

# Re: Making Linux Easy for Newbies

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*Source:* <http://linux.derkeiler.com/Newsgroups/alt.os.linux/2007-01/msg00382.html>

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- *From:* SINNER <99nesorjd@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>
  - *Date:* Thu, 11 Jan 2007 02:00:02 GMT
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\* Mike wrote in alt.os.linux:

[...]

looked suitable then finding a usable compiler with an IDE.  
I tried Ubuntu, but it was a little flakey when working with the network interface and I had enter a password for everything I wanted to do. Wow, that's wierd, no root or admin login, forget that nonsense.

Its called security, I know its a foreign concept to the Windows monoculture. That said, it is VERY easy to enable root, all you needed to do was ask. You found this group to complain, why couldn't you find it to ask questions?

I used synaptic to see what kind of programming languages were available. The first one I found was something called python. It installed very easily, but, Hmm no icon on the desktop, no entry in K menu. I wonder how I'm supposed to run this thing? Oh well, I don't have time to mess with it that much since I don't know the language anyway. I couldn't find anything else in synaptic,

You didn't look very hard. There are plenty. You either don't have your repositories configured correctly or your search skills are lacking, based on this post, I am thinking its the latter. My Synaptic lists over 1100 development packages of varying languages and interfaces.

so I downloaded Euphoria for Linux from their site, at least I know this language enough to get my program written if I can get it installed. Ew! They had a script that was supposed to install it automatically, but no real instructions on how to install manually. Too bad, cause the script just generated some error messages and didn't install anything. Well, I kept looking and found something called Hbasic. At this point I don't remember what porblems I had trying to get that working, I think I got lost trying to compile it, but anyway I finally

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gave up on that as well. Now this is getting silly, Am I really that stupid?

No, but you are seriously lacking in the tenacity department.

Ok, back to synaptic. After a what seemed like a couple hours of scolling through the thousands of packages listed, I spotted something called Gambas. It said it featured the BASIC language and an IDE. Just what I need. A miracle! It installed flawlessly and even put an entry in K menu under the development submenu. I'm finally working on my little control program.

Well, sometime in middle of all that, In order to actually get the thing done, I gave up and decided to use an "embedded PC"

Every attempt ends with, I finally gave up, not a good sign.

[...]

I'm still going to finish the Linux version just for grins, but what a circus to get this far. Now to fight the font mess in Linux so I can use my LED display font. I figured I could just copy the font to the fonts directory and away I go. Oh no, not a chance. There are fonts in atleast 4 different directories and a lot those are the same ones. When I finally figured out which set of fonts Gambas was using I was able to use my font in my program, but alas, it doesn't display properly. Funny tho, it displays just fine in Open Office Word. Btw, the only way I could figure out to make Gambas see the font was to reboot the system. I'm sure there's some other way, but it's much quicker and considering the help system, easier to just reboot. I'm used to that anyway.

You could have EASILY installed the MS fonts if you had only asked. It amazes me how people can write hundreds of words to bitch about something they don't understand rather than 20 words to ask a question.

The filemanager, K something, refuses to open directories in the same window now, Grrr, and no, "Open folders in seperate windows" is not checked. Oh yeah, what's with this partition editor, it gives all these cool things to do with partitions and then grays out the one I want to use even if the partition isn't mounted. I could go on and on about all the little things which make it frustrating for us noobies, but I believe I made my point.

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The bottom line line is, No Linux is not so easy to use for noobies

Neither is Windows, you've been using it for who knows how many years and you've forgotten that you had to learn to use it as well. There are posts all over Usenet of newbies with NO programming experience that have successfully installed and use Linux every day \*raises hand\*

unless  
we want to use it as it is installed out of the box. Until it's refined enough for Joe 6 pack to use,

It is, even easier, Grandma six pack of ensure can use it just fine.

It'll never have the support from hardware manufacturers that is becoming more and more important every day as peripherals get more and more complex. I don't think I want to even try to get my ATI all in Wonder TV working.

More and more HW manufactures join up every day.

I guess I'm just getting too old to go back to the old days and try to remember a boatload of new arcane commands, but it sure is fun to play with if I don't HAVE to get something done.

What you are too old to remember is that you have to start somewhere and you weren't born using windows or dos either.

Now, did you have a question?

—

David

Q: What do monsters eat?

A: Things.

Q: What do monsters drink?

A: Coke. (Because Things go better with Coke.)

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