

WRITE ACCESS

No More Fedora and openSUSE

When is *Linux Magazine* going to put some new Linux DVDs in the magazine? Not more openSUSE and Fedora. How many copies do you think I need?
Craig

LM We try to cover a range of options with our DVD series. The fact is, though, that we have fairly solid sales information telling us that more readers prefer mainstream distros such as Fedora, openSUSE, and Ubuntu. For this reason, we try to cover the major releases of the most popular Linux alternatives.

We do, however, keep our eye on other up-and-coming alternatives, such as this month's Linux Mint DVD.

Tech Tools

Reading through Tech Tools in the latest issue, I found myself constantly thinking, "Wait, is this software open source?" The articles give no clear indication.

Please consider adding some sort of mark to distinguish reviews of proprietary and free software.

While it would be great to see the actual license specified (e.g., Apache, GPL3, Artistic, BSD, or Proprietary), I would be happy

with just a small "OS" symbol if the license meets the open source definition.
Ben Wong

LM Thank you for the suggestion. We will consider that idea for future issues, although it might pose some logistical challenges. One problem is that some of these tools have both open source and proprietary alternatives. In other cases, the license might not fall into one of the traditional license categories.

Although we typically give preference to open source alternatives in the rest of the magazine, Tech Tools is designed as a space that is open to *any* server and developer tools that might run on Linux. That said, we will try to watch for information on licensing and pass it on to the readers when we see it.

Dreamweaver on Linux

I am a huge fan of Linux. I have been using it for about 8 years now. About 6 months ago, I installed Ubuntu (for the nth time) on my laptop – this time Version 8.04 – and it immediately recognized my wireless adapter. Since then, Linux has become more and more a part of my life. I am especially loving the new Gnome.

However, I have become much more involved in design and graphics, and I have recently started a hosting company. My wife just bought me Adobe Master Collection CS4.

Try as I might, the open source options for design and web do not match up to Dreamweaver's integrated site management and graphics with Fireworks.

And Premiere has no equal.

So is there any hope? WINE is not

working for me; would some kind of virtual PC running within Ubuntu do the trick?

Without this, I can never let go of the Windows hands around my neck (and my productivity).

Chris Lowry

LM The open source community offers several powerful web development tools, some of which have appeared in these pages over the years.

Since you like Linux and you have your own hosting company, you have probably explored many of these options, but for the record, free HTML tools such as Bluefish (<http://bluefish.openoffice.nl/>) and Quanta Plus (<http://quanta.kdewebdev.org/>) have become quite sophisticated, and many readers have been successful with using Nvu (<http://www.net2.com/nvu/>) and Aptana (<http://www.aptana.com/>) in place of Dreamweaver.

Yes, several options are also available for running Windows in a virtual machine on Linux. Some users have indeed been successful with setting up Dreamweaver to run on WINE. You'll find more information on the WINE option online.

Even if WINE doesn't meet your needs now, the WINE alternative has improved a lot over the past couple of years, and you might find more success with it at some point in the future.

Of course, the best solution by far would be for Adobe to port Dreamweaver to Linux. ■

NO DVD?

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>

Please send your comments and suggestions to letters@linux-magazine.com



Stefan Habersack, Fotolia