WRITE ACCESS

Mandriva

I'm not sure who I should be contacting, but not so long ago I had problems with Windows 7, so I installed Mandriva Linux on my laptop instead, and it is the best OS I've used – even better than XP, which I love. What I am wondering is, is there a particular magazine all about Mandriva like there is with Ubuntu? I sometimes find it annoying when there is stuff completely irrelevant to the type of Linux OS. I know that all these types are pretty much the same beneath the cover, but they do have their differences.
I don't like giving out personal details so I will name myself:
Curious

LM: Thanks for your thoughts. Reader preferences help us choose articles and DVDs. We don't know of a full-length Mandriva magazine in the English language press, but we'll keep your idea in mind for special editions. You're right, most of the concepts (and a vast majority of the applications) run on all distros, so you'll find plenty in this magazine that will apply to your Mandriva system. The Mandriva wiki is a good source if you are looking for additional information specific to Mandriva: *http://wiki.mandriva.com/*.

Powerhouse Perl

Wow, a whole issue on Perl! Thanks a lot for such an interesting, useful issue: Powerhouse Perl. I read it voraciously from cover to cover, learned new ideas from many of the articles, and enjoyed them all. Congratulate all involved, especially the authors. I eagerly await whatever else you publish on my favorite language.
Jim Williams

LM: We're glad you found our Powerhouse Perl special edition, a showcase of Mike Schilli's greatest Perl columns, along with a comprehensive introduction by Perl guru Randal Schwartz. That special issue is currently sold out at many newsstands, but you can still order it online. See the special edition section at our website: *https://www.linux-magazine.com/w3/ezService/Backissues_Special/.* Be sure to scroll down to the bottom of the page and check the box for Powerhouse Perl.

Birthday Calculations

The first issue of your first year is 1 (birthday issue). The first issue of your second year is 13 (first anniversary issue). The first issue of your third year is 25 (second anniversary issue). So your nth anniversary issue is $1 + (12 * n)$ and your 10th anniversary issue is therefore 121 – the first issue of your 11th year (same as birthdays).
Issue 120 is the last issue of your 10th year and not your 10th anniversary, just like issue 12 was the last issue of your first year and not your first anniversary.
Tom Hallam

LM: Thanks for your thoughts regarding the accuracy of our Issue 120 "10th Anniversary" edition. We sort of agree with your analysis, but there's also another way to look at it.
Your approach defines an anniversary as a milepost within a succession of discrete publishing events. According to this framework, the appearance of the first issue is the first event, and the appearance of the 13th issue is the $13 - 1 = 12$th event, thus commemorating a year of publication.
We who work in the industry, however, view the publishing event as the last step in a continuous process that begins a month earlier with the inception of the issue (usually at the point of completion of the previous issue, or, in the case of the first issue, at a point approximately one month before printing and therefore coincident with the theoretical "print date" of the non-existent yet didactically significant zeroth issue. In other words, the clock doesn't start with the *appearance* of the first issue but actually one month earlier when the work begins on the first issue. If you count from end-of-cycle to end-of-cycle (as described), you need some way to account for this first month, in which the magazine was actually doing business but nothing had been published yet.
However, your equation $1 + (12 * n)$ holds true and has value within the context of the beginning-of-cycle milepost alignment. In that case, the equation places the 10-year point at the beginning of cycle 121, which corresponds to the end of cycle 120, which is when we released our anniversary DVD.

Please send your comments and suggestions to *letters@linux-magazine.com*