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

> 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 LIXUX 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).

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.

JD