

## Re: Single-app Linux install?

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- *From:* ray <ray@xxxxxxxxxx>
  - *Date:* Thu, 22 Feb 2007 09:05:31 -0700
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On Thu, 22 Feb 2007 08:38:42 -0600, Peabody wrote:

As will soon be obvious, I just told you all I know about Linux.

I have gone wireless for the first time with a new Toshiba laptop and wireless router, and would like to know who else is in the neighborhood. I understand that to sniff the access points that don't broadcast their SSIDs, you have to run Linux – because, for some reason, only the Linux wireless drivers can put the card into promiscuous mode.

So, with no offense intended to anyone here, all I really want to do at this point is run just one Linux application (Kismet appears to be the one) every now and then. And the question is whether I can get from here to there (1) at all, and (2) without reinventing the wheel or messing up my Windows setup.

The laptop is a Toshiba L35-S2171. Celeron M 420, 512m shared ram, running XP Home. The built-in wireless card has a sticker that says AR5BMB5, but it shows up in Device Manager as an Atheros AR5005G. I also have an external USB hard drive, formatted in FAT-32, that I use for backups.

I assume that in addition to some form of Linux distribution, I would also need to find the hardware drivers for the laptop's keyboard, display, and wireless card (and USB drive?), as well as Kismet itself.

I wouldn't think so. They should work 'out of the box'. I have an atheros based Dlink card which did so upon install of Ubuntu 6.06. kbd, display usb drives are usually no problem at all.

I would appreciate any opinions anyone might want to offer as to whether this can reasonably be done, and how, by a newbie. It would be really helpful if there was a link to a How-to on this subject

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for rank beginners. Everything I've found so far just assumes a level of knowledge that I don't have, and the lingo is just impenetrable.

I've used 'wifi-radar' to observe all the groups in the neighborhood.

I would also like to know whether this could be done without involving a hard drive at all – if Linux and the drivers and Kismet could be put onto one CD or DVD, so that I could just boot to that when I need to run this one program.

I would suggest you try booting the Ubuntu Live/install CD. I think it may do all you need. You might want to try to latest Knoppix Live CD or Live DVD as well – I've not tried it recently, but it has a history of very good hardware detection. If you find things you'd like to add, there is a section in 'Knoppix Hacks' for O'Reilly about remastering – i.e. making your own tailored version. It is also possible to install to an external hard disk or flash drive.

I don't understand your fear of 'involving a hard drive'. I've installed dual boot systems with MS on many machines and never had any problems at all. You may also wish to investigate 'colinux' which allows you to install Linux on your MS system – and so does cygwin, for that matter.

Any help would be appreciated.

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