

WRITE ACCESS

DVD Inlay

I just finished reading the latest edition of Linux Magazine. Alas again no DVD box (yes, I read your reply to the customer complaint). I still don't agree, and I'd rather have the DVD box back. I am willing to pay a little extra for the service.

Anyway, could you at least make the covers of the DVD boxes available as a download from your site? Consider it a service to your readers that really want the DVD box (like me). I am going to put the DVDs in a box, and I do want a nice cover with the necessary information in there also. If necessary, I can print the cover myself.

Rob Prikanowski

LM Thank you for your feedback! The printable DVD covers are now back by popular demand. You will find the DVD inlays at our website. Visit the following page: <http://www.linux-magazine.com/issues> or (<http://www.linuxpromagazine.com/issues>). Click on the picture of the issue for which you'd like to obtain the DVD cover. On the issue page, select the link labeled *DVD inlay*. Download the PDF image to your desktop.

Migration

I am thinking of moving on from the Microsoft monopoly. I currently use Windows ME and XP operating systems; my main worry is a compatibility issue. Is Linux capable of accepting software not designed to run with the linux O/S, for example Microsoft messenger/hotmail? If you say generally OK, how do I start please? I'm looking forward to hearing from you.

Michael Daniels

LM We're glad you are thinking about making the move. Linux has some tools that are designed to let the user run Windows software – the most famous being the Wine API and related utilities, but once you move to Linux, you might discover that your old Windows software is not as critical as you thought. You're much better off working with the native Linux tools if you switch to Linux. The good news is, the Linux environment has equivalents for most of the common tools you are running in Windows, and most of these tools are available for no cost.

I don't know if you could get Microsoft Messenger running in Linux, but Linux has its own messaging tools, including *amsn*, a Linux tool that lets you communicate on Microsoft's MSN network.

Because Hotmail is

a webmail tool, theoretically you could reach your Hotmail account from a browser running on any operating system; however, the question of whether Microsoft has succeeded in keeping the Hotmail website free of proprietary constraints is best answered by the people in Redmond. In any case, the mail you see in Hotmail is just ordinary email, and Linux has lots of excellent email client applications.

Article Suggestion

Thank you for publishing your magazine! I have been a subscriber now for a few years, and I enjoy your magazine thoroughly. I would like to suggest something in the way of an article. Why not do something on the distributions based on one of the big distros. As the subject of my email says, I would personally like to see something on the Ubuntu-based distros, for instance, Linux Mint. I hope you consider something like this, I think these distros are doing good work in promoting ease of use and good design, and they deserve to get some lime light!

Mark Murphy

LM Thanks for the suggestion. We'll see what we can do. Watch future issues for more on Linux Mint and other Ubuntu-based distros.

NO DVD?

Our DVD series offers a full-featured Linux DVD each month. DVD subscribers use our DVDs to stay current on major releases of Linux distros such as Ubuntu, openSUSE, Fedora, Mandriva, and Knoppix.

If you are a *Linux Magazine* subscriber who didn't receive a DVD, and you would like to receive a DVD with future issues, check out our upgrade options here: <http://www.linux-magazine.com/manage>

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