

Mandriva vs PCLinuxOS

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This past weekend I decided to download Mandriva One KDE (Mandriva Spring 2007 for cheapskates like me) and PCLinuxOS 2007. Both come as Live CDs, so that booting them up and kicking the digital tires a bit is not a problem.

Mandriva One

I tried to boot Mandriva One on europa and ran into the same boot problem the beta had. It hung with a black screen when attempting to start the graphical user interface. I attribute the GUI problems to the fact that europa has an ATI 9700 Pro and Mandriva comes with a poor ATI driver. I know from personal experience how problematic ATI display hardware can be for Linux distributions, but I haven't seen this kind of problem for a few years now. Mandriva One's problem is a serious regression.

PCLinuxOS 2007

I looked at PCLinuxOS because of the hype surrounding it, the fact it's KDE based, and because it's a fork of Mandrake 9.2. It has certainly evolved over time, and it's look is certainly distinctive and professional, but I still had the feeling it was tracking (and using) Mandriva as a starting point of every release.

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