

Re: Where to ask really newbie questions

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- *From:* Timothy Murphy <tim@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>
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notPythias wrote:

In approximate order of importance, as close as I can figure, here's what I do with my computer:

- * Emailing and internet browsing.
- * Typing stuff (with word processors like OpenOffice and MSWord and also with LaTeX). I do this less, but it's more important.
- * Multimedia. A lot of basic stuff, like playing with the contrast on a photograph or watching a movie. A little bit of music. No video editing or music mixing or original Photoshop art.

However, I'm off to university in a year, and I might get courses paired with a specific program, like math and Mathematica, physics and Matlab, etc. At the very least, PowerPoint or something compatible, both viewing and presenting. I've got a Windows laptop that can do that, but wouldn't it be nice not to have to get up or reboot into Windows when I finally stop procrastinating?

Your university will probably have a licence for Mathematica, etc. (There is a Linux version of Mathematica.) LaTeX would be easier under Linux than Windows, I think.

The machine I plan to run Linux on has the following hardware:

- * VIA C3 800MHz CPU
- * 248MB DDR-RAM
- * 7.85GB total HD, but maybe only 3-4 for Linux
- * Bootable CD-ROM and 3.5" floppy drives
- * USB of some sort (how do I distinguish 1 and 2?)
- * Some kind of video and sound and ethernet NIC (I can probably get more specific information if it's important)

That sounds fine, except that I think you will find 8GB

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is rather tight to run both Windows and Linux.
I would think about getting a bigger disk.
(The standard size in a laptop is 80GB now,
and disks smaller than that go for very little on eBay.)

I plan to test for compatibility by popping in the LiveCD and
waiting for the error messages.

That sounds very sensible.
I'd use a Knoppix CD for this, personally.

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