

My New Laptop and Linux

By *gfranken*

Created 25/12/2008 - 2:38pm

Submitted by gfranken on Thursday 25th of December 2008 02:38:50 PM Filed under [Linux](#) [1]

I'm excited. As I said, this is my first laptop, although I've wanted one for years. I've checked out a laptop from work a couple of times, but the work laptops were vastly outdated and underpowered. Ironically, thanks to bloatware slugs like Microsoft Windows Vista, modern-day laptops are quite powerful (this Acer has a Core 2 Duo processor, 3 GBs of RAM, and a 320 GB hard disk drive).

I proceed to install my favorite Linux Desktop Distro, PCLinux OS on it. Frustration quickly ensued as PCLOS doesn't have a 2.6.27 or later kernel available, which is needed for Intel 5100 Wifi support, and I'm not into compiling my own kernel.

I've decided I want a distro which primarily supports KDE 3.5.10. Yes, I have KDE 4.1.x installed on my experimental desktop computer, but I want 3.5.10 for daily use on my laptop until I judge that KDE 4 is mature enough for my daily needs on my production machines.

However, since a couple of my more advanced students and I are doing some GUI programming with the Qt4 toolkit, I would like a distro that has up-to-date Qt tools as well.

Kubuntu is out--they're only supporting KDE 4, and they adulterate KDE something awful.

OpenSuSE permits a KDE 3.5.10 install, and the new 11.1 version has a new enough kernel, but I've decided to not support OpenSuSE because of Novell's software patent pact with Microsoft.

Finally, the new Sidux "Pontos" release comes out. It's running a 2.6.27 kernel and KDE 3.5.x. It is an easy way to get Debian Sid installed and configured, and has the vast Debian software package library available behind it. It appears to be a good fit for my laptop needs--everything works, and so far I'm happy with this current distro choice for my new laptop.

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