was always very popular in school (voted best personality senior year, toot! toot!, and even played College football for a Division 1 school). Anyhow, it's the stereotypical traits that some geeks have (anti-social, fearing parties, bad dressing, etc...) that make them unpopular with the masses, or perhaps they make themselves unpopular because of these traits. The important thing to remember, is that not all geeks have these traits (I'm shy, but not necessarily anti-social. I sit in front of the computer for 12 hours a day, but I also like playing golf and funneling beer).

I think what makes a person a Geek is, perhaps, above average intelligence, and more importantly, genuine curiosities about the world that surrounds them. I'd also add to that an internal need to discover how things function and how to make those functions function better or differently. Looking back on my definition, that sounds a great deal like the definition of a scientist. Luckily for us Geeks, scientists are "valued" by society.

Pimps are Geeks too. [The Linux Pimp](#)

--It's Pimptastic!--

Re:My thoughts. (Score:1)

by jessh on Saturday December 30, @02:26PM EST ([#382](#))
[\(User #144140 Info\)](#)

But sometimes the way geeks are treated by society leads to further anti-social behaviour, i have personally experienced people being assholes simply because they want someone to pick on, it is the fact that you are different in some way that makes them feel they have the right to pick on you, it doesn't matter if you are shy or anti-social, lucky i haven't had to deal with people like that for quite a while.

What would... (Score:1)

by 6j3 on Sunday December 31, @02:47AM EST ([#385](#))
[\(User #245868 Info\)](#)

... the average slashdotter say?

Why do I get the feeling 9.5 of 10 responses were simply regurgitated /. posts?

The "average slashdot reader ..." (Score:1)

by [JoeGee](#) (mys3lf@mailcity.com) on Sunday December 31, @04:54PM EST ([#389](#))
[\(User #85189 Info\)](#)

answers three or four posts, maybe tries to submit an article or two, and then gives up when they realize that /. is just another 3r33t "social club."

Progressive Rock (Score:1)

by [Lode](#) (lode@apple2.com) on Monday January 01, @02:29AM EST ([#391](#))
(User #142280 Info) <http://fly.to/lode>

I guess there must be many other geeks out there who are also into **progressive rock...?**

Among other rockers I noticed that the proggers are usually seen as the "geeks of rock" because we're so "detailistic" (*does this word exist in English?*), always going for complex, technical music.

Ends up hapenning that being a computer geek I feel the same when "normal" people refer to prog rockers as to when they refer to computer geeks...

Any other proggers out there to share a view?

--

"I'm looking through you, where did you go?"

Re:'Beatnik' is a fraud. (Score:1)
by [jaxn](#) ([jackson\]@\[bloomston.com](mailto:jackson]@[bloomston.com)) on Friday December 29, @10:28AM EST ([#35](#))
(User #112189 Info) <http://www.bloomston.com>

Yeah, Yeah...

Big shocker. In my oinion it was never about the movement... but more about the incredible writings that were finally being recognized.

Where the hell did you find that anyway?... and why did you post it here?

"being alive is a crock of shit!" --Kilgore Trout (Kurt Vonnegut)

He who knows others is wise. He who knows himself is enlightened. -- Lao Tsu

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Ask An Ordinary Teenage Slashdot User

Posted by [Roblimo](#) on Tuesday

December 26, @12:00PM
from the voices-from-the-gallery dept.

These interviews have gotten pretty celebrity-oriented lately. To break the routine, this week's guest is an unknown, 15-year-old, Linux-using, Slashdot-reading high school sophomore named Clinton Ebadi I met at a [local LUG](#) meeting. Clinton's mom, who drove him to the meeting (his first), was happily surprised to find that there was a large group of people (of all ages) out there who instantly accepted and respected her son; his relatives, teachers, and classmates looked at him and saw nothing but a slightly strange, slightly pudgy loner. So ask Clinton anything you like about being a kid geek (a living, breathing Katz character, you might say) or anything else, including [MentalUNIX](#) or the ncurses-based front end he's working on for [Splay](#). Post questions for Clinton below. We'll send him 10 selected ones by e-mail, and expect his answers within a week or so.

< [Rethinking Virtual Community: Part Two | Gnome/KDE Tutorials For Windows Users?](#) >



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Interviews

Welcome to the interviews section - this is place to come to read the assorted conversations that Slashdot and the readers have had with various people involved in the Internet, computers, or anything of interest.

2/2 (5)

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This discussion has been archived. No new comments can be posted.

Geeks outlook (Score:1)

by uknutter on Tuesday December 26, @12:04PM EST ([#8](#))

([User #248148 Info](#))

How do normal non-geeks view you as a person? Are you accepted for who you are at school? Do you ever wish you were just normal, if there is such a thing? Could you live without computers and technology? If you could be a programming language which one would you be and why?

Re:Geeks outlook (Score:1)

by [aphr0](#) (imagayman@remove.hotmail.com) on Wednesday December 27, @12:18AM EST ([#602](#))

([User #7423 Info](#))

Please, allow me..

They kick his ass, no, no, no, ADA.

Re:Geeks outlook (Score:1)

by Transcendent on Wednesday December 27, @09:34PM EST ([#737](#))

([User #204992 Info](#)) <http://yi.org/transcendent>

Geeks hate me... I know a lot about computers, yet am accepted in society very easily.... don't hate me because im beautiful :(

//Transcendent

drug use? (Score:3, Interesting)

by [TurboJustin](#) (justin_at_iwz-dot-com) on Tuesday December 26, @12:06PM EST ([#13](#))

([User #34296 Info](#)) <http://computers.iwz.com>

Do you use any drugs? Before discounting this question, take into account that it's being posted by a recent HS graduate who, for the most part, fits the same description.. would like to compare notes ;p peace

Re:drug use? (Score:3, Informative)

by [Zachary Kessin](#) (zkessin@script-fu.org) on Tuesday December 26, @02:54PM EST ([#238](#))

([User #1372 Info](#)) <http://www.script-fu.org>

I would be very careful about responding to this one. Remember most drugs are Illegal, and even beer is if you are 15. If you have used them talking about it on a web site with a readership as large as /. is not smart.

Remember anything you say here is public and therefore can come back to haunt you. The person who may be holding your college app in 3 years may be reading this right no.

Remember the 5th amendment allows you to shoot yourself in the foot, it just says they can't force you too.

The cure of the ills of Democracy is more Democracy.

--Al Smith Gov. of New York, 1928

No one in their right mind would answer this... (Score:1)

by [frekio](#) ([frekio at yahoo dot com](mailto:frekio@yahoo.com)) on Tuesday December 26, @04:36PM EST ([#354](#))

([User #70389 Info](#))

This guy' s full name is given in the article, if he answers this then his parents and school (among other places) will know this information. Considering the taboo state of drugs, this question is a really bad one.. I don't see why it has a high score.

Re:No one in their right mind would answer this... (Score:3, Insightful)

by [Rigid_Glitch](#) (moc.oohay@sminra) on Tuesday December 26, @05:46PM EST ([#416](#))

([User #264755 Info](#))

I just spent the evening talking to three relatives who grew up in Nazi Germany.

They were one of the few families in their hometown who had a radio - they tuned in to hear warnings of oncoming American and British bomber squadrons that were systematically carpetbombing the German civilian populace.

They told me of the horror they experienced when they accidentally turned the dial to a station that broadcast allied radio. Why? The Nazis had made it a crime punishable by *death* to listen to allied radio broadcasts.

Now **you**, *frekio* say "don't even *talk* about drugs because it might get you in trouble."

This is an analogous situation. People who are **not** committing a crime (by any reasonable definition) are being persecuted by a state (the US), and you advocate that we all pretend that this is all *hunky dory*. Everybody toe the line! Nobody say anything while the state machinery puts hundreds of thousands of innocents in concentration camps (federal prisons).

WAKE UP. We all have a responsibility to speak the truth -- this IS a free society isn't it? Or is this Faschism?

The Nazis usurped power and executed every dissenter. YOU live in a democracy. The world's "lantern of freedom and liberty". Right? So PLEASE make some use of the freedoms you have left. This is realty. You leave a legacy. You have a responsibility.

We ALL DIE. DEAL with it. Do something with the rest of your life, and the freedom you have left.

Re:No one in their right mind would answer this... (Score:1)

by [angelo](#) (anrkngl@lowmagnet.org) on Tuesday December 26, @06:18PM EST (#435)

(User #21182 Info) <http://www.lowmagnet.org/>

Aaah run away! Godwin's rule, Godwin's rule!

[Lowmagnet.org](#)

Re:No one in their right mind would answer this... (Score:1)

by [andyh1978](#) (andy@andyh.org) on Tuesday December 26, @09:19PM EST (#542)

(User #173377 Info) <http://www.andyh.uklinux.net>

Aaah run away! Godwin's rule, Godwin's rule!

FYI, Godwins rule is:

As a Usenet discussion grows longer, the probability of a comparison involving Nazis or Hitler approaches one.

See [here](#).

Re:No one in their right mind would answer this... (Score:1)

by [angelo](#) (anrkngl@lowmagnet.org) on Wednesday December 27, @02:40PM EST (#731)

(User #21182 Info) <http://www.lowmagnet.org/>

Wow, I read that too. My comment still stands. It did approach one.

[Lowmagnet.org](#)

Re:No one in their right mind would answer this... (Score:1)

by [frekio](#) ([frekio at yahoo dot com](mailto:frekio@yahoo.com)) on Tuesday December 26, @06:51PM EST (#466)

(User #70389 Info)

I agree with your points, however I don't believe this is the interviewee's fight.

I believe that the free society you call america is a bit of an exxageration, and yes it is a sad state. However, if the interviewee's purpose isn't to fight the "war on drugs" or a sort of war on freedom you talk about, then him answering yes to this question could open a huge can of worms which he most likely would not be willing to confront.

This is sort of analogous to another thing that pops up on slashdot often, the idea that if some small software or something isn't behaving exactly the way you wish it was, then you rewrite the entire thing.

In america today, admitting that you use drugs will do far more bad for you than good for anyone. Therefore it isn't prudent unless you are willing to sacrifice for a cursory topic...

btw.. I didn't say don't even talk about drugs, luckily you can still talk about it without fear of to laws coming down on your head. But admitting you do drugs somewhere that your school or teacher or employer could read is a bad idea.

Re:No one in their right mind would answer this... (Score:1)

by [turbosk](#) (jjm87149@yahoo.com) on Tuesday December 26, @10:01PM EST ([#555](#))
(User #73287 Info)

my old drummer smoked a LOT of dope, but kept it discrete. his motto was "why advertise?" which makes a lot of sense. on the one hand it shouldn't be a crime to inhale burnt weed, but as long as it's illegal, the smart thing is to have some common sense.

you pick your battles, and not everybody is up for fighting city hall on all fronts. my personal feeling is that the question is moot.

peace, love, understanding, and a big stick to smite your enemies
fred

Re:No one in their right mind would answer this... (Score:1)

by pSyk on Thursday December 28, @12:09AM EST ([#740](#))
(User #80843 Info)

WHY?? what do you think moderators do ? speaking of which, let me moderate this crap. drugs are bad, mmmkay.

Oooh, I got one! (Score:2)

by update() on Tuesday December 26, @05:33PM EST ([#403](#))
(User #217397 Info)

While I'm not thinking *Q. Do you use any drugs? A. No.* is going to win Slashdot any Pulitzers, here's a vaguely related question.

A recent study in Seattle showed that a comprehensive teen anti-smoking campaign had no effect on teenage smoking. For me, having watched the "War On Smoking" of recent years coincide with an increase in teen smoking, I was surprised it didn't go up. How do high school students react to the various anti-smoking campaigns? (Outrageous distortions from TheTruth.com, Philip Morris telling kids that smoking is very cool but is only for grownups...)

Re:Oooh, I got one! (Score:1)

by [Rigid_Glitch](#) (moc.oohay@sminra) on Tuesday December 26, @06:06PM EST ([#428](#))
(User #264755 Info)

OK, I gotta bite.

Most of the cancer-causing chemicals are created by _burning_ plant materials (tobacco, or others).

While doing my research stint at the Institute of Human genetics, I attended a symposium by an MIT researcher who proved that all cyclic hydrocarbons produced by burning plant matter generated cancer-causing substances (Fall 1990).

To avoid the cancer-causing effects from whatever you smoke - just heat up the plant material - do not burn it. The popular english term is "vaporizing".

I have worked in cancer research. Cancer sucks. Don't do this to yourself. Please vaporize - don't Burn - tobacco and other smokeable products...

P.S. And Listen to "Larry Heard" - search -- search

Re:Oooh, I got one! (Score:2, Informative)

by el_chicano on Wednesday December 27, @02:30PM EST ([#729](#))

(User #36361 Info) <http://vatoloco.net>

Most of the cancer-causing chemicals are created by _burning_ plant materials (tobacco, or others).

I am not disputing this assertion, but [Jack Herer's book "The Emperor Wears No Clothes"](#) has an interesting theory. He states that tobacco companies use fertilizer that contains phosphates contaminated with low-level radioactive particles. If you inhale such a particle it will remain in your lungs radiating away.

It makes sense, as hundreds of thousands die yearly from smoking tobacco. If cannabis was as harmful as tobacco, doesn't it follow that hundreds of thousands of cannabis smokers would get lung cancer too?

--

You think being a MIB is all voodoo mind control? You should see the paperwork!

Morris Fletcher, The X-Files

Re:Oooh, I got one! (Score:1)

by [Tripazoid](#) ([thisisafakeemailaddress@areyouoncrack.doyouwannabe](mailto>thisisafakeemailaddress@areyouoncrack.doyouwannabe)) on Friday December 29, @01:14PM EST ([#775](#))

(User #267598 Info)

OK, I gotta ask. How do you vaporize a cigarette, do you get the much desired nicotine from it?, and do you get smoke from it when you do this?

***** PS7 If you don't get, its not for you.

Re:drug use? (Score:1)

by [Marc2k](#) (mdb4562@cs.rit.edu) on Tuesday December 26, @01:38PM EST ([#151](#))

(User #221814 Info) <http://morgoth.rh.rit.edu>

Stay away from a drug called PHP though, that stuff will rot your brain.
my \$Marc = Geek->new(); #well, not a _new_ geek...

Re:drug use? (Score:2, Interesting)

by [Rigid Glitch](#) (moc.oohay@sminra) on Tuesday December 26, @01:54PM EST ([#172](#))
(User #264755 Info)

This is rather interesting.

Most intelligent geeks experiment with a drug only after reading/learning hard facts about them. Not one geek FOAF tried any drug through peer pressure - or because it 'was the cool thing to do'.

But that should hardly surprise anyone.

I also should mention that out of the 5 professional Microsoft admins and security officers I have met, ALL drink heavily.

But that should hardly surprise anyone.

Make that 6 (Score:2)

by [ch-chuck](#) (uce@ftc.gov) on Tuesday December 26, @02:24PM EST ([#208](#))
(User #9622 Info)

Gawd, now that you mention it, I did start hitting the sauce pretty hard about the same time as passing the McSE! And must pass 2K by year end, hope the liver can take it....

I'm trying to think, but nothing happens.

Re:drug use? (Score:1)

by [BSOD Bitch](#) ([NoSpam@FuckYou.com](mailto>NoSpam@FuckYou.com)) on Tuesday December 26, @02:01PM EST ([#184](#))
(User #260492 Info) <http://www.hell.org>

Yes, stay away from it. But for all means.. Please... Use mod_PHP !!!

The Spice must Flow.

Re:drug use? (Score:1)

by [BSOD Bitch](#) ([NoSpam@FuckYou.com](mailto>NoSpam@FuckYou.com)) on Friday December 29, @03:30PM EST ([#779](#))
(User #260492 Info) <http://www.hell.org>

Who are you looking for?

The Spice must Flow.

Re:drug use? (Score:1)

by [BSOD Bitch \(NoSpam@FuckYou.com\)](#) on Sunday December 31, @01:48AM EST (#791)
(User #260492 Info) <http://www.hell.org>

Ive heard kids these days do. You must be one of them.

The Spice must Flow.

Re:drug use? (Score:1)

by [SlashGeek \(SlashGeek REMOVE THESE @ CAPS .hotmail.com\)](#) on Tuesday December 26, @08:56PM EST (#535)
(User #192010 Info)

Yes, you can get suspended from school if they even *think* you are using PHP.

Why is it called "common sense" when nobody seems to have any?

Re:drug use? Drugs suck (Score:1)

by [Platypii \(_ken_@yahoo.com\)](#) on Tuesday December 26, @03:01PM EST (#247)
(User #132649 Info)

good argument there, i mean, i was shooting heroin 3 times a day, but i read your post, and DAMN! thank god you saved me, i owe you my life. dumbass.

Re:drug use? Drugs suck (Score:2, Insightful)

by RootPimp on Tuesday December 26, @10:25PM EST (#563)
(User #230121 Info)

Personally I think not only should they legalize drugs but the government should also subsidize it. People who want to do drugs are going to do it regardless of whether it's legal or not. So you make it cheap enough so the people who are going to abuse em can easily buy enough to overdose themselves. We clear the world up of some otherwise losers, and we save money on fighting a war and treating a disease that we'll never win. This is all part of the platform for my political party..."The lotto reform" party. In addition to the drug subsidization we also want to reform this corrupt lotto system, I have been playing for a year now and I still haven't won millions. Vote for me as president and I'll make sure that these astronomical odds are brought down to levels where you and I can all benefit.

Re:drug use? Drugs suck (Score:1)

by [cultobill \(bill_weiss@att.net\)](#) on Wednesday January 03, @12:25AM EST (#795)
(User #72845 Info)

Personally I think not only should they legalize drugs but the government should also subsidize it. People who want to do drugs are going to do it regardless of whether it's legal or not. So you make it cheap enough so the people who are going to abuse em can easily buy enough to overdose themselves. We clear the world up of some otherwise losers, and we save money on fighting a war and treating a disease that we'll never win. This is all part of the platform for my political party... "The lotto reform" party. In addition to the drug subsidization we also want to reform this corrupt lotto system, I have been playing for a year now and I still haven't won millions. Vote for me as president and I'll make sure that these astronomical odds are brought down to levels where you and I can all benefit. [Reply to This / Parent] Personally I think not only should they legalize drugs but the government should also subsidize it. People who want to do drugs are going to do it regardless of whether it's legal or not. So you make it cheap enough so the people who are going to abuse em can easily buy enough to overdose themselves. We clear the world up of some otherwise losers, and we save money on fighting a war and treating a disease that we'll never win. This is all part of the platform for my political party... "The lotto reform" party. In addition to the drug subsidization we also want to reform this corrupt lotto system, I have been playing for a year now and I still haven't won millions. Vote for me as president and I'll make sure that these astronomical odds are brought down to levels where you and I can all benefit.

Umm, other than the lotto thing, you have a good idea. Another reason to government-subsidise it: make shitloads of money. Honestly. Cut that deficit down, way down, with the combined money made from: no war on drugs, and revenue from drugs, like the taxes on alcohol and tobacco. Tax it just like those, and all is good.

-- Bill "Houdini" Weiss

Reactions (Score:3, Informative)

by [Stskeeps](#) (stskeeps@spam.tspre.org) on Tuesday December 26, @12:08PM EST (#14)

(User #161864 Info) <http://unrealircd.com>

Okay, as being a 16-year old brainkid, I have experinced a lot of times, people saying that - you cannot be 16! you're too damn smart!. Have you ever experinced that - to people _not_ belieivng you are so young? I mean, people think I'm like 24. Also, how did you learn to code? Books? Education? Parents/Family?. Also, can you combine "life"(whatver it is) and your "geek" life?. If not, my advice is that you should learn to have both a life, and be a geek at the same time - you'll end up alone else =P
-Stskeeps, <http://unrealircd.com>

Re:Reactions (Score:2, Insightful)

by [mikeylebeau](#) (mikey@lebeau.net.SPAMKILL) on Tuesday December 26, @01:10PM EST

(#115)

(User #68519 Info)

being a 16-year old brainkid

Congratulations that you're so smart and all, but it really is ridiculous that you consider yourself a "brainkid". NO one, and I mean NO one should consider themselves smarter than the rest, it's just a recipe for becoming an asshole hermit, heh. We're all smarter than others in some way, especially many of the very technically-inclined folks on /. but thinking that of oneself is something that cannot be only thought; it will be represented in who you are and how you act. And it's great that people tell you that you're so smart you should be older or whatever, but take it as a compliment and keep your head size in check.

Re:Reactions (Score:1)

by [Marc2k](#) ([mdb4562@cs.rit.edu](mailto: mdb4562@cs.rit.edu)) on Tuesday December 26, @01:46PM EST ([#161](#))
(User #221814 Info) <http://morgoth.rh.rit.edu>

Considering yourself smarter than most people isn't necessarily a bad thing, particularly if you have a low self-worth/self-esteem otherwise. However, with that mentality, it _is_ easy to begin thinking of yourself as better than most other people. Although, "Brainkid" is rather over the top...

my \$Marc = Geek->new(); #well, not a _new_ geek...

Re:Reactions (Score:1)

by [BSOD Bitch](#) (NoSpam@FuckYou.com) on Tuesday December 26, @02:16PM EST ([#198](#))
(User #260492 Info) <http://www.hell.org>

Don't troll me. But answer this. But when you are refering to 'smarter' what exactly are you refering to? IQ? EQ?

Because when I had mine tested it was 149. One point below getting into Mensa.

The Spice must Flow.

Re:Reactions (Score:1)

by Super_Frosty on Tuesday December 26, @03:15PM EST ([#265](#))
(User #82232 Info)

Mensa is (now) at 130. Perhaps part of getting in is knowing how to get in? (Kind of like opening a door?)

No comment at this time

Re:Reactions (Score:1)

by [BSOD Bitch](#) (NoSpam@FuckYou.com) on Tuesday December 26, @04:18PM EST ([#332](#))
(User #260492 Info) <http://www.hell.org>

I might get into it just to see what it is like. I always try somthing b4 I judge it.
Like windows. I tried it din't like it. Thanks for the info.

The Spice must Flow.

Re:Reactions (Score:1)

by [BSOD Bitch \(NoSpam@FuckYou.com\)](#) on Friday December 29, @03:29PM EST (#778)

(User #260492 Info) <http://www.hell.org>

um, ok.

The Spice must Flow.

Re:Reactions (Score:1)

by majestyk2000 on Tuesday December 26, @03:52PM EST (#307)

(User #256822 Info)

MENSA's pretty over-rated. I got in just so I could say I did, but then all they did was watch subtitled movies and play trivia games.

Re:Reactions (Score:2)

by drix on Tuesday December 26, @05:06PM EST (#383)

(User #4602 Info)

The Mensa cutoff is 132, my friend. To paraphrase Jerry Seinfeld, "You can always tell the 131s from the 132s". :)

Re:Reactions (Score:1)

by [Saib0t \(beltegeuse@usa.net.tld\)](#) on Tuesday December 26, @05:31PM EST (#401)

(User #204692 Info) <http://www.hesperia-mud.org>

Err, sorry to appear dumb with my IQ being 146, but what is Mensa?

By the way, you can have the highest IQ you want, without a good EQ, you're worthless to the society, however superior you might consider yourself to be.

IQ isn't the answer to everything, far from that... Actually it's pretty worthless as the current tests have to be changed every 10(?) years and are only useable on occidental persons, africans for example, who don't follow the same way of thinking as us white heterosexual anglo-saxons types, rate poorly with our tests, although not being less intelligent (if I remember well, that's an argument right-wing people use).

Just my 2 cents to say that IQ isn't what people with IQ inferior to 100 make it look like :)

Sig (appended to the end of comments you post, 120 chars)

But IQ tests are unfair! :) (Score:1)

by dasunt on Tuesday December 26, @08:51PM EST (#533)

(User #249686 Info)

I took an IQ test in my early teens and did rather well (if the above thread was correct, I could have easily became a member of Mensa). However, when I took the test, I realized it was time based, and skipped answering some questions because I didn't want to take the extra 10 seconds or so. Unfortunately, the way that IQ tests are set up, I now believe that taking the extra time would have resulted in a higher score. :(Oh well.

Just my \$.02

Re:But IQ tests are unfair! :) (Score:1)

by [Tuba](#) (Thomasaf@nomail.tele.dk) on Monday January 08, @07:31AM EST (#802)
([User #107057 Info](#))

When I was drafted - and no, I didn't end up in the army, the first time I've had a use for my bad back ;-) - the army representatives actually tried to talk me into joining anyway. They said I'd make an exellent officer, as my results in their combined IQ/psych-test was the best they'd seen in a few years.

The value of the above statement = 0

Why?, well, first of all I know several people who are way smarter than me, even though they'd probably do worse on the test. Basically IQ-test aren't worth the paper they're printed on ;-)

For those of you perplexed by the whole draft issue (no, not british beer...), I'm from Denmark. We do not have an entirely professional army, actually some 40% (AFAIR) are draftees - now does that suck or what? Would any /.ers wan't to crawl in the mud, when they could be in front of their computer?

But to get back OT.... I've been that kid once, and believe me, I wouldn't want to change a bit if I had the opportunity. Geeks/Nerds/Whatever actually end up as quite "normal" people in time, it just takes a few more years to get there. Not that we stop doing what made our peers consider us geeky, rather those things end up being valued rather more when the afore mentioned peers finally grow up. When I was 15, no girl would even think of dating me. Now that I'm 21, they've started to show a bit of interest - just too bad (for them) that I'm engaged to one who didn't mind last year ;-)

To round off this insane rant, a quote from Scott Adams' "The Dilbert Principle":
"While it is true that many normal people would prefer not to *date* an engineer, most normal people harbor an intense desire to *mate* with them, thus producing engineerlike children who will have high-paying jobs long before losing their virginity."
If you wish to compliment me, remove no from mail - otherwise just leave it where it is.

Re:Reactions (Score:1)

by [Gromgull](#) (gromgull@hotmail.com) on Thursday December 28, @07:36AM EST (#744)
([User #209379 Info](#))

A great Norwegian author, Jens Bjørneboe, wrote:
If we would never over-estimate our capabilites we would never get anywhere.

--
Cause she's the cheese and Im the macaroni

Re:Reactions (Score:1)

by [Syn404](#) (syntaxerror@techie.com) on Tuesday December 26, @02:25PM EST (#209)
([User #179434 Info](#))

Ah, so you *are* one of the UnrealIRCD coders? I recall seeing your sn in the credits. I completely agree with combining regular life and 'geek life,' as I learned that just this year, & it really is a lot less lonely. Um, just so this isn't offtopic, my multipart question for the 'regular /. reading geek' is: Do you like Star Trek? If so, which series is your favorite, and why?

--
I don't know what your problem is, but I'll bet it's hard to pronounce.

Re:Reactions (Score:1)

by [lintux](#) (lintux.dds.netherlands) on Tuesday December 26, @06:09PM EST (#431)
([User #125434 Info](#)) <http://huizen.dds.nl/~lintux/smart.html>

This used to be true, but lately a kid-geek is becoming more and more 'normal', I think. Just take a look at the people who participate at Olympiads for Informatics, for example. A lot of them are experienced UNIX users, and not just linux-freaks...

-- Hi, I'm a signature virus. plz set me as your signature and help me spread :)

I didn't grok the moderation (Score:1)

by Posse Fokker on Friday December 29, @10:14AM EST (#769)
([User #263254 Info](#))

+4, Informative? If the question is informative, will the answer be inquisitive?

My user name is Latin and refers to the power of Fokker airplanes

Re:Reactions (Score:1)

by [Kenyon](#) (kenyon@san.rr.com) on Sunday January 07, @11:01PM EST (#801)
([User #4231 Info](#)) <http://home.san.rr.com/ralphs>

HA! Some brainkid. He can't even spell "experienced".

Re:Reactions (Score:1)

by [Enahs](#) (dont@email.me-respond.instead) on Tuesday December 26, @03:11PM EST (#262)
([User #1606 Info](#)) <http://bsd-utils-aconf.sourceforge.net>

>You ever take into consideration that you're
>just around dumb people?

HAH! This may have been a troll, but that's my story through and through. I'm not all that intelligent, just had the dumb luck to be an average person among idiots most of my life. It's great that "make dep; make bzImage" can amaze the dumbest of morons. Watch 'em drool!
More than likely posted via Konqueror.

I know curiosity killed the cat.. but (Score:1)

by [DeICQLady](#) (nadine@kered.org) on Tuesday December 26, @ 12:08PM EST (#15)
([User #150809 Info](#))

The media, teachers, grownups in general like to think of our generation as apathetic, the recent disappointing turnout of youngin' for the e(gulp)lections among other things. Other than geeks you've known and talked to, is this apathy a general consensus or is there something more to it (in your opinion)?

PS: What I tell myself when people try to screw me over, is "wait till you come bangin at my company door, beggin for a job... I'll have security escort you off my property..."

"Old habits die hard . . . thats why I got that oozie from Walmart" - Nadine Edwards

Re:I know curiosity killed the cat.. but (Score:1)

by [po_boy](#) (amoore at openschedule dot org) on Tuesday December 26, @ 12:13PM EST (#30)
([User #69692 Info](#)) <http://openschedule.org>

"Old habits die hard . . . thats why I got that oozie from Walmart" - Nadine Edwards

do you mean "uzi"?

What do you read? What do you write? (Score:4, Insightful)

by [webword](#) (john@webword.com) on Tuesday December 26, @ 12:09PM EST (#17)
([User #82711 Info](#)) <http://webword.com>

Question One

What do you like to read? What material strikes your fancy? What are your favorite books and magazines? I know many folks your age; some read a ton and others read nothing. I find that I read almost everything online, particularly news. What about you, sir?

Question Two

Most folks your age like to write a lot if they are intelligent, which you probably are. Do you write poetry? Short stories? Do you draw and write comics? Do you write technical manuals? If you don't write now, do you have any plans to write?

John S. Rhodes

[WebWord.com](#) -- Industrial Strength Usability

Re:What do you read? What do you write? (Score:2, Insightful)

by [mortonda](#) ([mortonda at osprey.net](#)) on Tuesday December 26, @03:10PM EST (#260)
(User #5175 Info) <http://home.osprey.net>

Most folks your age like to write a lot if they are intelligent, which you probably are. Do you write poetry?

Oh come on... that's a loaded question... I was/am (hopefully will be)intelligent, but had and have no desire to write. I hate writing... can't keep up with my thoughts....

However, kids his age typically *are* influenced by peer pressure, and the need to "fit in"; shame on you for wording a question this way!

- **Good:** Do you write?
- **Bad:** Smart people write... do you?

Re:What do you read? What do you write? (Score:1)

by [Vanders](#) (vanders999@yahoo.co.uk) on Tuesday December 26, @04:09PM EST (#319)
(User #110092 Info) <http://www.atheos.cx>

can't keep up with my thoughts...

Oh geez, i know what you mean. I have a habit of having great ideas or solving a problem just before I get to sleep. I have to leap out of bed and try to write down two or three pages of ideas as quickly as possible before I forget the details.

Thankfully (Or not), this doesn't happen too often. Having writers cramp every night & a headache in the morning when I try to read what I wrote the night before would get tedious ;D

Calling Mozilla unresponsive is like calling a Nuclear bomb somewhat powerful.

Re:What do you read? What do you write? (Score:1)

by [mortonda](#) ([mortonda at osprey.net](#)) on Tuesday December 26, @05:26PM EST ([#398](#))

(User #5175 Info) <http://home.osprey.net>

Oh geez, i know what you mean. I have a habit of having great ideas or solving a problem just before I get to sleep. I have to leap out of bed and try to write down two or three pages of ideas as quickly as possible before I forget the details.

Most of my best thinking takes place in the shower... kind of hard to write anything down in that situation.

Re:What do you read? What do you write? (Score:2)

by [webword](#) ([john@webword.com](#)) on Tuesday December 26, @10:34PM EST ([#567](#))

(User #82711 Info) <http://webword.com>

Oh, I don't think it is truly loaded at all. As I state, most of the kids I know around 15 do like to write. That's not loaded at all. I'm simply framing the question in a way that makes sense to me. On the other hand, I'm not being 100% objective either. That is boring, dull, and won't lead to a good interview. Let him tell me that I am full of shit or that I am asking a bad question. This question has noting to do with peer pressure or trying to make him fit in.

Most of the the better interviews are loaded, by the way. Watch Larry King or Oprah and you will see that they asked very guided questions, yet they throw people off all of the time too. Those are the best interviews. Now, if I asked when he stopped beating his grandmother, well, that would be a poor question.

Last thought: Most people do write. In fact, almost any intelligent person will dispaly intelligence by producing something. Perhaps if I asked about how he likes to produce and display himself, you would be more satisfied. Then he could talk about coding and sketching. But again, that is vague and useless. Let the kid answer his own question. Let him shoot it down.

Now let's moderate the original posting up to a 5 so we can find out what he likes to read and write.

The questions are good. Let them stand.

John S. Rhodes

[WebWord.com](#) -- Industrial Strength Usability

Re:What do you read? What do you write? (Score:1)

by [darkblue](#) ([vertigo_nospam_@poczta.fm](#)) on Tuesday December 26, @10:57PM EST ([#580](#))

(User #244991 Info)

> Now, if I asked when he stopped beating his
> grandmother, well, that would be a poor question.

But that would be easy. He would just have to answer: "mu"

Re:What do you read? What do you write? (Score:1)

by [orangesquid](#) (benatrfdhvq@ubgznvy.pbz |rot13>) on Tuesday December 26, @06:00PM EST (#422)

(User #79734 Info) <http://03012002272/>

The kind of tree that dogs like to pee on, of course!

--TheOrangeSquid AKA Matt Williams main(){fork();main();}

Education (Score:1)

by McSnickered on Tuesday December 26, @12:09PM EST (#18)

(User #67307 Info)

Continuing with the recent /. threads regarding the usefulness of High School and College educations, do you personally see your current secondary educational experience as a help or hinderance to your all-around development (social, intellectual, prankster...etc). Do you plan to go on to college because you want to, because you see it as a necessary evil, or do you see the college experience as a waste of time considering your current skills?

They call me the working man. I guess that's what I am.

Re:Education (Score:2)

by drix on Tuesday December 26, @05:35PM EST (#404)

(User #4602 Info)

I'm continually amazed how often this little "truism" - that geeks of a certain caliber just don't need college - comes up, considering how false it really is. I invite anyone contemplating doing this to somehow contact a CIO or HR higher-up in any medium to large tech company and ask them what problems they have with the IT workers currently in their employ. Probably 90% of the time the answer will be a variation on the following theme: a.) they cannot write/communicate coherently, and b.) they do not work well in teams. I cannot think of a better recipe for acquiring these two traits than to bury yourself behind a computer from 6th through 12th grade. If anything, geeks need college way, way more than most people. College teaches you how to live. College teaches how to do laundry. It teaches you that the world is not fair, that some professors just don't give A's, period, and probably most importantly, jolts you out of whatever Small Pond Syndrome you've been lulled into in secondary school, where you were probably the smartest person you knew. In college, you won't be :) If you're studying computer science at a good college, like mine, then this education goes even further, because the faculty is liasing with those same CIOs and HR people, listening to their complaints, and trying to come up with solutions to them. Hence all of the projects I turn in now and done in groups rather than individually, and there's a big emphasis on being able to document what you've done in well constructed sentences.

Second, I don't think I've ever met a single person - ever - in any of my CS classes who found

the whole "college experience as a waste of time considering [their] current skills." This is at a school that consistently ranks in the top 3 US undergrad CS programs in the country, so it's bound to attract a lot of really, really smart people. I went off to university conversant in probably 6 different languages, having written multiple, large projects in at least 3 of them. I really did think I knew my shit, and in hindsight, that wasn't really true. While there are certain *areas* of computer science that most geeks have probably picked up on their own (data structures, for one), you aren't going to have just gleaned everything from hacking code unless you possess an extraordinary amount of intelligence, in which case, more power to you. But I think that most people don't fit in this category, and I have the Bell Curve to back me up...

Re:Education (Score:1)

by McSnickered on Tuesday December 26, @05:45PM EST ([#413](#))

([User #67307 Info](#))

Drix,

Actually, I wasn't stating an opinion in my question to the young lad. I am interested to see his point of view regarding education - what level of priority he personally places on it. I never said that I think college is a waste of time, I'm just curious if kids his age do.

They call me the working man. I guess that's what I am.

Re:Education (Score:2)

by drix on Tuesday December 26, @07:01PM EST ([#474](#))

([User #4602 Info](#))

Sorry; I wasn't intending to contradict something you said. Just adding my 2 cents to the topic in general.

respect the geek :) (Score:1)

by ab123 on Thursday December 28, @07:33PM EST ([#762](#))

([User #267437 Info](#))

I face geek ridicule and probable insults to write that i am not a geek. Actually geeks fascinate and terrify me at the same time. They command respect. as a non-geek, the thought of doing computer science at college scares me, a lot. I was thinking of economics and comp. sciences.... sorry, i digress. u being someone who's a geek and been to college- may i ask;if i do do comp. sciences will i be ok? By that i mean will everyone else be scary geeks? don't get me wrong, i think geeks are the most powerful people in this e-commencing, internet-surfing, computer reliant world. And as i said before they fascinate me, they're like some unknown life form... obviously not, but... its probably because i don't know any... my friends are more the latin, english, arts type people. they are undoubtedly v.v.smart, but not geeks. my love for geeks bewilders them :) and my passion(my language is perhaps stronger than my actions) for computers confuses them equally :)

how would u define a geek?

i bid u goodbye with much trepidation, and hope in my heart for a swift and reassuring reply :)

PS- before u start debating my sexuality i am ... wait for it...a girl. :)

Do your classmates know what is GNU,Linux? (Score:1)

by [xcyber](#) ([xcyber\[at\]yahoo.com](mailto:xcyber@yahoo.com)) on Tuesday December 26, @12:09PM EST (#19)

([User #228841 Info](#))

Do your classmates know what is GNU,Linux? or any other free softwares? do u face difficulties when explaining to them that you love linux?

xcyber """"""Complexity for the sake of complexity is not a solution, neither is simplicity for the sake of simplicity

Re:Do your classmates know what is GNU,Linux? (Score:1)

by JimPooley on Wednesday December 27, @11:47AM EST (#712)

([User #150814 Info](#))

Do you know that the letter 'u' is not a personal pronoun?

Hacker: A criminal who breaks into computer systems

Cracker: Type of savoury biscuit eaten with cheese

Girls (Score:5, Interesting)

by [Stoke](#) (stoke@excite.com) on Tuesday December 26, @12:11PM EST (#24)

([User #86808 Info](#))

At the age when most teens seem to be crazy over the opposite sex and dating, how is your situation with girls? Assuming you dont have a girlfriend, do you feel better off without one taking away your free time, or is it something you wish for?

Re:Girls (Score:1)

by Ekim on Tuesday December 26, @03:27PM EST (#279)

([User #131360 Info](#))

The kid has a one in 10 chance that he is gay, so don't fall into the trap and assume he is interested in girls. He may like girls, he may like boys, he might not be sure.

Re:Girls (Score:1)

by Oscar26 on Tuesday December 26, @03:55PM EST (#309)

([User #126520 Info](#))

One in 10 chance that you are gay? Where did you get that number?

According to the many surveys conducted by government and health organizations, only 1-2% of the population admits to being gay.

Lets assume that most of them are too afraid to fill out an anonymous surveys truthfully and up that number to 5%, that would still only make one in 20 people homosexual.

Re:Girls (Score:1)

by ranessin on Tuesday December 26, @04:47PM EST (#367)

([User #205172 Info](#))

If we're going to start assuming things, why not just assume that even more are afraid to fill out the surveys truthfully and up the number to 10%?

Ranessin

Re:Girls (Score:1)

by [alexburke](#) (alex@pdqsolutions.NOSPAMTHANKS.com) on Tuesday December 26, @06:28PM EST (#449)

(User #119254 Info) <http://www.pdqsolutions.com/~alex/linuxworld/Aug12-062.jpg>

Fuck, that's twisted, but it made me laugh. I was mod yesterday, but had I had one point left, you'd have gotten it: (Score:+1, Funny).

--

[Isn't it time your computer started paying for itself?](#)

Re:Girls (Score:1)

by SomePoorSchmuck on Tuesday December 26, @05:35PM EST (#405)

(User #183775 Info) <http://attrition.org/attrition/affirmation.html>

According to the many surveys conducted by government and health organizations, only 1-2% of the population admits to being gay.

such surveys should never be taken as an adequate measure of sexual expression. e.g.:

20. Sex

- Female
- Male

21. Sexual Orientation (check only one)

- Heterosexual
- Homosexual

22. Marital Status....

i hardly think of that as being an accurate description of human behavior.

i'm in my mid-twenties, and of the six people i've slept with since turning 18, three would answer the question by checking "Heterosexual", the other three by checking "Homosexual". it's not a matter of "*most of them are too afraid to fill out an anonymous surveys truthfully*", but rather that those surveys (and our socially-created notions of identity) are using grossly oversimplified categories. in fact, if we're so concerned with surveys, the statistics on men who have had a same-sex experience ending in orgasm are much higher, ranging from 28-35%.

although, as [#300](#) points out, the peculiarities of adolescence lend themselves to more varied experimentation than is found after 30, by which time most people have a well-established sexual identity.

however, as an addition to the sociological/analytical issues above, let me say that i don't particularly care what the exact number of "homosexuals" is. it's pathetic to see the self-appointed Conservative Moral Authority and the self-appointed Gay Leaders fighting over the numbers, as if that had any relevance to the simple, humanitarian fact that we all are possessors of the same inalienable rights. the religious freedoms of relatively small groups like [the followers of Nichiren Daishonin buddhism](#) are of equal importance as the religious freedoms of large, influential, christian denominations.

[Statistics are irrelevant, your rights will be protected.](#)

there's something moving under the ice

variant numbers... (Score:1)

by sylvershadow on Friday December 29, @11:22AM EST ([#773](#))

([User #267568 Info](#))

well, being one of the 1-10% (however you want to look at it...) i feel a slight desire to put in my 2 cents. the percentage is all relevant to who admits to being gay, and who doesn't. so there is no accurate way to judge any percentage at all. human nature and human error corrupt the data, and then you have no legs to stand on. *shrug* such is life. the standard argument is that its 10% to help reinforce the whole "minority" aspect. so what? how can we rely on the numbers when you can at least assume that at approximately 50% of the population has thought about what it would be like to be gay, and approximately 50% of those people have tried it at least once. then if we can safely guess that at least 30% of those people decide that they are definitely not interested in the whole deal...we're left with that small percentage that is incredibly variable, and reliant on who will admit it. so you see...numbers are irrelevant. they can be easily twisted to suit anyone's fancy, and thus should not be relied upon in a situation so subject to human error and nature. now, before you complain...i know i just took a ton of space to prove an obvious point. but it made you think didn't it?? ;) fighting for equality (or against it) is all well and good...but don't let it detract from the essence of a question, or the simple intention behind it.

The slightly wacky, but usually coherent...

Re:Girls (Score:1)

by [zmooc](#) (zmooc@zmooc.net) on Friday December 29, @05:17PM EST ([#780](#))

([User #33175 Info](#)) <http://www.zmooc.net>

According to a survey which is shortly mentioned on [this](#) site, the 10% is rather correct. Choose 'The name 1 op tien' from the menu for more information. There it says 1 of 10 respondents to this survey answered yes to the question whether they ever had sex with a person of the same sex...which of course is the wrong question so after all the 5% you mention might be rather close.

Re:Girls (Score:1)

by SimCash on Wednesday December 27, @11:13AM EST ([#709](#))

([User #107073 Info](#))

1 in 10! I don't theeenk so. I would have expected slashdotters to be aware of the fact that the 1 in 10 statistic has been discredited by more recent research. I believe the real number is less than or equal to 1% (1 in 100).

Disclaimer: I'm not a doctor, though I once played one with the neighbor girl.

Try to Be Slightly More Politically Correct (Score:1, Redundant)

by [citizenc](#) (xuc1v01o001@sneakemail.com) on Tuesday December 26, @03:33PM EST (#284)
(User #60589 Info) <http://www.3dactionplanet.com>

Don't assume that somebody is heterosexual. How about this question instead:

At the age when most teens seem to be crazy over the opposite sex and dating, what is your situation? Assuming you dont have a *significant other*, do you feel better off without one taking away your free time, or is it something you wish for?

CitizenC

[SneakEMail](#) Ownz Me

Re:Try to Be Slightly More Politically Correct (Score:1, Insightful)

by [kaphka](#) (matthew.s.keitz@bigfoot.com) on Tuesday December 26, @04:53PM EST (#373)
(User #50736 Info)

Don't assume that somebody is heterosexual.

You can't assume he's monogamous, either, so I guess you'd have to say "significant other or others." And he could be hermaphroditic, so you'd have to include "significant other or others or yourself". Then again, we can't leave out the people who prefer inanimate objects.

Personally, I don't see why a homosexual would be offended when confronted by the fact that men generally prefer women as sexual partners. But that's just me.

MSK

correctness ad infinitum (Score:1)

by SomePoorSchmuck on Tuesday December 26, @06:25PM EST (#445)
(User #183775 Info) <http://attrition.org/attrition/affirmation.html>

You can't assume he's monogamous, either, so I guess you'd have to say "significant other or others." And he could be hermaphroditic, so you'd have to include "significant other or others or yourself". Then again, we can't leave out the people who prefer inanimate objects.

yes. both the literal and sarcastic interpretations of what you say are correct.
the human brain is hardwired to prefer sweeping generalizations because they are more efficiently analyzed than trying to consider all individual cases. this is a 'good' development, because it was an important part of our evolution [imagine the proto-human that could not make generalizations such as "all sabre-tooth tigers should be avoided"].

but we should be careful to remember that human beings deserve a higher standard of appraisal than other objects in our environment. i think there is a moral virtue in trying to find out who someone really is and to respond to them as a person and not as "well, statistically you're probably a white nominally christian male who likes pizza, football, and absurdly large breasts, so i'll just treat you that way and never bother to consider any alternative(s)".

Personally, I don't see why a homosexual would be offended when confronted by the fact that men generally prefer women as sexual partners. But that's just me.

it's not a matter of being offended by the statistical reality. it's more related to, especially during adolescence when there's a compulsion to negotiate a place in some social group (and by extension, the larger Society), being constantly confronted with society's apparent belief (or wish) that you don't even exist.

yes, there is a degree of over-defensive whining to this type of "political correctness", but i think you'll understand that those who have been at the receiving end, for whatever reason (race, religion, weight, intelligence level...), of this type of situation are going to feel it important to "correct" it by asking you to give them a place alongside the narrow, exclusively attractive, white, christian, hetero images that are offered to them.

whether you care enough about people to accept this other reality is between you and your self-image as a Good Person.

there's something moving under the ice

Re:Try to Be Slightly More Politically Correct (Score:1)

by [Pheersum](#) (unitedstates_ofamerica@hotmail.com (spam it all yo) on Tuesday December 26,

@05:49PM EST (#418)

([User #243554 Info](#))

Don't feed us you're PC bullshit.

*Ashes of Empires and bodies of kings,
these are a few of my favorite things.*

Re:Girls (Score:1)

by [lintux](#) (lintux.at.dds.netherlands) on Tuesday December 26, @06:18PM EST (#436)
(User #125434 Info) <http://huizen.dds.nl/~lintux/smart.html>

Or put it in a different way: Have you been able at all to *find* a girl you like, and just as important: who likes you? :)

-- Hi, I'm a signature virus. plz set me as your signature and help me spread :)

Re:Girls (Score:1)

by [alexburke](#) (alex@pdqsolutions.NOSPAMTHANKS.com) on Tuesday December 26, @06:20PM EST (#437)
(User #119254 Info) <http://www.pdqsolutions.com/~alex/linuxworld/Aug12-062.jpg>

Who says he's straight? Perhaps he's one of the often-quoted one-in-ten? (Remember, one in ten is a whole lot better than your odds at a roulette wheel...)

--

[Isn't it time your computer started paying for itself?](#)

Re:Girls (Score:1)

by [alexburke](#) (alex@pdqsolutions.NOSPAMTHANKS.com) on Tuesday December 26, @06:32PM EST (#450)
(User #119254 Info) <http://www.pdqsolutions.com/~alex/linuxworld/Aug12-062.jpg>

The above post was not intended as a troll. It was just a viewpoint, not intended to solicit flames or whatever. Just a thought.

--

[Isn't it time your computer started paying for itself?](#)

Re:Girls (Score:1)

by [nEoN nOoDIE](#) (neonoodle@cosmoweb.net) on Wednesday December 27, @12:56AM EST (#610)
(User #27594 Info) <http://www.moseisley.com/swgeek/>

And a followup question:

What are you wearing?

"The wheel is spinning but the hamster is dead."

Re:Girls (Score:2)

by [quonsar](#) (quonsar@meepzorp.com) on Saturday December 30, @11:19AM EST (#787)

(User #61695 Info) <http://blort.meepzorp.com/>

alternate question: just how crusty *are* your sheets?

"I will gladly pay you today, sir, and eat up
Tuesday like the cheap hamburger that she is."

Just Curious... (Score:4, Interesting)

by [Brazilian Geek](#) (akajita@spamyourmama.bigfoot.com) on Tuesday December 26, @12:12PM EST (#26)

(User #25299 Info) <http://akajita.dhs.org>

Are you now or have you ever been a Slashdot troll? If so, please comment on the feeling of being a troll, if not, what is your favorite troll?

Thank you.

--

All browsers' default homepage should read: Don't Panic...

Re:Just Curious... (Score:1)

by [impaler](#) ([linux \[at\] cke \[dot\] cjb \[dot\] net](mailto:linux [at] cke [dot] cjb [dot] net)) on Tuesday December 26, @05:46PM EST (#417)

(User #78415 Info) <http://clinton.is.dreaming.org>

This is me Clinton(I really am). I am not a troll, and never have been. I only post when I feel like I need too. Since this question won't be sent to me(I have a feeling about it..its only modded up to 3), I answered. I have a karma of 12. Yay.

I am HAL 7000, less features than the HAL 9000, but just as homicidal!

my question (Score:2, Insightful)

by Anonymous Coward on Tuesday December 26, @12:12PM EST (#28)

Roblimo said that your mom was happy to find people "out there who instantly accepted and respected her son." Do you agree that people who *instantly* accept and respect someone for *any* reason are stupid and not worthy of our praise? Blindly respecting someone based on any reason - is a form of prejudice and a detrimental one to the respecter - don't you agree?

Re:my question (Score:1)

by [cerulean](#) (gro.llehseerf@eki) on Tuesday December 26, @01:13PM EST (#121)

(User #99519 Info) <http://ike.freeshell.org/>

Instantly accepting and respecting someone is called `being friendly', in my opinion.

Maybe you place a very very high value on the meaning of respect, as in "to consider worthy of high regard", but respect can also mean "to refrain from interfering with". As for accept, in this context, I think it means " to give admittance or approval to" or "to regard as proper, normal, or inevitable". So what's wrong with people who instantly accept and respect someone?

From my point of view, accepting and respecting someone instantly simply means you don't make fun of them instantly, and you don't turn them away. There's plenty of time to disrespect and reject people once you know for certain you don't like them-- there's no reason to get a head start on it.

Would you care to explain yourself more clearly?

How is respecting someone by default detrimental to the respector?

----- the list is long. dirac angstung gesep

Re:my question (Score:2)

by [Soko \(NOrsokoloski1@SPhome.AMcom\)](#) on Tuesday December 26, @01:29PM EST (#139)
(User #17987 Info) <http://members.home.net/rsokoloski1/>

I think, Mr. AC, that this may be a question of understanding. Your question is valid, but is perhaps a bit out of context, and somewhat trite in nature.

Clinton's mom found him among like-minded intelligent people, who *understood* her son's needs and wants, where he could actually interact socially instead of being looked at as "different" or "weird". From the links Roblimo provided one would assume that he's writing a front end for a command-line MP3 app and helping to build a new Linux distro from the ground up. To any geek that met Clinton, this would be worthy of a fair amount of respect. Initially, anyway.

Perhaps your question would have been better phrased as "How difficult was it to be accepted by your fellow geeks, even though you're only 15 years old? Did they treat you as an equal, or give you the "wunderkid" treatment?"

What the hell, it's only Karma.

Re:my question (Score:1)

by [Moofie \(battleangel99@STUFFSPAM.yahoo.com\)](#) on Tuesday December 26, @04:18PM EST (#331)
(User #22272 Info)

Couldn't disagree more. I think that any human being, initially, is entitled to my acceptance and respect. That doesn't mean I have to think immediately that they're an amazingly wonderful human being, but it does mean that I ought to treat them courteously and kindly, just by virtue of the fact that they are a fellow traveler in this universe.

Then they're free to act the fool and make me dislike them. :) But initially, strangers do get my respect and acceptance.

What are your plans for college? (Score:5, Interesting)

by [Zachary Kessin](#) (zkessin@script-fu.org) on Tuesday December 26, @12:13PM EST (#31)
(User #1372 Info) <http://www.script-fu.org>

If you have thought about it what do you want to do after High School? Do you have any ideas about college or further education?

Besides computers and high tech to do you have any hobbies.

The cure of the ills of Democracy is more Democracy.

--Al Smith Gov. of New York, 1928

Re:What are your plans for college? (Score:1)

by [Bushwacker](#) (PowerPenguin@techie.com) on Tuesday December 26, @07:25PM EST (#492)
(User #101443 Info) <http://awminc.dhs.org/>

The two best tech Universities, at least in my opinion are University of California at Berkely and MIT. They both have a long-standing record for having a wide range of high-quality courses. Like I said before, this is just *my opinion* ~A.D.Bourdon, Freshman @ Point Loma High School, San Diego, CA

Have a heart.... Hug a Penguin!

Re:What are your plans for college? (Score:1)

by WarMage on Wednesday December 27, @02:26AM EST (#645)
(User #27608 Info)

Cal tech? It's up there with MIT at least...

Re:What are your plans for college? (Score:1)

by 6j3 on Wednesday December 27, @02:24AM EST (#644)
(User #245868 Info)

Why college? Maybe he has plans that don't include college.

On second thought, college is a good place for a geek to be a geek.

Attend college. Be a geek. And while you are there don't forget to experi^H^H^H^H^H^H learn some things about being a non-geek sometimes. It will be good for your health, really.

Questions... (Score:2, Interesting)

by [Technodummy](#) (caitlinkelly@hotmail-sucks-ass.com) on Tuesday December 26, @12:18PM EST (#36)

(User #204943 Info) <http://surf.to/caitlins.homepage>

Do you think politics could effect technology in the future? if so, how will this effect you?

What's one tip you'd give to someone starting out with Linux?

What's your favourite technology?

Is there any technology you think could be a bad thing?

It is a funny thing about life if you refuse to accept anything but the best you very often get it
W.Somerset Maugham

GF? (Score:4, Interesting)

by [EverCode](#) (eric@xiowa.com) on Tuesday December 26, @12:18PM EST (#37)

(User #60025 Info) <http://www.xiowa.com>

(assuming that you are not gay)

Do you have a girlfriend, or at least an interest in some girl you know?

If not, then what type of girl are you looking for? Would she have to be a nerd too?

EverCode

Re:GF? (Score:1, Funny)

by Anonymous Coward on Tuesday December 26, @12:44PM EST (#74)

The kid is a 15 year old linux nerd who has his mom drive him to meetings of other local linux nerds. You figure it out, tex.

Gold. (Score:1, Troll)

by cpeterso on Tuesday December 26, @03:20PM EST (#272)

(User #19082 Info) <http://www.geocities.com/fatpeoplearehardertokidnap2000/>

Women are gold diggers. Men get the women they can afford. Wait for those stock options to vest and you'll be able to upgrade to Girlfriend 2.0.

[cpeterso](#)

If you have any ex-gfs (Score:2)

by [xant](#) (xant*users.sourceforge.nothin.but.net) on Wednesday December 27, @01:13AM EST (#617)

(User #99438 Info) <http://repairlix.sourceforge.net>

Can EverCode get their phone numbers? I think that's what he's trying to say.

--
Freedom isn't something you have, it's something you give.

No Fat Chicks! (Score:1)

by [FatSean](#) (FatSean@hotmail.com) on Tuesday December 26, @03:42PM EST (#297)
(User #18753 Info) <http://fatsean.homeip.net/>

I know it cuts down available women for geeks, but hey...yah gots ta have some standards.
My DSL sucks as a pipe to my webserver.

being a teen geek... (Score:1)

by [dr4ma](#) (drama@too.much.net) on Tuesday December 26, @12:20PM EST (#41)
(User #131729 Info) <http://slakin.net>

i found it very hard being a geek teen, i grew up with lots of "friends" that were not, mainly "friends" because of the drug relativity. i didnt like drugs anymore and lost all of my so called "friends" and locked myself in my moms home for 2 years (15-17) only emerging for cigarettes and caffiene junk food. i was always in search of young geeks like myself that liked programming, liked unix/linux and other things. I finally found one the day i really emerged from the pit of my room, one of my sisters friends that i had worked with when i was 13, at the time we hated each others gutz, now we are best friends, he is 1 of like 4 people i would concider friends. plus getting my first tech job at 18, i made a few more older geek friends and 1 more thats my age. if i had to go back and do it all again, few things i would have changed, saying goodbye to dad (died when i was 12) and not doing so many drugs and would have gotten rid of aol quicker. also learned more perl, cgi, c, and other programming an sys admin stuff. being a geek teen sucks sometimes, you you always have the online community. =) where you will find nicer kinder peoples.

Are things getting worst for teens? (Score:1)

by Big Torque on Tuesday December 26, @12:21PM EST (#42)
(User #196609 Info)

When I was a freshman in high school in 1984 things started to change the drinking age harder standards for grades more and harder crackdowns on drug use by teen. There seemed to be more willingness to trail minors as adults. It all seemed to me them and now as very mean spirited as a angry reaction by conservatives right wingers to stop what ever. By contrast my best friend who is 5 years older and by father who is 25 years older seemed to go to high school in a time of kid will be kids. They seemed to get more concern from their adults than iron fist orthodoxy. How is it for you now? To me it seems even worst now than then.

Question (Score:1, Funny)

by Anonymous Coward on Tuesday December 26, @12:21PM EST (#43)

What is your favorite color?

The Three Most Important Questions Ever (Score:5, Funny)

by [Anubis](#) (slashdot.drew@overt.{The-TLD-used-for-organization}) on Tuesday December 26, @12:21PM EST ([#44](#))

(User #126403 Info) <http://www.ece.utexas.edu/~hintz/>

The three most important questions ever:

<British Accent>

What is your name?

What is your quest?

What is your favorite colour?

</British Accent>

Re:The Three Most Important Questions Ever (Score:1)

by ekidder on Tuesday December 26, @01:14PM EST ([#124](#))

(User #121911 Info)

I prefer:

Who are you?

What do you want?

Why are you here?

(and, of course, Where are you going?)

Re:The Three Most Important Questions Ever (Score:1)

by [Whizard](#) (jferg at the dot in .net) on Tuesday December 26, @01:31PM EST ([#143](#))

(User #25579 Info) <http://www.lusars.net/jferg>

Who are you?

What do you want?

And where the hell are my pants?

Re:The Three Most Important Questions Ever (Score:1)

by [jrockway](#) (jrockway @ IMSA (edu)) on Tuesday December 26, @11:13PM EST ([#588](#))

(User #229604 Info) <http://www.imsa.edu/>

Where do you want to go today?

Be incomprehensible. If they can't understand you, they can't disagree with you

Re:The Three Most Important Questions Ever (Score:2)
by SubtleNuance on Tuesday December 26, @08:17PM EST ([#519](#))
(User #184325 Info)

How 'bout:

What is the average wingspan of a swallow?

[End Plurality Voting.](#)

Re:The Three Most Important Questions Ever (Score:1)
by Lord Ender on Tuesday December 26, @08:58PM EST ([#537](#))
(User #156273 Info) <http://mofo.s5.com>

you are both wrong! it is:

"what is the average airspeed velocity of an unladen swallow?"

"what do you mean? african, or european?"

"why, i dont know that-AAAAAAAHHHHH!"

sorry, it just really bugs me when people misquote scripture like that.

/* Try writing 'GTK' without using an acronym. Go ahead. Try it. I dare ya. */

Re:The Three Most Important Questions Ever (Score:1)
by furrycat on Tuesday December 26, @10:29PM EST ([#565](#))
(User #105729 Info) <http://goblin.furrycat.net/>

You don't spell unladen like that.

Official Year 2000 statement: s/y/k/g

swallows (Score:2)
by SubtleNuance on Wednesday December 27, @10:09AM EST ([#700](#))
(User #184325 Info)

Scene 23

ARTHUR: There it is! The Bridge of Death!

ROBIN: Oh, great.

???: Look!

ARTHUR: There's the old man from Scene 24!

BEDEMIR: What is he doing here?

ARTHUR: He is the keeper of the Bridge of Death.

He asks each traveller five questions-- ???: Three questions.

ARTHUR: Three questions. He who answers the five questions--

???: Three questions.

ARTHUR: Three questions may cross in safety.

ROBIN: What if you get a question wrong?

ARTHUR: Then you are cast into the Gorge of Eternal Peril.

ROBIN: Oh, I won't go.

???: Who's going to answer the questions?

ARTHUR: Sir Robin!

ROBIN: Yes?

ARTHUR: Brave Sir Robin, you go.

ROBIN: Hey! I've got a great idea. Why doesn't

Launcelot go? LAUNCELOT: Yes, let me go, my liege. I will take him single-handed. I shall make a feint to the north-east--

ARTHUR: No, no, hang on hang on hang on! Just answer the five questions--

???: Three questions.

ARTHUR: Three questions as best you can. And we shall watch... and pray.

LAUNCELOT: I understand, my liege.

ARTHUR: Good luck, brave Sir Launcelot. God be with you.

KEEPER: Stop! Who would cross the Bridge of Death must answer me these questions three, 'ere the other side he see.

LAUNCELOT: Ask me the questions, bridge-keeper. I'm not afraid.

KEEPER: What is your name?

LAUNCELOT: My name is Sir Launcelot of Camelot.

KEEPER: What is your quest?

LAUNCELOT: To seek the Holy Grail.

KEEPER: What is your favorite color?

LAUNCELOT: Blue.

KEEPER: Right. Off you go.

LAUNCELOT: Oh, thank you. Thank you very much.

ROBIN: That's easy!

KEEPER: Stop! Who approaches the Bridge of Death must answer me these questions three, 'ere the other side he see.

ROBIN: Ask me the questions, bridge-keeper. I'm not afraid.

KEEPER: What is your name?

ROBIN: Sir Robin of Camelot.

KEEPER: What is your quest?

ROBIN: To seek the Holy Grail.

KEEPER: What is the capital of Assyria?

ROBIN: I don't know that! Auuuuuuuugh!

KEEPER: Stop! What is your name?

GALAHAD: Sir Galahad of Camelot.

KEEPER: What is your quest?

GALAHAD: I seek the Holy Grail.

KEEPER: What is your favorite color?

GALAHAD: Blue. No yel-- Auuuuuuuugh!

KEEPER: Heh heh. Stop! What is your name?

ARTHUR: It is Arthur, King of the Britons.

KEEPER: What is your quest?

ARTHUR: To seek the Holy Grail.

KEEPER: What is the air-speed velocity of an unladen swallow?

ARTHUR: What do you mean? An African or European swallow?

KEEPER: What? I don't know that! Auuuuuuuugh!

BEDEMIR: How do know so much about swallows?

ARTHUR: Well, you have to know these things when you're a king you know.

End Plurality Voting.

Re:The Three Most Important Questions Ever (Score:2)

by SubtleNuance on Wednesday December 27, @10:13AM EST ([#701](#))

([User #184325 Info](#))

Scene 1

[wind]

[clop clop]

ARTHUR: Whoa there!

[clop clop]

GUARD #1: Halt! Who goes there?

ARTHUR: It is I, Arthur, son of Uther Pendragon, from the castle of Camelot. King of the Britons, defeator of the Saxons, sovereign of all England!

GUARD #1: Pull the other one!

ARTHUR: I am. And this my trusty servant Patsy. We have ridden the length and breadth of the land in search of knights who will join me in my court of Camelot. I must speak with your lord and master.

GUARD #1: What, ridden on a horse?

ARTHUR: Yes!

GUARD #1: You're using coconuts!

ARTHUR: What?

GUARD #1: You've got two empty halves of coconut and you're bangin' 'em together.

ARTHUR: So? We have ridden since the snows of winter covered this land, through the kingdom of Mercea, through--

GUARD #1: Where'd you get the coconut?

ARTHUR: We found them.

GUARD #1: Found them? In Mercea? The coconut's tropical!

ARTHUR: What do you mean?

GUARD #1: Well, this is a temperate zone.

ARTHUR: The swallow may fly south with the sun or the house martin or the plumber may seek warmer climes in winter yet these are not strangers to our land.

GUARD #1: Are you suggesting coconuts migrate?

ARTHUR: Not at all, they could be carried.

GUARD #1: What -- a swallow carrying a coconut?

ARTHUR: It could grip it by the husk!

GUARD #1: It's not a question of where he grips it! It's a simple question of weight ratios! A five ounce bird could not carry a 1 pound coconut.

ARTHUR: Well, it doesn't matter. Will you go and tell your master that Arthur from the Court

of Camelot is here.

GUARD #1: Listen, in order to maintain air-speed velocity, a swallow needs to beat its wings 43 times every second, right?

ARTHUR: Please!

GUARD #1: Am I right?

ARTHUR: I'm not interested!

GUARD #2: It could be carried by an African swallow!

GUARD #1: Oh, yeah, an African swallow maybe, but not a European swallow, that's my point.

GUARD #2: Oh, yeah, I agree with that...

ARTHUR: Will you ask your master if he wants to join my court at Camelot?!

GUARD #1: But then of course African swallows are not migratory.

GUARD #2: Oh, yeah...

GUARD #1: So they couldn't bring a coconut back anyway...

[clop clop]

GUARD #2: Wait a minute -- supposing two swallows carried it together?

GUARD #1: No, they'd have to have it on a line.

GUARD #2: Well, simple! They'd just use a standard creeper!

GUARD #1: What, held under the dorsal guiding feathers?

GUARD #2: Well, why not?

End Plurality Voting.

Re:The Three Most Important Questions Ever (Score:1)

by [that without name](#) (SineNomine@nandomail.com) on Wednesday December 27, @09:46PM EST (#739)

(User #266195 Info) <http://www.public.asu.edu/~edow1/Sine/Sine.html>

and we must not forget the equally important... what is the air speed velocity of an unladen swallow?

Re:The Three Most Important Questions Ever (Score:1)

by sidewinds on Friday December 29, @03:17PM EST (#777)

(User #264158 Info)

what.. a european or an african swallow?

"Being everywhere at once is being nowhere at all buckminster"

Re:The Three Most Important Questions Ever (Score:1)

by stu72 on Tuesday December 26, @01:11PM EST (#118)

(User #96650 Info) <http://shelf.tesla.cx/~stu/>

Wasn't it the thrust to weight ratio? Sparrow/Swallow? I can't remember anymore.. I used to have the whole thing memorized - so much for my teen years.

Re:The Three Most Important Questions Ever (Score:2, Interesting)

by [Maurice](#) (williamgates3@hotmail.com) on Tuesday December 26, @02:53PM EST (#237)

(User #114520 Info) <http://traian.isfuckingbrilliant.com>

For birds L/D(max) is about 1. (that's Lift/Drag ratio which is basically the same as Thrust/Weight during flight).

Researchers in Fairbanks Alaska announced the discovery of a superconductor which operates at room temperature

Correction (Score:1)

by [Maurice](#) ([williamgates3@hotmail.com](mailto:wiliamgates3@hotmail.com)) on Tuesday December 26, @09:54PM EST ([#553](#))
(User #114520 Info) <http://traian.isfuckingbrilliant.com>

Correction: Lift/Drag = Weight/Thrust during flight, not Thrust/Weight, but for birds, that's still about 1. It's the force balance.

Researchers in Fairbanks Alaska announced the discovery of a superconductor which operates at room temperature

Re:The Three Most Important Questions Ever (Score:1)

by Paradise_Pete on Tuesday December 26, @10:12PM EST ([#559](#))
(User #95412 Info)

Air speed velocity? What the heck is that?

How do you feel about education? (Score:3, Interesting)

by Aphelion on Tuesday December 26, @12:24PM EST ([#47](#))
(User #13231 Info) <http://www.aphelion.org/>

"It is only the ignorant who despise education." - Publius Syrus, 42 B.C.

How do you feel about higher education? I understand that there are a lot of undue challenges you face (from your teachers, for example) in high school because of whom you are. Do you think this might discourage you from higher learning?

Many a UNIX admin are donning a job instead of college, but don't realize that they will be the first to go once a recession comes around. How do you feel about this possibility?

Re:How do you feel about education? (Score:2)

by [QuoteMstr](#) (qtmstr+slashdot@optonline.net) on Tuesday December 26, @02:27PM EST
([#213](#))
(User #55051 Info)

"It is only the ignorant who despise education." - Publius Syrus, 42 B.C.

Perhaps, but what goes on in American public schools is less education than it is indoctrination and day-care.

Re:How do you feel about education? (Score:1)

by [FreeMath](#) (mattmacumber@hotREMOVEmail.com) on Wednesday December 27, @02:47AM EST (#650)

(User #230584 Info) <http://freebytes.net/>

I don't dispise education.

I dispise the American Education System

I dispise certian Educational Institutions

Actuallly, I love education. I admire the educated and have the deepest respect for those who teach.

School still sucks

-Humorously Sarcastic.

Re:How do you feel about education? (Score:1)

by JimPooley on Wednesday December 27, @11:52AM EST (#713)

(User #150814 Info)

I don't dispise education.

I dispise the American Education System

I dispise certian Educational Institutions

But you could do with some help with your spelling.

It's **despise**, by the way. As in "I despise people who can't be bothered to spell properly"

Hacker: A criminal who breaks into computer systems

Cracker: Type of savoury biscuit eaten with cheese

Re:How do you feel about education? (Score:1)

by [z@ph0d](#) (zaphod@curztech.com) on Tuesday December 26, @02:28PM EST (#214)

(User #25646 Info) <http://www.curztech.com>

Many a UNIX admin are donning a job instead of college, but don't realize that they will be the first to go once a recession comes around. How do you feel about this possibility?

why do you assume that a non-college grad would be the first to go? I would hope that the merits of what a person has done in their current job would have more weight than what grades a person got a few years ago.

"Leave the gun, take the canoli."

- The Godfather

Re:How do you feel about education? (Score:1)

by [Sc00ter](#) (travis@scootz.net) on Tuesday December 26, @03:04PM EST (#253)

(User #99550 Info) <http://www.scootz.net>

I totally agree..

Once you're in a place I think it would be hard for them to let you go just because you don't have a degree and the guy next to you does.

Plus, we're talking about tech jobs here. Even if you do have a degree, after 3 years it's totally out of date anyway.

--

Fight the power at [Slashduh](#)

Re:How do you feel about education? (Score:1)

by [Kyobu](#) (david.planbdes@com) on Tuesday December 26, @04:31PM EST ([#348](#))

(User #12511 Info) <http://www.planbdes.com/kyobu/>

Only if you have a tech degree. If you have a liberal arts degree, your thinking skills are never out of date. You can always learn a new programming language, but you can't always learn how to think and work well.

Switch the . and the @ to email me.

Re:How do you feel about education? (Score:3, Insightful)

by [stuyman](#) (ten.noisufnuc@namyuts) on Tuesday December 26, @03:52PM EST ([#306](#))

(User #46850 Info) <http://isp.northwestern.edu/~laurence>

As a Unix Admin who is 18 years old and only graduated HS last June, I probably have a reasonably unique perspective on the situation. I've been fooling around with Unix stuff for years, but had taken up my time with too many other things to do it for money until I graduated. I spent the entire summer as an intern for a rising dotcom (there are so few these days) and in the fall went off to college. I'm currently on my winter break, working again at the same place. I realize that I could practically triple my pay, plus get benefits, if I were to drop out and work full time, but I think the true geek in all of us realizes there may be more in life than computers. What you ask?

I'm currently going for a double major in Computer Science (but of course) and (gasp) philosophy. Interesting stuff. I'm also getting more advanced education in the sciences and math, and exploring history and literature in more detail than I previously was able. I'm also starting a band (I can sort of play the guitar, but not well yet) and just hanging out and having fun. I'm not there for the money, or even learning a career. Basically I'm there for the education, and for the experience. I encourage all of you who are still in HS to go on to college, and those of you who are in college to stay there. The jobs will be waiting when you graduate, but you can never go back and be young again.

--- FreeBSD baby!!! www.freebsd.org

Re:How do you feel about education? (Score:1)

by VAXman on Tuesday December 26, @06:49PM EST ([#464](#))

(User #96870 Info)

How do you feel about higher education? I understand that there are a lot of undue challenges you face (from your teachers, for example) in high school because of whom you are. Do you think this might discourage you from higher learning?

Talk about needing an education! It is **who**, not **whom**. The word is in nominative case (don't be fooled by the *of*).

Activities/Clubs (Score:4, Interesting)

by Student_Tech on Tuesday December 26, @12:27PM EST ([#49](#))
([User #66719 Info](#))

What kinds of activities/clubs do you participate in(sports, yearbook, drama, NHS, FFA, FBLA, Science Club, Math Team, ect.)?

I'm a 16 year old, Junior, who is does a computer class afterschool on days when I don't have yearbook afterschool. For me getting home before 4:30PM is a good day. (My Frosh yearI was at drivers ed @ 0655 and was yearbooking or computer classing until 1800 for 2 weeks solid. 11 hours a day @ school.)

What about music? (Score:1)

by Gogl on Wednesday December 27, @03:45AM EST ([#657](#))
([User #125883 Info](#))

I notice you listed off a number of activities/clubs, but neglected music (as have all the posts I've read up to this point), so I feel I may as well throw it in.

Do you participate in the making of music in any way, shape, or form? If so, then how? (i.e. school group, community group, just play piano yourself, orchestrate midis, whatever).... and secondly, what music do you listen to?

La vaca de muerte va a matarte! Debes tener mucho miedo!

Re:Activities/Clubs (Score:2)

by [TOTKChief](#) (com TOTK gmorris) on Thursday December 28, @02:25PM EST ([#756](#))
([User #210168 Info](#)) <http://www.TOTK.com/>

BAH! When I was your age, I walked to school--uphill, both ways, barefoot [but only because this was Mississippi]--and I LIKED IT!

Seriously, though; I traversed an environment that I'd love to really see become a geek-producing powerhouse: [The Mississippi School for Mathematics and Science](#). Yeah, there were geeks there. Yeah, we ran Linux [remembers Slackware, remembers screaming, proud Debian user now]. Yeah, we ran our own BBS's. But we--or at least I--weren't cognizant of the totality of what was going on outside. I wish I'd read ./--or had it to read--when I was there [1995-97]. I probably would have chucked this [aero eng](#) thing and gone into that. Damn the guys that were smart enough to go into CS--especially the one or two who combined it with biz degrees. Bah!

But seriously, I'll rant that activities are **very** good for the soul. Student government can be one, if you're at a school where it does anything besides play pretty. Yeah, yeah, politics--but you learn lots of interpersonal skills, teambuilding, etc. Actually, you learn how **not** to do it most of the time.

Ramblin' a bit...but then hey, my boss is gone and he didn't leave me with anything to do for the next, uh, four hours. Heh.

--

Geof F. Morris [TOTK.com Sports--Sports for Geeks, Commentary that Matters](#)

Re:Activities/Clubs (Score:1)

by Blackthorne_S on Tuesday January 09, @07:46PM EST ([#803](#))

([User #303278 Info](#))

Hey Just though I would mention as a high school junior what clubs i'm part of. Right now most my time is in working on my schools entry for US First but I'm also part of the anime club at school.

Re:Activities/Clubs (Score:1)

by SomePoorSchmuck on Tuesday December 26, @10:46PM EST ([#575](#))

([User #183775 Info](#)) <http://attrition.org/attrition/affirmation.html>

- people like to form connections with other people.
- one way they do this is by sharing information about their lives.
- this is not a bad thing
- .
- i believe he is trying to validate himself by talking about what he does.
- of course, many 18-22 year olds are embarrassed by this because it reminds them of how they did the same thing just a few years earlier.
- because they are so insecure, the way they deal with these feelings is by attacking others (transference of self-hatred).
- if the younger person is hurt enough, s/he will carry that insecurity forward and then in a few years will continue the cycle.
- the person you're attacking is 16, and he needs to share what's going on in his life so that he can feel he is okay -- that what he does is affirmed and supported by his peers and by society, because it will help him to become a secure adult who will not want to shoot cruel, bitter people like you when he goes to work.

there's something moving under the ice

Re:Activities/Clubs (Score:1)

by [duffbeer703](#) (bduffy@nycap.nospam.rr.com) on Friday December 29, @05:43PM EST ([#781](#))
([User #177751 Info](#))

That sucks. I went to school from 8-3, that's it. Then I would go off and chill with my friends or whatever. I used to smoke up once in awhile and party a lot.

My grades were decent, and I went and graduated from a good state school with a degree in Comp Sci. I make pretty decent bread now and am satisfied with your life.

You need to go get yourself a life man. Hang out, skip school once in awhile, have some fun. You only live once, and you won't have time to goof off later.

Duff

A geek for all ages. (Score:3, Insightful)

by Tin Weasil on Tuesday December 26, @12:29PM EST ([#54](#))
([User #246885 Info](#)) <http://www.google.com>

Here's my question:

Way back when, when I was a 15-year-old BBS geek, the hot technologies were the C64, TRS-80 and the recently released Macintosh and Amiga computers (none of us kids gave a second look at the IBM PC.)

I was just wondering if you have taken any time to seriously consider what the future of Information Technology might be, and what, if anything, you are doing now to make sure that you will have the skill you need to get a good job once you get out of High School/College.

Re:A geek for all ages. (Score:1)

by Tin Weasil on Tuesday December 26, @01:42PM EST ([#154](#))

(User #246885 Info) <http://www.google.com>

Sorry. When I was 15, a 300bps modem was something to get teary-eyed about (I didn't get my first 2400Bps modem until I was 23). And Macs had just gotten on the Market in 1985, so most of us thought that they were cool, or at least cooler than the IBM PCjr.

What are you listening to? (Score:5, Interesting)

by [geophile](#) (jao@mediaone.net) on Tuesday December 26, @12:31PM EST ([#57](#))

(User #16995 Info)

When I was 15, my father said, "how can you listen to this? It's noise! There's no melody, it's just boom boom boom!". He was talking about the Beatles. Today, I am horrified to find myself saying the same thing about all rap/hip-hop/whatever, Britney Spears, N Sync, and just about everything else I hear that's been recorded recently. I don't buy much new music, but lately I've been buying CDs to replace my old LPs (The Who, Genesis, and yes, The Beatles).

At least there's Elvis (C, not P), They Might Be Giants, and Komeda.

Is it just me, or my g-g-g-generation, or does new music really suck? What are you listening to?

By the way, I was stunned to find that Jethro Tull is still putting out new stuff. A recent one is called j-tull.com. I am not kidding.

Re:What are you listening to? (Score:1)

by [aphr0](#) (imagayman@remove.hotmail.com) on Tuesday December 26, @12:53PM EST ([#92](#))

(User #7423 Info)

heh. That's not half as bad as Trick Daddy's album titled www.thug.com. Song 1 - Log on. Song 16 - Log off. Be sure to check that album cover art; top quality artistry there.

Re:What are you listening to? (Score:1)

by natenate on Tuesday December 26, @01:03PM EST ([#106](#))

(User #172771 Info)

When I was 15, my father said, "how can you listen to this? It's noise! There's no melody, it's just boom boom boom!". He was talking about the Beatles. Today, I am horrified to find myself saying the same thing about all rap/hip-hop/whatever, Britney Spears, N Sync, and just about everything else I hear that's been recorded recently.

It's not your age. There is just very little originality and creativity in mainstream pop music today. I'm 17, and I wonder how some of my friends can stand listening to god-awful shit like Creed, Third Eye Blind, Kid Rock, blah, blah, blah... They all sound exactly the same, like shit.

Re:What are you listening to? (Score:2)

by British on Tuesday December 26, @02:27PM EST ([#211](#))

(User #51765 Info) <http://british.nerp.net>

A LOT of the early beatles stuff was bubblegum 2-minute melodies that became mega-popular, like Britney Spears today.

BUT, the Beatles shed that image, and that's when things got REAL good(Abbey Road, etc). Probably their strangest song was "run for your life" where it sounded like a typical Beatles song, until you realize they are singing about killing a woman. Pure brilliance.
Kids love the rich taste of web content! <http://british.nerp.net>

Re:What are you listening to? (Score:1)

by natenate on Tuesday December 26, @10:14PM EST ([#560](#))

(User #172771 Info)

A LOT of the early beatles stuff was bubblegum 2-minute melodies that became mega-popular, like Britney Spears today.

True. Remember that was more than 35 years ago though, The Beatles *invented* the genre of teenage heart-throab.

Re:What are you listening to? (Score:2)

by [Goonie](#) (rgmerk at mira dot net) on Tuesday December 26, @11:38PM EST ([#592](#))

(User #8651 Info) <http://www.cs.mu.oz.au/~rgmerk>

A LOT of the early beatles stuff was bubblegum 2-minute melodies that became mega-popular, like Britney Spears today.

That's true, but even their early bubblegum stuff was far more musically complex and innovative than much of the other pop music of the time. Have a listen to the opening chord of "A Hard Day's Night", or even the ending of "Please Please Me", their very first nationwide hit. Then go and do some research to find the other big-selling songs of the time. Contrast and compare.

Robert Merkel

Re:What are you listening to? (Score:1)

by Ashen on Tuesday December 26, @02:27PM EST (#212)

([User #6917 Info](#))

Friends don't let friends listen to Kid Rock.

Re:What are you listening to? (Score:2)

by jafac on Tuesday December 26, @02:54PM EST (#239)

([User #1449 Info](#))

you know, the wierd thing about Kid Rock is, I bought the CD, I don't know why. I listened to it, and frankly, the Lyrics all do suck. Every word. The whole pathetic gangsta rap wanna be angle. Just plain silly.

Musically, it's not terrible material. A lot of complex beat, and tone, and angry texture - much of it formulaic, but still, it stands apart. If I could get a no-vocals version, I could stand to listen to it.

The same can be said frankly for a lot of Britney Spears, and even Christina Aguilera. There is some fantastic vocal work, some excellent rhythmic exploration, but the end result is somehow just so sucky, and I can't figure it out. I know there's a lot of over-production going on, and much of it is aimed at an industry-wide homogenous "sound", (if you want something different, check out Blink182, or Eiffel65, nyuck nyuck nyuck), and of course I say these GOOD things about music that, just plain doesn't appeal to me at all. I hate it, it hurts to listen to it. I missed out the whole white-guilt suburban hip-hop (gangsta rapper wannabe) phenomenon, (I prefer the old white-guilt suburban reggae/ska thing). And of course the lyrics to this new stuff is just utter garbage, apparently lifted from Teen Magazine letter columns, but it's very hard to criticise music where there clearly is a great deal of talent being demonstrated. Nobody here can say that Britney Spears does not have a fantastic singing voice, excellent control and vocal range, and can dance "the dance of the seven boners" like nobody else. But they mix and modify it with echo and chorus effects in a way that makes her sound just like every other pop star in the continuum right now (today's sound) - and the overall effect is just ruined. But how do you argue that with a 13 year old; "You should be listening to Yes or King Crimson, and not this music, this music sucks (empirically) because; _____. . . ?

"Florida? But that's America's wang!" - Homer Simpson

Re:What are you listening to? (Score:1)

by [Ralph Wiggam](#) (ralph@springfield.com) on Tuesday December 26, @04:37PM EST (#357)

([User #22354 Info](#)) <http://www.redmeat.com>

Kid Rock has one song. It's called "Kid Rock is a bad ass pimp mother fucker". Sometimes he changes the lyrics or the beat around a little bit, but it's still the same song.

-B

"Good...Bad...I'm the guy with the gun" -Ash

Re:What are you listening to? (Score:1)

by jooniqzb1tch on Tuesday December 26, @07:55PM EST ([#509](#))

([User #246498 Info](#))

i agree with you. just that one thing: eiffel65 is REALLY the gayest and cheapest bunch of russian dicks i've ever seen/heard. i know that was off topic, wont do it anymore.

Re:What are you listening to? (Score:1)

by [FreeMath](#) (mattmacumber@hotREMOVEmail.com) on Wednesday December 27, @02:09AM EST ([#640](#))

([User #230584 Info](#)) <http://freebytes.net/>

If I could get a no-vocals version, I could stand to listen to it.

That is why I primarily listen to techno music (Oakenfold, Orbital). I think creating good music that meshes well with good lyrics is hard, and I'm really just wanting something cool to listen to. Also, Kid Rock may be the lead vocal, but I'm pretty sure there is someone else writing and mixing the actual music (which just happens to be the good part).

-Humorously Sarcastic.

Re:What are you listening to? (Score:1)

by [crash^](#) (crash[at]legos[dot]org) on Friday December 29, @02:12AM EST ([#765](#))

([User #31297 Info](#)) <http://www.legos.org>

iirc, kid rock actually started out dj'ing, mixing, and all that jazz, and from what i remember of some mtv interview (back when i had time to watch tv :|) he really is more involved with the actual production of his music than most.

although i still dont really like kid rock, just thought id post this :)

i agree with you on the techno though, oakenfold and orbital are both great. though oakenfold really isnt much of an artists (he dj's and does some remixes, i dont think he puts out any original music??) they both have wonderful talent and style.

-=[<http://www.legos.org>]=-

Re:What are you listening to? (Score:1)

by Mr. Happumapema on Thursday December 28, @04:58PM EST ([#759](#))

([User #227821 Info](#))

Nobody here can say that Britney Spears does not have a fantastic singing voice, excellent control and vocal range, and can dance "the dance of the seven boners" like nobody else. But they mix and modify it with echo and chorus effects in a way that makes her sound just like every other pop star in the continuum right now (today's sound) - and the overall effect is just ruined. But how do you argue that with a 13 year old; "You should be listening to Yes or King Crimson, and not this music, this music sucks (empirically) because; _____." . . . ?

Maybe youth oriented music is purposely "suckified" in a way that kids don't mind but adults can't stand. If kids see their parents disliking their music, especially if they can't define why, it becomes almost holy to them. (I'm 20 -- I can see both colors -- it's great)

Re:What are you listening to? (Score:1)

by [penguinboy](#) (comphelper AT yahoo DOT com) on Tuesday December 26, @05:43PM EST (#411)

(User #35085 Info) <http://www.calug.net/users/amedico/>

IMO, Kid Rock shouldn't be allowed to perform either.. I heard a recording of him covering CCR's "Fortunate Son" at Woodstock '99 - it was worse than any cover I've ever heard.

Re:What are you listening to? (Score:1)

by [binner](#) (bdwalton(AT)flash.lakeheadu.ca) on Tuesday December 26, @11:01PM EST (#583) (User #68996 Info)

One up you?...

Lenny Kravitz - American Woman

Madonna - American Pie

Haven't heard the Kid Rock cover tho...(Admittedly likes both CCR and Kid Rock (somewhat))...

I really thought that I could stay out of this thread, but alas, here I am...

I would have to agree with most of the sentiment here. Any band that is put together for the sole purpose of making \$\$ really shouldn't be given any play at all. It's music created by a group of individuals to express their own feelings and desires that I've always found to be enjoyable.

Personally, I have a wide range of taste...spanning about 50 years...it really is hard to beat Neil Young's acoustic guitar (if you get the chance, see him live)...

The Who, Pink Floyd, The Travelling Wilburys, Bob Dylan, Tom Petty, BTO, The Guess Who, Steppenwolf, Jimi Hendrix, The Doors, Supertramp, Black Sabbath, ACDC, Metallica (before they sold out)...and that's just getting started with the older stuff...I am of the belief that there is good music being made today, you just have to look harder (we are living in a GAP world after all)...

I am one of those idiots that is actually willing to spend an (admittedly exorbitant) amount of money to actually own the albums, instead of just d/l'ing the MP3's...

For the record, I'm 22 and attending University in Canada...

-Ben

Say what you mean, mean what you say! But please know what #\$_@% you are talking about!

Re:What are you listening to? (Score:1)

by [penguinboy](#) (comphelper AT yahoo DOT com) on Wednesday December 27, @01:27AM EST (#622)

(User #35085 Info) <http://www.calug.net/users/amedico/>

I've heard both the American Woman cover (just poorly done, not particularly *bad*) and the American Pie cover (rather weird to hear a woman singing it). I thought the Kid Rock cover was almost offensive, when he said "I ain't no fortunate son.. bitch". Of course, the funniest current cover I've heard it Britney Spears doing the Stones' Satisfaction. My \$0.02... Andrew

+1 Sarcasm (Score:1, Funny)

by Anonymous Coward on Tuesday December 26, @02:41PM EST (#228)

they are obviously idiots. only a superior mind with impeccable taste can see that pop garbage for the brainless drivel it really is. only a superior mind like yours.

you should probably let them know this as often as possible, by wearing t-shirts from obscure local bands or those on indie labels, and seizing every opportunity to tell someone about how great the <insert no-name band here> show was. don't worry if they seem like they don't give a shit, that's just an expression of their awe and jealousy of your true musical taste.

maybe one day everyone can rise to your level, and realize that you were right all along; every band signed to a major label sucks, and people only listen to it because it is shoved down their throats by the tag-team of corporate labels, MTV, and big radio networks.

on that day we will burn all the top-40 cds, and we will proclaim a national holiday, "The Day natenate Saved Music". parades will be held in your honor. The big music chain stores will be conglomerated into one franchise, and each store will have a statue of you in front and will carry only the music that YOU ordain as "not god-awful shit."

i must say that i would be the first person to congratulate you on that day, as i can tell you are a person of impeccable taste, and obviously ought to be allowed to pass judgement on what everyone listens to.

You are so indie it HURTS.

Re:+1 Sarcasm (Score:1)

by rmst on Tuesday December 26, @04:41PM EST (#361)

(User #157328 Info)

What a time to be out of mod points. Kudos =]

Call me mint jelly, 'cause I'm on the lamb!

Re:What are you listening to? (Score:1)

by 6j3 on Wednesday December 27, @02:53AM EST ([#651](#))

([User #245868 Info](#))

It's not your age. There is just very little originality and creativity in mainstream pop music today. I'm 17, and I wonder how some of my friends can stand listening to god-awful shit like Creed, Third Eye Blind, Kid Rock, blah, blah, blah... They all sound exactly the same, like shit.

I listen to Country. All that rap stuff sucks.

I listen to Rap. Heavy Metal will rot your head.

I listen to Heavy Metal. Pop is for idiots.

I listen to Pop. I don't care for anything much else, except for the 80's.

And so on and so forth...

Maybe we should ask him why he likes Linux? All the distributions just look the same.

Re:What are you listening to? (Score:1)

by [napdot](#) (nplante@mediaone.net) on Wednesday December 27, @09:17AM EST ([#696](#))

([User #215378 Info](#)) <http://www.umcs.maine.edu/~prefect>

I agree. But on the other hand, there is some great underground music today and the Internet is helping to spread that through sites like [mp3.com](#), the now-defunct [riffage](#), [loudwerkz.com](#) (shameless self promotion), etc.

If you're into metal/hardcore/crossover stuff like I am, there are plenty of crap-mainstream bands such as Limp Bizkit and Creed -- on the other hand, there's some great stuff that also happens to have become quite popular (Incubus, Deftones). But some of the best music goes relatively unnoticed: [Boy Sets Fire](#), [Nothingface](#), [Chimaira](#), [Thumb](#), [Snake River Conspiracy](#), [One Minute Silence](#) are all somewhat lesser-known major label acts that really rock. And there are tons of unsigned indie acts that are incredible...

Just turn off commercial radio, forgive popular opinion (everyone always just seems to like what MTV tells them to anyway), and check out some of your favorite internet music sites...

--- http://www.loudwerkz.com "Music That Rocks Your Lame Ass"

Re:What are you listening to? (Score:1)

by [tekker430](#) (paulh_no@tekker.com) on Wednesday December 27, @10:27AM EST ([#703](#))
[\(User #261358 Info\)](#) <http://www.tekker.com>

So, in that case what do you listen to? Im not gonna knock ya for what you do listen to, cause I listen to everything (except country and classical.. I just cant listen to it). Personally, I like Creed, Kid Rock, well, hes not a fav, but Ill tolerate him. I also listen to alot of older music too (oldies, not early 90's :))

Sig? Hah, I don't need no stinking sig!

Re:What are you listening to? (Score:1)

by [litui](#) (amb@rifetech.com) on Tuesday December 26, @01:48PM EST ([#165](#))
[\(User #231192 Info\)](#) <http://rifetech.com>

I can't listen to too much Creed, but there are a few songs I like. Higher, included. What's This Life For is another. I like music for the feel and the words usually. And if the words suck, it better damn well feel good. And I'm not in it for the Jesus pushing either.

Quidquid latine dictum sit, altum viditur.

Re:What are you listening to? (Score:1)

by [litui](#) (amb@rifetech.com) on Tuesday December 26, @01:56PM EST ([#175](#))
[\(User #231192 Info\)](#) <http://rifetech.com>

Well, I wasn't there in the 70s, but I can vouch for the fact that "popular" music in this time period is not decided on by the masses. Instead, it is decided on FOR the masses. Britney Spears isn't the result of an audience that loved her music; she's the result of an audience that will allow the media to dictate to them what is "cool" and what isn't. Those of us who have been raised to not be "sheep" tend to listen to music that suits our interests, ponderances, et cetera. Whereas the programmed media children listen to that which is put in front of them. Yeah. Prime example of letting the TV and society raise your kids.

Record companies sell artists like Britney Spears because they know it'll catch on like the Barbie complex. Little girls will listen to it because all their friends do and because there's a commercial for it every ten seconds. Little boys will listen to it because of the yet unrealized facination with the opposite sex. It's made to sell. Sure, some people may actually LIKE the music. And that's fine, but this kind of manufactured fanatacism isn't right.

Ah well. I'll stick to my Moxy Fruvous, Barenaked Ladies, Collective Soul, and They Might Be Giants and act oblivious to whatever else is going on.

Quidquid latine dictum sit, altum viditur.

Re:What are you listening to? (Score:1)

by natenate on Tuesday December 26, @10:20PM EST ([#562](#))

([User #172771 Info](#))

Britney Spears isn't the result of an audience that loved her music; she's the result of an audience that will allow the media to dictate to them what is "cool" and what isn't.

Moreover, she's the result of an audience that would rather fuck her than have her produce decent music.

+1 Sarcasm (Score:1, Insightful)

by Anonymous Coward on Tuesday December 26, @07:42PM EST ([#502](#))

Congratulations on being indie, or as you put it, "indie as fuck." everyone knows that record labels and artists can only make a certain amount of money, x , and remain credible. If a band signs to a label which makes more than x , they have sold out and lost credibility. As long as the label makes less than x , they've got indie cred. Luckily, all the really good, original, intelligent artists know this and only sign to the labels with indie cred -- you know, the ones that sell CDs out of the back of a van, and live off ramen noodles. Otherwise, they might become "unoriginal" and "unintelligent" by association with the big labels.

You've got a good point about Rage though. It makes me sick as well to think that they are using the soapbox of big corporate sponsorship to spread some hypocritical message about materialism and human rights abuses. Don't they know about the x rule? You can only be credible about these things if you sing in the subway for spare change.

I'm interested in this rap song you mentioned. I searched on [lyrics.org](#) for it, and they usually have everything, but I couldn't find the artist. Is it possible you misspelled "titties" or "nigga"? I figured I would be able to find the lyrics on the internet if it were such a "hit" song, but I came up with nothing. Are you sure this song was ever written? Is it 2Pac or 2 Live Crew? I'm assuming you know more about rap music than me, since you seem to have a pretty informed opinion.

Again I want to congratulate you on being "indie as fuck." Lord knows we need less stupid trendy mainstream zombies and more arrogant trendy indie zombies.

Re:What are you listening to? (Score:1)

by [Rakarra](#) (rakNarraO@SpacbPellA.Mnet) on Tuesday December 26, @09:57PM EST ([#554](#))

([User #112805 Info](#))

Talk about a bunch of whiny crap. If half of these bands would go instrumental or kill their lead singer, then it wouldn't be nearly as bad.

And yet at the same time, those same bands have terrible lead singers. Aaah, the paradox...

Take the NOSPAM out of my address if you're responding by mail..

Re:What are you listening to? (Score:1)

by ilschiz on Tuesday December 26, @01:13PM EST ([#123](#))

([User #222945 Info](#))

as a 16 year old, i'd say you are for the most part right
personally, i dont like the beatles to much, but thats probably because the only drugs i do is the occasional pot smoking
the new bands you speak of (N'sync, britney spears, etc) do suck REALLY badly. i dont get how any1 could like them/respect their music either.
There are some good new bands tho.. bands i personally like are fear factory, rage against the machine, praga kahn, lords of acid, orbital.. others. All those bands are slightly older than the little pop bands you speak of. a pretty good rule is usually 'if they are own tv, they suck'. although i dont watch tv anymore, heh :P

also, i like a lot of older bands. led zeppelin, the doors, pink floyd.. amazingly good music.

i find i'm a small minority though.. most people love those pop bands, buy all their music.. one thing i have noticed among those people is that, not that i have much of a right to judge them, but they seem very immature. ::shrug::, my opinion, at least...
hope this answers your question.

Communism could work if the government was comprised solely of linux nerds. :P

Re:What are you listening to? (Score:1)

by Ashen on Tuesday December 26, @02:32PM EST ([#220](#))

([User #6917 Info](#))

You mistake immaturity for unintelligence. They don't go hand in hand.

People always think they are more mature than others their age, and it's usually a false pretense.

Re:What are you listening to? (Score:1)

by ilschiz on Wednesday December 27, @09:39PM EST ([#738](#))

([User #222945 Info](#))

true.. you cant really judge people ur age until years after..
but they just seem *so* stupid! :P

Communism could work if the government was comprised solely of linux nerds. :P

Re:What are you listening to? (Score:1)

by [joshuaos](#) (joshua@terradot.org) on Tuesday December 26, @02:57PM EST ([#243](#))

(User #243047 Info) <http://terradot.org>

as a 16 year old, i'd say you are for the most part right

I simply have to agree with you on this. I am currently 19 years old, and never managed to get into the whole modern pop-music scene. I listen to the classics including the Beatles, Pink Floyd, The Grateful Dead, Crosby Stills and Nash, Simon and Garfunkel, and a bit of the more modern stuff including Phish, Nine Inch Nails. As well as lots and lots of other stuff too numerous to list here of course.

The point is that I think there has been a real decline in the quality of music. Now, people think that all they have to do is get up on stage and look pretty and have something catchy and they'll be popular. Most new "bands" now don't even play their own instruments. I think this is greatly in part to a bloated music industry creating a market for shite. This is something I think the internet will help with. I think Napster, filesharing, and the loss of copyright (I don't think that can be helped anymore) will decrease the quantity of music, but increase the quality.

Joshua

[Terradot](#)

Just say know.

Re:What are you listening to? (Score:1)

by JimPooley on Wednesday December 27, @11:56AM EST ([#714](#))

(User #150814 Info)

Oh the irony!

personally, i dont like the beatles to much, but thats probably because the only drugs i do is the occasional pot smoking

... also, i like a lot of older bands. led zeppelin, the doors, pink floyd.. amazingly good music.

And you think those bands *didn't do drugs?*

Sorry, the juxtaposition of those two sentences tickles me enormously!

Hacker: A criminal who breaks into computer systems

Cracker: Type of savoury biscuit eaten with cheese

Re:What are you listening to? (Score:1)

by [nuggz](#) (valid_email@usa.net) on Tuesday December 26, @01:16PM EST ([#127](#))

(User #69912 Info)

The mainstream stuff today is manufactured shit. Britney Spears N Sync and crap is just put together by a production team to make \$\$\$\$.

Real bands are out there, they just don't have the marketting behind them.

Re:What are you listening to? (Score:2)

by [PurpleBob](#) (bob@suespammers.org) on Wednesday December 27, @12:47AM EST (#607)
(User #63566 Info) <http://sluggymux.8m.com>

Yeah, let's look at how Britney Spears' music works.

Some unknown guy with a synthesizer makes the music, according to what a committee determines is most likely to get stuck in their target market's collective head.

The producers make it catchy so you can't get the damn thing out of your head.

The backup singers carry the tune.

The advertisers sell the music.

Britney Spears' job is to look pretty and make horrid groaning noises.

No wait, the groaning noises are probably added in by the producer too. Her job is to look pretty.

And for some bizarre reason, this sells CDs that, I assume, people listen to.

There's no logic behind it, but it works. Watch for the logical extension: Claudia Schiffer (or insert some other woman here, if you prefer) (uh-oh, here come the trolls with their favorite statue) standing naked while catchy music plays. They'd announce it on the radio with "And here's Generic Song #8 with Claudia Schiffer standing naked! Woo!"

--

Obfuscated e-mail addresses won't stop sadistic 12-year-old ACs.

bob@suespammers.org

Re:What are you listening to? (Score:2)

by ZanshinWedge on Saturday January 06, @02:21AM EST (#799)
(User #193324 Info) <http://dualboot.net/>

Now, to be fair, Brittney Spears does have a good voice and is musically talented. However, the bubble gum corporate pop stuff she does really sucks.

Re:What are you listening to? (Score:2)

by [Alioth](#) (usenetreplies@alioth.net) on Tuesday December 26, @01:31PM EST (#141)
(User #221270 Info) <http://www.alioth.net>

When I was 15, my father said, "how can you listen to this? It's noise! There's no melody, it's just boom boom boom!". He was talking about the Beatles.

It's funny - last year, my father asked me, "Why do you like this stuff?"

He was **also** talking about the Beatles. It sounds like my father is probably a similar age to you. The Beatles had broken up before I was born, and my father was interested why I was listening to this "old stuff".

I explained to him that good music is good music, no matter when it was made. My CD rack contains music from the 1940s (Duke Ellington) to the year 2000. If it's good, I'll buy it.

Lots of people say that music today is terrible etc. - and this is probably a constant. They wistfully remember how good music was in the '60s etc.

However, most '60s music can have the same accusations levelled against it that people level against the likes of Britney Spears and N'Sync today. Most oldies are "samey" and manufactured-sounding. But there are a few bands who really did something good - like the Beatles, and the Who. Or in the 1970s, Pink Floyd and Queen, and so on. Today's good ones (IMHO) are bands like Radiohead, the Red Hot Chilli Peppers and Ben Folds' Five (incidentally, Ben Folds' Three would be a bit more accurate!)

I recently went to a Roger Waters concert (he was Pink Floyd's lead singer). The friends who I went with were betting we'd be the youngest there, but a large proportion of the audience was younger than me (I'm 28). There were a lot of teenagers there. Pink Floyd music is genuinely good music. I also saw the Who, and although the audience was predominantly older than me, there were a lot of people in my g-g-g-g-generation ;-) I guess the Who isn't going to f-f-f-fade away either

Maintain thine airspeed lest the ground come up and smite thee

Re:What are you listening to? (Score:1)

by [Tuzanor](#) (tuzanor@tomgreen.com) on Tuesday December 26, @04:27PM EST (#346)
(User #125152 Info) <http://members.home.com/chylarides/>

I explained to him that good music is good music, no matter when it was made. My CD rack contains music from the 1940s (Duke Ellington) to the year 2000. If it's good, I'll buy it.

RIGHT ON!! My mp3 collection spans from Ludwig Van Beethoven's 9th Symphony to the Original Prankster by the Offspring. When my mom came into my room with good ol Ludwig Van playing she thought that I had converted and gotten rid of all my other "bad" Music.

The truth is that at almost any point in time you could probably get some kind of song/music that you can at least sit down and enjoy once in awhile.

Re:What are you listening to? (Score:1)

by [LedZeplin](#) (jeffbearer@yahoo.com) on Tuesday December 26, @05:38PM EST (#409)

(User #41206 Info)

To be even a bit more accurate, it would now be Ben Folds One. They broke up a few months ago. I'm sure glad I saw them last summer, what a fun show.

Later musical transitions (Score:3, Insightful)

by Ted V (tedv@[REDACTED]hushmail.com) on Tuesday December 26, @01:46PM EST (#159)

(User #67691 Info)

I'm just 23 right now, but I'm an avid Jethro Tull Fan. Their new music is good, but in a different way from their old music. My favorite Tull album was released the very month I was born! So it's not just a generations thing (although I'm not a Beatles fan), and I still listen to some random 80s and 90s music.

Quite honestly, music really does suck now. It's not your imagination. The problem is that people learn to like whatever they're told to like. And since the early 90s (maybe 1993), the record companies have put more and more control into the radio stations. That's why you'll hear stuff like, "Here's the new one from N'Sync!" when the song was released 9 months ago. Radio has turned into music advertising for a few selected bands that the RIAA has chosen for the "big money winners" this year. This lets them better predict which CDs will sell well, maximizing profits.

In other words, new music sucks because the RIAA learned that you don't need good music to make a profit.

Incidentally, this profit maximization is the reason the RIAA hates Napster. It gives people access to a very wide range of songs which makes it nearly impossible to predict which CDs people will buy next.

- Ted

Like the situation at ski resorts of young women looking for husbands and husbands looking for young women, the situatio

Re:Later musical transitions (Score:1)

by Ashen on Tuesday December 26, @02:21PM EST ([#205](#))

([User #6917 Info](#))

Sure Britney Spears and N'Sync have nothing insightful to say about the human experience, but last I checked, that wasn't a big requirement in the music industry. Their songs are catchy and you can sing along to them. If you don't enjoy that, then fine, but that doesn't necessarily mean it sucks ('sucks' is such an intellectual adjective). I don't listen to pop music because other people tell me to, I listen to it BECAUSE I CAN'T GET IT OUT OF MY HEAD.

Re:Later musical transitions (Score:2)

by Black Parrot on Tuesday December 26, @09:29PM EST ([#543](#))

([User #19622 Info](#))

> *In other words, new music sucks because the RIAA learned that you don't need good music to make a profit.*

Half the commercials on my cable channels are Time-Warner's advertisements for the *other* cable channels.

When you have huge corporations controlling both the production and distribution of content, don't expect high standards for the content.

--

The court ruled it legal to fuck the voters by running out the clock, and demonstrated how to do it.

Re:What are you listening to? (Score:2)

by jafac on Tuesday December 26, @01:52PM EST ([#170](#))

([User #1449 Info](#))

to quote David Bowie.

"Cha cha cha changes
Turn and face the strange,
whoa look out you rock 'n rollers
Pretty soon you're gonna get older . . ."

Yeah, I looked forward to that when I was a teenager, then I listen to what's coming out, and I moan, why does it have to suck so?! Is this just me being an old fart? hating new music because it's different from old, from what I'm used to, from what I grew up with, experienced my glory years with? The music that I lost my virginity to, the music that I puked a bottle of peppermint schnapps to -

Or does this new stuff actually truly really suck?

I think it sucks. In the empirical sense.

"Florida? But that's America's wang!" - Homer Simpson

Re:What are you listening to? (Score:1)

by Ig0r on Tuesday December 26, @02:00PM EST ([#181](#))

([User #154739 Info](#))

I'm a youngin' (I suppose) and much new music DOES suck. The problem is that there's so much money behind it that it can't fail the way it should.

--

Soma: because a gramme is better than a damn.

Re:What are you listening to? (Score:1)

by Anthony on Wednesday December 27, @07:40PM EST ([#734](#))

([User #4077 Info](#)) <http://adavid.com.au>

The secret is.....

The majority of music, at any given time in history, sucks.

Go find a top 40 list in 1971 and 80 % of the music is shite, particularly so those in the Top 10 (with

notable exceptions)

Pop Charts have always been like septic tanks....

Re:What are you listening to? (Score:2, Insightful)

by [IanCarlson](#) (oxford@norfolk.infi.net.NOSPAM) on Tuesday December 26, @01:59PM EST ([#178](#))

([User #16476 Info](#))

I'm 16 and addicted to music in all forms. MP3 technology has offered me a quick and easy way to check out new releases by artists and gain a better understanding of music. Most of the crappy music coming out in this day and age is caused by marketeers who know such music is profitable. It's a pity that society's bandwidth is eaten up by such empty acts, but it's a fact of life.

I'm currently listening to a rip of a 60's band from a vinyl copy at 192kbps, old school media with new school distribution. My work offers me access to their T-1, so my hard drive is always filled with some kind of great, quality music.

Sure geophile, it may look like the music industry is putting out nothing but trash, but if you look hard enough, you'll find some great bands. You just need to keep your mind open to new types of music. Most people who complain about modern selections aren't really open to anything but the music they've been listening to for the past twenty years.

Check out Squarepusher, the Smashing Pumpkins' Machina II album, DJ Shadow, Aphex Twin, the Chemical Brothers, Fatboy Slim, and new albums by your older artists, such as David Bowie.

Don't be so quick to write off rap, either. There are a lot of bands which **are** innovative with their lyrics. At the risk of sounding like yet another white boy with a rap fetish, you might want to check out Wu-Tang Clan, Capone and Noreaga, Busta Rhymes, and Dead Prez. Any band

rap group that samples gunshots on their album is just fine by me, thanks.

Techies that anger me are now banished with, "BITCH! I'll put my dick on your lips."

"I do not wish to think, or speak, or write, with moderation." --W. L. Garrison / "D0n't M0d3raT3 M3!" --ACs Everywhere

Re:What are you listening to? (Score:1)

by Sadfsdaf on Tuesday December 26, @02:09PM EST ([#190](#))

([User #106536 Info](#))

My guess is that there were probably a lot of bad music when you were 15 that were on the radio 24/7. People tend to forget bad things over a long period of time, and we're talking decades here, so my guess is that there was a lot of crap when you were young too. You only remember the good stuff.

Re:What are you listening to? (Score:2)

by jafac on Tuesday December 26, @03:02PM EST ([#248](#))

([User #1449 Info](#))

naw, I remember the bad stuff from my teenage years too. I wish I could forget.

Madonna, Prince, Culture Club, Michael Jackson.

I spent YEARS hoping and praying that Madonna would just GO AWAY. At least Prince did, and Culture Club is now underground-retro-chic because Boy George is a junkie, and well, nobody could like Michael Jackson anymore, now that his sister admitted to liking Coffee enemas. I'm glad 1999 is over, I haven't heard a Prince song since new years day, 2000.

But Madonna just won't fucking go away - in fact, she's now "creating" fresh new garbage to litter the airwaves with; taking young good looking people who can carry a tune, and using her influence to make them into pop stars (a-la Ricky Martin). Blah. I can't puke enough.

What next, Madonna doing Smiths cover-tunes?

"Florida? But that's America's wang!" - Homer Simpson

Re:What are you listening to? (Score:1)

by scrytch on Tuesday December 26, @04:14PM EST ([#328](#))

([User #9198 Info](#))

> But Madonna just won't fucking go away

Right, and she's actually developed talent. Listen to "Frozen" sometime. That's William Orbit who did all the backing orchestra and synths. Best listened to in a dark room with good speakers and eyes closed.

I still hate most of her stuff, but who the fuck elected you minister of culture?

--

Stop the patented mp3 format before it's too late. Use [Vorbis](#) .

Re:What are you listening to? (Score:1)

by Dino-Bob on Tuesday December 26, @02:32PM EST ([#219](#))

([User #30127 Info](#))

Don't worry, geophile, much of modern day youth feels the same way. I'm a 17 year old male with a leaning towards geekish things, and I find myself disliking most modern popular music. My MP3 collection contains everything from classic rock bands such as Bob Seger, Foreigner and Led Zeppelin to such classical music as Yo-Yo Ma's "Appalachia Waltz" and "Simply Baroque." I also enjoy latino jazz, carrying a particular fondness for Tito Puente. I admit to listening to Metallica(Every teenager needs a little angst, right?), but do not like "Korn" or "Limp Bizkit" and their common ilk. Its not just you, today's music really is lacking something. I don't pretend to represent teenage society, but many teens feel the same way..

"There is no surer way to ruin a good discussion than to contaminate it with the facts." -- Cecil Adams

Re:What are you listening to? (Score:1)

by AndroSyn on Tuesday December 26, @03:17PM EST ([#267](#))

([User #89960 Info](#)) <http://www.dnsq.org/>

As long as Bill Leeb didn't have anything to do with it I'm happy.

PS(Fuck you Bill Leeb, you rat bastard)

Re:What are you listening to? (Score:2)

by [qqaz](#) (baker@opendivx.cx) on Wednesday December 27, @02:59AM EST ([#652](#))

([User #33114 Info](#)) <http://www.opendivx.cx>

Yeah. And Rhys Fulber rules!

[CmdrTaco designed my site](#)

Re:What are you listening to? (Score:1)

by [mckwant](#) (bschurleA@yahooDOTcom) on Tuesday December 26, @03:23PM EST ([#276](#))

([User #65143 Info](#))

> By the way, I was stunned to find that Jethro Tull is still putting out new stuff.

Yeah, think how Metallica felt.

ceci n'est pas un sig.

Re:What are you listening to? (Score:1)

by [palo0019](#) (vtpalodichuk@bigfoot.com) on Tuesday December 26, @05:57PM EST (#420)

(User #120416 Info) <http://www.raverpants.com/happyfuntime/>

I don't think the problem is that there's no good music these days, there's just no good POPULAR music. Right now we're in a pretty light-hearted 1950's teenybopper stage, so you have to dig a little deeper. My favorite band of the moment is Less Than Jake (www.lessthanjake.com). They do a great job of blending ska and punk.

--This is the sig, watch it spin.

Re:What are you listening to? (Score:1)

by Nameles on Tuesday December 26, @09:52PM EST (#552)

(User #122260 Info) <http://i.am/nameles>

If you like LTJ, check out Operation Ivy (they broke up though) and NOFX,.

Re:What are you listening to? (Score:2)

by [Rand Race](#) (rtrace@prosolar.mx) on Wednesday January 03, @05:01PM EST (#796)

(User #110288 Info)

And if you like Op Ivy, check out Common Rider. I think it's one of the guys from Op Ivy, but don't quote me on that.

Lot's of good ska out there. Slackers, King Chango, Hepcat, DHC, NY Ska-Jazz Ensemble...

There is tons of good stuff being made today in many genres (I've been into insurgent country lately. Check out [Bloodshot Records](#)), not that you can tell by listening to the radio or watching MTV.

"It's sad how whole families are torn apart by simple things, like wild dogs"

Re:What are you listening to? (Score:2)

by Snocone on Tuesday December 26, @06:03PM EST (#425)

(User #158524 Info) <http://alexc.webjump.com>

Is it just me, or my g-g-g-generation, or does new music really suck?

New *pop* music sucks.

The rave/techno scene in its multitudinously fragmented genres is pumping out awesome stuff left and right, though.

What's happening is that pop music has become a commodity designed and marketed by suits, and DJs have taken over the cutting-edge space that bands used to be in.

Think about it. How many top ten singles on any given week are from a music-industry created band? Least six or seven, right? How many was it in the early 80's say? Like, once in a blue moon, right?

And that, my friend, is the problem. It is not we that suck, it is the record industry that sucks, and the little goobers who don't know any better than to buy the pap they're fed that suck. And therefore the pop music scene sucketh.

Re:What are you listening to? (Score:2)

by [iso](#) (slashdot@djnumbernine.com) on Tuesday December 26, @09:12PM EST ([#540](#))
(User #87585 Info) <http://djnumbernine.com>

The rave/techno scene in its multitudinously fragmented genres is pumping out awesome stuff left and right, though.

true, true. but even the "rave/techno scene" is being infected by "big business," especially trance music. the stuff that Jules is playing these days, and the countless Ibiza bullshit albums are complete toilet.

plus there's lot of people who have *no* clue what they're doing producing underground music. part of the problem (or as i say, the fun) is that it's completely unfiltered: you have to search out what you like from a mountain of garbage. this turns a lot of people off "techno," as they actually have to *listen* to the music and follow the labels and producers they like. of course most people take the "easy" way out, and just latch on to a favourite dj and have them do the filtering. i'm not sure if that's a good thing or a bad thing, but it's interesting to consider what that means--that djs are now the "rock stars" instead of the "musicians."

but you're right: if you want to find the truly imaginative and ground-breaking music, it's in the "techno" scene. and i always say, if you're not finding something you like, you're not looking hard enough. from breaks to jungle to trance to house to drum'n'bass, there *has* to be something that interestes most people.

i've found what i like the most: *UK Hard House*. it has a lot of "sameness" to it, but there are some very talented people writing this stuff, and it's your basic fun "party" music. i listen to other music for sitting around, but when you want to go out, have fun, and dance your ass off,

you can't really break UK Hard House or Nu-NRG.

but we're way off topic here, and i'm probably going to loose some of my precious karma (heaven forbid). i'd be interested in seeing what this kid likes to listen to as well. of course, it's entirely possible that he's not that interested in music, and then just listens to something "easy" (like for instance, what's played on the radio, like Modern Rock or something).

(of course, there's nothing necessarily wrong with "easy" music. i'm a closet Backstreet Boys and N-SYNC fan myself. you know, the *do* hire some of the best writers in the business!)

-j

If PacMan had affected us as kids we'd be running around in dark rooms, munching pills and listening to electronic music

Re:What are you listening to? (Score:1)

by [FreeMath](#) (mattmacumber@hotREMOVEmail.com) on Wednesday December 27, @02:00AM EST (#637)

(User #230584 Info) <http://freebytes.net/>

you have to search out what you like from a mountain of garbage

Isn't that true in any genera? I mean no matter what you listen to there is crap, but people don't realize that the crap is filtered out. MTV filters the pop crap. Radio filters the Rock crap. and DJs filter the techno crap. Techno is not just a means of mixing other artists' work, DJs like Moby, Paul Oakenfold, and Orbital have 90% of their songs 100% original so it make sense to focus on the work of an individual.

the (sic) do hire some of the best writers in the business

True, they are good lyrics, but they don't say much and have the worst presentation I can think of. I think I'll stick to TS Eliott for good writing.

-Humorously Sarcastic.

Re:What are you listening to? (Score:1, Offtopic)

by [Ryandav](#) (dink@who.net) on Wednesday December 27, @08:11AM EST (#687)

(User #5475 Info) <http://students.washington.edu/ryandav>

not to be argumentative, but MTV is what _spews_ that pop/rap/uber-commercialized crap. i listen to my own stuff and other peoples to get away from that...

i agree that, in his chosen medium, Elliott is a better writer. musicians just work in a different medium: thats writing in a different sense.

LiveJournal: Slash on People

Re:What are you listening to? (Score:2)

by [iso](#) (slashdot@djnumbernine.com) on Wednesday December 27, @02:13PM EST ([#728](#))

(User #87585 Info) <http://djnumbernine.com>

True, they are good lyrics, but they don't say much and have the worst presentation I can think of. I think I'll stick to TS Elliott for good writing.

uhrm, when i say they have good writers, i mean *music writers* (ie. composers), not lyracists. their hamonies are well done, their "hooks" are excellent, and the songs are very well produced. their lyrics are cheesy as hell, but i never understood this: *who listens to music for the lyrics?*?! that is the strangest thing to me. most lyrics in most bands are written by some highschool dropout (or in the case of the boy bands, written to appeal to teenagers). i completely agree that if i want "lyrics" i'll read poetry. but that wasn't what i was saying: it's the *music* that's written well.

-j

If PacMan had affected us as kids we'd be running around in dark rooms, munching pills and listening to electronic music

Re:What are you not understanding? (Score:1)

by [Rigid Glitch](#) (moc.oohay@sminra) on Tuesday December 26, @06:23PM EST ([#442](#))

(User #264755 Info)

Okay.. Lookey here.

- 1). You are comparing the BEST of yesterday's pop music to the WORST of today's pop music
- 2). Most 60s music was CRAP. you only remember the best stuff - beatles, floyd - etc.
- 5) Pop Music has become more commercial - learn to ignore it.

17) There is an amazingly diverse REALM OF NEW SOUNDS to be discovered. If you are closed to it, that means you are a calcified old corpse. Either get napster and RE-open your mind, or drown in your comforting coffin of creedence clearwater.

Life is rebirth. Participate or die.

Re:What are you not understanding? (Score:1)

by BeanThere on Tuesday December 26, @07:11PM EST ([#482](#))

(User #28381 Info) <http://www.geocities.com/SoHo/Lofts/2018/>

"You are comparing the BEST of yesterday's pop music to the WORST of today's pop music"

No he is not, you are wrong. Although you would be correct in saying N Sync is amongst the worst of todays music, that is beside the point here - see, back then, the Beatles were one of the biggest things you would hear on the radio or see on TV. Today, crap like N Sync is. He is simply comparing the biggest most popular bands from then to the biggest most popular bands now, which is a very **good** way (in fact the only way) of comparing the quality of the music now to the quality of the music then. What does it help to compare the Beatles to some virtually unknown but incredibly good band of today? The whole point is that it *isn't* the incredibly good band of today that you see on TV (like it was in the Beatle's day) but rather it is the recording-industry manufactured stuff that is plastered all over mass-media.

"Yesterday": Popular band (beatles) = relatively good music.

Today: Popular band (N Sync) = relatively crap music.

That's the difference.

You can argue that music is all about personal taste, but sorry, I can't see how the songs that N Sync produces can be regarded as requiring any vaguely significant amount of talent to write. They are just streams of cliches pinched from Mills and Boons books, aimed at teenage girls.

"... insert the Windows NT Workstation 4.0 compact disc with your computer turned off." - NT Installation Manual

Too much bad "music" suffocates the good stuff (Score:1)

by JoeMac on Tuesday December 26, @06:57PM EST ([#468](#))

(User #102847 Info)

Well, speaking as a 20-year old who just received his first Who album for Christmas (Live at Leeds) and who is very much appreciative of all the Genesis LPs my parents played when I was younger, I would strongly disagree that today's music "really sucks."

The problem with the music scene today, I would say, is that the generic pop and terrible rap and rap-rock overwhelms what older music listeners could easily relate to and consider to be good music. Not only can the music abrasively bad, but the marketing techniques can be equally objectionable. Whatever happened to just good old-fashioned tours? Screw "youth-oriented product positioning," to steal a very appropriate line from The Simpsons. Most of today's stronger artists tend to ignore such stupidity, and as a result they *appear* to be less relevant to today's audience.

I must admit, I find it difficult to imagine that a Who fan wouldn't mention Pearl Jam as part of good current music, and not only on the basis of their original work. Even classic radio gives them airplay with their covers of Baba O'Riley from the Europe 2000 tour.

Re:What are you listening to? (Score:2)

by VAXman on Tuesday December 26, @07:00PM EST ([#472](#))

([User #96870 Info](#))

Judging music of the 2000's (the decade) by Britney Spears, N*Sync, and the Backstreet Boys is as assinine and irresponsible as judging The Who, Genesis, and the Beatles (the music of the 1960's and 1970's) by disco, bubble gum pop, and all of the one hit wonders of the 1960's.

Music today has absolutely nothing to do with the current artists you mention. Most of the best artists today do not get publicity and you do not hear them on the radio or MTV. This has always been the case. You simply have no clue at all if you judge music by those standards, and perhaps you are intentionally trying to hide from the best music.

It must be really boring to listen only to thirty year old music for your whole life.

Re:What are you listening to? (Score:2)

by VAXman on Tuesday December 26, @09:49PM EST ([#551](#))

([User #96870 Info](#))

You think the Beatles were one of the best artists of the 1960's? **You** are the one on crack. The Beatles were **the** boy band, and possibly the most overrated performers of any art form of the 20th century. The Beatles got all of the publicity (and sucked), while other artists (for example, the jazzers), got relatively less exposure, but were more influential and more talented.

Re:What are you listening to? (Score:1)

by [FreeMath](#) (mattmacumber@hotREMOVEmail.com) on Wednesday December 27, @01:42AM EST ([#631](#))

([User #230584 Info](#)) <http://freebytes.net/>

The OLDER Beatles stuff really did suck. (She loves you yeah yeah yeah?). But some of the other stuff they did later and especially Lennon's solo stuff was far superior.

These statements are valid because I am 17, and I have an objective opinion.

-Humorously Sarcastic.

Re:What are you listening to? (Score:1)

by Rainy on Tuesday December 26, @08:55PM EST ([#534](#))

([User #17894 Info](#))

I'm 21 and I can't stand modern popular music either. I think before music was about music, and now music is about image. Girls are buying Spears albums because they want to be like her, while people listened to Beatles/whoever (my personal favorite is PF) because they liked their music, period. Think about it, does Britney or NSYNC play their instruments? Even if they do (I doubt), does anyone care? Does anyone care if they *sing* their songs? Not at all. They're selling an *image*. Sometimes I stop and think, what's it going to be like in 20 years, when most of population will have been raised on such prepackaged images? Let's hope internet saves us ;-)

-- ATTENTION: do not read this sig. It doesn't say much.

Re:What are you listening to? (Score:1)

by [Rakarra](#) (rakNarraO@SpacebPellA.Mnet) on Tuesday December 26, @10:08PM EST ([#557](#))

([User #112805 Info](#))

Girls are buying Spears albums because they want to be like her, while people listened to Beatles/whoever (my personal favorite is PF) because they liked their music, period.

You must have missed all those girls screaming in the audience. ;) The Beatles had talent, but they were also very much the boy band of that era, who attracted many fans for attributes which had little to do with music. They too were really selling an image.

Take the NOSPAM out of my address if you're responding by mail..

Re:What are you listening to? (Score:1)

by mini me on Tuesday December 26, @10:45PM EST ([#574](#))

([User #132455 Info](#))

I don't think it's that new music sucks, I think it's more that mainstream music sucks. There is a lot of good music out there that no one has ever heard because it isn't on the radio.

Today's mainstream music is driven by the media and it is all just a marketing ploy to sell CD's and merchandise, atleast that's the way I see it. I mean does anyone really like oh say the Backstreet Boys? Or is it because that's all that we hear so people just start to think they like it?

Maybe people honestly do like that music, but I for one can't stand it, and I have the feeling most people on here have similar opinions.

My Generation (Score:1)

by CyberQuog on Tuesday December 26, @11:40PM EST ([#593](#))

([User #67799 Info](#))

The funny thing is, Limp Bizkit (who i hate btw), did a horrible, horrible remake of the song, and now every trendy teenie bopper jap thinks they wrote the song. ~sigh~

- *Normality Is The Root of All Evil*

Re:What are you listening to? (Score:1)

by Junior J. Junior III on Wednesday December 27, @01:09AM EST ([#616](#))

([User #192702 Info](#))

I really like the band Modest Mouse these days. Do yourself a favor and check them out if you haven't already.

One thing to remember about older music is that we typically don't remember all the crap that was out back then. Sure, there were a *ton* of incredible bands in the 60/70's but there were also a slew of forgetable wannabe acts, one-hit wonders, and just outright crap. We naturally don't have an interest in preserving the crap, therefore the proportion of good music from back then increases over time, because the crap gets forgotten.

Conversely, we *can* all enjoy crappy music that we do still remember. Vanilla Ice, Milli Vanilli, hair metal, and other too godawful to be forgotten music gives us 70's-born kids something else in common. The problem with music today is not that it's crappy, but that it's so crappy it's not even a joke anymore. Back in my day music was so bad it was funny. There's no way I could ever enjoy making fun of Kid Rock the way I make fun of Vanilla Ice; all I can do about Kid Rock is hate him unumorously.

The important questions to ask today about music are:

- Is the proportion of crap in the music industry changing?
- Is what's good the same as what's popular?
- Is popularity relevant to anything aside from profitability?

Re:What are you listening to? (Score:1)

by [xcjohn](#) (the_psych01@yahoo.com) on Wednesday December 27, @01:22AM EST (#619)

(User #64581 Info) <http://lenin.nu/~jwhite>

You hit the nail right on the head, "popular" music sucks. Im a senior in highschool and listen to alot of the music from longer ago. For instance, Jethro Tull, The Who, CSNY, Tom Petty(well, he's still very much kickin)... but there is alot of really good music out there, maybe they're not as popular to the ditzy teeniebopper freaks, but they're there. STP (hell, most of the "grunge" movement), Dave Matthews, Sublime, Ani, Tracy Chapman, the list goes on. With the advent of technology that makes music more portable and transferable, music has become so limitless that people are free to listen to anything and everything the desire, as long as they're willing to click a few buttons or pay a few bucks. There's always going to be popular music, and often times, it will be shit. There will also always be great music that'll hit ya just right.

They call me Little John, but don't let the name fool you...in real life I'm very big. -Robin Hood, Men in

Re:What are you listening to? (Score:1)

by [AussiePenguin](#) (jeremyl@vicnet.net.au) on Wednesday December 27, @01:26AM EST (#621)

(User #83326 Info) <http://www.linuxfreak.com/~jeremy>

Well I'm 16 and I must say that I agree with you and allot of others who replied to this thread.

I don't know how it differs overseas, but generally commercial radio here in Australia is polluted. You go to listen to a commercial station that specialises in rock, and they still play crap, some crap that I can't even figure out how they figured it was rock.

I used to like quite a variety of music, however the most mainstream radio stations play the most crap of them all, therefore I have been isolated in a way and only hear rock music.

The bands I like most are older ones, including:

Hunters & Collectors - I got their album Cut, it's very good. Holy Grail is a classic. These guys were really talented and they didn't just use the same old boring instruments that rock bands use. In addition to the usual instruments they used trumpet, french horn and trombone.

U2 - most of you should know them. I just got their latest album which is reasonably good, but I must say it's not the best they've released. Achtung Baby from 1991 is pretty good. But my favourite songs by them are "When the Streets have no names", "I still haven't found what I'm looking for", "The Unforgettable Fire" etc. I have them on the Best of 1980-1990 cd. October is also pretty good.

Apart from those, I also like INXS, Midnight Oil, Hoodoo Gurus, THe Screaming Jets,

barenaked ladies, pink floyd, led zepplin, paul kelly, noiseworks just to name a few. Some of those bands will be well worth downloading mp3s of if you haven't heard of them :)

AussiePenguin
Melbourne, Australia
ICQ 19255837

Re:What are you listening to? (Score:1)

by [tekker430](#) (paulh_no@tekker.com) on Wednesday December 27, @10:23AM EST (#702)

(User #261358 Info) <http://www.tekker.com>

haha, you know, you said your self that your father thought your music sucked.. who the hell are you to say "oh the music sucks now".. the younger generation likes the music thots out now, otherwise it wouldnt be popular, now would it? On the flip side of the coin, I will most likely think that my kids music will suck in 20 years.. so what.

Just my \$0.02.

Sig? Hah, I don't need no stinking sig!

Re:What are you listening to? (Score:2)

by Hard_Code on Tuesday January 02, @10:42AM EST (#793)

(User #49548 Info)

I'm "only" 21 and in the span of about 5 years it seems musica has pretty much gone to shit. About 70% of the people I really liked are either dead or havent produced anything for a LONG time. The other 30%, fortunately have continued on and produced more cool stuff (with the exception of perhaps U2's discotheque CD, but I hear they have a better one out). There are only a handful of decent new bands (IMHO). The rest is New Kids on the Block rip off, pop crap.

And for the record I do appreciate "classic" 60s, 70s, (hey, even 50s) music. It just seems that all that you hear on the radio these days is prefabricated pop-crap. It's not that it sounds *bad*...but that it is so disgustingly contrived and retreaded (of course generations before me probably say that about everything I like).

Big corporations got the hurt on you? [Vote Nader](#)

Re:What are you listening to? (Score:2)

by ZanshinWedge on Saturday January 06, @02:02AM EST (#798)

(User #193324 Info) <http://dualboot.net/>

New music doesn't "suck", and you can sometimes get an odd idea of what "new music" is by listening to the radio, MTV, etc. because frankly those outlets are mostly out of touch with "the music scene" in general. They play the top selling songs for the last year or so but nothing else, and that tends to result in a hodgepodge of stuff that appeals to some but not to everybody.

Personally, I'm no oldster (pushing 25), but I'd say I haven't "lost touch" yet music wise. I don't have much interest in the present craze of boy and girl bands (blech), but there's plenty music out now that I like and listen, some of it is even popular. My music tastes are pretty eclectic though, my playlist spans several centuries and a large number of styles, everything from classical and jazz to "classic" rock&roll and pop to electronica and techno to hip-hop and punk and some that can only be classified as "other".

I think that some people just don't take the time to listen to music they are not already into. And when you go into it with that much prejudice and your not really paying attention to the music but mentally listing reasons why you don't like it, you can't help but hate it. I find that often I have to listen to something completely new (new band, and even more so a new style I'm not familiar with) a few times before I even know whether I like it and how much I like it.

Re:History of crappy music, pt 15 (Score:1)

by [psicE \(root@127.0.0.1\)](#) on Tuesday December 26, @04:37PM EST ([#356](#))

([User #126646 Info](#))

But there's no 's' in Burt Bacharach!

Hi, I'm a .sig Virus, put me in yours :-)

Re:History of crappy music, pt 15 (Score:1)

by JimPooley on Wednesday December 27, @12:08PM EST ([#718](#))

([User #150814 Info](#))

But there's no 's' in Burt Bacharach!

But there are several "Fucking"s as in:-

FUCKING Burt **FUCKING** Bacha**FUCKING** Grach

God. The "Easy Listening" revival of the late 1990s showed that several people HAD to DIE! Elvis Costello finally blew away the last tiny little remnants of his already shattered one-time punk credibility by duetting with THAT purveyor of godawful lift musak. In the last vestiges of the late 20th century, dinosaurs roamed the earth and people like Andy FUCKING Williams were in the UK pop charts rather than in their grave.

Oh yes, we're all being very post-modern and ironic with our easy listening "loungecore" music, are we not?

No. You are being FUCKING annoying with that GARBAGE that was SHITE in the late fifties and is even more FUCKING SHITE now!

Sorry. Had to get that off my chest. Just don't get me started on the ABBA revival, that's all...!

Hacker: A criminal who breaks into computer systems

Cracker: Type of savoury biscuit eaten with cheese

Re:History of crappy music, pt 15 (Score:1)

by [kashani](#) (net.badapple@kashani) on Tuesday December 26, @04:48PM EST (#369)

(User #2011 Info) <http://www.badapple.net>

Pixies? Modest Mouse?

You rule!

-kashani

- Why is the ninja... so deadly?

Re:What are you listening to? (Score:1)

by [Rinikusu](#) (sessary@NOSPAMaol.com) on Tuesday December 26, @06:27PM EST (#447)

(User #28164 Info) <http://www.people.memphis.edu/~sessary>

Ugh. All those Fat Wreck Chords bands sound the fucking same (too clean, way over-produced). Screeching Weasle is the only keeper on that list, the others are the "pop" of punk.
:P

I'll take FUGAZI, Jets to Brazil, Burning Airlines, hoover, (I'll admit to the Ataris), Rev. Horton Heat, Oblivians, Compulsive Gamblers, Lucero, Vegas Thunder, American DeathRay, ANY day over anything on Fat. Or anything on the radio for that matter.

"Yes, I am selfish. Your point would be?" - me

How is it? (Score:5, Interesting)

by [dbarclay10](#) (dbarclay10_NOSPAM_@_MAPSON_yahoo.ca) on Tuesday December 26,

@12:34PM EST (#61)

(User #70443 Info) <http://dharris.twu.net>

Hey, what's up? :) I'm not a teenager, but I am a Linux user, and a rather dedicated one. I've come to the realization over the past year or so that, indeed, MS Office is actually a good software packager. Well, relatively speaking, of course ;) I find it fast, relatively lean, feature-complete, and more-or-less stable. I was wondering if you yourself have a particular software favorite that doesn't run under Linux?

Thanks for your time,

Dave

Barclay family motto:

Aut agere aut mori.

(Either action or death.)

Re:How is it? (Score:1)

by Include on Wednesday December 27, @07:10AM EST (#676)

(User #54513 Info)

How do u use vs6 for linux devl? It produces win32 code. Surely u don't use a compiler package purely for its editing env?

Hang In There. (Score:1)

by sharkbiter on Tuesday December 26, @ 12:35PM EST ([#64](#))

(User #266775 Info)

Do you ever feel that even though the other people are your age physically, they have the mental IQ of a carrot? This isn't a joke question. At 16 I was a tall, skinny, and clumsy person. Classes were too slow, few teachers could reach me. Tests were a breeze, libraries consumed most of my time. Granted that the times were different, and that the liberal encroachment of the minority societal kneebiters not as extent as today. My "peers" were a bunch of ignoramuses who would rather destroy than to build. But that is the essence of youth, is it not? They couldn't see ahead one day much less a whole lifetime. Ah cartharsis! Ah epiphany! It wasn't until I left the old hometown and got in with a bunch of more likeminded individuals that the party really began. A bit much to ask your average sixteen year old maybe, but I've met a lot of really intelligent youngsters since my days as one. I truly enjoy seeing that there are "serious" youths out there. I wish you the best of luck in future, and don't let the dark side of technology pull you in. I've also seen enough bright individuals sucked in to that trap as well. Am I not right, K?

What is... (Score:2, Funny)

by Anonymous Coward on Tuesday December 26, @ 12:36PM EST ([#66](#))

...the meaning of life? Be concise and brief.

Any interest in electronics (Score:2)

by [anticypher](#) (cypherpunks(at)anti(dot)co(dot)uk) on Tuesday December 26, @ 12:40PM EST ([#70](#))

(User #48312 Info) <http://127.195.154.0/index.html>

When I had a yearning to learn computers, the closest I could get in an american high school was an electonics course. I was fortunate to have a good teacher who had created a good program out of very little resources. Now, computers are just another electronic tool for me.

Does your school offer the types of courses you are interested in? Are there programs to help boost students into various careers, such as programming, electronics, and any other technical skills? If there isn't, how do you and the other geeks at your school cope? If there are programs in place, are you taking advantage of them as much as possible? Have you looked into taking entry level university courses at night to help satisfy your geek skill level?

the AC

If you were stranded on a desert island (Score:4, Funny)

by [dattaway](#) (dattaway@attaway.org) on Tuesday December 26, @12:43PM EST ([#73](#))

(User #3088 Info) <http://soho.attaway.org/cam.pl>

and could only have one cd to load a blank computer, what would it be?

Re:If you were stranded on a desert island (Score:1)

by [bobv-pillars-net](#) (pillars@suespammers.org) on Tuesday December 26, @01:02PM EST

([#103](#))

(User #97943 Info) <http://www.pillars.net/~bobv/resume/>

Depends on what kind of network connection the desert island had. 56k? T-1? T-3? Fiber?

[No Spam](#)

Re:If you were stranded on a desert island (Score:1)

by [jmenezes](#) (j_menezes@yahoo.com) on Tuesday December 26, @02:04PM EST ([#187](#))

(User #100986 Info)

Would you have access to a net connection and a burner?(long with a pile of blanks?)

If so, one cd, a net connection, and you can get access to everything else you might need, just download and burn ;-)

just a thought

Re:If you were stranded on a desert island (Score:2)

by Rurik on Tuesday December 26, @03:33PM EST ([#285](#))

(User #113882 Info)

A blank computer? Isn't this the same as saying "What would you rather install, Windows or Linux"? Or maybe you meant any CD to load into a computer running his OS of choice, which would include games, etc?

Re:If you were stranded on a desert island (Score:2)

by [Col. Panic](#) (Col.Panic@/dev/null) on Tuesday December 26, @03:43PM EST ([#298](#))

(User #90528 Info)

Well ... I believe your first impulse is the correct one, but BeOS and the BSD's also come to mind.

If at first you don't succeed, destroy all evidence that you tried. -- Steven Wright

Re:If you were stranded on a desert island (Score:1)

by ElrondHubbard on Tuesday December 26, @07:09PM EST ([#480](#))

(User #13672 Info)

Hmm... Is there a Linux distribution that comes with Solitaire?

"The deep-fried Mars bar is a symptom of a wider crisis." -- Nutritionist Ann Ralph, on the Scottish diet

Re:If you were stranded on a desert island (Score:2)

by [istartedi](#) (comments@vrml3d.com) on Tuesday December 26, @05:18PM EST (#390)

(User #132515 Info) <http://www.vrml3d.com/>

Desert Island Shipbuilder's OS v1.02. Includes special software to calculate planking requirements, determine hull stresses, and provide instruction for fabrication of naval hardware from primitive components such as vines, palm fronds, and coconuts.

This is the /. version of the guy who was asked "what book would you like to have on the island" and the response was "Smith's practical guide to shipbuilding" or something like that.

So, the manager turned to the engineer who designed the first modem and asked why he wanted to build two prototypes...

Social surroundings? (Score:1)

by earthy on Tuesday December 26, @12:44PM EST (#75)

(User #11491 Info) <http://www.student.kun.nl/a.vanleeuwen/index.html>

First a bit of background: I'm 25 and therefore technically one generation older than you are. However, my little sister is 15, so technically in your generation. My little sis and I get along splendidly, but then again, she always had two older brothers to hang around with. She also gets along fine with people her own age, and is really very much a 15-year old.

As I am the oldest in my family, when I was fifteen I had no such 'luck'. I have always been youngest in class, and always spent time with people at least roughly a year older than I was. Therefore I was always striving to keep up, and usually succeeding... but for the social aspects of life.

Anyway, I was wondering, what are the ages of the people you regularly hang out with? And what do you think of people that are your age?

Re:Social surroundings? (Score:1)

by [kaitos](#) (kaitos@NOSPAMsubdimensionNOSPAM.com) on Tuesday December 26, @10:42PM EST (#571)

(User #185784 Info) <http://www.8op.com/lexedos/>

i know im not the guy they picked, but they probably wont post your question, so i thought id answer it, just to be nice, ;], im 15, and i tend to hang out with 17 year olds alot, i do have friends my age, but they dont really like me anymore and dont wish to hang out with me, odd since i get along with the 17 year olds fine, :-/, and people my age, tend to be very ignorant, very very ignorant.

this sig is funny._ laugh.

-kaitos

Childhood toys? (Score:5, Insightful)

by [Ralph Wiggam](#) (ralph@springfield.com) on Tuesday December 26, @12:46PM EST (#81)
(User #22354 Info) <http://www.redmeat.com>

Pretty much every geek I've asked remembers loving construction type toys as children. I know my fave was Capsella because of the motors and gears, but there was always a big box of Legos in my house, too.

Did you play with toys like that in your 5-12 years?

What were your favorites?

-B

"Good...Bad...I'm the guy with the gun" -Ash

Re:Childhood toys? (I'm offtopic here) (Score:1)

by [pi_rules](#) (buistjj@NOSPAM.river.it.gvsu.edu) on Tuesday December 26, @04:18PM EST (#330)

(User #123171 Info) <http://www.csis.gvsu.edu/~buistjj>

Whoa? 5-12? I'm 20, and just got a Mindstorm set, I'm geeked.

Justin Buist

Re:Childhood toys? (Score:1)

by [Phroggy](#) (slashdot3@NOSPAM.phroggy.com) on Tuesday December 26, @05:18PM EST (#391)

(User #441 Info) <http://phroggy.com/>

ooh yeah! and, combining pieces from a Capsella set with Tinkertoys, hooked up to a relay on a 200-in-1 electronics kit from Radio Shack, and wires strung across the room.....

--

Don't anthropomorphize computers. They hate that.

Re:Childhood toys? (Score:2)

by [electricmonk](#) (electricmonk@southbendhackersclub.com) on Tuesday December 26, @10:42PM EST (#572)

(User #169355 Info)

. I know my fave was Capsella because of the motors and gears, but there was always a big box of Legos in my house, too.

Oh my God, dude! I still have a box of those somewhere in my house! Sure, I'm 15, but I remember playing with my Capsela creations for hours back in the day. Although it kinda got annoying when the voice activated stuff wouldn't listen to you half the time...

Get your free anti-MPAA e-mail address [here](#).

Re:Childhood toys? (Score:1)

by [hideoclone](#) ([kdaved@home\[dot\]com](mailto:kdaved@home[dot]com)) on Wednesday December 27, @06:39AM EST ([#673](#))
[\(User #263306 Info\)](#)

ha! construction toys? I took everything apart. I never had a toy that lasted more than a couple months before it was disassembled into little pieces. People stopped giving me toys when I was pretty young, so I played with rocks and paper-clips and crap like that (not joking). I think they thought I was a dim child, seeing me play for 4 hours with a pile of pebbles. LoL I didn't give a shit -- my "toys" were free and scattered everywhere! To this day I like taking things apart, but not to the point that I destroy them. I need expensive toys now because my imagination is dead and rocks won't cut it anymore. Whoo! with 2 billion polygons a second who need an imagination anyway? LOL...

Re:Childhood toys? (Score:1)

by [Lumpy](#) (spamsucks.timgray@lambdanet.com) on Wednesday December 27, @09:44AM EST
[\(#699\)](#)
[\(User #12016 Info\)](#) <http://www.lambdanet.com>

Umm, I still play with my son's Lego mindstorms and lego technic's. The mechanical possibilities with these "toys" help solve myriads of problems and stimulate thinking even in us 32 year olds.

Only the losers in the world stopped playing with "toys" when they got old. the rest of us just upgraded the toys.

-- Why does reality have to get in my way every day? --

Re:Childhood toys? (Score:1)

by Jezz on Thursday December 28, @07:41AM EST ([#745](#))
[\(User #267249 Info\)](#)

Good God! Was I supposed to stop when I was 12? I'm building an X-Wing (the big one) and I'm 32. Flipping heck!

Now answer honestly! (Score:4, Interesting)

by OlympicSponsor on Tuesday December 26, @12:46PM EST ([#82](#))
[\(User #236309 Info\)](#)

In 8th/9th/10th grade I was unpopular (hung out with the losers, didn't go to dances, etc). 11th and 12th grades I was merely neutral (went to some dances, knew a lot of people, but I wasn't a jock or anything). I bring this up not out of relevance, but to show that "I've been there."

My question is: Which came first, the chicken or the egg? What I mean by that is: Many geek teenagers exhibit anti-social characteristics, including: poor hygiene, little or no conversation skills and attitudes (for instance know-it-all-ism) that are off-putting. Do adolescents get into computers because they don't get along and don't understand why, so turn to computers (books, D&D, whatever) as something they can understand/master? Or do adolescents who get into computers/whatever use up so much brain capacity with intellectually challenging tasks they can't learn how to interact with others? Or some third thing?

(Please don't get the impression I'm saying you are a smelly, greasy, know-it-all loser-- obviously I've never met you. But the lead-in mentioned being a "pudgy loner" and Katz, so I can assume you aren't dating a cheerleader.)

--

MailOne

IMAP coming soon!

Re:Now answer honestly! (Score:1)

by [greenrd](#) (greenrd@notinncdmeatproductshotmail.com) on Tuesday December 26, @04:55PM EST ([#374](#))

(User #47933 Info) <http://www.lancs.ac.uk/ug/greenrd/>

Do adolescents get into computers because they don't get along and don't understand why, so turn to computers (books, D&D, whatever) as something they can understand/master? Or do adolescents who get into computers/whatever use up so much brain capacity with intellectually challenging tasks they can't learn how to interact with others?

In my own case, I'd say neither. I've been pretty antisocial since as long as I can remember (since I was 5) - got a bit less weird at 16 or so, but still often prefer my own company. I only got serious about computers when I was 7 or 8 (not due to lack of enthusiasm but due to parent's and school's lack of money). So clearly computing interests didn't cause antisocial tendencies in my case.

On the other hand, I'm almost as sure I didn't "turn to computers" as an alternative to what I "failed at" - socialising. What makes me think this is, as I became significantly more socially-integrated as I got older, I didn't start losing interest in computers - quite the contrary! Took a degree in it and now doing a PhD.

I'd suggest a *common* cause as an explanation for the observed correlation (which is not a perfect correlation, by any means, of course) - something like a gene (or environmental stimulus) leading to greater development in "logical", "intellectual" aspects of the mind and *simultaneously* lesser development in other aspects, like social skills. But that's just pure

speculation, of course. I put it forward merely because people often tend to fall into ruts in thinking and miss certain possibilities worth considering, like common causes instead of either "A causes B" or "B causes A".

-- A mother raising children is not considered "a worker." She is treated as if she has no input or productivity to contribute to the "real economy".

Re:Now answer honestly! (Score:2)

by [bero-rh](#) (bero@redhat.com) on Tuesday December 26, @06:40PM EST (#459)

(User #98815 Info) <http://people.redhat.com/bero>

I don't think those are really "problems" leading up to each other.

I've always been interested in computers, but up to a certain point, I was a pretty normal kid (who just happened to start coding at 8, without turning into some "monster").

Things started to get different in highschool - I

I never went to dances (I'd much rather have my fingers dancing on the keyboard than stepping on people's feet), and started to find most "normal" people's attitudes weird (they don't care about all that interesting stuff, and all they talk about is how they want to date [name removed] because she looks so good? I wouldn't date her if she begged me to! No matter what she looks like, she's overly selfish and stupid, and doesn't share any of my interests! (#include).

This sort of stuff made me somewhat of an outsider, causing me to spend even more time with the computer, causing me to discover Linux 0.99.11, causing me to spend even fewer time with "normal" people, causing me to spend even more time with the computer...

So, at least for me, it's not a clear $A + 1 \text{ month} = B$, more a $(1/2)(A+B) + 1 \text{ month} = (3/4)(A+B)$

[For the record: I think I've arrived at $(7/8)(A+B)$ and will stay at precisely that point. I'm 23, I've never had a date, but I do know some people who aren't geeks and can get along with them, so it's probably not a gradual process that must eventually end up in $(A+B)$.

Is this an US phenomenon? (Score:1)

by Yurian on Tuesday December 26, @08:03PM EST (#511)

(User #164643 Info)

I don't live in the States, so I'm quite curious about this impression that I'm seeing quite strongly on Slashdot - i.e. that a large proportion of US 'technology enthusiasts' really fit the profile of "*poor hygiene, little or no conversation skills and attitudes (for instance know-it-all-ism) that are off-putting*". That a huge number of them actually are the stereotypical awkward social outcasts (during their school years anyway) so beloved of Jon Katz.

Is this really a fair representation of the situation in America? Personally, I live in Ireland, and I know a fairly large number of equivalent "geeks" over here - While I'd certainly say that they're a bit "bookish"/slightly introverted, they are almost without exception also well-balanced individuals with other interests and reasonable social skills, and good experiences of school. Am I just getting a skewed impression of the US from reading Slashdot/Katz, or is the social situation really very different over there?

Re: Is this an US phenomenon? (Score:1)

by juno on Wednesday December 27, @02:30AM EST ([#647](#))

([User #70153 Info](#))

In my experience (as a lifelong USian), I have found that the stereotype of "geek" as unwashed and antisocial is just that-- a stereotype. Some fit the profile, and some don't. For myself, my social skills were terrible until I put some work into them, and I am often accused of intellectual arrogance, but I have a broad range of interests, my hygiene is fine, and my high school experience wasn't too bad (although I did go to school in a geek-friendly area). I've also encountered plenty of non-technical people who otherwise fit the geek stereotype well. Ultimately, I think the stereotype describes a rather small portion of the population.

I may be inviting flames by saying this, but I get the distinct impression that many US geeks capitalize on this stereotype as a way of inviting sympathy, in the manner of "See, see, what a victim I am!", rather than as a genuine feature of personality. As a result, they are far more visible as a population than those who do not, but I don't think they represent the majority of US "technology enthusiasts" by any stretch".

In deference to those whose experience does fit the geek stereotype, I would like to note that there is a streak of anti-intellectualism that is well entrenched in American culture, and certainly may make a significant contribution to the experience of USian techies. However, I don't know if such a prejudice is present in other cultures to the same extent, so I am unable to make a comparison.

---- I'm going to lead you, kicking and screaming, Giggling and laughing, into the future

Re: Is this an US phenomenon? (Score:1)

by Stibanater on Thursday December 28, @07:30PM EST ([#761](#))

([User #261368 Info](#))

<P> As the previous response said, this unwashed, anti-social bit is more of a stereotype than anything else.</P><P> I know plenty of geeks who pay more attention to the potted plants and the punch bowl at parties than to the guests, and who could stand some tips on hygiene and grooming...but just as many if not more who are the life of the party, terribly clever, sharp dressers, and social butterflies. Geekdom lends itself easily to anti-social behavior, and people who may have tendencies for such behavior to begin with are allowed to wallow in it by relating more frequently to machines than people. It's an "enabling" situation for such folk.

A common trait you may find is intellectual arrogance. You have to allow nerds at least one Vanity. It's often all we've got. Besides...we are usually right. But like any other zealots, tunnel vision can quickly set in and discount any respect one's expertise might have brought before one became a posturing asshole who is talking from his ass just to sound learned. You know, just like I am now.

I disagree with position that there is an anti-intellectual sentiment in America. Certainly amongst teens, who are threatened by those who can outperform them in any mental task. It is a fear brought about by the creeping suspicion that these nerds will in fact one day be more powerful and successful than they. Media and sports figures excluded.

I would certainly say that the anti-intellectualism ceases in college, mainly because those who are threatened by intellect would not be at an institution of learning. It goes away with age, even outside of college, as people mature and realize that its the brains that make one successful. By no means is it bad as say, the "Tall Poppy" concept in Australian culture, which seems to condemn any effort by anyone to be something more or different than they were born into. (To my friends in Oz, I mean nothing personal...only repeating what you've told me.)

In general, the point is that being a technical enthusiast enables one to be anti-social or unhygienic...if one so chooses...and people forgive them because they are geeks and expect it. However, they are no more representative of the group than gangsta thugs are of African Americans, Rednecks of Southerners, nazis of the Germans.....

Again, agreeing with the previous post, it is often a victim-act to talk about one's geekness, beating others to the punch, wearing it simultaneously as a badge of honor and a scarlet letter.

My \$0.02

Re:Now answer honestly! (Score:1)

by [Higher Authority](#) ([aangel @ phyco . net](mailto:aangel@phyco.net)) on Wednesday December 27, @03:05AM EST
(#656)

([User #245970 Info](#))

Just a quick side-note (somewhat): I think it'd be better to ask why *he* got into computers, rather than why *adolescents* (in general) get into computers, considering he's only one of many, and it's asking him to generalize the possible reasoning of people whom he has never met.

import disclaimers.*; // Liability sucks, don't it?

Re:Now answer honestly! (Score:1)

by waterbiscuit on Wednesday December 27, @08:18AM EST ([#689](#))

([User #241198 Info](#))

Myself being a certified geekette, and also 16, still relatively novice to be perfectly honest, (so a really true geek might dispute what I have to say), I turned to computers as a result of being unpopular at school. I was very quiet, but couldn't help but shout out the answer to two people squabbling over what Au stood for the other side of the room during lunch breaks. I got branded a "boffin", and I used too long words, and worked too hard at school (although not at home, -during that time I played the piano all evening- now I'm on my puter, and playing the piano at school all the time). And I was too shy to make friends, and was horrified by the lack of intellect of these people. So I became lonely, and when I finally got the internet, I spent all my time on my computer, as I had nothing to do in real life, and I had become disheartened on the piano.

Originally I just used my puter for ICQ and IRC, and I started finding people similar to myself, and people who genuinely liked me. I knew it wasn't the same, but it was all I had. Several of these people were geeks, and I started to become seriously interested in computers, programming, all sorts really. So although now I wouldn't go back to being a fully sociable teenager for anything, my situation arrived as a result of the lack of friends at school. Yes it's now just become a vicious circle, but I do have my online friends who are there for me much more than those I might have had in real live ever were.

My other geek friends however, all male, seem to have spent their childhood on sinclairs and amigas, and were on linux by the time they were 11, and progressed naturally along the geek lines from an early age. Perhaps this is because boys are naturally more interested in technology than girls, who like to dress up in pretty clothes and suchlike- indeed although I liked computers when I was 8, and we did "logo" at school, making circles and suchlike, I never saw anything more in them than just a little fun. At this time I was a perfectly happy little girl, with 2 friends who were equally intelligent as I. It was only as I moved from school to school and became more introvert, shy, and alienated from other people that I found myself turning to the computer.

finding a date (Score:1)

by [SquierStrat](#) (colskywalker@dontspamme.thepentagon.com) on Tuesday December 26,

@12:47PM EST ([#83](#))

([User #42516 Info](#))

Being a teen geek myself, I have a horrid time finding a date! Do you have such troubles? If yes does it bother you? If no, what's your secret????!!!!

"I'm just a sucker with no self-esteem!"-The Offspring

Re:finding a date (Score:1)

by [SquierStrat](#) (colsawywalker@dontspamme.thepentagon.com) on Wednesday December 27,

@12:45AM EST (#[606](#))

(User #[42516](#) Info)

You're quote is quite correct, but my self-esteem once was very high until I started to try and get dates...and women love to tell guys they dont like about every single inadequacy they have. That is why my self-esteem is now non-existant. 20 something women after I started I've gone on 2 dates witht he same girl who dumped me by hanging up on me when I called.

They point is, teenage girls really dont give a rip about your self-esteem, they want a guy who'll spend money on them, a jock who'll bang em until they impregnate them and then run away, or someone along those lines, they dont think about their futures and that hey this guy is into computers, he's a technician at a computer store he's about to go work as a network engineer and he's only 17.

They think does he drive a 2001 Ford Mustang right NOW?

no.

Was his pictur einthe paper for sports?

no.

Do I want him?

no.

Simple as that, but hey I live in Atlanta where everything is weird so...

My question was asked simply because I'm curious if other guys like me (since I know none!) have the same troubles. And if not possibly find out if it's what they do differently or if it jsut has to do with there locale because I'm beginning to suspect that is my problem is that the girls in this area are jsut that way.

"I'm just a sucker with no self-esteem!"-The Offspring

Times Change (Score:5, Interesting)

by [HRbjnR](#) (chris@hubick.com) on Tuesday December 26, @12:47PM EST (#[85](#))

(User #[12398](#) Info) <http://www.hubick.com/>

When I was a geek in high school (10 years ago)... it was not cool at all. The computer club was definitely frowned upon by the "cool" people. My question is, with the rise of the internet, and computers becoming pervasive in "normal" peoples lives...has this changed? Or have geeks gained some respect?

I read an article somewhere (Wired?) that said geeks were the new sex symbols...doctors and lawyers used to represent power and success and where what men stereotypically wanted to be, and what women stereotypically chased after. But now, as it is suggested, do you think geeks have invaded some of this position? Do you see any attitudes like this in school?

Re:Times Change (Score:1)

by [lactose99](#) (lactose99@SPAMBAIT@yahoo.com) on Tuesday December 26, @04:09PM EST (#320)
[\(User #71132 Info\)](#)

Here here, I'd really like to know the answer to this question. I graduated High School 4 years ago, and things like AP Computer Programming, the Computer Club, and such were still rather geeky things in my school. That's where I came from (although I did do the sports thing-- Varsity Track & Cross-Country, although they weren't very popular sports in my school). I'd like to know if the 'kewl' thing in school is still football and cheerleading, or if computers have managed to grab a small foothold in all that is cool.

"What, me worry?" -A.Newman

Re:Times Change (Score:2)

by [electricmonk](#) (electricmonk@southbendhackersclub.com) on Tuesday December 26, @10:48PM EST (#576)
[\(User #169355 Info\)](#)

I'd like to know if the 'kewl' thing in school is still football and cheerleading, or if computers have managed to grab a small foothold in all that is cool.

Bwahahahaha! Sorry man, but, speaking as someone who is living it, some things never change. Hell, we all considered it a miracle that a girl actually signed up for AP Computer Science AB this year. I guess that IS progress of some sort... but not the kind you talk about.

Get your free anti-MPAA e-mail address [here](#).

Re:Times Change (Score:1)

by [Runin](#) (spamme@sonic.net) on Tuesday December 26, @04:20PM EST (#336)
[\(User #203341 Info\)](#)

I graduated last year, and things have definately changed, but sex symbol I was not. A lot of it depends on the people you hang around though. I hung out with a fairly popular group in my HS so I wasn't shunned for my computer skills, and in fact a lot of people thought it was cool because typing a research paper at 100 wpm is definately faster than writing it out by hand or pecking at a keyboard. The unfortunate thing is that some people who are into computers do start to lose touch with the "outside world." One of my friends is starting to do this now as a CIS major and it is extremely sad since we used to go out and party together all the time. These people who isolate themselves are the people that are frowned upon by the rest of their classmates and peers. Its not that coding isn't fun or exciting, but try explaining enums to someone who can barely operate a computer and they are going to look at you funny because you are sitting in your room alone learning about these things. I think today geeks are getting out more and the fact that you don't hibernate(sp?) all the time does wonderful things for your social life. Now as far as geeks as the new sex symbols go that is kind of interesting since I was talking to a girl the other day about this sort of thing. A large part of this I think is that there is a lot of money in the tech industry. A quote from this girl was, "If you pull up next to a guy in a car he gets a look. If he has a nice car you look twice." Now barring the fact she is incredibly shallow this probably can account for some of what you read since geekdom generally provides for a decent income.

Re:Times Change (Score:1)

by tjb on Tuesday December 26, @09:49PM EST ([#550](#))

([User #226873 Info](#))

Ya know, I've found that money can sometimes be a hindrance in picking up women (or at least ones I'd want to date).

I've dated three girls since I started my job (dropped out of college last June, an offer I couldn't refuse). When I met them, they asked the usual "Are you still in college?" type question and I'd respond, no, I dropped out and they left it at that. As things went better I'd give them my phone number on the back of a business card (and hear the inevitable "What's a firmware engineer?") and get their phone number and all looked good.

Then I'd go pick the girl up and they'd see my BMW and simply would not shut-the-fsck-up about it. Same thing with my TV (36" Sony Wega, highly recommended by me, btw) and furniture. I really couldn't stand it. I mean, yeah, I like to buy myself cool stuff, I work my ass off for it, but these girls sickened me with their focus on money and \$200 dinners (which I'd do occassionally, but the one girl would act all weird if I just wanted take-out chinese, like I should be above that) rather than me.

I honestly believe that all three girls would have been reasonable people if I had just been "that guy drinking Heineken at the bar" rather than an extremely well-paid programmer who drives a BMW. Or maybe not. In any case, some people stop acting reasonable when they see money, which is why it is very rare that you'll ever meet a happy rich person.

-Tim

Re:Times Change (Score:1)

by Medieval_Gnome on Tuesday December 26, @07:55PM EST ([#508](#))

(User #250212 Info)

Well, I'm currently in 8th grade, and I have found that I am needed by many other people to help them with fairly simple things on the computer ("No, the button that says Start") They tend to appreciate the help, and it seems like they don't completely despise me... So yeah, I think that times might be changing.

This space for rent

Re:Times Change (Score:1)

by Nameles on Tuesday December 26, @09:32PM EST ([#545](#))

(User #122260 Info) <http://i.am/nameles>

I'm a freshmen in HS, and geeks aren't the sex symbol. It seems that, at least in my school, all the popular people want the people that are easy. One night stand and drugs are in. On the respect side, everyone apreciates somewhat when I help them with problems, when I burn CDs for them, etc, but geeks haven't gained much respect. I'm not an end be all loser in school, but I'm not Mr. I play 5 sports this semester.

Re:Times Change (Score:1)

by [nEoN nOoDIE](#) (neonoodle@cosmoweb.net) on Tuesday December 26, @11:04PM EST ([#584](#))

(User #27594 Info) <http://www.moseisley.com/swgeek/>

Since I'm a "computer geek" who just graduated from HS and am now working toward a BFA in Computer Art, I felt I could give an answer to your question. While computers have become pervasive in "normal" peoples lives, geeks are still looked down upon. It's still uncool to know anything more than how to connect to AOL to chat or check e-mail. Girls didn't flock to me because I preferred something other than Windows. Even now that I'm in an art school, me majoring in computer art puts some girls off because computers are still a geeky thing to like. Computer geeks may have gained some respect because "computers are where the money's at" but from my experience, they're by no means sex symbols.

"The wheel is spinning but the hamster is dead."

Re:Times Change, i guess.. (Score:1)

by [flocto](#) (octo_pus@gmx.li) on Wednesday December 27, @04:12AM EST ([#660](#))

(User #266948 Info) <http://octo-pus.de/>

Might be i can answer some of the aspects of your question. I am 17, senior at HS and have been working with computers for 10 years now. So I consider myself as fitting into that cathegory of HS-geeks..

- **respect:** well, when I moved here I heard within the first week at the new school: "Are you smart or so? I hate smart people." (I never answered that question). But that's not what you hear everyday. It's like you are known as **the** computer person at school, but no one, except for those who are in computers, too, will ever talk to you about computers. Well, unless they have a problem with their very own ones. Then the secretary will be happy to give you all the passwords you need (and you have to ask, otherwise it's proven that you have 'em) to solve her problem. You are kinda like the reserve for the computer guy at school, but it's a volunteer-job so it won't be recognized as easily as a good football player e.g.
- **sex symbol:** well, that would just be awsome! Could somebody explain that to the chicks at my school, please?! ;) But seriously: You won't have much success by talking about computers when you go out with one. But it's a nice "tool" anyway: As soon as she's listening to what you are talking about computer-related stuff, you can be pretty sure that she wants ya ;) It's always very nice to know, that you just have to sit back, be known as the "computer guy that can fix everything" and they'll come to you (with their problems). You have the possibility to know her parents, sieblings etc. before you try to get any chances and that's really neat, cause: the first step is made, and not even by youself ;)

I'd love too read some comments by **girls** at my age (if there exist female slashdot-readers on this planet..)

Re:Times Change (Score:1)

by suwain_2 on Wednesday December 27, @10:30AM EST ([#704](#))

(User #260792 Info)

A few people I know (I would hesitate to call them friends) occasionally poke fun at me for spending too much time in the computer lab. I thought I'd tell my little tale because of its bizarriety: most of these people tell me this when they see me in the computer lab. Something doesn't figure. I suppose it has to do with the fact that I use UNIX machines and lots of terminal windows, while they use Internet Explorer to go to "normal people" sites.

"Downloaded" from user "lintux" on Slashdot... -- Hi, I'm a signature virus. plz set me as your signature and help me s

Languages. (Score:1)

by [Requiem](#) (ac881@sfn.saskatoon.sk.ca) on Tuesday December 26, @12:47PM EST ([#86](#))

(User #12551 Info) <http://www.sfn.saskatoon.sk.ca/~ac881/>

What's your favourite programming language, and why?

Do you hate school? (Score:1, Interesting)

by [defile](#) (defile[-at-]nyct[-dawt-]net) on Tuesday December 26, @12:48PM EST ([#87](#))

(User #1059 Info) <http://netgraft.com/>

I hated school. The last thing that my schools seemed interested in was providing an education. I constantly pressed them for more information and better classes, but 95% of the time "advanced" classes meant that there were more opportunities to do busy work to try to make your college application look good.

There were days where I'd just skip school and instead hang out at the library all day. In retrospect, I wish I had dropped out of school instead of graduating before I went to work (to hell with college, I wasn't going to start *paying* for "education"). Do you feel this way? And if not, why?

A Microsoft Certified Systems Engineer is to computing what a McDonalds Certified Food Specialist is to fine cuisine

Re: You missed the point! (Score:1)

by [defile](#) ([defile\[-at-\]nyct\[-dawt-\]net](#)) on Wednesday December 27, @12:31PM EST (#722)
(User #1059 Info) <http://netgraft.com/>

Just because I sound like a dork doesn't mean that I don't have any social skills. I'm fucking charming, damnit.

If the point of school is to socialize, fine -- just don't wrap it in bullshit that says you're involved in higher learning. When people ask you what your educational background is, are you going to tell them that you spent 4 years socializing? Or are you going to tell them that you were getting an education when that obviously wasn't the point? Why the hell do you even care about a piece of paper, then? It's all a lie.

Yes, human contact is vital to one's development and I'm all for it. It's just that the "standard path of human development" (12 years of basic school, 4 years of college, additional years depending on choice) sounds like such a poor choice compared to what the world can really offer if you just look for it.

I am a unique snowflake, etc, etc.

A Microsoft Certified Systems Engineer is to computing what a McDonalds Certified Food Specialist is to fine cuisine

Time Management? (Score:2, Interesting)

by [hetfield](#) (spam@hetfield.net) on Tuesday December 26, @12:48PM EST (#88)
(User #129762 Info) <http://www.hetfield.net>

I see that you're writing some software, which from personal experience I know is no small task, regardless of the language or goals of the project. Being in college, I basically only write code during breaks or right away in the beginning of the semester, when my work load is light.

I remember high-school to be just as hectic as college, with the addition of the hormonal upheaval caused by adolescence. How do you find time to write code? How do you think it has affected your lifestyle (compared to your non-geek peers)?

--

The distance between insanity and genius is measured only by success.

Re:Time Management? (Score:1)

by [litui](#) (amb@rifetech.com) on Tuesday December 26, @02:03PM EST (#186)

(User #231192 Info) <http://rifetech.com>

hehehe...I know the answer to this one well. Sleep Deprivation =). I'm not really a programmer, but I remember sitting at my computer til maybe 3 or 4 AM, sleeping for 2 hours (possibly more) and going to school after. I'd play catchup on the weekends. Although, I will note that little school work got done even with this scheme.

Quidquid latine dictum sit, altum viditur.

Re:Time Management? (Score:1)

by [hetfield](#) (spam@hetfield.net) on Tuesday December 26, @02:20PM EST (#204)

(User #129762 Info) <http://www.hetfield.net>

Geez, how the h*ll did you graduate? I almost had to repeat my senior year. Somehow I lit a fire under my posterior and got my term paper finished and aced my final... And that was before becoming a coding geek (I was still a geek on my Apple II GS, but I didn't write more than a couple of crappy AppleSoft BASIC programs).

--

The distance between insanity and genius is measured only by success.

Re:Time Management? (Score:1)

by [litui](#) (amb@rifetech.com) on Tuesday January 02, @04:48PM EST (#794)

(User #231192 Info) <http://rifetech.com>

Simple, I DID have to repeat my senior year ;)

Quidquid latine dictum sit, altum viditur.

Greatest Generation (Score:5, Interesting)

by [gestalt](#) (awaschick@hotmail.com) on Tuesday December 26, @12:49PM EST (#89)

(User #131586 Info)

This is taking a bit of a larger context in mind, here, so bear with me for a moment. In the last couple of years, there's been a lot of talk from people like Tom Brokaw about the 'greatest generation' - people who became adults in an age where there was a clear cause for something... for example, World War II, but including all sorts of causes and movements through the decades; up until what seems to be when you and I have spent our time growing up. I'm a bit ahead of you at age 27, but I feel we are both products of a vacant, mass-media driven, consumption-oriented culture that has inherited no clear path, mission, or movement from our society.

Lots of people would look at this as the benefit of living in a free, peaceful, prosperous part of the world (relatively speaking). I can hear them- "Be grateful, kid!" But, it seems that these are the same people who call generations prior to ours (who had their causes and ideals thrust upon them) the 'greatest generation'. Generally, they're closer in age to that generation than yours or mine.

So, my question is this: In this world where there is no clear path to follow, no absolute right or wrong, no great struggle to leap into, what do you see as the primary motivating factor in your life? For people born before us, there were battles to fight that could be universally agreed upon and used as a framework for their lives. These days, our value doesn't extend much farther than how much money we spent at the Gap last week- so for people who want to make something of themselves, that mission must be coming from within. What is that for you? Technology for its own sake? Getting rich? Finding friends and having interesting experiences? Dare I say it, to CHANGE THE WORLD? It's a difficult question that I haven't found an answer for myself yet.

Re:Greatest Generation (Score:1)

by [Aquakened](#) (Aquakened@hotmail.com) on Tuesday December 26, @06:24PM EST (#444)
([User #122006 Info](#))

It seems to me that "Causes" have always been invented in past tense. Bemoaning proesperity or a lack of a direct aggressor may, in future retrospection, turn out to have been silly statements.

There are any large number or agressors (some examples based upon your political leanings may include: RIAA, MPAA, Microsoft, WTO, Greenpeace, the NRA, the NSA, PETA, Monsanto, the DNC, the RNC, Computer "Crackers", Gene "Hackers", Oren Hatch, DeCSS, Fucked Company.com, dot-com start-ups, you, your Parents. It will undoubtably arise that one of these enteties shall try to change your way of life for the "worse". It is up to you, me, and indeed our whole generation(I too am from the early 70's) to define the enemy, and to make our stand against those who would destroy our way of life.

History is written by the victor, as always, and will be in this case. To bemoan that one of these courses is not obvious or preached over the radio by Rosevelt, is simply a case of not thinking sufficinetly about the future. Some of these groups/casues will in the future be Lyonized, while

others Demonized.

Absoulte Right and Wrong, and even any "clear" course of action, may only be defined by history. Even after Perl (forgive the intentional misspelling, I figured it goes the other way so often that I have to even the score some) there was from the Senate a vote *against* declaring war on Japan. So quit worring about it's lack and make History!

The one exception I do give to the current era is that the Ancient Chinese Curse "May you live in interesting times" may no longer be a curse...

Re:Greatest Generation (Score:2)

by [bero-rh](#) (bero@redhat.com) on Tuesday December 26, @06:45PM EST (#461)
(User #98815 Info) <http://people.redhat.com/bero>

We do have an important struggle to leap into right now - most people are just not seeing it.

The Free (Software) World must get evil dictators like Microsoft, MPAA or RIAA under control.

Change the world - write some code today. ;)

Re:Greatest Generation (Score:1)

by [justahack](#) on Tuesday December 26, @07:21PM EST (#491)
(User #207911 Info)

like i always say, peace is the single greatest cause of nihilism. thus has it always been, thus will it always be. no will without the some notion of a worthy end.

what hump?

Re:Greatest Generation (Score:1)

by [CvD](#) (costyn@spam-me-not.bigfoot.com) on Tuesday December 26, @07:49PM EST (#506)
(User #94050 Info)

I find myself being motivated by wanting to live interesting experiences. I don't find the need to "fight" for some cause, although I do my best to promote and educate people about free operating systems. What drives me is still curiosity, the will to find out how stuff works.

Fire Jon Katz. Hire Neal Stephenson. (make this your sig too)

Re:Greatest Generation (Score:2)

by [extrasolar](#) (klh@sedonaSPAM_TRAP.net) on Wednesday December 27, @12:52AM EST (#609)
(User #28341 Info) <http://users.sedona.net/~klh/kevin>

I am going to answer your answer for myself. I am technically a teenager, 18 years old.

Everyday I wake up thinking I can change the world. This software movement that we all have witnessed---the free software movement, is changing the world and I so much want to be a part of it. There is barely a day that goes by when I don't have a thought or idea that I believe (for at least a limited time) can improve things dramatically.

I don't believe people should put their means of communication, their business, their work, or their art, in the whims of someone else's intellectual property.

You are right in that a lot of technology industry is motivated by greed. I know that how successful I seem to my family will depend on how much income I make. And I don't care. Because when I read mailing list archives and release notes of technology, when I study manuals for programming languages and markup languages, and when I participate in certain IRC channels and USEnet groups and correspond with intelligent people from who knows where---from who cares where, I know that this is for *real*. We live in a world of our own where success is measured on a different scale.

The success in our community is based a lot on prestige, rather than income. When someone says that they are a Debian developer, I think intuitively that that is a successful person. When someone says that they are a GNOME hacker, they are a successful person.

I will be joining the technology community someday with these ideas in mind. And I will know I am not alone.

I love software. I love what it can do. I used to program in QBASIC, when I was stuck in the box of which it allowed me to do. Now I find myself wondering in this much larger field called the free software community and I can barely start coding when I spend so much time investigating all this technology. From XML to Haskell to Bonobo to Berlin to Latte to CORBA---these are all things that I am only beginning to understand. I want to manipulate these systems...they are incredible.

They are also the tools we use to change the world.

--- "All Thursdays except Tuesdays are Bucket of Fish Day. It shall be held sacred," The Creed

Re:Greatest Generation (Score:1)

by [FreeMath](#) (mattmacumber@hotREMOVEmail.com) on Wednesday December 27, @02:37AM EST (#649)

(User #230584 Info) <http://freebytes.net/>

I (17) find myself driven by freedom. Not just free software, but total liberty. I live my life on my terms. It is disturbing having no goal or absolute direction. So I have found I can only trust in myself. This is particularly hard in a world run by old people who have implicit trust in a cause. So I find myself fighting the society I have rejected. I fight for my own liberty. And it really sucks. I am always on guard against people pushing me over with the defacto rules. I have even been suspended from school for voicing my opinions and disturbing calss. I find myslef questioning my own views at times, which kind of makes me feel paranoid. Still, I live for myself.

-Humorously Sarcastic.

Re:Greatest Generation (Score:1)

by Milkyman on Tuesday December 26, @07:51PM EST ([#507](#))

([User #246513 Info](#))

i dont think this is an exact quote but here it is "We're the middle children of history, with no special purpose or place. We don't have a great war in our generation, or a great depression. The great depression is our lives. The great war is a spiritual war."

Musical Instrument(s)? (Score:2, Interesting)

by wheel on Tuesday December 26, @ 12:58PM EST ([#99](#))

([User #204735 Info](#))

Do you play a musical instrument or instruments? Which one(s) Do you read music and how well, or are you an "ear musician"?

Eat At [Joe's](#)

Are you a nerd, a geek, or just a regular guy? (Score:1)

by mfh on Tuesday December 26, @12:58PM EST ([#100](#))

([User #56 Info](#)) <http://www.psilord.com>

I'm 17 and I'm a senior in high school. I've been using Linux since about the age of 13 or 14, when I was a freshman. Probably not unlike yourself, I learned to program basically through books and peer support. Long hours in front of the computer, yadda yadda yadda.

My grades aren't shitty, but aren't that great either. B average. That means I got as many Cs as I did As :)

I started my current programming job when I was 15, before I could drive. I don't know anyone in my school who has the same skillset or mindset as I do, but I see all sorts of people like myself online. Such as you.

I don't know why, but I'm not considered a "nerdy" person in school. I know I sound incredibly ... stupid when I say this, but I'm not a nerd. My skillset isn't very exciting or unique at all (i have no especially 31337 sk1llz, d00d), but it gets the job done and my friends think I'm a god. I don't think I fit the typical nerd-geek-in-high-school social stereotype, either. I'm wondering if the majority of high-school Linux users are total all-out socially reclusive nerds or are rather regular folks that happen to have a high-tech hobby.

I think I fall into the latter category. I enjoy other activities aside from coding, etc, such as snowboarding and playing the guitar and piano. I have plenty of friends (male and female!) from all sorts of cliques, ranging from the football team to the color guard to even the car club (!) at school. My friends say I'm a fun guy to be around because I make people smile and laugh.

So what about you? Which category do you fit into? Would you say that you're a nerd (socially reclusive, awkward around members of the opposite sex, completely inundated with your passions), a geek (enthusiastic about your passions, but still know how to have a good time with others, possibly only others with the same interests, not socially awkward), or just a regular guy with a high-tech hobby like me?

Personally, I wish there would be more of my type in school. I think I'd have more fun talking with them and spending time with them instead of seeking them out and digging them out of their holes just to have a conversation with me.

- Mike Hughes

Re:Are you a nerd, a geek, or just a regular guy? (Score:1)

by [celerity02](#) (celerity@NOSPAMadiemus.org) on Tuesday December 26, @01:42PM EST
(#156)

(User #256071 Info) <http://members.aol.com/jumpwolff/>

I'm wondering if the majority of high-school Linux users are total all-out socially reclusive nerds or are rather regular folks that happen to have a high-tech hobby.

I have also wondered this. I'm an almost-17 year old female who is big into computers in general and Linux and the open-source world specifically. Taught myself HTML by getting books out of the library on it when I was 12. I discovered Linux and installed my first Linux system back when I was 13 or so.

I'm still learning - through things like helping to sysadmin the Linux server at my church, messing around with my personal Linux box, etc etc etc - but I find Linux very interesting (and much better than Windoze). I also plan on teaching myself how to program soon. I know the basics of a few languages, but not much.

Socially though, I'm also considered a well-balanced person, lots of friends, co-editor of school newspaper, one of the yearbook editors, and involved with the student government at my school. So for me at the moment, this computer stuff is really a hobby I guess, although a very consuming hobby. It certainly isn't the only thing I do.

So do other high school users just do this for a "hobby"? Or do you find that this turns into an all-encompassing way of life?

Re:Are you a nerd, a geek, or just a regular guy? (Score:1)

by [norrisd](#) (norrisd@nospam.snowcrest.net) on Wednesday December 27, @04:38AM EST

(#666)

[\(User #255201 Info\)](#)

I was alot like that. i had my first web site up and running on geocities in the 7th grade after finally getting a computer. I've made several attempts at getting linux going on a couple of pc's since I was 14... hehe, I never could get past the whole "make linux connect to the internet" problem though.

I think I'm kind of in a wierd social place... I'm totally antisocial and I've only got my group of friends that I've been hanging out with since jr. high and one nerd guy that I've met since then. I dont' really fit in with the wole nerg group really though...

It's really wierd at my school. We've got like 2500 kids there, and the nerds are actually kind of respected there. At one of the awwards things, one nerd was the only guy to get a standing ovation for the stuff he's done.

Your Education (Score:2, Interesting)

by thegrommit on Tuesday December 26, @12:59PM EST (#101)

[\(User #13025 Info\)](#)

I'm assuming that you're not perfectly happy and intellectually challenged by your current classes.

How would you go about improving the education you've received?

Others like yourself... (Score:2, Interesting)

by SuperJ on Tuesday December 26, @01:02PM EST (#102)

[\(User #125753 Info\)](#) <http://www.mrhs.edu/~josborn>

Clinton, [I'm](#) a Linux loving, Palm using, GNU C++ coder like yourself (I'm 17). I'm in a rather unique situation however. I attend the Math, Science, Computer Science Magnet Program at [Montgomery Blair High School](#). This means that I'm around a decent amount of geeky kids like me. I've been able to set up [MBLUG](#) and I'm also a student computer operator. We've got a lot of technology available at our school, as well as adults who help us take advantage of this technology.

What is your experience in this area? Is your school technology have or have-not? Do you have a crowd of computer geeks at school or are you the solitary one? Are you shunned for your geekiness or accepted?

Best of luck,
Justin

Sheepdot: Open Source good, Closed Source baaaaaaad!

Re:Others like yourself... (Score:1)

by [psicE \(root@127.0.0.1\)](#) on Tuesday December 26, @05:12PM EST ([#387](#))

(User #126646 Info)

Actually, I'm in a position much like the interviewee, only 2+ yrs younger, and actively looking for a better 8-12 magnet school (I currently attend our public school, pretty small due to our town's hating to spend money on schools and being small to begin with). Do you know anything about Massachusetts's magnet school program, or just Mississippi's?

Hi, I'm a .sig Virus, put me in yours :-)

Re:Others like yourself... (Score:1)

by SuperJ on Tuesday December 26, @05:46PM EST ([#414](#))

(User #125753 Info) <http://www.mrhs.edu/~josborn>

Well, first of all, I'm in Maryland, not Mississippi. As for Massachusetts, I'm not sure. It works differently in different states and counties. My advice for you would be to look for a magnet school, but if you can't get into one, don't let that stop you. Try to learn as much as you can in your home school. Try to get programs started that interest you. If you can't learn it at school, you can probably get a good handle on it by reading a book or getting a tutorial off of the Internet.

Best of luck,

Justin

Sheepdot: Open Source good, Closed Source baaaaaaad!

Re:Others like yourself... (Score:2)

by Ravagin on Tuesday December 26, @08:50PM EST ([#532](#))

(User #100668 Info) <http://pearwood.webprovider.com>

I thought that was you, Justin. ;) (it's Joe)

This is somewhat OT, but I think it should be noted that being a "computer geek" and being in the Magnet have become fairly synonymous at Blair. Everyone thinks that I am a magnet student upon first meeting me. That may be a combination of the Palm, the glasses, and the computer know-how.

I think the magnet makes for a unique situation at Blair. Computer "geeks," as you noted, have a place to go, a group that will accept and understand them (Ack, Katz attack! Help!) and that is, in a manner of speaking, "school-sanctioned."

Also, we have a very large school population, so groups like that really don't get picked on much (in my experience).

Just thought I'd share these thoughts.

-J

Damn that rising entropy...

The script kiddie stage (Score:1)

by [strlen](#) (on.xif@nelrts) on Tuesday December 26, @01:04PM EST (#107)

(User #117515 Info) <http://strlen.net/>

Ok, this is serious. Common prejudice stats that all the teen age geeks are script kiddies -- I totally disagree with that; but I do think that many new hackers have went through the script kiddie stage and have evolved from that into a UNIX geek. Have you?

-- Alex "strlen" Feinberg

Rant (Score:1)

by [Langley](#) (cpt.heller@flowersbyforce.com) on Tuesday December 26, @01:05PM EST (#110)

(User #1015 Info) <http://www.technocrat.net>

No offense to Clinton, I'm sure he is a nice kid and all, but who gives a fuck what he thinks!

I honestly can't believe that people are interested in this interview.

"These interviews have gotten pretty celebrity-oriented lately."

Of course they have! It is not so much the celebrity that attracts us to the interviews, but the fact that they obviously did something to earn that celebrity.

If I wanted to find out what a 15 year old kid thinks about anything, I'd go onto any number of chat rooms anywhere on the internet and ask them! Or maybe just post an 'Ask Slashdot' question, to hear their responses.

Slashdot has really been hanging by a thread lately with its articles, but why must you make it blatantly obvious that you have no news to print at all!?

That being said, **my question is:** what is your stance on the Glass-Steagall Act of 1933?

Bad things to do in Linux: cd /lib/modules;find . -type f -exec insmod {} \;

Re:Rant (Score:1)

by kill-hup on Tuesday December 26, @01:37PM EST (#149)

(User #120930 Info) <http://www.kill-hup.com>

The Glass-Steagall Act prohibits banks from offering a full range of financial services and prevents securities and insurance firms from accepting deposits or affiliating with deposit-taking institutions. The goal of the proposals is to give financial institutions the flexibility they need to most efficiently allocate capital and to compete in the international marketplace while also ensuring the safety of the financial system. Key themes in the committee's work will include devising a simplified regulatory structure, the distribution between banking and commerce, and the structure under which their affiliation may take place. The 104th Congress introduced legislation to repeal the Glass-Steagall Act, but agreement could not be reached largely because of a dispute regarding the extent to which banks should be regulated in order to market insurance products =)

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Watch for speed traps on the information superhighway ;)

wow, could you be more self-absorbed? (Score:1)

by [forkboy](#) ([eulogy.at.disinfo.net](#)) on Tuesday December 26, @01:43PM EST ([#157](#))
(User #8644 Info) <http://www.yermom.com>

Who says you need to be a celebrity to be asked questions that the slashdot crowd would like to know the answers too? The majority of us here were in the same place as this kid is now, and would love some insight into how things work geek-wise in high school these days. Not only for the US readers, but many foreign readers seem interested too. Damn, dude, get off your high horse. If you're not interested in the review, don't read it.

This job would rule if it wasn't for the f*cking customers -Clerks-

The Future! (Score:1)

by [TheLocustNMI](#) ([ben@NOSPAM.thelocust.org](#)) on Tuesday December 26, @01:08PM EST
([#113](#))
(User #159898 Info) <http://thelocust.org>

My question is this: You, as a young geek, are faced with a world and workplace that is recovering from the boom of the internet. Things seem to be calming down now, for the most part, or at least coming down to a reasonable level.

Where do you see yourself in a couple of years?

In college, at work, independently wealthy?

Does the internet still hold a promise to the younger geeks as much as it does (or did) to us, the older? Is it still as much of a wide-open terrain?

.oO(- nerdperfect.com -- thelocust.org -)o.

your peers? (Score:1)

by sparkane on Tuesday December 26, @01:10PM EST ([#116](#))

(User #145547 Info) <http://24.148.43.125>

Could you comment on your peers?

A little background motivation for this question: I am in my early 30s, and have been under the growing realization that I really have no idea what kids go through in growing up now; having been a teen when Duran Duran was in its heyday doesn't seem like the best of credentials. I've also been starting to realize that the young are somewhat (or more than that for some) frightening to those not young, as is anything that becomes alien. But the strange thing about the young becoming alien is that we all weren't alien to it, once.

With that in mind, I am interested in hearing your perceptions of the kids your age, even (maybe especially) those with whom you are not friends (though I'm not inviting you to rant :). I am interested in hearing what you perceive as their wants and needs, their dreams and ambitions, their anxieties. I realize this is a big question but I don't want you to pose as a spokesperson for your generation, just to hear your own (perhaps biased) perceptions of these things.

Many thanks and much good fortune to you, sparkane

X versus console (Score:1)

by [mauddib~](#) (Mauddib@gmx.neat (remove the a) (the second a!)) on Tuesday December 26, @01:20PM EST ([#131](#))

(User #126018 Info) <http://members.xoom.com/mauddip>

I see you're working on a textbased application (based on ncurses).

I wondered: do you stick to programs like *mutt*, *vi*, *ircii/bitchx*, *tin*, *w3m/lynx* etc., or do you use their *gtk/qt* equivalents?

I find this interesting, because: more and more new posix compatible operating systems users get sticking to these X based tools, and totally leap over the /real/ power of these systems: console based apps (which work over telnet, ssh, don't need themes to look good and are quicker to use). Please note: this is all IMHO :]

[this is not a link](#)

Re:X versus console (Score:1)

by crucini on Wednesday December 27, @08:10PM EST ([#735](#))

(User #98210 Info)

Good question - I hope it gets modded up. (It won't). I've noticed the increasing influx of Windows-influenced software into Linux, and it makes me sad because we stand to lose Unix culture and efficient work methods.

The cause is that for modern problems, like handling tabular data (think Excel) M\$ has a clear-cut pattern to fit your solutions into, so it's easy to copy them. Finding the solution that's truly elegant and Unixy is harder, and half a loaf is better than none.

So part of me wonders if this is a generation gap - I grew up with CP/M and then DOS, so CLI feels natural to me. Does growing up with GUI's predispose one to GUI's?

wrt "don't need themes to look good" I like slang/curses apps because

- If I'm accessing the app over a modem, I don't have to wait for X events.
- xterm lets me control-right-click to change the font size. I've never seen something that convenient in a GUI app.
- GUI apps frequently have black letters on white background, which hurts my eyes. Fixing this is difficult or impossible.
- GUI's bother me emotionally, especially if they look like MS Windows. I notice that my muscles tense up and my heart rate increases a little if I have to use a Gnome/KDE app.

YOU HAVE TO ASK THIS QUESTION! (Score:1)

by WebWiz on Tuesday December 26, @01:28PM EST ([#137](#))

([User #244386 Info](#))

Who would you rather make out with:

Jack Nicholson or Demi Moore?

-WebWiz

"Who let the dogs out" --> Will someone explain this to me?

My Question (Score:1)

by [Nameless](#) ([digital-at-arcane.specialty-books.com](#)) on Tuesday December 26, @01:30PM EST ([#140](#))

([User #8793 Info](#)) [arcane.specialty-books.com](#)

Clinton --

Hello, my name is Cory, and I'm just finishing (or at least imagine that I'm just finishing) the stage your are in now. I'm 19 now, done with High School and working full time leading development on e-commerce software. I offer this information merely as a reference for my questions:

Do you feel that your peers (teachers/students) make an attempt to understand you? While in HS, I got a very distinct feeling that no one (parents/teachers/admin./etc) even made an attempt to connect with me. Eventually, I got over the feeling of constant rejection ... I'm wondering if you are experiencing similar feelings, or if your community is more open to people of our interests, and how you feel that acceptance (or lack thereof) has changed your feelings about technology.

Are you socially active in HS? I had 0 friends in HS, but had many friends who were older/younger, however, almost none of my friends were my own age. I'm wondering how you interactive with your friends, and what kind of people are they.

Do you feel that people older than you (especially those people in authority positions, teachers /HS admin.) distrust you because of your abilities and intelligence? While I was in HS, I was constantly under suspicion of causing various computer malfunctions, and was even suspended a few times for things I wasn't involved in. Do you feel a similar backlash at school?

Where do you intend to go after HS is done? I haven't made my mind up, but College looks less and less attractive each day. I have a job I like, new job offers almost daily, my own house, privacy, etc. I live in a college town, and from what I see of the social scene / "education" it seems barely better than HS (only with more alcohol involved.) What are your thoughts?

Athens, OH

Nameless ((digital@frognet.net))

Re:My Question (Score:1)

by [Nameless](#) (digital-at-arcane.specialty-books.com) on Tuesday December 26, @05:35PM EST
([#406](#))

([User #8793 Info](#)) arcane.specialty-books.com

please re-read both your post and mine, and think about it. I'm sure how stupid you sound will become rather obvious.

Thanks.

Programming Languages and other stuff (Score:1)

by [SevenSeasOfRhye](#) (shaunak@gmx.SCREW-SPAM.de) on Tuesday December 26, @01:31PM EST
([#142](#))

([User #239196 Info](#))

Most of the programming languages are, IMHO, absolute crap.

They kill your creativity.

What are your opinions about this?

Also, have you ever tried PROLOG or LISP?

If you have, how do you think they compare with the others?

NB: This is meant to gain an insight into your mind, not for my information (I have tried everything I've asked you about).

Secondly, as someone posted earlier, what do you think about this *PEER* driven materialistic society?

Don't get me wrong. I'm not a *Sadhu on his way to Nirvana*.

The point is I'm 17 and I find that most of the people around me are un-interested in matters like global warming, pollution, the population explosion etc. All they really care about are

Babes, money, booze, sex, bitching about how Engineering college sucks and the works .

Which side of the fence do you belong to?

If you do belong to mine, have you managed to deal with this (in your own mind?).

Thats it.

Cheers

Electrical Engineering is BORING.

Re:Programming Languages and other stuff (Score:1)

by [SevenSeasOfRhye](#) (shaunak@gmx.SCREW-SPAM.de) on Wednesday December 27,

@01:40AM EST (#[629](#))

(User #[239196](#) Info)

There is no population explosion you dumb fuck. No wonder no one will talk to you. Hippy.

And I guess nobody exists outside the US for you.

Did your Geography teacher tell you of places like India (a little over 1 billion), Pakistan (don't know/care), China (over 1 billion) etc. where they can't cope with the **FUCKING** population explosion?

Wait a minute. You never went to school did you?

Electrical Engineering is BORING.

Success (Score:1)

by [markwusinich](#) (markwusinich@NOSPAM@yahoo.com) on Tuesday December 26, @01:31PM EST (#[144](#))

(User #[126760](#) Info)

In every task there are two options: You may think you will be successful, or you may think you will not be successful. Either way you are probably right. If you could improve your ability to do any one thing, What would it be?

Question for the list (Score:1)

by [Pru](#) (slashsubmit@hotmail.com) on Tuesday December 26, @01:37PM EST (#147)

(User #201238 Info)

If you are dabbling in Linux, you most likely know a good set of the basics of computers and networks as a whole. What sort of role do you play at school with computers? Do you go to a school where they put tons of security and filters up, if so do you circumvent any to do what you need to do? Have you ever had any problems or been held back because of your schools computer or network policy?

Are you offended? (Score:1)

by [juuri](#) (porovaara@yahoo.com) on Tuesday December 26, @01:37PM EST (#148)

(User #7678 Info) <http://www.nsa.org/>

By being called a "living breathing Katz character"?

I sure as hell would be.

-- I do not moderate.

Electoral Dysfunction (Score:1)

by ktakki on Tuesday December 26, @01:37PM EST (#150)

(User #64573 Info) <http://www.xensei.com/users/ktakki/vcr.html>

Did the recent presidential election fiasco make you as cynical about politics as Watergate did when I was your age?

Or is politics irrelevant to you?

Do you have the same low-level anxiety about terrorism or AIDS that I had about the Cold War and nuclear annihilation when I was a teenager?

Or do you feel safe?

k.

--

"In spite of everything, I still believe that people are really good at heart." - Anne Frank

Question (Score:1)

by [Pru](#) (slashsubmit@hotmail.com) on Tuesday December 26, @01:40PM EST (#152)

(User #201238 Info)

Do you find it hard to get the resources to continue to learn programming/linux/computers, resources like new computers, second computers for os experiments, and computer books dont come cheap. Do you ever have a hard time fitting them into the budget?

How did you get into computing in the first place (Score:1)

by [I_redwolf](#) (accountrenwar@drms.smap.mil) on Tuesday December 26, @01:47PM EST (#162)

(User #51890 Info) <http://www.kernelcode.com>

I mean; I'm 20, 5 yrs off of yah and I system admin for well respected companies. Right now i'd feel pretty much at ease job security wise but I haven't finished college yet (associates). I also am a "weekend warrior" and do military intelligence crap once a month. My question to you is how did you get involved with computers? For me I fit all the geek attributes of being A-SOCIAL etc etc and i'm a minority so "geekness" crosses all boundaries. I went through the bbs'n, 2600 meeting (the plaza in nyc), windows sucks, OS/2 rocks, hrmm whats this Linux thing phase. After I installed slackware (at kernel version 1.2.13) I knew that I loved unix. Then I had to get my hands on every unix like system as Digital Unix was far from my grasp. In any event, i'm sure its been alot different for you and I'd love to hear how you started your trek. I thank a computer programmer from IBM back in Dec 94 for showing me linux. I don't know where I would be had it not been for that. SO what about you?

bleh -- I see

Q: (Score:1)

by gnudutch on Tuesday December 26, @01:47PM EST (#163)

(User #235983 Info)

Do you plan on going on to college, or doing your own thing for a while? Attending college *does* have its benefits (a degree for one), the great ones seem to drop out early and strike it big on their own. Or is it too early to tell?

LOL -- Dumbest Story at Slashdot for 2000 (Score:4, Insightful)

by [StoryMan](#) (kelsolundeen@hotmail.com) on Tuesday December 26, @01:49PM EST (#166)

(User #130421 Info)

LOL -- Drag out the freak.

"Hey, look at the freak!"

"What is he?"

"Geek."

"A geek freak?"

"In the flesh."

"Does he talk?"

"I dunno. Ask him."

"Do you talk?"

Freak: "Yes."

"He talks!"

"Look, the geek freak talks!"

"What do you do?"

"I am 15."

"Freak goes to school."

"Hey, dammit, he's not a freak."

"I am not a freak."

"That's right. He's a normal guy."

"Then what's he doing here?"

"Somebody thought it would be interesting to ask him questions."

"What kind of questions?"

"What kind of questions do you answer?"

"I don't know. They dragged me out here. Ask me a question."

"Anything?"

"Yeah."

"Hmmm. Okay. How about this: why did you volunteer to be on Slashdot?"

"I didn't. Someone thought it would be a good idea."

"The idea is that he's a normal guy."

"A geek."

"Then why's he in the Slashdot JonKatz freakshow?"

"I am not a freak."

"I know you're not a freak. I understand that. But I'm asking: why are you here?"

"I don't know. Ask Slashdot."

"It's because of Katz. He figures that geeks get a rough time in school. He figures that Slashdot is a different crowd."

"We are?"

"We'd appreciate his differences."

"Appreciate what?"

"That he's ..."

"A geek?"

"I guess."

"Did anyone think that by dragging him out and making him into an 'Ask the Geek' editorial item that you're not actually helping the guy?"

"Oh no. We're helping him. We care."

To the geek: "Do you feel helped?"

"Not exactly."

"What do you feel?"

"Awkward."

"Like you're in the spotlight and people are looking at you?"

"Um. A little. Yeah."

"Are people asking you questions?"

"Some."

"Are they good questions?"

Geek shrugs. "Some."

"A lot?"

"No."

"Not many?"

Geek shrugs again. "No."

Re:LOL -- Dumbest Story at Slashdot for 2000 (Score:3, Funny)
by stepson on Tuesday December 26, @03:50PM EST ([#304](#))
(User #33039 Info) <http://www.djnr.com>

Yea, screw john katz anyway. What would slashdot know about 15 year old boys and them using linux ... oh wait ...

Re:LOL -- Dumbest Story at Slashdot for 2000 (Score:1)

by BBrown on Tuesday December 26, @08:17PM EST ([#520](#))

(User #70466 Info) <http://www.uasoft.com/staff/bbrown/>

This brings up an interesting point. Why dosn't Katz just herd us all into a room somewhere and have us ask eachother questions?

The questions so far have been primarily 'Are you like what I was..' in origin - why don't we all just ask eachother the same ones and find out who has one in common?

-- B. Brown

Mismoderation (Score:4, Funny)

by [pen](#) (slashdot@digdug.cx) on Tuesday December 26, @06:35PM EST ([#453](#))

(User #7191 Info) <http://digdug.cx/>

This isn't funny; This is insightful.

--

Genius may have its limitations, but stupidity is not thus handicapped. -- Elbert Hubbard

Re:LOL -- Dumbest Story at Slashdot for 2000 (Score:2, Insightful)

by [gimpboy](#) (jmh3@penguinpowered.com) on Tuesday December 26, @06:38PM EST ([#456](#))

(User #34912 Info) <http://rmdb.webpipe.net>

that is exactly what i thought when i read the story. i'm sure he's a nice kid, but i think some of the questions (especially the ac's) can do more harm than good.

i know he's only going to get the top 10, but if he comes here he's sure to see some of the crap. i'm sure he reads /. and knows what to expect (goat sex and all), so i hope he doesnt take things too colsey to heart.

use LaTeX? want an online reference manager that exports in BibTeX format? try rmdb.webpipe.net

Stereotypes (Score:1)

by Sebastopol on Tuesday December 26, @01:50PM EST ([#168](#))

(User #189276 Info)

When I was in HighSchool (86-90), the main stereotypes pretty much followed the 5 set down by John Hughes in "The Breakfast Club" (nerd, jock, freak, hoodlum, princess). There were very very few minorities in my school, so everything matched the mold w/o much deviation.

Has any recent movie captured the stereotypes of today's public schools? If so, what movies, and what are the generalizations/stereotypes most prevalent?

flaming for typos is lame

Roblimo's new low (Score:1)

by [MicroBerto](#) (roberto@soul.apk.net) on Tuesday December 26, @01:51PM EST (#169)

(User #91055 Info) <http://soul.apk.net/>

...slightly pudgy loner.

Congratulations, Rob.

What a nice guy you are. I mean it. I'm not being sarcastic. Really! This is one of your best ever!

Mike Roberto

- GAIM: MicroBerto

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Why a new Linux distribution? (Score:4, Insightful)

by [Alan Shutko](#) (ats@acm.org) on Tuesday December 26, @01:56PM EST (#173)

(User #5101 Info)

There are tons of Linux distributions, and each one has a different reason for being. Most distributions seem geared to one major point: learning how to make a distro, supporting a specific niche like small routers, being easier for Linux novices.

What's your vision for MentalUNIX? Why do you feel that you need to make your own distribution, and what specifically will your distribution do to make it fulfill that need better than existing offerings.

(The website seems to lack a clear description of the overall goal, though it has some mentions of new setup tools.)

Naughty boy (Score:1)

by Orome on Tuesday December 26, @01:56PM EST (#174)

(User #159034 Info)

Do you masturbate ?

Re:Naughty boy (Score:1)

by jmp100 on Wednesday December 27, @01:04AM EST ([#614](#))

([User #91421 Info](#))

You don't have to answer that or anything else a pedo asks you.

Question (Score:1)

by RazorJ_2000 on Tuesday December 26, @01:57PM EST ([#176](#))

([User #164431 Info](#))

Given that you're half my age and you have a much younger generation's perspective and beliefs, where do you think computing and virtual experience will be in 10 years?

What kind of grades do you make? (Score:2, Interesting)

by [espo812](#) (espo812@nettaxi.com.dontspamme) on Tuesday December 26, @02:15PM EST ([#194](#))

([User #261758 Info](#))

What kind of grades do you make? Do you work hard to make exceptional grades, or slack off to make OK grades?

-- Censorship is un-American.

Advice for mentors of Geeks in Training (Score:1)

by [Little Brother](#) (bluenail@sailormon.com) on Tuesday December 26, @02:16PM EST ([#197](#))

([User #122447 Info](#))

Hey, I am presently in the proud position to be mentoring a Geek-Teen in training. She is eleven and codes html and is beginning Java, although I realize this may not be as impressive as what some of us could do at her age, it is extremly impressive to me considering I showed her how to save images from netscape and how to use "My Computer" in windows95. She is extremly proud of the titles geek, and geek in training.

Now the question. Do you think that in introducing her to geekdom I am doing her a disservice. Will the vary fact that she knows how to operate a computer make her social life more difficult in school. She generaly makes friends extremly easily, but I'm wondering, if she gets stuck with the geek stigmata, will her personal skills suddenly amount to nothing? I beleive as an intelegent person, closer to her age level than I, you would have more insights into this discussion. I thank you if you would let me know.

Email address spamprofed, there are two o's in moon If Big Brother is watching, what is Little Brother doing?

Influences (Score:2)

by [Calimus](#) (calimus@spam.me.not.techography.com) on Tuesday December 26, @02:16PM EST ([#199](#))

([User #43046 Info](#)) <http://www.techography.com>

My question would have to be what influenced you to take a shot at using linux?

Back when I got into it, it was because I was tired of getting nuked off irc and had heard that only this unknown OS called Linux was what these nuke kiddies were using to do it. So I set off to find out what Linux was and use it to defend myself.

Now, 5 years later. I run IRC servers on it, database servers, use it as a work station and run web servers. I never did get around to learning how to nuke people with it though.

Trying to be different, just like everyone else.

Is you opinion relevant? (Score:1)

by [osgeek](#) (osgeek@my-deja.com) on Tuesday December 26, @02:20PM EST ([#202](#))
[\(User #239988 Info\)](#)

How is your opinion relevant, even perhaps useful, to Slashdot readers - beyond the empathy value that you might generate from a bunch of other teenage geeks or former teenage geeks?

That is, how might your unique formative experiences and insights make this article more than just a fluff piece about some poor tubby geek?

That may sound a bit rude. Maybe it is, but I was actually thinking it, and decided that if he could answer it in a meaningful way, it might say a lot about why I should care about the rest of his responses enough to even look at them.

[Ban football, not guns.](#)

Most important but unanswerable ones (Score:1)

by cromano on Tuesday December 26, @02:21PM EST ([#206](#))
[\(User #162540 Info\)](#)

(In the spirit of the Great Maker - JMS)

- Who are you? (not your name, not your job, not what others think of you -- who are you?)
- What do you want? (not for dinner, not 'when I grow up' -- what do you want?)
- Why are you here?
- Where are you going?
- Do you have anything worth living for?

Ah, how I miss B5.

--

If you want to live in a country ruled by religion, move to Iran.

Re:Most important but unanswerable ones (Score:1)

by [Dionysus](#) (thales74@yahoo.com) on Wednesday December 27, @01:32AM EST (#625)

([User #12737 Info](#))

You forgot

- Who do you trust?

Quidquid latine dictum sit, altum viditur

School and courses (Score:1)

by [gavinmead](#) (meads at mindspring dot com) on Tuesday December 26, @02:30PM EST (#215)

([User #112093 Info](#))

I am 16 and have had a constant struggle in school to find courses that were challenging or that seem useful to me in the long run. I think of myself as above average and rather intelligent and I'm sure you're the same.

Do you find yourself continually frustrated? Feeling held back by courses designed to help the lowest common denominator, or a general public that doesn't possess the skill level you do? If so, what do you do to keep yourself from becoming bitter and infuriated?

My solution was to find a different school; early college admissions. (Insert shameless plug here)I highly encourage other students who feel like I have to check out the program [here](#).

--Gavin

hate groups (Score:4, Insightful)

by jafac on Tuesday December 26, @02:30PM EST (#216)

([User #1449 Info](#))

I look back at my childhood and adolescent years with a sense of dread and shame.

I don't know if I was rejected by my peers, or if I just didn't fit in, and perceived that I was rejected. I always knew that somewhere along the line, I realized I wasn't interested in the same things the other kids were, I didn't have fun doing what they did, and they didn't have fun doing what I wanted to do - and I suddenly began being excluded from things, and I don't know if this was because of a declined invitation, or out of dislike for my company. \

But once it began, it was self-perpetuating. As a psychological defense, of course, I hated them back. If I was not invited, I didn't want to be. I spent a lot of time alone, and bitter. It has taken me decades to come to grips with this, if I even have yet. I keep trying to "start over", to try to get friendly with new groups, trying to get into what they're doing, but eventually, it ends up the same, a sense that I'm an outsider. The only time I felt like I belonged was in a group of people who had the same interests, in college, the Science Fiction and Fantasy book club. We liked the same games, same movies, same books, same music, there were sub-groups within the

larger group (anime, pagan/fantasy, war games, computers, etc.), but we all had in common these basic interests. We had a truly bizarre set of relationships, we went to cons together, (this was pre-(boom)internet). Since then, we've all grown up, moved apart; across the country, and don't spend much time together anymore. Since then, I've found that I haven't been able to get these same kinds of relationships back. I've tried making friends at work, (computer people), I've tried making friends with neighbors (even taking on interests in things like sports, which bore me no matter how hard I try), I've tried making friends online. None of it has worked long term. I wonder if its me.

So my question is; for people that are loners, outsiders, is there some factor in their personality, that makes them unable to fit in with groups, which drives them to "unpopular" interests, or is it the interest in unpopular things that ultimately makes them unable to make friendships easily?

I know that a lot of it revolves around sports for some people I know; physical disabilities (or just plain not being athletic) - keeps them out of sports. I know that my son has a **HUGE** drive to be "the best", to be praised, and trumped as a champion at whatever he does, and if success does not come easy, he's just plain not interested in that anymore - so I wonder if I was like that as a small child - I sucked at basketball, and required an unusual amount of praise to be happy doing it, and so, quit doing it, stayed out of it, and made it apparent to my young friends that I wasn't at all happy doing it, so they never asked me to play again? On the other hand, I can remember several YEARS playing little league baseball, sucking, playing right-field, (out of the way), last in the batting line-up, but I didn't quit. I kept trying.

Or maybe there's something about my personality that's just unlikeable. I know I've got kind of an annoying sense of humor. I mean, I am a smart-ass. I'm always trying to make jokes. About half the time, I just keep my mouth shut, sometimes I don't, and I often come up with some pretty good zingers, and I make people laugh. Once in a while, I say something that most people just don't get. I wonder if that's it. With new groups, I often get invited once or twice, then that's all. I know it's not hygiene, I pay attention to that. I know it's not looks. My mom says I'm very handsome :) - no, I'm not hideous. I pay some attention to my appearance. I try to put effort into letting other people talk about whatever they want to. I try not to be opinionated (though I'm very opinionated). What the fuck is it then? I don't know.

One thing I know, I used to carry a lot of hatred around from my High School days. I rationalized, I built up a wall of scorn to protect myself. I dressed in black, before there was a goth-scene (that was back in the Punk days, early '80's). I carried a paperback copy of the Necronomicon with me. College changed me. Showed me how having friends, and social interactions, and relationships could be worth my time. But considering the effort, is it worth it, when they just fade away?

So what makes you a loner. You? Your personality? Your looks? Your lack of athletic ability? Them? Their stupidity? Their inferiority? Why are you interested in computers? Do you find them neeto? Or does it help to be interested in something that doesn't require 8 other athletic friends with nothing better to do than toss around a chunk of leather and sweat on eachother? Do you feel the bitterness too? What do you do about it?

"Florida? But that's America's wang!" - Homer Simpson

Re:hate groups (Score:2, Informative)

by [fizban](#) (fizban@umich.edu) on Tuesday December 26, @02:56PM EST (#242)

([User #58094 Info](#))

OFFTOPIC.

Despite the popular belief that shrinks are of no use to anyone, I'd seriously suggest you go see one. You'll find that a psychiatrist will help you get through some of these issues and help you find the answers you seem to be looking for.

Some little 15 year old *aint* gonna help you out here. Just like you, this kid probably doesn't know all the things that make him a loner and probably hasn't thought about it much, either.

--

There are never stupid questions, only stupid people

Re:hate groups (Score:2)

by [GypC](#) (root@localhost) on Tuesday December 26, @07:56PM EST (#510)

([User #7592 Info](#))

I agree with fizban. You may feel awkward and embarrassed going to a psychiatrist, there is still a stigma attached to it... "What's wrog with him? He goes to a head shrinker, he must be crazy."

But it's no big deal, and a good psychiatrist will not only make you feel comfortable (he'll probably tell you stories about going to see his psychiatrist) he'll probably even actually help you!

Just swallow your pride and talk some of these issues through with a trained professional and you'll probably gain a new outlook on your life. It helped me with a similar problem, it might help you too.

"Free your mind and your ass will follow"

- George Clinton

Re:hate groups (Score:1)

by [jred](#) (jred@pobox.com) on Tuesday December 26, @05:04PM EST (#380)

([User #111898 Info](#)) <http://www.cautioninc.com>

Uh, yeah, that. I've found that there is one thing I have in common w/ most ppl my age (~30): Kids. I pretty much get along w/ everyone, but not excitingly so. Start talking kids, and you can be friends w/ just about anyone :)

jred

www.cautioninc.com

Helping You Help Yourself

Re:hate groups (Score:1)

by [Zog](#) (brian-slash@stech.cx) on Tuesday December 26, @07:40PM EST (#501)

(User #12506 Info) <http://dev.ahv.cx>

I know someone already mentioned going to a psychologist, and I can pretty much tell you that it doesn't work a lot of the time (at least, from the few too many I've been to).

It may seem like friends will make you happy. I've tried, it just didn't work. I tried a lot of other stuff too, and pretty much found that God is. One can reason anything away, including God (and, on the same line, one's own existence).

Christ is the way. It's your choice to believe or not. Drop me a message if you want, I might be able to find some answers for you.

About a lot of churches: christianity in the past has been, shall we say, the popular thing to do. And in becoming that, it's meaning has become 'do nice things, be a nice person', which (though inherent once you start to get a little glimpse of it) is pretty much a 11 (of 10) on the that's-out-there scale.

About a lot of christians: Yes, we are imperfect.

Anyway, that's enough rambling for one night...

"The Lord will fight for you; you only need be still."

Re:hate groups (Score:2)

by jafac on Thursday December 28, @12:50PM EST (#749)

(User #1449 Info)

I go to a non-denominational church, I even do volunteer work for them. Got God. No prob.

Church is also a lonely experience. People say Hi, because they know they "have to" - the whole fellowship thing. Not one actual freindship (like ones I had in college) has developed from it. I never really thought much about Christianity, the whole "religion" thing. I stick with this church because one of the things the pastor keeps saying is that people need more God, and less religion. I totally agree with that.

"Florida? But that's America's wang!" - Homer Simpson

Re:hate groups (Score:1)

by cleetus on Tuesday December 26, @ 10:32PM EST ([#566](#))

(User #123553 Info) <http://www.wildturkeybreakfast.com>

you mention a son. this implies perhaps an intimate reationship with a female. was/is she your best friend? does/did she know of your difficulties? do you warn you son about your experiences?

"yes. wild turkey for breakfast. makes the day go quicker..."

Re:hate groups (Score:2)

by jafac on Thursday December 28, @ 01:18PM EST ([#752](#))

(User #1449 Info)

I am married, have a son and daughter, and my wife is sort of my best friend by default, as in, we moved out of state, so we don't have our old freindships any more, they've all married, got lives, etc.

She knows of these difficulties, and she suffers from some of the same, and I don't know if it's my fault, or her fault, or if we both have the same problem. At least we have eachother, but her interests are changing, and she's no longer so interested in gaming, or computers (never really was a computer person) -

I haven't "warned" my son, per se. He does seem to have a problem with athletics, but he doesn't seem to have trouble making friends. He's 7. He's very popular at school, especially with the girls ;). And thank God, he's pretty good at math, unlike both of his parents. I feel I'll basically be there to warn him if things go bad, not to use it as an excuse to be angry at people. I guess sports isn't that important at this age, or maybe it's different now - the focus where I grew up in Illinois was on basketball and baseball and football. Now, he's growing up in California, and basketball is there, but people aren't fanatical about it, and the kids all like the extreme sports, skateboarding, surfing, stunt-bikes, and he IS much better at basketball this year than last year - so maybe there's hope for him.

His favorite TV show (after Pokemon - yay! a budding anime fan!) is Bill Nye, the Science Guy. So I know he's not gonna be some meathead jock. (his little sister loves Sailor Moon - so Anime does appear to be a genetic trait :)

"Florida? But that's America's wang!" - Homer Simpson

Re:hate groups (Score:1)

by Trejus on Tuesday December 26, @ 11:00PM EST ([#581](#))

(User #87937 Info) <http://trejus.debacle.org:88>

I don't want to sound like an all knowing ass, cuz I know people in your situation feel often feel like no one else understands. I have the same problem with making long term and close friends. All but two of my friendships fizzled after I left for college and moved away. Both of those friends i've had since the second grade. I've made a bunch of friends (for me) in college, but only one close one and one of my two remaing friendships from home had died. Mostly because that person believes many of the things you seem to, such as friendships can't last when people move away. I don't think that is true, you just have to be understanding when the other person can't be there as often as they should. Also i don't think you need to have all common interests to be friends with someone. What's really needed is trust. It seems to me what really make friendships last is the ablity to tell thier friend what really matters to them. Which is why i've found you can't make friends doing things you don't like. If the people your with don't figure out that your just faking, you'll still find your self feeling fake and not really wanting to be in the company of them. Also, if you never open up to people, you can never move beyond the superficial Q:"hi how are you" A:"good (no matter how bad you feel)" level. It's a hard first step, on that i've only been able to make once in the last 9 years. but that's the only real way to make a long term friendship. In summery, just be real. these are just my thoughts and my experiences, but i hope it helps you out.

-- Trejus (If pro is the opposite of con, what then is the opposite of congress?)

Re:hate groups (Score:2)

by jafac on Thursday December 28, @01:20PM EST ([#753](#))

([User #1449 Info](#))

I've also found that, quite often, if you have a superficial friend, and you open up to them, quite often, you'll never hear from them again after that.

It's very important to find someone like-minded.

"Florida? But that's America's wang!" - Homer Simpson

You don't know? Think again. (Score:2, Insightful)

by MrJ on Tuesday December 26, @11:47PM EST ([#594](#))

([User #2608 Info](#))

What I don't understand is how you don't know. You were there once also, maybe you just don't want to think about the reality. Or maybe it's so far in the past you don't remember. A little self-observation would tell you.

It's in the personality. I was already different before I entered school. I had already become mean to people by the time I entered kindergarten, after the time I spent in a pre-school/daycare place. The K teacher tried to correct my attitude, and I learned to be more respectful or tolerant at least. But the social differences persisted and people highlighted them. I grew apart, or maybe I just didn't change. But fortunately for me my interest in computers was supported by my parents and teachers for the most part so I got the attention I needed without things like changing my appearance or messing up my academic performance. My mom tried to force me into activities like sports but I got out of that quickly and into something tolerable, playing the piano.

During that time I was never severely picked on, but nobody really knew me. It wasn't that the other students disliked me though, I just wasn't interesting to them. They knew I was smart and into computers though. I wasn't interested in what they were doing either. People aren't going to know you just because you exist, it's not fulfilling. The difference is that most people learn to please. They learn what makes others like them, which makes them feel good, and continue with that behavior. That's what makes people popular, that's what makes leaders. And that's simply not a part of my personality. Now that I'm so aware of myself and others it actually hurts me when I feel the need to please someone rather than be myself, even for really insignificant things. For most people it's just natural though. Given all this time to observe social interaction instead of participate, I've built up my own standards. I think people generally suck now, most people are stupid, but I'll give them a chance to open mouth and remove all doubt. I don't want people to annoy me and I won't annoy people. That doesn't help me get any friends but I'm not trying to please people. I don't want friends if there isn't a real interest. If someone is going to be a friend they'll already have a similar interest. In high school and college it's all the same deal for me. I'm so unique in many of my ways and interests that there is no group that I hang out with. I'm alone just about everywhere I go.

My best friend has similar interests, though I don't know his full perspective on people and life. The rest of the people that know just a little more than my name are people with computing interests. I spend my time on IRC in technology-related channels, waiting to catch some humor or the latest technology update, or inject some. I don't really like most of the people though, but I'm not about to dig a hole and hide in it. Rarely someone will try to get to know a little about me, but their interest quickly fades. This goes for girls too. Many people talk of girls like they're a game, "never had the guts to talk to a girl." Why would you need guts? It's all about interests, if I find a girl that has an interest in computers I might share more than a "hi" with her. The guts saying in a game perspective implies finding a way to please someone without being who you are. Am I single because I don't have the will to talk to a girl or simply because there are very few around that share my interests and even less that meet my standards? It's the latter. I'm also an occasional smart-ass and I have a sense of humor that doesn't cooperate with everyone else. I love sarcasm. So I usually keep my mouth shut (and in turn other people always describe me simply as quiet or shy). My mom, relatives, and female friends of my parents may comment that I'm handsome, but that doesn't mean anything.

People who actually wish to understand something of what I do call me "talented" and leave it at that. That's what the last girl I talked to said after I set up a school e-mail account on her laptop and she asked about what I do. She knew what "Linux" was, which helped, and I explained the project I was helping with. A year and a half later we still exchange e-mails occasionally, but it's about school stuff. We're on the same campus but we've only run into each other twice since I set up the e-mail. She seems distant, but is it because I'm somehow repulsive? No, she simply doesn't share my interests, so she doesn't want to know much about me. She wants to keep in contact but she'll never know me this way. Only the classes I'm taking and how my vacation went. Maybe I want to know a little about her, I don't have a reason to dislike her yet, but will I ever find out? Unlikely. That's the reality. Maybe she knows something and I could ask her exactly these questions. I'm not motivated enough to bother her about my insecurities. What a way to scare someone off that would be.

Don't assume that one size fits all either. This is a mind development thing, it can go either way. Interests can drive personality just as much as personality can drive interests, it happens at the same time.

You don't need to pay someone to figure this out. It's all about reflecting upon yourself and how you relate to others, breaking it down as far as you can. Maybe that takes some of the fun out of life but more people need to do that.

An attempt to put this in the form of a question (Score:1)

by Gogl on Wednesday December 27, @04:28AM EST ([#664](#))

([User #125883 Info](#))

Yeah I'd say you're hitting the issue pretty squarely, but you had trouble putting it in the form of a question. Then again I'll probably do no better, I usually rant too, but I'll try...

Do you really have it that bad? What I mean by that is does it fit that stereotype? I'm a geek too, and I'm 17 years old in high school, and I haven't had any of these troubles really. I move from circle to circle, spend a lot of time hanging out with music people (band and choir, some ork dorks heh), then move on to the good old Gay Straight Alliance wannabe hippie socialist types, hang out with some underclassmen (always good for an ego boost), hang out with the Anime people (even though I friggin hate anime hehe, they like AD&D too though), hang out with the really hardcore geeks who put me to shame..... am I a freak for not being a freak (no offense intended, not saying anti-social people suck or something, in fact I spend plenty of my time being social with people who might be considered anti-social, yet oddly enough I don't become anti-social myself) or something? I honestly don't know....

So I guess in an attempt to put all this rambling in a form of a question: do you feel comfortable about your social life? I'm not asking "are you popular" or "do you have friends".... that just invokes stereotypes of hollow cheerleaders and jocks in my mind.... despite society labeling them as popular I think that they're more often then not full of crap.... are you friendly with people? Is it more then a tiny handful of people? Do you feel comfortable walking the halls of your school (I'm not talking safety or somethings stupid, I'm talking socially)? You don't necessarily have to date, dating is so on and off anyway, it's all a soap opera.... but do you feel comfortable talking with/have friends who are whatever sex you are attracted to (in an effort to be politically correct heh)? I might just happen to be at a very good school or something, but while the jocks are still popular in there own way, our prom king last year was a friggin musician, and a guy whom I deeply respected, NOT the captain of the football team or some crap like that.... I forget who the queen was, but she wasn't a cheerleader or something like that.... she was in the choir I believe.... so yeah, do you feel comfortable with your social life?

La vaca de muerte va a matarte! Debes tener mucho miedo!

Re:hate groups (Score:1)

by CBravo on Wednesday December 27, @09:33AM EST ([#697](#))

([User #35450 Info](#))

OFFTOPIC

The first paragraph sounds as I felt, although I don't think sports has anything to do with it. I'm pretty good at sports. The difference between me and my peers is about "liking to do things" (me) and "chit-chatting" (others) which I dislike. Also, because I'm smart enough to see through all the BS people are saying to themselves and others.

It is funny that if people actually get to know me through work, study or anything that they start valueing me much higher. That's because I'm a nice guy. And being nice is not what counts in the world (it's about power too, but I don't care about that... my fault).

>I hated them back

I did that too, but I regretted it later on. It broke off contact to nice people who couldn't control themselves at that age (+- 16).

So who is at fault? NO ONE!!! It's the same as asking why a monkey can't get along with an elephant... Because.

I can say a lot more, but I won't @now.

ps I don't think shrinks will help though, because they are good at analysing. That does not solve anything. Besides that, your analysis seems thorough. You also are doing your best to change, within reason. (my background: seen psychologists, done a year and a halve of psychology)

--- Users with id# > 150.000 are never modded down by me.

Re:hate groups (Score:1)

by Jezz on Thursday December 28, @08:16AM EST ([#746](#))

([User #267249 Info](#))

OUCH! Look dude, I guess a fair number of "us" feel at least a bit like you (perhaps to a lesser degree though) but what makes you think this guy has the answer? Or come to that us? (I still wear lots of black, have few friends, read "odd stuff", spend a long time with my computer, and the rest of it) Am I as depressed as you? No not really, I got bullied at school (quite bad actually) and sports - don't get me started on sports, but now I do okay. To be honest, I do better than okay most of the time. It's weird but a long time ago I stopped worrying about what other people 'thought', I didn't care that they thought I was a oddball, a geek and generally someone to be avoided. These days people don't think that. If I tell people about my childhood they can't believe it. I was actually sent to a child psychologist at nine 'cos I had "no friends". It was quite an odd experience - he asked LOTS of questions, I do remember having to find words that sounded alike - weird. After which I told my mom & dad that it was quite understandable - I have a mental age of 18, I wasn't about to make friends with other 9 year

olds. I guess this explains why the problem has lessened so much. I do feel though it's an advantage now. I don't worry about what other people think, or if they agree with me or not. I have found that adults tend to be a lot more reasonable than my class mates ever were. Perhaps your situation is different to mine, but I was told as a child with no friends: "don't worry about it - for you it's perfectly natural - they'll grow out of it". It makes me realise that if i met these people now, things would be different, because they've changed. Sure, I'm still a bit "different" but I don't find it a problem anymore. I think you need to "give yourself permission to be different" and be happy to stand out. I hope this helps.

Re:hate groups (Score:2)

by jafac on Thursday December 28, @01:26PM EST ([#755](#))

([User #1449 Info](#))

oh, I don't think that he, or anyone else really has the answer.

I just want to know if he's thought about it that way.

"Florida? But that's America's wang!" - Homer Simpson

Re:hate groups (Score:1)

by konsept on Thursday December 28, @03:31AM EST ([#742](#))

([User #220523 Info](#)) <http://konsept.twu.net>

im 17 now, and im going through pretty much what you described here. is there any way to "break out"? what would YOU have done differently?

"if a person with multiple personalities threatens to commit suicide, is it considered a hostage situation?" -someone

Re:hate groups (Score:2)

by jafac on Thursday December 28, @01:09PM EST ([#751](#))

([User #1449 Info](#))

Sorry, only way I can help you is to tell you - get ahold of your anger.

When you tell yourself that you're better than all those idiots anyway, ask yourself; are you *really*?

(I actually just saw a semi-decent movie with this very idea in it; Miss Congeniality, my wife made me see it, yes, it's a chick-flick).

I once had a very frank discussion with a former "popular girl" at my high-school reunion. "did everybody hate me?"

"no, everybody liked you, you just always seemed so stuck up."

Like, wow. I had *no* idea. *I* was stuck up? I thought everyone *else* was.

So if I were to do anything differently, it would be - stop being angry at other people, stop being so stuck up. Would that help what I perceived to be the root cause of the problem? maybe not. At least it hasn't in the 5 years since I discovered this. But it makes life a lot easier not going around hating everyone and everything, and wondering when you're gonna snap and run

through your office with an AK-47. (or becoming the leader of an evil organization, and building a giant "laser" on the moon and using it to destroy all human life on earth - whatever, same difference).

Losing the anger, self-pity, and other negative emotions may not make you any new friends, but it makes not having any friends a bit more bearable.

"Florida? But that's America's wang!" - Homer Simpson

Re:hate groups (Score:2)

by jafac on Thursday December 28, @12:59PM EST ([#750](#))

([User #1449 Info](#))

That's funny,

One of my college friends, well, we married and had kids. But her interests are still not on par- we have a decent relationship, but it's not what I thought marriage would be.

But ironically, it's often kids that seem to really impact things. Most adults at work are about 5-10 years younger than me, in my area, no kids, so no serious friendships there, I don't have the time to do the stuff they have (road trips to Yosemite on weekends, etc.) - and parents of my kids friends, there's another potential - we interact at cub scouts, basketball, school, etc. But most people with kids my age are 10 years *older*, and again, mostly of a totally different mindset, often, apparently disdainful of the money I've made so young.

Honestly, I don't mind *some* sports, surfing, rock climbing, mountain biking, hiking, - it's the mindless football and baseball I can't stand.

Well, I'm glad talking made you feel better. Me too in some ways. I maintain that from the first Columbine discussions.

My original point was, is that this life is often painful - perhaps more painful for some of us than others (though, go ask the captain of the football team if he had a painful high school - they all claim they did). That pain generated a lot of anger in me - and I still carry a lot of that around, but at least I don't use it anymore - it's a self-feeding monster, and often makes things worse. Learning to let go of that anger is important - but I still had the chicken/egg question. Was it the anger that caused the separation, or was it something else that caused the separation that created the anger, and made the separation worse?

"Florida? But that's America's wang!" - Homer Simpson

How do you like it so far? (Score:1)

by cromano on Tuesday December 26, @02:34PM EST ([#222](#))

([User #162540 Info](#))

There is a clear tendency to say all times gone were better. In many ways, the world does seem to be going downhill (everything from ecological devastation to copy-protected hard-disks, to having a son-of-a-bush elected by the courts as US prez).

On the other hand, I have always viewed the world as better than before for most people (larger life-spans, better information transfer, more toys, space stations and Babylon 5).

I recently had a child (my first), and I have on occasion been worried about the type of world he will inherit (he will likely have to wear sunblock to protect himself against UV rays, when the ozone thing gets tough) -- on occasion also I've been thrilled and envious as to what he may see that I won't (trips to the moon as tourism, move towards a global government, real wearable computers, freedom from religion).

So, what's your take? Do you even care about the world that you did not choose but now you have to live on? Are you looking forward to the challenge of it all, or are you pissed about the need for the sunblock and worried you'll end up having Soylent Green for breakfast every day?

Thanks, I'll go back to lurking now.

--

If you want to live in a country ruled by religion, move to Iran.

Working? (Score:1)

by [Syn404](#) ([syntaxerror{at}techie{dot}com](#)) on Tuesday December 26, @02:36PM EST ([#225](#))
[\(User #179434 Info\)](#)

I know that in most states it's illegal to work until you're 16, but do you/have you had a job? If so, what? I'm only 15 myself, but last summer I was hired by the high school district to network all the new computers just shipped, as well as help with network administration. If you haven't had a job yet, what would be your dream job *right now*? [Not as a full-time career, just as a temporary job.]

--

I don't know what your problem is, but I'll bet it's hard to pronounce.

my question (Score:2)

by aozilla on Tuesday December 26, @02:36PM EST ([#226](#))
[\(User #133143 Info\)](#)

How do you feel about being described as "a slightly strange, slightly pudgy loner" on an international news site?

Ohmigawd. (Score:1)

by [FatHogByTheAss](#) ([FHBTA@thepen](#)) on Tuesday December 26, @02:42PM EST ([#231](#))
[\(User #257292 Info\)](#)

Here is my question.

Q: How in God's name did this ever come up as a /. question?

Here is another one.

Q: What in the world do you suppose is so different about this generation of 15 year olds as opposed to every generation of 15 year olds since the beginning of time?

I'll even answer that one for you...

A: Nothing.

15 year olds have always been awkward dorks, and will continue to be so for all eternity. At no point should an adult consider their opinion on any matter beyond "What do you want for dinner?"

Out of the mouths of babes comes baby talk.

--

You sure got a purty mouth...

Hack vs Design Preferences (Score:2, Insightful)

by y137 on Tuesday December 26, @02:43PM EST ([#232](#))

([User #227389 Info](#))

To be overly general, I think that hackers fall, more or less, into one of two categories: Hackers (making something cool happen) and Architects (building something elegant). This may just be my prejudice, but I think there's a general trend for young hackers to start out Hacking. As they get older, some become Architects, and some stay Hackers. I would be interested to hear your perspective on this. Which do you find yourself doing/enjoying more, making cool things happen without much regard for elegance or building elegant structures at the cost of some "coolness"? I realize that everyone falls somewhere in between the two extremes, but which do you feel yourself most aligned to? How has this feeling changed over time for you? Do you think this is a result of your education, resources available to you, your age, or something else? Thanks.

The Death of the Renaissance Man (or Woman) (Score:1)

by penguin_nipple on Tuesday December 26, @02:48PM EST ([#234](#))

([User #127025 Info](#)) <http://www.genuinemedia.com>

You like a pretty bright, interesting kid.

I was wondering if your interests are limited to computing (or computer science, hacking, gaming, etc.)

What other types of things are you interested in? Literature, Music, Outdoors (for example).

An additional question here, when you look around you, do you feel that today's young lack an interest in a variety of interests?

Are the young like the borg? One mindset, no variety of interests, no thrill in the joy of learning something new? I would be interested to hear your views on that. And finally, looking at your brief introduction here, you seem like a renaissance man, a variety of interests , few limitations on 'how hard it might be to learn'.

Do you feel alienated from your peers due to this? ie are you one of the few renaissance men you've come into contact with?

Finally, keep it up dude, I was like you - I continue to be interested in new and exciting things. It may alienate you somewhat in the teenage years, but you will notice in your 20's that it makes you a more interesting person.

Cheers =)

www.adbusters.org (Score:2)

by SubtleNuance on Tuesday December 26, @02:51PM EST ([#235](#))

(User #184325 Info)

What do you think about the author describing you as "*slightly strange, slightly pudgy loner.* ".

Would you like to tell him to F-Off --or-- may I?

[End Plurality Voting.](#)

Revolution (Score:1)

by Phoenix1 on Tuesday December 26, @03:03PM EST ([#250](#))

(User #93111 Info) <http://www.netropolis.go.to>

Do you think we, as geeks, are on the brink of starting a geek revolution? With the Internet giving us level ground with the fatcat industries, do you suppose that geeks will bring introduce a new kind of media, and hence, a new kind of communication?

PHX1

Old Stuff (Score:1)

by [AlgUSF](#) (AlgUSF@what.the.f.com) on Tuesday December 26, @03:04PM EST (#251)

([User #238240 Info](#))

When I was 15 I was running a TriBBS BBS. Does anyone who is 15 even know what a BBS is/was. Also does your school have any UNIX/Linux boxes for the students to use?

-- I got your Flamebait right here.....

Would you be interested in flying airplanes (Score:2)

by [Zachary Kessin](#) (zkessin@script-fu.org) on Tuesday December 26, @03:05PM EST (#256)

([User #1372 Info](#)) <http://www.script-fu.org>

I will admit I can be a bit of an evangelist for General Aviation haveing just got my pilot's licence. Would you be interested in learning to fly for real. Have you heard about the Young Eagles program (<http://www.youngeagles.org>) or the Civil air patrol?

The cure of the ills of Democracy is more Democracy.

--Al Smith Gov. of New York, 1928

Teachers (Score:1)

by [Beowulf_Boy](#) (lstrunk@myrealbox.sirspamalot.com) on Tuesday December 26, @03:06PM EST (#259)

([User #239340 Info](#))

How do your teachers accept you in school?

I'm fifteen as well, am a Sophmore in Highschool, us Redhat, and when ever my teachers have a problem with their computer, they don't go to the senior tech guy (who couldn't spell Linux moreless know what the hell it is) they come to me.

Do your teachers do the same, or are they afraid of you (such as math or science teachers) and think you are going to break into the schools computers and change their salaries (I used that as a threat once and the biology teacher bought it ;-)

Confucius say-"Man who go to bed with itchy butt, wake with smelly finger"

Computing History (Score:1)

by [_defiant_](#) on Tuesday December 26, @03:16PM EST (#266)

([User #120560 Info](#)) <http://www.students.uiuc.edu/~sbutler1>

What is your history with computers? By this I mean, what hardware did you start out with, and also what programming languages were your first?

I am 19 (almost 20), but even I had to start out on Apple][e's, and an old IMB XT with BASIC, I would be interested to see if 4 years made any difference.

I am confused... (Score:1)

by [Super_Frosty](#) on Tuesday December 26, @03:18PM EST (#268)

([User #82232 Info](#))

for, you see, I am a typical Slashdot user. I like athletics and I don't use computers. What is this "Linux" you speak of? What is it like to be interested in computers. Please, tell us about this "Linux."

No comment at this time

Let's ask him what he think..... (Score:1)

by wei_c_yin on Tuesday December 26, @03:19PM EST ([#271](#))

([User #100725 Info](#))

It's funny to see how people think a kid geek so negatively.. so my question is what are the common misconception about you? and what you want people to think you as? and also, what your classmate view you as?

Obligatory question (Score:3, Interesting)

by [11223](#) (abuse@slashdot.org) on Tuesday December 26, @03:21PM EST ([#273](#))

([User #201561 Info](#))

Do you plan to spend your life working with computer technology? Or do you plan to work with ideas greater than yourself, and help decide humanity's course for the very long-term future? Do you plan to spend your life on the only things that are real in that their existance is not linked to sensation, ideas, or do you plan to waste it on the temporal surroundings?

In other words, will you be content with the normal life? Or would you rather emulate the model of Thoreau, who when put in jail felt it no restriction on his freedom because he worked with ideas and not the physical world?

The dead hand of Asimov's mass psychology wins every time.

Re:Obligatory question (Score:1)

by BeanThere on Tuesday December 26, @06:26PM EST ([#446](#))

([User #28381 Info](#)) <http://www.geocities.com/SoHo/Lofts/2018/>

*"Do you plan to spend your life on the only things that are real in that their existance is not linked to sensation, ideas, or do you **plan to waste it** on the temporal surroundings?"*

This entire question is loaded. You've posed the question in a way that prefers a specific response - there is noticeable bias towards a certain answer which you want to hear, and you even seem to want to influence his beliefs - you're delivering a pitch.

Who would realistically answer this question with "yes I want to waste my life" when the question is posed like that? I might, but only because (a) your technique is transparent and (b) I'm confident about knowing what I want from life. But perhaps you hoped that this person is young and impressionable and that you could influence him? It's the same technique used by con-artists and salesmen: starting their pitch with a question that any normal person can only

answer one way (stupid questions like "would you say no to earning \$100,000 a month" and similar such crap that you see so much in telemarketing, spam etc.)

Nonetheless, I'm sure this guy can think for himself, and is capable of making his own decisions. If he wants to be materialistic and make good money for himself (and maybe a family in the future) and be able to retire with a decent pension, as "boring" and "normal" and "a waste of a life" as that may seem to you, he should be free to make that choice without your implicit judgments.

"... insert the Windows NT Workstation 4.0 compact disc with your computer turned off." - NT Installation Manual

Mod this up! (Score:1)

by [Rungler](#) (rungler@yahoo.com) on Tuesday December 26, @10:03PM EST ([#556](#))

([User #256436 Info](#))

You called it right on, man.

why another distro? (Score:3, Interesting)

by Jose on Tuesday December 26, @03:21PM EST ([#274](#))

([User #15075 Info](#)) <http://jeke.fdns.net>

Why are you making yet another Distro? From your [specs page](#), it looks like it is fairly standard, not too much new. nman sounds cool, same with some of your new config tools. mdevelop/xmdevelop sound like overkill...why not wpe, and xwpe?

To me a Fork off an existing distro would be best..

oh, and are you going to be following the LSB and the FHS to the letter? (it would be a nice change)

Just Curious...

The basic sleazeware produced in a drunken fury by a bunch of UC Berkeley grad students was still the core of BIND. --PV

Respect of your elders. (Score:1)

by neo on Tuesday December 26, @03:23PM EST ([#275](#))

([User #4625 Info](#))

When I was 15 I was dying for the respect of my Elders. I couldn't stand that they all thought they knew so much more than they obviously did and that it was hard to get any credit for being intelligent.

How have you delt with a world where being 15 is considered being an idiot? Have you found ways to make adults listen to your ideas? Do you think technology has help create an enviroment where age matters less? Do you find yourself being biased against old people (people over 25)?

Re:Respect of your elders. (Score:1)

by [fizban](#) (fizban@umich.edu) on Tuesday December 26, @03:41PM EST (#294)

([User #58094 Info](#))

Don't trust anyone over *twenty... thirty... forty...*

Anything new under the sun to talk about?

--

There are never stupid questions, only stupid people

Interview a Middle Aged Slashdot Reader (Score:1)

by [FatHogByTheAss](#) (FHBTA@thepen) on Tuesday December 26, @04:35PM EST (#353)

([User #257292 Info](#))

When I was 15 I was dying for the respect of my Elders. I couldn't stand that they all thought they knew so much more than they obviously did and that it was hard to get any credit for being intelligent.

When you were 15, you were a moron. All 15 year olds are morons. It is an artifact of having no appreciable life experience. You hated that they all thought they knew so much more than they did, when realy you hated that they knew so much more than you. You got no credit for being intelligent because all those older folks knew that every 15 year old on Earth thinks they are intellegent, when realy they are morons.

But don't worry, you'll grow out of it.

How have you delt with a world where being 15 is considered being an idiot?

I whined about it until I got older, and realized that 15 year olds realy are idiots.

Have you found ways to make adults listen to your ideas?

I learned to "re-arrange my cotton." That is, I took the cotton out of my ears, and put it in my mouth. This prevented me from speaking, and facilitated my listening, which is a major

malfunction of 15 year olds.

Do you think technology has help create an enviroment where age matters less?

Only to John Katz. To everyone else, 15 year olds are morons no matter where they are presented. No technology can fix that. Only time, which heals all wounds, can fix that.

Do you find yourself being biased against old people (people over 25)?

Not as much as I am against younger people. 25 year olds still have a lot to learn, but at that point, many have discovered that for themselves. The older I get, the dumber I was, and the smarter my old man gets.

Well, thats all I have time for now! Thanks for the questions.

Fat Hog

--

You sure got a purty mouth...

Re:Interview a Middle Aged Slashdot Reader (Score:1)

by imagineer_bob on Tuesday December 26, @06:23PM EST ([#441](#))

([User #163708 Info](#))

Right on!

I don't think I ever agreed with a /. posting more.

People grow with experience. Instead of being infatuated with youth, let's find out from the older folks who have seen it all.

(For example, Web form and transaction processing isn't very much different from form and transaction processing on IBM 3270 terminals. But most of the expertise from systems where forms were downloaded to a terminal, and the fields were transmitted back when the "TRANSMIT" button was pressed was lost BECAUSE these 20 year olds didn't bother consulting us old farts.)

Ask the [Ya-Hoot Oracle](#) anything!

Re:Interview a Middle Aged Slashdot Reader (Score:1)
by Nameles on Tuesday December 26, @08:36PM EST ([#523](#))
(User #122260 Info) <http://i.am/nameles>

Don't be such a generalist. There are some 15 year olds that listen.

Re:Interview a Middle Aged Slashdot Reader (Score:1)
by [FatHogByTheAss](#) (FHBTA@thepen) on Wednesday December 27, @12:25AM EST ([#605](#))
(User #257292 Info)

Yes there are. They are still idiots, but have taken that first, important step.

--

You sure got a purty mouth...

ordinary? try extraordinary! (Score:1)
by eon(36.0) on Tuesday December 26, @03:24PM EST ([#277](#))
(User #232174 Info) <http://www.nexial.net>

I think that there is a danger in setting up a caricature of an ordinary geek (the eponymous teenage 'slightly pudgy' white male). This can become a self-fulfilling groupthink, where others who don't fit that mold oddly don't fit in with those who feel they are outcasts!

Nature did not discriminate when distributing mental ability, and geeks come in all shapes and sizes and looks...that somewhat attractive female typing into a laptop at the local coffeehouse might be feeling isolated for her geekiness too.

Which isn't exactly a question, but maybe a wish for Clinton, that as he grows and matures, he sees the wonderful extraordinariness of those who share his talents, and learns to make the connections that will nourish and carry him through life. Looking forward to hearing your answers...

Sincerely, Kathryn Aegis

Sex (Score:1)
by fznc on Tuesday December 26, @03:25PM EST ([#278](#))
(User #74767 Info)

Are you a homosexual?

School Life (Score:1)
by Alan on Tuesday December 26, @03:34PM EST ([#286](#))
(User #347 Info) <http://arcterex.net>

What is/was your school life like? Do you have a large group of friends or a small one, and are you in the "cool" or "uncool" category. When I was in school (grad '93) I was a computer geek and definately in the "uncool" category. I was ridiculed in the hallways and most of grade 8 was spent in the library, happy to deal with books instead of people. Lets just say high school wasn't the best time of my life :) It wasn't horribly bad, but if I could go back and do it again I'd definately make some changes.

In being a linux geek in 2000 are there differences? It depends a lot on the character of the person (I was definately a loner and not a "strong" person), but the types of things that you do also reflect strongly I think on how others treat you. Is being a linux and /. geek "cool" these days?

MODERATORS ON CRACK- read why! (Score:1)

by [perdida](#) (revolucion@journaSPAMlist.com) on Tuesday December 26, @03:38PM EST (#290)
(User #251676 Info) <http://www.indymedia.org>

You know what?

Ask the kid a fucking tech question and it gets modded to 0. Ask the kid some bad sociological embarrassing question or some question about alienation tailed to some long rant that he can't begin to answer except from your own perspective?

It gets modded UP.

Obviously, the moderators are smoking the \$3 crack. The kid is obviously understood by Roblimo to be smart enough to deal with this rabble, and you alienate the kid from "Geek-dom" permanently with this puerile crap.

I would look at these questions and picture the same jocks that picked on me and called me a dyke when I was in school. Fuck you.

[First Inaugural Protest Since Vietnam Planned in DC](#)

For crying out loud..... (Score:2)

by [electro](#) (kphil@h0tmai!.com) on Tuesday December 26, @03:39PM EST (#291)
(User #227083 Info)

Isn't everybody who reads Slashdot and uses Linux a 15 year old or has the social life of a 15 year old??? I mean, don't we all think and act like 15 year olds here, even though we may be in the "shell" of an older body??

Is there anybody here who has *really* grown up??? Or has *a life*. Shouldn't we be interviewing them instead *to see what they have done* so we may either follow them or *expell* their usernames out of the Slashdot database???

Respectfully submitted.

--- After all has been said and done, all that has been done is slashdotted.

Amazing? (Score:1)

by [Josh Mast](#) (josh@hivehaus.org) on Tuesday December 26, @03:39PM EST ([#292](#))
(User #1283 Info) <http://www.zhixel.com/>

So why are you special and why should we care?

Social pressures? (Score:1)

by [tea-leaves](#) (tsmith02@mail.orion.org) on Tuesday December 26, @03:40PM EST ([#293](#))
(User #32415 Info)

In your Linux pursuits, do you find any difficulties within your age/peer/social circles in choosing your OS? Do you get pressure to use or embrace Windows or MacOS in pursuit of more "mainstream" activities? In short, do you constantly find yourself explaining what and why you do what and why you do?

Few quick questions (Score:1)

by Akuma-jin on Tuesday December 26, @03:47PM EST ([#301](#))
(User #251861 Info) <http://www.robsayers.com>

What distro do you run?

At what age did you get started in computers?

Did you ever go through the "er33t hax0r" script kiddie stage as I and many others did? :)

And finally, what got you interested in going beyond just using computers and actually exploring/hacking etc?

Don't you find the questions rather rude? (Score:1)

by [gnalle](#) ([gnalle at ruc dk](mailto:gnalle@ruc.dk)) on Tuesday December 26, @03:49PM EST ([#303](#))
(User #125916 Info) <http://dirac.ruc.dk/~gnalle>

When you accepted to be interviewed on slashdot. Was this the kind of questions that you expected?

Trolling for [xpilot](#)

Post Secondary plans (Score:2)

by [TWX the Linux Zealot](#) (oliver.clozoff@usa.net) on Tuesday December 26, @03:57PM EST (#311)
[\(User #227666 Info\)](#)

Have you begun to plan what you want to do with your life post-high school? I remember when I was that age (which wasn't that long ago), and I had plans for Comp-Sys-Eng. in college, and how unrealistic that was...

"Titanic was 3hr and 17min long. They could have lost 3hr and 17min from that."

- Bruce Campbell

Geek in Highschool (Score:1)

by [bizatchahorian](#) (bizatch@happybox.nu) on Tuesday December 26, @04:17PM EST (#329)
[\(User #266633 Info\)](#) <http://evil.digitalevil.com>

At the age of 15, I too was using linux and checking slashdot whenever I got near a computer with internet access. I enjoyed hanging out with the "popular" people so, I never told anyone that I was a computer using geek for fear that I would be cast aside with the people you would always see eating lunch alone. So, my question is... Are you proud to be a geek and not afraid to tell anyone? Or are you a closet nerd like I was?

Reading & Responses (Score:2)

by DanMcS on Tuesday December 26, @04:20PM EST (#335)
[\(User #68838 Info\)](#) <http://hoffmann-institute.org/>

If he's a slashdot reader, why doesn't he just reply in this article to the questions that he feels like answering?

--

Communication is only possible between equals

Politics (Score:2)

by [JCCyC](#) ([j\[CUBAN-DICTATOR'S-SURNAME\]@ap\[3.141592\].com.br](mailto:j[CUBAN-DICTATOR'S-SURNAME]@ap[3.141592].com.br)) on Tuesday December 26, @04:20PM EST (#338)
[\(User #179760 Info\)](#)

If you were already 18, who would you have voted for? Gore? Bush? Nader? Somebody else?

Ah, and in the same lines of the drug question, remember that vote (even hypothetically) is secret, so you don't really have to answer if you don't feel like.

["Standing up to an evil system](#) is exhilarating." --Richard Stallman

Question from another teenager (Score:1)

by [m0nkeyb0y](#) (bpmccullo@yahoo.com) on Tuesday December 26, @04:23PM EST (#340)
[\(User #80581 Info\)](#) <http://cerebro.xu.edu/~brendanm>

I'm 18 and a freshman in college. I'm a casual linux user (I prefer my shell account for many things like mail, etc) and grew up very much in the way described by many people here: loser friends in Jr. High/High School, not a jock, etc.

My question to you is, because you deal with so much straight forward technical information on a day-to-day basis, do you find it difficult to flirt with/attract the opposite sex because of the twisted mind games they tend to play?

-- From my Best Friend (Written to me over ICQ): "i was gonna go to a party...but i had to reinstall windows"

Ask a Middle Aged Slashdot Reader (Score:1)

by [FatHogByTheAss](#) ([FHBTA@thepen](#)) on Tuesday December 26, @04:49PM EST (#370)
([User #257292 Info](#))

because you deal with so much straight forward technical information on a day-to-day basis, do you find it difficult to flirt with/attract the opposite sex because of the twisted mind games they tend to play?

You find it difficult to flirt with/attract the opposite sex because you are a pathetic teenage dork, not because of some mind game you think they play.

Here is how you can get chicks, and amaze your friends.

1. Bathe. Daily. Use deodorant, and comb your hair. Wear clean clothes. No one likes a slob.
2. Introduce yourself. Do not "flirt." Do not stare longingly and hope she catches your eye. Smile, approach, say "Hi, my name is monkeyboy."
3. Find out what she likes to do, and try it. If you like it, congratulations, you now have something in common. If you don't, you are open minded, and have a story to tell.
4. No farting, burping, dick stories, or anything else that you might have done to keep your pathetic geek friends entertained. Do not talk about technology all the time. Re-arrange your cotton.
5. It is never cool to insult your girl. This will become important after your pathetic geek friends start whining about how you spend all your time with her.
6. Accept "no" for an answer. As charming as you may be, you may just not be her type. Do not beg, ever. Do not park your car outside her dorm all night. Do not follow her around. Do not write her letters pouring your pathetic geek heart out. If you do any of these things, you have guaranteed you will never get another date as long as you live.

Do this, and you will be in it up to your neck (if you're lucky.) Do it not, and its back to the sock for you.

--

You sure got a purty mouth...

Re:Ask a Middle Aged Slashdot Reader (Score:1)

by [FatHogByTheAss](#) ([FHBTA@thepen](#)) on Wednesday December 27, @12:23AM EST (#604)
([User #257292 Info](#))

It doesn't work if you stand there with your finger up your nose giggling like a retarded chimpanzee. It doesn't work if you run home and cry into your pillow when Sally Stinkypants tells you no.

For the rest of humanity, it's worked for generations.

--

You sure got a purty mouth...

Ordinary? (Score:1)

by proxima on Tuesday December 26, @04:34PM EST (#352)
([User #165692 Info](#))

Being a 16 year old Linux using geek myself, I have to wonder...is there such a thing as an Ordinary Teenage Slashdot User?

"The universe is not required to be in perfect harmony with human ambition." - Carl Sagan

Re:Ordinary? (Score:1)

by [FatHogByTheAss](#) ([FHBTA@thepen](#)) on Tuesday December 26, @04:38PM EST (#360)
([User #257292 Info](#))

Yes. You are all quite typical, and predictable.

--

You sure got a purty mouth...

Re:Ordinary? (Score:1)

by proxima on Tuesday December 26, @09:44PM EST (#549)
([User #165692 Info](#))

Well let's run through some geek stereotypes and see if they apply to me, for instance:

Loves games, especially FPSes: I don't play Quake, Doom, or Duke Nukem..only Starcraft when I get time.

Uses AOL but tries to look cool: Never have, never will..I have a decent cable connection, and work for an ISP.

Does not play sports: You've got me there, but I golf during summer.

Uses root kits and tries to look like more than a script kiddie to fellow geeks: Nope, not my thing..really pissed me off when my server hit by a script kiddie for the first time though.

Frequently are anti-social, does not participate much in school: I have an extremely intelligent girlfriend, many non-geek friends, and I'm co-editor-in-chief for both our yearbook and newspaper (of a 2200 student school).

That's just a few..but if you're still convinced I'm predictable, make a few stereotypes and I'll tell you honestly what I'm like.

"The universe is not required to be in perfect harmony with human ambition." - Carl Sagan

Quite Ordinary? (Score:1)

by [FatHogByTheAss](#) ([FHBTA@thepen](#)) on Wednesday December 27, @01:57PM EST (#725)
([User #257292 Info](#))

You are quite certain that you are wholly unique, and misunderstood. You are quite wrong, as you go on to tell us in great detail.

Loves games,

And this makes you different from the rest of the 16 year olds in the world?

Uses AOL but tries to look cool: Never have, never will..I have a decent cable connection,

Spending time online makes you different from all the other 16 year olds in the world?

Does not play sports: You've got me there, but I golf during summer.

In combination with...

I have an extremely intelligent girlfriend, many non-geek friends, and I'm co-editor-in-chief for both our yearbook and newspaper

Participating in other non-curricular activities other than sports is a very unique and unusual thing for 16 year old high school kids to do.

That's just a few..but if you're still convinced I'm predictable, make a few stereotypes

What better stereotype could I paint than the one you just gave us. You are a pretty typical 16 year old kid. When you're older, you'll understand that.

--

You sure got a purty mouth...

Snarfblat. (Score:1)

by [crashnbur](#) (crash_spam@neotope.com) on Tuesday December 26, @04:36PM EST (#355)
(User #127738 Info) <http://crash.neotope.com>

If you were me, and I were you, which certainly is not the case, how would I feel if I were the one being interviewed by random slashdot users' questions and you were the one trying to come up with some random question to ask some random slashdot user selected for some random interview?

[crash.neotope.com](#)

Is it possible to be a geek and yet be cool? (Score:1)

by On3 on Tuesday December 26, @04:43PM EST (#363)
(User #238696 Info)

My answer is Yes. I'm open about my computer knowledge at school but I still go to the parties, dances, and I do have a girlfriend. If someone asks me a question about computers, I'll answer it in the most dumbed down way possible (Cause thats how 90% of the population understands it) and I get a polite "Thanks". I've got tons of friends and lots of people know my name. I also start on the wresteling team...To achieve all this, you just gotta start talking to people and most importantly, *be yourself*. And yes, Clinton, I'm 15 too. My question to you is: If you could be some sort of big jock that plays football and runs track, wears his letter jacket and gets tail 24/7... would you? Or would you stay a geek like the rest of us at slashdot? Microsoft is not the answer. Linux is the answer. Microsoft is the question.

Ask a Middle Aged Slashdot Reader (Score:1)

by [FatHogByTheAss](#) (FHBTA@thepen) on Tuesday December 26, @06:03PM EST (#424)
(User #257292 Info)

My answer is Yes.

Your answer would be wrong. It is impossible to be "cool" and paint yourself with a broad brush of the "I am X" ilk at the same time. Those who do such things are never cool, and are referred to as "followers" or "sheep."

If you could be some sort of big jock that plays football and runs track, wears his letter jacket and gets tail 24/7... would you?

Absolutely. Everyone knows that chicks put out for guys on the football team, not guys on the wrastlin' team. I just wouldn't go around identifying myself as a "jock" or other such silliness, as that would definitely not be cool.

Glad to help!

--
You sure got a purty mouth...

Re:Ask a Middle Aged Slashdot Reader (Score:1)

by On3 on Wednesday December 27, @02:37PM EST ([#730](#))

(User #238696 Info)

I is impossible to be "cool" and paint yourself with a broad brush of the "I am X" ilk at the same time. You are obviously ignorant to what its like to be a teenager, seeing as to how you are middle aged and out of touch with this generation. I have nothing else to say.

Microsoft is not the answer. Linux is the answer. Microsoft is the question.

Reasons (Score:1)

by Sir Joltalot on Tuesday December 26, @04:43PM EST ([#364](#))

(User #66097 Info) <http://joltman.yi.org>

As a 17-year-old high-school senior, I think I might share a lot of things with you. I've noticed that at my school, most students pursue computer courses and go on to pursue careers in the industry because of the financial prospects. I've also found that most of these people are Winblows users, and swear by stuff like MS visual C++ (due to the use of that compiler at my school, I don't take programming). Most of the Linux/free software users I've encountered, however, work in the area because they love it, because they want to make it better, and because they want to be part of the community. What I'm wondering is do you fit into either of these two scenarios, and if so, which? If not, why are you interested in computers, and what got you interested in the first place?

"The degree to which life sucks is directly proportional to your blood/caffeine ratio."

musical side... (Score:1)

by reptyle on Tuesday December 26, @05:13PM EST ([#388](#))

(User #19975 Info) <http://www.obscure.org/~pburris>

In my world, the realm of brainiacs, linux, and Slashdot cleave to a particular musical demographic. Although it is often too narrow for my tastes, at least it falls within the natural direction my musical tastes were heading when I first learned about Linux. Do you find that the music you listen to ties in heavily with your coding habits, your view of your efforts and emotional responses to situations? In short, Is music intrinsic to your quality of life? If virtue is its own reward, just imagine what vice has to offer!

Ask a Middle Aged Slashdot Reader (Score:1)

by [FatHogByTheAss](#) (FHBTA@thepen) on Tuesday December 26, @05:20PM EST ([#393](#))

(User #257292 Info)

Do you find that the music you listen to ties in heavily with your coding habits, your view of your efforts and emotional responses to situations?

No. Only children associate music with some sort of lifestyle choice. I stopped doing that when I was about, oh, 15 years old or so. Once I stopped doing something that silly, I found that my horizons were much, much broader.

Adults listen to music because it brings them pleasure, not because it has some "impact" on their lives. If someone's life is so shallow that music becomes something other than an amusement, they are probably only 15, or desperate for a life of their own.

In short, Is music intrinsic to your quality of life?

No more so than anything else I do that I enjoy.

Thats all for now! Thanks for the questions!

--

You sure got a purty mouth...

Will you bother with college? (Score:2, Interesting)

by [jptxs](#) (jptxs@NOSPAMBABY.idt.net) on Tuesday December 26, @05:15PM EST (#389)

([User #95600 Info](#))

I went to college and got a degree in Philosophy. So now I'm a software engineer and I find myself wondering why I went at all sometimes. Sure, I had many good times, but I could have had those outside school. I also learned a bunch, but more from the books than anything else - which I surly could have gotten outside school. So, since you seem more than apt to be able to find interesting and rewarding career paths as you are today, will you even bother with college - or will that just be a big waste of time and money?

Stereotypes and Peer Pressure (Score:2, Insightful)

by Rans0m on Tuesday December 26, @05:22PM EST (#395)

([User #163674 Info](#)) <http://www.nickspace.com>

Do you think that, thanks in part to the internet, geeks feel pressured to fit certain stereotypes in that same way that other young "groups" do? How do you think that you differ from the typical geek? Do you like sports, are you socially active, etc.?

Nick <http://www.nickspace.com>

Ask a Middle Aged Slashdot Reader (Score:1)

by [FatHogByTheAss](#) (FHBTA@thepen) on Tuesday December 26, @05:29PM EST (#400)

([User #257292 Info](#))

Do you think that, thanks in part to the internet, geeks feel pressured to fit certain stereotypes in that same way that other young "groups" do?

Of course! There is that pressure in exactly the same way that other "groups" do. It is the nature of being young. All 15 year olds are exactly alike in the sense that they are all completely convinced that they are totally different, and no one understands them. Once they grow up, though, they will learn that they are understood perfectly, but were too dumb to realise it. Joy!

--

You sure got a purty mouth...

Hunter S. Thompson (Score:1)

by mal3 on Tuesday December 26, @05:38PM EST ([#408](#))

([User #59208 Info](#))

The one piece of advise I have to give you. "Don't take any guff from those swine"

Non gratis rodentus anus

Re:Hunter S. Thompson (Score:1)

by ekidder on Tuesday December 26, @11:56PM EST ([#598](#))

([User #121911 Info](#))

Don't forget: When the going gets weird, the weird turn pro.

just ponder... (Score:1)

by [Pheersum](#) (unitedstates_ofamerica@hotmail.com (spam it all yo)) on Tuesday December 26, @05:46PM EST ([#415](#))

([User #243554 Info](#))

I always think it's funny how geeks almost cry over their social situacion. Instead of sitting at your computer all day, take off a couple of hours for exercise and interaction and your situacion would be a lot better.

*Ashes of Empires and bodies of kings,
these are a few of my favorite things.*

Re:just ponder... (Score:2)

by [SuiteSisterMary](#) (cent@nospammies.deathsdoor.com) on Tuesday December 26, @06:27PM EST ([#448](#))

([User #123932 Info](#))

take off a couple of hours for exercise and interaction

That assumes that the world wants to interact with you. Nice sentiment, but not always the case in real life.

Sister Mary, virgin Mary, silent in her sin.

You can still be saved! (Score:2)

by [Sneakums](#) (sneakums@sto-kerrig.org) on Tuesday December 26, @06:04PM EST ([#426](#))
(User #2534 Info) <http://www.sto-kerrig.org/>

Get out while you still can, kid! Throw out the computer! Play sport! GET SOME FRESH AIR!

If you don't do that, at least join Crackmonkey. You know it makes sense.

--

"Where, where is the town? Now, it's nothing but flowers!"

coupla questions: (Score:1)

by Artifex on Tuesday December 26, @06:09PM EST ([#432](#))
(User #18308 Info)

- what're the most challenging things you personally face in the noncomputing areas of your life? Do you find support online through websites, newsgroups, IRC, etc to assist in meeting those challenges? If so, how? And do you think you would have the same support if you did not have the ability to go online? If not, what types of support are you looking for but not finding? (Obviously, you are not "anonymous", so don't answer this if it makes you uncomfortable. I'm just interested in seeing whether you, as a representative of a new generation, are more socially integrated into the Internet than those who came before you)
- What're the most challenging things you feel the world as a whole faces (that is, not just the US, or even western society)? What's your vision for how the Internet might assist in meeting those challenges? Do you see ways in which it's failing to meet those needs? Do your friends feel the same way?

click a button, feed a hungry person!

[The Hunger Site](#)

The obvious question: (Score:3, Insightful)

by [Have Blue](#) (uiuc.edu@mglevin ([figure it out](#))) on Tuesday December 26, @06:16PM EST
([#434](#))
(User #616 Info) <http://par0837.urh.uiuc.edu>

How 31337 are you?

:)

Re:The obvious question: (Score:1)

by derf77 on Tuesday December 26, @09:15PM EST ([#541](#))

([User #265283 Info](#))

I Mark, fancy seeing you here!

do you hate school ? (Score:1)

by jooniqzb1tch on Tuesday December 26, @06:37PM EST ([#454](#))

([User #246498 Info](#))

hehe i'm being serious here.. many 'brainkids' just drop out of school or get kicked out for beeing a pain in the ass, and many of them get ridiculous notes at exams and such. I'm pretty sure many of you slashdotters will agree here : there's nothing worse than wasting your time sitting in front of a bunch of clueless idiots trying to teach you stuff you already know.

Ask a Middle Aged Slashdot Reader (Score:2, Insightful)

by [FatHogByTheAss](#) ([FHBTA@thepen](#)) on Tuesday December 26, @06:58PM EST ([#470](#))

([User #257292 Info](#))

many 'brainkids' just drop out of school or get kicked out for beeing a pain in the ass,

What a typo! I'm sure you meant "Many 'pain in the ass' kids just drop out or get kicked out, thinking they are some kind of 'brainkid.'"

While it certainly does feed your pathetic geek revenge fantasy that its the "jocks" that end up pumping gas, in reality, its the "drop outs."

The friggin' Army won't take a high school drop out.

there's nothing worse than wasting your time sitting in front of a bunch of clueless idiots trying to teach you stuff you already know.

There is nothing worse than wasting your time on someone who is so smart they have nothing left to learn.

But you go on ahead and drop out. I like full service.

--

You sure got a purty mouth...

Re:Ask a Middle Aged Slashdot Reader (Score:1)

by jooniqzb1tch on Wednesday December 27, @11:40AM EST ([#710](#))

([User #246498 Info](#))

i dont think you got me right here. I'm not actually talking about kids that call themselves brainkids at all, my point is that many kids that get kicked out school do pass IQ and other tests, many of em showing a very high scores. (no i dont beleive an IQ test shows much - but many of these kids really are impressing). Now maybe you think having excellent notes at school makes someone smarter, but that just sounds plain crap to me. I spent some time with clueless students sitting at their desk 24/7 to get higher notes and i can tell you that's not how my life looks like. anyway, stay in your comfortable little world and all should be fine.

Beliefs (Score:1)

by [sleepingTtiger](#) (sleeping_tiger@225.com) on Tuesday December 26, @06:38PM EST ([#457](#))

([User #229115 Info](#))

We had a discussion here some months ago about whether geeks are naturally inclined to believe in a deeper dimension to life and to feel a strong inner urge to hack for the truth in life. Whether or not the motive behind hacking the machine is a desire to hack one's own mind and the nature of the universe and life, this attitude seems to be more common among geeks somewhere in their twenties or thirties.

So, what do you believe? Is the Matrix just a movie? What are you looking for in life?

What did you cut your teeth on? (Score:2)

by [Goonie](#) (rgmerk@mira.net) on Tuesday December 26, @06:51PM EST ([#465](#))

([User #8651 Info](#)) <http://www.cs.mu.oz.au/~rgmerk>

Back in the deep dark recesses of the 1980's, I grew up hacking a little C64 BASIC, but through the late 80's and early 1990's PC's made the barrier to doing "cool stuff" gradually higher and higher. There is a view on Slashdot and elsewhere that that this high barrier of background knowledge that you need to produce useful, interesting programs discourages "larval stage" hackers.

So what did you start on? Visual Basic? Batch files? Visual C++? Or did you start programming only after you installed Linux?

Robert Merkel

favorite FPS? (Score:2)

by [leiz](#) (leiz@nospam.juno.com.please) on Tuesday December 26, @06:59PM EST ([#471](#))

([User #35205 Info](#))

Quake/Unreal Tournament/Counter-Strike/Tribes?

Zetetic

Seeking; proceeding by inquiry.

Elench

A specious but fallacious argument; a sophism.

Katz Character (Score:2, Interesting)

by [duncan](#) (duncan703@hotmail.com) on Tuesday December 26, @07:03PM EST (#476)

([User #16437 Info](#))

How do you feel being compared to a "Katz character"? As many of the readers here would associate this description as being a kid on the brink of a breakdown and shooting up his/her high school.

And before I get modded down, this is a serious question. The way Jon Katz describes smart high schoolers, he seems to think they are all taunted for being nerdy or geeky.

Stay tuned for next week's interview: (Score:1)

by XJoshX on Tuesday December 26, @07:08PM EST (#478)

([User #103447 Info](#))

Ask a subnormal, middle aged, AOL user...

Re:Stay tuned for next week's interview: (Score:1)

by [foobarlabs](#) (foob@labs.borg) on Tuesday December 26, @07:25PM EST (#493)

([User #252997 Info](#))

Now that's funny! And appropriate. Who gives a shit about teen angst? I personally gave up on it 20 years ago. It's been beaten to death.

Ask some real questions, like, why should I use MentalUnix over Red Hat, Debian or any of the others? And why aren't you using a something else like OpenBSD or egads, Solaris for example?

Question (Score:1)

by tiefling on Tuesday December 26, @07:17PM EST (#486)

([User #155137 Info](#))

I have but one question, and it is one for the ages - Autobots or Decepticons?

Fave Language? Wish List for Future Languages? (Score:1)

by Explosive Diarrhea on Tuesday December 26, @07:30PM EST (#494)

([User #250493 Info](#))

I'm a software guy, and have lots of opinions on programming languages, software dev, etc. I consider myself average in skills, and I would be interested to hear the opinions of someone who may be vastly more intelligent than me.

That said, my questions:

1. What is your favorite language to program in, and why?
2. If you were to create a new programming language from scratch, what would it look like? What would its capabilities be?
3. What do you think the biggest problem with software today is? I.E. quality/bugs, bloat, development time, cost, etc?

Regards,
Explosive.

Re:Fave Language? Wish List for Future Languages? (Score:1)

by [FatHogByTheAss](#) ([FHBTA@thepen](#)) on Tuesday December 26, @07:35PM EST ([#496](#))
([User #257292 Info](#))

I'm a software guy, and have lots of opinions on programming languages, software dev, etc. I consider myself average in skills, and I would be interested to hear the opinions of someone who may be vastly more intelligent than me.

And that would be a 15 year old high school sophomore?

--

You sure got a purty mouth...

Re:Fave Language? Wish List for Future Languages? (Score:1)

by Explosive Diarrhea on Tuesday December 26, @07:44PM EST ([#505](#))
([User #250493 Info](#))

>And that would be a 15 year old high school sophomore?

Yeah. Maybe I'm a 14 year old high school sophomore.

DUH

Re:Fave Language? Wish List for Future Languages? (Score:1)

by [FatHogByTheAss](#) ([FHBTA@thepen](#)) on Wednesday December 27, @12:15AM EST ([#601](#))
([User #257292 Info](#))

Yeah. Maybe I'm a 14 year old high school sophomore.

Then there is absolutely nothing on God's Earth that can help you. When you turn 15, you aren't going to get any smarter.

--
You sure got a purty mouth...

Re:Fave Language? Wish List for Future Languages? (Score:1)

by derf77 on Tuesday December 26, @08:58PM EST ([#536](#))

([User #265283 Info](#))

For the record, I'm a 14 year old Freshmen. Currently I'm taking Computer Science AP (I took a class on C a few years back, and another one on Java.) I'm taking a big leap and assuming that you wouldn't mind your questions being answered by another unknown nerdy kid. What I dislike about C/C++ is my inability to find a good, free compiler. My favorite language would probably be PERL, mainly for it's versatility and ease. If I could make my own language, it would be specially engineered to make the use of agents and neural networks much easier. [I was toying with the idea of writing some agent/neural network based stock prediction software today] The biggest problem with software today is... you guessed it: POOR DESIGN. Measure twice, cut once. If these guys spent more time and money on software engineering rather than marketing and useless people, our software would be much better.

Re:Fave Language? Wish List for Future Languages? (Score:1)

by [fizban](#) (fizban@umich.edu) on Tuesday December 26, @10:39PM EST ([#569](#))

([User #58094 Info](#))

- 1) GCC/G++ - Free
- 2) Perl is very nice, but as far as big business systems are concerned, it just doesn't cut the cake. It's *harder* (but not impossible) to design and build well-structured, easily understood, big software projects with Perl. Definitely great for web/shell scripts, though. Plenty of arguments for and against out there, of course.
- 3) Try LISP if you're interested in AI programming. I myself think it's best to keep the programming language separate from it's intended use, but sometimes it is nice to have something geared one specific way or another.
- 4) When you get out of high school and learn what's it's like to live in the real world of software engineering, you'll discover that the business world revolves around money and time. Those are the two MOST important things in business. Sure it would be nice to spend 2 years designing the company's new product line, but in 6 months, the company will be bankrupt if you don't get something out the door by then. Therefore, if you prefer to create quality software, either find a company who's intent it is to make software, not money (i.e., they already have enough funding to last for 3 years - not a very common occurrence) or stay in graduate school for the rest of your life.

Last thing, cause I just have to get this off my chest. Flame away if you really feel like it will accomplish something. Why the hell are we asking questions of some 15 year old?. And why

the fuck do I see so many "me too" 15 year olds posting about how great they are and how they do this and that and how they're a brainchild too, and "I want attention, look at me!" like a bunch of whiny little kids. Like I care. Do they think they're special or something? Like countless generations before them haven't been through the same **exact** situations and haven't said the same **exact** things before?

--
There are never stupid questions, only stupid people

Re:Fave Language? Wish List for Future Languages? (Score:1)

by [FatHogByTheAss](#) (FHBTA@thepen) on Wednesday December 27, @12:20AM EST (#603)
([User #257292 Info](#))

Last thing, cause I just have to get this off my chest. Flame away if you really feel like it will accomplish something. Why the hell are we asking questions of some 15 year old?.

Testify, Brother! Except for that Perl thing, where you're just ... well ... wrong! Perl reads like English. Problem is all all those folks speaking Esperanto.

--
You sure got a purty mouth...

will your activity have a particular impact... (Score:1)

by [shallot](#) (joy@d.o) on Tuesday December 26, @07:37PM EST (#498)
([User #172865 Info](#))

Do you think anything will change in your social life because of your activity in this community? Better yet, do you *want* anything to change?

A real question... (Score:1)

by connorbd on Tuesday December 26, @07:39PM EST (#499)
([User #151811 Info](#)) <http://www.geocities.com/ResearchTriangle/Station/2266>

Actually, a couple of them.

-What was your first computer and what did you do to it :-)

-I had a rough time of it being a geek in school, as I'm sure many of us did. What is your experience as a high schooler at the beginning of the twenty-first century, especially at a time when people your age are under more pressure both academically and socially than even those of my generation (and I've only got about ten years on you)?

/Brian

Questions for clinton: (Score:1)

by [digitaltraveller](#) ([contact@\[takethisout\]antispin.com](mailto:contact@[takethisout]antispin.com)) on Tuesday December 26, @08:13PM EST (#516)
([User #167469 Info](#)) <http://www.antispin.com>

Clinton, this is a multipart question: Will president clinton leaving office affect your self-esteem? Do you have a tendancy to wear trench-coats? Have you considered shortening your name to Clint (as in Eastwood)? What's your position on gays in the military? Finally, are you insulted about being compared to geek wannabe Jon Katz?

Next week on ask slashdot: A little girl in Chile who knit up some cute booties with penguins on them.

The obvious hellmouth question (Score:1)

by nidarus on Tuesday December 26, @08:13PM EST ([#517](#))

([User #240160 Info](#))

That is - how did the Columbine affect you, personally? Did you feel a more hostile attitude towards you from the school authorities/classmates/other since that incident?

I know, I know, this question must've been asked already, but then again, it didn't get a 3+ rating (at least as much as I saw). And I guess it's for a good reason, too, but I just feel I had to ask, since though I am not an American, I am a highschool student, and this is a matter that's close to my heart.

And by the way, I hate sigs that look like a part of the actual comment.

I'm a geek kid. (Score:1)

by derf77 on Tuesday December 26, @08:42PM EST ([#525](#))

([User #265283 Info](#))

I'm a geek kid.. I've been programming since I was 6. How come I'm not slashdotted?

Re:I'm a geek kid. (Score:1)

by Crossfire on Wednesday December 27, @07:48AM EST ([#683](#))

([User #15197 Info](#)) <http://kitsumi.xware.cx/>

The same reason I'm a practically unknown person.

Most of everything is luck - the rest is fate.

weeding through it (Score:1)

by gags bunny on Tuesday December 26, @08:42PM EST ([#527](#))

([User #263639 Info](#))

Ok, how do you as a 15 year ol dkid weed through all the crap on /.

I mean how do you cut through all the fud in the posted articles about the government's desire to take away all our rights and the post about big business's attempts to buy (or sell) away our rights? What outside sources do you use to keep it all in check?

Representation w/o Consultation (Score:4, Insightful)

by neuromortis on Tuesday December 26, @08:48PM EST ([#531](#))

(User #161690 Info) <http://braindead.sites.cc/>

As another 15-year-old, high school sophomore, Slashdot-reading geek, I have to say that I'm not sure I like this idea. I've read in various places that geeks are just as diverse as any other category of people. You couldn't just pull one out at random, interview him or her, and say "Look! This is what a geek is!"

But that's what you're doing right here! You're saying "Look! This is what the average teenage geek of today is!" Clinton will answer the questions, and you'll all settle back, content in knowing what we high school geeks are like. But chances are it'll be a flawed picture. Of course some things will be correct, but not all. He'll look at things differently, do things differently, have a different situation than any other younger geek out there.

Now I would like to say that I don't blame Clinton for going ahead with the interview and not thinking about this. I sure wouldn't have thought about it. "Me?!? Interviewed on Slashdot?!?" I'd feel honored.

The point, however, is that you can't get an image of any group of people by interviewing just one of them, especially if that group is a sub-group of the wild and wooly world of Slashdot readers. I ask that as you read Clinton's responses, just take them as an interview with yet another unique member of our community, but **NOT** as a barometer of the lives of teenage geeks.

Ray's Rule of Precision:

Measure with a micrometer. Mark with chalk. Cut with an axe.

Re:Representation w/o Consultation (Score:1)

by BeanThere on Wednesday December 27, @07:22AM EST ([#679](#))

(User #28381 Info) <http://www.geocities.com/SoHo/Lofts/2018/>

The point, however, is that you can't get an image of any group of people by interviewing just one of them

I dont think anyone here thought that you could. Speaking for myself anyway, I certainly did not get the impression that anybody was trying to do that. The "computer nerds" that I know are an incredibly diverse bunch of people with quite a range of different interests other than computers.

"... insert the Windows NT Workstation 4.0 compact disc with your computer turned off." - NT Installation Manual

Re:Representation w/o Consultation (Score:1)

by Jezz on Thursday December 28, @08:25AM EST ([#747](#))

([User #267249 Info](#))

I have to say I totally agree.

We only have to look at the stereotypes that have been projected onto the boy from us. We've all got him for some football hating, nerd, with no friends and only geeky-hobbies.

What the HECK is this? He could be the Quarterback on the Football team, and every cheerleader might have his picture in their room. Perhaps he's not - WE DON'T KNOW.

Let's not get ahead of ourselves here.

Infrastructure (Score:1)

by iiiFEAR!!! on Tuesday December 26, @09:32PM EST ([#544](#))

([User #65743 Info](#)) <http://www.its.caltech.edu/~bustos>

Boxers, or briefs?

"First rule of government spending: Why build one when you can build two at twice the price?"
-- Mr. Haddon, Contact

I'm also 15 (Score:1)

by [BlueEuroSunrise](#) (ThenextBillGates@my.castle.co.uk) on Tuesday December 26, @10:10PM EST ([#558](#))

([User #258551 Info](#)) <http://www.slashdot.org>

WOW! I didn't know that there were other people my age that read /. I'm not a "Brainkid" (or at least I wont go so far as to say I am ;) I have been reading /. since spring of '99 and have learned alot. I program-but not as much as I would like to. I am Homeschooled and have been since 1st grade-I am now a junior and plan to graduate next year. I have had many chances to work with pcs and networking-I designed a website that has been visited by 70 countries and has 1000 hits daily(I no longer have to keep it up-the professionals took over after the first month of this kind of traffic) I have now ventured into radio editing and I produce a local radio show that airs weekly..I put in about 25 hours a week. Anyways all that to say(my question for those of you who think this is offtopic =P Do you feel socially accepted by your peers in school and friends elsewhere? Do you feel that being a "Nerd" changes the way folks look at you? How long have you used the internet? and also to anyone out there who is a teenager could you post so I can see how many of us there are? Merry Christmas Santa does exsist ;;) :) "In youth and beauty wisdom is rare." Yeah, well, I bet in wisdom, youth and beauty are rare. "We are all born mad.

Your view of pop-culture, vs. peers... (Score:2)

by [cr0sh](#) (andrewa@phoenixgarage.NOSPAM.org) on Tuesday December 26, @ 10:39PM EST (#570)

(User #43134 Info) <http://www.phoenixgarage.org/>

When I was your age (many moons ago), pop-culture was the "thing", and was hardly questioned by teenagers of the period. We had our stars and icons, and the various other accoutrements that accompany such things...

I imagine we didn't question it much because there wasn't any way to question it - we couldn't really publish on our own, and it was hard to spread word about the "bad" things corporations do.

With the internet at your disposal, and at the disposal of your peer group - do you question these things? I tend to think you would, since you read /. - but do your peers? Or do they simply take the stuff that is fed them, without questioning it? If that is the case, does this lead to a lot of "friction" in whatever social life you have with your peers?

I am just curious as to how today's teens see the corporate world around them, which looms large, vs. what was around us when I was younger...?

[Worldcom](#) - Generation Duh!

It's not an attitude, it's an apptitude...

yup (Score:1)

by [fizban](#) (fizban@umich.edu) on Tuesday December 26, @ 10:53PM EST (#578)
(User #58094 Info)

Will [this](#) be you in 15 years?

--

There are never stupid questions, only stupid people

Sexiest Slashdot Gladiator? (Score:1)

by Snaggy on Tuesday December 26, @ 10:55PM EST ([#579](#))

(User #140728 Info) <http://www.geekculture.com/geekycomics/Aftery2k/aftery2kmain.html>

In your humble teenage opinion, who do you think is the sexiest Slashdot Gladiator, and why? If you could choose the next Slashdot Gladiator, who would it be? Do you hope that one day, you will be a Slashdot Gladiator too?

Well in school (Score:1)

by [madenosine](#) (SuperHacker@aol.com) on Tuesday December 26, @ 11:01PM EST ([#582](#))

(User #199677 Info) <http://pacificpages.com/>

Are you pressured to do well in school? If so, by who, your parents or yourself? I only ask because I seem to have no inspiration, and while my parents try to get me to do well, I just don't want to study©

linux::windows: /usr/src::A vault 30 miles underground in washington

questions (Score:1)

by [kaitos](#) (kaitos@NOSPAMsubdimensionNOSPAM.com) on Tuesday December 26, @ 11:08PM EST ([#586](#))

(User #185784 Info) <http://www.8op.com/lexedos/>

im sorry, but why is everyone asking questions they could get answers to in 3 - 5 minutes on efnet, or any other irc server. i being 15 myself, realise that most of these questions suck. your questions are too broad, if you ask such broad questions, ask a broader audience, thank you. this sig is funny. [laugh](#).

-kaitos

This is really too bad (Score:1)

by Vassily Overveight on Tuesday December 26, @ 11:50PM EST ([#595](#))

(User #211619 Info)

The "questions" I'm seeing from other SlashDotters make this sound like a group therapy session. They start with a monolog about how alienated and difficult a childhood the questioner had, and typically want to know is this 15 year old having the same problems. It's discouraging that there's so much unhappiness among our number. Although I had many of these same childhood experiences, I didn't consider them problems. I was different, knew it, and it didn't matter. I suppose there were 'cool' kids around who thought I was a freak, but I must have been oblivious, so I didn't end up scarred as many seem to have been. Part of it may have been that I had a job starting at age 12, so I didn't have a lot of time to feel left out. Perhaps the secret is having something to do so that you're not aware of what you're missing.

Stunning Final Recount Results: Dewey Defeats Truman After All!

A question from a (teen) newbie to Linux... (Score:1)

by [TeldakSS](#) (teldakNEEDS2GETALIFEss@hotOFFTHEPRESSmail.com) on Tuesday December 26, @11:59PM EST (#599)
([User #265917 Info](#))

So you think that the so-called normal community is just not for you? I don't and personally, all they do is use the end-product as it was meant to be, whereas i like to abuse it. -TeldakSS
"I can see, but I just don't look." Sticky attached to my yearbook mac (...which I din't get the chance to name (It is n

a missed question (Score:1)

by [heff](#) (heff@japan.com) on Wednesday December 27, @12:59AM EST (#611)
([User #24452 Info](#))

have you ever seen a grown man naked? -airplane
-- Bored? Visit my whack ass image gallery [the crackshack](#).

MentalLinux (Score:1)

by [furchin](#) (qshata@gNeOoScPiAtMies.com) on Wednesday December 27, @01:16AM EST (#618)
([User #240685 Info](#))

Prologue: Most of the questions posted here seem to have ignored your involvement with the MentalLinux project. True, your age offers a different perspective than many readers of /., but we're a wide-ranging bunch. I'm 20 myself, so I went through high school not that long ago. I am indeed in college, and against the statements implied in a couple of the different questions here, I highly recommend you go to college. Just make sure to go to a good one. (ie, top 25 overall or something nice like that. [US News](#) has a good ranking).

The Question: How does it feel to start a linux distribution? What motivated you to take on such a project? If it was the steep learning curve of linux, then why not simply write a Linux User's Guide? Additionally, what aspects of your distribution make it easier for begining Linux folks to use? To me, grep is grep. I don't see how you could make grep easier to use.

First interest in things technical.... (Score:1, Interesting)

by Anonymous Coward on Wednesday December 27, @01:36AM EST (#627)

What was that first defining moment in your life that lead you to be fascinated with technology and computers? How old were you at the time? Did you parents encourage your interest? What was your first technical book ever (A Child's Garden of Java Applets?)? Did you have computer-oriented friends in early elementary school or before?

Generalizations (Score:1)

by Townshend on Wednesday December 27, @01:41AM EST (#630)
([User #130057 Info](#))

Hi, I'm a 16 year old geek, but get a little agitated when people affiliate geeks with being pudgy, loners. Myself, I've been in love with computers for about 7-8 years now, and have been a linux user for about 2. I've also held different computer positions, and everyone knows I'm in to them, but am in no way a loner or pudgy. I am quite social, and active in school sports (track). What is your thoughts on this? Do you also get a bit agitated when others generalize and demoralize us geeks?

Too Right (Score:1)

by [Scratchplate](#) (look@my.ass) on Wednesday December 27, @04:27AM EST (#663)
(User #249877 Info) <http://www.rotten.com>

Yeah, I do too. Unfortunately, taking the Geek tag seems to still label us as social misfits. I'm not the coolest guy I know by a long chalk, but I DJ parties all the time, and I have a good amount of friends, both male and female.

Who else here will stand up and shout "Yes I know a thing or two about computers! It doesn't make me some kind of lonely freak!"

Normal Slashdot interview questions (Score:1)

by [Scrymarch](#) (scrymarch@yahoo.....com) on Wednesday December 27, @01:45AM EST (#633)
(User #124063 Info)

All this introspective business is well and good, but it's sounding more like Oprah than Slashdot. As such I've grabbed some standard celebrity questions for you to answer from recent interviews:

5) Internet distributable music by iamsure

If music *could* be distributed securely online, would you as an artist be willing to do so INSTEAD of signing with a label? If not, would you be willing to do so and pressure your label?

5.) Why should I care about this case? (Score:5, Interesting) by vertical-limit on 08-17-00 14:03 EST (#32)

"This isn't flamebait -- it's a honest question. Why should I, John Q. Public, care about this case? What's in it for me? What would I lose if the MPAA were to ultimately win? What would I gain from a 2600 victory? In other words, please explain why this case should matter to the average American citizen."

5) War on Drugs by Tim Doran

The War on Drugs has been a consistently neglected topic in discussions surrounding this federal election. My question is, do you believe the War on Drugs has been an unqualified

success, and if not, what would you change about it if elected president?

Define "ordinary" (Score:1)

by [bozo42](#) (bozo42-isnot-@home.com) on Wednesday December 27, @01:58AM EST (#636)
(User #68206 Info) <http://www.mike42.com/>

Somehow I don't think the ordinary teen reading Slashdot is out there creating their own Linux distribution. I must really be behind the times or very very far below average.

"Every normal man must be tempted at times to spit upon his hands, hoist a black flag, and begin slitting throats."

More Interviews (Score:1)

by vbrtrmn on Wednesday December 27, @02:02AM EST (#638)
(User #62760 Info) <http://visual-e.net>

Next week, slashdot will interview:

Bob Gates - janitor at Microsoft

Sammy Pick - some homeless guy

Danny Edwards - the guy that sorts the pixels at slashdot

--

you are not what you own

<http://visual-e.net>

Relating to adults (Score:1)

by jahqueel on Wednesday December 27, @02:06AM EST (#639)
(User #266630 Info)

How well do you relate to teenagers vs. adults?

I was placed in advanced/gifted classes from the 2nd grade to high-school, so I was always expected to communicate in an "adult" manner. I talked almost exclusively to adults and like-minded kids for years. Even my Karate class was with mostly older teenagers and adults. When I was with normal people my age, it was hard to find common ground to talk about. I feel one of the reasons many geeks drink and use drugs is to turn off their inhibitions and communicate on a more normal level. Cause when you're drunk, you don't speak so smartly.

Our Generation (Score:1)

by [phyrewerx](#) ([phyrewerx\(at\)home.com](mailto:phyrewerx(at)home.com)) on Wednesday December 27, @02:36AM EST (#648)
(User #154803 Info)

Hey, I'm a High School Senior and I'm doing some thinking about the rest of my life. If you look at Generation X, they were mainly wonderers for almost a decade and they were also the first to be REALLY molded by media. Now they're pretty much in the apex of the 'information boom' and many are in the fore front of in their occupations.

My Question is:

How do you think our generation will be defined 20, 30 years from now? Will we be first of a generation of children, completely immersed in information? The ones who are brought up in front of their monitors? Or will we be the end of a large generation who first used computers as an inanimate object, oblivious of its integration into our lives?

This year was marked with the exuberance of ipos, and then marred by their bust. My other question is:

Where do people our age go from here? The ones who still believe in the optimism of technology, and not the notion that we must create ideas for, and only for, profit? What path or destination should we choose? Stick with the open source movement, or hang up our optimism and go for a real 9-5 desk job?

[Insert something witty here]...ok

More realistically... (Score:2)

by [NetCurl](#) (netcurl@gotlinux.orgNOSPAM) on Wednesday December 27, @03:03AM EST

(#[654](#))

([User #54699 Info](#))

A lot of people are asking about the state of "the virtual world in 5 years" or how this programming language compares or contrasts to another, but honestly, those aren't the kinds of questions I think this interview was intended for. You can get that commentary from boring old industry professionals(read: Katz). I think I'm more interested in your point of view.

You're 5 years younger than I am. Are you enjoying life? Do you think that being a "geek" fulfills you as a teenager? Are you interested in the kind of educational atmosphere that college presents? Do you feel like you're getting much out of high-school?

What do you think of the majority of your peers(13-18 year old), and is the "geek" bug biting a larger portion of them in comparison to just 10 years ago? I'm interested in how things have changed in a short time and the attitude of your age group toward being "smart" or gifted in the field of technology, specifically computers. Thanks for the more refreshing point of view.

The problems that exist in the world today cannot be solved by the level of thinking that created them...-Einstein

How do you view other geeks? (Score:1)

by [Phawx-Dawg](#) (aaron-at-technolounge-dot-org) on Wednesday December 27, @05:15AM EST (#668)

(User #266955 Info) <http://www.technolounge.org>

As a 17 year old senior still in HS I found that the "geek clique" was incredibly selective and because I did not fall into the "geek image" I wasn't readily accepted. I don't have a lotta the typical trademarks of the geek, I am tall, well built, popular, active social life, broad group of friends, I was an AP English student instead of in calc 4000. I also started a computer club at my school and found that while it was initially very popular. And in many cases my knowledge on the subject exceeded theirs, I was generally ignored and my opinion disregarded (Elitest?). So what I am asking is do you gravitate more towards people with your own "kind" and if you have ever purposefully tried to distance yourself from others who may approach you?

Teenage Computing (Score:1)

by generation5 on Wednesday December 27, @07:48AM EST (#682)

(User #186870 Info) <http://www.generation5.org/>

Well, I have to admit that I suffer from this a little myself, hanging around the computer a lot. I do make a concerted effort to keep myself away from it as well, as I do enjoy my social life. I've played the guitar for 13 years (I'm 19) now, so I play that a lot these days as well as going out a lot to compensate.

1.) Is *a lot* of your time spent in front of the computer, or do you try to get out or give yourself other hobbies?

2.) How do your friends see you? I went through a period of having ppl playfully teasing me about my "computer skills" - but gradually this gave way to genuine respect (and a lot of phone calls asking what to do when Word crashes!). Do you find anything similar?

3.) What do your parents think of you? I always get a lot of shit from my parents (again, probably more playful than anything)...but they admit they only tease me because they don't understand what I do! How about your parents?

4.) What areas of computer science do you find interesting?

Hmm, that's all I really want to ask. Thank you.

[Generation5](#) - "...at the forefront of Artificial Intelligence..."

James Matthews - <http://www.generation5.org/>

Is geek good? (Score:1)

by Blackheart2 on Wednesday December 27, @07:54AM EST ([#685](#))

([User #161473 Info](#))

Would you rather be a non-geek, or is geek good?

BH

"The terrible thing about the quest for truth is that you find it." --- *Remy de Gourmont*

Does Geek == No Social Life??? (Score:1)

by [Digimax](#) (jmoore@php.net.No.Spam.pls) on Wednesday December 27, @07:57AM EST

([#686](#))

([User #266970 Info](#)) <http://www.php.net>

I might be whats considered a teenage computer geek, Im 17, involved with various open source projects, program and like using computers but does this imply I have no social life?? I think not, when not doing college work (which unfortunatly I have to do to get good grades) I am often chatting on IRC or programming and when not doing this Im out at the pub or a club with friends. I am quite happily a "geek" but im certainly not an introvert. Maybe im just weird :)

Although I find Comp Sci boring at college (US equiv of senior year at high school) I find my other subjects challenging. But you need to get out once in a while and have fun, get drunk, have random sex and take drugs.. I think its important to have the self confidence to go over and talk to a girl that you like if you want to and not think shes just going to laugh at me.

Do you feel you have low self confidence or just a lack of social skills? Do you long to go out and have fun or just are not bothered? If you are not bothered cant you see that theres more to life than computers?

Re:Does Geek == No Social Life??? (Score:1)

by MorseKode on Thursday December 28, @03:05PM EST ([#757](#))

([User #223376 Info](#))

Amen brother :)

At least i wasn't the only one thinking that way.

Out of interest... (Score:1)

by [KosheR](#) (ad@BotZone.org) on Wednesday December 27, @08:17AM EST ([#688](#))

([User #253630 Info](#))

Being a 15yr old Linux user too, i am interested to find out what windowmanager you favour, and why?

Is the customisability of Linux's interface valuable to you, or is that not something you care about particularly.

Many Thanks

Ad.

What besides computers? (Score:2)

by [alumshubby](#) (bill...underscore...mcclain....atsign...techie.com) on Wednesday December 27, @09:11AM EST ([#694](#))
[\(User #5517 Info\)](#)

Even a dedicated bithead like yourself probably gets away from the box now and again. What other interests do you have? What things do you like to read? Do you listen to and/or play/sing music? Are you interested in art? How do you interact with other children?
"How many light bulbs does it take to change a person?" ==BMcC==>

Is school still a joke? (Score:1)

by [Coppit](#) (david@coppit.org.microsoft.com) on Wednesday December 27, @09:40AM EST ([#698](#))
[\(User #2441 Info\)](#) <http://www.cs.virginia.edu/~dwc3q/index.html>

When I was in high school, I could count the number of really inspiring teachers on one hand after it had gone through a combine. I recently tried to explain the endearing nature of phys. ed. classes to Indian friends of mine. My guess is that things are only worse now.

Are things worse now? What do you think could make things better? What would "better" mean to you?

"For I am a Bear of Very Little Brain, and long words Bother me" - Winnie the Pooh

A different kind of geek (Score:2, Interesting)

by [JBFrobozz](#) (kylebr@angelfire.com) on Wednesday December 27, @12:02PM EST ([#716](#))
[\(User #20469 Info\)](#)

First off Clinton I applaud you for having the courage to be slashdotted.

I too am in high school and at 17 I'm pretty close to the same age. I have a feeling that I am a different kind of geek though. I still love computers, I'm going to go to college to study them, I know what Linux, Gnome, and MPEG are, but I have other interests as well.

I used to be a mean know-it-all in grade school. I don't know why it was pretty dumb really. I knew the answer to the math questions in my head while everyone else was scribbling, I always let people know it too. And then I realized I should change. I quit being condescending all the time and started to like people. They liked me back. I just try to be nice to people and I got along much better. I'm not trying to say that you are mean to everybody, that is just how I was. Now I am involved in lots of activities, I was just named Winterfest King(homecoming king for basketball) and I have a wonderful girlfriend.

You like me have probably but put down in the past and ridiculed. But I was wondering if you had tried fitting in. Dressing nicely and letting other people answer isn't all bad. I read someplace in this discussion someone said Computer Nerds are becoming sort of the in thing. Everybody loves ICQ and Napster so people out with it.

Just my 2 cents.

Once again I admire you for putting yourself into this position. Good luck in all that you do.
-It writes, rates, creates, even telecommunicates. Costs less, does more the Commodore 64.
Compute's Gazette

What is your current ambition in life? (Score:1)

by JimPooley on Wednesday December 27, @12:15PM EST ([#719](#))
([User #150814 Info](#))

And what do you want to do with your life in the next 20 years?

Hacker: A criminal who breaks into computer systems

Cracker: Type of savoury biscuit eaten with cheese

My Question (Score:1)

by [BlueEuroSunrise](#) (ThenextBillGates@my.castle.co.uk) on Wednesday December 27,
@01:54PM EST ([#723](#))
([User #258551 Info](#)) <http://www.slashdot.org>

What do you think of Microsoft and what they have done to the current software economy?
:) "In youth and beauty wisdom is rare." Yeah, well, I bet in wisdom, youth and beauty are rare.
"We are all born mad."

Geek Friends? (Score:1)

by ewichern on Wednesday December 27, @07:18PM EST ([#733](#))
([User #213455 Info](#))

Do you have people at your school that are into the same sort of thing you are with computers? I just graduated, but I went to a sort of "special" high school and three of my best friends (in addition to myself) are computer science majors and have been Linux users for the past 3 years. Do you have these kind of people around or are you kind of isolated in your geekdom? Also, are you involved in any other activites that would give you a common bond with some people for social interaction? I found rowing to be a very important part of my social development in high school, and I can't imagine how different I would be without the comraderie that I had with those guys. Just curious...

reality's an illusion that occurs due to the lack of alcohol

Some serious questions (Score:1)

by Andreas Rueckert on Thursday December 28, @05:06AM EST ([#743](#))

([User #138510 Info](#))

Since I never had a chance to be there, I'd like to know how you experienced your 1st LUG meeting?

What are your other hobbies?

Not directly a question about you, but .. (Score:1)

by dJOEK on Thursday December 28, @01:22PM EST ([#754](#))

([User #66178 Info](#))

Is your family 'dysfunct' in any way ? i do not mean any disrespect with this. What I mean is, do you feel that you have a dad that wants to play catch with you and does your mom bake cookies, do you have a pesky sister and a dog named barky ? I know it's impossible to say of any family it's normal, but do you feel that you will not be telling a shrink about how your family forced you into geekhood. (I know my mom and dad did)

mvg,

Kris "dJOEK" Vandecruys

visit <http://www.djeezes.com/>

school- of course no mod this late :((Score:3, Interesting)

by [arete \(don't mail me@I'll read replies\)](#) on Thursday December 28, @04:26PM EST ([#758](#))

([User #170676 Info](#))

I'm only a somewhat older geek, and perhaps even borderline at that, but I definitely want to say that it can all work out quite well, and I'm quite happy with my life except for being a bit too busy this year. I emailed you in case you want any commentary or advice about anything - or whatever. But no addy of mine on /., please.

I have two question sets:

My first is what do you think of school? What things in school did the best job of teaching you? What were the worst things? Do you consider the experience a good one? What could be better? What could be done better by the professionals who run them, in particular? Did you think your teachers were well enough trained in their subjects? How often do you pursue learning in depth material that isn't computer related?

The second is what's your opinion of math? Do you like it? I've found some bipolarity among

geeks and math... I'd be most surprised if you said you were indifferent or "average" about it... have you taken calculus yet? Have you thought about looking into it on your own? (One of my quests is to teach calc to 5th graders, or so - and I think it's important)

thanks

I do read replies. Many happy fnords! - Arete

Question for my man regarding porn (Score:1)

by [funky49](#) (funky49@SPAMSUCKS.tampabay.rr.com) on Friday December 29, @09:01AM EST (#766)

([User #182835 Info](#)) <telnet://villagebbs.dhs.org>

When I was first on BBSes (like The Village BBS, <telnet://villagebbs.dhs.org>) we had to download porn at 2400 bps and that was some 320x200 image of two blondes in swimsuits on the beach.

Now with SVGA and broadband (isn't that sexist?) at home, you're able to get extremely large amounts and variety of porn.

- 1) Do you download/view porn?
- 2) What are your favorite porn sites/newsgroups?
- 3) Is online porn the equivalent of our father's Playboy/Penthouse collections?
- 4) Black guys and blonde girls. Good stuff or plain wrong?

steve

everyday junglist

Re:an interesting subject (Score:1)

by [ff](#) ([ff at nospam lagged dot net](#)) on Tuesday December 26, @12:10PM EST (#23)

([User #35380 Info](#)) <http://www.lagged.net>

Okay, I have a question for limpawg.

Who is your greatest inspiration in life?

Re:an interesting subject (Score:1)

by limpawg on Tuesday December 26, @12:27PM EST (#51)

([User #77844 Info](#)) <http://slashdot.org/comments.pl?sid=limpawg>

I would have to say that my greatest inspiration to do the things I currently do was the associate pastor of my church, whose paying job was as a systems analyst at Boeing, it was through his family that I got introduced to the Internet, BBSes, warez, and all that good stuff associated with computers. My family bought their first computer from him, and I got several games for free, like the Quest for Glory series from his son. Ultimately this led up to my installing Linux in 1996 at the end of my freshman year in high school.

In admiratione principium sapientiae, sic dicimus omnibus amicis, Nascantur in Admiratione.

Re:Real post... (Score:1)

by [FiNaLe](#) (finale@macroshaft.org) on Tuesday December 26, @12:22PM EST (#45)

(User #4289 Info) <http://www.macroshaft.org/finale>

I remember way back when...

The kernels were 2.0

The year was 1997

I was 12 and a Highschool freshmen

I remember staying up all saturday night editting X-Windows configuration files by hand. BTW this was slackware, so none of that wussy automatic stuff. No Gnome, KDE, I used [LWM](#) as a window manager. Very Functional and Very Fast. I have to say looking back I'm very proud of my traditionalist approach.

Right now I'm running Mac OS on the ol' G3 Powerbook, No After Effects or lightwave for linux / however no blender for the mac ('till OS X), But I'll be eagerly awaiting OS X.

Earn cash in your spare time -- blackmail your friends

Re:Real post... (Score:1)

by [penguinboy](#) (comphelper AT yahoo DOT com) on Tuesday December 26, @04:38PM EST (#359)

(User #35085 Info) <http://www.calug.net/users/amedico/>

I remember installing a copy of Slackware 3.5 that I got for Christmas '98 - it wasn't all that hard, certainly no more difficult than the copy of RH 5.2 that I also got that year. Of course, setting up a ppp connection really *was* a challenge.

BTW, how were you in 9th grade at age 12?

Re:Real post... (Score:1)

by [FiNaLe](#) (finale@macroshaft.org) on Saturday December 30, @01:39PM EST (#788)

(User #4289 Info) <http://www.macroshaft.org/finale>

Same way I'll graduate highschool in a semester at 16, but I've been attending college exclusively since I was 14...

Education is overrated.

Some people justify with the social interaction, others condemn it for the same reason.

I personally would rather get out of school as fast as possible, the college experience has been good though, and interact socially with peers at work, and I love my job, nothings like a live broadcast where hundreds of thousands people watch you screw up...

Earn cash in your spare time -- blackmail your friends

Re:Real post... (Score:1)

by [blazer1024](#) (blazer@i.hate.spam.selectpath.com) on Tuesday December 26, @06:00PM EST (#421)

([User #72405 Info](#))

2.0 eh? I started at about 15 or 16, when the 1.3 series just started up. I used slackware, and man was that excellent. I loved hacking configuration files.

Now-a-days, though, I get scared when I need to edit a config file.. Damn RedHat and Mandrake! :) It's really taken my ability to do Linux away. Sigh... too bad the boss insists on it.

(I used to run Linux at home, but I play so many games in windows I never booted into linux, so I repartitioned to get the space for more games. Yeah, I know, I'm pathetic.)

"I laugh at life! I kiss danger! Helmets are for little girls." - Mr. Nutty

Re:Real post... (Score:1)

by Posse Fokker on Friday December 29, @10:11AM EST (#767)

([User #263254 Info](#))

I never booted into linux, so I repartitioned to get the space for more games

Lemme guess: you are the guy who downloaded tuxracer for windows, right?

My user name is Latin and refers to the power of Fokker airplanes

Re:Real post... (Score:1)

by [ToiletDuk](#) ([toiletduk @ fishdot.org](mailto:toiletduk@fishdot.org)) on Wednesday December 27, @01:37AM EST (#628)

([User #6366 Info](#)) <http://www.fishdot.org>

If you can install it without reading an obscure broken english text file or going on IRC and asking questions for 2 hours in a channel of 200 people before someone tells you what you need to know, THEN IT'S TOO EASY!

ToiletDuk

Protector of the Wastes

58% Slashdot Pure

Re:Real post... (Score:1, Insightful)

by [JJJC](#) ([firstname \(at\) lastname.co.uk](#)) on Tuesday December 26, @12:27PM EST (#50)
([User #96049 Info](#))

[pan](#) is a free newsreader which looks/works a lot like Agent for Windows. It uses NNTP servers directly like you would in Windows, without you having to worry about keeping a news spool etc. etc. Anyway, here's the [full feature list](#). If this is the only thing holding you back, I'd suggest you give it a try. (There are of course other UNIX news readers that would probably fit your needs, but I'm just promoting the one I use)

Re:an interesting subject (Score:1)

by Dr.NickRiviera on Tuesday December 26, @01:44PM EST (#158)
([User #251701 Info](#))

LimpDawg,

First, let me tell you that I've watched your non-coding, teenage career with much interest, and it's a pleasure to have the opportunity to interview you.

And now the questions.

The handle 'limpdawg'...brilliant. How did you come up with that one? Personally, I lack the creativity to invent unique handles, thus the only handle my inferior intellect was able to invent was that of a popular Simpson's character. I regret my choice every day of my life.

Judging by your user info page, you have only recently emerged on the Slashdot comment posting scene. Why the long wait in posting? I, for one, have been eagerly awaiting the opportunity to engage in thoughtful conversation (as we are now).

Allow me to again express how fortunate I feel in being granted this interview.

Seriously, though. There seems to be some controversy around the timing of your Slashdot debut. What is your response to the people who claim that your debut is, rather conveniently, timed **just** after the death of 300 chinese in a horrible [christmas fire](#). Are these people to believe that it is mere coincidence?

Thank you, and god bless.

Re:Hey Clinton... (Score:1)

by Etriaph on Tuesday December 26, @01:59PM EST (#179)

(User #16235 Info) <http://phpdev.dhs.org/>

He's 15 stupid, he's a boy.

"It's here, but no one wants it." - The Sugar Speaker

Re:Um this is damn stupid (Score:1)

by [ff](#) (ff at nospam lagged dot net) on Tuesday December 26, @02:01PM EST (#182)

(User #35380 Info) <http://www.lagged.net>

What does it mean to be "doing game pseudo code" exactly? That's what I'd like to know.
Please.

Come on guys.. (Score:1)

by [dagoalieman](#) (dNsOcShPmAiMd@uHmEr.ReEdu) on Tuesday December 26, @02:25PM EST (#210)

(User #198402 Info)

Well, it was said he is a Slashdot reader...

So can't we assume he's reading ALL of these? Please, Clinton, take a good sense of humor and forgive us for the trolls...

A guess then a good question would be: Did you read the questions in advance??

-- Remove "nospamhere" to email me...

Re:Come on guys.. (Score:1)

by [John Napkintosh](#) (keving@408937249) on Tuesday December 26, @04:56PM EST (#376)

(User #140126 Info) <http://404383814>

Post questions for Clinton below. We'll send him 10 selected ones by e-mail, and expect his answers within a week or so. That seems to say it all...

Long signatures suck.

Re:Comparison to Katz (Score:1)

by SomePoorSchmuck on Tuesday December 26, @04:22PM EST (#339)

(User #183775 Info) <http://attrition.org/attrition/affirmation.html>

(*a living, breathing Katz character, you might say*)

Do you resent the comparison to Jon Katz?

in this case, he is not being *compared* to JK as somehow similar in personality or worldview. Rather, he is being referred to as a "Katz character", a person who is the embodiment of several issues that JK has written about -- young, computer-superliterate (and having to walk the difficult path of knowing more than the parents, teachers, etc. to whom he is supposed to be inferior and consequently submissive), involved in an "online community", and viewed as somewhat of a dork by those in his daily environment.

there's something moving under the ice

Re:Comparison to Katz (Score:1)

by Jezz on Thursday December 28, @08:28AM EST ([#748](#))

([User #267249 Info](#))

And this is how you get your kicks? How sad.

Re:Bunnies... (Score:1)

by elgardo on Tuesday December 26, @04:32PM EST ([#350](#))

([User #117823 Info](#)) <http://gard.scriba.org/>

Gotta love this... the topic was "ask ANY questions" - and I ask my favourite questions, and I get modded down as "offtopic", even though nothing is offtopic when you can ask ANYTHING...

Of course, I'll get modded down for pointing this out, too.

Stick with it Kid! (Score:1)

by Pseudomaniac on Wednesday December 27, @07:50AM EST ([#684](#))

([User #266969 Info](#))

At 17 I started moving computers and doing rollouts for Entex. I'm now 23, and have been in the IT profession for only 5 years, I now manage a Siemens IT group. At 23, the next youngest person on my staff is 26 and from there all the way up to 45. Stick with it. We thrive in a world where the 23 year old like me looks at the 15 year old, smiles, and know that he's got some stiff competition coming down the road. Embrace Chaos!

Re:Stick with it Kid! (Score:1)

by GodInHell on Thursday January 04, @03:31PM EST ([#797](#))

([User #258915 Info](#)) <http://www.pwana.com>

All hail discordia!

Hand me a hot dog roll now.

Re:Real post... (Score:1)

by BorrisYeltsin on Friday December 29, @06:22PM EST ([#782](#))

([User #211706 Info](#))

Same here, and I had a PC running windows, and it still hasn't that hard. Although with the distro's these days it's hardly a feat to install linux. Mandrake 7.1, pah! I had to install Red Hat 4.2, with no idea about partition tables. Hehe. It's a wonder I didn't break something, wait a minute, I did, never mind. It's too easy for kids these days..... hehe

BorrisYeltsin Go forth and kick a\$\$!

He who knows others is wise. He who knows himself is enlightened. -- Lao Tsu

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