

Re: The Ubuntu Experiment

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- *From:* Lorenzo Taylor <daxlinux@xxxxxxxxxx>
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Windows XP doesn't crash? That's the first time I've ever heard of that one. :) As a person who works on computers of all kinds, including those running Ubuntu and other Linux-based OS's and Windows 2000 and XP, I can tell you that XP definitely crashes. It gets spyware that even the best antispyware programs can't fully clear off. Performance degrades over time as you use it even if you turn it off whether you get spyware and/or viruses or not. Not to mention the fact that Microsoft conveniently eliminated the blue screen of death so that XP just suddenly reboots for no apparent reason and any work you did prior to the reboot is lost. This is a problem I used to have at least 3 times a week when I used XP. And it doesn't seem to matter if you use pro or home, since the only major difference is the applications included with the OS, for example the second-rate web server that is included only with the professional version. Does XP crash with all hands lost? Most definitely it does. Regular backups are a requirement rather than a nice thing to do when running any version of Windows.

On the other hand, using and working with Ubuntu has been a real pleasure for me. Regular backups are still a very good thing to do, but the only time I had a major loss was when my original Western Digital hard drive failed. I have had the same 200GB Seagate drive running now for the last 4 years almost constantly without any loss of files. I reinstall Ubuntu periodically, but only because I like living on the edge and testing the latest and greatest advances and innovations. I actually have a separate hard drive for the main system and for /home, so I don't lose anything if I want to test the installer or install an upgraded version from the live CD rather than via apt. I have seen no spyware or viruses since working with Linux in 2003. And very rarely does my system crash to the point where I can't at least save my work as soon as I notice that there may be a problem. And the last time Linux rebooted on me was back in late 2003 when I ran Red Hat 9 and the kernel panicked because there was a bug in the driver for my sound card which caused a reboot fairly frequently.

So stability and performance is definitely a major selling point for Ubuntu. I would recommend it over Windows in a heartbeat.

Live long and prosper,
Lorenzo

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