Linux as a HTPC

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What is a HTPC?

- Music
- Video
- Pictures
- DVR

What isn't a HTPC

Computer
- Mouse
- Keyboard
- Multi-tasking
- Content creation
- Mobile

HTPC
- Remote
- Alternate controls
- Single task at a time
- Full Screen
- Content consumption

Why use Linux?   What's Missing?

- Stability
- Hardware requirements
- Hardware support
- Cost

- DRM
- Commercial support
- Hardware support

What is a Media Streamer?

- Streams existing content
- No tuner support
- Doesn't mean no live TV
  NHL, MLB, ESPN,
  YouTube

Streaming Software

- XBMC/Boxee/Plex
- Showtime
- Elisa/Moovida
- GeeXboX
- MythTV
- VLC/VideoLAN

Streamers Based on Linux

- Popbox
- Roku
- GoogleTV
- Boxee
- WD TV

- Popcorn Hour
- Dreambox
- Asus O!Play
- Patriot Box Office
- Xtreamer
- Micca MPLAY-HD

XBMC

- Local content
- DIY software
- Multi-platform
- Skinning
- Basic tuner support

Boxee

- Web content
- Appliance and Software
- No skinning
- No tuner support
- Commercial backing (Windows, OS X, embedded)

DVR: Why bother?

- Save Money
- Flexibility
- Freedom of using content
  - Transcoding
  - Copying
  - Archiving
- Commercial skipping
- Advanced features

Tuner cards

- ATSC (OTA)
- QAM
- CableCard

Tuner card connections

- PCI/PCI-E
- USB
- Firewire
- PCMCIA
- Ethernet

Video Connections

- Coaxial
- Component
- HDMI
- CableCard
- Ethernet (IPTV)

MythTV

- Unique architecture
- Easy expansion
- 100% free
- Limitless possibilities
- "Easy" to set up distros
  - Mythdora
  - Mythbuntu
  - MiniMyth
  - LinHES

MythTV Controls

- IR/RF/BT Remote
- KB/M
- Apps
- MythWeb

MythTV External Controls

- IR blasters
- Firewire
- RS-232
- TCP/IP
- USB
- HDMI CEC

Other DVR Options

- Freevo
- LinuxMCE
- TVheadend
- SageTV
- TiVo
- Moxi

The Downsides

- Time investment
- Money investment
- No CableCard Support
  - Depending on your provider
- No commercial 3rd party software support
- No Satellite TV support without expensive hardware

Future of Linux HTPCs

Embedded platforms
- XBMC
- Boxee
- OpenELEC
- OpenBricks
- Other commercial boxes

IPTV
AllVid
RVU
DRM: UltraViolet, Keychest, and Google One Pass

References and Contact

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