

My results of trying 9.0 live evaluation

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I have a system with Win 2000 and a partially functional 8.2 version installed that will not allow access to NTFS disks and cannot access either of the lan ports (drivers not present or non functional).

The first time I booted from the 9.0 CD, it attempted to install my Epson 980 printer attached via usb using cups. It got stuck at about 23% of saving the configuration for over 5 minutes. I rebooted with the cable disconnected and it completed the boot operation reasonably fast. The only configuration that can be set at boot time (perhaps only on the first boot) is the language.

It creates a 100Meg file somewhere on the system that it uses for local storage and ram disks. It was able to configure my 3Com lan port but not the NVidia, even though it says during the boot up that it supports the NVidia chip set (Force2 on an Asus A7N8X delux.

I copied login data from my 8.2 install, and I was able to log into the evaluation disks default user (linux) with no password. It did not have any access to yast2.

I logged out to change user, booting as root with my 8.2 password and yast2 was still not available on the desktop. To access it, I had to bring up the console and type in yast2. It came up in graphics mode (it does look better and seems to have more features). Going to the netcard setup, it did not have the NVidia lan port listed so I could not manually configure it.

It placed icons on the screen for all of my Windows partions but clicking on any of them said that the NTFS kernal mode was not installed.

The information on NTFS Suse has in their FAQs is that they have included the patches on all CD's since 5.1 in the first CD at /unsorted/patches in file kernal-patches.tgz. I did not check the 9.0 live evaluation disk. They also said that the patches for both NTFA and Fat32 were both early beta and could not be trusted to retain FS integrity. They are not supported.

Fat32 access has been working well for several releases (I used it in 7.4), so that information is very old, probably > 4 years.

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The question I have, considering that the live evaluation is supposed to be an real example of what 9.0 can do, is why do they display the windows partitions icons and tell you you can't access them? I downloaded it to find out just how well it works with NTFS and I still don't know. It will not encourage me to spend the money for 9.0 given that there is no realistic advantage to me over 8.2.

John

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Checked by AVG anti-virus system (<http://www.grisoft.com>).

Version: 6.0.545 / Virus Database: 339 - Release Date: 11/27/2003