

Re: Linux & MSI K8N Neo2 Platinum (nForce3 Ultra) questions...

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morningdew wrote:

- > *Basically what I am asking for is any heads-up or*
- > *advice before it shows up. I should be getting it in a few days, and*
- > *would like to be prepared. Nothing worse than getting a new toy and not*
- > *being able to play with it right away!*

When it comes to the nVidia drivers, there are those who has problems with them and others who has got them work properly. There are support for the nForce chipset in the kernel, but these drivers are "back engineered", may not give you 100% performance all the time, but seems to work properly.

- > *I am presently running Mandrake 10.1 Community but have downloaded*
- > *Ubuntu for the AMD64. I had requested CDs from them over a month ago*
- > *but never got any. I will try Ubuntu, but I am open to*
- > *recommendations... I like Gnome but KDE is a lot prettier. Regardless,*
- > *I will be installing both on whatever distro so don't even bother trying*
- > *to convert me one way or the other.*

I would say that Ubuntu is hip among debian users and even among those are people who don't like it. So be prepared to use Mandrake x86_64 instead. I would suggest you use KDE, Gnome2 (which is what you get nowadays on the linux distros, Gnome aren't anymore supported, which is quite sad as it was a lot more userfriendly) as it's quite bloated and for each version it grows a lot (You can compare it to MS-Windows9x, which is a Dos addon, Gnome2 is the same thing but for linux). KDE3.2 and later is quite fast and allows users their freedom to choose what they want it to do and how.

- > *kicks which other distro in the fanny and all, but I will dare to ask...*
- > *What are the relative benefits of the Debian and Red-Hat/Fedora*
- > *models? How does APT and all compare with RPMs?*

You have apt for both debian and Redhat, both systems has their own version of package managers. I wouldn't say there are any major differences (maybe in how to make your own packages), it's a lot more a question about taste, do you like rpm or deb.

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- > *Mandrake uses RPMs and they are okay... but the tools could be better.*
- > *There is not always much info about what the install did.*

Then you have missed to read the rpm man page, there is quite a lot of information you can get. During an install you have three things that happens (regadles of system), removal of the older version (rm), and inserting the new version (cp) and then update the information to the "database".

- > *Lots of times*
- > *I have to go hunting for the software after it installs. All and all a*
- > *better software manager would help a lot. One that keeps track of where*
- > *stuff gets put, for instance, and keeps a useful database.*

This is stored in the RPM database, you get out all the information with help of the rpm command (check the man page for all the options). You can use rpm to check if someone has installed a "rootkit" on your system, as it will have a register of the date/md5sum/size of the files.

- > *What is the benefit for a home user for Security Enhanced Linux?*

A more difficult to update system, SELinux isn't really in a stage where I would recommend you to use it, if you don't know what you are doing. It will be better documented and better supported in the future, but I don't think you want to end in a such stage where you have lost all control to selinux.

- > *I am also trying to set up a firewall and intrusion detection. Shorewall*
- > *seems to have done its thing but it sure doesn't give much feedback.*
- > *For intrusion detection I came across SNORT, but I gotta tell you that*
- > *it is confusing. Is there anything a little friendlier out there?*

Those are the best combination, but if you want an easy to use firewall, then take a look at Firestarter firestarter.sourceforge.net

If you want to use snort together, then you have to "hack" it a little bit as it don't have direct support for Firestarter (but it does have iptables support, so shouldn't be difficult to make it to save data to the right config files).

//Aho