

Getting Started With

Ubuntu Linux

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Linux & Distributions

- Free and Open Source software
- Linux: a Unix-like operating system kernel
- Making Linux useful with GNU utilities
 - Commands, compilers, GUI, etc.
- Distributions: Linux packaged to sell – or download
 - Software
 - Configuration
 - Installer
 - Documentation & support (???)

Desktop Distros

- Commercial: Red Hat, SUSE, Xandros, Mandriva, Linspire, etc.
- Free: Fedora, OpenSUSE, Mandriva Limited, Debian, Gentoo, Slackware, Knoppix, Mepis, etc.
- Hundreds more on DistroWatch.com

Ubuntu Rising

- Most popular distribution on DistroWatch
- Ubuntu variants are also becoming popular
 - Kubuntu (uses KDE desktop instead of Gnome)
 - Edubuntu (for classroom use)
- Commercial support available from numerous sources, including Sun Microsystems
- Very active community of users
 - Draws on Debian heritage

Advantages & Features

- Clean, simple interface
- Uncluttered menus with “best-of-breed” applications
- Recent versions of software
- Easy package management (installations and updates)
- Frequent version updates
- Free CDs (w/ free shipping!)

Ubuntu's Promises

- Ubuntu will always be free of charge, and there is no extra fee for the "enterprise edition".
- Ubuntu is released regularly and predictably; a new release is made every six months. Each release is supported with free security updates and fixes for at least 18 months.
- Ubuntu is entirely committed to the principles of free software development.

Installation Decisions

- Safest to most dangerous
 - Unused PC?
 - Unused hard drive?
 - Unused space on hard drive?
 - Shrink an existing partition?

Just Do It!

- Download live CD from <http://www.ubuntu.com>
- Boot from CD to try it out
- Click on Install icon to install to your hard drive

Devil in the Details

- Graphics driver may not be optimal
 - Screen resolution
 - Performance
- Proprietary components
 - MP3 library
 - DVD encryption library
 - Flash, Java, Acrobat, etc.
- Devices
 - Networking, printers, scanners, cameras

Getting Help

- Documentation, FAQ, Wiki at <http://www.ubuntu.com/support>
- Linux SIG meetings and mailing list: <http://www.dma.org/linuxsig/>
- Installfests

Installfest+

Get help with installing Linux on your PC, or fixing problems with your existing installation

- When: Saturday, June 3, 2006 10am - 4pm
- Where: Sinclair Community College, Bldg. 4, Rm. 4242
- Cost: Free admission, \$1 each for CDs, \$3 each for DVDs
- What to bring: Computer, monitor, keyboard, mouse
- More info: <http://www.dma.org/linuxsig/events.shtml>