

SuSE 9.1 – Experience to Date

Source: <http://linux.derkeiler.com/Newsgroups/alt.os.linux.suse/2004-05/2317.html>

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Date: 05/12/04

Date: Wed, 12 May 2004 20:04:09 +0100

I have a PC with an Asus SK8N motherboard, AMD64-FX51 CPU, 2GB RAM, nVIDIA chipset, built-in ethernet port, IDE HDD on for data and SuSE, SATA HDD on RAID (Promise 20378) for Windows XP (still need it for some things), USB HDD for archives, Creative Audigy 2ZS, and an OmniFlash UnoMan USB card reader.

Installation went 'like a dream', as they say. For the first time ever in my experience of SuSE installations:

- 1 the network (Internet) test was successful and many MB of updates were downloaded.
- 2 I was able to specify my monitor, resolution, and mouse during installation.

However, booting after installation put me into FWM, which is, no doubt, a wonderful window manager but not one that I had ever tried. I eventually found my way to telling the system I wanted KDE and all was well.

My first userid logs straight in after booting. Though this was easy enough to rectify using the KDE Control Centre, I think the default should be that no user is logged in automatically – that's the secure way to do things.

My Epson colour laser printer was asleep when I performed the new installation, so I had to wake it and reboot before I could configure it but it worked fine.

My card reader does not register. I'll have to root about (pun intended) to get that sorted.

Kwikshow froze KDE after 30 or so photos had displayed.

OpenOffice.org is now integrated in the KDE menu (e.g. Writer is under Office->Wordprocessor, rather than in a separate OpenOffice.org 1.1.1 entry, and it sports KDE menus & eye candy (like KWord) rather than its own, rather dowdy GUI.

Sound works fine except that input on the Line connexion does not register no matter what I try. More rooting about required!

As for speed ... very nippy indeed! Actually, it is fast; that's right, fast!

Final comment: Though there are some issues that still need addressing, this is a class act. I am very pleased with my speedy 64-bit system and shall definitely not be among those who buy the 64-bit version of Windows XP (whenever that is released!). On the whole, I am very impressed and a happy customer. Well done, SuSE! Keep up the good work.