>> Linux DOES work well on most systems. I have Linux installed on my
>> laptop. My co-workers have many Linux installed on their laptops as
>> well. None of us have any problems.
>>
>
> I think Linux does run well on most laptops, but you will most likely
> have problems gettings all of the little features like sound volume,
> screen brightness, external VGA output etc. to work, which are all very
> vendor-specific. The touchpad will probably work, but its scroll feature
> might not...

These days the only thing that is really vendor specific is the graphics
card. Most sound and other features are covered. The last laptop
install I did was when Fedora Core 4 came out. With Fedora,
everything worked out of the box. The only hiccup was that I had to
add some vendor specific settings to get the full use of my graphics
card. Out of the box, I could use an external display with my laptop.
The vendor specific settings were only to allow the external display to
use higher resolutions. I did not have to tinker with anything else.

> Things which are important to some people, but less
> important to others. If you're lucky, somebody wrote a driver, but it
> might not be included in your Linux distro. You'll have to get your
> hands dirty yourself.

A few years ago, I would have agreed with this. I can't speak for all
distributions since I don't use them, but Fedora and SuSE have been very
good recently with respect to supporting things out of the box. I
actually don't remember the last time I had to search a sound driver and
configure something by hand except for the case of the graphics card
I've already mentioned. Everything else Just Works(TM).

-Mike