TUX

the first and only magazine for the new linux user

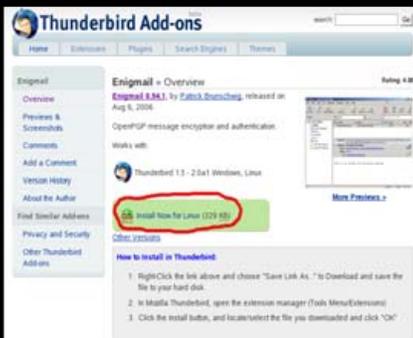**REVIEWED:**
Acer Aspire 3620
Your affordable Linux laptop

Read your news feeds with Linux, the easy way

How to download, burn and boot an ISO image

Let your desktop tell you about the weather and more with SuperKaramba

BECOME AN E-MAIL POWER USER

LEARN HOW TO ENCRYPT YOUR E-MAIL SECURELY, HOW TO CATEGORIZE YOUR MESSAGES AND MIGRATE AWAY FROM OUTLOOK

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- Are you panicking because of the holiday season coming up? *TUX* will help you pick out the best Linux-based present for your most demanding friends.
- Are you afraid of installing new software? *TUX* will tell you how to manage and install the best Linux software the easy way—with Adept

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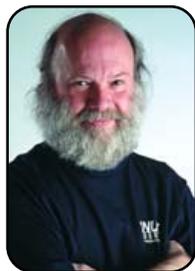
FROM THE PUBLISHER

TUX Changes, World Changes

Phil outlines *TUX*'s vision.

PHIL HUGHES

The idea of *TUX* is about two years old. In those two years, we have proved that:

- Linux is ready for the desktop.

- People using or wanting to use desktop Linux are ready for *TUX*.

Our initial vision was to bring useful how-to information to the new Linux user. If anything, that readership vision has expanded to include people who, although they may have used Linux, are new to desktop Linux and/or are new to using a graphical user interface with Linux on the desktop.

The vision for *TUX* comes from what I have learned while publishing *Linux Journal* and from more than ten years of using Linux as my only desktop. In addition, although I have used an assortment of graphical user interfaces, the official company desktop has been KDE-based for about eight years. KDE was just a baby back then, but I felt it was the future of the Linux desktop.

I have decided that I need to invest more time in making sure *TUX* is on-track with the vision. Those eight years of bringing newcomers to Linux and KDE can now be used to help *TUX* readers get up to speed with desktop Linux.

In addition, I know that although *TUX* is very inexpensive, the fact that we are now charging for subscriptions will raise subscriber expectations. I intend to make sure you are not disappointed. In fact, the first item on our list was to get a search feature for magazine back issues up on the *TUX* Web site. You can find that feature by clicking on the Search Back Issues link below the current cover on the left column of the http://tuxmagazine.com Web site.

To help us move forward, I have asked Tony Mobily to join the *TUX* team as Editor. Tony is a computer consultant, journalist and Zen Buddhist. He lives in Australia, working as a magazine editor and consultant. Tony has been an active member of the Open Source movement for many years. In 2004, Tony founded *Free Software Magazine* (http://www.freesoftwaremagazine.com), a popu-

lar publication about free and open-source software. He is also the author of the book *Hardening Apache* and several articles about Linux and open-source software.

Tony initially will take on working with authors to secure quality how-to articles for *TUX* and make sure that we are addressing readers' questions and concerns. Beyond that, Tony and I will be working with the rest of the staff to make *TUX* bigger and better in the future.

We are currently putting the final touches on the 2007 editorial calendar. Although each issue of *TUX* will continue to have a focus, we want to make sure that each issue also has broad appeal for our readers. We will, of course, have the Distribution Smackdown issue and the *TUX* Awards issue again next year. Stay tuned.

Moving on to Linux and the world outside *TUX*, I often like to take a look at generic world news and see if Linux appears in it. I did that today and was surprised. In the past, a typical Linux article has been about a city, state or country deciding to convert to Linux and/or open-source software.

This time, the first article I found was from *The Independent*, a UK-based newspaper (http://news.independent.co.uk). In the article titled "The Ten Best: Software Packages", I was surprised to see Novell SUSE Linux 10.0 at number four. As 10.1 has been available for quite a while now, it was far from earth-shattering

news, but it was a surprise to see it on that list.

Next, I was led somewhat indirectly to the Public Technology Web site (http://www.publictechnology.net) through another UK newspaper. This time, it was about the 282 schools in Oxfordshire county getting Linux-based servers to connect them to the Internet. This news deals with servers rather than desktops, so it is less interesting to *TUX*, but it's another Linux win.

A third article is from PRNewsWire titled "Augmentix(TM) Announces Deployment of 12,000 Units of Its Server Availability Management Processor to a Fortune 50 Corporation". We don't know who that Fortune 50 corporation is, but there are probably not that many telecom giants in the Fortune 50. The interesting part here is that Augmentix uses a Linux kernel in its system that monitors other systems and reports failures.

We have desktop Linux, server Linux and embedded Linux all appearing in today's (September 6, 2006) world news. There were many more articles—some in languages about which I didn't have a clue. My search, by the way, was done by going to http://www.wn.com, searching for Linux and sorting by date. I found 92 articles. Nice to see how Linux World Domination is progressing.■

Phil Hughes is Group Publisher for SSC Media Corp.

Greetings from *TUX*'s New Editor!

It's an honor to be here, creating this fantastic magazine and helping Linux win the desktop war.

TONY MOBILY

When I was offered the position of *TUX* editor, I felt very privileged. I had been reading *TUX* since issue 1 and had a really strong deja-vu feeling. Many years ago, when *Linux Journal* started, nobody believed that Linux could possibly end up on mission-critical servers doing "real" things. I knew they were wrong; Phil, the founder of SSC, knew it as well and founded *Linux Journal*. The "Linux people" were the minority, and most people would have told you that the future was either UNIX (the real thing, you know: AIX, Irix and so on) or Windows NT. Well it turned out that we, the "Linux people", were right. Linux is not big; it's huge in the server world. We (myself, Phil and a few more thousand people) knew it would make it. And it did.

Fast-forward more or less a decade: history is repeating itself. Now, the issue is the desktop, more than the server space (which is a war Linux has won already). Here we are, again: myself, Phil and a few...well, a few million people this time, who believe that Linux is absolutely ready for the desktop. Unfortunately, quite a few people out there don't seem to believe us. We know we are right. Phil, the founder of SSC, started *TUX*. Does it sound like a familiar story?

It's very exciting, because it's now 2006 and the world is different. Two years ago, SSC didn't create a paper magazine but an electronic one. SSC also made the bold step of charging for electronic subscriptions, in order to be sure we will never ever need to sacrifice *TUX*'s quality. This time, it's different—at least for me. When *Linux Journal* started, I was a spectator; this time, I get to sit in the editor's chair. This is really quite a privilege for me. I am reading your letters and taking your pieces of advice very seriously. For example, we will soon talk about how to make your Linux system more secure and how to get your hardware to work right in Linux (two popular topics). I will do whatever I can to listen to your advice and make sure that *TUX* establishes itself as the best magazine for you: the desktop Linux users.

I WILL DO WHATEVER I CAN TO LISTEN TO YOUR ADVICE AND MAKE SURE THAT *TUX* ESTABLISHES ITSELF AS THE BEST MAGAZINE FOR YOU: THE DESKTOP LINUX USERS.

So, here I am, introducing issue 18 of *TUX* magazine.

This month's focus is on e-mail. To me, e-mail is where "everything started". Back in 1993, the Internet was a much lonelier place than it is now. There was no Web yet, and non-academics were only just starting to use it. Connecting was expensive, and the speed was laughable—a tiny fraction of the 20Mb I have in my own home today. A few people shared information using Gopher or FTP (!). So, e-mail and newsgroups were the most-used and most-viable Internet services.

Some 13 years later, the Internet has changed a lot. Something called the World Wide Web emerged (anybody heard of it?) and yet e-mail still seemed to grow very strong. However, even e-mail has evolved. People want to be able to encrypt their e-mail using their private keys.

Mitch Frazier, in his article "Installing Enigmail in Thunderbird", tells you exactly how to do that. After reading his article, you will be able to send e-mail to your peers and be certain that nobody will ever be able to read it—unless you let them. For those lucky people who want to get away from Windows and keep their e-mail, Donald Emmack explains how to transfer your messages from Outlook to KMail. Importing existing data is crucial when you switch operating systems. In his article, Donald explains exactly what to do to use KMail's powerful importing features. Finally, Dmitri Popov explains how to categorize your e-mail in folders and virtual folders using Thunderbird, so that you will never lose an e-mail message again.

This issue of *TUX* is not only about e-mail.

Donald Emmack wrote two other articles, one on Akregator and one on SuperKaramba. Akregator is a powerful RSS reader; it allows you to keep an eye on your favourite RSS feeds through its sleek interface. SuperKaramba, on the other hand, is a completely different story: it lets you create the coolest desktop possible. Read the article to find out how. They are obviously very different programs. I will leave it up to you to decide which one is most useful (I love them both). Phil Hughes explains how to "Download, Burn and Boot an ISO" (which is also the article's title) in the easiest possible way. The article shows, once again, that Linux is indeed ready for the desktop, as it allows you to complete everyday operations with a few mouse clicks. Jay Kruizenga wrote a great article on Opera 9 for Linux. Opera is a fantastic Web browser that many people prefer to the legendary Firefox. If you want to know why, read on. Finally, Jes Hall threatens your wallet with a review of the Acer Aspire 3620, and Jay Kruizenga threatens your marriage and available free time with a fantastic Linux game: *Postal 2: Share the Pain*.

I hope you will enjoy reading this issue of *TUX* as much as we enjoyed making it. I will see you next month.■

Tony Mobily (BSc) is a computer consultant, journalist and Zen Buddhist. He lives in Australia working as a magazine editor and consultant. Tony has been an active member of the Open Source movement for many years. In 2004, he founded *Free Software Magazine*, a popular publication about free and open-source software. He is also the author of the book *Hardening Apache* and several articles about Linux and open-source software.

LETTERS

Covering New Games

I'm glad to see an issue devoted to gaming in Linux; however, I was a little bit disappointed with the overall coverage. I consider myself a hard-core gamer and use Linux exclusively at home. I regularly play *World of Warcraft*, *Guild Wars*, *Neverwinter Nights*, *America's Army* and others while using Teamspeak for in-game communication with teammates. I use a mixture of native Linux software and Cedega to achieve this. I have to say, seeing games like *Max Payne* (2001) and *Tomb Raider* (1996) didn't go a long way toward convincing serious gamers that Linux is ready for gaming, when it really is! For instance, the article about *Gorky 17* doesn't mention that it was a game that was originally released in 1999 for Windows under the name *Odium*. I am glad to see *Quake 3* and *Doom 3* showcased, but also showcasing more than seven-year-old games isn't likely to gravitate newer, younger gamers toward Linux. Don't get me wrong, I still want to see more developers releasing native games for Linux, but in the meantime, that isn't stopping me from being able to play everything I want right now!

--
Evan Thomson

Xandros Needs Activation!

I am a newbie to Linux and have only recently subscribed to *TUX*. Its nontechnical focus is appropriate for me as I do not make my living in the computer field. I have dabbled with Xandros 3. When Xandros 4 was announced, I was happy to upgrade for all the reasons listed in the review in the September 2006 issue of *TUX*. Although I agree with all the positive things the reviewer writes about Xandros, there is no mention of one significant negative, which had I known before I upgraded, I

likely would not have. To wit, Xandros 4 requires activation in the same sense that MS products do. However, the Xandros scheme is very much worse than that implemented by MS. Xandros update will not work until activated; if you have a problem with the activation, which must be done on-line, it may take days to sort it out. I had to wait five days before my issue was resolved by e-mail, and according to the Xandros forums, my experience is not unusual. At least MS has 24/7 support for activation problems.

Not including this fact in the Xandros review is a disservice to your readers. As long as your readers know that Xandros 4 requires activation before they buy it, they can make up their own minds whether activation in a Linux distribution is a deal-breaker or not.

--
Rob Solomon

Quake 3 Still Available

Your September 2006 article on *Quake 3* mentioned that Loki, the Linux *Quake 3* distributor, has gone bankrupt. Fortunately, there is another way to get *Quake 3* on Linux. Go to http://icculus.org/quake3, and there's a project that takes the *Quake 3* source code, fixes bugs, enhances it and puts it up for download. All you need to do is copy the pak0.pk3 file from your *Quake 3* CD to the baseq3 directory on your computer after running the installer scripts, and you're good to go!

--
Brian

Thanks for your tip, Brian!—Ed.

Where Is Mango?
I have been a reader of *TUX* since the first issue, and I wonder what happened to Mango, who gave some of the most sensible advice? Why was there no mention of her absence in the September 2006 issue? If such unexplained disappearances are what may happen in the paid edition, I am going to have to think very hard indeed.

--
James Silverton

Another Mango Fan Is Concerned
I look forward to receiving my copy of *TUX* each month in anticipation of Mango's Q&A piece. It seems to be missing in the September 2006 issue—what's up with that?

--
Wolf Pusztay

And Another...
I just received the September 2006 issue of *TUX*. I always appreciate the information given in your magazine. One thing that caught my eye was the missing Q&A with Mango Parfait section. This is one of my favorite parts of your magazine!

I take it that Mango Parfait is on vacation. It would be a big loss to the character of this magazine if she didn't write in it anymore. The reason for this is the information given by her is very funny and sarcastic. Although the rest of magazine is still very good, I thought she gave the dot to the i.

--
Reinhard Matheis

And Another...
I noticed that there is no Mango Parfait column in the September 2006 issue. I hope this does not mean you have dis-
continued her feature.

I find her to be both knowledgeable and entertaining. Don't let her critics deter you. If they don't like it, they can skip over it—no one is making them read it. But, if they get their wish and have her removed, they are preventing me from reading her work. Does that sound free or open?

I have been using Linux for more than three years (Mepis, Ubuntu and Kubuntu now), although to some extent I will always be a newbie. Keep up the good work on your excellent magazine. It is definitely worth it to me to be a paying customer now.

--
Jamie Miller

And Another...
Where was Mango Parfait in the latest *TUX*? Did she demand a raise and get the boot? Did she leave Otaku and marry an armadillo as her friend Bunny suggested in August?

That must be it! She married an armadillo and they are on their honeymoon! That can't be a good combination. Can you imagine Mango having little scaly (but nonetheless beautiful and intelligent) four-legged children?

--
Richard Craver

Fear not, James, Reinhard, Jamie, Wolf: Mango was on temporary leave, and she is now back! Richard: how how on earth did you know....No, let's not talk about it!—Ed.

Doom Tip
Initially, I had issues with sound when I was playing *Doom 3* because I had only two speakers and it was expecting 5.1

surround sound, so I thought I might share my solution.

The following arguments appended to the doom3 command fixed the problem:

```
doom3 +set s_numberOfSpeakers 2 +set s_driver oss
```

--
Jason Howard

Thanks a lot Jason!—Ed.

A Whole Bunch of Observations

I'm a Linux newbie who's three months in with a whole bunch of questions and observations that I would like to share with you and your readers. First up, what is it with Linux people who feel they have to bash Microsoft at every given opportunity? Without a simple and easy-to-use operating system, computers would not be as popular as they are today. No matter what your feelings about the business models, pricing strategies and so forth of Gates and Co., it's hard to deny that they have helped spread the use of computers. They may not have gotten every-thing right, but without them, would we be as far along as we are today? Members of the Linux community should be bigger than that. Our products (I know I haven't contributed yet, but it is a group effort after all) should stand up and speak for themselves.

Secondly, I have something to say on the whole issue of "free" software. I love free things; I think they are great. But, if I have to pay for something, I will, as long as I feel it's worth the money I am asked to pay for it. There seems to be far too many people that expect everything to be given to them for free just because it's on a computer. Perhaps because it's not a physical thing, they struggle to justify the expense. In that case, I say

"don't". Don't buy it. If you want it, but you feel it's not worth the money, then don't buy it, but don't feel you have to tell me and the whole world how unfair it is that you have to pay for something. You don't go to grocery store and expect to walk out with sack-loads of food for nothing, do you? Maybe you do, and that brings me on to the next point.

If you've been running a cracked copy of XP for the last five years, don't come crying to me about how you now have an annoying pop-up that politely informs you that you "may" have been the victim of counterfeiting. I can't help you, but I think "Gotcha" may be a more appropriate message, or maybe the warmer "come along now, you've had a good run with your dodgy copy, time to pay up". I, for one, think Microsoft should switch off all illegal copies of XP with a simple "this copy of Windows is not a legal copy; if you choose not to activate your product legally, your computer will now shut down".

I read in a lot of the letters that people are complaining that this device or that device doesn't work straight out of the box with Linux. Well, boo hoo. As has been pointed out many times, things were once the same way for Windows. Remember the time before plug and pray? Give it a chance people. Windows has a whole bunch of highly organised years under its belt, while Linux is still a collection of distributions scrambling to get a footing. Use the forums, and most important, don't be fright-ened and don't be lazy. You've installed Linux once. If you screw things up really bad, you can always do it again. Only next time, try another flavour. Worst case—put in some effort and learn how to solve the problem yourself rather than relying on some-body else to do the work for you. Some distros recognise some hardware better than others—actually, strike that. They don't necessarily recognise it better, different distros just recognise dif-ferent hardware. If in doubt, download a bunch of live ones and

see which fits best. I run PCLinux on an old HP laptop, solely because it detects and configures my USB Wi-Fi adapter automatically. Alas, the same can't be said for my main laptop, which has a built-in Wi-Fi adapter, which is proving more elusive. *Note to distro creators*: work harder on getting wireless support built in to your releases. *Note to hardware manufacturers*: save the story about protecting your design integrity—do you have any idea how popular Linux in all its flavours is becoming? Think ahead people!

Like I said, I have only just stumbled across your magazine and subscribed right away, so I'm busy trawling through the back issues and trying to get caught up to issue 16. One thing I do notice, certainly in the earlier issues and forgive me if this has been addressed and rectified in later issues, is that there is a huge bias toward KDE over and above other desktop environments. This is something I don't understand. To me, Linux is all about choice. The choice to run any one of a whole host of e-mail clients, Web browsers, office suites and, yes, even desktops. To tout one desktop blatantly over all the others is most unfair to people who are less than impressed with KDE. Maybe it's too Windows-esque—I like the minimalist feel of Xfce, and there's just something about GNOME that I like, but I feel left out because of your KDE bias. The desktop is the place where it all starts, where you launch your programs and from where you configure a whole bunch of stuff. No matter how good a distro is or how much hardware it picks up automatically, if I can't get on with the desktop, I won't stay with it for long. I may install it initially for that functionality, but I will always be looking for a GNOME or Xfce version. Why not have articles featuring the same subject but for each of the main desktops available? You don't have to run them all in the same issue, but if I don't run KDE, most of the media management articles in your first issue are of no use to me.

Finally, I sometimes feel for a magazine aimed at beginners you assume too much knowledge. How about some articles that tell people how to partition their disk during installation, or better still, a complete installation walk-through in each of the major formats. A regular how-to on central issues like setting up a home network or even a small business network, wireless networking, printing, downloading and extracting tarballs, not to mention sidebars with explanations of what tarballs are and how to tell if you are running a terminal as a user or as root?

Despite everything I've said, I think your magazine is within sight of greatness. Keep it up.

--
Andrew Hawkins

About this question: "without them [Microsoft] would we be as far along as we are today?" Who knows? My gut feeling is that without Microsoft we would be much, much further. But nobody actually knows. Windows bashing is undeniably happening, and that's very normal when there are two factions competing against each other! About "buying" software, it's always a matter of freedom: you are free to buy Windows XP; you are free to use a cracked version and hope that nobody will ever knock on your door; or, you are free to use open-source software. The problem, in the case of XP, is that if Microsoft doesn't allow cracked versions of Windows to be patched, the world quickly will be full of spam bots and viruses, which basically will take over the Internet. Microsoft can't afford that. The Internet can't afford that. About hardware support: distributions have only a very small part of the blame. There is still hardware out there that is not supported (see Broadcom Wi-Fi cards, for example), and that's the real issue. Thanks for your pieces of advice about topics—we'll keep them in mind!—Ed.

Advice for Success

I like the format of your magazine and do not mind that it's moving to paid subscription. I would like to share a few comments as I want the magazine to be successful. I would like to see more of the following:

- Hardware column: how to get popular hardware items to work with Linux like Webcams, digital cameras, printers and so on.

- Software column: the latest and best software available, including commercial software and a consistent review standard.

- Security column: covering topics in plain English about firewalls, antivirus programs, securing Linux, backing up and restoring.

- Programming column: simple stuff, like how can I write a basic script, or show me how to create a small program and compile it. Not just the steps, but explain what each step does. Most important, this column could be used to help people become more comfortable with the terminal.

I myself would like to see a magazine kind of like the PC magazines I read in the 1980s. They were helpful, had little programming sections to teach concepts and had articles on DOS commands and batch files that you could create to take care of simple tasks and were great at teaching me DOS.

Above all, keep it geared to the Linux desktop user and not necessarily the Linux server admin. I hope the magazine is successful!

--
Michael

Thanks a lot Michael! I think you gave us great advice. When you see those things happen in TUX*, you can show this letter to your friends and family and say, "You see, they did exactly what I told them to do!"—Ed.*

Big Migration Problem

Thank you for *TUX*, a useful resource that I recommend to all I deal with in the course of my work. As to my work—I hang my shingle out as a Linux consultant helping individuals and businesses migrate from Windows. As I've been a Linux user since 1992, you could regard me as something of an expert. Notwithstanding, I still feel like a novice in many regards—Linux being so deep.

The largest issue I face in helping businesses migrate to Linux is a lack of fully featured accounting, payroll and production software that is written for Linux from the ground up and that is not:

- Like Nolapro, which is PHP-driven.

- Like Jade or Oracle, that support only large user bases.

- Kludges, like others that require the installation of Wine or VMware.

- Hard to use and not fully featured, like GnuCash.

And, I'm hoping for something that is similar to M.Y.O.B or QuickBooks. I've even written to vendors, offering to help cross-compile their code so it can run natively on Linux. Alas, none have accepted the offer. Notwithstanding, cross-compilation being less demanding and so requiring less staff

resources than building such applications from the ground up that would then entail significant outlays of capital, I am just not in a position to consider embarking on the creation of accounting and payroll software at any time now or in the future.

Surely there is a solution out there. Perhaps there is not. I have so many prospects for migration to Linux pending this seemingly intractable problem.

--
Peter E. Lowrie

Follow-Up Letter

Thanks for the detailed reply to my woes [see the September 2006 Letters]. Although I agree that I cannot expect the community to rise to help me in all my problems, at least I hope to be guided in the proper direction to help myself by digging deeper. The problem of costly and slow Internet connections in India remains. By the way, I have changed my hardware now and have AMD Athlon 64 with an Asus motherboard with built-in sound and video and have installed Ubuntu 64-bit. Thanks to the Mango Parfait column, I was able to solve the non-connection to the Internet problem (NVIDIA card and Windows—the system must be powered off and booted into Linux for the Ethernet connection to work). Thanks for the excellent magazine; I find this to be more useful than trying to search the forums for solutions.
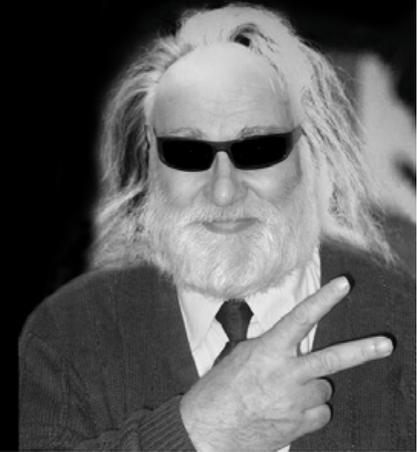
--
Srinivas Murthy

No worries at all—thank you for your letter!—Ed.■

Q&A with Mango Parfait

Mango returns from vacation, reconsiders an old question, gives advice on loading kernel modules and more.

MANGO PARFAIT

I know you missed me last month, but a girl needs a vacation sometimes. I spent two weeks visiting friends in many places. I had much fun in all the places, but I think I had the most fun visiting my friends on the *Kappa Mikey* Nickelodeon show. I know all the stars on the show. Well, I do not know Mikey very well, but I know Lily, Mitsuki, Guano and Gonard very well. Some people think Lily is my sister because we look alike. We are not sisters. They say we act alike too, but we do not. We are very different. Lily thinks she is a diva. I am a diva. Another thing is Lily is not a genius and she does not know Linux. I like Lily, but I like Mitsuki and Gonard more. I hope Lily does not read this. I do not want her to feel bad because I like her friends better. I want her to feel bad because her friends like me better.

I know a secret about Guano, and I will tell you if you promise not to tell anyone else. He does not look like the character on the show. He is really an actor wearing a costume. And his real

name is not the silly name Guano. His real name is Feces. I think they changed it because Feces sounds too much like a Greek name.

My boyfriend Otaku did not come with me on vacation. He says I spend too much time talking girl talk with my friends when we visit them. I was mad at Otaku, so I broke his KDE before I left. I know he can fix things, but I know he is too lazy. So he had to use GNOME the whole time I was away!

Okay, I will answer your questions now. Thank you for sending me good questions. I will start with an old question, because I have a new answer.

Q **My network stops working in Linux sometimes after I have been using Windows and then boot to Linux.**

A Here is my old answer. Sometimes Windows does something to the network card that makes it stop working in Linux. Sometimes you have to shut off your computer and unplug it to reset the

network card.

I found out that this does not happen very much. This is what happens more. It is a problem that happens a lot on Ubuntu and Kubuntu.

Some computers have two network cards built into the motherboard. You probably use only one of them. Sometimes Linux makes a mistake and changes the device names for the network cards. First it makes the one you use eth2, and the next time you boot, it makes the same card eth3. I give these examples because Linux sometimes thinks the network cards are eth2 and eth3, even if you have only two network cards. This does not make sense, but it is true. It should see the two cards as eth0 and eth1 even if it confuses them, but it doesn't always do that. Sometimes it sees them as eth2 and eth3.

Say your computer sees them as eth2 and eth3. You configure eth2. The next time you boot it thinks the same card is eth3. Now your network does not work, because it sets up the card that does not

have a cable connection. This is why your network stops working.

If you know how to change your BIOS settings, you may be able to disable one of the network cards. This fixes the problem sometimes.

Here is another way to fix the problem. Configure eth2 and eth3 to be the same. I assume your computer is using eth2 and eth3. If it is using two other device names, like eth0 and eth1, configure them the same, but my example is eth2 and eth3.

Install the package called ifplugd with the command:

```
$ sudo apt-get install ifplugd
```

You must edit a system configuration file now. Do a command like the following. (I use gedit in my example because this happens on Ubuntu many times. You can use your favorite editor instead of gedit.)

```
$ sudo gedit /etc/default/ifplugd
```

Look in the file and find this:

```
INTERFACES=""
HOTPLUG_INTERFACES=""
ARGS="-q -f -u0 -d10 -w -I"
SUSPEND_ACTION="stop"
```

Change the INTERFACES line so that it looks like this:

```
INTERFACES="eth2 eth3"
```

I GIVE THESE EXAMPLES BECAUSE LINUX SOMETIMES THINKS THE NETWORK CARDS ARE ETH2 AND ETH3, EVEN IF YOU HAVE ONLY TWO NETWORK CARDS. THIS DOES NOT MAKE SENSE, BUT IT IS TRUE.

ifplugd will look for a cable on eth2 and eth3. It will configure the interface that has a cable connected. You have only one cable connected. It does not matter if Linux thinks it is eth2 or eth3. ifplugd will configure the one that has a cable, so maybe one time it will configure eth2 and the next time it will configure eth3. It does not matter. Now

you should have a network that works every time you boot. This will stop working if you disable one of the network cards. So do not do that.

Q **I am a devoted Mango Parfait fan and hope you can help me with a question about loading kernel modules at boot time. I have a Dell Optiplex GX1 running Fedora Core 5, but Fedora does not recognize the built-in sound card. I can load the kernel module with the command** `modprobe snd-cs4236`**, and the sound works like it should. But, when I reboot, I am back to having no sound until I type in the command again. Rather than type in this command each time I reboot, how can I get the kernel module to load at boot time? I suspect I will have to modify /etc/modules.conf, but playing chicken with unfamiliar configuration files gives me kernel panic. Thank you—*Paul***

A I like your joke! "Playing chicken" is funny! No, I am kidding. I know your joke is "gives me kernel panic", and it is very funny!

I cannot test this, because I do not have a Dell Optiplex GX1. But, I think I know how you need to fix this. You need to play chicken with the file /etc/modprobe.conf. You need to edit

this file as the root user. You know how to insert the module, so I think you know how to edit a file as root. For funsies, I will say you are using the vi editor. Here is what you do:

```
$ su -
(enter root password)
# vi /etc/modprobe.conf
```

You will see something like this (you may have many lines, but I show only one here):

```
alias eth0 e100
```

Add a line so it looks more like this:

```
alias eth0 e100
alias snd-card-0 snd-cs4236
```

Save this file. Fedora should load the sound module every time you boot.

Q **I am limited to a dial-up connection, and I have a small mixed home network (Lin/Win). My modem server allows all clients to use the Internet. It runs Red Hat 6.0 with ipchains (firewall), diald (to control the phone line) and dialmon (server to allow clients to control diald on the server). Yes, I know it is old (like me).**

My main Linux client is Red Hat 9.0 on fairly current hardware. I want to upgrade my client to a more recent distribution; however, Red Hat 9.0 is the most recent distro I can find that includes the software required by the dialmon client (needed to control the modem status).

When I try to run the dialmon client program from newer distros, I get error messages saying that wish is not found on my system. Looking for wish files reveals that Red Hat 9.0 includes wish8.3. It is not in its own RPM, and I have not found any valid references to it on the Internet. It does not appear to be a part of the Fedora Core 4 distro either. After copying the /sbin/wish8.3 file to the Fedora install, I get the same error message.

Can you tell me how to find wish and install it on Fedora or Ubuntu or another distro, or can you recommend a replacement for diald and dialmon?

It's beginning to look as though the whole world has gone to high-speed connections and doesn't need this stuff anymore! I'm being left behind!—Harry Bump

A I think my great, great grandfather told me about diald when I was a little girl. He is not my father's father's father's father. He is only my grandfather. But he is very great.

I do not know if the new diald will work with dialmon. I think it uses a new program called dctrl. But I do not think that is your problem. I think you are going to keep using the old diald on your modem server, so you can still use dialmon.

You need to get Tcl/Tk to get your wish; wish is part of the Tk package. I think the latest versions of Tcl and Tk are both 8.4. I do not know if 8.4 will work for you. Maybe you will need 8.3 like your old Red Hat uses. Do not worry. That is okay. Most Linux distributions still have Tk8.3 packages. If you use Ubuntu or Kubuntu, do this command:

```
$ sudo apt-get install tcl8.3 tk8.3
```

You can use the Adept package manager or Synaptic, or any other package manager if you do not want to type commands. The wish8.3 file is in the package tk8.3, not tcl8.3. Maybe you need only tk8.3 and do not need tcl8.3. I do not know. I would test the programs to find out for you, but I would have to buy a dial-up modem. I do not think I could find one in a store, because I do not know what one looks like. So I think you should try to install tk8.3 and see if dialmon works. If it does not work, try to install tcl8.3 too. I hope your wish comes through.
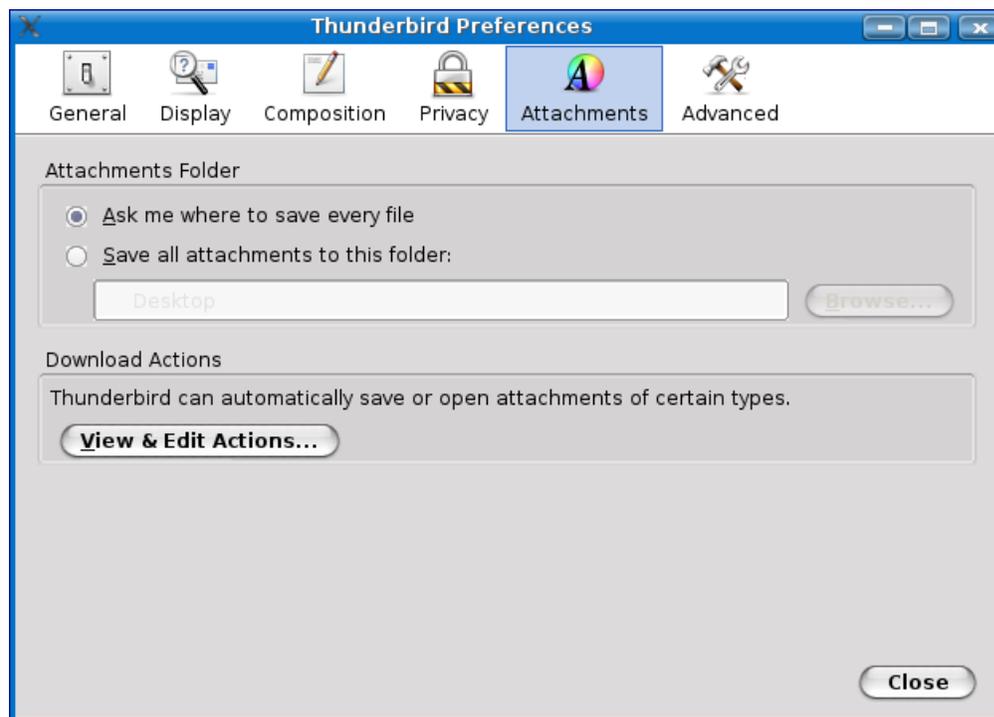
Figure 1. Thunderbird Attachment Preferences

Q **Hi Mango, I subscribe to a daily e-mail that brings me a mixture of .jpg and .tiff files. I like to store them in my username/pix folder. I have many other folders, but at the moment, when saving from e-mail, the folder selection defaults back to my username/greens folder. So,** **for each picture I have to browse to the pix folder. And with the next picture, it goes back to my greens folder. This is very annoying.**

I would like to be a bit more "cluey" about fixing problems myself, so I would like guidance to a place where people **report bugs and they get fixed. Could you point me to a simple-to-use Ubuntu place? In any case, can you fix my problem?—** *Denise Tzumli*

A You do not tell me which e-mail program you are using. Are you using Mozilla Thunderbird? If you are using Thunderbird, select Edit→Preferences from the main menu. You will see a dialog like the one shown in Figure 1. Click on the Attachments icon.

Do you see where you can tell Thunderbird to save all your attachments?

Are you using Evolution? I do not think you can set a default save folder in Evolution.

Are you using a Web-mail program? You should look through the Firefox extensions. Click Tools→Extensions and click on Get More Extensions. You will get a new Web page with Firefox extensions. Some extensions let you define a place to save pictures and another place to save links.

I hope maybe some of this helps you.∎

I am a sweet, humble, delicate and very cute genius who is at your service to answer your Linux questions. Send your questions to mango@tuxmagazine.com. I am deeply sorry that I do not have time to respond to anyone directly by e-mail, but I will select as many questions as I can and answer them here.

Installing Enigmail in Thunderbird

Keep your e-mail secret and encrypted, easily.

MITCH FRAZIER

If you use a computer, you almost certainly use e-mail. If you ever put any financial, business or personal information in your e-mail messages that you don't want the whole world to see, *stop* sending those e-mail messages until after you read this article.

When you send e-mail, it goes out of your computer, exactly as you typed it, and can be read by anybody that's on the route your e-mail takes to reach its final destination. And, I don't mean only the folks at your ISP/cable/phone company. Your neighbors on the same cable run can see it, people whose Web servers connect to your ISP's network may be able to see it, and if you're the paranoid type, maybe Big Brother can see it too.

If you use Thunderbird as your e-mail client, the way to use your e-mail with confidence once again is Enigmail. Enigmail is a Thunderbird extension for encrypting e-mail. When you use Enigmail to encrypt your messages, only the designated receiver of the e-mail can decrypt and read the e-mail; others will see only gobbeldygook. If you are the paranoid type, you'll be happy to know that Enigmail also causes Thunderbird to save copies of your sent e-mails in encrypted format. So, even if your computer is somehow compromised, your messages will be safe from prying eyes. If you've never heard of Enigmail before, perhaps you've heard of PGP, OpenPGP or GnuPG—for our purposes, all of these can be considered synonymous with Enigmail.

So what's the catch? Well, there is one, and it's a big one: using Enigmail is useful only if you have somebody else to play with. If the people to whom you're sending e-mail don't have Enigmail or a compatible program installed, you can't send them encrypted mail, because they wouldn't have any means of decrypting it. This probably seems obvious once you think about it, but it's an easy point to overlook during your initial euphoria. I'm sure you paranoid types are thinking I've forgotten the biggest catch of all: Big Brother can still read your e-mail, right? Wrong. Or at least in my opinion, Big Brother is no more likely than anybody else to able to decrypt your message.

HOW DOES IT WORK?

Enigmail uses a pair of keys, one for encrypting and one for decrypting. These keys are referred to as the public key and the private key, and they are a *pair* of keys; they work only with each other. You give the public key to others so they can send you encrypted e-mail. You never give the private key to anybody, and you use it to decrypt e-mail sent to you that was encrypted with your public key. There's an important point above that doesn't always register: you don't use your public key to encrypt e-mail; you use the receiver's public key. So again, you need others to play with, and you need them to want to play with you, because they have to give you their public key before you can send them encrypted e-mail.

SO WHAT'S THE CATCH? WELL, THERE IS ONE, AND IT'S A BIG ONE: USING ENIGMAIL IS USEFUL ONLY IF YOU HAVE SOMEBODY ELSE TO PLAY WITH.

When you create your key pair, you will be asked for a passphrase for unlocking your private key. This passphrase is very important. If your computer is compromised, it prevents somebody from using your private key to decrypt your e-mail. It's also very important not to forget your passphrase—much more important than not forgetting the root password to your computer. If you forget the root password to your computer, there are ways of recovering access to your computer, but if you forget the passphrase for your private key, there is *no* way to recover it, and *no* way to decrypt your saved e-mail. Obviously, a hard-to-guess password is important. All the encryption
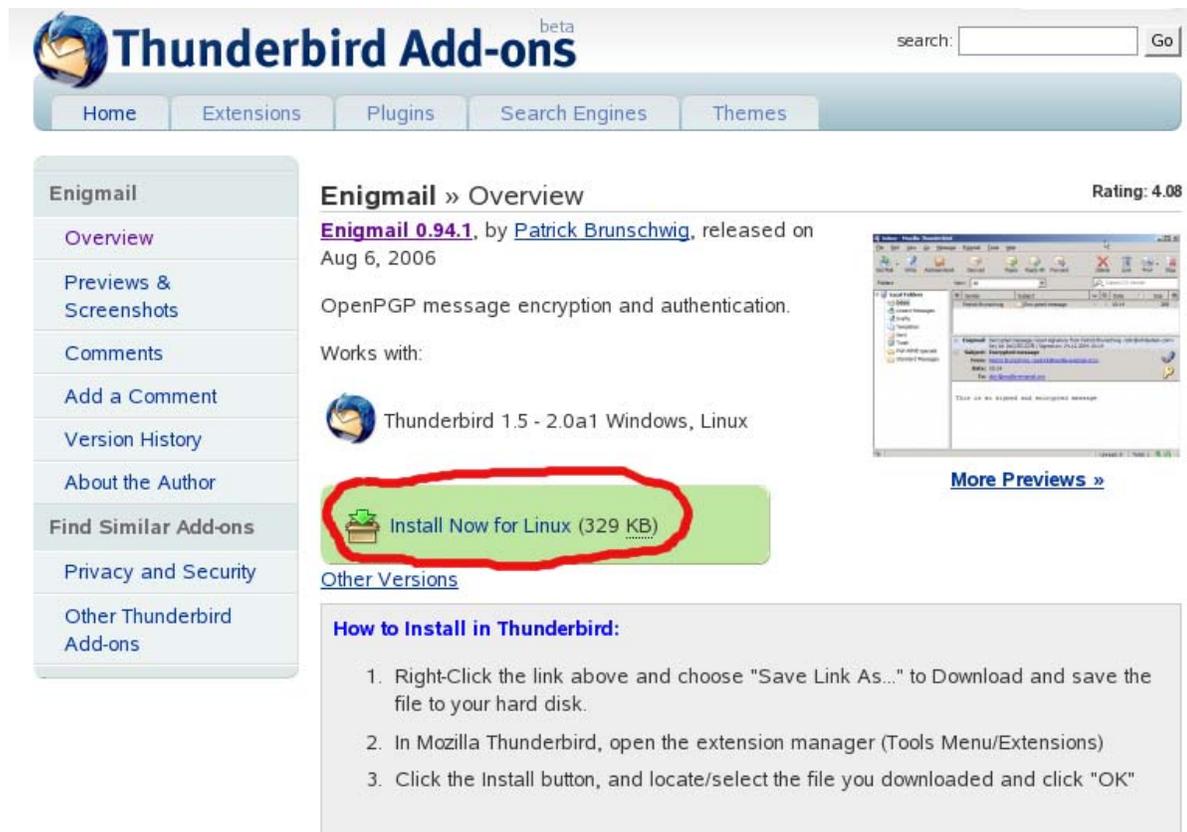
Figure 1. Click on this link to download Enigmail.

in the world doesn't do any good if you use your first name as the passphrase.

INSTALLING ENIGMAIL
At the time of this writing, the latest release of Thunderbird is version 1.5.0.5. You can download the latest release at http://www.mozilla.com/thunderbird. The latest release of Enigmail is

0.94.1 (at the time of this writing). You can download the latest release of Enigmail, as well as other extensions, at https://addons.mozilla.org/thunderbird.

Generally, a new version of Thunderbird requires a new version of Enigmail, so be careful when upgrading to make sure Enigmail will still work. Typically, new versions of Enigmail
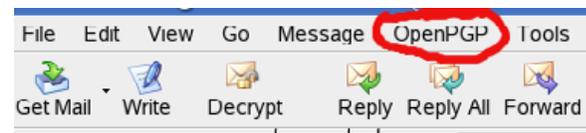
become available very soon after, or simultaneously with, new releases of Thunderbird. On occasion, you can get Thunderbird to work with an old version of Enigmail by re-installing the old version of Enigmail.

Unlike Firefox extensions, you cannot click on a link in Thunderbird and install an extension. You have to download the extension (a file ending in .xpi) and then install it from the downloaded copy. Currently, the exact URL to get to Enigmail is https://addons.mozilla.org/thunderbird/71. Look for the link that says Install Now for Linux (Figure 1), but don't click the link. Instead, right-click on the link, and select the Save Link As option to download a copy of the file. The file that it asks you to save should be named enigmail-0.94.1-tb-linux.xpi.

If you like working with the shell, you also can fire up your favorite terminal, change directories to where you want to save the file, and type:

```
wget http://releases.mozilla.org/pub/
➥mozilla.org/extensions/
➥enigmail/enigmail-0.94.1-tb-linux.xpi
```

(Although I'd suggest copying and pasting the URL rather than typing it.)

Now that you have the extension, start Thunderbird and select the menu option Tools→Extensions. This opens the Thunderbird
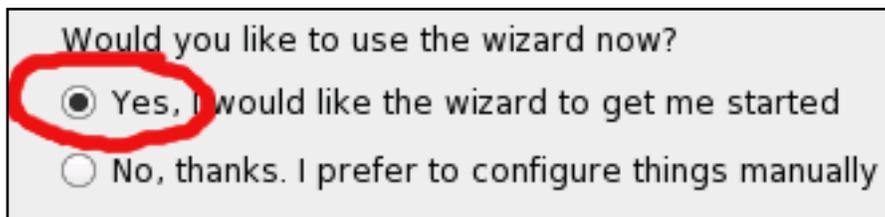
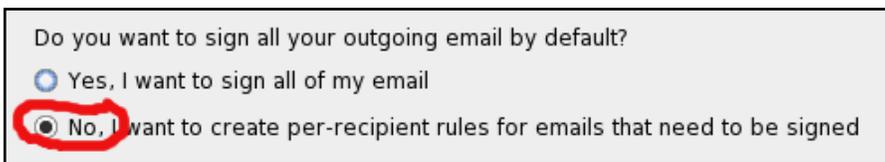Figure 3. Remember to select Yes to start the wizard.

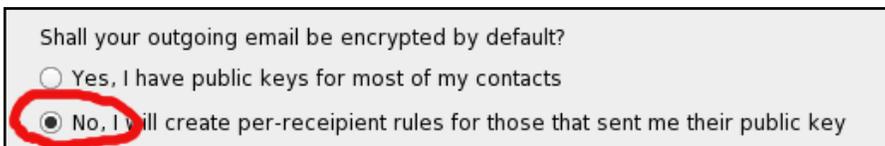Figure 4. Select No to create per-recipient rules for signing your e-mail.

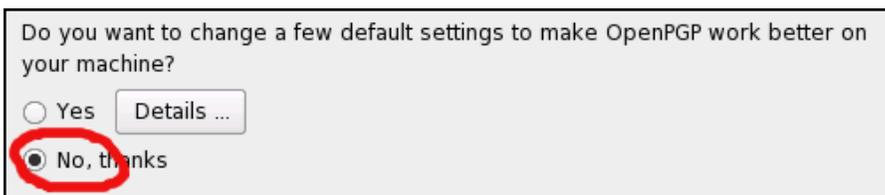Figure 5. Select No to create per-recipient rules for encrypting your e-mail.

Figure 6. Select No to use the default settings.

Extension window. Click the Install button in the bottom-left corner of the window. This opens a file selector window titled Select an extension to

install, and use this to find the .xpi file that you saved above. When you find it, click Open to install the extension. This opens another window that verifies that you want to install the extension; click Install Now. When this completes, close the Extensions window, and then restart Thunderbird. When Thunderbird restarts, you should now have a new option: OpenPGP on the menu bar (Figure 2). You can now proceed to configure Enigmail.

CONFIGURING ENIGMAIL

From the menu, select OpenPGP→Key Management. This opens the the OpenPGP Key Management window, and because this is our first time running Enigmail, the OpenPGP Setup Wizard should open. The Wizard presents the following steps/windows:

■ Welcome to the OpenPGP Setup Wizard: select Yes to use the wizard (Figure 3).

■ Signing: select No to create per-recipient rules for signing your e-mail (Figure 4).

■ Encryption: select No to create per-recipient rules for encrypting your e-mail (Figure 5).

■ Preferences: select No to use the defaults (Figure 6).

■ Create Key: enter a passphrase for your key pair (Figure 7). Above the first passphrase input box, you should see your name and e-mail address and the Thunderbird E-Mail Account ID.

■ Summary: shows you information about the key to be created; the next step will actually create the key.

■ Key Creation: wait for the new creation to complete (Figure 8). When it completes, it will ask you if you want to save a revocation certificate for your newly created key (Figure 9). If you choose to save one, you will be prompted for your passphrase.

■ Thank You: the Wizard has completed. Click Finish.

Figure 7. Enter a passphrase for your key pair.

Figure 8. Wait for the new creation to complete.

SENDING A TEST E-MAIL

Enigmail should now be configured. The first test you should do is to try to send yourself an encrypted message. Click the Write button on the Thunderbird toolbar to create a new e-mail. First, make sure that you are

Figure 9. Generating the Key

going to send an encrypted e-mail by selecting OpenPGP on the menu and ensure that Encrypt Message is checked/selected (Figure 10). In the To: input box, enter your own e-mail address. Now, enter a subject, type something in the body of the message, and send the message.

When the message arrives, select it in the message list. The first time you select an encrypted message, Enigmail asks you for your passphrase. Enigmail uses your passphrase to gain access to your private key, which it then uses to decrypt the e-mail message. You may have noticed that the subject line is readable even before you enter your passphrase. This is another important thing to remember: only the body of the message gets encrypted; the subject line does not, so don't put any important information in the subject line. After entering your passphrase, you should be able to read the body of the message, and you should see the OpenPGP line at the top of the message display indicating that the message has been decrypted; there also should be a key icon off to the side of the message display (Figure 11). If you see garbage—something enclosed by the lines "-----BEGIN PGP MESSAGE-----" and "-----END PGP MESSAGE-----", something has gone awry. In this case, try selecting the menu options OpenPGP→Clear Saved Passphrase and then reselect the message; this will re-prompt you for your passphrase. If you mistyped your passphrase, Enigmail can't decrypt messages.

SENDING ENCRYPTED E-MAIL TO OTHERS

Now that you have Enigmail working, it's time to take it out for a spin. To send encrypted e-mail to people, the first thing you need is their public key. Generally, there are two ways to obtain people's keys: the first method to have them send their public key to you, which you then import into Enigmail. The second, and more likely, scenario is that they have uploaded their key to
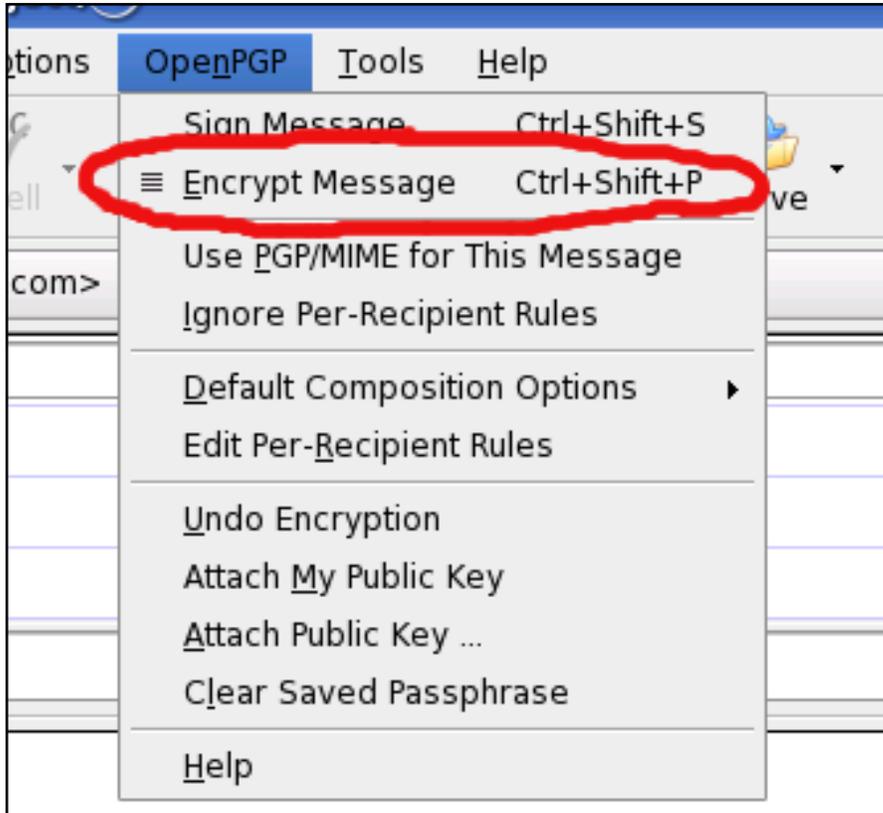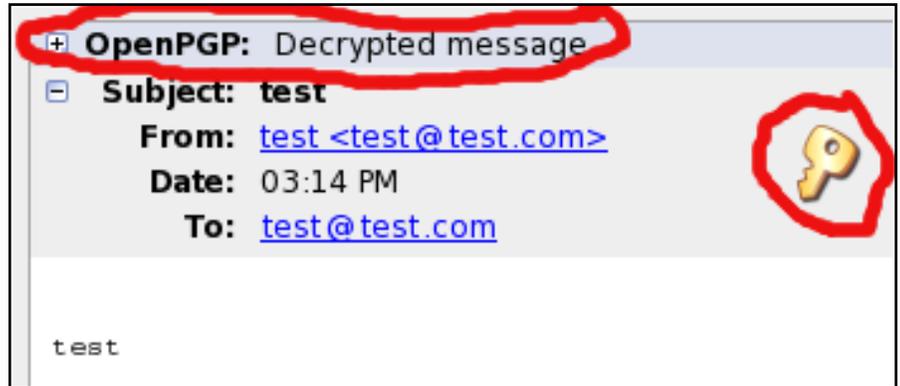
Figure 10. The Encrypt Message Menu

Figure 11. The Key Icon off to the Side of the Message Display—Used to Decrypt a Message

Figure 12. The list of available keys—right now, only yours is available.

a public keyserver, and you can then import it from the keyserver.

If individuals send you their public key in the body of a message, while viewing the message, select the menu options OpenPGP→Sender's Key→Import Public Key to import their key. The message will look much like an unencrypted message, except the enclosing "----... PGP ...----" lines at the top and bottom will be different. If the key arrives as an attachment to an e-mail, select File→Attachments→0xHHHHHHHH.asc→Open to import the key (the HHHHHHHH part will be different for each key). In both cases, you will be prompted further to make sure you want to import the key.

If you want to get keys from a keyserver, select the menu option OpenPGP→Key Management. This opens the OpenPGP Key Management

window, which we saw briefly before when we were running the Setup Wizard. At this point, the window shows only your key (Figure 12). From the menu of this window, select Keyserver→Search for Keys; this opens a search window. Enter a search string in the Search for key box (Figure 13). You can search for people's names or e-mail addresses or part of their names or e-mail addresses. So, you can search for everybody named Smith or everybody with e-mail at smith.com. If something is found, you will see something like that shown in Figure 14. Select the keys you want to import, and click Ok. At this point, the OpenPGP Key Management window will contain your key and any keys that you selected for import (Figure 15).

Now, close the OpenPGP Key Management window, and send an e-mail
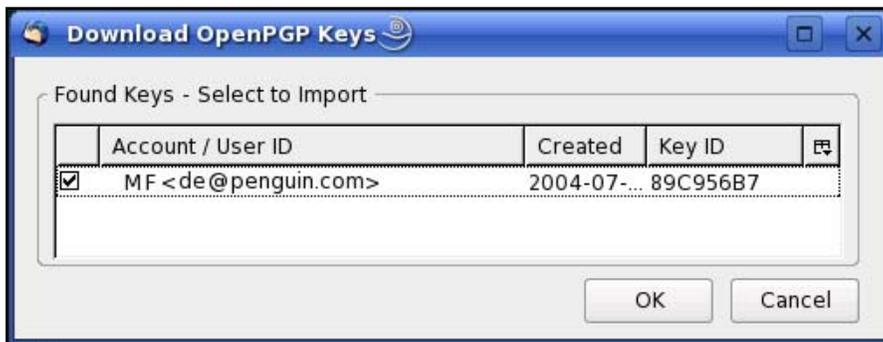
Figure 13. The Search for Key Box

Figure 14. The Screen to Import the Selected Key

to one of your newly found contacts. Again, remember to make sure that Encrypt Message is checked/selected (Figure 10) before you send the e-mail.

After you become comfortable using Enigmail, you probably will want to upload your public key to a keyserver so others can find your key and send you encrypted e-mail. You can do this from the OpenPGP Key Management window by selecting your key and then selecting the menu option Keyserver→Upload Public Keys.

RECEIVING ENCRYPTED E-MAIL FROM OTHERS

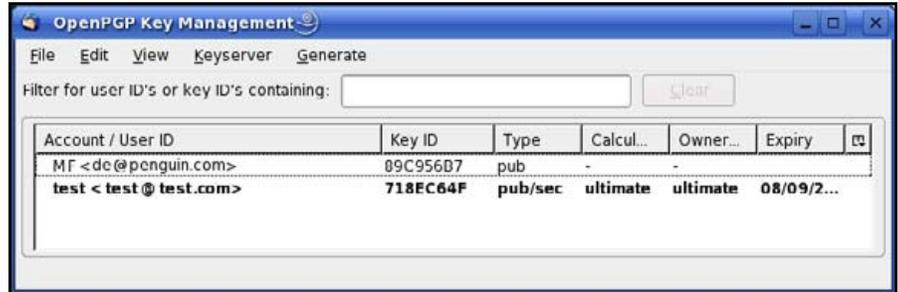Receiving encrypted e-mail is easy; you already did this when you sent an

Figure 15. The List of Available Keys, with the New One Added

encrypted e-mail to yourself. The hard part is helping your friends and associates get their encrypted e-mail working!

OTHER CONFIGURATION OPTIONS OF INTEREST

You also may want to explore some of the other Enigmail options/preferences by selecting the menu option OpenPGP→Preferences. Under Sending, you may want to check Always confirm before sending. This causes Enigmail to tell you whether it is going to send the e-mail encrypted and asks you to confirm that decision before it sends. Under Key Selection, you may want to check Prompt for every unknown recipient. This causes Enigmail to ask you what to do when you send e-mail to somebody that you've never sent e-mail to before.

There are also some OpenPGP-related options under Thunderbird's account settings. Select the menu options Edit→Account Settings, and then click on OpenPGP Security in the list box on the left side of the window. Here you may want to select Encrypt messages by default, so you don't have to worry about selecting Encrypt Message before sending.

It might be a stretch to say that setting up and using encrypted e-mail is simple, but it has gotten a lot easier over the years. With a little perseverance, you can get it up and running and feel secure in the knowledge that your e-mail messages will be readable only by the people to whom you send them.■

Mitch Frazier has been working with computers since 1979 doing system programming, application programming and system administration. He has worked with UNIX and friends on and off since the early 1980s and exclusively with Linux since 2001. Over the years, Mitch has worked on mini-computers, PCs and micro-controllers using numerous programming languages and tools.

Migrating from Microsoft Outlook to KMail

Welcome to the new KMail world.

DONALD EMMACK

Imagine you accidentally deleted your legacy e-mail messages today. Feeling a little...nervous? I sure would. My old e-mail messages form a journal of activities for my business and personal lives. If I were one of those really organized folks (I'm not), I would copy all the important stuff elsewhere. Because most of us don't capture all the right details in the proper place, our e-mail baskets become a search bin for old information like e-mail addresses, appointments and phone numbers.

Thus, pre-Linux users can become excited about switching operating systems, and then fall flat on their noses with e-mail migration problems. However, a little easy preparation will enable you to take all your old Microsoft Outlook e-mail data with you into KMail.

GET READY...

I hope you're reading this article before proudly wiping the Windows partition from your hard drive! If not, let's hope your last data backup included the e-mail files from Outlook and Outlook Express.

If you use Microsoft Outlook, you need to get the data into Outlook Express format for transfer into KMail. So, open Outlook Express, go to File→Import Messages, and use the wizard to get all your e-mail into Outlook Express (Figure 1). This converts the data to .dbx format.

Next, you need to find the .dbx files. With Outlook Express still open, use your mouse to right-click on the Inbox in the files directory (Figure 2). Click the Properties link, and make a note of the subdirectory. Then, go to the subdirectory, and copy all the files ending in .dbx to your backup storage medium. When complete, you should see several files, such as Inbox.dbx, Sent.dbx and Deleted.dbx, in a directory on your chosen storage medium.

If Outlook Express was your e-mail program, simply find the files we just mentioned and copy them to a good storage location.

GET SET...

E-mail migration is only a small part of an overall plan to switch to Linux. I'm
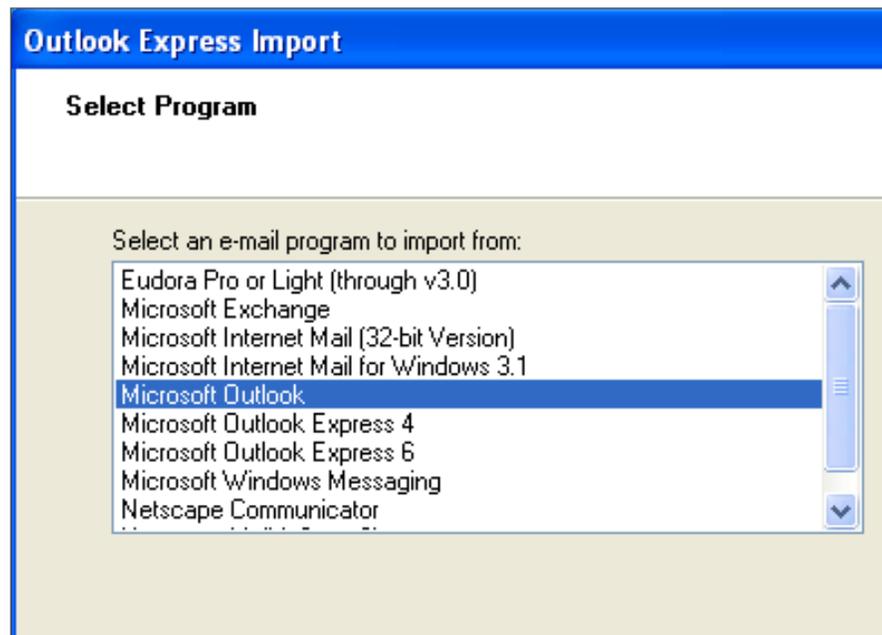

Figure 1. Importing Outlook Messages into Outlook Express

going to assume you already used a similar plan to copy the remaining portion of your important data files in satisfactory manner.

If you use only one personal computer, you can now scrub the Windows partition and load your choice of Linux onto your desktop. Normally, most distributions include KMail with the base KDE desktop. KMail runs by itself if you type `kmail` at a terminal prompt. Or, you can start Kontact and work with KMail as part of the included toolset.

Now, it's time to bring KMail up to date with all your e-mail files. Open

KMail, as shown in Figure 3, and choose Import. KMail opens an e-mail migration utility like the one shown in Figure 4. Choose Import Outlook Express Email and click Next. I saved my .dbx files into a directory called outlookexpress and copied it to my new Linux desktop for easy access. Locate this file with the Import wizard and press Ok. KMail hunts for the Outlook Express e-mail files and imports them into KMail.

If you have e-mail files with thousands of e-mail messages, it might be best to split the Outlook Express folders into separate files before
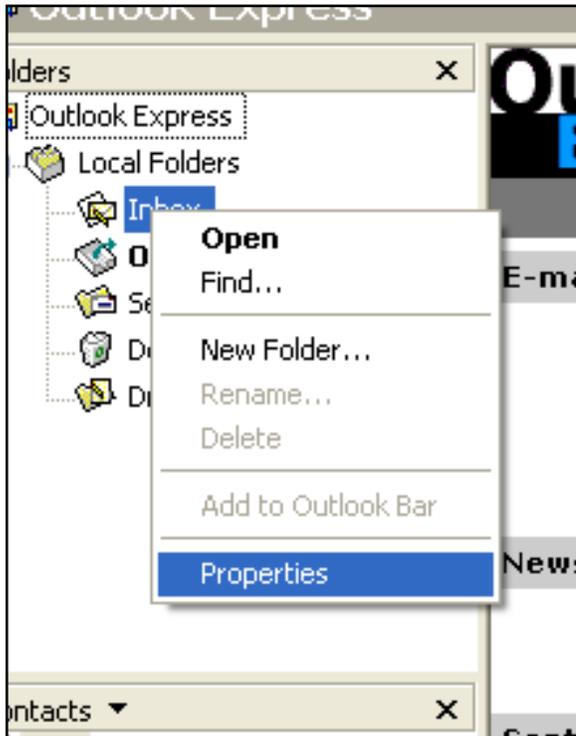
conversion. For example, create a new folder called Inbox2 and copy half of your Inbox data to this folder. If KMail is unable to process them all at one time, move Inbox2 out of the directory KMail is working with until you're done processing Inbox. Then, direct KMail to the directory with Inbox2 and repeat the same process. Figure 5 shows KMail completed the import successfully.

GO!
You're done! Now you have all your old Outlook Express or Outlook e-mail data into the superior
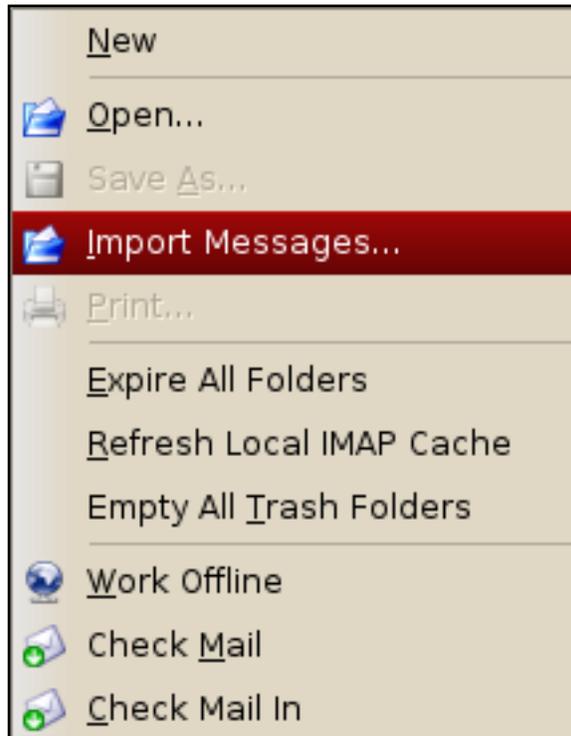
KMail application. As shown in Figure 6, KMail's import tool loads the new files into a folder called OE-Import. In my example, KMail imported only one folder from Outlook and Outlook Express called Inbox. If you have data in more folders, they will appear in the same location. This procedure worked when I tested e-mail messages with and without attachments.

Now, you can drag and drop the old e-mail into your KMail folders or leave them in the pre-made folder for archival reference.
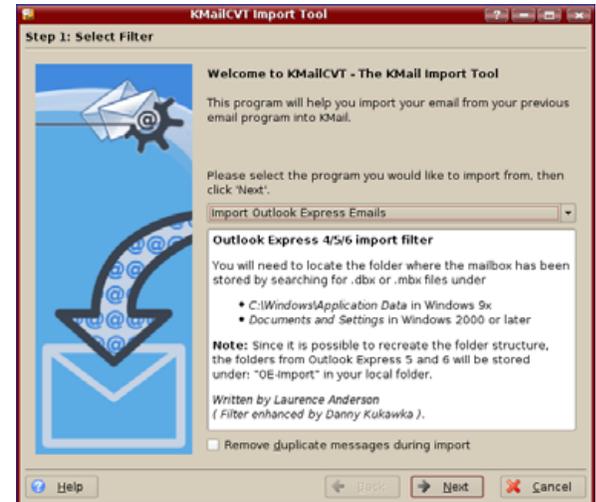

Figure 2. Right–click on Inbox and select Properties.

Figure 3. Opening KMail

Figure 4. KMail's Migration Utility

Figure 5. Mission acommplished!

Figure 6. KMail's Import Tool

Figure 7. KMail's Redirect Feature

EXTERNAL E-MAIL CONSIDERATIONS

I write for both *TUX* and *Linux Journal* and need to test Linux distributions all the time. I change my desktop operating system so often it boarders on madness. Although Linux makes it quite easy to transfer data, I don't enjoy shifting my e-mail between machines and programs enough to do it each time I test a new desktop. Thus, I rely on external e-mail.

I tried several Web-based e-mail solutions, but I like Gmail best. As mentioned earlier, e-mail contains important data, and I like to keep it immediately available. Consequently, Gmail is my off-site storage for e-mail data.

If you don't like Web-based e-mail, you can still use Gmail for storage. Simply configure KMail to leave inbound messages on the Gmail server. For messages you send through KMail, you can use the KMail redirect feature, as shown in Figure 7. Redirect lets you send the message to another location, like your Gmail address.

Although this works, it's also a good way to foul e-mail message organization beyond your grasp. So, I decided to stay with Gmail as my primary e-mail source. I know there are concerns about security, but in my line of work I'm not overly concerned about the issue.

SUMMARY

I continue to see great possibilities in Linux for both business and personal use. Chopping down desktop migration issues is critical to gaining greater acceptance in the market. I say "well done" to the KMail migration team.■

Donald Emmack is Managing Partner of The IntelliGents & Co. He works extensively as a writer and business consultant in North America. You can reach him at donald@theintelligents.com or by cruising the 2 meter amateur RF bands in the Midwest.
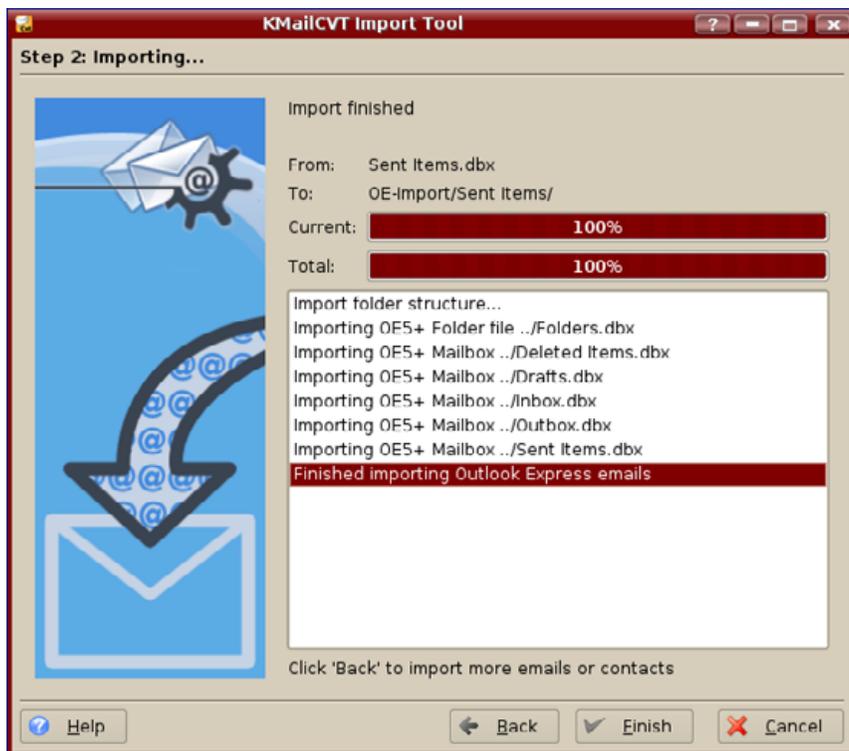
Thunderbird beyond the Basics

Keep your e-mail secret and encrypted, easily.

DMITRI POPOV

Thunderbird is so straightforward in use that most users never touch its more-advanced features. But, even if you don't consider yourself a Thunderbird power user, you might want to take a closer look at the tools it has to offer. Chances are you can dramatically improve your e-mailing habits.

USING FILTERS

Filters allow you to sort incoming e-mail automatically into specified folders. They are great time-savers that can help you keep your inbox nice and tidy without lifting a finger. Let's take a concrete example that shows how to configure and use a simple filter. If you stumble upon an interesting Web site, and you want to keep a copy of it, you can e-mail it to yourself. Many Web sites provide an "e-mail this page" feature, or you can use the excellent Toread service (http://toread.cc). This can come in quite handy not only if you want to keep a copy of an interesting article, but also if you want to read something later or when off-line. If you use this facility often, you can end up with copies of Web pages scattered all over your inbox. A better solution is to create a separate folder and define a filter that puts the incoming Web page copies into it.

To create a new folder, right-click on your e-mail account in the Folders pane and choose the New Folder menu item. Give the folder a name (for example, Toread), and press OK. The first thing you have to do in order to create an effective filter is figure out what e-mail message criteria to use. Filters in Thunderbird offer a myriad of criteria allowing you to create rather sophisticated sorting tools. In this case though, you can use just a single rule based on the sender's address (assuming for our example that you are using the Toread service). Choose Tools→Message Filters, press the New button, and type the name of the filter in the Filter Name field. From the first drop-down list, select From, set the second drop-list to is, and type the appropriate e-mail address (in this case, info@toread.cc) into the last field. In the
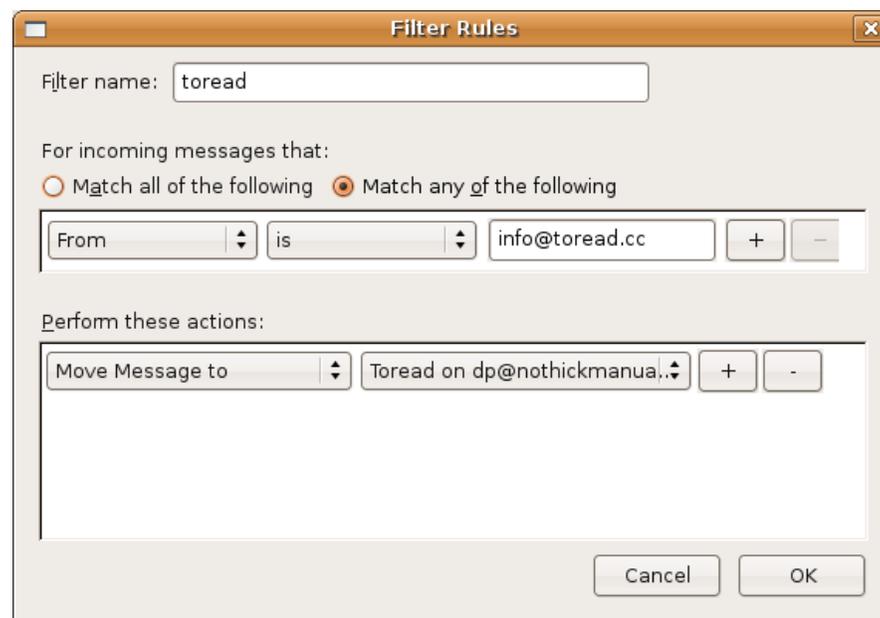

Figure 1. Creating a Simple Message Filter

Perform these actions section, select Move Message from the first drop-down list, and select the Toread folder from the second list. The finished filter should look like the one shown in Figure 1. Press OK to save the settings and close the window, and make sure the filter is enabled (the Active check box should be ticked). If you already have e-mail messages from the Toread service in your inbox, you might want to run the filter right away by pressing the Run Now button. This moves all the existing Toread messages to the specified folder, and from now on, any incoming e-mail that matches the cri-
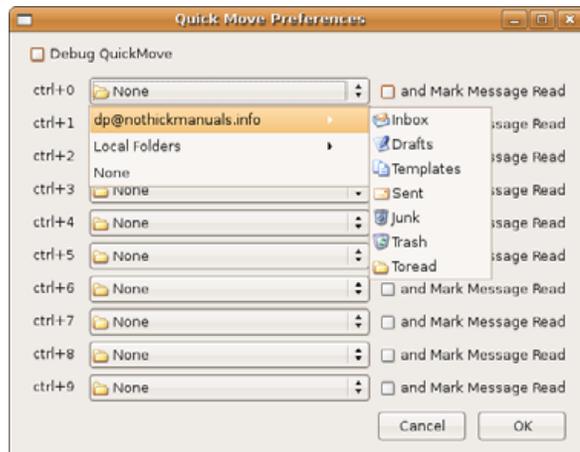
Figure 2. TB QuickMove allows you to move messages into folders using keyboard shortcuts.

Figure 3. Creating a Saved Search, AKA Smart Folder

Figure 4. Xpunge is a must-have extension for keeping Thunderbird running smoothly.

teria specified in the filter will be moved to the Toread folder automatically.

Other handy tools also can help you keep tabs on your inbox. Sometimes you'll want to move individual messages into different folders manually, and in this situation, filters are of no use. What you need is the TB QuickMove extension (http://www.extensionsmirror.nl/index.php?showtopic=1330) that allows you to move the currently selected messages into a specified folder using a user-defined shortcut. To install the extension, download it to your computer. To do this with Firefox, right-click on the download link and select Save the link to disk. In Thunderbird, choose Tools→Extensions, press the Install button, and select the download .xpi file. Restart Thunderbird, choose Tools→Extensions once again, select the TB QuickMove extension, and press the Preferences button. Use the Quick Move Preferences dialog window to assign the desired folder to a shortcut.
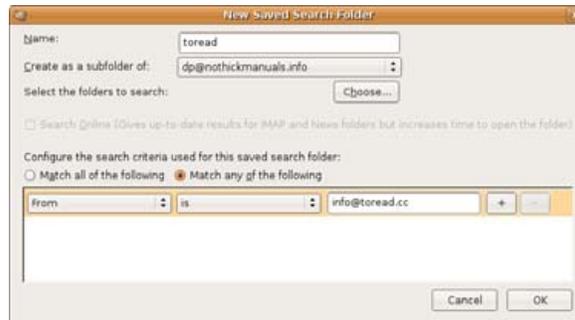
Another clever tool is built right in to Thunderbird, and it's called Smart Folders. This nifty feature allows you to save your searches as a virtual folder. Using Smart Folders, you can specify a set of search criteria, then save the search and view it as a conventional folder. For example, instead of using a filter to move messages from the Toread service into the specified folder, you can create a smart folder. The main difference between the two approaches is that the smart folder is not a real folder and no messages are actually moved into it. In other words, the smart folder is just a virtual folder, and every time you select it, it runs the specified search and displays the results.

There are several ways to create a smart folder. The fastest way is to type your search criteria into the Quick Search field, then select Save Search as a Folder from the drop-down list. Alternatively, you can choose File→New→Saved Search and define a new search. This option allows you to
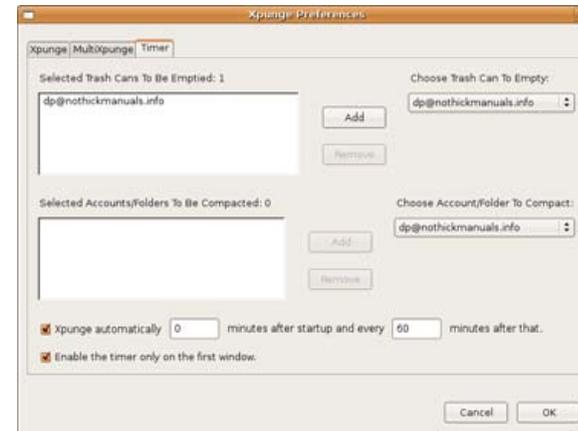
create a saved search that includes subfolders and runs across multiple accounts. No matter which way you choose to create a smart folder, you always can modify its search criteria by right-clicking on it and selecting the Folder Properties item.

USEFUL THUNDERBIRD EXTENSIONS
Besides TB QuickMove, many other extensions can significantly improve your e-mailing tasks. There are two extension repositories, which you can use to browse and choose the extensions you want. The first one is Mozilla's official extensions Web site (https://addons.mozilla.org/extensions.php?app=thunderbird), and it should be your first stop when you are shopping for extensions. Another good place is Extension Mirror (http://www.extensionsmirror.nl/index.php?showforum=3). Which extensions you choose to install depends on your specific needs, but a couple tools are a must-have for every Thunderbird power user.

Figure 5. GMailUI adds some useful functions to Thunderbird, including the Archive feature.

When you delete messages, Thunderbird doesn't actually erase them, but "hides" them. If you don't compact the folders on a regular basis, you can end up with swollen folders that can cause Thunderbird to behave erratically. However, compacting folders manually, one by one, especially when you have several e-mail accounts, can be a bit of a bother. Fortunately, the Xpunge extension (http://www.cs.ualberta.ca/%7Etegos/mozilla/tb/index.html) can compact folders for you and empty the trash for good meas-

ure. Install the Xpunge extension, right-click somewhere on Thunderbird's toolbar, and select Customize. Drag the Xpunge and MultiXpunge buttons onto the toolbar and press Done. To configure Xpunge, choose Tools→Xpunge→Preferences. Under the Xpunge tab, you can define what actions Xpunge should perform for a currently selected account, and MultiXpunge allows you to specify actions to be performed on several accounts in one go. Under the Timer tab, you can set Xpunge to run automatically, for example, on startup and every hour.

Quotecollapse (http://quotecollapse.mozdev.org) is another nifty extension that collapses quotes in the message body. This may not sound like much, but it makes it easier to read messages and add in-line replies. Install Quotecollapse, restart Thunderbird, and you will see that the quotes in every message are now collapsed. To expand a quote, click on the tiny Plus icon next to the quote.

Gmail is one of the most popular e-mail services out there, and if you fancy its features, you can use the GMailUI extension (http://www.longshot.com/~kmixter/gmailui.html) to add some of Gmail's functions to Thunderbird. These functions are mostly related to search, and they can come in handy if you often need to search through thousands of e-mail messages. For example, you can use the Quick Search field in Thunderbird to run Gmail-like search queries, such as from:toread, to:martin, subject:rare monkey and so forth. You also can write complex queries that contain several criteria. GMailUI allows you to perform searches on smart folders as well. You even can use the search field to perform simple calculations. For example, type 7+321*52, press the Enter key, and you will see the result: 7 + (321 * 52) = 16699.

FINAL WORD

As you can see, becoming a Thunderbird power user is not that difficult. All you need are a couple extensions and a day or two to master Thunderbird's advanced features. Once you've done that, you can deservedly call yourself an e-mail guru.■

Dmitri Popov is a freelance writer whose articles have appeared in Russian, British and Danish computer magazines. His articles cover open-source software, Linux, Web applications and other computer-related topics.

SuperKaramba

Theme your desktop with real-time information.

DONALD EMMACK

There's a difference between hardened information technology (IT) folks and personal computer enthusiasts. IT people like the system to work and keep an orderly static appearance. On the other hand, typical personal computer users overhaul the look of their screens just for fun. Thus, SuperKaramba appeals to many personal computer users by offering ways to liven up desktop appearance.

However, SuperKaramba is more than a simple eye-candy widget. It also supports useful themes providing real-time information bundled with pretty graphics. In this article, we probe two ways to receive weather data for your computer.

WHERE TO FIND SUPERKARAMBA

You can find SuperKaramba in the Adept package manager for Kubuntu. Simply install the application and start it through your Start menu or terminal. Themes for SuperKaramba install through the program itself, so you don't need Adept for anything further.

OUT OF THE BOX

SuperKaramba offers various themes for you to install. Some are purely for making the KDE desktop look spiffy. No doubt, your Windows-using friends will envy the way your PC looks after you install some of the themes. However, you also can capture attention when you use real-time themes that gather XML data from the Internet.

LOOKING FOR LIQUID WEATHER?

Liquid Weather is a neat application to keep an eye on the weather forecast. Start SuperKaramba, and you will see the home screen of the application, as shown in Figure 1. Now, press the Get New Stuff button, and SuperKaramba searches the Web for various themes you can install. In my example, more than 100 themes are available, as shown in Figure 2.

Notice in Figure 2 I've selected Liquid Weather. Select Install (Figure 3), and SuperKaramba opens the main Internet page for Liquid Weather, as shown in Figure 4. Usually, SuperKaramba loads the application immediately. For Liquid Weather, you first need to download the theme file onto your computer. Go to the Downloads section, and save lwp-13.1.1.skz (or the most recent release) onto your hard drive.

Next, go to SuperKaramba's home screen and choose Open Local Theme, as shown in Figure 5. Find the .skz file you downloaded, select it and press Open. Momentarily, SuperKaramba will load Liquid Weather and start it on your desktop (Figure 6).

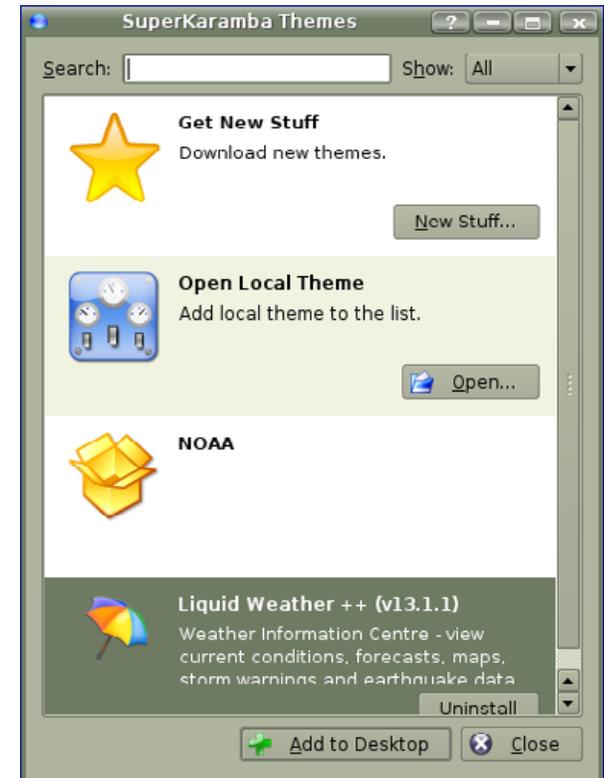As expected, SuperKaramba doesn't know where you live, so you'll need to set the proper

Figure 1. Home Screen for SuperKaramba

location to get weather data for your area. Right-click on the desktop theme and use the easy setup tools to tell SuperKaramba where you are.
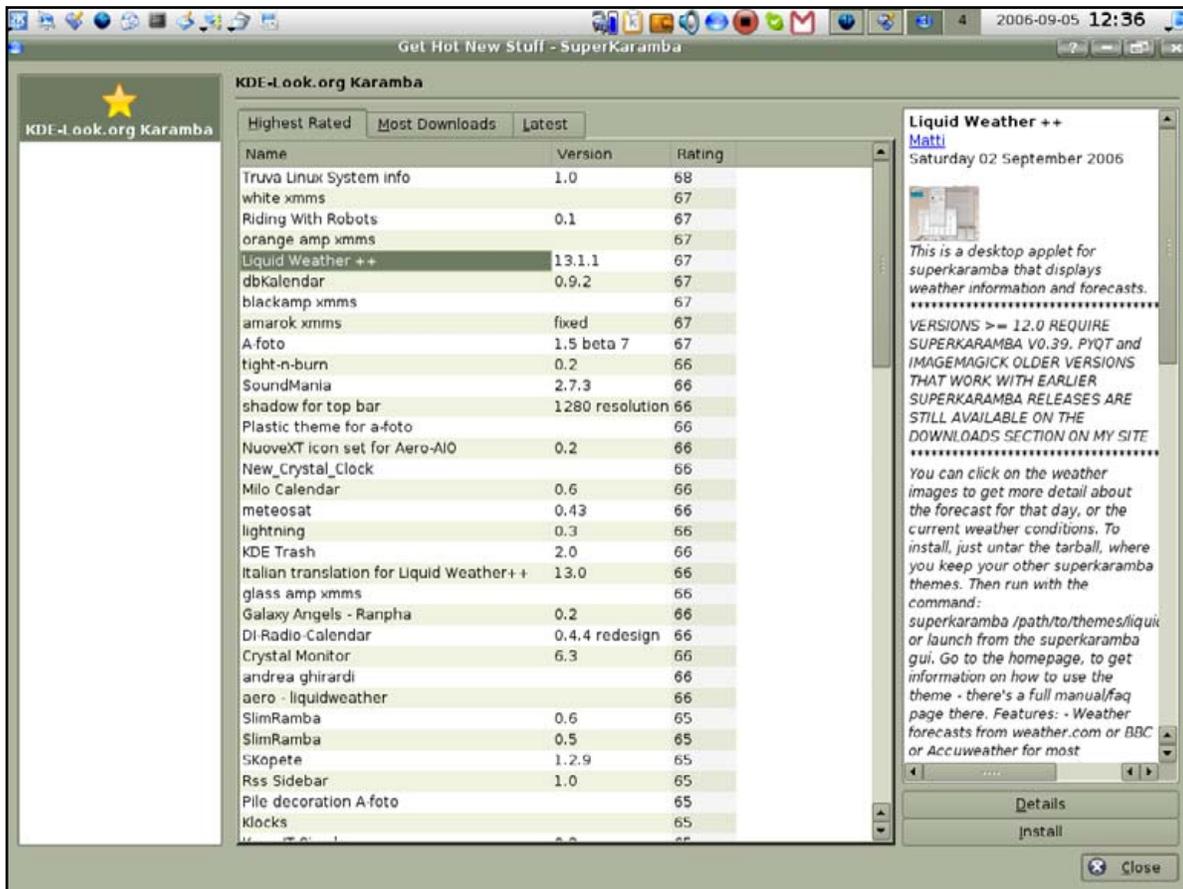
Figure 2. SuperKaramba has more than 100 themes included.

Figure 3. Use the Install button to start the download.

Figure 4. The Main Page for Liquid Weather on the Internetload.

You can use either data from Weather.com or Accuweather. Apply your changes and you're done!

FOR SERIOUS WEATHER JUNKIES
I live in an area where we have extreme weather changes. Specifically, I live in the middle of Tornado Alley in the USA. So, for about two months of the year, I'm really interested in developing weather patterns. I'm also a Ham radio operator and listen to reports from weather spotters. Thus, knowing the five-day forecast is nice, but impending tornado warnings are much more interesting.

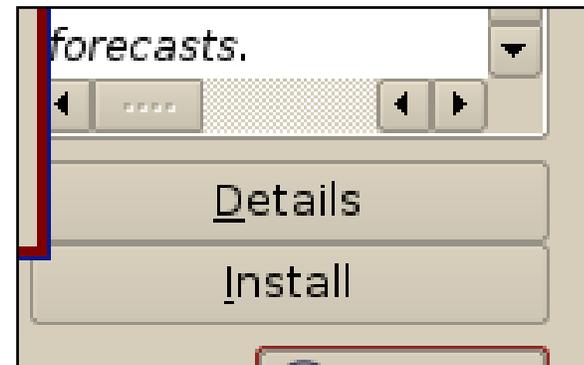Fortunately, WeatherWatch is available as a theme for SuperKaramba. WeatherWatch allows SuperKaramba to gather real-time XML data from the National Oceanic & Atmospheric Association (NOAA). NOAA is the approved agency in the USA to issue weather warnings.

You'll find WeatherWatch at http://www.kde-look.org/content/show.php?content=16396. Download and unzip the file into a memorable spot on your hard drive. Then, use SuperKaramba to open
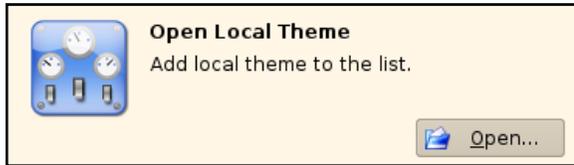
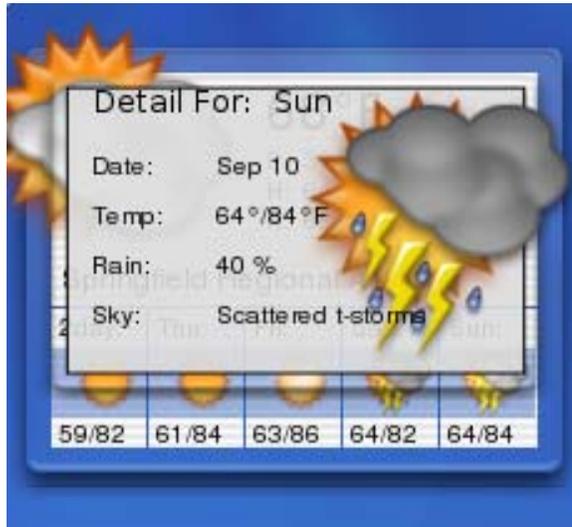Figure 5. Use the local theme feature to run downloaded themes.

Figure 6. Looks cool—right?

the theme and start it on your desktop. Start WeatherWatch by using Open Local Theme and find the file named NOAA.theme on your hard drive. Open this file to start the applet. Now you should see all the advisories issued by NOAA (Figure 7).

NOAA can be so busy that you won't want to wade through the data to find your local informa-tion. But, it's easy to change the code to find your local weather warnings. To do this, we use the 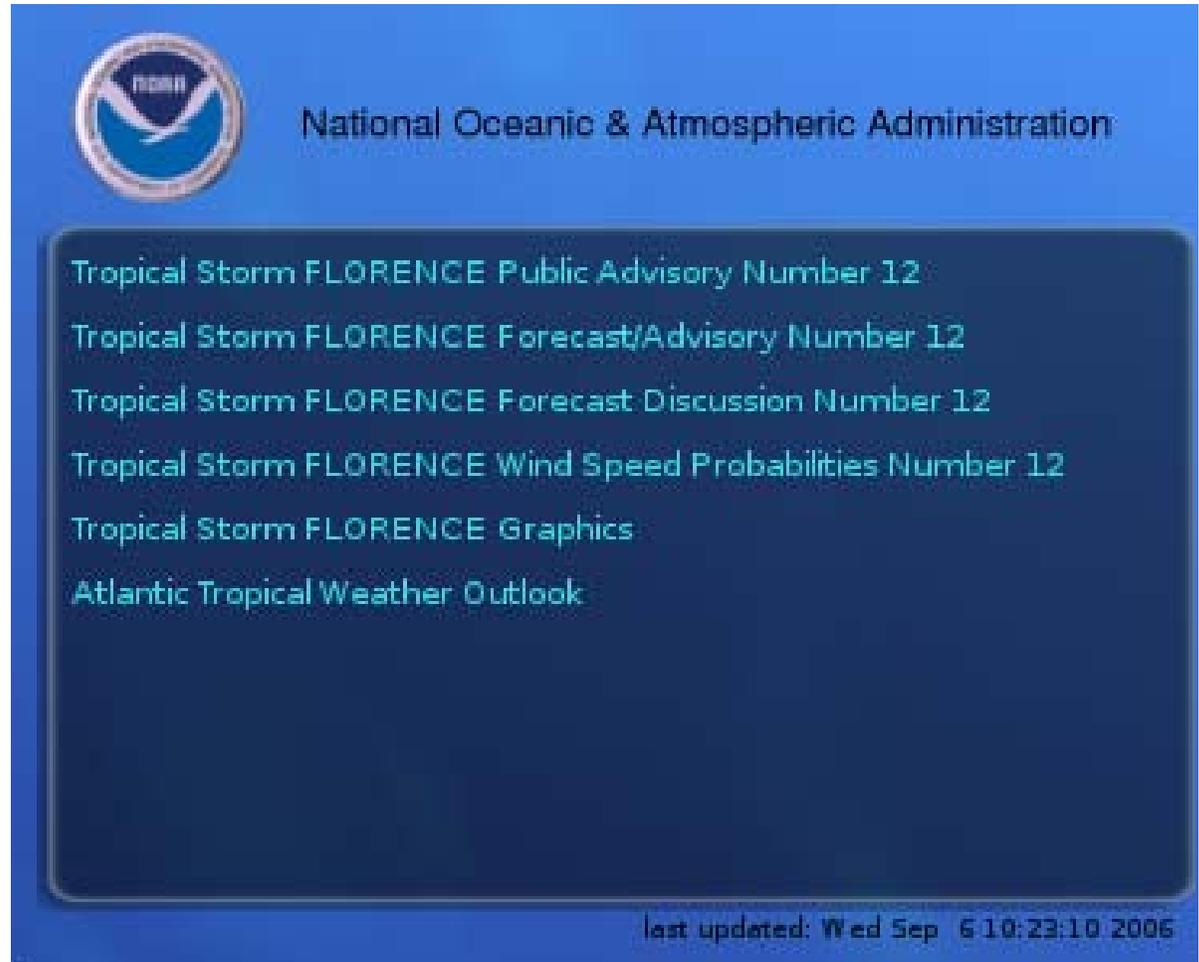XML data provided by NOAA. To get the right one, go to http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/aboutrss.shtml and look for XML feeds interesting to you. Or, you also can go to http://www.weather.gov/alerts and look for experimental feeds by location.

Now, open the directory where you down-loaded WeatherWatch and find the file named

Figure 7. The NOAA Warnings Listing

NOAA.py. In the first part of the file, we will change the feedURL to a location found in your search of the NOAA Web site. Open NOAA.py with the Kate text editor, and look for the line starting with feedURL, as shown in Figure 8.

Figure 9 shows how I've changed the feedURL

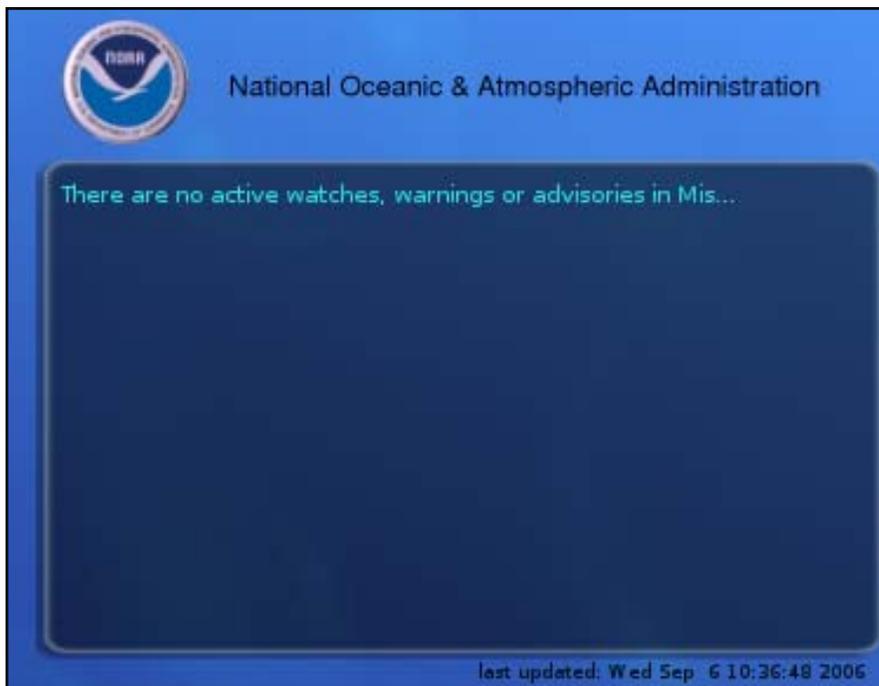Figure 8. Changing the feedURL Location to Your Area

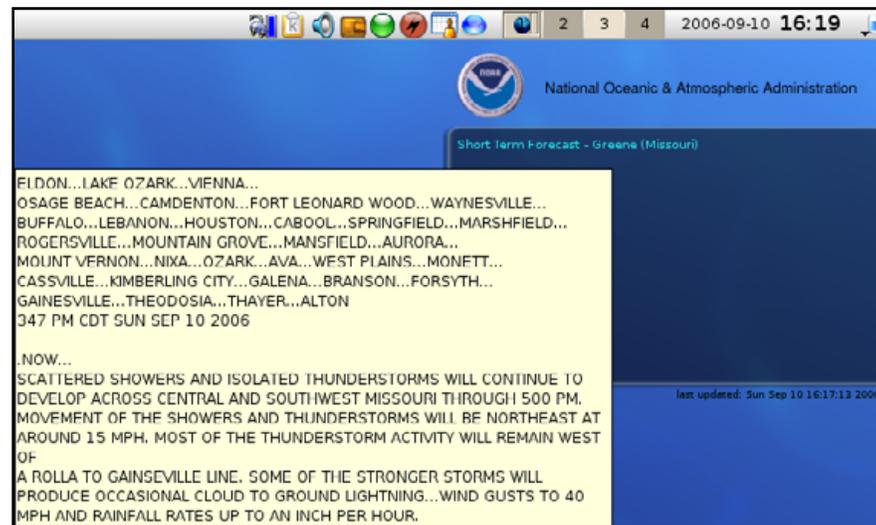Figure 9. "All Clear" for the Missouri Weather Area

Figure 10. If a weather alert does occur, mouse over the alert link, and the full text of the event is displayed on your screen.

to match the XML data for my area in Missouri. Paste your chosen XML code between the quotes, then save and exit the file. Finally, exit and restart SuperKaramba, and then restart the WeatherWatch theme. Now you can watch for developing weather alerts.

THE TAKE AWAY

SuperKaramba is much more than a cool toy for Linux desktop users. There are several theme features that give you useful information wrapped up in a pretty picture. There are also some amazing graphics SuperKaramba can display. I recommend you use it to intensify jealous feelings in Microsoft Windows users.■

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Downloading and Burning an ISO CD

You probably didn't get your first Linux CD by burning it on a Linux system, but that is certainly how you should get your next one.

PHIL HUGHES

Although I discuss burning a CD here, the same process applies to burning a DVD. The type of download we are talking about is a CD image, which is commonly called an ISO image. This, of course, differs from downloading a music, data or video file.

DOWNLOADING

If you ever have downloaded something on any system, there is no magic here. The most common thing you do is find a download page using your Web browser and click on the correct download link. In some cases, doing a right-click and save is the right answer.

But, that is not the only way. Let's say someone told you the latest Dapper Drake ISO CD image was at http://ubuntu.cs.utah.edu/releases/kubuntu/6.06/6.06.1-desktop-i386.iso (which it was as I wrote this). You simply could feed this URL to KGet. If KGet is already running, you should see a blue down-pointing arrow (Figure 1) in your panel. Click on it. Otherwise, you can start KGet from the run box (press Alt-F2) and enter `kget`.

Figure 1. KGet Arrow on the Panel

Figure 2. KGet

Figure 3. Open Transfer Box

Figure 4. Starting K3b

where you were, but Restart means start over from the beginning.
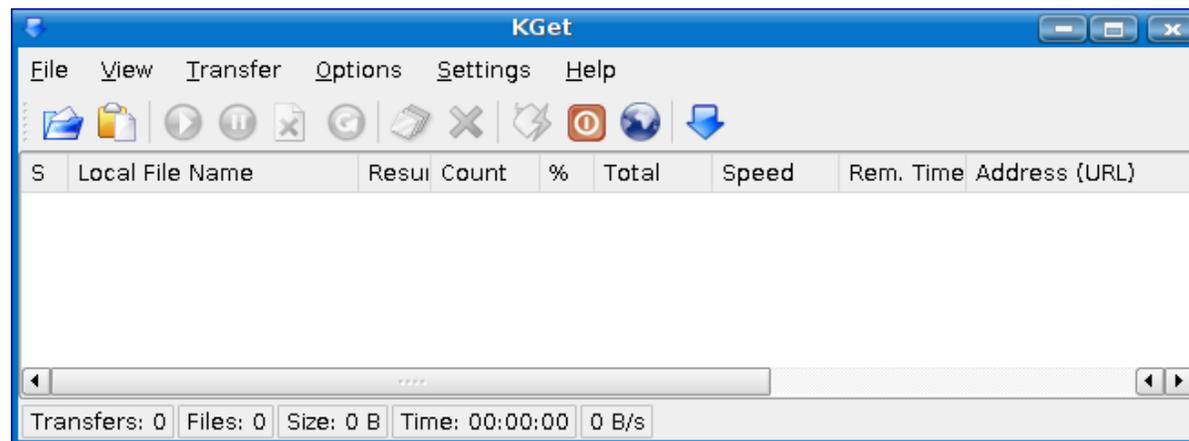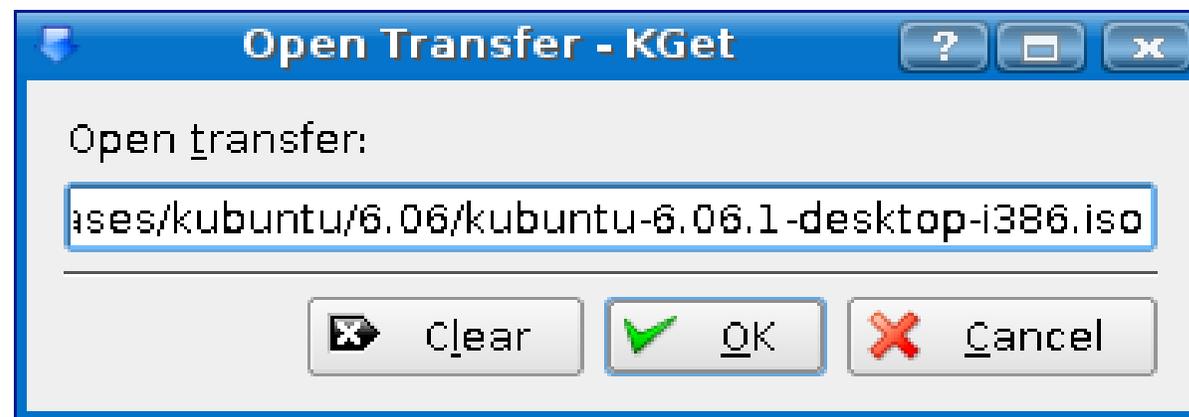
BURNING

Once you have the image, you need to burn the CD or DVD. Put your blank media into your CD or DVD burner, and wait a bit. Depending on how your system is configured, K3b may start automatically or a blank CD-R icon will appear. Worst case scenario—if nothing happens, start K3b from the Multimedia section of the K menu. When it comes up, the display should look something like Figure 4. With the current version of K3b, you have buttons for Burn CD Image and Burn DVD ISO Image. In older versions of K3b, you need to go to the Tools menu to find this option.

RIGHT-CLICKING ON A TRANSFER GIVES YOU SOME OPTIONS, SUCH AS THE ABILITY TO PAUSE AND RESUME.

Click the right button and select the image you want to burn. In the Burn Image menu, one option you might want to check is Verify written data. This simply tells K3b that after it burns the CD, it should read it back and make sure it is identical to the file on your disk. If all looks fine, click Start and go have a cup of coffee. Figure 5 shows what the display looks like as the CD is being created. Note that I picked Simulating mode as I don't need another Dapper CD here.

Now, to the most neglected step: labeling your new CD—don't just write Linux on it. That

When KGet starts, you will see a window like the one shown in Figure 2. Click Open in the File menu, and enter the URL into the Open Transfer box, as shown in Figure 3. Click on OK, and then select where you want KGet to save the file. That's it. The transfer starts, and KGet shows you the statistics on how much data has been transferred and provides a guesstimate as to the time remaining.

Right-clicking on a transfer gives you some options, such as the ability to pause and resume. Be careful, because Resume means start from
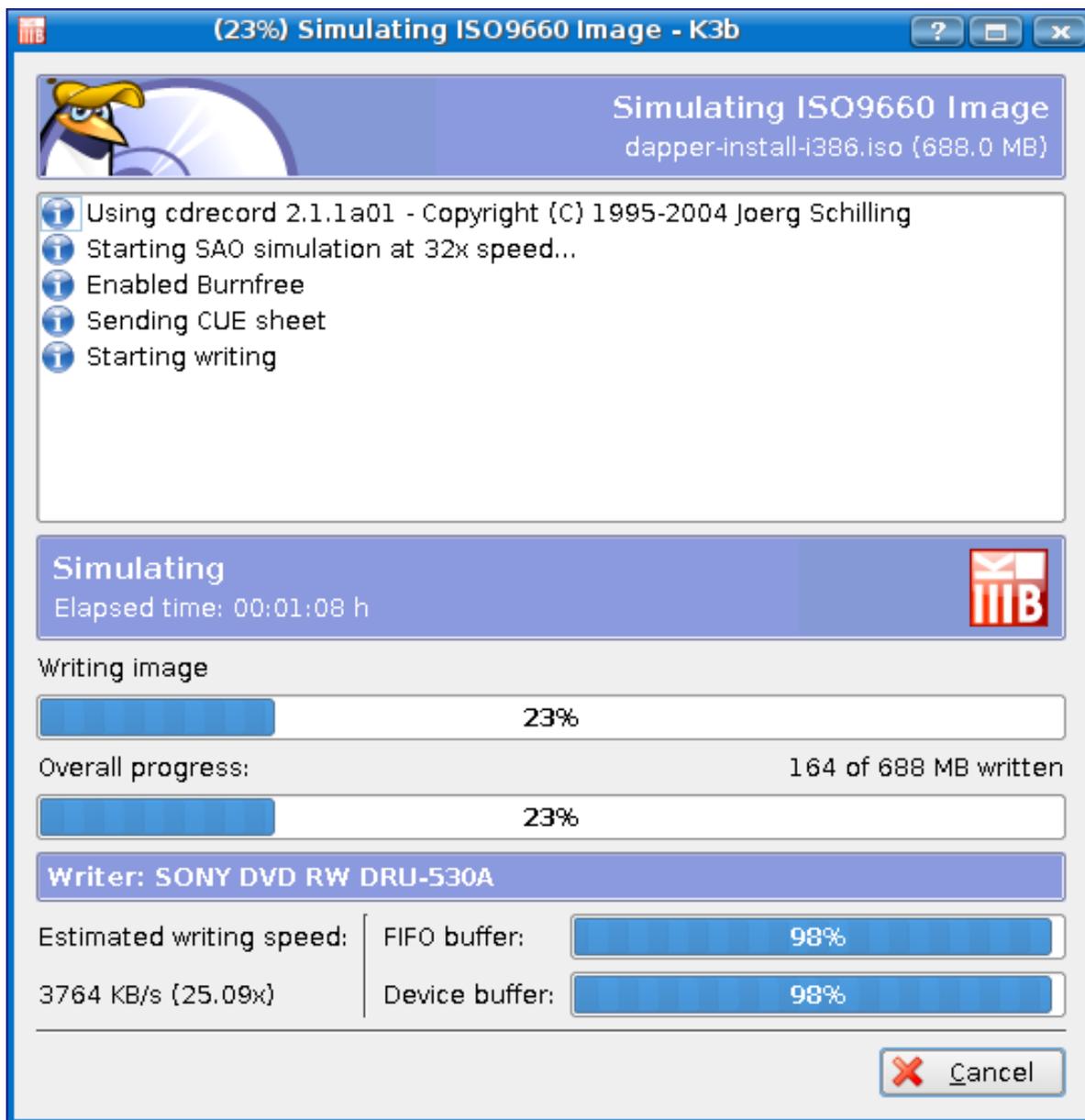
Figure 5. Creating the CD

reminds me of a guy I worked with long ago who would always write the program name followed by "latest version" on his program listings and put the newest one on top of the pile in his bookcase. I always wanted to switch the order just to see if he would go crazy.

BOOTING

No magic here—simply put in the CD and restart your computer. The only thing that could go wrong is that your BIOS might not be set to boot from the CD before the hard disk. That, of course, is not a Linux problem, so you are on your own.

If you are booting the Dapper Drake LTS CD or DVD, it boots up as a live system. That is, Linux will be running off the CD drive. You can play with it and make sure all seems to work well before telling it to install on the hard disk.

If you have any extra Dapper CDs or DVDs, they make great decorations for friends, cowork-ers and family members. That is, just put them in the CD drive on someone else's computer. The next time they turn it on and end up running Linux, they will be very surprised—and no damage will be done.■
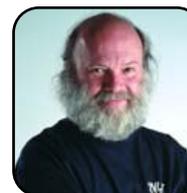
Phil Hughes is Group Publisher for SSC Media Corp.

Akregator

Use Akregator to avoid reckless Web surfing.

DONALD EMMACK

RSS readers grow more popular each day. Most of us like spending some time studying the Internet for our daily dose of information. Yet easy access to information becomes a slippery slope, consuming time and efficiency.

Internet browsers enable reckless Web exploring and can be addictive time killers. Ten years ago, this was hardly a concern. Everyone read newspapers conveniently organized into sections of interest. So, paper kept the allure of information surfing minimized.

TODAY, USING THE FIREFOX BROWSER TO INJECT YOUR BRAIN WITH A DAILY DOSE OF NEWS IS OFTEN FATAL TO PRODUCTIVITY.

Today, using the Firefox browser to inject your brain with a daily dose of news is often fatal to productivity. You read a story with two embedded links and unwittingly find you have visited five more stories before you're aware of the time!

RSS TO THE RESCUE

What is RSS? RSS is an acronym for really simple syndication. In short, it's an effortless way to grab information off the Internet so you can read what you're looking for. I call this the "what you see is what you need" (WYSIWYN) way to get the news.

RSS use is growing, and most of the Web sites I'm interested in support it. To find out whether a site is RSS-enabled, look for a small RSS symbol on the page. For example, on *TUX* magazine's Web site, you will notice a small RSS symbol. The symbol makes it easy to identify RSS capability. However, some sites are RSS-enabled but don't display the logo. Later, I'll explain how to read the news feed anyway.

In KDE, you can use several RSS readers to obtain information. Most distributions include Akregator in their repositories, so you can use the Adept package manager for easy installation.

On start-up, Akregator's home screen looks similar to the one depicted in Figure 2. The screen layout is similar to an e-mail program. The list of individual feeds is on the left, and the stories for each feed are on the top right. The screen below displays the detail of the selected story with any graphics and links.

Figure 1. *TUX* RSS Information

Akregator has a neat feature to tell you how many topics are unread in the news reader. Figure 3 shows Akregator's panel icon telling me 21 new articles are ready to read. After starting Akregator, you keep the notification in the panel by closing the window. If you go to File→Quit, the program notification icon will also close.

TO FIND OUT WHETHER A SITE IS RSS-ENABLED, LOOK FOR A SMALL RSS SYMBOL ON THE PAGE.

Figure 2. Akregator's Home Screen

Figure 4. Add Feed Window

Figure 5. Properties Window

Figure 3. Akregator's Panel Icon

ADDING NEWS FEEDS
After installing Akregator, you need to configure the program to capture the right news and information. As an example, I will show you how to add *TUX* magazine's RSS feed.

First, go to Feed→Add Feed. Figure 4 shows the Add Feed window. Next, type in `http://www.tuxmagazine.com/`, and click OK. Akregator searches for the RSS feed and opens the Properties window, where you can tailor how often to update the feed (Figure 5). Click OK again, and you're done!

Finally, click on the *TUX* link in the Feed window, and you will get up-to-date information from the *TUX* Web site (Figure 6).

WORKING AKREGATOR
Now it's time to put Akregator to work. Select the

Figure 6. Akregator Showing *TUX* Update

Figure 7. Dmitri Popov's Recent Article

TUX feed as before, and notice that you can use the arrow keys to scroll through the list of information captured from the Web site. The bottom detail window shows a snapshot of the information, with some graphics if available.
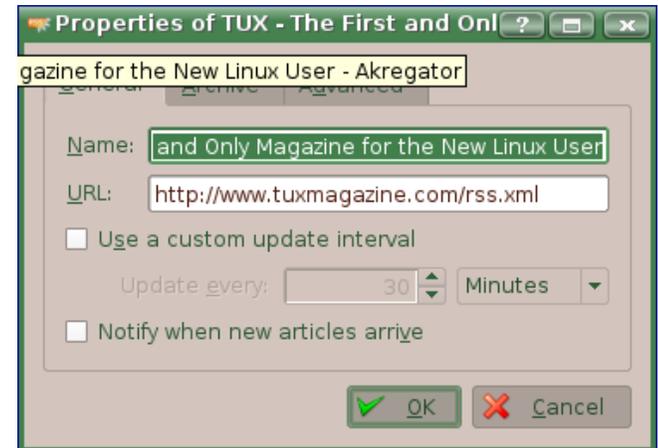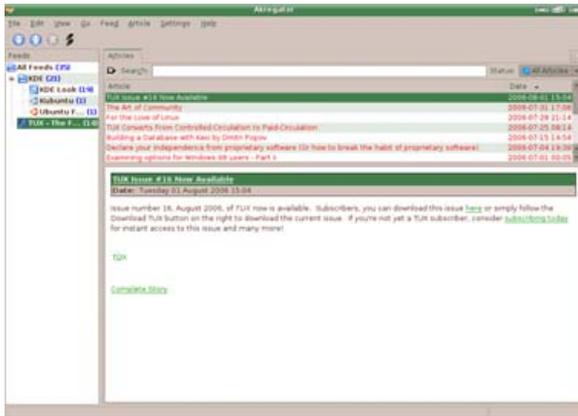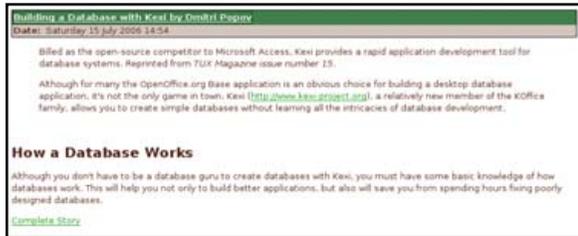
Consider Dmitri Popov's recent article, shown in Figure 7. You'll see a link in the first paragraph referring to the Kexi Project home page. If you want to read more about Kexi, click the link, and a new Akregator tab opens
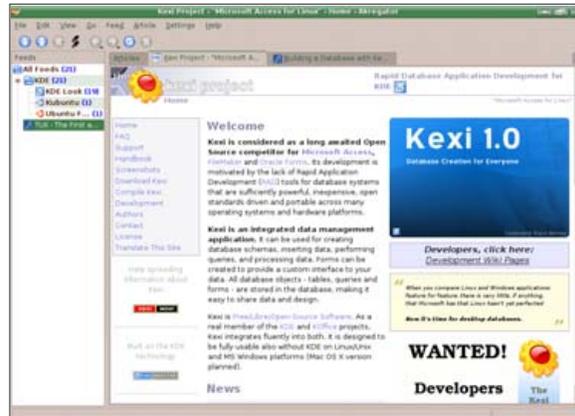
Figure 8. Akregator Going to the Kexi Home Page

showing the Web site (Figure 8). If you want to browse the location with Firefox, use the right-mouse button to click on the Kexi link and "Open in External Browser".

SETTINGS
It's easy to tailor how Akregator works. Go to Settings→Configure Akregator. Likely the only item you will want to change is how often the program updates feeds. Akregator defaults to every 30 minutes; you might want this to be

AKREGATOR HAS A NEAT FEATURE TO TELL YOU HOW MANY TOPICS ARE UNREAD IN THE NEWS READER.
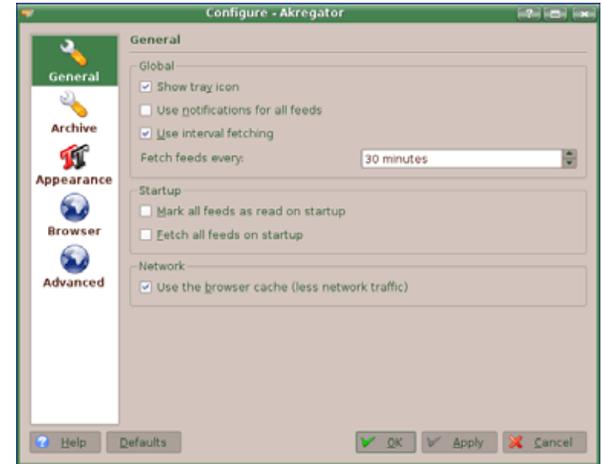
Figure 9. Configure Akregator

more or less often (Figure 9). While you have this window open, click through the different settings to familiarize yourself with the options. Click Apply and OK to save any changes you make.

START THE PRESS!
I'm an easy touch for procrastination, so Internet browsing mysteriously kills my time. Using Akregator can expand your working hours when all you want is to keep up to date with certain information.■

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Opera 9 for Linux

It's your Web; it's your choice.

JAY KRUIZENGA

Every once in a while, you come across a program that is a true innovation in the Internet community—Opera 9 is one such program. It wasn't long ago that there were only three major browser competitors: Internet Explorer, Netscape and that "third" browser known as Opera. Curiously, Opera never caught hold as a serious alternative and has never been able to reach beyond a 2% market share. Firefox didn't help matters any with its near overnight success as an open-source substitute for the Internet Explorer behemoth. Firefox now holds approximately 20% of the market on both Windows and Linux systems, and word of mouth quickly spread the news that launched this browser's success. Not so with Opera. Opera is a Norwegian invention, and it is a full-featured, charming Internet suite with a reputation for its small size and lightning-fast speed. Opera was the first to introduce tabbed browsing, and with Opera 9, released in June 2006, it continues to be a pioneer with several new features unavailable on any other browser. It is the intent of this article to draw awareness to this often overlooked browser and to reveal its innovative features in some detail while explaining how to make your Opera browsing a safe and enjoyable experience.

Opera is closed source, unlike Firefox, and it used to contain advertisements for which users had to pay a small licensing fee to have removed. There is no longer such a fee attached, and Opera 9 can be downloaded free of charge with no ads. The Opera company makes no money off the browser itself, but it does make money on paid support contracts and in Opera downloads for smartphones and the like. So, even though Opera 9 is not open source, it remains a serious competitor to Firefox and Konqueror, and we feel that it ranks right up there in functionality and security. In fact, securia.com has stated that the Opera browser is the most secure browser available with the fewest security breaches discovered—those that have been found were fixed so quickly that there are none remaining. Take this as you will—many nay-sayers might argue that the Opera browser has had the

Figure 1. The Opera 9 browser—it's all about choice.

fewest breaches because the Opera market share is so low, but isn't this the same argument that has been used against Linux? Even if this were true, the simple fact is that Opera (right now) is considered the most secure browser on the market—no one is denying that fact. So why isn't Opera taking hold?

Marketing. No one wanted to pay for a browser when perfectly good ones could be downloaded free of charge, and most users simply chose to utilize the browser that came packed with their new PCs—Internet Explorer. In the Linux community, Opera has not taken hold because it is not open
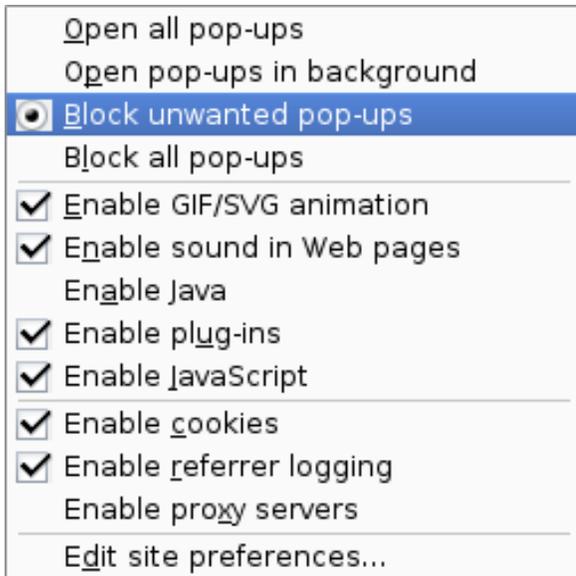
Figure 2. Press F12 for pop-up control.

source and Firefox is. So it may be pure prejudice over anything closed source that keeps Opera at the fringe while Firefox continues to enjoy the full support of the Open Source community. Still, it is nice to know that other choices are available for Linux, and closed source applications are going to be an ever-present reality as Linux becomes a stronger desktop competitor. This article is about choice, and choice is the driving force of Linux.

HOW/WHERE TO DOWNLOAD OPERA 9
Opera 9 is available from http://www.opera.com for every Linux distribution under the sun. Simply choose your distro and download to your PC. Install as you would any file on your system. You can import your bookmarks from a previously

Figure 3. Search the trash for blocked pop-ups.

used browser by selecting File→Import.

HOW TO OPTIMIZE OPERA 9 FOR SECURITY
Although Opera is ultra-secure, supporting SSL versions 2 and 3 plus TLS, in addition to supporting 256-bit encryption (banks rely on 128-bit)—the highest security available for any Web browser—you can take additional steps to make Opera 9 even more secure. With integrated antiphishing technology (ID theft) and automatic checks for security updates, you can rest assured that your browsing experience will be a safe venture.

For additional security, it is possible to configure Opera 9 to clear both cookies and cache when exiting to protect your privacy. To do so, you must tell Opera your preferences by clicking Tools→Preferences→Advanced tab. Select cookies from the menu, and make certain delete new cookies when exiting Opera is checked. Now, select History from the menu, and check the box under Disk Cache that reads empty on exit.

There is an additional method of deleting history, cookies and cache upon exit (or at any time you choose) found under the Tools menu: delete private data. One click and mission accomplished.
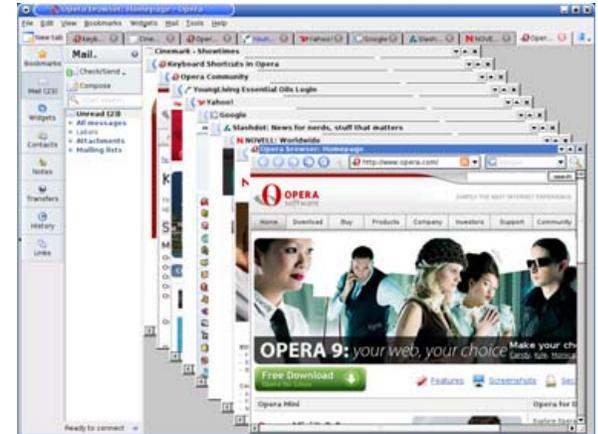
Figure 4. Opera 9 with Cascading Windows

HOW TO BLOCK ANNOYING POP-UPS WITH OPERA 9
Firefox is famous for avoiding annoying pop-up ads. Opera also blocks pop-up ads by default; however, this default setting can be changed according to your choice, either universally or by Web site visited (those you trust). Press F12, and your quick preferences window will open. There you can choose to block all pop-ups, unwanted pop-ups or to allow all pop-ups.

In order to accept pop-ups from a site you trust, click your right-mouse button while in the site and left-click Edit site preferences. The changes made here will apply only to the site you are visiting. On the General tab, you will find the place to allow pop-ups.

Another method of viewing blocked pop-ups is in the top-right corner of Opera where you will see a trash can. Clicking on the can lets you see all blocked pop-ups from your current browsing

Figure 6. Opera broadcasts you are using Opera by default.

more skins (no need to restart Opera, you can change skins on the fly), enable special effects and change the overall color scheme of your selected skin. You really can get creative here.

You also can drag and drop buttons, search fields and toolbars from this same menu. We found a couple useful tools under Buttons→ Preferences. Drag and drop the Identify As menu and the Pop-up Ads menu to the area of your choice. With these you have quick access when encountering troubled sites that require IE or Netscape. Remember, most everything is customizable through Opera 9.

WHAT TO DO IF YOU ENCOUNTER A PAGE OPERA WILL NOT OPEN
Many pages on the Net are designed exclusively with IE users in mind, and those Web sites will blatantly tell you so. If you encounter such a page, don't panic—there is a little trick in Opera that will get you by. Right-click on the troubled site and select Edit site preferences. This brings you into a menu where you must click the Network tab, and there you can change your browser identification for that site to "identify as IE". Or, if you added the Identify As menu to Opera, click and reload. We encountered a few

Figure 5. Opera 9 allows tiled browsing.

session. You can choose any of those and open them up in their own respective tab. You also can empty the trash (by default these are deleted when you exit Opera).

HOW TO CUSTOMIZE THE LOOK AND FEEL OF OPERA 9
Like Firefox, you can customize the look and feel of Opera. There are many skins available for Opera, which can be found by pressing Shift-F12. In the window that opens, you can find/download
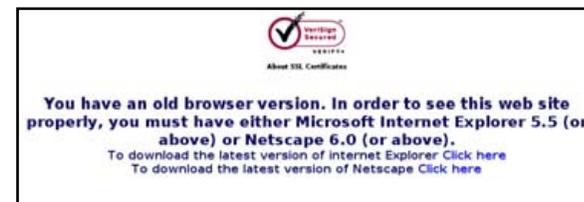
Figure 7. F12→Edit Site Preferences allows you to change the browser declaration to Internet Explorer.
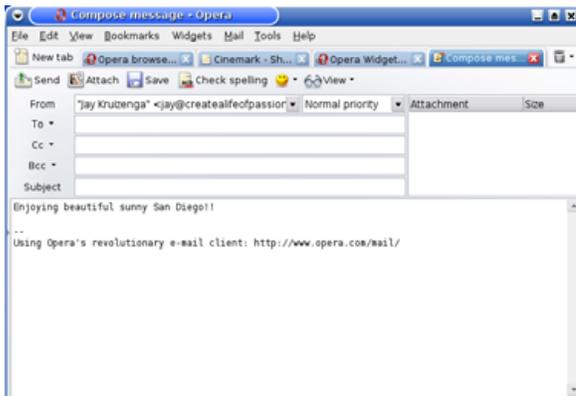
Figure 8. Opera 9 contains a full e-mail client.

such sites in our testing of this browser, and changing this setting did the trick each and every time. Once the setting is changed, you will need to reload the page.
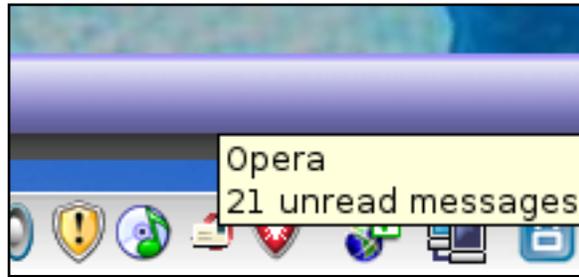
Figure 9. The Opera icon in the taskbar alerts you that you have new mail.

HOW TO SET UP OPERA 9'S INTEGRATED E-MAIL
Opera includes an integrated e-mail client that is equally as secure as the browser. You will need to set up an e-mail account before use. Under the Tool menu, choose mail and chat accounts, then add. Enter your POP/SMTP details, and you will be up and running. Editing an account provides the options of customizing your signature and choosing when Opera should check for mail.

When new mail arrives, the taskbar icon changes in appearance to an Opera logo with a letter. In addition, a menu pops up to alert you that new mail has arrived. To read incoming mail, press F4, and then select the Mail button. You will see all of your received mail plus all the messages you have previously read. Opera has a teachable spam identifier and a single click of the spam icon allows you to change a message received to spam. By default, all external images/JavaScript are blocked. To change this, you must change the setting under View→Display, unchecking block external elements.
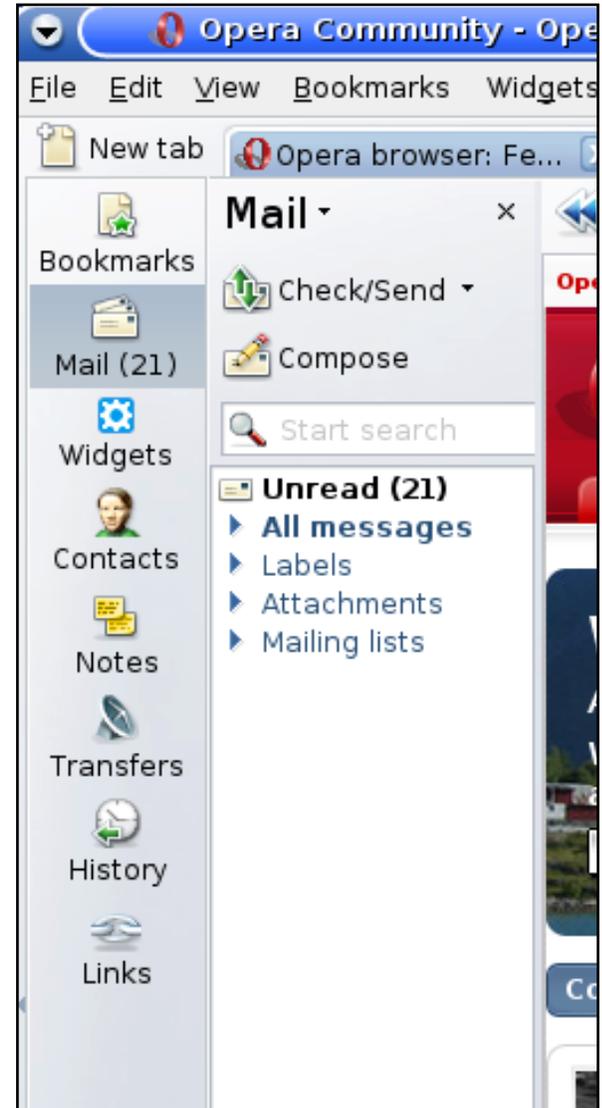
Figure 10. Press F4 to open the Mail menu.

LIKE BROWSING WITH YOUR MOUSE? OPERA 9 SUPPORTS MOUSE SHORTCUTS

There are many helpful mouse gestures that can assist in your browsing, if you feel so inclined. We have listed a few of the main ones below for your reference. Note: most of these gestures involve clicking and holding down the right-mouse button while moving the mouse in a certain direction.

First, you need to enable mouse gestures from the Opera Tools menu under Preferences. Within the opened window, select Advanced tab→Shortcuts, and check the box that says enable mouse gestures. Click OK and close the window.

Here are some of the gestures:

- Open a new document: right-click/hold and move down.

- Close a document: right-click/hold and move down then right.

- Go to a previous page in history: right-click/hold and move mouse left *or* hold right button and click left button.

- Go to the next page in history: right-click/hold and move mouse right *or* hold left button and click right button.

- Go to the home page: double-click inside an empty window.

- Scroll up and down: roll the wheel back and forth.

- Zoom in and out: hold the Ctrl key and roll the wheel.

Figure 11. Add your favorite search engine with a simple click.

- If you encounter a link that you want to open: point the mouse to the link, then right-click/hold and move mouse down.

The first couple of times these gestures may feel a bit awkward; however, with a little practice, you will discover how simple using a mouse to browse the Net can be.

Opera 9 also has numerous (too many to list) keyboard shortcuts that can be found by visiting http://www.opera.com/products/desktop/keyboard. For example, toggle the F11 key for full-screen presentation modes—great when making presentations!

SEARCH YOUR FAVORITE SEARCH ENGINE QUICKLY WITH OPERA 9

Opera 9 includes several preloaded search options. For instance, if you want to search using Google, in the address field simply enter the letter g followed by what it is you want to search for. Opera 9 comes preloaded with several of these letter searches: a for Answers.com, e for eBay and z for Amazon.com, plus many more. You can find the whole listing under Tools→Preferences→Search. You may discover that your favorite search engine is not listed, but that's easy to fix. Browse to the search engine of your choice, right-click on the search field and select create search. A window appears enabling you to name your new search

Figure 12. Enjoy tabbed browsing with thumbnail previews.

Figure 13. Opera 9's Password Manager securely remembers user IDs and passwords.

Figure 14. Click the wand icon to enter saved passwords.

engine and choose an appropriate keyword that you will enter into the address field to conduct searches. For instance, clicking on the search field at dogpile.com brings up a new window where I can enter Dogpile as the name and dog as my keyword. Now whenever I wish to conduct a search using Dogpile, I enter dog in the address field followed by my search terms.

OPERA 9 NOW INCLUDES THUMBNAIL PREVIEWS
What if you have several tabbed windows open and you need to find one in particular to go back to, but are uncertain which tab it is? Opera 9 has thumbnail previews, so all you need do is hover your mouse over a tab and a small thumbnail picture appears that lets you see what is on that tab. Another way to do this is to click the tile icon, which places all open windows in their own space within the Opera browser, making every window partially visible.

REMEMBER IMPORTANT PASSWORDS WITH OPERA 9'S PASSWORD WAND
Hate passwords? Opera 9 includes a Password

Manager that will make remembering passwords easy. Each time you enter a new user name and password, the Password Manager asks if you want it to remember this information. If you choose this option, the next time you visit that site, you can either press Ctrl-Enter or click the wand icon found adjacent the address field. It can't get much easier than that.

HOW OPERA 9 HANDLES SECURE SITES
How do you know for certain that the site you are visiting is 100% secure? Besides looking for that s in https, you also can look for the Opera padlock on which you will find a number. That number is a sure indicator of the level of security present at that site. Click the padlock for additional information.

NEED A DIFFERENT LANGUAGE? OPERA 9 SUPPORTS SEVERAL
You will find a multitude of supported languages under the Tools→Preferences→General tab— Arabic, Navaho, Tagalog, Chinese (several dialects), Dutch and many more. Chances are your native tongue will be found here.
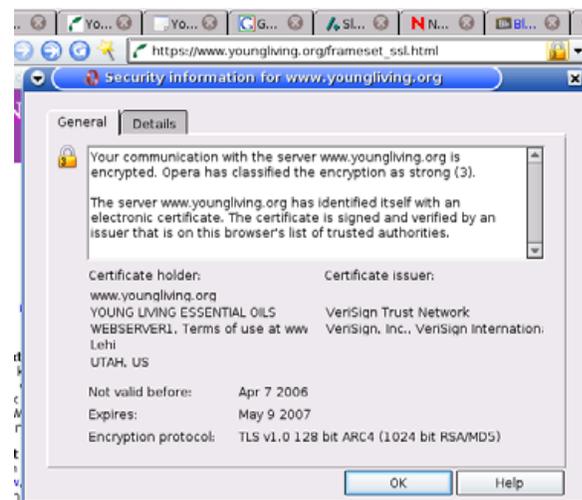

Figure 15. Click the padlock for security info.

DESIGN PAGES WITH OPERA 9 AND REST ASSURED THEY WILL LOOK THE SAME UNDER ANY BROWSER

Web designers always have had a difficult time getting code to render properly under various browsers. Opera 9 takes great pride in the fact that it is 100% in support of the major Web standards presently being used: CSS 2.1, XHTML 1.1, HTML 4.01, WML 2.0, ECMAScript, DOM 2 and SVG 1.1 basic. Opera 9 is the second browser to pass the Web standard Acid2 test (http://www.webstandards.org/action/acid2). Note: Firefox comes close, but no cigar here. Internet Explorer, needless to say, is way off. So, pages designed using Opera 9 will render properly.

DOUBLE-CLICKING WORDS IN OPERA 9

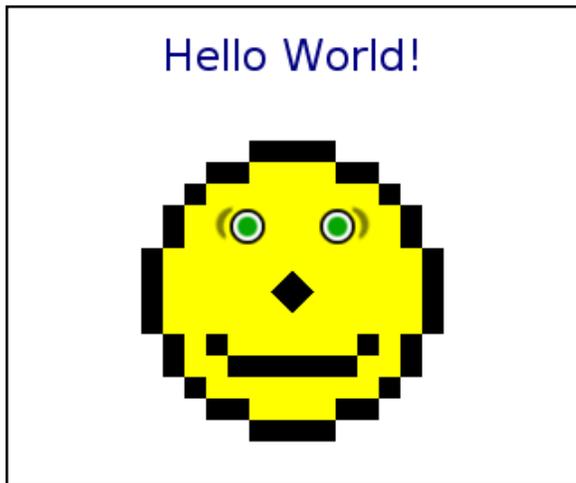If you double-click on a particular word you are curious about within a Web page, a window appears that lets you look up the word in a dictionary, search an encyclopedia or conduct a search with your favorite search engine. You also can translate words on the fly.

640 WIDGETS...AND COUNTING

Finally, saving the best new feature added to Opera 9 for last—widgets. Widgets are small JavaScript/HTML/CSS programs that make your Opera 9 browsing experience an enjoyable adventure. There are more than 640 user-created widgets on the Opera site for your review/download—everything from multimedia (music player with Pandora), newsfeeds, games (try *Circular Tetris*), Webcams and much more. Pictured in Figures 18–21 are a free dictionary, chess, calculator, Wikipedia search, digital clock, unit convertor, aquarium game, Buddhist thought of the day, touch the sky local weather from Accuweather, browser security monitor, Slashdot news, count-

down to the TV premiere of *Lost*, the Pandora music player (which customizes streaming audio to your personal liking), the artist's sketchbook (simple drawing program), *circular Tetris*, Torrent search, eBay search, HTML/CSS WYSIWYG editor, Knowledgemate search and Seaworld San Diego Shamu Cam (captured Shamu).

HATE PASSWORDS? OPERA 9 INCLUDES A PASSWORD MANAGER THAT WILL MAKE REMEMBERING PASSWORDS EASY.

Widgets are open only if Opera is open and appear as separate programs on your Linux desktop. They can be made to appear atop every win-

Figure 16. Opera 9 passes the Web standard Acid2 Test—one of only two browsers to do so.

Figure 17. Double-clicking on a word gives you search options.

Figure 18. Shamu Cam up Close—One of Many Widgets

Figure 19. An Assortment of Available Widgets

dow by right-clicking the widget and choosing always on top. Note: performance of widgets involves having JavaScript enabled in your quick preferences (F12).

To add widgets to Opera, press F4, select Widgets and then Add. You will be taken to the Opera Widget repository where you can browse through all 640 widgets at your leisure. When you find one you like, simply download and the widget will open (no need to restart Opera). You will be given the option of saving this widget or deleting if you find you don't like it.

Figure 20. Even More Widgets

Not every widget downloaded needs to be open—it is your choice. Those you select to be open will reopen when you restart Opera. This is controlled with the F4 widget menu.

CREATING YOUR OWN WIDGET

From the menu bar, click Widgets→Add Widgets. This opens Opera to the Opera Widgets page on which you will see "make a widget in seconds with Opera widgetize". Follow this link. Click the large green button that reads Create a Widget. On the next page, the default style should be selected as Feed Reader - Advanced. Click "I want this type!" Enter the following title: Tux Magazine. Now, enter the following URL in the space provided: http://www.tuxmagazine.com/node/feed. Select a skin—the second one in the top row looks sharp. Finally, click "Make my Widget!" This leads you to a page where you will find the code to be added to a Web site or you can click "Try this Widget!" to download instantly for your own use (which is what

Figure 20. Even More Widgets

Figure 21. *TUX* **RSS Feed Widget**

Figure 22. Opera Download Page: http://www.opera.com/download

you would want to do with this particular creation).

Remember, to manage your downloaded widgets: press F4 then Widgets→Add/Open.

OPERA 9—SO MUCH MORE THAN SPACE ALLOWS

So much more could be written concerning Opera 9, but sadly, we are limited on space. Other features, such as integrated BitTorrent searches, internal IRC chat, content blocking and transfer manager,

should be explored by you—the user. We covered the newest features we thought would be most beneficial to bring your attention to Opera, and in such coverage, something is always missed. We hope this article helps get you started with the new Opera 9 browser with relative ease. We also hope you agree that Opera 9 is an outstanding browser. Although it's not open source, it does offer choice. And, isn't that what Linux is all about? So, if this

article has produced even a minimal amount of intrigue and/or interest, download Opera 9 and decide for yourself!■

Jay Kruizenga, a former Marine, is an accomplished Marketer (specialty: E-Commerce), business owner and aspiring author. He has a deep love for everything pertaining to Linux.

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Acer Aspire 3620

A good machine for the budget-conscious Linux user.

JES HALL

Acer has recently revamped its budget notebook line with larger screens and built-in wireless, while dropping the price further still. This makes the Aspire 3620 in particular a very attractive package. For $699 US (http://www.amazon.com), the Aspire 3620 comes with a Celeron M 370 at 1.5GHz, 256MB DDR2 memory, a 40GB disk and a CD-RW/DVD-ROM combo drive. The Intel integrated graphics take up to a 128MB slice of the system memory, making the addition of another memory module a must. Connectivity is provided by a Realtek 10/100 Ethernet card, a 56K Winmodem (untested) and a 54Mbps 802.11g Broadcom wireless card. A 14.1" 1280x800 widescreen display rounds out the package nicely.

The machine is finished in an attractive matte silver with black plastic inserts. The casing feels reasonably rugged, although the silver finish would probably scratch easily. This is by no means an ultraportable, but at only 2.35kg, it's no brick either. The only disappointment here is a measly 2.5-hour battery from the 6 cell Li-Ion.

We tested this machine with Kubuntu Dapper to see how well it supported Linux, and we were very pleased with the results. This machine has a completely ACPI-compliant BIOS, which is quite rare. Suspend-to-ram works flawlessly under Kubuntu, and the machine stays quite cool to the touch even while under heavy load.

Sound, widescreen resolution and some multimedia keys (volume and mute) worked out of the box. The sound card is pretty reasonable. There is a slight hiss discernible from the headphone socket while there are no sounds playing. This isn't noticeable while playing music even at a low volume. The speakers are adequate for system chimes, but if you plan to listen to music, as with most laptops, the speakers are tinny and very quiet. You'd be doing yourself a favour by investing in a nice pair of headphones.

The 14.1" widescreen display has a matte finish and is crisp and clear. It's very bright, and colour saturation is excellent. The viewing angle is only average, but the response time is fine for watching movies and playing games.

Figure 1. Acer 3620

When one compares the resolution and higher DPI with other similarly priced budget models from other manufacturers that are still at 1024x768, this Aspire looks particularly impressive.

The Intel 915G graphics chipset performs well under Linux with 3-D acceleration supported under recent versions of X.org. Gaming performance was-

n't too bad for an integrated chip, with older games like *Warcraft III* and *Medal of Honour: Allied Assault* running well. Although this is by no means a gaming system, the LCD response time and graphics card performance will certainly let you play games with modest system requirements.

Wireless is provided by an onboard Broadcom 802.11g card. This chip is similar to those used in Apple's machines and is supported under Linux only by either using ndiswrapper and proprietary Windows drivers or a dangerously experimental new kernel patch. We tried both in the process of reviewing this machine and found ndiswrapper to be the most viable solution currently. The card has excellent range and under current versions of ndiswrapper is very stable.

CPU frequency scaling works very well under Kubuntu. As the Celeron M has only frequency scaling and not the voltage scaling supported by the Pentium M, the p4clockmod driver is used. The CPU will throttle at regular intervals all the way down to 200MHz for power saving. Dimming the display and throttling the CPU to 800MHz extends the battery life to close to three hours while leaving enough performance for simple tasks like Web surfing or word processing.

General performance was pretty good. The Celeron M is a capable chip and with the addition of extra memory, the Aspire proved itself adequate for most tasks. This machine isn't suitable for heavy CAD work or very CPU-intensive tasks, but it's just fine for most Internet, productivity and lighter graphics tasks. It compiled the 2.6.16 kernel in seven minutes, 13 seconds with the default configuration. As a comparison, our Athlon XP 3200+ compiled the same kernel using the same compiler in five minutes, 11 seconds.

When one looks at the performance and features of the Aspire 3620 in context of the price, it looks like a great deal. When you add in the

very rare, almost flawless Linux power management support, it's a lot of computer for the money. We can sincerely recommend this machine to the budget-conscious Linux user, and we applaud Acer for the ACPI-compliant BIOS in this model. Make sure you spend the little extra to get more memory—it's well worth it.■

Jes Hall is a UNIX systems consultant and KDE developer from New Zealand. She's passionate about helping open-source software bring life-changing information and tools to those who would otherwise not have them.

SUMMARY

PROS: cheap, widescreen, great Linux support.

CONS: 256MB just doesn't cut it, mediocre battery life.

URL: http://global.acer.com/products/notebook/as3620.htm

SPECS

- **Processor: 1.5GHz Celeron M 370**

- **Memory: 768MB DDR2 (Max 2GB)**

- **Hard disk: 40GB 4200RPM**

- **Optical: CD-RW/DVD-ROM combo**

- **Graphics: Intel Extreme 915G, 128MB shared with system memory**

- **Display: 14.1" 1280x800 widescreen LCD**

- **Networking: 10/100Mbps integrated Ethernet, integrated 56k modem, integrated 802.11b/g wireless**

- **Battery: 6 cell Li-Ion, 2.5 hours**

- **Weight: 2.35kg**

- **Ports: 3x USB 2.0, line in, mic, line out, VGA out, Ethernet and modem**

Postal 2: Share the Pain

Spend time in picture-perfect Paradise, Arizona.

JAY KRUIZENGA

Postal 2 is a game wrapped in controversy. If you take it for what it is—just a game—then you can find hours of twisted fun running amok through the beautiful setting of Paradise, Arizona; however, if you are offended by these type of games that hold a Mature rating and don't want your children exposed to such violence, it would be best you did not play.

The game does hold a Mature ESRB rating, meaning that no one under the age of 17 is supposed to purchase or play the game. *Postal 2* does contain profanity, drug use, murder, blood/gore, psychotic visuals and nudity; so parents be warned. For those over 17, *Postal 2* is a blast. Not merely a first-person shooter game, *Postal 2* has a story line with several built-in missions should you choose to follow them.

INSTALLATION OF *POSTAL 2*

Postal 2: Share the Pain and its successor (add-on) *Postal 2: Apocalypse Weekend* are available directly from the game's creator at http://www.gopostal.com for the very low price of $19.95 US each. *Postal 2: Share the Pain* is also available for purchase through Linspire's CNR warehouse for $40 US or $24.95 US if a Gold Member.

If you buy the CD directly from Running With Scissors (RWS) at the above Web site, it includes installation instructions that are fairly straightforward and should get you up and running, though this sometimes can be a bit intimidating for Linux newbies. A few patches are available from the Web site as well that fix a few known bugs.

Installation/accessibility score: average

POSTAL 2'S EASE OF USE

Once the game is loaded on your Linux system, it is simply a matter of clicking a desktop icon to play the game. After the initial graphical presentation, select a new game and choose your level of difficulty. There are 13 levels

Figure 1. Opening Scene—Outstanding Graphics

from "Liebermode" to "They Hate Me".

The default difficulty level is set at "Average"—toward the middle of the spectrum. Once you have entered your difficulty level, you are shown a display of the relative game play keys that you can study to your heart's content—press Start to continue. Each of these keys/commands can be customized to your liking during the initial startup screens. The default settings

Figure 2. Entrance to RWS (Running with Scissors)

Figure 3. Angry Protesters Soon to Turn Violent

are as follows:

- W key or up arrow: forward

- S key or down arrow: back

- A key or left arrow: left

- D key or right arrow: right

- F: show map (very important to find your bearing in game)

- E: empty hands (you don't necessarily want to be toting a machine gun through town)

- C: crouch

- Spacebar: jump

- Q: kick

- R: unzip/zip pants (yes, your pants—a public display of your manhood)

- K: commit suicide

- G: yell "Get down!"

- J: toggle weapon

- Enter: use an item

- X: drop an item

- Right bracket: next item

- Left bracket: previous item

- T: quick health

- Z: drop weapon

SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS

- Linux Kernel 2.2x or later

- Glibc 2.1x or later

- Pentium 1GHz+

- 128MB of RAM

- 3-D video card with 64MB of memory

- XFree86 3.3x or later

- OSS-compatible sound card

- 8x CD-ROM

- 1.4GB hard drive space

- Left-mouse button: fire weapon

- 1–0 keys: weapons (if you have them in your possession)

That really is the most difficult task of any game—learning the game's keyboard/mouse control settings. The game drops subtle hints throughout play as to what you are able to do. For instance, if you attempt to carry a shovel into town, the game will prompt you to press E to disarm yourself as a reminder.

Game play itself is simple. You meander through the town of Paradise, Arizona, on a mission to do certain tasks, which, once completed, will give you an entirely different set of tasks to accomplish. If you do *not* feel like playing these

Figure 4. Encounter Rude Obnoxious People

missions, you can run rampant and be as violent/destructive as you choose, though it makes more sense to follow game play with the missions. You will have plenty of opportunities to arm yourself as a matter of protection.

Ease of use score: good

POSTAL 2 DOCUMENTATION
The game itself is your documentation—you really do not need more. All commands are established by default at the beginning of the game, and game play tells you what you are supposed to do next. It is like a giant, psychotic soap opera in which you are the star.

Documentation score: average

POSTAL 2 GAME PLAY—CAPABILITY
Released in April 2003, *Postal 2* has been a great success. Built upon the Unreal engine, the game depicts beautiful scenery and graphical displays of a busy town that has turned slightly psycho. You are a new computer game pro-

Figure 5. Looks Peaceful up Here—Bloodbath Below

grammer for RWS (Running with Scissors, naturally) having recently relocated to beautiful Paradise, Arizona, with your wife, to land that dream job. It is Monday, and you find yourself immersed in a world where nothing can go right. You live in an old battered trailer where the story commences. The camera pans around the trailer while voices are heard inside—you cussing at the non-working air-conditioner.

Distressed, you shoot the AC while your wife nags about your job. A list on the fridge starts off your first mission: 1) pick up your paycheck at RWS; 2) cash your check at the bank; and 3) pick up some milk at the store.

You exit the trailer, and your dog urinates on your foot. Great start to your morning. Giving the dog a kick, it yelps out of the yard. On to your car. The hood is up, and knowing that the car is

Figure 6. Gary Coleman Makes an Appearance

not going to start, you crank the engine anyhow. No go. Looks like you are going to have to walk. The game begins with you peering into the open tool shed where you see a shovel propped against the wall and a bong.

Now, you can choose to leave the shovel there *or* you can pick it up (run into it) and don it as a weapon, running amok through the streets of Paradise. If you choose the latter, the game prompts you to press E to remind you to put your weapon away so as not to alarm the innocent townspeople. Smoking the bong you state, "This can't be good for me, but I feel great." You pay for this later when you start feeling sick.

Note: during the course of the game you will see several tunnels marked with yellow hazard signs. These signs indicate a level change, and the game will pause to load the new area into memory. Each time you pass through one of these barriers, this happens, even if you already visited an area. The game also autosaves at these points.

So, away you go on your first mission. You pass many townspeople who are rather rude if you come anywhere near them on your way to RWS to collect your paycheck. Once you reach your place of employment, crossing over the path that winds up to the RWS entrance, you witness a group of avid protesters bearing pickets and shouting, "Games are bad—they make you mad." Of course, you do nothing while pushing your way through the mob, because you could care less—you need your paycheck. Inside, one of your fellow employees stops to tell you that Vince, your boss, needs to see you immediately. You locate Vince's office and enter only to have Vince waving his finger in your face mockingly explaining your plight—you're fired! Oh well, you pick up your check.

Outside, the crowd of protesters has gone berserk, and they rush inside RWS bearing arms. The RWS security team has quite the shoot-em-up firing session, which you can join given the fact that you have collected some weapons (note: there is one sitting behind the desk in the RWS entrance hall).

If you get out alive, be on the lookout; these protesters pop up every-where, and they *will* recognize you, declaring you to be a mass killer—and they will shoot at will.

Next, on to the bank. All you need do is cash your paycheck right? Wrong. Inside, you must patiently wait in a long line while punks cut in and out of line causing the poor sap in front of you to give numerous finger ges-tures and verbal insults. After being told repeatedly to return to the back of the line (the teller is having a bad day), you are finally allowed to cash your paycheck. Suddenly you hear shooting. The bank is being robbed! You are always in the wrong place at the wrong time.

We were able to walk right through the bank by allowing the cops to shoot the thieves dead. So, on to the store to pick up some milk. There you must pay the cashier (doesn't know much English) and again shooting begins. You then head home to your most ungrateful wife.

If you find yourself getting stuck, here are a few cheat codes to help you out. To enter these codes, first press the ~ key (right next to the 1 on US keyboards), which opens a console window. Enter the word `sissy` to enable cheat mode, and then enter one of the following codes:

■ alamode: God mode.

- packnheat: arms you with every weapon.

- payload: gives you extra ammo.

- iamsolame: all three of the above—God mode, all weapons and ammo.

- jewsforjesus: extra money.

- iamthelaw: puts you in a cop uniform.

- healthful: heals your life to 100% and gives you four healthpacks.

- ifeelfree: ghost mode.

- likeabirdy: flight mode.

- resetcops(): resets police and wanted status.

   Overall game play is very interesting and exciting. You can spend hours browsing the town, engaged in meaningless missions. Just beware of the radical Islamic terrorists and the violent protestor group. They'll pop out of nowhere, at any time, at any place.
   Capability score: excellent

GETTING SUPPORT WITH *POSTAL 2*
The *Postal 2* Web site contains a support section where you will find more cheat codes (hints) as well as game patches, tips on improving performance and assistance with known problems. There is also a message board and forum section where you can talk with other players to discover a solution if you are stuck.
   Support: average

CONCLUSION
Postal 2 can be a riot. Take the game with a grain of salt and indulge yourself in the storyline—you'll either have a few chuckles or find yourself rolling in the aisles. It is no wonder that the *Postal* lineage of games has amassed a huge fan base of loyal customers eager for the next adventure to be released. As mentioned previously, there is an add-on entitled *Apocalypse Weekend* that does require the original *Postal 2: Share the Pain* for play. We

Figure 7. Dead Islamic Terrorist

are certain there will be further add-ons in the years ahead considering the game's popularity and the demand for more twisted action.
   Have fun with the game. If you are a first-person shooter fan, you will fall in love with *Postal 2*. Not only do you get the action, but you also get adventure. And besides, who can resist Gary Coleman (child star of *Different Strokes*) right? Remember him with his infamous phrase, "what you talkin' about Willis"? Here he is in Paradise, Arizona, on tour for his latest book. Too bad you're having a bad hair day—go easy on the poor guy.■

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