
Subject: Comments on "Announcing PV-WAVE on Linux" and a bit more
Posted by [zawodny](#) on Tue, 07 Feb 1995 12:57:05 GMT

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In article <3h5v6g\$12c@newsstand.cit.cornell.edu> patterso@astrosun.tn.cornell.edu (Tim Patterson) writes:

> Helge Rebhan (hrebhan@awi-bremerhaven.de) wrote:

> : You're right with respect to the 'real' (?) PC's where Linux is a good

> : choice to replace MS-DOS or other stone-aged Microsoft Products.

>

> Had to quote this as its still amazes me how many people believe that

> Unix is the be-all-and-end-all of operating Systems. Unix is just as

> stone-aged as MS-DOS in a lot of respects!

UNIX is a good base that is reasonably well defined and stable despite there being umpteen different "flavors" of UNIX. It has been here since the 60's. MS-DOS is also reasonably stable (as far as interfaces and system access goes). If we keep the discussion to these two and not expand it to MS-Windows or X, then UNIX offers more flexibility to the user and requires less "extra" software to make it work well. I am talking here about all those little drivers and TSRs and memory management packages that are more or less required to make DOS programs work. These nearly always pinch applications which really need 640K. Admittedly a lot of these problems arise due to the application programmer, but these generally do not exist in a UNIX environment. Neither come close to the be-all-and-end-all label, I leave that for OS/2 Warp (if you can install it). I guess it really boils down to the personal preference of constantly tinkering to keep things going versus using (programming) the machine. I have omitted the "MAC mentality" which is buy what you need, install it, and use it (adopted primarily by the "I don't want a computer but I have to use one" types).

My apologies to all since I realize that this thread has degenerated to a topic no longer appropriate for this group.

As for PV-WAVE on Linux as well as the more reasonably priced PC version, I applaud VNI. I wish RSI could realize the potential market it has in IDL for WINDOWS and drop the price to where the masses could buy it. I would think that it would sell very well at \$500 per machine and that the annual support fees would eventually make up for the initial loss of profit.

On a different note, I would very much like to take some of my IDL applications and compile them to run out from under the IDL interactive interpreter. I'd be willing to live without a few features (like EXECUTE). This would definitely be worth the \$1500 or whatever IDL 4 Windows goes for these days.

... but now I ramble.

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Joseph M. Zawodny (KO4LW) NASA Langley Research Center
Internet: j.m.zawodny@larc.nasa.gov MS-475, Hampton VA, 23681-0001
TCP/IP: ko4lw@ko4lw.ampr.org Packet: ko4lw@n4hog.va.usa.na
