The PCLinuxOS magazine

Volume 48

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PCLinuxOS

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Welcome From The Chief Editor

In a lot of ways, it's difficult to imagine that 2010 is already over. It just didn't seem to last long, at all. 2010 was a busy year for PCLinuxOS. We saw the arrival of KDE 4 as the default desktop for PCLinuxOS. The move to KDE 4 was welcomed by many, and lamented by others. We also saw the number of alternate desktop environments increase to include not only Gnome, Xfce and LXDE, but also Openbox, e17, and even Wmii. Of those, most were offered up in both "full versions" and "mini versions." We even saw the introduction of "KDE Full Monty," which has most anything and everything a user might want to install, via a Live DVD. Now, there is literally a desktop for every user, running most any kind of hardware, new or old.

Typically, the coming of the New Year's holiday signifies a time to ring in changes. For The PCLinuxOS Magazine, it means a small name and logo change. After 18 months, we are no longer "NEW." So, in keeping with the spirit of the New Year's holiday, we are dropping the "NEW" from the name of the magazine. Nothing else changes. I, along with the rest of the staff, remain dedicated to bringing you the magazine on a monthly basis, packed with the informative and entertaining articles that you have come to expect. The new logo for the magazine was designed by Timeth, and will now grace the cover of our monthly magazine.

This month, we continue our look at the e17 desktop. Meemaw begins a three part look at the e17 System Panel settings, while I take a look at e17 Modules and the use of gadgets on the e17 desktop. Pete Kelly returns with an in-depth look at Grub, with some tips on how to fix it when it seems to get a mind of its own. Meemaw also takes a look at another of the Ladies Of PCLinuxOS, with her interview of JRex.

I take a look at using and setting up Radio Tray, in the Repo Spotlight column this month. Leiche shows us how to add some useful eye candy to our PCLinuxOS desktop, exploring how to set up and use Wbar, which will give users a Mac OS-X like quick launch bar. Meemaw kicks off another multi-part article series that will cover using Scribus to create a newsletter. This topic is dear to us who work on the magazine layout every month, since we use Scribus to lay out the PDF version of the magazine. There's nothing quite like covering a topic that you know intimately!

Gary Ratliff, Sr. returns with another installment in his Computer Languages From A To Z column, with a look at Unicon. Darrel Johnston finishes up his look at Kolibri, in his Alternate OS article series. Of course, ms_meme graces us with two installments of Forum Foibles this month, along with two installments of ms_meme's Nook. Mark Szorady's Double Take & Mark's Quick Gimp Tip is back for another of his dose of his monthly column and cartoon. We also have a couple of testimonials, culled from the PCLinuxOS Forum.

As the New Year arrives, I'd like to wish each and every person out there the most prosperous and healthy New Year. Until next month, I'd also like to wish each and every one of you peace, prosperity, happiness, serenity and tranquility.

Paul Arnote, Chief Editor

Using Scribus, Part 1: Getting Acquainted

by Meemaw

"I'm doing a newsletter at work, and I need a desktop publishing application. I used to use (Windows or Mac) Program X, but now that I've changed to Linux, I need to know what's available."

Sound familiar? Never fear, we have the right program for you: Scribus. From their website:

Scribus is an Open Source program that brings award-winning professional page layout to Linux/UNIX, Mac OS X, OS/2 Warp 4/eComStation and Windows desktops with a combination of "press-ready" output and new approaches to page layout. Underneath the modern and user friendly interface, Scribus supports professional publishing features, such as CMYK color, separations, Spot Colors, ICC color management and versatile PDF creation.

Why would you want to use Scribus? Scribus is powerful software that helps you create great looking documents of all kinds.

Oh, by the way, this magazine is made using Scribus! The current stable version in the repos is Ver. 1.3.8

Let's get started.

The start-up screen will be the first thing you see. The first thing you want to do is to edit your page properties. Your page properties will be for this project only. The default settings are shown above. You have the choice of single page, double-sided, 3-fold or 4-fold. You can also put in many other configuration items
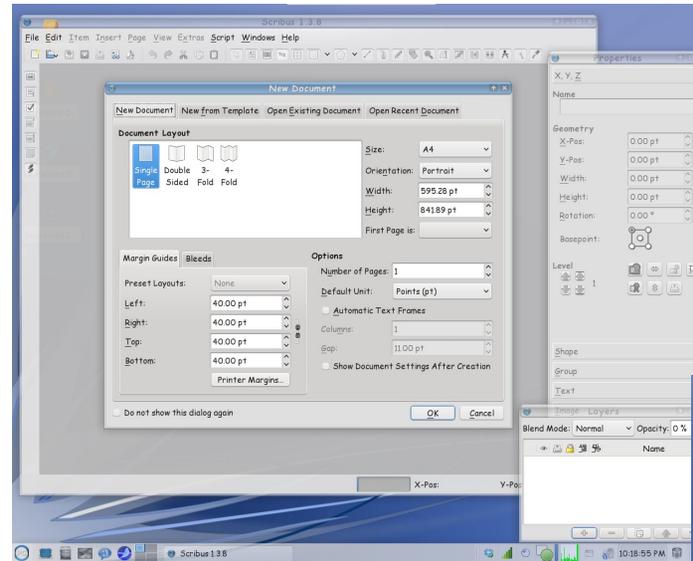
such as your margins, paper size, portrait or landscape orientation and even if you need more than one page. If you aren't sure how many pages you need, don't worry as you can add pages later. You can also designate the unit of measure you wish to use. We do the magazine using points, but you can change it to inches, centimeters, or other units you wish to use (I use inches at work). For our example, I am keeping the defaults, except to change the paper size to Letter. If you change your mind about margins afterward you can go to **File > Document Setup** and make your changes.

When you open your document, the default toolbar should look as shown below.

From left to right, we have New, Open, Save, Close, Preflight Verifier, Convert to PDF, Undo, Redo, Cut, Copy, Paste, Selection, Create Text Frame, Create Image Frame, Create Render Frame, Create Table, Insert Shape, Insert Polygon, Insert Line, Insert Bezier Curve, Insert Freehand Line, Rotate Item, Zoom In or Out, Edit Contents of Frame, Edit Text, Link Text Frames, Unlink Text Frames, Measurements, Copy Item Properties and Eye Dropper. Insert Shape and Insert Polygon each have drop down menus so you can designate the type of object you want to insert.
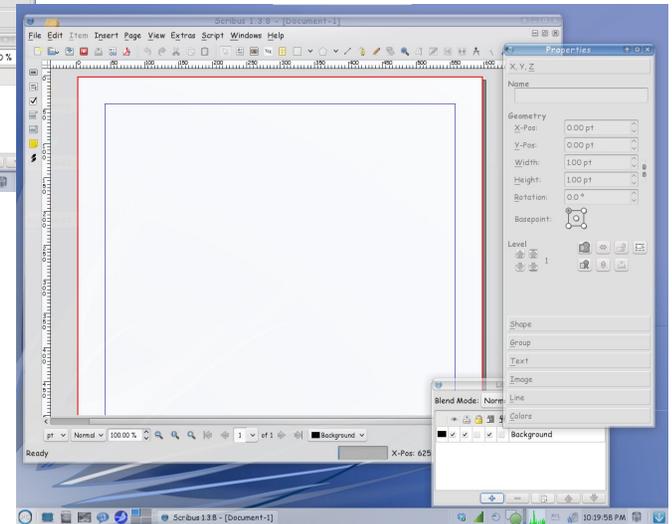
The two extra windows open at right are **Document Properties** and **Layers**. I have these open all the time because most of the design is done using these windows. If you mess up and close one, you can always go to the menu bar and click on **Windows**. You

will see a whole list of windows you can use; just click on the one you want. We'll use a few more of these soon. Also, at the bottom of your main window you will see a few other handy things... zoom, page navigation, level navigation and preview mode (looks like an open eye).

Items are added to your document by the use of frames. If you want text, add a text frame. If you want to place a picture, add an image frame and put the picture in it. Let's start by adding a text frame. From your toolbar, click on the **Create Text Frame** button (it looks like a piece of paper with a big A in the corner). Then click and drag to make a rectangle on your page.

Don't worry if it isn't the right size or in the right spot, but notice that the text in the Properties window that was grayed out before is now suddenly 'active' and the boxes are filled with numbers. The **Properties**

window is where you can configure each item you put into your document. Using this window you can not only make your items the right size, but also place them exactly where you want them, which is much easier than trying to place it with the mouse.

I want my text box edges to be exactly on my top and left margins, so I will set the X-Pos and Y-Pos both at 40 pt – right where I set my margins. In many newsletters, the size of the text box will generally depend on the length of the article, so I will leave the height and width alone for now.

On your toolbar, you saw a button that looked like a notepad with a pencil on it toward the right end. With your text box selected as in the above picture, click on the notepad - that is the **Story Editor** tool, and will give you the window shown below (or right click inside the text frame and choose Edit Text from the context menu):

This is the **Story Editor** window. You can use it to write your article or, if you have a text document that you want to use, you can copy and paste the text

into this window. When you click on the green check mark in the top row, the window will close and your text will be in the text frame. All of your text frames will be filled in this manner.

You can add graphics too. Click the **Create Image Frame** button and click and drag, just like you made your text frame.
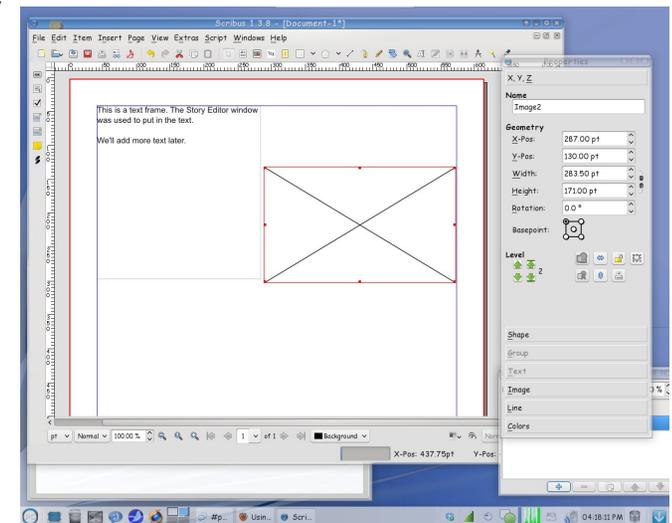
To insert the image, right-click somewhere in the frame and choose **Get Image**---->
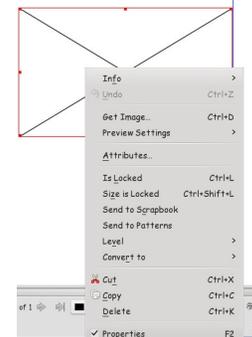
When it is inserted, you can configure it. You can right click on the image and choose **Fit Image to Frame**. That choice will shrink your image down to fit within the frame you have drawn, but it may not fit precisely. If you know what size

your image needs to be you can enter those numbers into the dimensions in the Properties window. You can also choose **Fit Frame to Image**, which changes the frame so it is exactly the same size as the image.
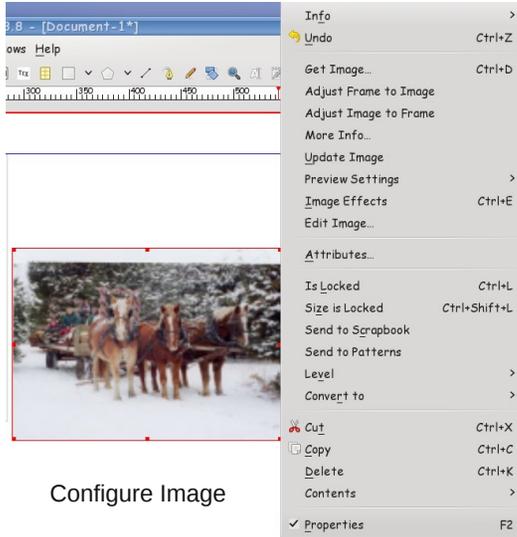
Configure Image

Let's look at the Properties window again. Everything can be configured using this window. The sections in the window are **X,Y,Z, Shape, Group, Text, Image, Line** and **Colors**.

X,Y,Z is the one you see and use most often. It is the one you use for size and placement of your frame. You can raise or lower your frame from the arrows under 'Level' (which helps if you have two pictures that overlap.) Notice also the button at right that looks like a lock: it is used for 'locking' an item in a certain spot. This is particularly
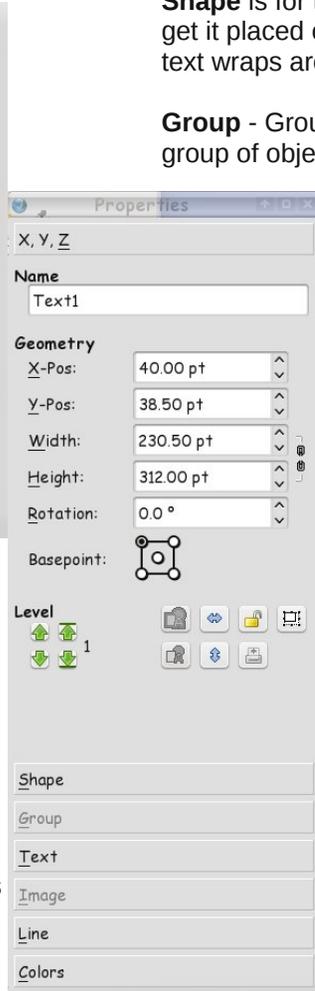
helpful when you have several frames and some need text wrapped around them. If you lock the frame, it won't move accidentally and you can go on and work with something else.

Shape is for text wrap. After you put in a picture and get it placed correctly, you can set the shape so the text wraps around the picture and can all be seen.

Group - Group is used to set text flow around a group of objects (rather than Shape for an image). Some of the things you use may be shapes that have been grouped together, and this is supposed to configure the text flow. However, it doesn't work correctly quite yet in the more recent versions of Scribus, so in later articles, we'll look at ways to accomplish that another way.

Text is where you will configure your text. Font and size are configured here, as well as color and text effects. If you want a big title with blue text outlined in red, you can do that here. There are text configuration items in the text editing window that you can use, but you really should do most of it from the Text tab in Properties. We'll explore that in a later article as well.

Line - If you want your text or image frame to have a border, you can configure it here. You are given many line styles and sizes. Before you can see it, however, you must go to Colors and choose a color, as the default is none.

Colors - Here you configure the color of any object you insert (although text color is configured in the Text tab). If you insert a rectangle for decoration, you can choose the border and fill color and also the transparency. Horizontal and vertical gradients can be configured as well.

We can start our newsletter next month.

e17: A Look At Modules

by Paul Arnote (parnote)

One of the huge attractions of e17 is its modular construction. With the addition or subtraction of a variety of modules, e17 can be as lean as possible, or it can be as full featured as the "big daddy" desktops KDE and Gnome. Also, you will find that modules and gadgets are somewhat closely tied together. Loosely translated, this means that before you can make use of a particular gadget, you must first activate the module that controls the gadget's function.

By going to the PC menu, you can bring up the Modules dialog box. Simply go to Settings » Modules. It should look something like this:
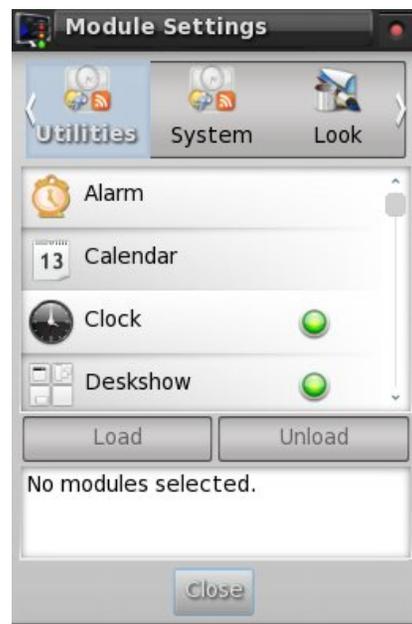
In total, there are 133 modules, divided into eight different sections. Here is a list of those sections, with the modules available under each section, and the default description of each module (if available):

UTILITIES

Alarm: A module which allows you to set popup reminders.

Calendar: Calendar sheet showing the current day.

Clock: Nice clock gadget to show current time.

Deskshow: Gadget to allow you to quickly uncover your desktop.

DiskIO: Visualize disk i/o.

Drawer: A gadget that acts as a container for data.

EMpris: Control MPRIS supporting music player like Amarok, Audacious, xmms, VLC and others.

EWeather: A weather gadget.

Execwatch: Shows the last state of a periodic executed cmd. Useful as an update checker or for checking if a remote host is available (through ping).

Forecasts: The forecasts gadget will display the current weather conditions plus a few days forecast.

IBar: Iconic application launcher.

IBox: A home for your iconified applications.

ITask: It will hold all of your open applications for fast switching.

Iiirk: Act like a taskbar but only for selected applications.

Language: Gadget to control active keyboard, keyboard layout, and layout variants.

MPDule: View what's playing in MPD.

Mail: Mail notification gadget. Checks POP3, IMAP, maildir and mbox mailboxes.

Moon: Gadget for e17 which displays the current phase of the moon.

News: Gadget to monitor RSS feeds.

OpenOffice.org Quickstart: This module preloads the openoffice process to save start time with the costs of some memory.

Pager: Gadget to allow you to visualize your virtual desktops and the windows they contain.

Photo: View photos or a mini slideshow within this gadget.

Screenshot: Gadget to take screenshots using emprint.

Slideshow: Turns your desktop background into a slideshow.

Start: e17's "Start" button equivalent.

Systray: System tray that holds application icons like Skype, Pidgin, Kopete and others.

TClock: A digital clock gadget.

Taskbar: Gadget to provide a taskbar.

Uptime: Gadget to display the current uptime of the system.

Weather: A weather gadget.

Winselector: This gadget provides a menu-based access to all the windows.

Wlan: Gadget to monitor a wlan device.

SYSTEM

Battery: A gadget to visualize your battery status.

`Bluetooth Manager:` A gadget to manage your Bluetooth connection and devices.

Connection Manager: Control Wifi and wired networks as a user.

CPU: Used to monitor CPU utilization.

Cpufreq: Gadget to monitor and change the CPU frequency.

DBus Extension:

Ecomorph: Ecomorph module.

Itask NG: A dock that holds a taskbar and application launcher.

Mem: Used to monitor memory utilization.

Mixer: A module to provide a mixer for changing volume.

Mobile Modems Manager: Control mobile modems.

Net: Network interface monitor.

Places: This module manages the volume devices attached to the system.

Temperature: Temperature monitor.

LOOK

Composite:

Dropshadow: Module to add a dropshadow to windows.

Flame: A module to display flames on the desktop.

Penguins: Module to display fancy penguins walking around your desktop.

Rain: Module to display rain on the desktop.

Snow: Module to display snow on the desktop.

FILES

EFM (Starter): e17's integrated file manager (under construction)

EFM Navigation: A module that allows a user to navigate the filemanager module.

EFM Operation Info: Can be placed on the desktop or on a shelf.

EFM Path: A module that allows a user to type a location into the file manager.

EFM Pathbar: A module that provides a pathbar gadget to navigate the filemanager module.

LAUNCHER

Everything (Starter): The run command module provides an application launcher dialog.

Everything Applications:

Everything Aspell: Aspell frontend. Use "aspell" as trigger.

Everything Calculator: Frontend for bc. Use "=" as trigger.

Everything Files:

Everything MPRIS: Control MPRIS compatible media players from Everything.

Everything Pidgin: Open chat windows and send files to buddies.

Everything Places: Access folder bookmarks and mount drives.

Everything Settings: Quickly open e17 settings dialogs.

Everything Tracker: Find files with Tracker (requires version 0.8).

Everything Wallpaper: Select wallpaper or create new ones from images.

Everything WebSearch: Find stuff on Wikipedia, use Google suggestions and 'Google for it' (tm) action.

Everything Windows: Window actions.

Quick Access: Provides quick access to chosen applications.

Run Command: The run command module provides an application launcher dialog.

CORE

Gadgets: Module to manage gadgets on the desktop.

Notification: libnotify alternative. Popup if an event occurs.

Settings Panel:

System Controls: This module provides a unified popup dialog for all the system actions in Enlightenment.

Tiling: Positions/resizes your windows tilingly, like ion for example.

Window Switcher List: A module to show the list of client applications presently running.

Winlist NG:

MOBILE

Illume: This is a module to make Enlightenment tuned for embedded touchscreen displays such as on phones and web-pads with windows always being fullscreen and having a simplified application launcher and manager.

Illume-Bluetooth:

Illume-Home:

Illume-Home-Toggle:

Illume-Indicator:

Illume-Keyboard:

Illume-Keyboard-Toggle:

Illume-Mode-Toggle:

Illume-Softkey:

Illume2:

SETTINGS

ACPI Bindings: Configure your ACPI bindings here.

Applications: Allows configuration of IBar, Restart, and Startup Applications.
Borders: Used to select a default border style.

Client List Menu: Allows customization of the client list menu.
Colors: Used to customize the color classes.

Desk: Used to configure the desktop names and wallpaper for individual virtual desktops.

Dialogs: Configure default dialog properties.

Edge Bindings: Configure your edge bindings here.

Engine: Used to select the rendering engine.

File Icons: Configure e17 mime icons.

Fonts: Font configuration dialog.

Icon Theme: Settings applet used to select an icon theme for e17.

Input Methods: Used to select an input method.

Interaction: Configure default user interaction settings.

Key Bindings: Configure your keybindings here.

Language: Used to select a default language.

Menu Settings: Configures menu behavior.

Mouse Bindings: Used to configure your mouse bindings.
Mouse Cursor: Select the mouse cursor style.

Mouse Settings: Configure mouse behavior.

Performance: Used to configure certain performance related items, such as frame rates and cache settings.

Power Management: Configure the DPMS settings of your system.

Profiles: Allows management of configuration profiles.

Scaling: Used to configure how display scaling is handled.

Screen Lock: Configures the integrated desk lock.

Screen Resolution: Used to configure your screen's resolution.

Screen Saver: Configures the X screensaver.

Search Directories: Specifies the e17 search paths and default directories.

Shelves: Shelf configuration dialog.

Startup: Used to configure the e17 splash screen.

Theme: Used to configure your theme preferences.

Transitions: Used to choose a default transition. Transitions are used upon wallpaper changes, among other things.

Virtual Desktops: Configure the virtual desktop properties.

Wallpaper: Used to pick a wallpaper.

Wallpaper 2: Used to pick a wallpaper.

Window Display: Configures default window properties such as default geometries, border icons, placement styles, etc.

Window Focus: Configure window focus behavior.

Window List: Configure your window list properties.

Window Manipulation: Configures window raise, resistance, and maximize policies.

Window Remembers: Delete existing window remembers.

That's all 133 e17 modules listed above. It's important to remind you that the modules have to be selected in order to use the gadgets that are associated with the module.

Many of the modules are fairly self explanatory, based either on their name or on their description. In all fairness, we'll take a closer look at what some of the more popular modules do when we take a look at the gadgets that are associated with the modules in a separate article.

Screenshot Showcase

PCLinuxOS.nl

Netherlands

PCLinuxOS
Daykonun mekanı

Turkey

PC Linux OS

Denmark

Czechoslovakia

PCLinuxOS
síla jednoduchosti

PCLinuxOS.it

Italy

PCLinuxOS Polskie Centrum

Poland

Posted by Dragynn, December 1, 2010, running Zen Mini

Happy New Year Texstar
PCLinuxOS has come of age
You've traveled oh so far
Now it is all the rage

Happy New Year Forum Friends
We are PCLinuxOS folks
Thanks for help that never ends
And for all those Sandbox jokes

We boot up and give a cheer
PCLinuxOS we loudly proclaim
We'll be here next year
And do more of the same

Happy New Year Texstar
We know you've made the best
PCLinuxOS is way over par
It beats out all the rest

ms_meme

Re: Forum Foibles

Double Take & Mark's Quick Gimp Tip

Double Take
by Mark Szorady

WHAT'RE YOU SMILING ABOUT? IT'S COLD AND SNOWY!

WHY ARE YOU SMILING? IT'S COLD AND SNOWY!

Find at least seven differences between cartoons.

Mark's Quick Gimp Tip

As I've mentioned before, I use Gimp to enhance photos. And Gimp does a nice job of adding certain "special effects" to photos. Have you ever seen a film or commercial where everything is in black and white but one element is in color? That color element really stands out. Well, you can achieve this effect in The Gimp quite easily. Step one, open a color photograph. Duplicate it by selecting Image>Duplicate. A new image appears in it's own window. In the new image, select Image>Mode>Grayscale. This changes the photo to black and white. Now, copy the photo by selecting Edit>Copy. Select the color photo. Paste the B&W image into the color photo as a new layer by selecting Edit>Paste As> New Layer. A new layer of the B&W photo will drop on top of the color photo perfectly aligned. Now, working on the B&W layer, simply grab your eraser tool and remove any gray area where you want color to show through. And, Ta-Daa! A B&W photo with color added in specific areas! You can see the effect in the photo of my old red car. I erased the gray hood area to allow the red in the color photo to show through.
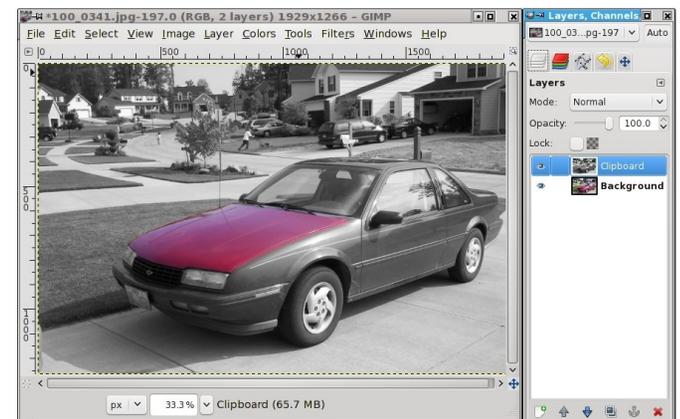
-Mark Szorady is a nationally syndicated cartoonist with georgetoon.com. He blogs at georgetoon.com/blog. Email Mark at georgetoon@gmail.com.

Alternate OS: Kolibri, Part 2

by Darrel Johnston (djohnston)

The instructions for using GRUB to boot KolibriOS on Kolibri's wiki at http://wiki.kolibrios.org/wiki/Main_Page indicate that "there is one limitation in this method: The kernel cannot save its boot settings." As I previously stated, I found that not to be the case. Once Kolibri is booted from the hard drive, select Menu > System > Work with files > Save RD image, as shown below.

Saving to /hd0/1/kolibri.img will restore your settings on the next bootup (center top.)

The applications shown in this article are not all of the applications included in the distribution. There are more in the main menu, and there are even more included in the Live CD.
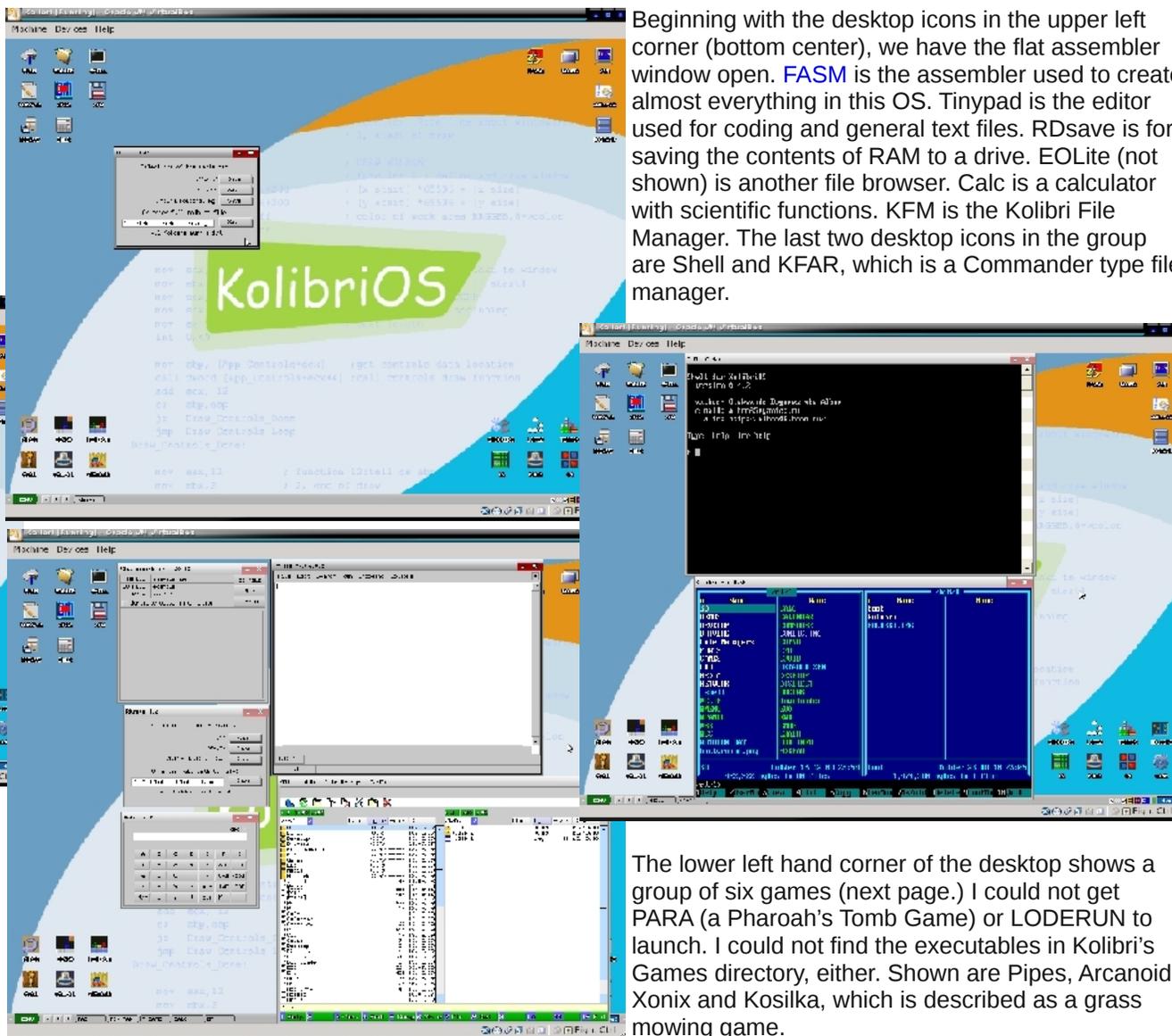
Beginning with the desktop icons in the upper left corner (bottom center), we have the flat assembler window open. FASM is the assembler used to create almost everything in this OS. Tinypad is the editor used for coding and general text files. RDsave is for saving the contents of RAM to a drive. EOLite (not shown) is another file browser. Calc is a calculator with scientific functions. KFM is the Kolibri File Manager. The last two desktop icons in the group are Shell and KFAR, which is a Commander type file manager.

The lower left hand corner of the desktop shows a group of six games (next page.) I could not get PARA (a Pharoah's Tomb Game) or LODERUN to launch. I could not find the executables in Kolibri's Games directory, either. Shown are Pipes, Arcanoid, Xonix and Kosilka, which is described as a grass mowing game.
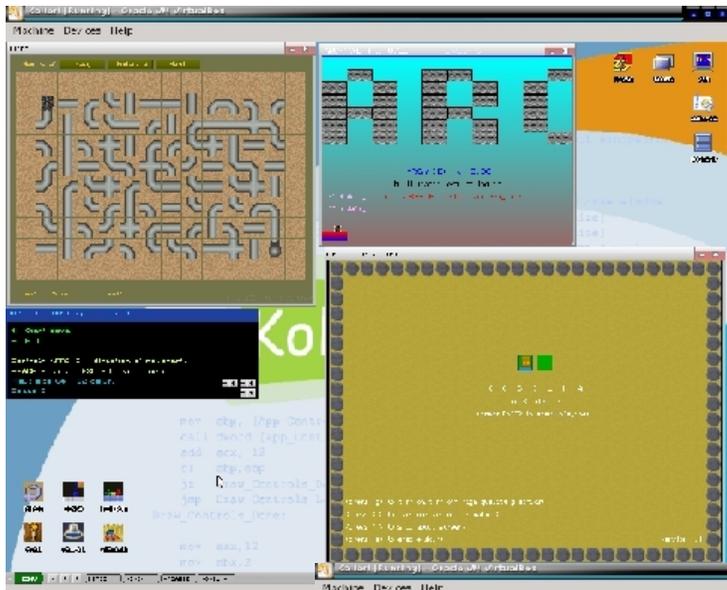
DOCPACK is a group of links to included documents.

The icon group in the lower right hand corner of the desktop are all games. Shown are Checkers, 15, which is a puzzle game, Life, Tetris and C4, another puzzle game (right.)
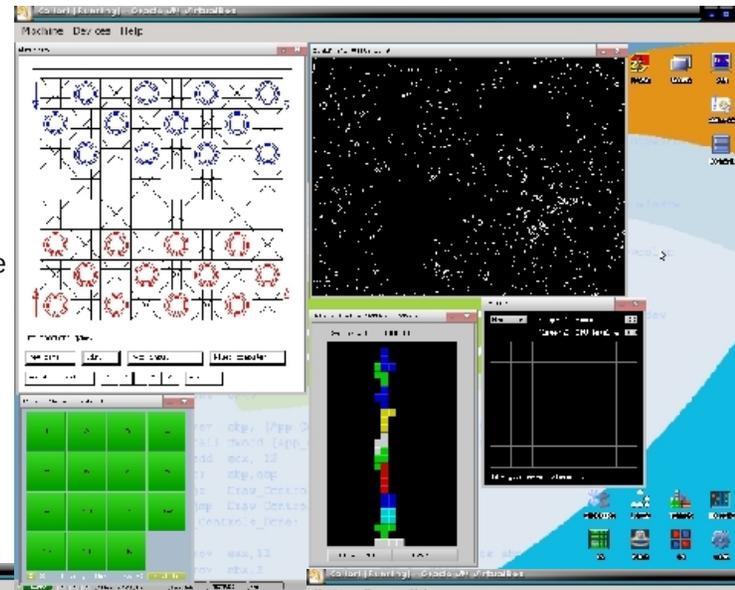
The next two screens show some of the 3D demonstations available (next page.) The file manager is open because I launched each executable program from the file manager. The gears program is functionally the same as GLGears. It does display the framerate, but it is displayed in the window's title bar and is hard to see.

The icons in the upper right hand corner of the screen are utilities (right.) MTDBG is Kolibri's program debugger. BOARD is a kernel message debugging board. VRR is to change the vertical refresh rate of your monitor. The option is also available on Kolibri's boot screen. ANIMAGE is an animated image editor. I haven't been able to determine what graphics file format the program works with.
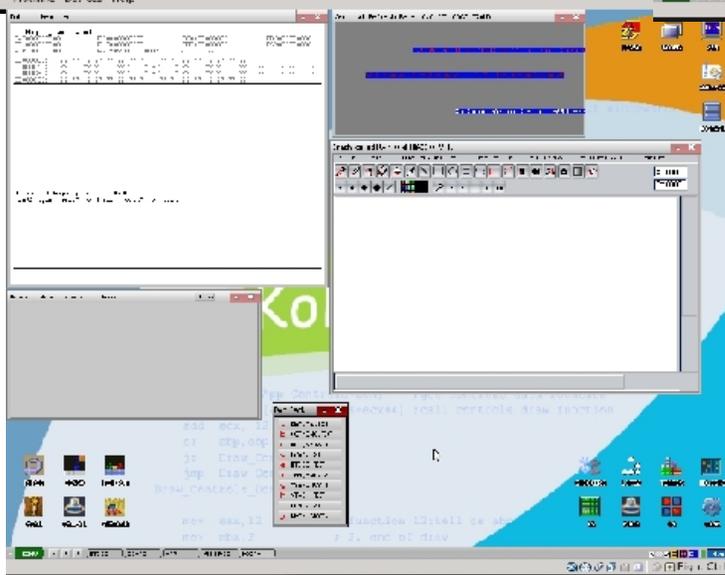
The last three games are Pong, HBlocks and Minesweeper (right.)
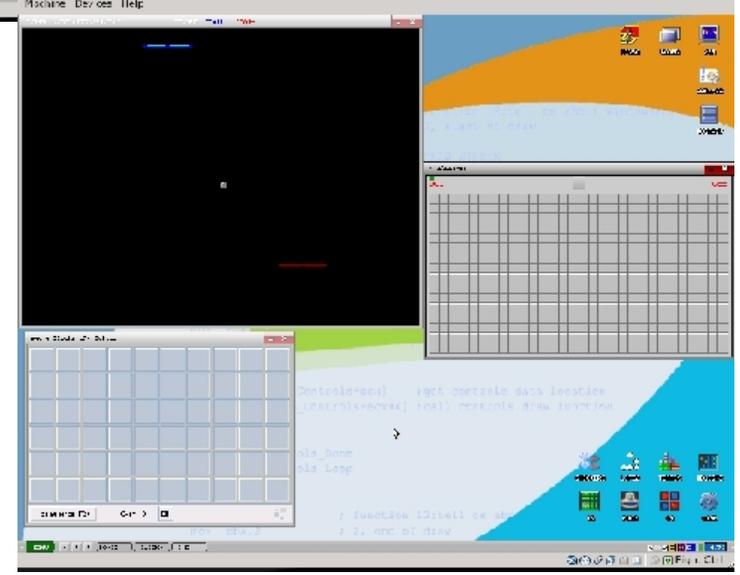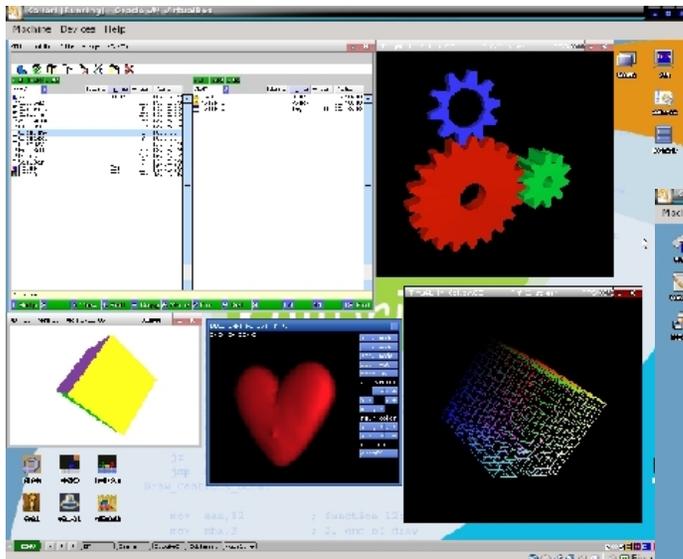
In the top row (bottom left) are the file manager, BCD clock, analog clock, pacman logo and a hex editor. In the bottom row are a color reference, color slider, more 3D demonstrations and an elapsed time indicator.
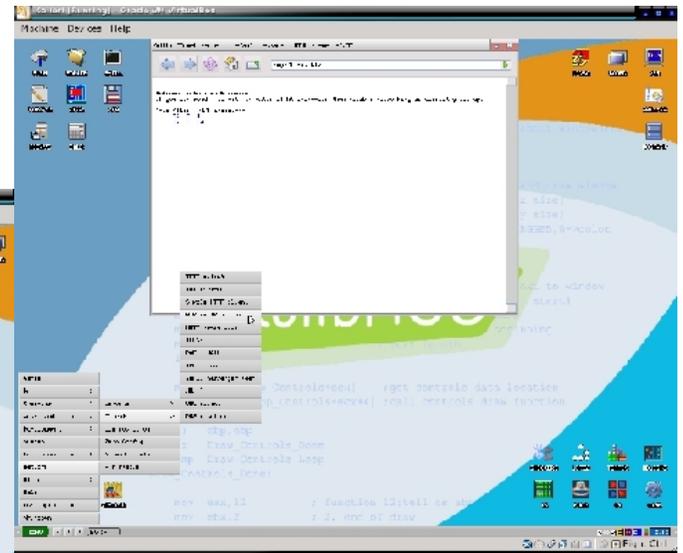
HTML and HTTP Viewer.
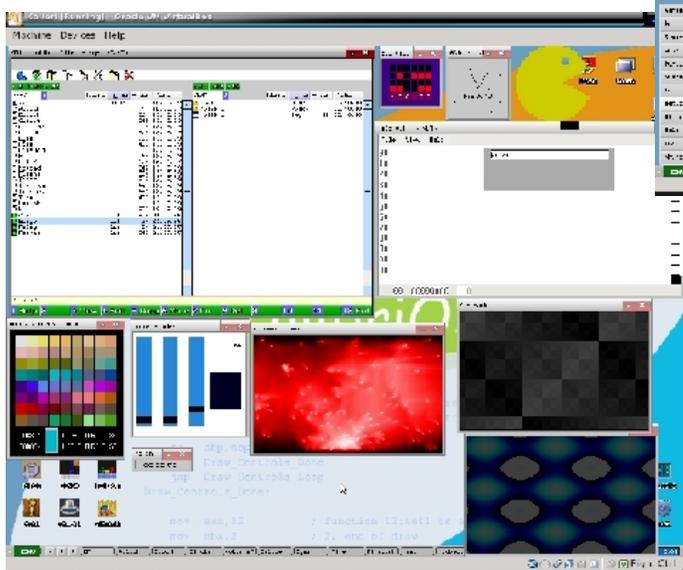
HTTPC is listed in the menu as a simple HTTP client. Shown above are the results of loading http://google.com. Another web browser included, HTML and HTTP Viewer, continually crashed as soon as I loaded any web site. I believe it is intended to be a local HTML viewer.
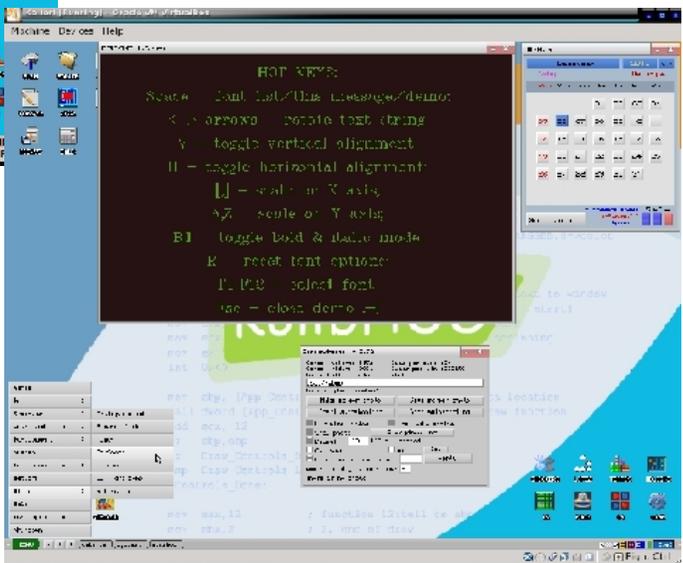
Shown on the previous page is a font demonstration, a calendar and a screenshot program.

Shown below are some of the programming tools and examples.
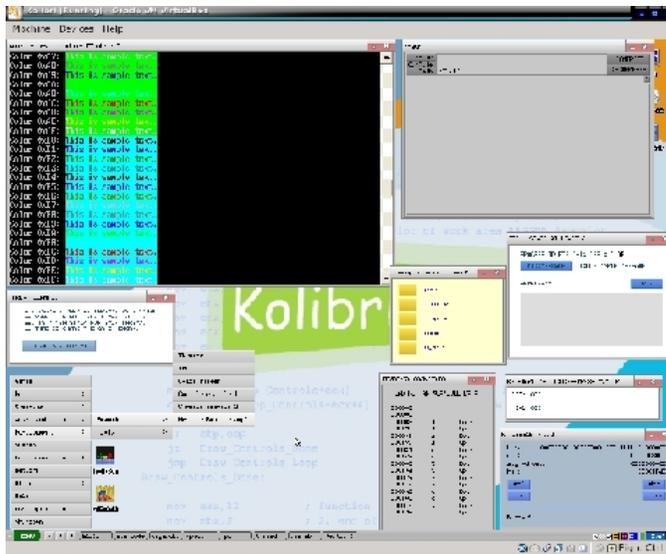
Kolibri is not for the average user, as most people would demand to have a functional web browser. However, the operating system is a very good example of what can be done by coding almost entirely in assembly language. I am amazed at the number of programs included in what fits on a single floppy disk. I have not shown all the programs included. If your computer has a floppy drive, you can try out this amazing OS by downloading the image file, transferring it to a floppy and booting from it. If you want the full experience, download, burn and boot the live CD.

Screenshot Showcase

Posted by T6, December 18, 2010, running KDE 4

Ladies of PCLinuxOS: JRex

Note: This month's PCLinuxOS Lady is a relative newcomer to the forum, having just registered on September 28, 2010.

Can you start off by introducing yourself, and telling us a little bit about yourself? (Real name, where you live, marital status, children/grandchildren, hobbies/interests, etc).

I'm Jennifer Galloway, and I live in Huntersville, NC. I am happily married to Rudge. We have no children, unless you count our two dogs, Molly and Shinjo. I'm very active in my church (chancel choir, hand bell choir, and I'm currently serving on the board of Deacons). My hobbies include watching movies with Rudge, reading, listening to music, and making jewelry.

How did you get started in computers?

Back in 1993, I was the one person in my office who wasn't afraid of computers. Because of that, I got to be the person who installed software on the office desktops, and did troubleshooting for anyone who had problems with applications or connectivity.

What drew you to Linux?

I like the fact that Linux is community-based. Distros exist because of the power of the group, and they improve because of it.

What was the first Linux distro that you used?

SuSE (I don't remember what version, sorry).

When did you first start using PCLinuxOS? What attracted you?

Rudge is the one who introduced me to PCLinuxOS. He fell in love with it because of the community and the design (he loves the rolling distro).

With Linux having a reputation of being a realm predominately populated by males, do you feel that your being a woman has an impact on your treatment by the rest of the community? If so, in what way?

IT in itself is a predominantly male area. I've been working in IT for a long time, over 10 years. I learned early on that in order to survive, I had to be able to roll with the punches, joke around, and most of all, apply logic to work through a situation. By doing that, I've been able to gain the respect of my male counterparts. The fact that I'm a woman doesn't factor in much as a result (except in making the guys jealous of Rudge for having a geek for a wife).

Do you feel that your use of Linux influences the reactions you receive from your computer peers or family? If so, how?

It gives me a different perspective to approaching common problems. In general, I've found that those who aren't familiar with Linux just don't get what I'm talking about, and those who do are Linux or Mac users themselves.

How do you feel you contribute to the PCLinuxOS community?

Being that I spend basically all of my time in the Sandbox, I think I contribute a quirky sense of humor.

e17: Gadgets Galore

by Paul Arnote (parnote)

Once you have the modules installed, you can then place a wide variety of gadgets on your e17 desktop. Its the gadgets that really put the icing on e17 users' desktops, and you can do so without suffering much of a memory hit. In fact, much of what you see on the e17 desktop is a gadget, or a collection of gadgets. Even the panel is a collection of gadgets, placed onto a shelf. Just remember that if you don't see the gadget listed that you want to use, it's most likely because you don't yet have the module installed/activated that controls the gadget.

By selecting the PC Menu, go to Settings > Gadgets. You will see a window similar to the one below:

Your list of gadgets may differ somewhat from that shown above, based on the modules you have installed.

So, let's take a look at a few of the more popular gadgets that you can add to your desktop.

Clock

The analog clock does seem to be one of the more popular gadgets for the e17 desktop, and rightfully so. It's very well done and looks quite distinguished on the desktop. The clock gadget is listed simply as "Clock" in the gadget list.

Places

Another popular gadget for the e17 desktop is the "Places" gadget. It allows you to see the status of your mounted drives at a quick glance.

Wlan

If you use e17 on your notebook computer and connect to the internet via a wireless wifi connection, you might want to place the Wlan monitoring gadget on your desktop. You can get immediate visual feedback on the quality and strength level of your wifi connection.

Screenshot

The screenshot gadget in e17 allows you to take screen shots of either your entire desktop, the active window, or a region of your desktop, depending on how you have it set up. You set the screenshot gadget up by right clicking on the icon, and selecting "Capture Mode" from the menu that pops up. Left clicking on the screenshot gadget starts a countdown (if you have a delay set up) before either

taking the screenshot, or changing the cursor to "+" to allow you to select the window to capture.

Digital Clock & Battery
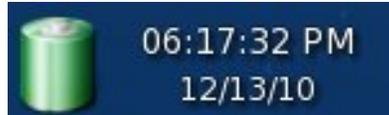
At the far right side of my panel are the battery and digital clock gadgets. The battery gadget allows me to monitor the current state of my laptop's battery (charging or discharging), as well as how long it will take to complete the charge, or how much time is left before my battery's charge is depleted.

The digital clock is fairly self explanatory, and can be found in the list of available gadgets as "TClock."

Systray, Pager & Mixer

Working right to left along the panel, we come to the Systray gadget, where your system notifications occur. Next, is the Pager gadget, which gives you a graphical representation of your virtual desktops. Then is the Mixer gadget, which gives you access to the various functions of your sound card, along with the ability to control the volume of your sound card.

Taskbar

Even the taskbar is a gadget in e17, listed in the list of gadgets as "Taskbar."

Ibar, Deskshow & Start Menu

At the far left side of the panel are three more gadgets. Going from right to left, is the Ibar gadget, which allows you to set up a quick launch bar of applications of your choosing. Next is the Deskshow gadget. When you click on it, all the open windows are minimized so you can see the desktop. Finally, at the far left, is the Start gadget, which provides the more traditional "start menu" that you find on other desktop environments.

Cpufreq, Temperature & Ibar

On my installation of e17, I've set up another shelf on the desktop to hold some other gadgets that I find useful. At the top of the vertical shelf is the Cpufreq gadget. With on-demand CPU scaling, this little gadget lets me know to what clock speed my CPU is currently running at. Below that is the Temperature gadget, which informs me of the

temperature of my CPU whenever I hover my mouse pointer over it.

The bottom two-thirds of the vertical shelf is taken up by a second instance of the Ibar gadget. This instance serves as a quick launch bar for other applications I frequently use. From the top and going downward, the applications are Gimp, DeaDBeeF, File Roller, Gcalctool and Leafpad. For more information on how to properly set up a second instance of Ibar on your e17 desktop, see the e17: Beginner Desktop Tweaks article in the December 2010 issue of The PCLinuxOS Magazine.

Conclusion

As you can see, virtually everything on the e17 desktop is made up of a collection of gadgets. How you arrange those gadgets is clearly up to you, and the possibilities are as endless as the number of people using e17. It makes it very easy to create a desktop experience that is not only tailored to you and your needs, but also one that is unique and unlike the next e17 user's desktop.

Answers to Mark Szorady's Double Take:

(1) *Hand changed to mitten*
(2) *Word balloon different*
(3) *Hair shorter*
(4) *Snowman eye moved*
(5) *Snowfall missing*
(6) *Hat tassel different*
(7) *Scarf stripes different*
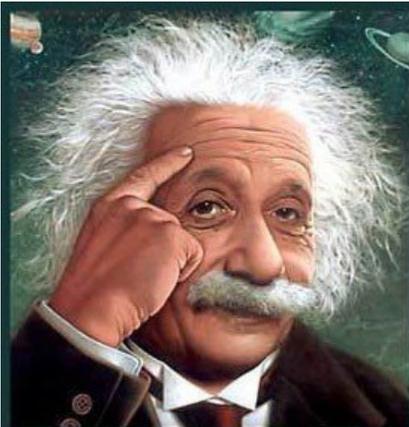
It's easier than E=mc²
It's elemental
It's light years ahead
It's a wise choice
It's Radically Simple
It's ...

Posted by Crow, December 28, 2010, running LXDE

Grub: Fixing The Boot Loader

by Pete Kelly (critter)

It's getting late and tomorrow you have a busy day. So you save your work and shut down your computer. The following day, you power up your computer and your heart sinks when you see the message "kernel panic..." or "grub error xx" and your machine will not start.

What to do? Well the good news is that the fact that you got one of those messages suggests that it is no more than a software problem, and you may just need to fix up a configuration file or re-install the boot loading program. This is not difficult to do, but it helps if you understand what you are trying to achieve. So first of all, we need a little background information. I'll try to keep this simple.

The boot process

When you apply power to a computer, the processor needs to be told what to do. The motherboard stores a list of drives that the computer can boot from, and knows the order in which these should be tried, and so points the processor to the first drive on the list. The processor goes to the very beginning of the storage area of the drive to look for more information. This storage area is divided up into smaller areas, known as sectors, and the processor looks at the first sector on the drive, which is known as the Master Boot Record or MBR. The first sector of any other partition is also reserved, and is known as the boot sector. There isn't sufficient space in here to store all of the information the processor needs, so it shows the processor where to find the code that will complete the rest of the boot loading process, so that the processor can continue to a full system boot.

The boot loading program used by PCLinuxOS is called grub (GRand Unified Bootloader), and the code stored in the MBR is known as 'grub stage1.' The final bit of code loaded into memory is 'grub stage2.'

Stage 2 starts the kernel and will set up a temporary file system in memory, which contains things like modules and drivers that the kernel may need to complete a successful system boot. It does this using a file system image known as the 'initial ram disk,' or initrd.img.

Unfortunately, we have a problem here. On the one hand we have stage2, which knows where the kernel and initrd are stored on the file system, but stage1 knows nothing about file systems. Enter stage1_5. There are several of these and each one is file system specific having names such as e2fs_stage1_5 and reiserfs_stage1_5. The stage1_5 code in these files is the bridge between the two, but needs to be able to be found by stage1. Fortunately, due to the way that partitions are laid out on a drive, there are always some free sectors after the first reserved sector, and this is where the extra code goes. Stage1 knows to always look in the second sector of its root partition, and after executing the code there, grub will be able to find things in the file system.

When sufficient work has been done setting things up so that the kernel can manage physical files systems, control is handed to the kernel.

That's roughly how things work in PCLinuxOS, but there is a whole lot more to the grub system than described here, and this is not the only way to boot the system.

Recovery

What follows is applicable to PCLinuxOS distributions and has always worked for me, but may need some modification for other systems. Ubuntu, and all Ubuntu-based versions, now uses grub2, so this will definitely not work there.

From the above, we can see that grub needs to be told three things that it needs to boot your operating system:

• Where is the kernel
• Where is the initrd
• Which drive or partition holds grubs stage1_5 and stage2

This information is most commonly passed to grub in its configuration file, which in PCLinuxOS is

/boot/grub/menu.lst. Some systems call this file grub.conf. If the information passed in this file is incorrect, then a missing kernel or initrd will give a grub error, and a wrongly defined root file system will cause the kernel to panic.

The information can also be supplied on the command line at boot time, although this requires a little more effort to master.

To repair the system, you can boot from the Live CD that you used to install PCLinuxOS. This will get an operating system running in memory, and then you can repair any damaged files on your hard drive.

Finding the information

The first thing you need to know is the drive and partition on which PCLinuxOS is installed, and grub can help here. After booting from a Live CD, open up a terminal and get administrative powers by typing:

```
su <enter>
```

You will be prompted for a password. This is the administrative or root password, and not your own user password. Please remember that now you have administration rights you should be extra careful about what you enter on the command line.

Type

```
grub <enter>
```

You will get a message about probing, and then you will enter the grub command shell, where you can enter commands and even reinstall the resident part of grub:

```
GNU GRUB version 0.97 (640K lower /
3072K upper memory)

[ Minimal BASH-like line editing is
supported. For the first word, TAB
lists possible command completions.
Anywhere else TAB lists the possible
completions of a device/filename. ]

grub>
```

At the new prompt, enter the following:

```
find /boot/grub/stage2 <enter>
```

You will get a list of partitions that contain the grub stage2 file. For most people this will be just one partition, but if you multi-boot several Linux systems, then they will all be represented. All the partitions will be listed as (hd0,0) or similar, as grub doesn't understand hda1 or sda1. It sees them only as drives. Grub counts starting at zero, not one. The first number is the drive number, and the second number the partition number. Type **quit <enter>** to leave grub.

Now we know the drive and partition that our operating system is installed on, we can mount it and have a look around. I'm going to assume now that the partition is (hd0,0), the first partition on the first drive. In the terminal, still as root, type:

```
mkdir /a <enter>
mount /dev/sda1 /a <enter>
```

You will have to change sda to hda if your drive is IDE. If you don't know, try typing **fdisk -l <enter>** to get a list of recognized drives.

The drive is now mounted at /a, and so the kernel and initrd should be in /a/boot. The name of the kernel and the initrd are quite long and complex, so there are usually easy to type links (shortcuts) to refer to them. The kernels name begins with vmlinuz and initrds name begins with initrd. To see them, type the following and make a note of the names.

```
ls /a/boot/vmlinuz* <enter>
ls /a/boot/initrd* <enter>
```

The name that ends in an '@' is the link, and you can use this in your grub configuration file.

Labeling the partitions

I now have two links named vmlinuz and initrd.img. I also know that the root device is (hd0,0), but I find using labels makes life easier. So, typing **tune2fs -L kde4 /dev/sda1** gives my partition a label of kde4. I label all of my partitions in this manner. If you prefer, you can use the graphical PCLinuxOS Control Center, by going to Local disks > Manage disk partitions > Expert Mode to label your partitions.

The configuration file

Now I can try and fix up the menu.lst file. I'll use nano, a command line text editor that is really easy to use to edit the file, but you can use any text editor you like that can save a file as pure text with no formatting. Open the menu.lst file from your installed system:

```
nano /a/boot/grub/menu.lst <enter>
```

The original file looks like this:

```
timeout 10
color white/blue yellow/blue
gfxmenu (hd0,0)/boot/gfxmenu
default 0

title linux
kernel (hd0,0)/boot/vmlinuz
BOOT_IMAGE=linux root=UUID=442bec9e-
f143-4cc2-866c-d65a92fbac69
```

```
resume=UUID=afccaaaa-054d-424b-8a3c-
093f1b2a743d splash=silent vga=788
initrd (hd0,0)/boot/initrd.img

title linux-nonfb
kernel (hd0,0)/boot/vmlinuz
BOOT_IMAGE=linux-nonfb
root=UUID=442bec9e-f143-4cc2-866c-
d65a92fbac69 resume=UUID=afccaaaa-
054d-424b-8a3c-093f1b2a743d
initrd (hd0,0)/boot/initrd.img

title failsafe
kernel (hd0,0)/boot/vmlinuz
BOOT_IMAGE=failsafe
root=UUID=442bec9e-f143-4cc2-866c-
d65a92fbac69 failsafe
initrd (hd0,0)/boot/initrd.img
```

It really isn't as complicated as it looks. The first four lines set up the menu, and each block of three lines is an entry in the menu, known as a stanza. Each of the above stanzas contains only three lines, although the magazine typesetting will probably break these up. The formatting in the menu.lst file is important.

The three lines begin with 'title', 'kernel' and 'initrd.' Each should be exactly one line long, even though the 'kernel' line often becomes a rather long line. There can be additional lines in the stanza, but these lines must each be on one line.

Adding a new menu entry

I'm going to add a new stanza (menu item) at the beginning, i.e. between the line that reads 'default 0' and the one that reads 'title linux:'

```
title kde4
kernel (hd0,0)/boot/mykernel
root=LABEL=kde4
initrd (hd0,0)/boot/myinitrd
```

Make sure that you leave a blank line before, and after, each stanza or grub will not know where each stanza starts or ends.

After typing that in, hold down the Control key and press X, you will be prompted to save the file. Just say yes.

That should be enough to get you booted, although you will want to pretty it up once you are satisfied. You could, in fact, have just those three lines in menu.lst.

I didn't attempt to repair the file. Rather, I wrote my own set of instructions that I knew to be correct to the grub configuration file, menu.lst, and in that way, I am in control. I also left the original set of instructions for grub intact. Later, when I am sure that I have a bootable system, I can go back and edit the file, but I still have the original file contents.

What it all means

The four lines at the beginning of the menu.lst file perform the following functions.

Timeout=10 sets the length of time in seconds that grub will wait before booting the default menu item or, if none is defined, the first menu item. Pressing any key before that time cancels the countdown.

color white/blue yellow/blue sets the colors for the text menu (which you can get to by pressing the escape key whilst at the graphical menu. There are times when you may need to do this). The first pair of numbers sets the foreground/background colors for the bulk of the menu, and the second pair serve to highlight the selected line.

gfxmenu (hd0,0)/boot/gfxmenu tells grub where to find the graphical menu.

default 0 sets the default menu item to boot, counting from 0.

To improve on the simple 'no frills' stanza we can start adding things to the 'kernel' line.

Adding **splash=silent vga=788** at the end of this line will allow the installed plymouth graphics theme to hide the scrolling text. The number 788 is optimal for most users' displays.

If you intend to use hibernation to shut down your machine, you will have to tell grub where to find the data to resume the session. This is stored on your swap partition, and for that reason, this partition should be slightly larger than the installed memory if hibernation is to succeed. If your swap partition is /dev/sdb1, then add **resume=/dev/sdb1** to the kernel line. We can specify the partition in this manner, as grub will understand file systems and drive notation by the time it gets here.

A default installation of PCLinuxos supplies three stanzas.

The first one will provide a full graphical boot to the login screen.

The next one is named 'linux-nonfb,' or similar, and allows booting without a graphical boot splash, which allows you to see system messges as the system boots. This is useful for troubleshooting. You can pause the scrolling text with the Scroll Lock key on your keyboard.

The last one, named 'failsafe,' will boot to a limited

shell in single user mode, where you can perform some administrative tasks, such as file system checks and root password recovery. When all is well, typing **init 5** should get you back up to the login screen.

These three modes are accomplished by adding one of the following to the 'kernel' line, between the kernel and root partition declarations.

```
BOOT_IMAGE=linux
BOOT_IMAGE=linux-nonfb
BOOT_IMAGE=failsafe
```

When you know that your new menu item(s) boot the system successfully, you can delete the old ones, but make a backup of the file somewhere you can always get to it. If you precede each line with a '#' then that item will not appear on the menu. Any line starting with a '#' is treated as a comment, and is not executed.

Reinstalling the boot loader

If the grub set up itself has become corrupted, then it is a relatively easy task to reset it. As before, open a terminal, use the command su to get root privileges, and start the grub command shell with the command

```
grub <enter>
```

Use grub's find command to discover which partitions have grub's files on them.

grub> find /boot/grub/stage2 <enter>
(hd0,0) <--- This is grubs output

If there are more than one, then choose the partition where you have your repaired menu.lst file. Tell grub about it by typing

grub> root (hd0,0) <enter>

Use the partition you chose here.

Filesystem type is ext2fs, partition type 0x83

Now tell root where to put its stage one file. This is the drive that your motherboard BIOS will try to boot from. Note that no partition number is required, as we are specifying a device.

```
grub> setup (hd0) <enter>
Checking if "/boot/grub/stage1"
exists... yes
Checking if "/boot/grub/stage2"
exists... yes
Checking if "/boot/grub/e2fs_stage1_5"
exists... yes
Running "embed
/boot/grub/e2fs_stage1_5 (hd0)"... 17
sectors are embedded.
succeeded
Running "install /boot/grub/stage1
(hd0) (hd0)1+17
p(hd0,0)/boot/grub/stage2
/boot/grub/menu.lst"... succeeded
Done.
```

That's it, we're done. Type **quit <enter>** to leave grub.

Multi-booting operating systems

If you want to be able to boot into one of several distributions, then this is is most easily achieved in this manner.

At the end of the installation process you are asked where you would like to install grub, and the default is the MBR of the drive you have installed to. Instead, select the installation partition. You will then be prompted for the drive to boot from. This is the same as the root - setup sequence we performed manually in grub at the terminal.

You will now have two menu.lst files, one in the /boot/grub folder of the new installation and the original one. I am using /dev/sda5, which grub knows as (hd0,4), for a new installation of Zen-Mini. Add the following lines to the original menu.lst.

title zen-mini
root (hd0,4)
configfile /boot/grub/menu.lst

When I select this menu item, I will be taken to new screen showing the menu items and the graphics of the new installation. I can now have the menu.lst file in the new installation identical to my default menu.lst, with the only change being that every occurrence of (hd0,0) becomes (hd0,4), which makes system maintenance so much easier. A stanza in the zen menu.lst might look like this:

title zen
kernel (hd0,4)/boot/mykernel
root=LABEL=kde4
initrd (hd0,4)/boot/myinitrd

Here's part of my default menu.lst:

title lxde
root (hd0,5)
configfile /boot/grub/menu.lst

title e17
root (hd0,6)
configfile /boot/grub/menu.lst

title Phoenix
root (hd0,7)
configfile /boot/grub/menu.lst

I find this much easier to follow.

Adding Windows to the menu

To boot an operating system such as Windows, that doesn't use grub but has its own boot loader, you can proceed in a similar manner. You have to add a stanza to menu.lst like this:

title Windows
rootnoverify (hd0,2)
makeactive
chainloader +1

Note: change (hd0,2) to the partition that windows is installed on

rootnoverify works like the root command, informing grub of the location of the next part of the boot code, but no attempt is made at this stage to mount the partition, as this could be problematic for grub.

makeactive sets this root partition active

chainloader +1 tells grub to look in the second sector of the partition for the boot code (the first sector is always reserved by the file system).

Using the grub commands at boot time

If booting fails, then it is still possible to get to a working system by using the grub command shell. If you get the graphical menu, then pressing the escape key will drop to the text mode menu after displaying a confirmation dialog.

It is possible that you have made a typing error in your configuration file, or that your editor broke a long line into two and grub can make no sense of it. From here, you can edit the line. Select the menu entry that doesn't boot with the arrow keys and press 'E' then enter. Pressing 'E' again will place the selected line in the grub shell, where it may be edited. The cursor will be at the end of the line, but you can move with the arrow keys, as well as the home and end keys. Press Enter to accept any changes, or the escape key to return to the previous screen without saving. Press 'D' on a highlighted line to delete it

which you may need to do if your editor has broken the line and you have a half line of garbage.

Press 'B' to attempt to boot with the modified lines. The changes exist only in memory and are not made to the menu.lst file. If this is the case, this should be modified when you get a successful boot.

If you can find no errors in the lines, then all is not lost. Press 'C' to get a command line, and this puts you in a similar same environment to that we used from a terminal to reinstall the boot loader.

```
grub> find /boot/grub/stage2 <enter>
```

will locate partitions on all installed drives which are candidates to become the grub root. Use the root command to point grub at that partition.

```
grub> root (hd0,0) <enter>
```

To find the kernel on this partition, which should reside in the /boot directory, we can use grub's command completion feature. The kernel will be named vmlinuz...something.

```
grub> kernel /boot/vm <tab>
```

Pressing the tab key here tells grub to fill in as much as it can and list all possibiltes.

```
grub> kernel /boot/vmlinuz

Possible files are: vmlinuz vmlinuz-
2.6.32.11-pclos2
```

We know that vmlinuz is a link, so the other file must be the actual kernel, which we will use as the link may be broken. We don't have to type in the full name, just add the hyphen and press tab to let grub fill in the rest. This also avoids typing errors.

```
grub> kernel /boot/vmlinuz- <tab>
grub> kernel /boot/vmlinuz-2.6.32.11-
pclos2
[Linux-bzImage, setup=0x3a00,
size=0x1f4400]
```

That seems to have worked so now we can do the same for the initrd.

```
grub> /boot/init <tab>
grub> /boot/initrd

Possible files are: initrd-2.6.32.11-
pclos2.img initrd.img


grub> /boot/initrd- <tab>
grub> initrd /boot/initrd-2.6.32.11-
pclos2.img
[Linux-initrd @ 0x1f9a3000, 0x63c8e2
bytes]
```

Ok! grub has all the information it needs so now we can try booting the system

```
grub> boot <enter>
```

All of the above grub session was taken from an actual installation, so I know that it works.
The safest way to try our some of these techniques is to practice on a virtual box installation. It is easy to

set one up, and there is an excellent article on this in the October 2008 issue of the magazine written by parnote, the current editor. The article installs windows, but the principles are the same for a PCLinuxOS installation.
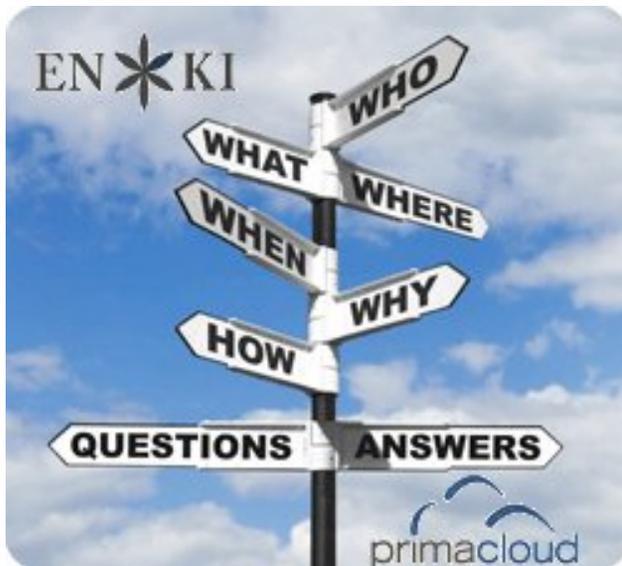
Screenshot Showcase
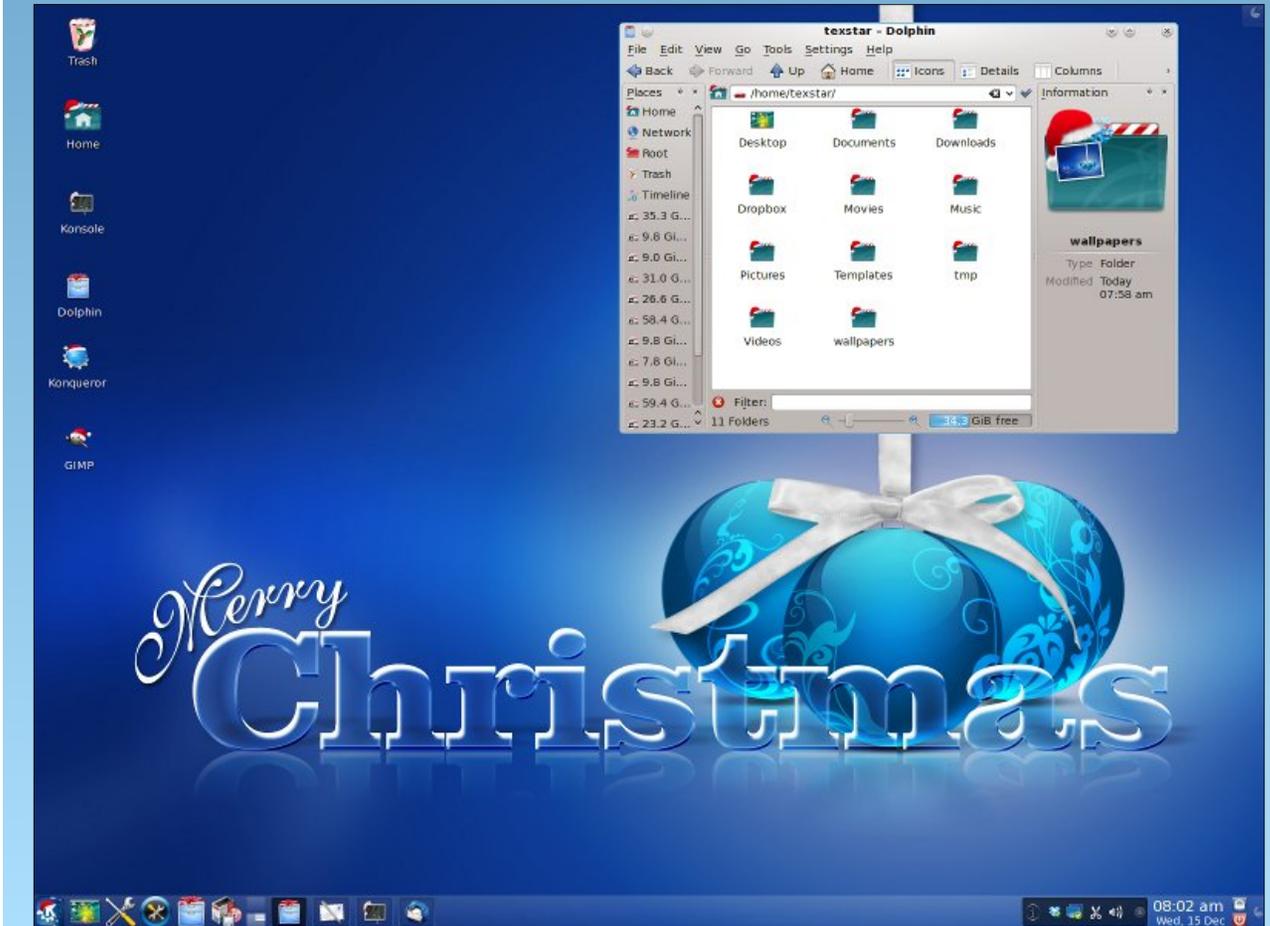
Posted by Texstar, December 15, 2010, running KDE 4

ms_meme's Nook: Let It Snow

Oh the weather outside is frightful
But my 'puter is so delightful
And since I've no place to go
Let it snow let it snow let it snow

It doesn't show signs of stopping
With Gimp my pics I'm cropping
Now a song on you I'll bestow
Let it snow let it snow let it snow

Now you may think that I'm off tune
Just blame it on the snowy storm
But I really do like to croon
Jack Daniels will keep us all warm

MP3

I read all the forum replying
Of every gal and guying
And now that we're all aglow
Let it snow let it snow let it snow

Now you may think that I'm off tune
Just blame it on the snowy storm
But I really do like to croon
As my desktop I transform

OGG

Now some of you that live down under
Will think I've made a blunder
You say the sun is fine
So let it shine let it shine let it shine

Forum friends live in hot and cold
At least that's what I'm told
But wherever you are from
To the Forum come come come

PCLinuxOS
Radically Simple

Radio Tray: Music To Your Ears

by Paul Arnote (parnote)

We've all been there – working hard at the computer, or just browsing the web, and we notice the dead silence. Sure, we can play audio files in our favorite audio player, but that means stopping every now and again to load up another playlist. Sometimes, it's nice to just sit back and have a steady stream of music without any intervention from us, except starting it. Or maybe you like to listen to your favorite sports talk show, or your favorite talk-radio commentator. This is where a streaming radio application comes in. In fact, maybe something like Radio Tray.

Sure, there are other applications that play steaming internet radio. But most of them do so with a lot of overhead. Radio Tray does one thing, and does it as unobtrusively and economically as can be expected. That one thing is to bring streaming internet radio to your Linux desktop.

Currently at version 0.6.1, this is the description from the Radio Tray home page:

Radio Tray is an online radio streaming player that runs on a Linux system tray. Its goal is to have the minimum interface possible, making it very straightforward to use.

Radio Tray is not a full featured music player, there are plenty of excellent music players already. However, there was a need for a simple application with minimal interface just to listen to online radios. And that's the sole purpose of Radio Tray.

That Radio Tray has a minimal interface is an understatement. When it's running, the only indication is the icon that is placed in the system tray of your panel. In the screen shot above, it's the second icon from the left. A click of your left mouse button displays the pop-up menu that allows you to select from the radio stations you have programmed in.

While it's playing, the "radio waves" of the Radio Tray icon turns blue, and if you hover your mouse over the icon, information about the currently selected radio station and the selection playing is displayed in a pop up tooltip. Also notice that next to the radio station name is a volume setting. Scrolling your mouse wheel over the Radio Tray icon will turn up or turn down the volume of the audio stream, independent of your main sound volume.
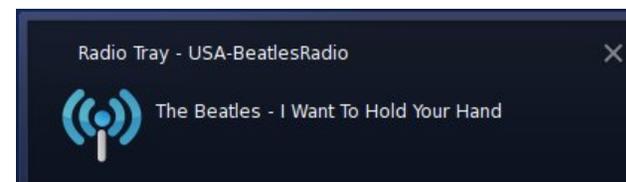

As Radio Tray continues to stream your selected radio station, a pop up notification will appear with each new selection that is played.

Setting Up Radio Tray

Of course, you will need to install Radio Tray from the PCLinuxOS repository. Once installed, it will appear under the Sound category in your PC menu. Radio Tray is a small python program that uses a variety of gstreamer plug ins to stream the radio station to your desktop. There are also a variety of gstreamer plug ins available in the PCLinuxOS repository. For example, to play radio streams whose address begins with mms:, you will need to install the gstreamer mms plug in. Playback of AAC streams will require installation of the gstreamer-faac and gstreamer-faad plug ins. It may take a little trial and error to find the right gstreamer plug in, but you'll usually stumble upon it.

A right click of your mouse button on the Radio Tray icon will display the menu shown above. Selecting "Configure Radios..." from the menu will bring up the configuration dialog box.
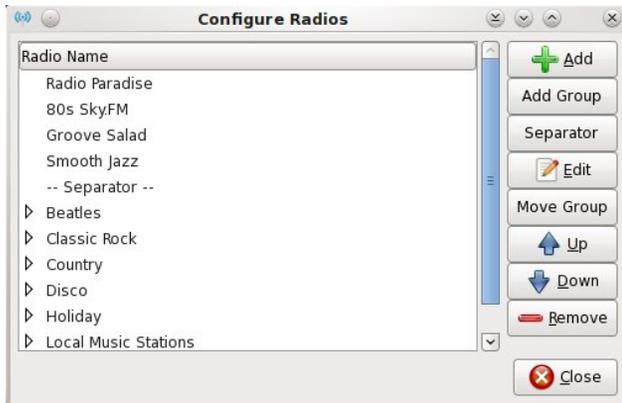
One of the newest features of the most current version of Radio Tray is the ability to group your radio stations by genre. To start with, you will want to define your genres. Don't worry if you don't get them all in at first. You can add additional groups later. You will, however, want to create your group entries first. Once you have a station entered, you cannot change or edit the group that station belongs to.

Click on the "Add Group" button to display the dialog box shown above. You can assign your new group to the "root" parent group, which will make your new group entry appear as a top level menu entry. Or,

you can also assign your new group as a subgroup of any other group entry you've previously made, allowing you to have nested "levels" of submenus.
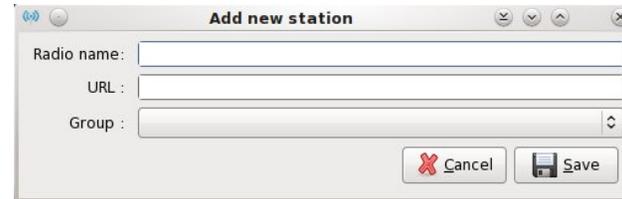
Clicking on the "Add" button in the "Configure Radios" dialog box will bring up the dialog box shown above. Enter the name of the radio station on the first line, and the URL of the radio station stream on the second. Select the group you want the radio station to appear in on the third line, and click "Save." Repeat this for each radio station stream you wish to add.

Selecting the "Move Group" button brings up the dialog box shown above. This is handy if you want to further refine your genre groups. Say, for example, I wanted to move my "Beatles" group to become a subgroup of "Rock-N-Roll." I can move the "Beatles" group to where "Rock-N-Roll" is it's parent group, and thus appearing as a submenu under the "Rock-N-Roll" menu.

You can also sort your list by highlighting the item you want to move and selecting the blue up or down arrows until you have your groups in the order that you wish.

Finally, selecting "About" from the left click menu will bring up the About Radio Tray dialog box.

Finding Streaming Radio Stations

Actually, it's not very hard to find streaming radio stations. Probably the first place to check is the Shoutcast radio directory. There, you will find over

40,000 streaming radio stations from all over the world. Many are internet only radio streams. You can also check out nearly 6,000 additional radio streams from the Icecast streaming directory.

You can also stream your local radio stations. The best way to find them is to visit the web site of your favorite local radio station, provided they have a web site. If they do, chances are high that they a "Listen Now" or "Listen Live" link. Pay attention to the address that pops up in the playback window. There's a chance that URL will also work with Radio Tray. On other stations, they have links for other devices (such as Blackberry devices and iPhones), so if the "regular" stream won't work, there's a high likelihood that one of the other links will work with Radio Tray.

You can also search on various forums that deal with streaming audio enthusiasts, where you can obtain difficult to find radio streaming URLs, many that the originator of the broadcast might not want to be widely known.

Conclusion

Radio Tray offers up countless hours of listening enjoyment. It's small and unobtrusive. Most of all, its fun and easy to use, without the overhead of many of the other applications that also play streaming audio feeds. You will undoubtedly find an audio stream that suits your taste, and treat your ears to audio streams most pleasing to you.

Screenshot Showcase
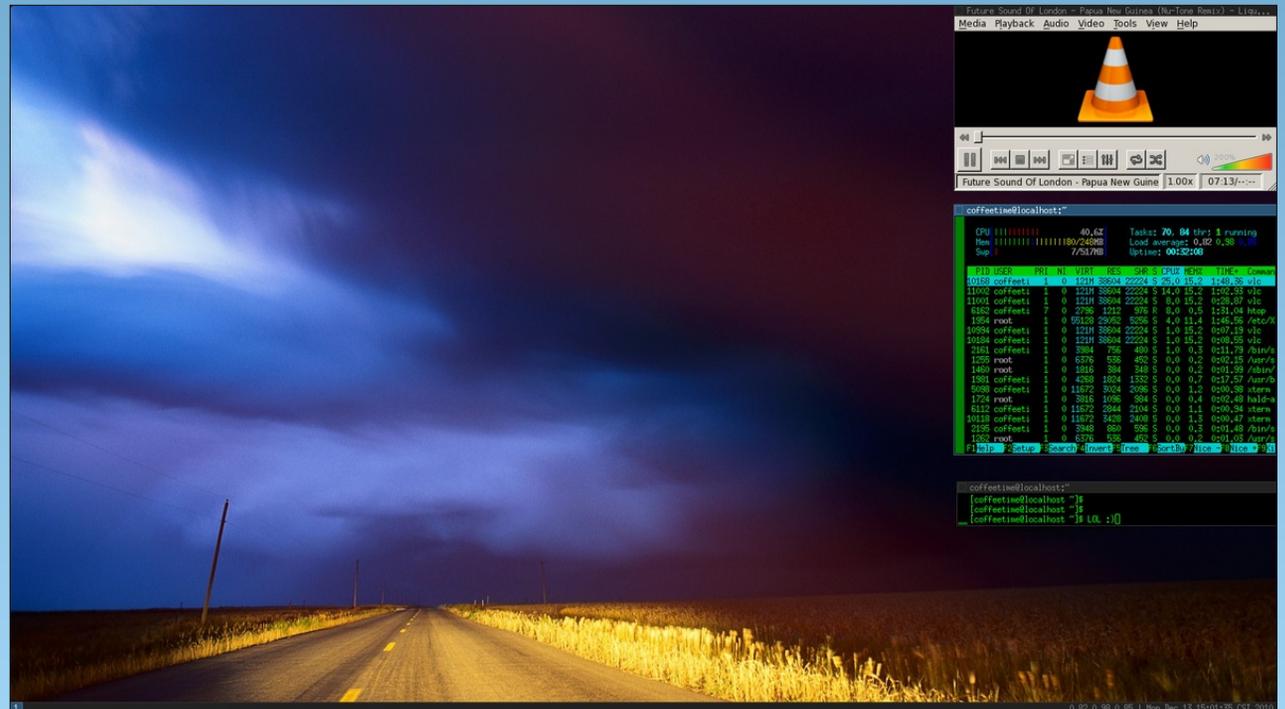
Posted by coffeetime, December 13, 2010, running Wmii

E17: Settings Panel, Part 1

by Meemaw

In your newly installed E17 desktop, you will want to tweak all your settings so it looks and acts just the way you want it to. For that, you will need to open the E17 Settings Panel. Since it has many sections, we will investigate E17's Settings Panel in three installments.

Left click your menu button (or anywhere on your desktop) and choose **Settings > Settings Panel**. The first window you see will be the main settings window which opens the first section, **Look**, by default.

As you can see, any appearance-related item you would want to change is located here. When you click on any of the listed items, another window will open and allow you to configure that item to your liking.

The **Look** section is the longest and includes the following sections:

Wallpaper - Here you can change the wallpaper on your desktop. As covered in another article, you can have each desktop display a different wallpaper, and that can be done from the Screen section below.

Theme - Your theme can be changed here.

Colors - Colors on borders, backgrounds and fonts can be altered.

Fonts - You can assign different fonts to your window designs (I don't know about you, but sometimes I want something just a little different from the font that's the default.)

Borders - Window borders can be altered here. Be careful... if you decide on borderless, it may take your window's title bar as well.

Icon Theme - Some of our artists make beautiful icons! You can try them by changing the icon theme here. You'll have to have them installed from Synaptic, however.

Mouse Cursor - By default there are two cursor themes, Enlightenment and X and you change it here. Some people have noticed that the Enlightenment cursor theme may cause a memory drain on your system, which can be solved by

changing to the X mouse cursor theme. (See http://www.pclinuxos.com/forum/index.php/topic,763 17.0.html)

Transitions - You can assign 'crossfade' or 'vswipe' to a few window transitions, or have no transition.

Scaling - Sets the DPI scaling for your monitor display.

Startup - You can change the look of your startup screen here.

Dropshadow - This configures the drop shadow that appears on your windows. You can change the location and size of the shadow.

The next section is **Apps**.
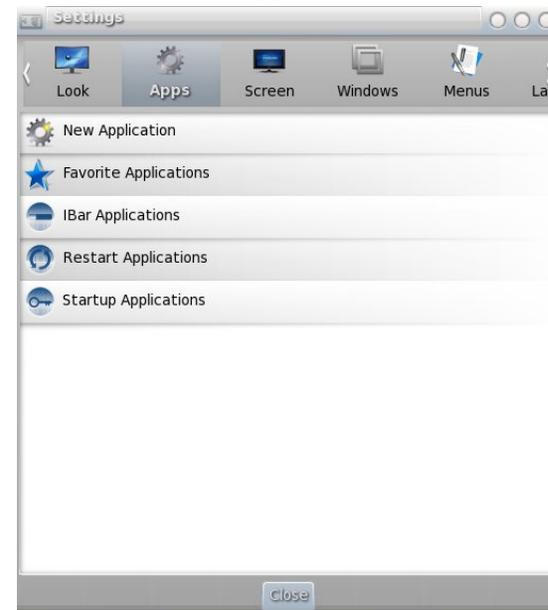
New Applications - Suppose that you installed something that wasn't in the repos (I know, they frown on that but a few of us do it anyway.) If it doesn't install a link in the menu, you can add it using this section.

Favorite Applications - In the default menu, you will see Favorite Applications. You can add your own favorites to that menu here. The defaults are Firefox, Configure Your Computer (PCC), and Synaptic.

IBar Applications - If you have an IBar, you can also configure it here to contain the applications you want

Restart Applications - There is no information available (that we can find) describing what this item is about.

Startup Applications - If you want Dropbox, XChat or Pidgin to start on boot, you can add them to Startup in this section.

The next section is **Screen**---->

Virtual Desktops - Another place to configure your desktops.

Screen Resolution - This is where you change your screen resolution.

Screen Lock - For privacy, you can lock your screen if need be.
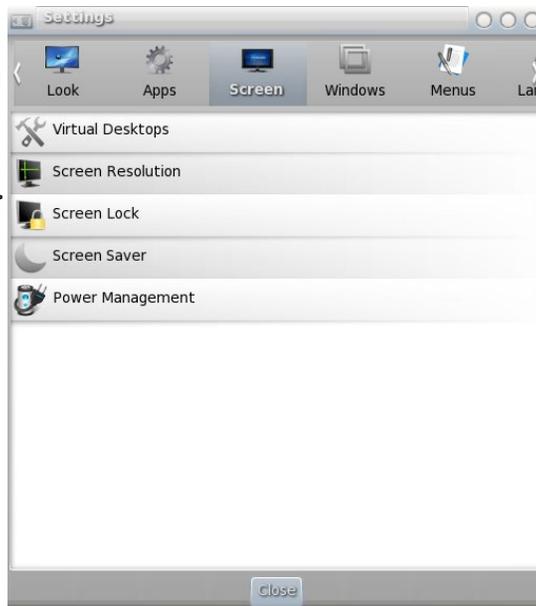
Screensaver - Configure XScreensaver here.

Power Management - This is where you can set hibernate or sleep. I always set my monitor to turn off after two hours of non-use. (I hope it saves some power overnight!)

The next section is **Windows** --------->

Window Display - Determines placement of windows and display of window geometry whenever windows are moved or resized.

Window Focus - How to activate windows.

Window List - Which windows have to be shown in the windows list (e.g. in your task bar), and some options for the behavior.

**Window Geometry** - Settings for moving and resizing of windows (like resistance of edges, etc.).

Window Stacking - How windows are stacked, or if windows may appear above full screen windows, etc.

Window Maximize Policy - How windows have to be extended when maximizing.

Window Remembers - Here are the window size and position coordinates that Enlightenment remembers for all different applications. You

can set it to 'remember' where your application window should open, and when you start the same application again, it will appear in the same place, with the same size.

We will continue next month.
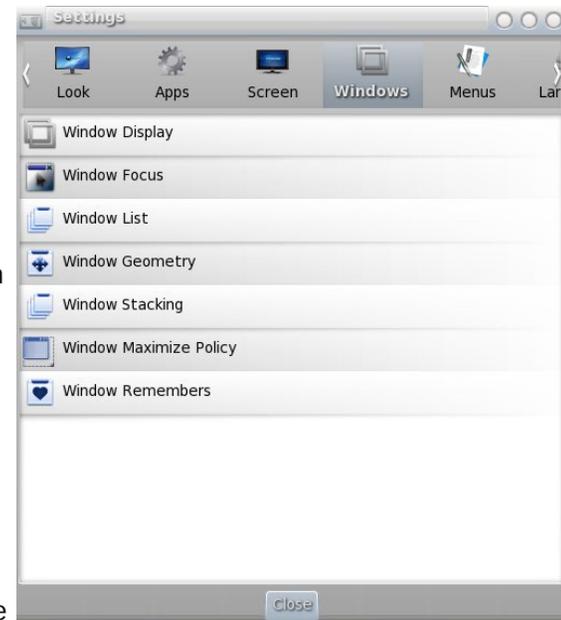
Forum Foibles: PCLinuxOS Weather Roundup

Weather's a topic that everyone loves
That really is no surprise
Read here to find what's been said
Words of wisdom and so very wise
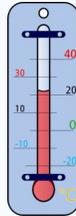
The Brrrrrr topic was started by *Linuxera*
"Jeepers Creepers! Who turned off the heat?"
*MeeMa*w shivered "It's supposed to drop to 15"
I think she was also getting sleet

bones113 observed "It is stayin' indoors weather"
joble moans "Oh man, it's getting colder"
We'd be warmer if we snuggled together
Instead of bolder the cold makes *joble* older

Sammy2fish says minus 41 is the windchill
"Thank goodness for rye in the freezer."
"Getting a wee bit sunburned here in Texas"
ms_meme waves her fan....what teaser

"In the meantime have a tequila or two"
Advises *Crow* making his Christmas punch
Everybody grabs beach towels-suntan lotion-beer
And heads to *Linuxera's* to have lunch

"We will get that white stuff again"
smileeb says getting very weary
"BBBrrrr Thats Cold!!!" replies *Wildman*
"So much for the global warming theory"

"We were in the upper 50s Saturday"
Padma says "Almost didn't need a jacket"
Then an arctic front came in
And his car started making a racket

Then *GuypronoucedGuynotGuy*
Being so true to his name
"That's what happens in Winterpeg, Manisnowba"
He knows how to play the game

And so 2009 came and went
Everyone was shivering and sweating
What would the forecast bring?
No one was even betting

2010 started out as usual
It was cold weather at a glimpse
Then *sticktoo* that daring young smarty
Called all us oldies "Wimps"

Neal reports the snow is coming
And it is not going to abate
"Playing heck with my joints
That's not so great"

grnich announces "Great news,
Temps have shot up to a balmy -6
More snow is coming tonight"
Probably with ice and sleet to mix

MGBguy yells "Batten down the hatches
Put on the wooly Pjs and huddle
Under the down quilts"
That should get us out of the muddle

"There was some frost on my pumpkin"
Roc4Fun reports from Kansas City
"My mailbox is barely sticking out"
Says *grnich* looking for pity

Archie muses "Come to think of it
Winter ain't done with my part of the pond"
"Times are a changin. Spring is springing"
Sammy2fish does respond

longtom from South Africa
"We need urgently rain"
Sammy2fish replies
"Snow melting, water running to the drain"

Sammy2fish loves to post about the weather
"The weather... just finished having some hail"
"Cold and I love it" says *deathromantik* from afar
"Too bad I have a cold as well"

She_Devil shares great pictures
From her travels all over the west
"Tally ho!!! we hear her cry
As she looks for weather that's best

This urgent cry just in from *Crow*
"First hurricane about to hit my state"
"Batten down the hatches" warns *Wildman*
Good advice don't play with fate

Summer started what a scorcher
No rain anywhere was found
"I don't care where it comes from
Cried *Rudge* "All my grass is brown"

Neal fried eggs on his sidewalk
To go with his coffee brew
parnote gave us a bit of hope
"There's a cool front moving through"

Yoyo likes summer temps
It's then he makes his hits
"Hot weather increase the probablity
of finding women in sexy outfits"

"Thought I'd dig out me thong"
Scoundrel brags where he stood
longtom replies "I dunno
Some parts might look smaller than they should."

Although it was hot and humid
From the forum came a cheer
ka9yhd announced "If you're having a BBQ
I'll bring the beer"

Testimonial: Paradise

by Patrick Lowe (MountainMan)

Greetings from the Pocono Mountains.

What a long strange trip it's been. When I began working in photofinishing, the computers controlling high speed printers interfaced with a teletype, a punched paper tape device was used for loading the program and making backups. Commands were three letters and my two finger typing style was well suited. I still use those 2 fingers. (Mountain girl sometimes gets impatient with it and pushes me aside to type at 70 wpm, which makes me sick to watch). My interest was aroused, so I took a computer course at the local university. Using punched cards, my tiny program filled an entire size 10 shoebox. I think that there must have been a lot of trees sacrificed to computers back then. When 8 inch floppy discs came out, the teletype was replaced with a monitor and keyboard. Then there was a modem. By cradling the phone handset in 2 cups, sounds were sent through the speaker and mike, and it would communicate with a computer in another state! (wee bit slower than my current 15 Meg cable service, a perk of mountain girl's job).

Life happened. Fast forward to 1999 and the Internet seemed to be as essential as indoor plumbing. I bought a PC to get on the web. (Duh, I couldn't do it with the refrigerator right?). Several years of MS, and the boredom and disappointment was more than I could bear. Building a faster computer didn't satisfy me, so I searched the net and found Linux. You know which one. The kids would say the name and laugh - how can you take that seriously Dad? It became a love/hate thing - loved the freedom to change things, and hated that I had to. Kept trying

so many "new releases" of distros, and then spending so much time trying to update them and make things work the way I wanted. At some point in my explorations, I used an abandoned KDE 3.5 that was much to my liking. So I went about testing KDE distros and, sadly, they were early version 4.x. Most of them gave me the feeling of wanting to fist my keyboard after 20 minutes.

PCLinuxOS caught my attention through a review. With the usual promise of nirvana, and the usual expectation of letdown, I tried it. A little bumpy at first

go on my test box with Intel graphics, but it was workable, so I installed. I then installed on my main box, and it was like entering the twilight zone. It was paradise. Everything I wanted worked. KDE, and most everything else, was up-to-date. No bouncing cursor pets, no pop up messages in a foreign

language, and it was fast. I felt my quest was at an end. In this paradise, I have thought a couple of times that I want something different. Then, I either find it on the forum, in Synaptic, or it just appears in an update, almost as if Tex is my personal genie.

I am a casual user. By that, I mean I really don't have time or knowledge to dig into things. For two months now, things have been great. The other shoe didn't fall. No big problems that I couldn't solve by searching through the forum. I began learning things here that were useful, because the questions had been asked, and knowledgeable people took the time to give a meaningful answer. I had read it before. This is the best forum (and that is no bull). Whenever I get on line, I take some time to sniff around the forum or read the magazine. I installed Enlightenment on a partition, and WOW, I just kept opening and closing Firefox and a few other things and giggling. (Eat your heart out, Puppy). When mountain girl saw the wood theme by Agust she said, "That's nice. I like that." (I want the Grunge theme - hello? genie?). Her comment is meaningful because in the 3 years of using Linux, the only thing I have heard from her is "Why do you spend so much time messing with the computers? Can't we just use Windows? The walls need to be painted." She uses Windows every day. But she also uses my computer at the same time for Pandora and all that social stuff.

The Windows fans here so far are very impressed. No problem riding without a panel or dock. Everything I want is within a click on the desktop. It is often said that if Linux looks like Windows, those fans will use it. I think when it is fast, beautiful, functional, easy to learn, and better, then you have

their interest. PCLinuxOS Enlightenment is all that. I'm on the edge of my seat for the final release. Maybe nirvana doesn't exist. I will settle for Enlightenment. There is one really strange thing on the menu "Run Everything" - HOLY MACKEREL - really? Shouldn't there be a footnote, something like "in the event of invasion?"

I'm beginning to think that my KDE partition is going to be collecting dust just like the Windows one is. Before PCLinuxOS, I would not be comfortable recommending Linux to friends.(Well, if I had friends). It's pretty much a geeky thing to people that aren't quite sure what tabbed browsing means. Also, I have never registered for a forum nor made a donation. PCLinuxOS inspired both. This testimonial has gotten pretty long, and at this point there would be some saying, "Gosh, I wish he had just sent the money." I'm not sure it gets said enough, but I wanted to say thanks to Tex for creating this paradise, and thanks for a great community.

Peace
Pat

Want to keep up on the latest that's going on with PCLinuxOS?

Follow PCLinuxOS on Twitter!

http://twitter.com/iluvpclinuxos

Screenshot Showcase

Posted by kensum71, December 29, 2010, running e17

Wbar: A Mac OS-X Like Quick Launch Bar

by Daniel Meiß-Wilhelm (Leiche)

Wbar is an animated quick launch bar for Linux, similar to the one in Mac OS. The zooming launch bar provides nice eye-candy and transparency, even on low-end graphic cards and without the need of Compiz, making it suitable even for older hardware/computers. Below is a screenshot of Wbar:

How do I get Wbar and how do I use it?

Wbar can be installed from Synaptic and then be started via either Start → System → Monitoring → Wbar or from the command line using:

```
/usr/bin/wbar -pos top --above-desk
```

Here, the option -pos top will place the Wbar at the top of the desktop. It is a good idea to use this option because without it the Wbar will be placed at the default location, the bottom of the desktop, where it may be hidden under the default KDE panel. Additional options of wbar are shown in the screen shot at the bottom of the previous column. To view the other options on your computer, type **wbar --help** on the command line.

Further details details on Wbar options will be described later when introducing the WbarConf.

How do I start Wbar automatically upon login?

Start Konqueror via the desktop shortcut Home. Select View – Show Hidden Files from the Konqueror menu, browse to the folder .kde/Autostart, and create a new text-file named startapps. Open this file with the text editor of your choice and insert the following two lines:

```
#! /bin/sh
/usr/bin/wbar -pos top --above-desk &
```

then save this file and close the text editor. Finally, we need to make this file executable. Right-click the file, select 'Properties' and in the new window, click the tab 'Permissions' and set a tick mark next to 'is executable.' The Wbar will now start automatically upon each session startup. By the way, if you wish to start more applications upon startup, simply add their commands at the end of this file. For example, to auto-start Firefox, you would add the line **firefox &.**

WbarConf

Note: WbarConf is not available in the official repositories and hence, its installation and use is at your own risk.

WbarConf is a graphical user interface (GUI) to edit and customize Wbar. Download the latest version of wbarconf (at the time of writing wbarconf-0.7.2.tar.gz) and unpack it (right-click, Extract → Extract Here). Now open a root-terminal via:

Start → System → Terminals → Terminal Program - Super User Mode

and insert your root-password. The current working directory of the root-terminal is /root, and we need to change to the directory wbarconf extracted earlier. An easy way to do this is to position your mouse onto this directory in Konqueror, then drag and drop this icon onto the root-terminal, and select 'cd' from the appearing droplist menu. You could now enter pwd to confirm being in the extracted directory wbarconf. To install WbarConf, simply enter the command:

```
./install.sh /usr/
```

in the root-terminal. You can now close the root-terminal, open the standard KDE terminal, Konsole, via:

**Start → System → Terminals → Konsole - Terminal Program**

and start wbarconf from the Konsole using the command:

`wbarconf &`

which will bring up the following window:
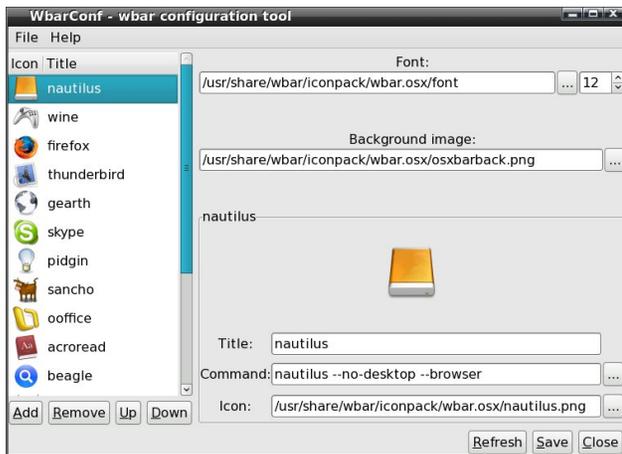
From the list of applications in the left panel, you can see the roots of Wbar as a GTK application, but of course you can now add/remove any application you require for your personal needs. But first we want to add WbarConf so we can start it easily from the Wbar quick launch bar, instead of the command line. Clicking the 'Add' button will open a new entry in the left panel, and after inserting a title, the command, and browsing to the WbarConf icon in the extracted folder, we finish the new entry by clicking the 'Save' button:
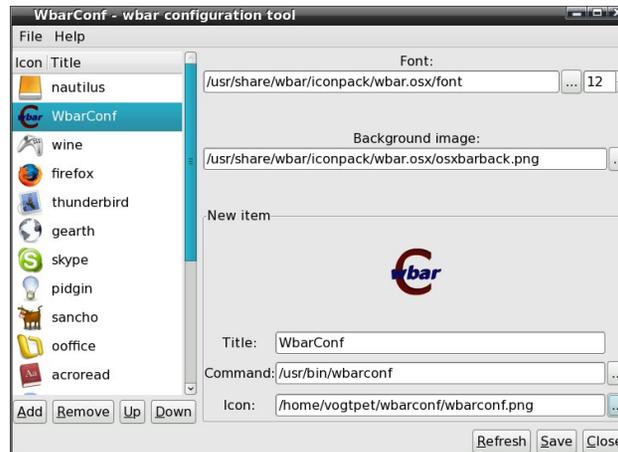
This will save the Wbar-configuration in the user's home-folder as a hidden file named .wbar. Selecting File → Settings in the WbarConf window will open a new window, where you can customize the appearance of Wbar:

Do not forget to activate and mark the 'Position on the screen'-entry to be at the top of the screen to avoid the Wbar being hidden under the default KDE panel at the bottom of the desktop. Here, you can also modify the Zoom and the Jump factor to your liking. Clicking the 'Refresh'-button will immediately apply the new settings without the need of restarting the WbarConf-GUI or Wbar itself. Finally, close the 'Settings'-window and press 'Save' and then 'Close' in the WbarConf window. WbarConf is a user-friendly GUI to customize the settings and appearance of Wbar. Alternatively, and if you know your way around, you could use your favorite text editor, open the Wbar configuration file .wbar and add/remove/edit your customized settings or any application-specific ict line-triplet (icon, command, title) after the initial 6 lines:
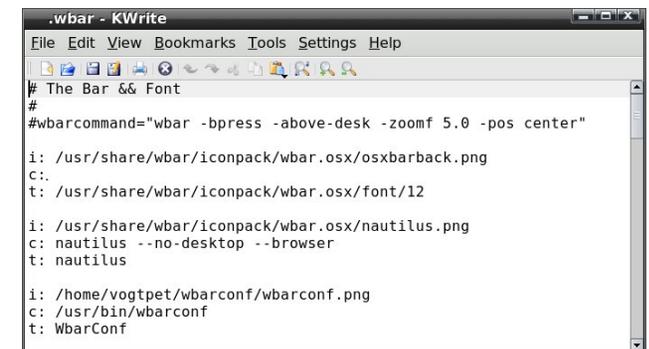
Wbar is similar to the iBar in gOS. So, now have fun with Wbar and WbarConf!

Computer Languages From A to Z: Unicon

by Gary L. Ratliff Sr. (eronstuc)

In the March 2010 issue of this magazine, we covered the language Icon and mentioned then that there were some extensions which gave support to OOP and other features. This article will center upon the language Unicon, which was developed by Clint Jeffery. The name Unicon stands for: Unified Extended Dialect of Icon.

I asked Dr. Jeffery two questions: Why did you develop the language Unicon? And, did you work with Dr. Griswold (the developer of Icon) in the creation of the language? On August 10, of 2010 I received this reply from him in answer to these questions:

Unicon was created because we loved Icon and wanted to be able to use it in large, IO-rich complex modern software systems. "We" started out as Shamin Mohammed and myself, and has included many users, students and internet volunteers over the past decade.

To improve scalability to large programs we made various improvements to the internals of the VM, along with adding classes and packages. We also dramatically improved the scalability of its optimizing compiler, iconc. More recently we are in the process of adding concurrency and improving the interface for calling native (C language) code. To improve IO capabilities, we have added very high level networking, database, and graphics.

I discussed many of our plans with Ralph Griswold, the inventor of Icon, who was my

Ph. D advisor. While he was not inclined to write the larger programs that motivate the use of classes and packages, he supported some of their early experimental development. Ralph also supported the first major component of the IO extensions, the 2D graphics that made it into Icon versions 8 and 9. He froze the Icon language prior to his death, and asked us not to call our successor Icon-2, which he felt sounded too close to Icon, but gave his blessing to the name Unicon.

Learning the Unicon Language

The best approach to learning the features and syntax of Unicon would be to read the Unicon book which is mentioned on the home page of the Unicon language: http://unicon.sourceforge.net/book/ub.pdf.

This is a 470 page document, and it offers a thorough introduction to the features of the language. It moves systematically through the features and has full coverage of the language and the Icon libraries in the many appendices in the back of the book.

The book also serves as an introduction to the concepts of software engineering, as well as the use of OOP in developing large software systems.

The following are some examples of the treatment offered by the language to some of the new concepts which this language introduces, which extend the features offered by Icon:
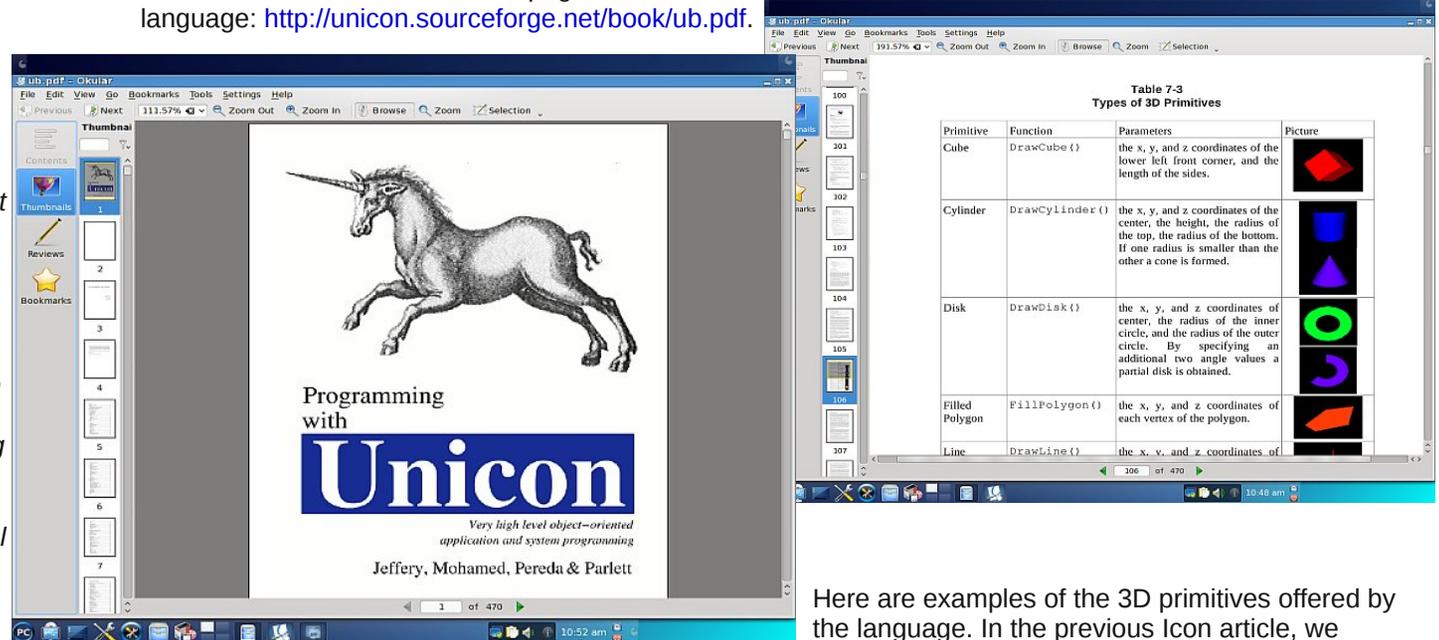
Here are examples of the 3D primitives offered by the language. In the previous Icon article, we presented some examples of the use of 2D

graphics, which the language Icon provides. It is highly recommended to become very familiar with the Icon treatment of graphics as covered by the book "Graphics Programming in Icon." Alas, this doesn't seem to be available as a download from the web, but is available from Amazon for a low rate.
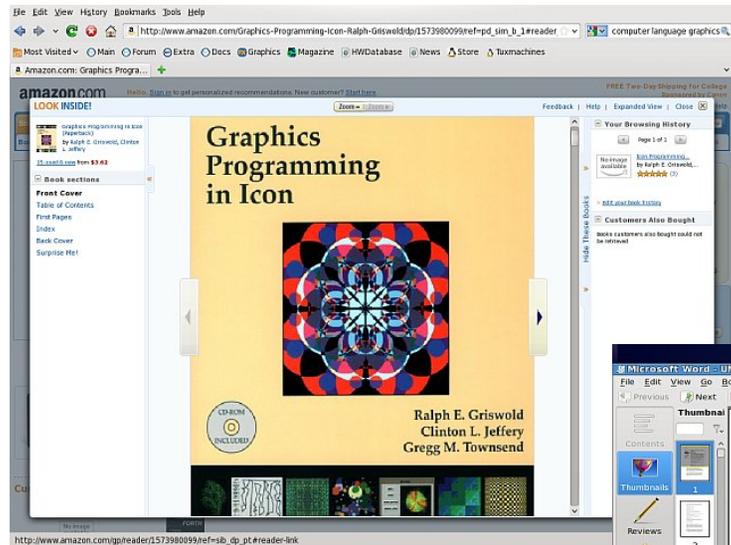

The authors of the Unicon text recommend that in order to develop large software systems, one master the language UML. The text presents several examples of this in the development of programs and recommends the book "The Unified Modeling Language User Guide," by Grady Booch, James Rumbaugh, and Ivar Jacobson, which I found was available as a free pdf download ------>

When downloaded, it will be named Addison Wesley.pdf, and appears in your download directory within in your home directory.

Obtaining Unicon

From the home page of the Unicon language, you will find an area called Unicon Downloads. There is a listing for several operating systems. Now I was able to successfully install the system for my Windows partition, which uses the Windows XP Media Center Edition. This will allow the user to develop and test Unicon programs using an environment available from running ui.exe.

When I followed these instructions for developing a system from source code following these instructions from the README file:
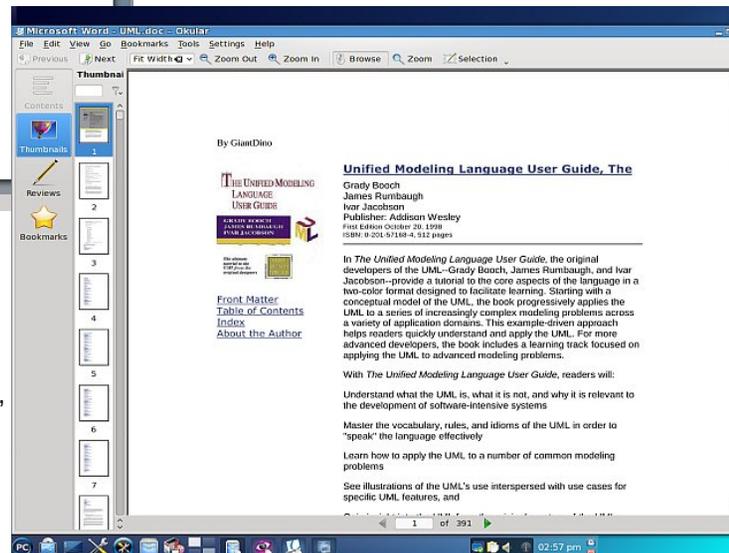
1. Download the file, which will be a zip file.
2. Unzip the file
3. make Configure intel-linux
4. make Unicon

The steps through item 3 completed successfully. At step 3, you will be instructed to make the Unicon/bin directory part of the path. Then, on step 4 there were two errors reported. Despite this fact, the unzipping will obtain a complete set of Icon programs which are usable, if you followed the instructions for installing a useful Icon system to your PCLinuxOS system. The text covers the Icon program fully in one of the appendixes. You will need to have a functional Windows system so that you may fully explore the features of the Unicon system via that route.

Dr. Jeffery mentioned that he could help users if they were having problems installing the system. As I failed to write any articles during the mourning period after my wife passed away, I no longer have a lead time of close to a year. So I will leave getting this as an exercise for the reader.

After reading the text fully, the Unicon language was found to be an intriguing language and my explorations of the system, albeit conducted from Windows, revealed that the system worked as advertised in the text.
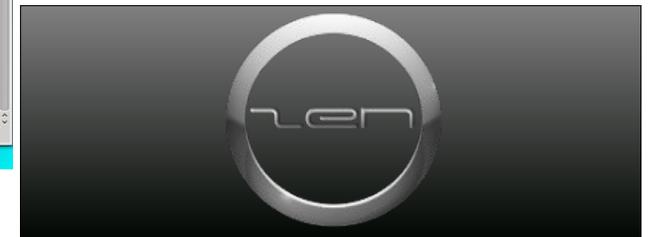
Screenshot Showcase
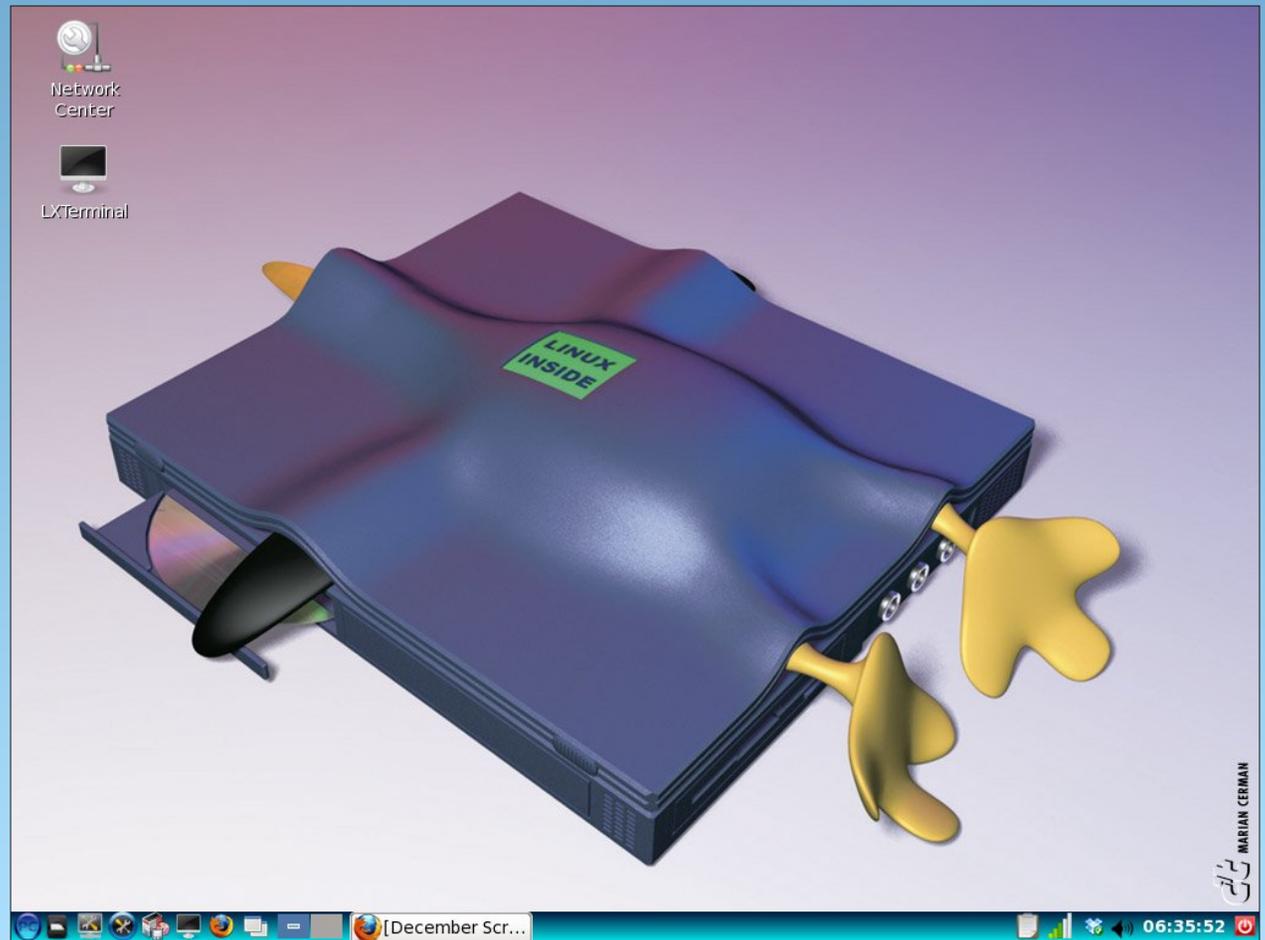
Posted by rob0917, December 19, 2010, running LXDE

Testimonial: Hello, From St. Louis!

by Fred McKinney (fredbird67)

First of all, many many thanks to Texstar and the gang for creating such a fine distribution.

My name's Fred, and I'm living in Ballwin, Missouri, which is one of MANY suburbs of St. Louis. I was a WinD'OH's user for over 10 years, until switching to Linux on my computer in January of 2005. I haven't looked back since, with my first distro being Mandrake 10.1. Believe it or not, I'm a returning PCLinuxOS user. I had tried PCLinuxOS once in 2006 and had a little problem with the monitor I had at the time. I didn't have a clue how to fix it. So I went with Mepis instead. Mepis worked great, although I didn't care for some of its default settings in KDE.

One evening during the summer of 2007, out of curiosity, I was wondering what else was out there in distro-land. I had seen that PCLinuxOS had come out with the 2007 version a few months before, so I tried it. Honestly, I liked it a lot better than Mepis, so I went with PCLinuxOS 2007 in August, especially since I had missed some of the eye-candy that Mandrake offered. I loved that "Galaxy 2" KWin decoration that Mandrake used as the default at the time I was using it, and was happy to see that it was available in the PCLinuxOS repos.

Everything was going great, until I learned that KDE was coming out with version 4. I had seen some bad reviews of it, but I thought I'd give it a chance. In early 2008, I downloaded a Live CD of SuSE with KDE4. It was unstable, slow, and I felt LOST in the thing. I felt that if KDE was gonna throw the perfectly good version 3.5.x away for that piece of crap, then why bother staying? I reluctantly got rid of PCLinuxOS 2007 in favor of Ubuntu and Gnome, later switching to Mint. However, at the time, I had no idea that Texstar was planning to stay with KDE 3.5.10 for the desktop. Yet, I felt that if KDE was going to dump it for the piece of crap that KDE 4 turned out to be, at least when it first came out, I wanted no part of it at all.

Some 6 months later or so, I had heard that there was a GNOME version of PCLinuxOS available, which naturally got my attention. I tried it once, but never could get the printer I had at the time to install on there, so I gave up on it and went back to Ubuntu.

This past spring, I switched desktop environments again to Xfce when I learned that Gnome was going to do a major overhaul in the form of Gnome 3. Remembering what I had gone through with KDE, I did NOT want to go through that again. Also, I had noticed several people on Gnome-Look who were outright hateful and rude, and I'd had enough of their attitudes. That too played a part in my switch from Gnome to Xfce, even though I can comfortably run Gnome and maybe the current KDE on my system.

Eventually, Ubuntu's and Mint's policies of coming out with a new release every six months got on my nerves (backing things up, doing a clean installation, etc.). Especially considering that Ubuntu has never been a rolling-release distro, which would very much be appreciated if they're gonna release new versions that frequently.

I had also discovered that earlier this year, PCLinuxOS came out in nine different versions in addition to KDE and GNOME, such as Xfce, Openbox, LXDE, and Enlightenment. Plus, since I had seen that PCLinuxOS is a rolling-release distro, I had to try it. I tried it once, a month or two ago, and was really liking it until I found that a GTK theme I like wasn't displaying properly on it, and no one else had mentioned the problem I had found. I went back to Mint for a while, but the urge for a rolling-release distro was still there like an itch that wouldn't go away, so I downloaded Phoenix (the Xfce edition).

I had tried the latest Crunchbang, which wasn't bad, but I never could get Compiz to work on it. I then gave PCLinuxOS another try when I learned that the theme I had a problem with, (one of the Shiki-Colors series of themes), also came in a Clearlooks

version, in addition to the Murrine version. I thought "OK, I could live with that". It turns out that the Murrine version from GNOME-Look worked perfectly. I had used the Shiki-Colors themes in the repos earlier, so I thought I'd explore things further.

The other night I was trying to set up the printer I have connected to my PCLinuxOS box, and boy was I having a hard time getting it properly set up to print from my wife's laptop. The advice I had gotten from the forum wasn't all that helpful and I came THIS CLOSE to giving up and going to Xubuntu. But I then tried having PrinterDrake detect and install it -- and from there, I got it to print perfectly from both computers! Turns out that I made the mistake of installing it from CUPS, which made it a pain to get networked printing working just right. But PrinterDrake made it much easier to accomplish, so I was happy.

I then set up Compiz, which I was able to do in about 5 minutes. And I must say that whenever I have the Emerald Theme Manager open, on Ubuntu or Mint, it would periodically gray out and become unresponsive. But I haven't seen that at all with PCLinuxOS -- it's ready to do whatever else I want and, so far, it has stayed completely responsive at all times. I've still got a lot more to do in getting everything set up and getting my backed-up files on their new home on PCLinuxOS. But once I do, I'm planning on also putting it on a spare desktop we have.

And then, I'm planning to install PCLinuxOS Phoenix on a flash drive I carry around with me all the time. It currently has PC/OS (no relation to PCLinuxOS) on it, which is one of only a handful of distros I've tried

that properly detects the Broadcom wireless card on my wife's Dell Inspiron 6000 laptop. The reason I've been wanting to get rid of PC/OS is because of their plans to charge for the next version. But, thankfully, I've found that PCLinuxOS also properly detects that Broadcom card, too. Plus, I love how you can create a USB drive of PCLinuxOS with whatever programs you have installed at the time you create it too. So that will be so cool to be able to take ALL my favorite Linux programs with me in my pocket!

In closing, (did you think I'd ever get here? LOL), I must say that I'm quite pleased to see PCLinuxOS available with multiple desktops, that it's a rolling-release distro, that it has some very advanced capabilities for creating a live USB, and that it detects Broadcom's wireless cards. Ubuntu may get the most publicity, but as far as I'm concerned, PCLinuxOS sets THE standard by which all other distros are judged.

Want To Help?

Would you like to help with the PCLinuxOS Magazine? Opportunities abound. So get involved!

You can write articles, help edit articles, serve as a "technical advisor" to insure articles are correct, create artwork, or help with the magazine's layout.

Join us on our **Google Group mailing list.**

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PC

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From this moment on P C L O S
You're for us you are the best
From this moment on

From this happy day no more distro hoppin'
We found you so we're a stoppin'
From this moment on

OGG   MP3

For you've got the desktops we love so much
You never leave us in a clutch

Got a forum where we can play
See our friends there everyday

From this moment on we give thanks to Tex
PCLOS is never complex

Every care is gone
From this moment on

2011

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More Screenshot Showcase

Top Left: Posted by bones113, December 5, 2010, running KDE 4.

Top Right: Posted by chilly, December 9, 2010, running KDE 4.

Bottom Left: Posted by coffeetime, December 27, 2010, running OpenBox.

Bottom Right: Posted by bingyman, December 21, 2010, running KDE 4.