Microsoft Windows 10 Migration Considerations (Part 2)

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Previous Migration Talk

- Part 1 was given on May 15, 2025

- Since then, migration of MIL has completed!

- MS Windows 10 death is still imminent

  – Now 2 months away! (October 14, 2025)

Recap

- MIL's computer is too old to run MSW11
  - Dell Optiplex 9020 SFF, i5-4570
- Doesn't want a new computer unless have to
- MIL doesn't like all the ads and nagware
- Willing to explore Linux alternatives
  - Much to my surprise!

Test Setup

- Set up my unused desktop system
- Experimented with numerous distros and DEs

Distros+Spins Examined

- Ubuntu 24.04

- Debian 11

- Zorin 17.3

- Rocky 10

- Fedora 42

Exploring Desktop Environments

- Goal: make it look same as MIL's Win10
- Took photos of her tweaked desktop
- Tried GNOME and Plasma Win10 themes

KDE Plasma 6 Winner

- GNOME required heavy mods to act Win10-ish

- KDE Plasma was closest to Win10 out of box

- Plasma 6 was more Win10 configurable

- Wanted to limit 3rd party mods

  - Often break when updating DEs, esp. w/ GNOME

Plasma 6.x Distros

- Fedora 42, Plasma 6.4
- Others have small user base or not as user friendly
  - Arch
  - KDE Neon
  - KaOS
  - openSUSE Tumbleweed

Fedora 42

- Initially rejected
  - Fast release cycle (6 mo)
- But App Store made full OS upgrades easy

Tweaks to Fedora 42

- Added Fedora via new internal SSD
  - Made system multiboot
  - Can still boot into Win10, drive left untouched
- Added an external SSD (No room left in SFF case)
  - Used btrbk for snapshots and backups
- Copied personal files from W10 to under home directory
- Added proprietary codecs from Rpmfusion
- Installed and enabled Tailscale

Tweaks to KDE Plasma 6

- Added Win10 themes, icons
- Disabled multiple workspaces
- Used Menu Editor to set app names
- Set wallpaper to Bing's picture of the day
- Added Weather Widget Plus
- Enabled RDP for remote support

Spousal Approval

- Wife runs MSW11 daily on work laptop
- Had wife try out Plasma 6 I configured for MIL
    - Wife never used Linux before
    - Wanted to know if she felt it was close enough to W10
- She liked it!
- Now is now considering Linux over a Macbook
    - Losing work laptop at end of year (retiring)

MIL Approval

- Asked how she likes it after two weeks of use
- Likes how fast her computer feels now
- Likes having no more adware/nagware
- HP printer and scanner working reliably again
- Likes no more web ads (FF + uBlock Origin)
- Feels better having a backup

OK, But What Doesn't She Like?

- Bing pic of day has lost its link for more info
- Wishes the scanner icon was better
- Doesn't like Firefox's smaller scrollbar

Demo!