On Thu, 26 Jan 2006 12:22:01 -0700, David Fanning wrote:

> Sid writes:
>
>> I am no expert by a long shot, but have you tried Mandriva? I use 10.1
>> and haven't had problems with it in the last year, on desktops or
>> laptops.....
>
> Uh, no. I only have 24 hours in a day. I can't afford to
> download more than 5 or 6 flavors of LINUX. :-)
>
> By the way, I am *really* getting into this. If I wanted
> to buy a new laptop with LINUX installed and ready to go,
> what would you LIXUX users recommend? I need a pretty
> powerful machine for a new proposed project.

I really don't know how much luck you'll have finding a laptop with just
LINUX on it. I'm sure that there are some out there, but I also think
that it is safe to say that your choices in the hardware would be limited.

I ended up getting a Toshiba Satellite with Win XP on it. The first thing
I did when I got it was to boot it with Knoppix, live off the CD.
Knoppix, and other recent distros, have a tool that will let you shrink an
NTFS partition in place without reformatting the drive. This tool let me
split the internal hard disk in half. I think I also made a small (2GB)
FAT partition so I have some disk space shared between LINUX and
Windows. LINUX doesn't *write* to NTFS very well these days.

I then installed Debian on the second half and went ahead and put the GRUB
boot loader on. That lets me select Win or LINUX at power on time. I
almost always just close the lid to hiberate Windows, so I don't see the
GRUB menu very much. It works well.

I think it is probably pretty important to get the features you need/want
in a laptop purchase and then worry about adding LINUX later. There are
websites out there that describe how various LINUX distros work on many
laptops. They might be worth checking as you narrow down your choices.

Good luck,

Karl