

Perspective

A look back at 10 years ago
... and at 2010. *By Rikki Kite*



RIKKI KITE

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In addition to the technical articles, news, and columns readers expect each month, our November issue also includes an archive DVD in honor of our 10-year anniversary. When I first looked through our new DVD, I immediately read the editorial in our first issue. That first letter from the editor, Julian Moss, included a guarantee that said, "We pride ourselves on the origins of our magazine, which come from the very start of the Linux revolution. We have been involved with the Linux market for six years now through our sister European-based titles *Linux Magazine* (aimed at professionals) and *Linux User* (for hobbyists), and through seminars, conferences, and events. By purchasing this magazine you are joining an information network that enjoys the benefit of all the knowledge and technical expertise of all the major Linux professionals and enthusiasts. No other UK Linux magazine can offer that pedigree or such close links with the Linux Community."

The editorial page also included the masthead. I was surprised to see that Ubuntu Community Manager Jono Bacon contributed an article on file permissions for our first issue. We also ran an article by Rob Morrison on how the Internet would change the media industry. Morrison discussed the Time Warner/AOL merger, saying, "It is the strongest indicator ever that entertainment and the media – like every other business sector – is about to be revolutionised by the Internet." What an understatement that turned out to be.

10 Years Later

Linux Magazine/Linux Pro Magazine is no longer the baby in our family of magazines, and we're not just a "UK Linux magazine." In 2009, we launched *Ubuntu User*, and this year we launched *Admin Network and Security* magazine. Our current Editor in Chief, Joe Casad, joined the magazine in 2004 with issue 48, so our editorials now are written from the Kansas office, which we

opened not long after I joined the team in November 2006.

Besides launching *Admin Network and Security* magazine this year, we worked with our international colleagues to roll out a new look for *Linux Magazine* and *Linux Pro*. We hired a full-time news editor in April, and a new production editor will have joined our Kansas team by the time this issue hits the newsstands. We will have moved into a new, larger office by then, too.

Then and Now

In 2000, our first issue went to print with an article called "Linux Reaches for the Stars," which was about the then 10-year-old XEphem interactive astronomical ephemeris project. Who could have imagined that 10 years later, a city council would decide to stop its use of Google Earth to monitor backyard pools [1]? When Rob Morrison wrote about how the Internet would change the media industry, could he have imagined that Rack-space Hosting, which had existed for only two years, would grow to serve more than 99,000 customers and get worldwide attention for pulling the plug on a Florida website for violating the hate speech provision in their acceptable use policy [2]?

I'm still strolling down memory lane as I browse the DVD archive. I hope you also enjoy reminiscing as you look back on the past 10 years. Imagine what 2010 will look like 10 years from now. ■■■

LIKEABLE LINKS

- [1] Town stops using Google Earth to spy on people's pools: <http://www.downloadsquad.com/2010/09/09/town-stops-using-google-earth-to-spy-on-peoples-pools/>
- [2] Vatican: Quran burning 'outrageous': <http://www.cnn.com/2010/US/09/08/florida.quran.reaction/>
- [3] Live Penguins: <http://www.linux-magazine.com/livepenguins/>
- [4] Debian: Yesterday's Distribution? <http://www.linux-magazine.com/debiandistro>