

[OT] Something Newbies Should Know

Source: <http://linux.derkeiler.com/Newsgroups/alt.os.linux/2007-05/msg00776.html>

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Read this in the Debian General Forum and thought it may be helpful to newbies and a good reminder to us old dogs what many of us went thru' at the start of our Linux adventure.

<http://forums.debian.net/viewtopic.php?t=15294>

Posted: 2007-05-24 15:24 Â Â Â Post subject: Something Newbies Should Know

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This is just my opinion FWIW, after using Linux for 5 years:

The transition from Windows to Linux is painful, no doubt about it. The following article, rant, or advice is just an attempt to explain how to go about it.

Linux, regardless of distro, is hard work, there is no way around it, you have to bite the bullet. Attempts to circumvent this process will be met with failure. If you want to use Debian, Slackware, or Gentoo because you want to impress your pals but you don't want to get your hands dirty, or if reading is a PITA because you got better things to do, do not read any further, go back to Vista or buy a Mac at once!

Linux is not for everybody, and there is nothing wrong with that.

Installing, configuring, and administering Linux is like robbing a bank. Careful planning and studying is a must; it is NOT a bag of tricks, you cannot improvise and hope it will be ok. Luckily, there are forums, search engines, mailing list, and IRC channels.

If you attempt to install Linux and something is not working, in most cases it's your fault. You either did not read the howto explaining how to install step by step, sometimes it's your hardware, sometimes it's a bug, but in most cases, its due to the newbie's ignorance and laziness in not preparing himself for the task.

Fine. Nobody is perfect, nobody was born knowing it all, the newbie

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needs help. After all, we all were newbies at one time. But the newbie has to cooperate by doing his part. He has to read the howtos, follow the advice given, and try it. If it doesn't work, it's imperative he comes back and question WHY it doesn't work after explaining what he DID. If he doesn't explain WHAT he did there is no way to find out, especially if the error message is not pasted in his question.

This process requires a lot of googling and research.

Nothing is owed to the newbie, if he doesn't do his homework, he deserves nothing. Attempts to blackmail the forum with statements like: "if i don't solve this, i'll go back to Windows, or i'll install another distro" for the most part will be ignored by the majority. The newbie has to do his homework, or find a distro geared to work "out of the box", a no-brainer distro a la Windows, with which to cut his teeth in.

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