
Subject: Re: Sun vs PC Linux - Anyone making the shift?
Posted by [Ken Mankoff](#) on Tue, 12 Feb 2002 14:50:12 GMT
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On Tue, 12 Feb 2002, Gert Van de Wouwer wrote:

> Has anyone gone in either direction (Sun to Linux or visa versa)
> and what were your experiences?

I use both Sun and PC Linux daily. They are unequal machines in terms of disk speed, processor and ram, so I cannot compare performance. But I prefer the Linux environment for one reason: The UI (Sawfish) is so much better than CDE. I know one can compile gnome and such for Sun, but I cannot myself (I have tried and failed).

I am not just talking about looks here. On Linux I never need to use the mouse because the keyboard can switch windows and desktops. That is much *much* easier on my hands which get tired if I use the Sun and its mouse all day. Again, it is possible to set up your .Xsession to do this, but it is a much more complicated process to get a Sun behaving exactly the way you want vs. a Linux box.

From the sysadmin dept: Linux requires more security patches than Sun, but they are easier to install.

From the misc dept: I have an easier time streaming audio and playing CDs of mp3s (legally) and other stuff like that while I work on the Linux box than on the Sun. Of course, I can have audio playing out of Linux while I work on the sun b/c they are right next to each other :)

Also, Linux comes with better graphics programs than Sun (gimp vs xv), and if I need to touch up some IDL graphics I always end up ftping it to the Linux box. Of course, MacOS X solves this problem, but that is a different topic.

-k.

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