

Dual-boot w/ME vs. XP vs. W98se

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To: debian-user@lists.debian.org

Hello,

I have a friend that is currently dual-booting Debian Sarge with Windows ME. He also has a copy of W98SE available already. 'A friend' is trying to convince him to dump ME (that part I agree with at least) and install XP for the Windows portion of the dual-boot.

I can think of several, to me at least, quite 'legitimate reasons' to stay as far away from XP as possible. Some of those I will list in a moment. What I am wondering is if there is a 'Linux vs. XP' page somewhere that would be from an 'objective third party'. Meaning not 'bought and paid for' by Microsoft. I would appreciate a link if anyone knows of such an article on the web. I will do a Google once this clears the system.

I have a BBA in Computer Info Systems, a Linux System Admin Cert., and in general try to stay as far away from Microsoft products as possible for my own personal use. However, while I think Linux is a 'far superior' product vs. any offering from Microsoft, I do my best to approach such things in as 'factual and rational' a manner as possible.

I do not object to people running Microsoft OS's or products if they are doing that from an 'informed decision' point of view. That is my one and only goal here. To provide my friend with an 'objective third party' opinion (if such a thing exists) laying out the pro's and con's of running Windows XP.

My friend is not a 'pirate' by any means. Nor am I. Nor are most of the folks I know. Yet, Microsoft claims 'piracy' as the sole reason they are now 'requiring you' to register and 'activate' Windows XP. If you do not, they turn that nice shiny new computer you just brought home into nothing more than a rather large door stop in 30 days. This is unforgivable in my opinion. Microsoft wants nothing more and nothing less than to have 'total control' over what people do. That's why they have the 'activation' thing not only on the XP OS but several rather pricey applications as well. A business may not object to this sort of

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treatment. An individual has a choice.

I would like my friend to be able to make 'an informed decision' on this issue. That's it. From my point of view, he already has legit copies of Windows ME and 98SE, and if the issue is 'stability' of ME (I agree) the best course would be to make a backup, then nuke ME and re-install 98SE for the Windows portion of the system.

System specs: P-III, 700MHz, 40-GB drive (half and half Windows/Linux), 256MB RAM, CDROM and CD-RW. 17" monitor and sound card. KDE is working just fine under Debian Sarge.

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