WRITE ACCESS

alexwhite 123RF

Linux Livelihood

Dear Rikki Kite: I picked up a copy of Linux Magazine the other day and read your most current, interesting article. Since you welcomed ideas for topics, I have a topic that never seems to be addressed.

Some time ago, I took a Red Hat 7.0 two-day course through a local University's continuing education course here in Georgia. Having performed administrative office work in the past on both the Windows and Mac OS platforms, I decided to give Linux a try. Although the Red Hat OS distribution wasn't what it is today, and in many ways resembled my dabbling with DOS, I enjoyed the course.

Today there are Linux distributions suitable for desktop use, yet there are no (zero) entry-level office jobs available or advertised for Linux. Secondly, every local Linux meeting I am aware of focuses only on Network Administration-level topics. I, like many who are in the job market, do not see any logic in switching my home computer OSes to a Linux desktop distribution when the only entry-level office software jobs out there are offered primarily for the Microsoft OS and app world. I would love to find an entry-level office administration job involving Linux, and I would love to have a job-related reason to attend and contribute to the Linux meetings. Surely, if the open source community is as large as it claims to be, there are employers within the community here in Georgia (Linux-minded) who should and would seriously consider offering "temp-to-perm" or "internships" for Linux newbies. I would love to have a real work-related reason to switch my home

computer's XP out for Ubuntu – other than for hobby interests.
Terrell Phillips

LM: Thanks for your comments. You are certainly correct that Linux desktops are under-represented in the office world, although some companies are starting to deploy desktop Linux systems. Google reportedly gives starting employees a choice of whether they would like a Mac or a Linux system. Unless you happen onto an employer who understands the value of Linux, perhaps the best you can do is to step up with an argument for Linux the next time your company purchases new desktop hardware. You are correct that many Linux user groups tend to focus on networking and programming issues. We are happy to pass on your suggestion for more newbie resources at LUG meetings.

The Missing Issue

I am very grateful and impressed with the archive DVD that came with the 120th (November) issue. (I will also be able to make my wife happier because

I no longer need to hang on to my mountain of back issues.) There is just one small point (possibly an oversight) which spoils the DVD.

In your advertising last month and on the DVD, the archive is described as "featuring 10 years of Linux Magazine in a complete archive DVD!" The archive on the DVD, however, does not contain 10 years of the magazine. It does, in fact, only contain 9 years and 11 months since it does not include the 120th issue itself.

Is there a possibility that you might address this omission in the next issue (or possibly January issue) by including issue 120 on its DVD together with updated indices with which we could replace those on the DVD (to include the extra issue) if we copied the contents of the archive DVD onto a PC for quicker access? We could thereby tidy things up and, genuinely, have a complete 10-year archive.
Mr. I.M. Williams

LM: You're right about that. Our original concept was that the whole package (magazine plus DVD) would contain a full ten years of the magazine, with 9 years and 11 months on the DVD plus one month in the print magazine. It sounds like our promotional materials caused some confusion. For the record, we really did provide 10 years on Linux in the complete package – although you are correct that the DVD itself only contained 9 years and 11 months.