

# openSUSE 10.3: why did Novell ever bother?

By *srlinuxx*

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Linux users don't accept criticism of their chosen distribution easily - that's probably why a number of reactions to my last piece about openSUSE tended to be somewhat short of making a point.

Comments about RTFM and the use of language tend to miss the point - in this day and age, a benchmark has been set for Linux distributions which cater to the mass market. If openSUSE is not meant for the punters, pray to whom is it trying to cater?

No matter what opinion one has about Ubuntu, over the last three years it has more or less been the benchmark for any distribution which claims to be for the general user. Distributions like SimplyMEPIS, PCLinuxOS and Linux Mint have followed suit and made installation a breeze.

And let's not forget good old Mandriva (formerly Mandrake) which has just released its 2008 version (one which I hope to look at next week).

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[1] <http://www.tuxmachines.org/taxonomy/term/117>

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