

Welcome

Why Use Linux?

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Introduction



stan reichardt

GNU/Linux for Beginners

Brought to you by the

Hazelwood Linux Users Group

<http://hzwlug.sluug.org/>

A Special Interest Group of the

St. Louis Unix Users Group (SLUUG)

<http://www.sluug.org/>

All About Me

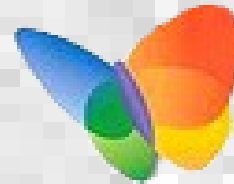
Stan Reichardt

- I started a beginner friendly user group for Linux newcomers know as the Hazelwood Linux Users Group (<http://hzwlug.sluug.org>) in November 2000. Also, I am currently Vice-President of the St. Louis Unix Users Group. Both groups meet monthly. Membership and meetings are free.
- My start was around hobby computers back in the 1970's while on Active Duty with the U.S. Army Reserve. My interest became professional and over the next 10 years work included networked mini-computer systems, desktop PCs, help desk support for desktop users, data base programming, Unix System Administration, bulletin boards and more. I retired as an Information Systems Chief from the US Army Reserve Command.
- Contract work followed doing Software Deployment for the U.S. Postal Service, UNIX System Administration for U.S. Army Material Command, Linux Subject Matter Expert for Wave Technologies International, Senior Security Engineer auditing and evaluating security assessments for the Veterans Administration.
- I have received Linux +, and Security + certifications from CompTIA, the IT Industry Trade Association.

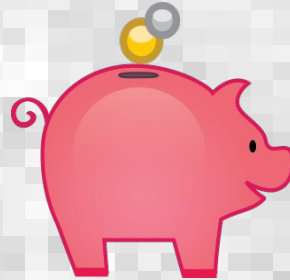
Reasons

For Recovering Microsoft victims

1. Free or very low cost
2. Liberty
3. Learning
4. Interface
5. Security
6. Hardware
7. Installation
8. Applications
9. Community



1. Free or very low cost



Advantages

- a. Free is always good
- b. Lots of free open source applications
- c. No limit on number of installations

Challenges

- a. Still takes time and effort
- b. Wary disbelief that free software is good
- c. It is hard to sell free software
- d. Cost is the least important reason

2. Liberty



Advantages

- a. MS Windows or Apple OS-X alternative
- b. Avoid upgrade treadmill lock-in
- c. Dump proprietary restrictions
- d. GPL and other Open Source Licenses
- e. Local control of change

Challenges

- a. Freedom is not necessarily an advantage
- b. Large number of choices

3. Learning



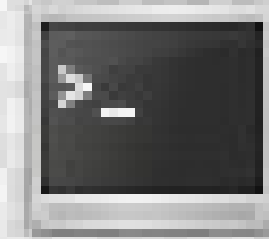
Advantages

- a. Puts the fun back into computing
- b. Interoperability between machines
- c. Learn real IT Open Standards

Challenges

- a. Unfamiliar environment
- b. Constant changes
- c. Always more to learn

4. Interface (shell)



Advantages

- a. X Window System open standards
- b. Graphical User Interface (GUI) mature
- c. GUI style choices (Gnome, KDE, etc.)
- d. New designs for tablets and phones
- e. Traditional drop-down menus available
- f. Command Line Interface (CLI) for power
- g. GUI ability very good, CLI not required

Challenges

- a. GUI capability not common knowledge
- b. Large number of choices

5. Security



Security is not a product, but a process. -- Bruce Schneier

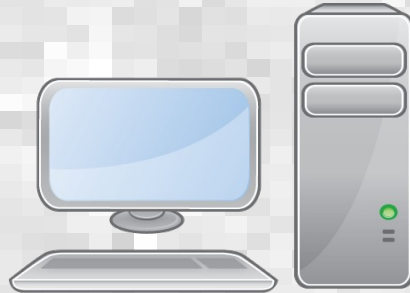
Advantages

- a. No Microsoft viruses
- b. Difficult target for malware
- c. Good out of the box default configuration
- d. Stability (uptime measured in years)

Challenges

- a. Nothing is perfect
- b. Other malware issues besides viruses
- c. Different environment
- d. Open does not guarantee secure

6. Hardware



Advantages

- a. Some versions work with old hardware
- b. Performs well with less RAM
- c. Choice for innovative development

Challenges

- a. Rarely pre-installed on new hardware
- b. Newest hardware not yet supported
- c. BIOS, GPT partitioning and UEFI issues

7. Installation



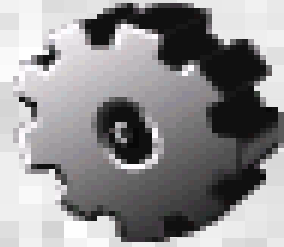
Advantages

- a. Mostly easy to install
- b. Easily down-loadable ISO packages
- c. Boot live tests without hard drive change

Challenges

- a. Most users have never installed an OS
- b. Burning an ISO disc is not just copying
- c. Sometimes hard to install
- d. Large number of choices
- e. Unpolished installs give poor impression

8. Applications



Advantages

- a. Multitude of choices
- b. Extensive file format support
- c. Constant improvements and bug fixes

Challenges

- a. Alternatives are not exact replacements
- b. Legal restrictions on codecs
- c. Locating solutions
- d. No standard of quality

9. Community



Advantages

- a. Can be very helpful
- b. Developers are accessible
- c. 75% of kernel developers are now paid

Challenges

- a. Culture differences and terminology
- b. Remain friendly to newcomers
- c. Mean, offensive, rude or surly behavior

Time

PAST:

- The U.S. Department of Defense studies its own internal use of FOSS ~ 2003
- The United Nations promoted using Linux back **before** the year 2004
- The USA predicted to be last nation to adopt Linux on the desktop
- Legislation lobbyist weenies protect dead dinosaur technologies.
- The unknown is scary.
- What did you really need?

FUTURE:

- What do you really need?
- My predictions are nearly always wrong.
- Time solves all problems (proprietary software is a problem).
- Things in the cloud will migrate to Linux (then it may not matter).
- The Internet of **Other** People's Things is scary. – John “Mad Dog” Hall

Additional Resources



Advantages

- a. <http://whylinuxisbetter.net/>
- b. Security Report: Windows vs. Linux (22 Oct 2004 ~ still worth reading)
http://www.theregister.co.uk/2004/10/22/security_report_windows_vs_linux/
- c. Linux Does What Win Don't (April 2013) 13:06
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HD6nqQrJx78>
- d. Ten More Reasons Why LINUX Is BETTER Than Windows! (April 2014) 14:07
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oqLmOPap6u0>

Challenges

- a. Windows user, wanna try Linux? Checklist.
<http://netrunner-mag.com/windows-user-wanna-try-linux-checklist/>
- b. Don't Switch to Linux | LINUX Unplugged 15 (19 Nov 2013) 1:06:55
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MPzPEIK0TUQ>
- c. Hidden Linux Benefits, Clear Linux Challenges
<http://www.datamation.com/open-source/hidden-linux-benefits-clear-linux-challenges-1.html>

Questions

Why Use Linux?

What are your questions?

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