
Subject: Re: LINUX Installation Re: Top 10 IDL Requests
Posted by [Kenneth Mankoff](#) on Tue, 25 Jul 2000 07:00:00 GMT
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Hi David,

The first thing i would do is just try to run the install program. The newest flavor of redhat works out of the box. This includes internet, xwindows, and sound. Getting your printer and stuff to work will take longer, but thats quite a ways away at this point. But i myself have installed Redhat6.2 with out any tweaking at all.

I have installed it on a Dell Inspiron 7000, (but according to the maillist mentioned below that i used to be a part of, they are the same.) An Inspiron 7500, and a gateway solo 9300.

Redhat is not the most secure of all the linux flavors, but is the easiest to install, and fairly easy to secure. And fairly unnecessary to secure if its behind a good firewall.

Should you run into trouble, search for "Dell Laptop Linux" and you will find pages with people explaining step-by-step how to install it.

There is a linux-on-dell-laptop specific mailing list (inspiron-linux@thot.net), i think. You can get on to ask qustions. Its archive should be enough to get you through everything.

Craig is right, though... if/when you run into trouble, it will probably be getting X working correctly. But the installers are improving each and every day at detecting the hardware on your system.

IDL is very very simple to install on linux. Just run the install.sh program as root, and thats it. You will have to edit the license file also.

good luck, and feel free to ask me (by email if you want, or this newsgroup) any questions.

-ken.

>> I've decided to bite the bullet and install some flavor
>> of LINUX on an old portable I have around here that has
>> no hope of running Windows 2000.
>>
>> Any suggestions for the neophyte LINUX installer?
>>
>> I'm putting it on a DELL Latitude portable.

Subject: Re: LINUX Installation Re: Top 10 IDL Requests
Posted by [Craig Markwardt](#) on Tue, 25 Jul 2000 07:00:00 GMT
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davidf@dfanning.com (David Fanning) writes:

> Andrew (noymer@my-deja.com) writes:

>

>> And since we all know

>> how much David loves *nix, I'm sure it will get top billing ;-)

>

> I've decided to bite the bullet and install some flavor

> of LINUX on an old portable I have around here that has

> no hope of running Windows 2000.

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> Any suggestions for the neophyte LINUX installer?

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> I'm putting it on a DELL Latitude portable.

I take it to mean that you are a neophyte at installing Linux, rather than installing IDL.

The best suggestion I can give you is, "get help." The first time installing Linux can be a bit daunting, and it would be best to have somebody experienced at least prompting you along the way.

If you can't find help, or even if you can, you should check out Kevin Harker's Linux on Laptops page^[*], where people report their experiences installing Linux on particular laptops. If you scroll down about 1/4, you will find a bunch of Dell Latitudes listed; hopefully one that matches yours! Some are more helpful than others, and I would suggest reading reports on *similar* models as well.

Perhaps the hardest part about installing Linux on a portable is getting the right graphics support. That's another area where having somebody experienced nearby can really help.

Good luck,
Craig

[*] Harper Laptop Page
<http://www.cs.utexas.edu/users/kharker/linux-laptop/>

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