

Your Next Linux Notebook for Only \$10

How to Install Debian on PowerPC

Jack Rosenthal

Mines Linux Users Group

2017-04-13

Why am I giving this talk?



- To show an inexpensive option for tinkering with Linux on another computer
- To show Linux will run on nearly anything
- *You can have another Linux notebook for less than the cost of dinner!*

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What options are available?

iBook G3 “Clamshell”



300 MHz – 466 MHz
Max 576 MB RAM
800x600 12"
CD-ROM (Tray)
Mac OS 8.6 or 9
Mac OS X (up to 10.4)
Repairability: 4/5
Expect to pay \$60–\$200

iBook G3 “Snow”



500 MHz – 900 MHz
Max 640 MB RAM
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iBook G4



800 MHz – 1.42 GHz
Max 1.5 GB RAM
1024x768 12.1" or 14.1"
DVD (Slot)
No Mac OS Support
Mac OS X (up to 10.5)
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Other Options? Any 2000's PowerBook

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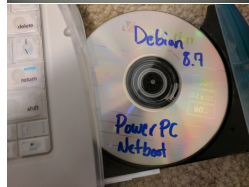
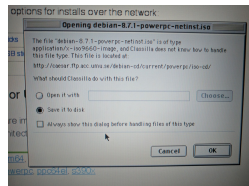


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How Install Debian?

- 1 Download Debian PowerPC ISO from <https://debian.org>
- 2 Burn it to a CD
- 3 Put in iBook
- 4 Hold C-key while booting
- 5 Install using pretty interface
- 6 ...
- 7 Profit?



Profit? Not quite yet.

- Tweak the graphics to work better

I found the `radeon.agpmode=-1` kernel flag makes my iBook G4 happy

- Install wireless firmware

Either the `firmware-b43-installer` or `firmware-b43legacy-installer` package

- The touchpad is an ADB mouse, and you will probably want to emulate right/middle click using keyboard keys. Edit `/etc/defaults/mouseemu` to configure.

- Can anyone figure out how to get battery display working? If so, I will update the slides.

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- * Configured in `/etc/yaboot.conf`

- * Adjust `timeout=` to your liking (potentially 0)

- * Add any kernel flags you need via `append="..."`

- * Add any kernel arguments you need via `kernel=...` (e.g. `kernel=vmlinuz root=/dev/sda1`)

- * Add any...

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- Gentoo is available for PowerPC
- Build Linux from source
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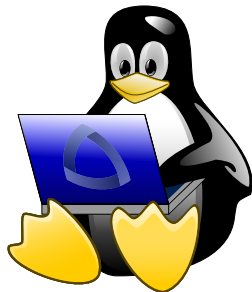
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Questions?

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