full circle

THE INDEPENDENT MAGAZINE FOR THE UBUNTU COMMUNITY

ubuntu
kubuntu
xubuntu
edubuntu

BEHIND THE SCENES :
DEMO DAY AND NEPAL PARTY
INTERVIEW :
LUCA FALAVIGNA

HOW TO :
GIMP PART 2
A TV FEAST FOR UBUNTU
AUTOMATIC BACKUP VIA EMAIL
CREATE YOUR OWN SERVER 5

FLAVOR OF THE MONTH :
UBUNTU 8.04 - HARDY HERON

HARDY HERON RELEASED!

8.04 READY FOR DOWNLOAD

PARTY TIME!

BEHIND THE SCENES OF AN UBUNTU DEMO DAY AND PARTY

full circle

www.fullcirclemagazine.org

ubuntu 8.04

P.08

P.11

P.06

P.16

P.20

P.32

P.40

EDITORIAL

Welcome to another issue of Full Circle Magazine.

I'm sure that, by now, most of you will have upgraded to, or freshly installed, Hardy Heron. And possibly loving it so much that you may even want to throw a party in its honor. Well, this month we have articles on how a Demo Day is arranged, and what went on at the Hardy Launch Party in Nepal. I hope this information will give you the knowledge to arrange your own Ubuntu Demo Day or party.

As well as the usual ongoing series 'Create Your Own Server' (and the recently started 'Using GIMP' series), we have the next phase of your backup plan: 'Automatic Backup via Email'. And also a tutorial on watching television on your PC!

Beginning next month, we're replacing '*Flavor of the Month*' with '*Command and Conquer*' - a section explaining, and giving examples of, a console command. This is to try and show people that the console really isn't as scary as it may seem. The '*Flavor of the Month*' will still pop up now and then when there is a big release.

Enjoy the issue and keep in touch!

All the best,
Ronnie
Editor, Full Circle Magazine
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What is Ubuntu?

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

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

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

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

NEWS

ASUS EBOX

Asus is developing the Eee notebook PC's desktop version named as EBOX. The EBOX is being developed in Taipei and will be launched next month.

According to the leaked features, the EBOX will be equipped with a 160GB hard drive, 2GB RAM and will run on Linux operating system.

When you see the EBOX (above), you would be right to say that it looks just like the Nintendo Wii gaming console.

Apparently, the EBOX is expected to release on June 3 and might carry a price tag of around $300.

However, as of now there is no word from Asus about the EBOX desktop PC.

Source: www.TechShout.com

Meet The Hardy Heron: What's New in Ubuntu 8.04

Brian DeLacey has written a very interesting and informative article about Hardy Heron (8.04) on the O'Reilly Linux Dev Center website:

" *Ubuntu 8.04 LTS (long-term support) launched on April 24th for desktops and servers. There is something for everyone in this version, but the LTS release will have particular appeal to enterprises. As one corporate user said to me, "I have been waiting for the release of Ubuntu 8.04, because I am using Ubuntu 6.06 on my company laptop and we have to install exclusively long term support releases." The LTS release assures reliable upgrade paths twice a year with security updates maintained for a full five years.*

You can read the full article (which mentions *Full Circle Magazine*) at: http://url.fullcirclemagazine.org/422ba3

Low-cost Linux laptop targets British schools

Elonex is taking orders for a sub-$200 Linux-based laptop aimed at the British educational market. Based on a 300MHz processor, likely ARM-based, the Elonex One includes WiFi, Ethernet, Flash storage, USB, and a 7-inch, 800 x 480 detachable touch display.

Only a week after DesktopLinux suggested that Bestlink's $250, 400MHz Alpha 400 might be the world's cheapest Linux laptop, Elonex appears to have set the new record. Elonex is billing its $200 laptop as a way to help underprivileged kids gain access to the Internet and other educational tools, somewhat similar to the One Laptop Per Child (OLPC) project.

Elonex vows to donate one Elonex One to underprivileged children for every hundred systems that are sold. The company is associated with a group called the National Laptop Initiative that intends to provide access to laptops to every child in the U.K.

Source: DesktopLinux.com

KDE Community Announce First Beta Release of KDE 4.1

The KDE Project is proud to announce the first beta release of KDE 4.1. Beta 1 is aimed at testers, community members and enthusiasts in order to identify bugs and regressions, so that 4.1 can fully replace KDE 3 for end users. KDE 4.1 beta 1 is available as binary packages for a wide range of platforms, and as source packages. KDE 4.1 is due for final release in July 2008.

KDE 4.1 Beta 1 Highlights

• Greatly expanded desktop shell functionality and configurability

• KDE Personal Information Management suite ported to KDE 4

• Many new and newly ported applications

Source: KDE.org

Ubuntu Developer Summit Intrepid Ibex

At the beginning of a new development cycle, Ubuntu developers from around the world gather to help shape and scope the next release of Ubuntu. The summit is open to the public, but it is not a conference, exhibition or other audience-oriented event. Rather, it is an opportunity for Ubuntu developers -- who usually collaborate online -- to work together in person on specific tasks. This year you too can get a feel for what went on during the fast paced week of UDS by watching the 19 videos available on YouTube. The link is your portal to what developers, including Mark Shuttleworth, have to say about the next Ubuntu release, Intrepid Ibex.

http://www.youtube.com/ubuntudevelopers

Source: Ubuntu Weekly News (http://fridge.ubuntu.com)

OpenSSL/OpenSSH Vulnerability

All Ubuntu users need to regenerate the ssl and ssh keys because of a security vulnerability found in the upstream Debian packages. The security hole created predictable keys which can be used to attack remote hosts. The Ubuntu fix checks for the the predictable keys generated by the default options of ssl and ssh and blacklists them. All Ubuntu and derivative users should regenerate keys immediately.

If keys generated on Ubuntu have been copied to a computer using any other distribution, those keys are still vulnerable and should be immediately regenerated.

ISOs available already on ubuntu.com, mirrors, and shipit will not be updated with the new packages, but using the Update Manager to get security updates and will replace the impacted packages. Users should then regenerate new keys.

The 8.04.1 point release, expected in July, will include the updated packages.

Source: Ubuntu Weekly News (http://fridge.ubuntu.com)

Ubuntu can now be installed in a multitude of ways, including from within Windows, using the Live CD, and from a separate installer -- the method we will show you this month.

After burning an Ubuntu CD and restarting with the disk in your CD/DVD drive, you'll be given an option to choose the language for the installer.

After choosing your language, you need to choose the second

option, 'Install Ubuntu' (if you want to try the LiveCD interface first, choose the top option, 'Try Ubuntu without any change to your computer' and click the install icon on the desktop when you're ready). Installing this way still uses a graphical interface, but instead of loading a full desktop interface, just loads an installer.

The first step in the installer is to choose the installation language, followed by a rather annoying location selector (to set your time zone and download mirror). After spending several minutes trying to select a tiny scrolling dot, I eventually gave up and used the
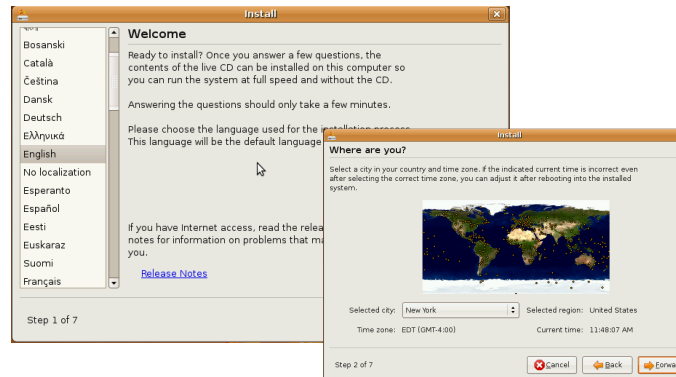
drop down menu. I recommend you do too, it saves a lot of time.

Following this, select your keyboard layout, then partition your disk. How you partition your disk depends on your setup - if you have another operating system and want to multiboot, then you need to resize your current partition(s), however if you're using a blank hard drive then select 'Guided - use entire disk'.
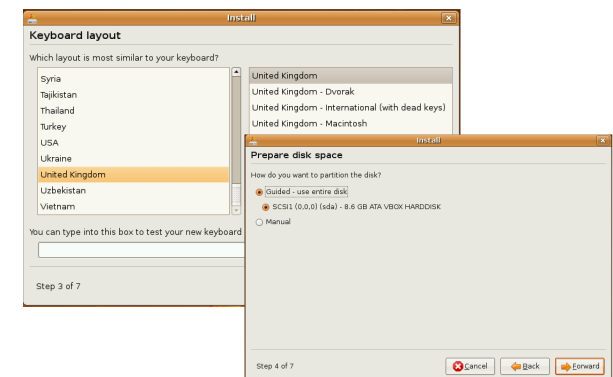
The next step will differ, depending on whether you have an existing Windows installation. If you do, the installer will offer

to copy your documents and settings across, along with your user accounts. If you do not, it simply requires you to enter some details: name, username, password and computer name (for use on a network).
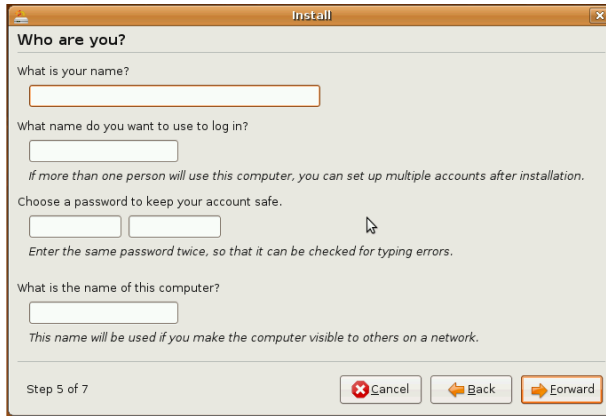
The installer will now show a summary of your installation options. Click "Install" to install with the settings you have chosen, otherwise go back and
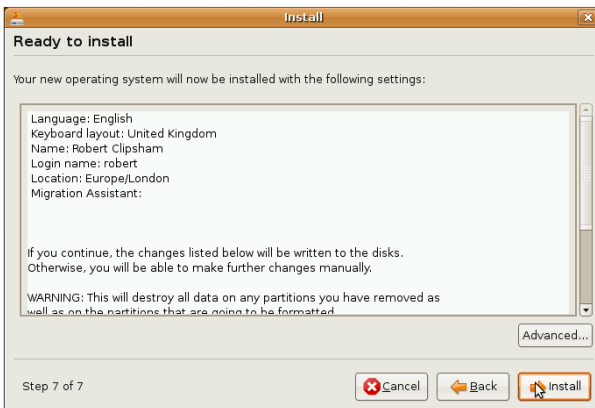
reconfigure them. Finally, restart and remove the disc when prompted.

If all goes well, you will now have a clean Ubuntu 8.04 installed, which you can customize as you like.
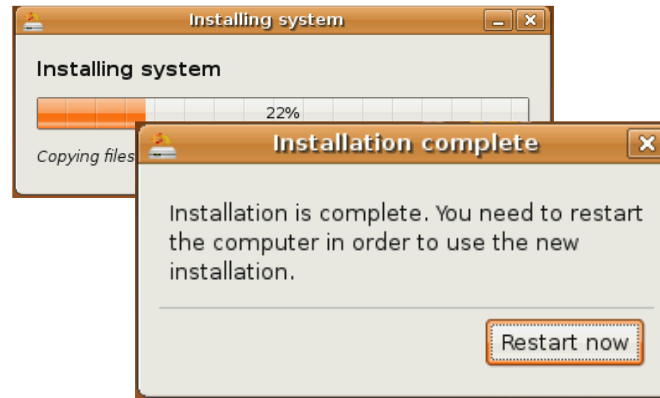
Starting next month, Robert starts a new column called **Command and Conquer** which will take a console command, give a brief explanation of the command, and then show some examples of how to use the command. Don't worry, I'm sure he'll start easy.

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

come and visit

full circle @

Ubuntu Forums

I'm an Ubuntu novice -- I started using Ubuntu about 18 months ago, and made the complete switch just over a year ago. For the last four or five years, I've been a volunteer at the Museum of Computing in Swindon (England), and three years ago I became the Collections Manager. For most of that time I've been preparing for accreditation, which sets the UK standards for museums. We're losing our premises in July, so at the moment we're searching for a new home. You can find out more about the museum at http://www.museum-of-computing.org.uk

We ran a games day before Christmas, to which I gave a general invite to my Local Community (LoCo), Ubuntu-UK; a member suggested a "geekathon" and I decided to arrange a combination of social, geekathon, and demo day in the spring.

Step One - decide what your objectives are

I had three objectives: to give LoCo and Linux User Group (LUG) members a chance to meet, to tell non-users about Ubuntu, and to promote the museum.

Step Two - find a venue, set a date

This will ultimately decide the content of your event -- a stall in a shopping centre will have different facilities than a conference centre. The date was decided by allowing about three months for preparation, burning CDs, preparing literature, etc, and then choosing a date when the hall was available.

Step Three - getting help

Once the date was set, I announced it to my LoCo (see https://wiki.ubuntu.com/LoCoTeams for a list) through the mailing list, IRC, and the Ubuntu Forums. I sent out emails to my local LUG, and to any other LUGs within reasonable traveling distance -- http://www.lug.org is your friend! I included details of the event, and asked for the help I needed -- experienced users to talk to potential users.

Step Four - content

As I had access to a hall with a large-screen projector, a DVD player, and plenty of furniture and space, I decided to download some of the screencasts that would be most useful for non-users, and play them from the DVD. In a smaller space, they'd look fine on a TV or laptop.

I used *DeVeDe* to create the DVD. However, it didn't like OGG. I'd add one small video (about 98k) and *DeVeDe* would

tell me that I'd used 500% of my DVD! After about two weeks of wrestling, I downloaded the Flash versions and had no more trouble. Very odd. I used subtitles because I didn't want the noise of the screencasts interrupting conversations and, vice versa, I didn't want noise from the rest of the hall drowning out the videos.

I use the forums daily, which have been a huge source of help from even before I installed Ubuntu, so I decided to have sections or tables similar to a forum -- for absolute beginners, graphics, sound, and customizing. We created display boards for each section with relevant information for beginners. I thought about the questions I'd asked when I first started, and looked through the forums and mailing list archives to see which questions came up most often.

I also created a board showing a Windows/Ubuntu glossary, plus one in "diary" format with news items from the Ubuntu newsletter. I tried to make this a mix of large organizations who'd switched,

individual users who had "converted" relatives, and quirky stuff like the driverless car. I wanted to make the point that Ubuntu can be used by anyone, and also that it's not a "one man in his spare bedroom" operation. I started collecting the information in January,

so by April I had plenty to choose from. The last entry of course was our Ubuntu Demo Day.

Don't forget to include leaflets or posters for your LUG, because knowing that you can get help

Above: two visitors on a demo machine with one of the Ubuntu Demo Day experts

locally is a great selling point for Ubuntu and other distros.

Step Five - practicalities

First you'll need to decide how many demo machines to have. Again, this will be decided by your venue. If you're planning to give out LiveCDs, send for some well in advance. I didn't get as many as I hoped for, but a friend from my LUG helped by burning some. For these I bought some plastic sleeves very cheaply on Ebay, and used *gLabel* to create sticky labels with basic instructions and the URL of the help site. I printed off the "origami" CD holder created by the Ubuntu-Utah LoCo -- both letter and A4 versions are available at

https://wiki.ubuntu.com/DIYMarketing

If you're planning an indoor event, have a Welcome table, with clear signs to the facilities. You may want to ask where people heard about the event, or ask if they want to go on your mailing list. I didn't keep a count of the number of visitors -- now I

wish I had. Get hold of a "clicker" (thumb operated number counter) if you can for this.

I created badges for the helpers, using the merge facility in *gLabels*. When visitors arrived we invited them to have a go on one of the demo machines, and to ask any of the helpers for assistance. Two people brought machines, with problems, which our experts solved -- thanks guys!

Conclusion

Online publicity worked well, but I'd have liked to have had more local offline publicity. Make posters a priority, especially if you don't have

much passing traffic. In the end we had to design our own at the last minute; another time I'll go this route straight away so I can get them out much earlier. This is much less of a problem if you're holding it in a shopping centre or somewhere else with plenty of passing foot traffic.

Don't panic. Most of our visitors had never seen Ubuntu before, so their questions were usually within my ability to answer. I passed more-advanced stuff on to the experts who'd come along to help. A good starting point for talking to visitors was simply to ask what they use their computers for, and then to show them what's available in Ubuntu for those tasks.

Finally, I'll check release dates more carefully. Hardy Heron was released only two days before our event, which made it a mad rush to install on our demo machines on the day before, and to get the CDs ready. I'll probably allow at least a couple of weeks after a release in future.

We love Ubuntu. Hardy Heron has been one of the most highly anticipated releases to date. The beta and RC were fantastic and the final release was even better. We felt that it's about time we spread the word about this fantastic operating system.

FOSS Nepal is one of the more recent communities of Free and Open minded people in Nepal. The primary objective of the community is to promote and diversify the usage of Free/Open Source Software in Nepal. The original idea to form a LoCo team for Nepali users of Ubuntu was by Bikal "nepbabu" KC. We soon got the IRC channel #ubuntu-np on Freenode up and running, the mailing list active at ubuntu-np@lists.ubuntu.com was officially born as well i.e., with the help of Jono Bacon and numerous other folks at #ubuntu-locoteams. A big thank you to all!

The Preparations For The Party

With other LoCo teams preparing for the release party, the ubuntu-np LoCo team also wanted to have our own little party. The basic ideas for the party were discussed in our very first IRC meeting. The date and venue were set as follows:

Date: *Friday, 2nd May, 2008*
Venue: *Institute of Engineering, ZeroEnergy House*
Time: *4 - 6pm, Nepal Standard Time*

ZeroEnergy House at IOE was chosen because the building is self-sustained: it takes no energy from outside sources. Perfect for us in this load shedding laden country!

Extra Packages DVD

Besides presentations and tutorials in the program, we'd one very important task - distribution of Ubuntu CDs and extra-packages DVDs. The Ubuntu CD wasn't a big deal, but we did have to work on the extra-packages DVD. Basically this DVD was an APTonCD consisting of all the useful packages (including restricted plugins). This was very important for us to lure people to use Ubuntu since bandwidth is a big problem in Nepal and most people are still stuck with dial-up modem connections.
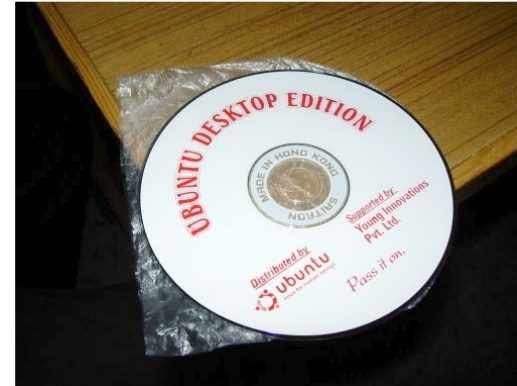
Saroj (aka Surmandal) was selected for this task. He works at WorldLink ISP and has enough bandwidth to create the Extra Packages CD. The procedure to create the Extra Packages CD was like this:

1. Get an Ubuntu DVD ready.
2. Install a fresh Ubuntu (either from CD or DVD).
3. Go to Synaptic, set the source to Ubuntu DVD, select all the packages and download them to local repository. This would download all the packages in the DVD (minus packages in Ubuntu CD) to the hard disk.
4. Now download other useful packages (listed at Extra Packages CD page).
5. After the download, the local repo contains a DVD worth of Packages. Write them to a DVD using APTonCD.
6. Prepare the DVD and CD Covers.

During the short period of time between the actual Hardy Heron release and our release party, we managed to get a sponsor for the event. *Young Innovations Pvt. Ltd.* agreed to sponsor us by donating 4000NPR (~$60) for burning the CDs and DVDs. We called up the CD replicating guys. Their rate was 15NPR (~$0.25) per CD and 25NPR (~$0.35) per DVD. So the plan was to replicate 100 CDs and 100 DVDs. The hall for the event was gracefully sponsored by Zero Energy House, Pulchowk Campus, Institute of Engineering.

The Big Day!

The program started right on time. We were to do the following:

1. Introduction to Ubuntu and FOSS
2. Ubuntu Demo
3. Wubi Demo
4. Tutorial on Getting Ubuntu more useful
5. Participating in ubuntu-np

The first presentation was a basic introduction of Ubuntu, GNU/Linux, and FOSS by Shishir Jha (above). It was targeted at people who did not have any understanding of Linux. There were a few blank faces since the presentation was all theory. Still, Shishir did a great job explaining Linux in general, and the ins and outs of Ubuntu.

It was soon followed by Ankur's demonstration of different applications of Ubuntu and the brand new Wubi (above). Those with blank faces during the first presentation quickly lit up upon seeing how easy it was to install Ubuntu in Windows. We had a brief session on OpenOffice, Compiz Fusion effects, Avant Window Manager, virtual desktops and so on. Ankur explained there is nothing exceptionally different in Ubuntu

- all the applications were right there except, of course, the malware and viruses.

The final presentation was made by Jwalanta on how to get involved in Ubuntu-NP LoCo team. He explained how to use IRC, mailing lists and our Ubuntu-NP website.

Advertising for the event was limited to mailing lists, so we did not expect many participants, but to our amazement, we actually had over forty participants, and we could see more people grabbing chairs from another room to join in! It was more than we had expected. The program was short, sweet and, more importantly, to the point. Nobody was seen yawning during the event and everyone looked very enthusiastic. And we need to keep that morale up for coming events.

After the program, we had a brief CD sales session. The CDs were priced at 15NPR to recover the cost. Most participants bought the CD too. Lets hope they'll follow the spirit of Ubuntu: "Pass it on". Light refreshments followed: tea and cookies. This also gave us time to mingle with each other and find out the real person behind the IRC alias. Everyone was saying, "that's you?" followed by laughter.

The day was well spent and everyone went home happy with their Ubuntu distro.

Future

We have some funding left that was previously allocated to burning DVDs. We've decided to use it to burn some more CDs and distribute them at FOSS Stall in LOCUS Tech Fest. It's a huge event and we hope we'll reach more people during the event.

You can read more cool stuff about Ubuntu-NP LoCo at http://wiki.ubuntu.org.np and http://wiki.ubuntu.com/NepalTeam Plus our FOSS Nepal website is at http://wiki.fossnepal.org

We hope to have regular meetings via IRC (every first and third Friday of each month on #ubuntu-np and you are all welcome). We plan to set Ubuntu as the premier Gnu/Linux distribution in Nepal and let new users learn this wonderful little OS. Our plans also include to present Ubuntu to the Nepalese enthusiasts through advertisements on the radio, posters and word-of-mouth.

We take this chance to thank *Young Innovations Pvt. Ltd.* and *IOE*. We would also like to give a big thank you to all the folks who attended the Hardy Heron release party, for without you, Hardy Heron would be just another distribution. It's you folks who make it happen.

Now, before we do much more with the server, we are going to configure backups -- so all files and data are protected. We will use the webmin module to configure tar backups; you can use tar backups to save to tape, or to any other form of removable media. Under the System menu in webmin, you should have Filesystem, Backup -- or, with the new webmin 1.410, you might need to look under Unused Modules to find it. To add a new backup, fill in the box with a directory, or, to browse your drive, click on the '...' button (shown below).

Add a new backup of directory:		...	☐ In TAR format

Tick the tar format if you wish the backup to be in that compressed format, otherwise it will just be a direct dump without compression. After filling in the directory box, click on 'Add a new

backup of directory'; you will now be greeted with the page shown below right.

In the 'Directories to backup', you can fill in multiple directories, with each directory having its own line. In the 'Backup to' box, choose the mount point, and the name of the backup to create; ie, if it is a tape drive, it might be:

```
/dev/st0/<nameofback
up>.tar.gz
```

(only if using tar and compression -- which is an option further down the page).

You could also choose to backup to a remote location using RSH, SSH or FTP. In that case, choose *host* (rather than file or tape device), and fill in your FTP/RSH/SSH details.

Now choose a suitable name for your backup, and fill it in as 'Backup Label'. If you wish to omit any files or directories (within your selected backup directories) supply them. Choose your compression options from Compress Archive -- 'Yes with gzip' is recommended. In the boxes 'Command to run before

Backup format	Unix TAR
Directories to backup	/
Backup to	⦿ File or tape device [ ] [...]
	◯ Host [ ] as user [ ] in file or device
	[ ]
Remote backup command	◯ Default (RSH) ⦿ SSH ◯ FTP
Password for SSH/FTP login	[ ]

Backup options

Backup label	[ ]		
Tape size	⦿ Work out automatically ◯ [ ] kB		
Files and directories to skip	[ ]		
Compress archive?	No ▾	Split across multiple files?	◯ Yes ⦿ No
Follow symbolic links?	◯ Yes ⦿ No	Limit backup to one filesystem?	◯ Yes ⦿ No
Prompt for new tape if needed?	⦿ Yes ◯ No	Just add new files to archive?	◯ Yes ⦿ No
Remount with noatime option during backup?	◯ Yes ⦿ No		
Path to rmt on remote system	⦿ Default ◯ [ ]		
Attempt test restore after backup to verify?	◯ Yes ⦿ No		
Extra command-line parameters	[ ]		
Command to run before backup	[ ]		
Command to run after backup	[ ]		

backup' and 'Command to run after backup', add any required commands.

You should now set up a backup schedule (shown below). To do so, select 'Enabled, at times chosen below'. To have yourself (or someone else) informed when backup is running, insert a valid email address into 'Email scheduled output to'. A simple approach is to select 'Simple schedule', choose 'Daily, at midnight', and click 'Create'.

We now have an automatically scheduled daily backup to save your most important data and files.

We will now install Postfix (email server) and Dovecot (IMAP and POP3 server). We must drop to the command line, and type:

```
sudo apt-get install postfix
dovecot-common dovecot-imapd
```

Answer the questions as follows:

```
Internet Site

NONE

server1.example.com

server1.example.com,
example.com,
localhost.example.com,
localhost

No

127.0.0.0/8

Yes

0

+

all
```

You now have Postfix and Dovecot installed --

with IMAP.

I would suggest you now set up an MX record pointing to your IP address, and change your router to forward SMTP (port 25) traffic, through your router, to your server IP address. This will allow us to use postfix to collect and deliver email directly via SMTP.

Next month, we will configure postfix, dovecot, and fetchmail (if needed), and also begin installing eGroupware for our groupware needs.

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

He is also a committed Leeds United fan.

This month, we will focus primarily on colors, but first let me say that GIMP (like Photoshop) has many ways of achieving the same result. So, although I may show you one way of accomplishing a task, you can be sure there are several other ways of getting that same result.

Color correction (or adjustment in some cases) is probably more associated with photography than anything else -- so, let's take a photograph, and correct any color problems it may have.

Above is the original photo. First, we will use GIMP to automatically correct the image;

then we will change it manually. To open an image file, we go to File > Open, and choose the image we want to manipulate. So, now that we have our photo open in GIMP, we go to the menu and choose Colors > Levels.
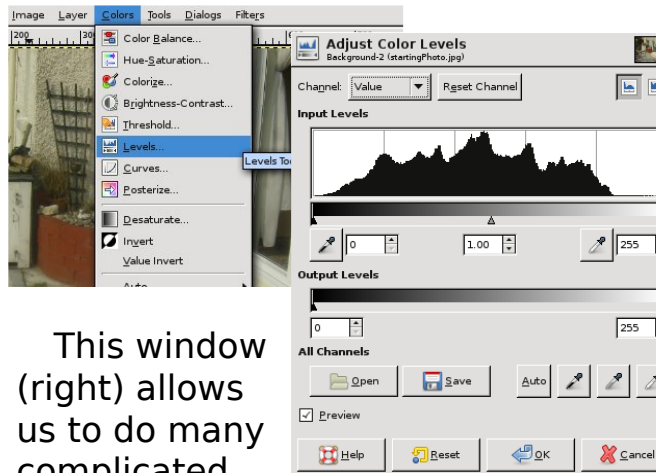
This window (right) allows us to do many complicated things, but now we'll just click the 'Auto' button. Voilà! One color-corrected photo (right).

Satisfactory corrections are not always so easily achieved. If an item in the photo is too bright, for example, GIMP may think it should be white. So, GIMP makes it white, adjusts the rest of the photo accordingly, and presents an awful result. Yet, in most cases the Auto feature gives a satisfactory result. When it doesn't, then

manual corrections should be applied.

Before you make manual corrections, you need to know how images are colored. In painting, the three primary colors are the red, blue, and yellow pigments. From these, any other color can be created. Digital images, however, are made (essentially) from light, and their three primary colors are the red, green and blue wavelengths, commonly referred to as RGB. Don't believe me? Click (or display) the Channels dialog, and you'll see three items -- one red, one green and one blue.

These three 'channels' make up the colors in your image. Try clicking the little eye icon beside

each layer, and you'll see what the photo looks like without one (or more) basic colors. So, in essence, a badly colored photo will have a combination of too much (or not enough) red, green or blue.

Click (or display) the Dialogs > Colors tab, then click the Triangle button:
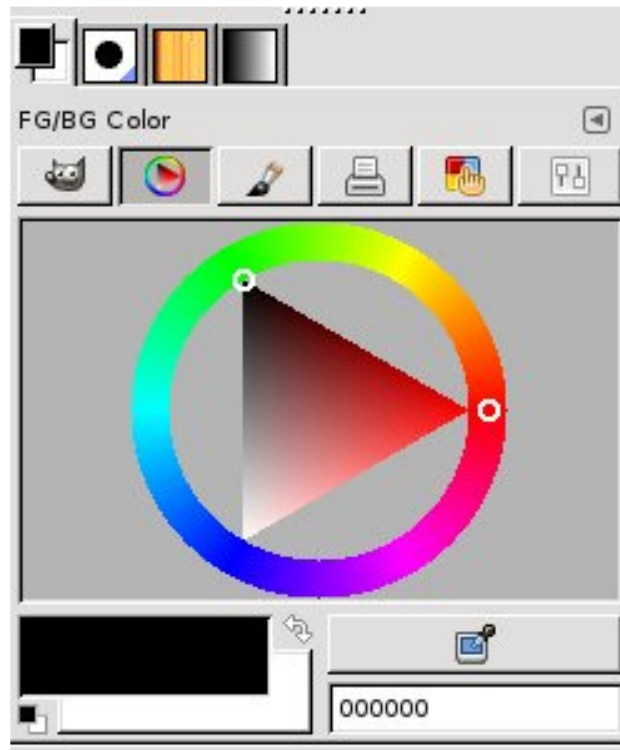
Above is the digital equivalent of the artist's color wheel (circle with a triangle inside) with the three primary colors being at each point of

the triangle, blending in to one another around the circle -- with dark to light being represented by the triangle. Click a color on the 'wheel', and the triangle will point to it. Now, click inside the triangle to get a lighter or darker version of that color. Play with this for a while to become familiar with where the colors are and how to get the ones you want -- we will be using this later when we need to create or pick a color.

Let's look through some of the color options in GIMP to see how they can affect our image. Go to the Colors menu, and choose Color Balance (below).
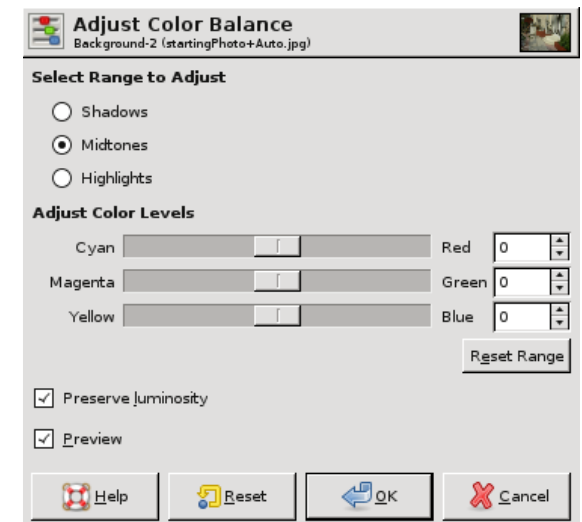
This window will let you fine-tune the colors in your photo. It can alter the colors in each of the three main levels: shadow, midtone and highlight. Select Shadows, Midtones or Highlights, and move the sliders to see how it affects your photo.
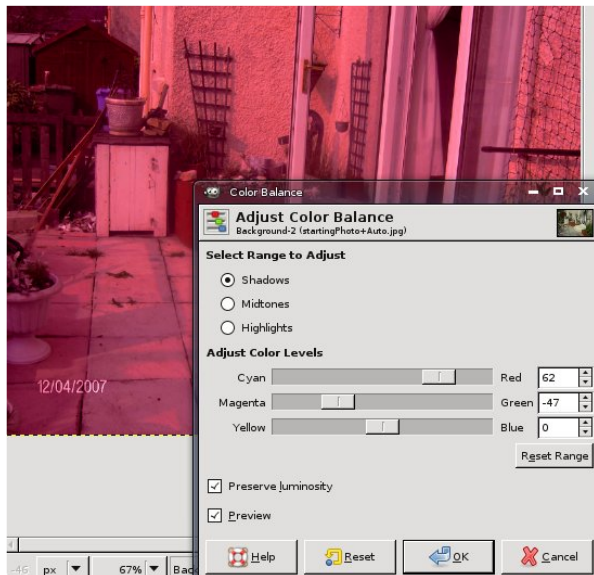
If you don't see the photo colors change, check to make sure the box beside 'Preview' is ticked. If you don't want to keep those color changes, simply click 'Cancel', and your image will return to normal. You can also use the Edit > Undo feature.

Colors > Colorize will allow you

to tint the entire photo with a particular color. This is most often used to give a photo a 'sepia tint' -- which makes the image look old and degraded. Rather than give you a red, green and blue slider, this window gives you a 'Hue' slider -- which goes from red, through to green, to blue, and back to red. Tinker with the sliders until you get a nice orangey-brown color, and you'll see what I mean about the sepia tint.

Colors > Brightness – Contrast will let you simply brighten or darken the image. This can come in handy for simple effects. If I brighten the image

quite a bit, and slide the contrast up, I can make the dull original image look like it was taken on a scorching sunny day (which it definitely wasn't!).
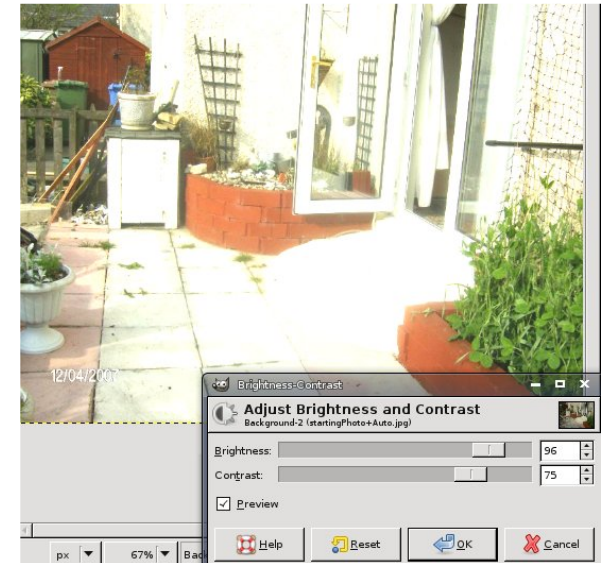
We've already looked at Levels, but let's look into it a bit more. Click Colors > Levels, and you'll see that familiar window -- yes, it's the one with the magic 'Auto' button -- but this time let's focus on the sliders below the graph. The black, grey and white sliders can move left to right, and represent the shadows, midtones and highlights, respectively. They allow you to

manually color-correct the image. The 'Output Levels' is almost like a brightness control, but with three sliders for the shadow, midtone and highlights. At the top of the window is a dropdown menu which says 'Value' -- you can click that and select one of your red, green or blue channels to fine-tune. This is quite a powerful window, so play around in there and get familiar with it. And remember: if you don't see your image updating as you move a slider, tick the 'Preview' checkbox.
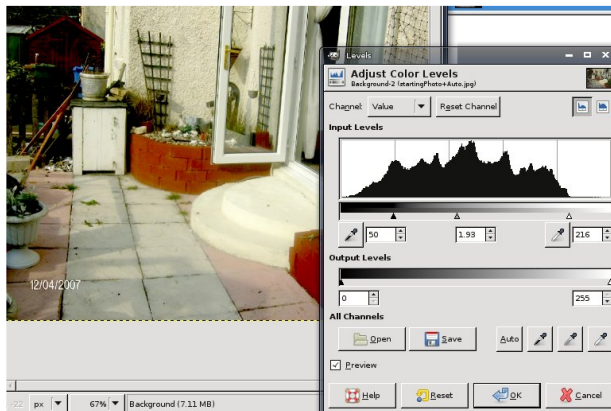
Colors > Curves is similar to the Levels window (which we just looked at), but uses curves, plotted on a graph, to give more control over your colors. Again, at

the top of the window is the dropdown menu, which lets you alter the image as a whole, or just alter one of the color channels. To edit the curves, you click on the curve (to create a point), then move the point up, down, left, or right, to alter the colors. The most basic color correction in the curves window is the 'S-curve' -- where you make an 'S' shape with the curve. Again, this gives pretty much the same result as the Color > Levels 'Auto' button.
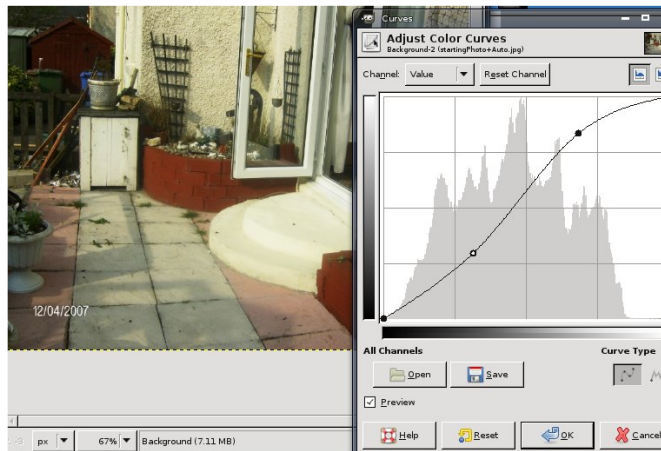
Color > Desaturate will remove all color from your photo, leaving you with a black and white image. You have three options before it removes the color, each giving you slightly different results, so it's best to try each to see which you prefer. As ever, try an option; if you don't like it,

use Edit > Undo to revert back to the original.

Color > Invert will give you the negative of the photo, just like you'd get with traditional camera film. Clicking Color > Invert again will return the image to normal.

There are many other items in the Color menu, but the ones I have mentioned are the most important ones, and probably the most used.

Next month, we will use the zoom and selection tools to expand your manipulation skills.

Ronnie Tucker is Editor of *Full Circle* magazine, a proud Kubuntu user, and part-time artist whose gallery of work can be seen at www.RonnieTucker.co.uk.
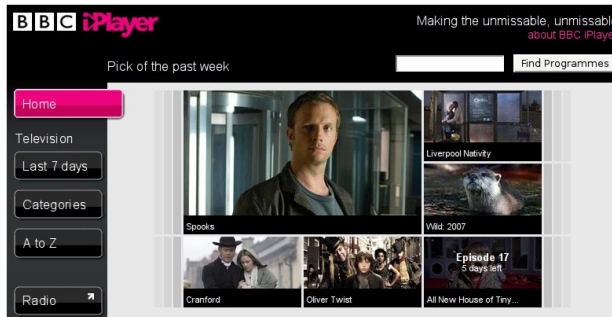
December 2007 was a good time for Ubuntu/Linux users in the UK interested in online TV services. Television on Ubuntu has never been so easy and doesn't even require special TV-tuner hardware.

BBC iPlayer

The BBC is funded by a compulsory license fee for owners of television sets in the UK. Earlier last year, the BBC Trust announced support for only Microsoft Windows in its 'Watch Again' online service. This sparked outrage among advocates of free software, including the Green Party and the Open Source Consortium.

Subsequently, in late December 2007, the BBC opened this service to Linux and Mac users, "*making the unmissable, unmissable.*" The service is reliant on the Adobe Flash player and, due to DRM restrictions, it is not possible to download video content for viewing offline. Nevertheless, there is a wide selection of high-quality television programs, in multiple categories, with an interface my 8-year-old had no trouble mastering.

Zattoo

On December 19th, 2007, Zattoo announced the availability of its online TV service for UK users; the service was previously available for countries such as USA, Germany, France, Spain and Denmark. The service is currently in Beta, but it is mature and highly usable. Zattoo promises smooth, TV-quality video delivery, and, if you have the internet connection to support it, you will not be disappointed. Following registration, Ubuntu users have a pain-free installation -- accomplished with a downloadable .deb installation file. When you click on the link, choose 'Open with ... GDebi Package Installer', and, when GDebi opens, click the 'Install' button.

After installation, Zattoo is available from Applications > Sound & Video > Zattoo Player, and it opens with a list of available channels. Clicking on a

channel name displays that channel -- channel surfing has never been so easy!

This beta service offered by Zattoo is very promising, but currently lacks features such as parental control, subtitles, teletext and a television guide.

TV Guides
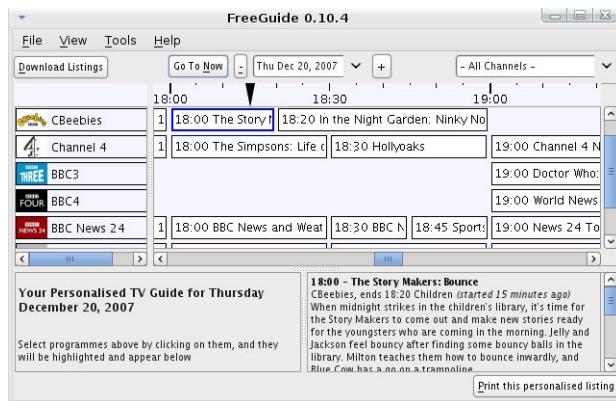
Armed with suitable TV Guide software, Zattoo becomes even more manageable. Ubuntu, being what it is, makes installing FreeGuide easy. Open your package manager, and search for *freeguide*. If you cannot find FreeGuide, you may need to have the multiverse repository enabled.

FreeGuide is a Java application (which feels a little out of place on the Gnome desktop), but has the advantage of being very easy to use. Within a few minutes, I had TV listings for hundreds of channels.

Miro
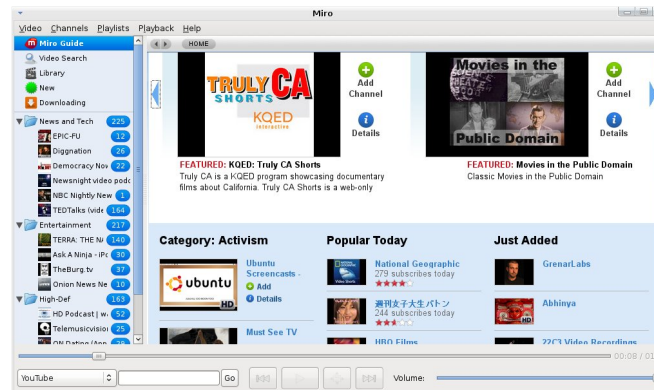
For countries beyond the scope of the BBC iPlayer and Zattoo, there is always Miro. Miro, previously known as Democracy Player, allows you to download and watch videos from RSS feeds (including podcasts, video blogs, and BitTorrent feeds). That explanation may sound a little complicated but do not be afraid! Miro is very easy to use.

To get Miro, use your package manager to install the *miro* package.

Miro opens with the 'Miro Guide', a homepage about the video channels available for subscription. Miro is structured very much like an RSS Reader with subscribed channels, but with videos in the place of written news stories. Clicking on the 'Add Channel' button will subscribe you to that particular channel.

Miro is aiming to be a TV Service, Media Player, and RSS aggregator rolled into one -- it's a promising online service, but lacks parental control features.

Summary

The live TV available from Zattoo, and catch-up services available from the BBC iPlayer website, offer Ubuntu users easy access to online digital television services, thereby "making the unmissable, unmissable". When coupled with the futuristic Miro video subscription model, TV makes compelling viewing on Ubuntu.

Good back-up programs, such as *BackupPC*, are freely available to you with Ubuntu, but you can also create solid and reliable back-up routines using simple, easy-to-manage scripts. These are quick and easy to set up, run automatically, and can back up your files remotely -- provided they are not too large -- by sending them to you as an email attachment. Sounds like what you are looking for? Then, follow these easy steps, and you'll never be caught out, in despair, saying, "if only ..."!

For demonstration purposes, let's look at a scenario where we want a backup routine that runs automatically every day, will back up specific SQL databases then zips and emails them. We'll make a script that creates some SQL file dumps, and moves them into a common folder.

It will then compress that folder and also copy it to another directory on the hard disk as a further back up precaution. Finally, it will use the Mutt email client to send off the compressed folder as a file attachment, so that it can be stored remotely in an email account. For this to work, you need to have a mail service running, so you may have to install Postfix on your system (see).

Install Mutt

Before anything else, let's install the Mutt client for sending emails via our script:

```
sudo apt-get install mutt
```

You should now configure Mutt so that it does not create an ever growing "sent" file in your home or root directory -- a file that will eventually fill your partition. So, create a .muttrc configuration file in your /home/user directory.

```
sudo gedit ~/.muttrc
```

In that, put something like the following, altered to suit your requirements:

```
set realname="Ubuntu Geek"
set from="ugeek@example.com"
set use_envelope_from=yes
set mbox_type=maildir
set mbox="~/muttmail/inbox/"
set spoolfile="~/muttmail/inbox/"
set folder="~/muttmail/"
set record="~/muttmail/sent/"
set postpone=ask-yes recall=no
postponed="~/muttmail/postponed/"
```

Save the file, and copy it to /root. The script will be run under root, so Mutt will look for /root/.muttrc. But, when testing, you could just run the script under your user account, in which case Mutt will look for ~/.muttrc. Either way, with .muttrc in both locations, all of Mutt's sent mail will go to the one folder you nominate.

We don't need to configure anything else -- because we are only using Mutt for backup

purposes here. Actually, if you put in other configuration settings they will be ignored, because running Mutt from a script is equivalent to running it from the command line, which Mutt seems to ignore. I learned that the hard way after much trial and error. The basic stuff here (nominating the directories) is enough, and will work.

Then, create the directories that you nominated in .muttrc; and in each of these create directories called "cur", "tmp" and "new", like this, for example:

```
sudo mkdir
~/muttmail/sent/cur
```

```
sudo mkdir
~/muttmail/sent/new
```

```
sudo mkdir
~/muttmail/sent/tmp
```

Actually, if you don't create a sent folder, Mutt will automatically create one for you when it sends its first email. But you must create the "muttmail" directory, or whatever you want to call it.

If you already have email set up -- for instance, if you have Courier installed -- you could nominate your existing mail directories in .muttrc, and not have to create any new ones. Another option (which you'll need to find information on elsewhere) is to configure Mutt to use IMAP and POP folders on a remote server.

If you decide to use existing email directories in your home directory, be aware that "sent" items created from a cron job will have restrictive root permissions, and this may mess up the webmail program you are using -- by rendering sent items invisible. It did that to me when using Roundcube. I fixed that by including the following command (at the end of the script) to change the permissions in my "sent" directory:

```
chmod 777 -R
/home/user/Maildir/.Sent
```

However, you may not even care to have a record of sent items. After all, these will accumulate day after day, and might have large attachments. In that case, get rid of the "set record . . ." line in .muttrc

and replace it with the following:

```
unset record
```

Before we move on to the main script, we can first run a little test script to see if everything is working with Mutt. Modify it for your email address, and copy this little script into a file:

```
#!/bin/sh
#  Mutt Test
#
EMAIL="ugeek@example.com"
MESSAGE='Hey, your mutt test has been run!'
echo $MESSAGE
echo $MESSAGE | mutt $EMAIL -s "Mutt Test"
```

Save the file under any name you like -- it doesn't have to have a "sh" extension. Then make it executable with chmod, and, assuming we called the file sh, run it from the command line to test it:

```
sudo sh filename
```

or:

```
sh filename
```

mv /home/user/databases-$DATE.tgz /var/local/backups

As with the little test script earlier, save and name the script file whatever you like, then test it from the command line. You should see output like this:

The steps in this script are straightforward. SQL dumps are created and moved to a backup folder in your home directory. The whole folder is then zipped up (using the format: "tar -cvzf *output input*"). Next, the tgz file, with the current date in the file name, is emailed to the email address you nominate at EMAIL. Lastly, the tgz file is moved to another location on your hard disk as a further backup.

So, altogether, this script actually creates 3 backups, two local and one remote. That's because, apart from the tgz file you copy and send, you are left with the SQL files in your

The first will send an email from root, and the second from user. Check your email account to see that your Mutt test got through. If you send it to Gmail, it'll look something like the image above.

If it came through, it's time to configure your backup script.

The Anacron Script

Now, copy the following SQL BackUp Script into a file. Modify the variables, databases and directory names to suit. Of course, you'll need your database details handy.

```
#!/bin/sh
# SQL Back Up Script
#
# Backs up your SQL databases and
emails them to you
#
```

```
##
DBUSER=username
DBPASS=password
DBNAME1=joomla
DBNAME2=drupal
DBNAME3=wordpress
EMAIL="ugeek@example.com"
DATE=`date +%Y%m%d`

mysqldump --opt -u $DBUSER -p$DBPASS
$DBNAME1 > $DBNAME1.sql

mysqldump --opt -u $DBUSER -p$DBPASS
$DBNAME2 > $DBNAME2.sql

mysqldump --opt -u $DBUSER -p$DBPASS
$DBNAME3 > $DBNAME3.sql

mv *.sql /home/user/database_backups

tar cvzf /home/user/databases-$DATE.tgz
/home/user/database_backups

echo 'Hey, see attached for your databases'
| mutt -a /home/user/databases-$DATE.tgz
$EMAIL -s 'Your database back up has been
run'
```

database_backups folder. These will be overwritten with new versions the next time the script is run.

Here's a tip for getting rid of old tgz backups from your hard disk automatically. In the script above, add the following line below the DATE variable line:

EARLIER=`date -d "-2 day" +m%d`

You don't have to call it EARLIER. Call it whatever you want, as long as you are consistent throughout. Now, after the last line, add the following line (or its equivalent to suit your setup):

rm /var/local/backups/databases-$EARLIER.tgz

This line will ensure that the backup file created 2 days earlier is deleted. You can change it to 3 or 4 days, or a couple of weeks earlier, if you want, depending on how far back you want to keep things.

Webmail programs like Google's Gmail have filters, so it's possible to archive backups as soon as they arrive. In Gmail, you can create a filter that labels and puts your backups in the Archives folder. You don't have to worry about them. Speaking of Google, here's something you might want to try, although it doesn't seem of any practical use to me: it is possible to configure a script to email documents of the appropriate type to Google Docs or Zoho Writer, where they can be automatically converted to online documents, on a regular basis.

The beauty of this script is that you can change the variables at the top, or easily add databases (remembering to also add corresponding mysqldump lines), and everything will work fine.

After running your script, check your email, and you should see something like Fig.1. Check that your databases are attached. In Gmail, it will look like Fig.2 when opened.

Fig. 1

Fig. 2

25
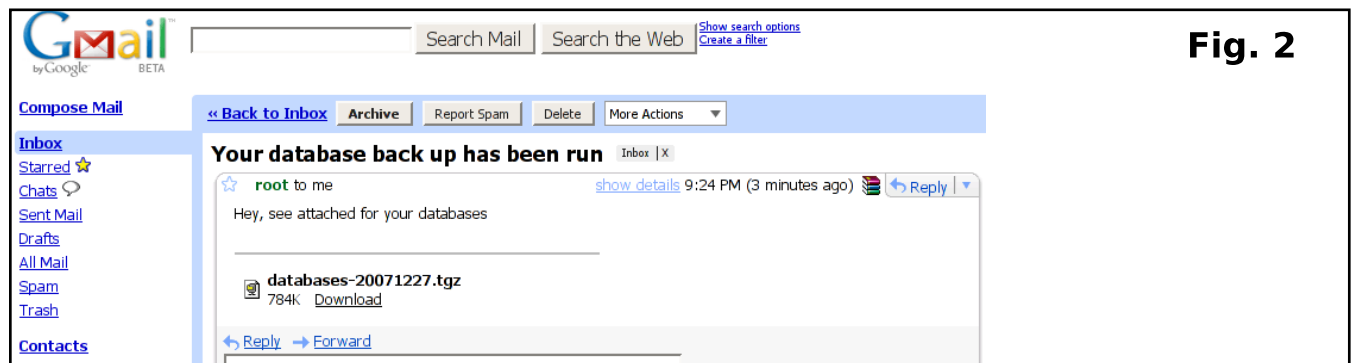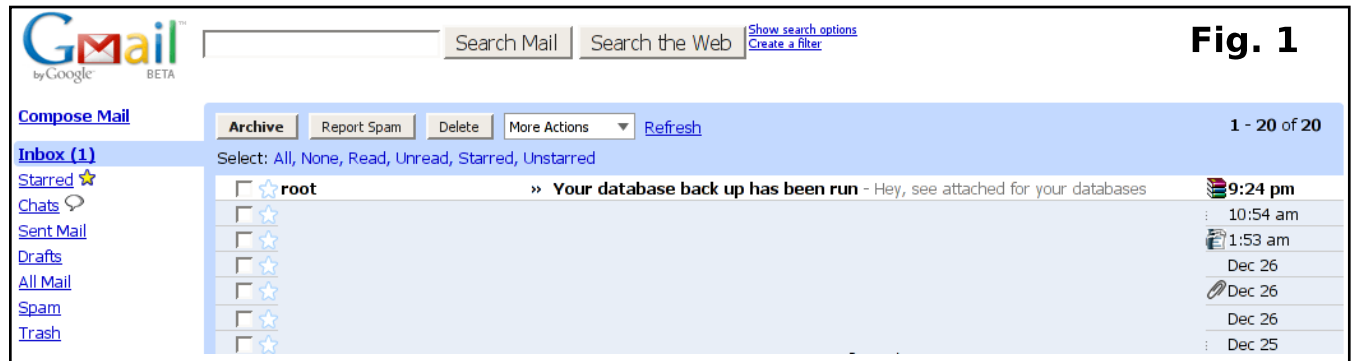
Once your script is doing everything you want, copy it into your /etc/cron.daily directory. Make sure it has executable permissions.

```
sudo chmod 755 scriptname
```

That's it. Your back-up is set to go.

A Note on Anacron

A program called Anacron handles the running of the scripts in the /etc/cron.* directories. Each time scripts are run, if there is any output, Anacron sends an email with details about it to root. If no output, no email. With our script, there is basic output for some processes, so an email is sent to root and ends up in the main user account. This is because, by default, the /etc/aliases file contains a redirection that ensures any system mail to root goes to the main user's account. But, Anacron's emails can be stopped or redirected.

The easiest way is probably to edit the /etc/anacrontab file. Open up this file, and at the top of it, under PATH, add a "mail to" direction with your email address, like this:

```
MAILTO=ugeek@gmail.com.
```

All Anacron emails will then go to that email address. Thus, it is possible to email your backups to one address, and receive an alert about it at another. Here's how the Anacron alert appears when redirected to Gmail (below).

If you want to stop all Anacron emails, I've found that redirecting output to /dev/null works best for me. In your /etc/anacrontab file, leave out any reference to MAILTO, and instead put ">&/dev/null" after the cron.daily line.

If you want to redirect not just Anacron's but all of root's email, then ignore /etc/anacrontab and just create a /root/.forward file with your preferred email address specified in that.

All Covered

What you can do is up to you. Using the example script as a base, you can configure a whole range of backup routines to work with Anacron and the cron.daily, cron.weekly and cron.monthly directories. Alternatively, if you know how to set up individual cron jobs, you can also ensure that your scripts are run at precise times. Ultimately, you can have everything covered, and all your data safely backed up, so that in the event of some failure, what might have been disastrous is little more than a minor inconvenience.
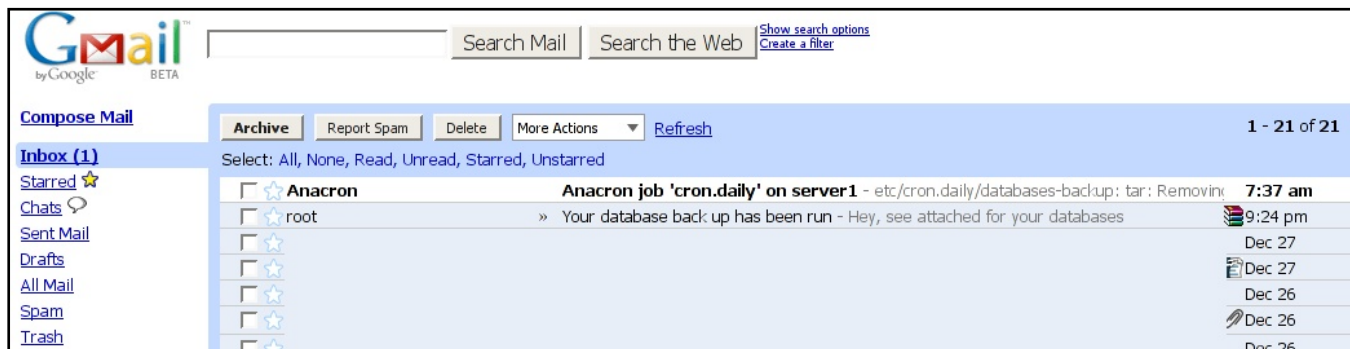
Some of you might be thinking that it's a little late to ask this question. Web 2.0 has been around as a concept since the dot-com bust around 2001 and as a practical reality for about two years. It's been hyped, dismissed, delivered, condemned, rejected, re-launched, branded, marketed and abused in all the media -- several times over.

Now you're thinking, "What a fool. It's far longer/less than that." So which Web 2.0 are we talking about using and developing? Can we agree on a definition? Is it working? Is it worth it?

Back in the mists...

The question assumes there was a Web 1.0 to begin with. I don't remember buying a version number. I'm sure that Tim Berners-Lee, who created HTML on Arpanet, and by extension the World Wide Web, didn't stick a 1.0 badge on his creation.

The mists are clearing...

As far back as 2001, Tim O'Reilly [1] called Web 2.0 "*an attitude, not a technology...*" mainly because the technology didn't exist except as a demonstrator. He emphasized terms such as "*play*", "*rich user experience*" and "*granular accessibility of content*". I had to read the rest of it. The trouble is that Web 2.0 isn't one technology. In it, or on it, or through it:

• the web becomes a platform;
• you control your own, or shared data;
• and you belong to communities that collectively distribute, enrich and re-purpose data.

Meaning what, exactly?

Can we define better what Web 2.0 is?

Services, not packaged software: Web 2.0 isn't software, exactly. It relies on Web services and Web components, ideally ones you can bolt together and re-use across domains, sites and devices. As O'Reilly described it: "*... software that gets better the more people use it ...*"

The Right to Remix: "Some Rights Reserved". Who would have thought that 'hack-ability' would become an accepted (even desirable) attribute of any software system? Look at Facebook today, compared with two years ago. With the new tools available, we're all software developers now; you can pull your favorite Facebook applications into your profile page, customize them, write your own, and maybe even create the next Scrabulous -- as long as the makers of Scrabble don't sue.

Collections of technologies: Given the current crop of Web-enabled tools -- Ajax, Silverlight

(Microsoft), Mono (Open Source), peer-to-peer networks, portals, Really Simple Syndication, super-browsers with extensions (Firefox, IE7) -- what do you get? You get Gmail, Google Maps, Facebook, MySpace, YouTube and Wikipedia. You also get every price comparison site from Best-Rent-a-Wreck to Whats-My-Toaster Dot Com [sic].

The great thing is -- and here's the one specific fact of value to us Ubuntu users -- Web 2.0 is not dependent on having a vendor's proprietary box, or a software licence carrying the Registered Trademark symbol. We can join in too. You're overwhelmed. I can tell.

From there to here

I love contrasting lists. These two came out of the original Web 2.0 conference (O'Reilly, 2005):

Concepts:
Web 1.0 > Web 2.0
publishing > participation
personal websites > blogging
screen scraping > web services
domain name speculation > search engine optimization
page views > cost per click

stickiness > syndication
content management systems > wikis

Web sites:
Web 1.0 > Web 2.0
Netscape > Google
DoubleClick > Google AdSense
Ofoto > Flickr
Akamai > BitTorrent
mp3.com > Napster
Britannica Online > Wikipedia

The Long tail

Netscape tried to hook us on a browser and sell us server-based solutions. Now we have Google, purely and simply a service -- it's ubiquitous. Did somebody say Netscape who? Google also understands well what Chris Anderson refers to as 'the long tail': the collective power of the millions of small sites that make up the bulk of the Web's content -- now also featuring the immortal words "ads sponsored by Google".

It's the long tail that feeds all of the big beasts of Web 2.0, not just Google, but sites like del.icio.us, the world's most popular bookmarking service, and Digg, the wildly popular tech-news site driven by the mass of users sifting and ranking stories themselves.

The long tail is us, which is how BitTorrent uses the peer-to-peer architecture to ensure that every downloader also becomes a server.

Where is 'here' anyway?

My opinion is divided on the subject. If you believe in the trust experiment that is Wikipedia, then the rules of content creation have changed forever.

Maybe I'm too cynical? Perhaps an hourly addiction to Bebo is no worse than having to join Gamblers Anonymous.

I must confess, however, that I went to dinner recently with my old school pal and his family -- unseen since four houses and ten years ago -- thanks to an invite from a business networking site.

I am truly Web-two-point-oh'd.

[1] - What Is Web 2.0: Design Patterns and Business Models for the Next Generation of Software by Tim O'Reilly (http://www.oreillynet.com/pub/a/oreilly/tim/news/2005/09/30/what-is-web-20.html)

I have used the Windows operating system for as long as I can remember, and have even been Microsoft Certificated in the past. I knew there were other operating systems but, like the vast majority of people, I ignored them -- by listening to the "fear, uncertainty and doubt."

You have to bear in mind three things when reading this narrative:

1. My state of mind – fragile.
2. I've never had internet access at home.
3. I was in the process of setting up a new home, and a broadband account.

On one fateful day in October 2007, I left the marital home and set up on my own. A very intense and tearful time for me. I had two computers at the time: a Dell with XP installed and an NEC with an empty hard drive. It became very clear to me that I would have to upgrade both computers if I wanted to use Vista, even at its most basic level.

So I started looking at other options for my operating systems.

In WHSmith one day, while looking at magazines, I saw a copy of Computeractive (one of their specials) with Kubuntu 6.06 LTS attached to the front. I had a quick look at the contents of the magazine and bought it. My first dance with Linux had begun. I read the magazine all the way through before even attempting to load Linux on my spare system.

The next day, I took a deep breath, loaded up the Kubuntu live disk, and discovered that it found all my hardware straight out of the box -- although, to be honest, there is nothing out of the ordinary in my box except a DVD writer. So, I clicked the install button and made my way through the installation screens.

Since I had previously installed Windows 98 & XP from scratch, there was nothing to scare me at this stage. Installation took no time at all (compared with Windows), and I found that I had a fully working system with more software than I could shake a stick at. None of this COA number entering, and finding the disks for all my other software and doing COA numbering all over again. To say I was happy at this point would be an understatement. My last thoughts of the day were nervousness, as I realized I knew nothing about this operating system; and I also saw that what I knew about Windows, though not totally irrelevant, would be consigned to the bin.

Day three brought about my first problem -- my Internet connection. It had not been plugged in during the installation. It hadn't even been

switched on at that point. BT (British Telecom) delivered my homehub on day three. I read the instructions, and in three hours I had a working broadband connection -- according to the lights (I hadn't plugged it in to the computer yet, as per instructions). After another deep breath, I plugged in the homehub and nothing happened. My computer did not see the hub at all. Panic!

Again, three things you have to remember at this point:

1. A new operating system.
2. A computer which I had never used prior to this.
3. I've never had a broadband connection or set one up.

I sat down and read all the FAQs in the homehub magazine to see if there were any obvious problems. I worked through all the solutions, but nothing worked. Kubuntu refused to see my homehub. Panic, again! I went away for an hour and had

something to eat, hoping inspiration would help me with the next step.

I went back to basics and checked my BIOS -- did I feel like an idiot when I found the NIC card was switched off in there. So, one re-boot later I had a working internet connection. I could have cried, and probably did, as I was now back to where I left Windows. (Well, almost).

Loading the desktop

For the rest of the day, I just checked out Kubuntu by reading the tutorials in the magazine. I was impressed with what I saw.

Day four saw an 800+MB update. This was new, sort of. I know Windows installs updates often for patches, etc, but 800 MB? So, I accessed the update screens, and, after inputting my password, the downloads began. I watched all the way through it and was fascinated by the names as they

> **"I was impressed with what I saw**

went past. They were all Linux packages that meant nothing to me. So I just took notes. Time for a Google later to see what the downloads were.

Another reboot faced me with problem two: I was unable to get back into Kubuntu. It would not accept my password. Panic! After about four hours of reading and trying things, I realized I had two problems:

1.My keyboard had a fault (specifically in the F-keys)
2.Something in the repositories was changing my password set-up and I needed to press F2 to get past it -- see point one.

I powered down my computer and decided to get a new keyboard the next day.

Day five bought me some new hardware: one new keyboard,

and another stick of RAM to keep my spirits up for the next steps. I changed the keyboard, and, while my computer was powered down, installed the RAM. With fingers crossed I powered up and saw the now familiar install screen of Kubuntu.

Everything went fine until I hit the password screen. I typed in my password, hit F2 to get past the error, did what I had to do, and, bingo, one working, fully updated Kubuntu operating system. For the rest of the day, I just resigned myself to playing and customizing the look of the GUIs/desktop, etc.

Day six saw me hit the Kubuntu forum to, hopefully, get some information about software I needed to install: Thunderbird, Firefox, Scorched 3D, and numerous libraries for getting Amarok, K3b and various other bits of audio software to work with MP3s.

The rest, as they say, is history. It's not been an easy journey, and I would not recommend anybody taking on Linux in this cold-turkey fashion. I forgot to say that day seven saw me junking Windows/Microsoft in all of its forms on my systems. But I would recommend getting a live disk off the front of one of the various specials that pop up regularly, and work with it for a week, or a month or two, and open up your mind to a whole new world of computing.

The future for me and Kubuntu is looking good. I'm looking forward to installing 8.04 LTS (the next generation) when it is released in

> **I'm looking forward to installing 8.04**

April, although I didn't install any of the three versions that appeared after 6.06 LTS, because I wanted to stick with a rock-steady system for the many projects I have on the go at any one time. I know Kubuntu is rock steady as it is, but, like all OSes, when you upgrade, there are gripes regarding stuff being done differently (I'm not a Luddite) and the new versions being slightly different. (I'm from Windows and using each new version of Word brings three months of frustration due to menu changes and other stuff like that.) So, for now, 6.06 is my OS, and, after a year, I am very happy with Linux and where I'm at with my knowledge. I don't think I'll ever be as good at Linux as I was with Windows, because I learned Windows when I was much younger, but, as long as it works well and I can do all the things that I did with Windows, welcome one new convert.

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

Age: 24

Location:
Guastalla, a small city in northern Italy

IRC Nick:
DktrKranz

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

I started using GNU/Linux in 2000 with Mandrake, soon replaced by Debian, which [was] my O.S. until late 2005.

How long have you been using Ubuntu?

Since 2005, after installing Breezy Badger.

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

My first package was merge of nttcp in March 2007, during late Feisty development cycle. I just discovered http://merges.ubuntu.com and I wanted to help out. After reading Ubuntu Packaging Guide and some

documents in http://www.debian.org/devel, I started to understand packaging logic and began to give my contribution.

What helped you learn packaging and how Ubuntu teams work?

I learned packaging by reading technical documentation (Ubuntu Packaging Guide, www.debian.org/devel) and following my sponsors' advice. I found it very useful to look at some debdiffs already published in Ubuntu too, they help a lot if you are unsure about a fix.

Favorite part of working with the MOTU?

Being aware your work is important for many people.

Solve problems and making Ubuntu rock for all is a great goal, every little step is important because a minimal fix can be important for someone, and I am happy to give my contribution where I am able to.

Any advice for people wanting to help out MOTU?

Many people are not comfortable with development because they feel strong programming skills are required. Sometimes it is not so hard, and everyone's help is appreciated by fixing easy issues. I have the pleasure [of working] with some Italian contributors who show interest in the project: even if they are not programmers, they contribute actively and some of them have uploaded more than 40 packages so far! Being curious is the key: join #ubuntu-motu, ask questions about development processes, and start to work on a bug you feel important, when your efforts lead to a package upload, you will know why we are all so [enthusiastic] to contribute to MOTU activities.

You have been working on a lot of different packages in the last cycles, what are you going to focus on in Hardy?

I do not have a limited set of packages to look at ([except] the ones I maintain in Debian), so I would like to help where there is a need, basically by fixing un-met dependancies and FTBFS, reviewing patches, and additional QA efforts.

How do you think Hardy will be special for our users?

Plans to make Universe usable by everyone are very important, and the MOTU community started with enthusiasm to gather some tools to help in this way (see http://qa.ubuntuwire.com). These activities will improve overall quality of the Universe packages, and our users will surely benefit [from] this. I hope new contributors will pursue this target too, Universe is huge and there is a lot of work to do!

Favorite quote?

"Politicians look at the next elections, statesmen look at the next generations" – A. De Gasperi

What do you do in your spare time?

I like playing basketball, I usually take shots on playgrounds when I have time to. I like food too, Italy is a great place to pursue this kind of interest.

image: Johannes (Flickr.com)

It often feels like the most time-consuming part of a project is the last 10%. In a juggling act, this is the moment when all of the balls are in the air. The success of the juggler's performance depends on each of the balls falling neatly into the juggler's hands without them having to lurch to catch a stray one. Keeping a close eye on your project will allow you to neatly complete all of your tasks and to reach your goal.

Last month, I encouraged you to set short deadlines for yourself and your teammates. In addition to this, you should also have regular meetings, or a space for people to report on their tasks. Set a schedule, and make your report public. If you are meeting in "real time", make sure your meeting has an agenda, and that you keep the meeting as short as possible. Seeing your progress reported will help you judge how far away you are from achieving your goal.

But what if no one signs up for tasks? Or perhaps people have signed up for tasks, but nothing is getting done? If either of these apply to your group, it might be time to take a step back and evaluate your original goals. Do your personal goals for the project match the personal goals of the other participants? Take a close look and ask yourself: does this community need a gentle push to get it started, or is there a fundamental difference between what I want to accomplish and what the rest of the group wants to achieve?

Next month, in the final installment of this series, we look at the trickiest question of all: once you have them, how do you keep the best volunteers actively working towards your goal?

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

UBUNTU YOUTH

Written by Andrew Harris

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

So you have just installed or upgraded to Hardy. Now that you've rebooted, retrieved what you had backed up and worked out whatever kinks there may be, you might wonder, "Now what?".

The first thing I always do is reinstall all the software I already had (as I prefer to just totally reinstall each time a new release of Ubuntu is out) and then see what's new. In this article, I am going to go over some of the new (free!) software that can be useful or entertaining to teens.

First, here is a good calculator. It's especially for those in advanced math classes. The default calculators that come with the *buntus are nice, but sometimes you need more. Although there are great calculator programs for all desktops, including the command line, check out Qalculate! It's amazing. It has dozens and dozens of built-in functions, from areas of various polygons to physics conversions, and even a date to UNIX timestamp conversion! It can do everything I can think of and more, but saying this doesn't do justice to a fraction of what Qalculate! can do. There are packages for GTK, KDE, and the command line in the repositories.

Now I noticed something not quite right about Hardy: it doesn't come with any games -- not even little time-waster games! If you run KDE, then just grab the kdegames package and that should last you through World War III and beyond. But for everyone else, I have some other suggestions.

Breakout is a classic. Everybody everywhere loves a good game of breakout. I suggest lbreakout2. It is an excellent game with great graphics and sound effects. It comes with many levels made mostly by the creator of the game, Michael Speck. I also suggest pysol, a very hackable Solitaire game written in Python, and knetwalk, a KDE game in which you connect terminals to a server. It's more fun than it sounds.

The rest is up to you. I really can't speak for all teens on what you should install. Personally, I like to install several IDE's for languages that I'm not even going to use -- but that's just me. The nice thing about apt-get is that it will keep on apt-get'ing! There is no limit on what you can install besides the size of your hard drive.

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

LETTERS

First of all, I want to thank Andrew Min for the article on creating .deb files (FCM #12) - it is the first I've read that is a really good and quick introduction to creating simple .deb packages. Much appreciated!

Furthermore I wanted to reply to Blaise Alleyne's comment on my article "You use Ubuntu, not Linux". First, I want to apologize for using the word "crazy". It was indeed too harsh and if I offended anyone, that was not my intention and I hereby apologize.

Then I want to confirm that my use of the word "operating system" was wrong indeed. However, that does not invalidate my argument, which, more appropriately worded, was to promote the use of a certain software package (in Ubuntu's case, a Linux distribution).

LETTER OF THE MONTH

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

I want to describe a beautiful experience with Ubuntu Gutsy on my friend's laptop.

The laptop is a Fujitsu Siemens Amilo. We have an internet subscription with an italian Internet provider and in our house we have a wireless router. With Windows XP SP2 the wireless connection sometimes works, sometimes doesn't. In addition, if we plug in a USB device and then remove this device, Windows also removes the wireless card (the card is internal)! It always does this and I have no idea why! So I decided to make a dual boot on this laptop with Ubuntu Gutsy and, guess what? Gutsy automatically recognizes the wireless card and the connection works flawlessly! The

problem with the USB doesn't exist anymore! It's fantastic!

Now my friend regularly uses Ubuntu and he's very pleased with it.

Alessandro

So yes, I'm now convinced that GNU/Linux might be a more appropriate (albeit cumbersome) name for the "operating system" (being just that part of the software on your computer that gets it to operate). Still, the actual point I was trying to make still stands: most people use the term "Linux" when they actually mean "Ubuntu" or whatever.

Vincent

Regarding the How-To on using an iPod Classic with Amarok (FCM #11), I was in the same boat, having received the gift of a new iPod Classic, I though it would just work with Amarok, as previous versions have. The article shows clearly that it does not. I went through a lot of the same work your writer did, only to end up with unsatisfactory results.

Then I found Floola (right) (http://www.floola.com). It actually works really well and requires almost no configuration out of the box. Floola is available at no cost, but is not open source. While it is not a full featured media player, like Amarok, it does what I need it to do - namely load videos and music on my iPod. So while I still use Amarok to play media on my Ubuntu install, I've been recommending Floola to anyone with a current-gen iPod.

Jim Bausch

Ed: *Thanks for that Jim. I can confirm though*, *that the iPod Classic works well with the latest Amarok in Kubuntu Hardy.*
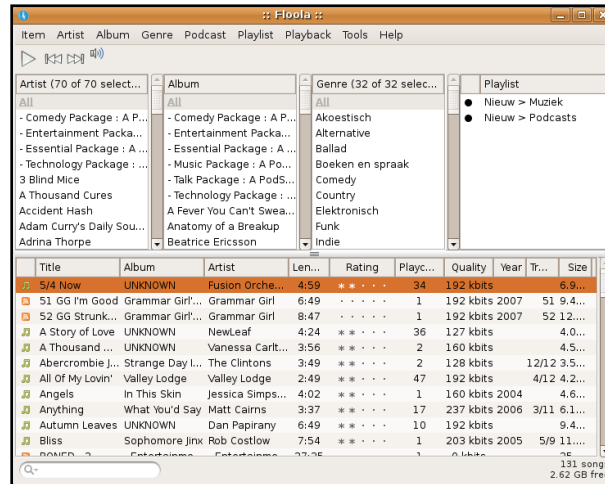
'm writing to you to let you know about an Ubuntu promotional website I've made - www.ubuntustory.com.

The idea is that people from around the world share their Linux experience. If it's possible can you mention this website in your magazine? I hope more stories can make the difference for newbies - it will show them that Ubuntu really is Linux for Human Beings.

Karol Fabjańczuk

Ed: *An excellent idea and something that we encourage in FCM with our 'My Story' article. All articles in the magazine are licensed under Creative Commons Share Alike, so feel free to add our 'My Story' articles to your site if you wish, with a link to our site. Good luck!*

just want to thank you for another wonderful issue of Full Circle Magazine. I love the series on installing a full featured server.

Also, I just downloaded Wormux (below), I wonder if I'll be able to run it under Ubuntu Gutsy on a Pentium III 450 MHz with only 320 megs of ram?

Spoker

Ed: *I couldn't find a list of requirements for Wormux but do let us know if it works. Thanks!*

Q&A

Written by Robert Clipsham

Q Why does the disk usage analyzer show my hard drive size to be much bigger than it is? How can I fix it?

A This is caused by a new feature in Hardy - the GFS fuse daemon. This is effectively a mirror of your file system, which causes the disk usage analyzer to show double your disk size. To hide it, go to Edit->Preferences, then deselect the .gfs folder in your home directory.

http://ubuntuforums.org/showthread.php?t=748778

Q Ubuntu 8.04 gives the option to install within Windows. What is the difference between doing this and dual booting?

A Installing within Windows is a safer option, as it does not edit your disk's partition table or edit your boot loader. Running Ubuntu from within Windows will slightly slow down disk access, and hibernation isn't supported. It also allows you to install and uninstall Ubuntu from within Windows, and you are able to transfer to a dedicated partition later if you decide you want the extra performance. Another downside is that the filesystem used is more vulnerable to power failures, so you shouldn't save important data on the file system.

http://ubuntuforums.org/showthread.php?t=788346

Q When trying to install flash player on firefox 3, I get an error about install-wdf.rdf, how can I fix this?

A Download the Linux tarball (http://url.fullcirclemagazine.org/16457e) from Adobe's website, and copy libflashplayer.so to /usr/lib/browser-plugins or .mozilla/plugins in your home directory. You could also use Gnash (http://www.gnu.org/software/gnash/), a free alternative to flash.

Q After upgrading to Ubuntu, my desktop has been set to my home directory, how do I solve this?

A Press Alt+F2, and in the dialog box, type *gconf-editor*. Navigate to /apps/nautilus/preferences, then make sure that *desktop_is_home_dir* is not checked.
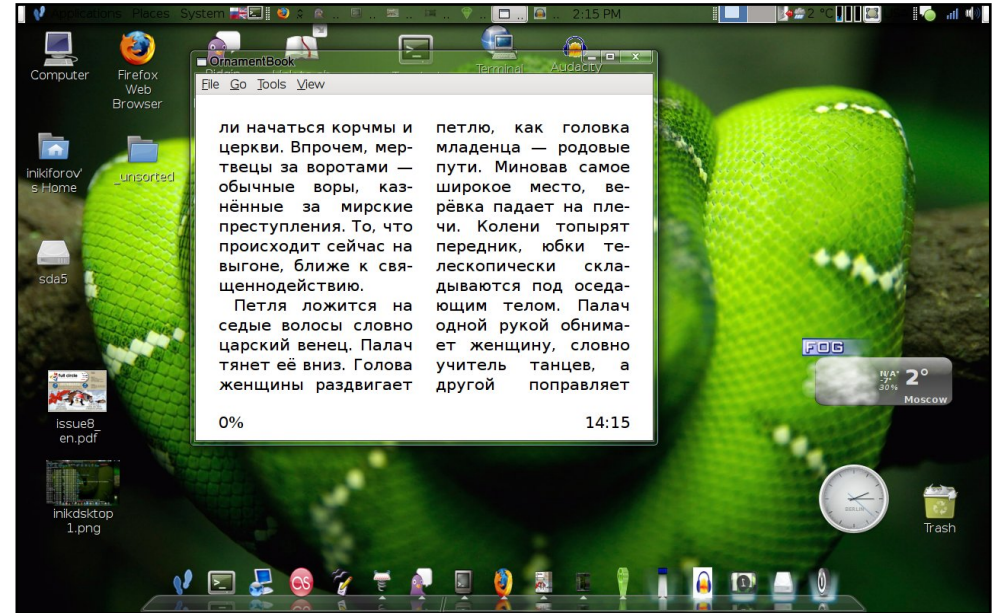
MY DESKTOP

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

I have been using Linux for about four years, and just last year found Ubuntu and fell in love with it. I use 7.10 with Linux Mint repositories. Mint has some extras that I like. I have customised my system using Compiz Fusion, CairoClock, gDesklets, and Avant. The Emerald theme I use was made by me, (Glassy Mint), as was the AWN theme (Curved Glassy Mint AWN), the wallpaper (called Visiting Tux), and the Cairo-Clock theme (Debian Mint) -- all can be found at http://gnome-look.org. I used the side-candy gDesklets themes for my desklets. The theme I use is called MidnightBlackPlastic, and the icons are the GnomeProject icons, again found at gnome-look.I run an Acer TravelMate 8104WLmi laptop, with a Pentium M 2GHZ, 1GB of RAM with an ATI x700 mobility video card with the resolution set to 1600x1050.

Dave Slaughter

My Ubuntu box is a Fujitsu Siemens Amilo Pro 3205. I'm using the Emerald theme Aero, and the Avant Window Manager with the transparent dock theme. My desktop is a customized theme, a mix of Tango and Mist.

Igor Nikiforov

TOP 5 UNUSUAL CONSOLES

Written by Andrew Min

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

Tilda

Homepage: http://tilda.sourceforge.net

An oldie but goodie, Tilda was created by Tristan Sloughter (aka kungfooguru) in December 2004. Named after the tilde (~), this powerful terminal is modeled after the gaming terminals found in Quake and many of its derivatives. With a simple key combination, Tilda will gracefully slide down from the top of the screen, and present a full terminal. Hit the combination again, and the terminal quickly slides out of view, waiting in the background for another order. It even provides a multi-tabbed interface, so you can have multiple terminals running at the same time.
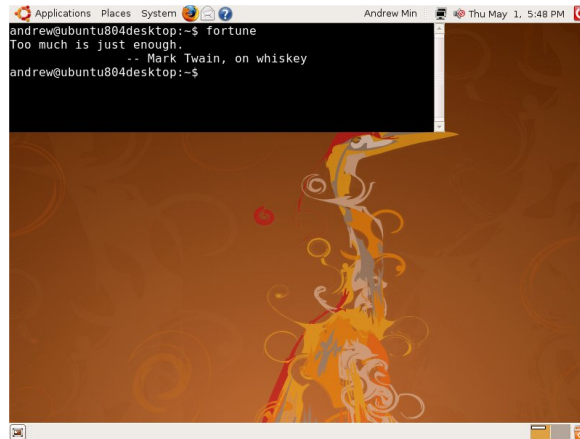
To install Tilda, grab the **tilda** package from the universe repository. After installing it, run *tilda -C* to configure it.

YaKuake

Homepage: http://yakuake.uv.ro/

As you may have figured out, Tilda really only plays nice on GTK-powered distros like Ubuntu or Xubuntu. If you're a Kubuntu user, and feeling slightly left out, give YaKuake a spin. Based on the now dead Kuake (http://freshmeat.net/projects/kuake/), YaKuake is a Konsole-powered terminal that, like Tilda, slides down from the top of the screen whenever you hit the hotkey. It also has some nice features like skins, resizing, and multiple tabs.

While the YaKuake homepage indicates that there hasn't been much activity recently, there have actually been a lot of builds released. To install it, just use the **yakuake** package in the universe repositories. Or, if you're a KDE 4 user, try **yakuake-kde4**.

Terminator

Homepage:
https://launchpad.net/terminator
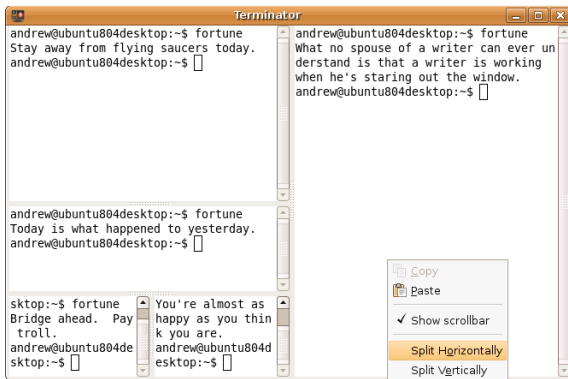
Finally, here is a rather simple terminal tool. You may have noticed that most modern terminals like Gnome-Terminal, Konsole, and the ones listed above, have support for tabs. However, this means that you can't see two terminals at the same time without opening two separate instances. Terminator rectifies this problem. Opening it provides a very simple terminal. Just right click on the terminal and hit Split Horizontal or Split Vertical, and Terminator spawns another terminal. You can do this for as many terminals as you want.

To install Terminator, use the **terminator** package in the universe repositories.

Hotwire

Homepage:
http://hotwire-shell.org/
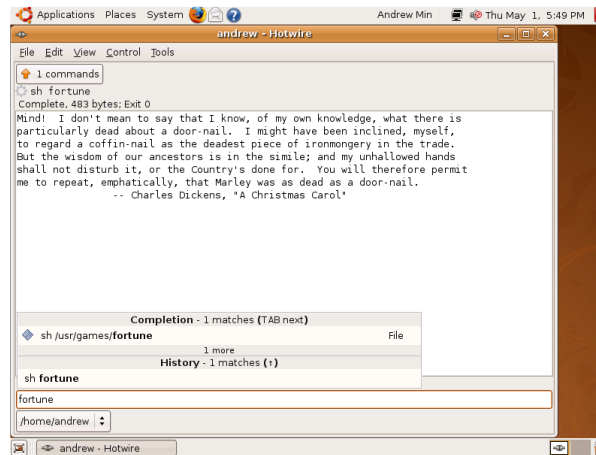
Hotwire is another "different" type of terminal. Designed for systems programming, this "hyper-shell" merges the old UNIX shell with a nice Gnome-based GUI. You can simply type in one of its many pre-built commands and view the output in the GUI. You can also script it with Python, Ruby, and sh. And, for those times when you just need a normal terminal, you can run the command term to open up Hotwire's built-in console.

To install Hotwire, get the **hotwire** package in the universe repositories. You can also get a newer package (http://www.getdeb.net/app/Hotwire) from GetDeb.net (note that this was for an older Ubuntu and may not work).

YeahConsole

Homepage:
http://phrat.de/yeahtools.html
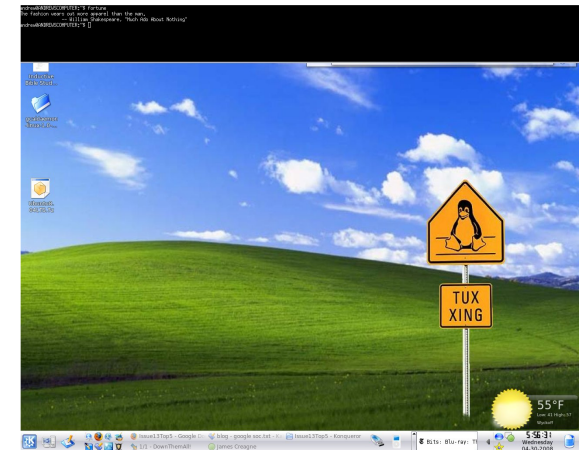
If you're not an Ubuntu or Kubuntu user, and/or believe that lighter = better, YeahConsole is for you. Weighing in at only 81.9 KB, YeahConsole is a really nice drop down console, based on *xterm*, and similar to *Tilda* and *YaKuake*. What sets YeahConsole apart is that there are basically no special "features", which means that the developers didn't think they needed the tabs or the skins or the other tools that are in YaKuake and Tilda.

To install YeahConsole, install the **yeahconsole** package in the universe repositories.

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

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

You can find our next Agenda at:

http://url.fullcirclemagazine.org/f2ba08

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

Next general meeting (all welcome):
Sat. 07th June at **1700 UTC**.

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