

Putting Dell's Ubuntu Ultrabook to the test

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Our very first keypress after turning on the Dell XPS 13 Developer Edition (running Ubuntu 12.04) drew no response from the Unity desktop. And with that we thought our test of Dell's Ubuntu Ultrabook for developers was set to go the way of most Linux laptop tests ? Linux kind of works, but not really.

But further testing turned up no serious problems, with Ubuntu ultimately running very nicely on the XPS 13. All of the function keys on the laptop, which has been on sale in Europe since the start of March, worked and the keyboard backlighting could be turned on and off. It wasn't possible to scroll window content up and down by gliding a finger along the right hand edge of the touchpad: scrolling required two fingers, in keeping with what is now the default Windows setting. Windows can be moved and resized using three-finger gestures. All this is made possible by a driver that will be included in the 3.9 kernel due for release in late April.

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