TEN YEARS

Dear Linux Magazine Reader,

If you are one to notice the issue numbers that appear next to our name on the spine – or above the barcode on the front cover – you will quickly ascertain that this particular issue has a very significant number for a monthly mag. 120 issues? That means ten years of *Linux Magazine*.

We are well aware that the theatricality of such moments is often overplayed. After all, no one on our team has actually been here since the first issue. Still, the chance to reflect is always healthy. Our first issue rolled off the printer in October 2000, which doesn't seem so long ago for many of us who remember what we were doing back then, but in the Linux frame of reference, ten years is a very long time.

You might also notice that this issue comes with a very special DVD containing all previous issues of the magazine. "Why read the old stuff?" you ask. First of all, some of it isn't that old. If you missed an article anytime over the past couple years, you'll find it on the DVD. But looking back through the earlier material is also an interesting exercise. For instance, the News section of our first issue leads off with the headline "StarOffice Going Open Source." The article announces that some of the code from a promising office suite, which Sun had acquired the year before, was about to appear under a new name: OpenOffice.org.

Also covered in the news for that year was another important development that had huge implications for the evolution of Linux: IBM's large investment in Linux technologies. Big Blue reported pumped a billion dollars (yes, that is with a "b") into Linux around that time, including a significant investment in kernel development.

The appearance of a viable open source office suite and the investment of thousands of developer hours from IBM propelled Linux in a whole new direction. We were there to report it, and we've been with Linux ever since. How important was the year 2000? Only a few months after the end of this golden year, Microsoft was forced to come down from the mountain to do battle for the public brain share they once took for granted, with CEO Steve Ballmer announcing that Linux was "a cancer that attaches itself in an intellectual property sense to everything it touches." You know you've arrived when the titans start throwing lightening bolts at your feet.

So it is like this: We weren't around for the childhood of Linux back in the 1990s, but since this crucial year 2000, when Linux was emerging as a corporate-grade system with a real non-geek desktop and a robust kernel that could win over IBM, challenge Microsoft, and bring down Solaris, we've been present for all the action. We're proud of our role in documenting the development of Linux – not through the usual dance of news clips, but step by step, tool by tool, configuration by configuration – a history in the details, which is the way our readers like it best.

Joe

Joe Casad, Editor in Chief