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Subject: Re: Linux Help Needed

Posted by [Paul Van Delst\[1\]](#) on Sat, 28 Jan 2006 02:25:29 GMT

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JD Smith wrote:

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

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>

>> Sid writes:

>

>

>> 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 LINUX users recommend? I need a pretty  
>> powerful machine for a new proposed project.

>

>

> Installing Linux is usually trivial these days. I'd shop for the  
> laptop you want (I hear good things about the new Core Due systems),  
> with the features you want, and then head to:

>

> <http://www.linux-laptop.net/>

>

> to see if there any compatibility issues (sound cards are common). Mostly  
> things do indeed just work.

>

> The reason IDL complains is that it needs an old, old version of the C  
> library and other libs, which most distros offer as a "compatibility"  
> library install. You can blame RSI for this, building against what is  
> essentially a 4 year old library set (not that it doesn't work).

That's just laughable.

> If the Macbook Pro's are as nice as they seem to be, getting one of  
> those, and dual-booting linux/OSX would seem a rather nice solution.  
> Redhat recently officially announced support for Mac Intel. It would  
> be interesting to see how much Linux/IDL 6.2 cleans up OSX/IDL 6.2  
> Rosetta (assuming it runs), and then repeat the comparison when they  
> finally compile IDL for OSX/Intel later this year (hopefully).

>

> I have friends in the laptop market now, and no clear RSI statement on  
> their commitment to support this new architecture is unsettling to  
> them. "We'll look into and get back to you" is less than  
> confidence-inspiring.

From my uneducated viewpoint, RSI always seems to be playing catch-up in this regard.

On the plus side (and off on a tangent - crikey, it's late), I bit the bullet and spent an

hour plotting gobs and gobs of data using iPlot and, somewhere, somehow, I managed to figure out how to use it effectively despite the clunkiness of the "Visualization Browser". Even with the slowness of the application I guess I'm, well, impressed. (off I go into the corner to eat my hat.... )

paulv

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