

Ubuntu and the ?Average User?

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For years, free-software advocates have asserted that Linux is ready for the mainstream desktop. Critics have responded that, sure, Linux has come a long way since 1991, but it?s still not for ?average users?. Until grandmothers can get an Ubuntu system up and running without having to hack a wireless driver or an xorg.conf file, we?re told, the Linux user base will remain limited.

Admittedly, I?m a bit of an Ubuntu ?fanboy?, so I can?t pretend that I don?t have an agenda. Even so, I think that a logical analysis of the anti-Linux arguments above exposes crucial flaws.

Most of the thoughts below are not very original?they?ve been made by plenty of people before?but I think they?re worth repeating as Windows apologists assault Ubuntu?s usability with renewed vigor in the wake of the Linux netbook surge (see comment #17 here for an example of these attacks).

[Who?s Normal?](#) [2]

[Ubuntu](#)

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[1] <http://www.tuxmachines.org/taxonomy/term/121>

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