

The Case of Ultumix or How NOT to Remaster PCLinuxOS

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One of the core principles of open source development is 'freedom'. As such, there are few limitations for developers and end users to take the work of others and move it into a direction they deem better. This has led to a proliferation of Linux distributions, remasters and scores of applications that sometimes are hard to distinguish from other distributions, remasters or applications. It's not an ideal situation but somehow quality material always seems to stick around, while the rest sinks back into oblivion.

Another core principle is perhaps 'respect'. Freedom is never an absolute. You can fork a distribution or an application, but you don't have the freedom to remove or change the underlying licenses. You respect that. Why this introduction?

The case of Ultumix

In preparation for the series about PCLinuxOS I ran into Ultumix, a remaster of PCLinuxOS. I have nothing against remasters. In fact, I created a customized version of Ubuntu for the book about Linux. Hence, I know it is not easy to do, though far easier than to create a new distribution of your own. I wouldn't dream of rebranding it with another name. It's Ubuntu and it stays Ubuntu. However, bread crumbs of Ultumix do give an insight into why it's website says the following:

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Source URL: <http://www.tuxmachines.org/node/22884>

Links:

[1] <http://www.tuxmachines.org/taxonomy/term/107>

[2] <http://opensourcelearning.info/blog/?p=720>