

Re: NEWBIE wants older LINUX for learning the basics

Source: <http://linux.derkeiler.com/Newsgroups/comp.os.linux.misc/2006-12/msg01284.html>

- *From:* W Paul Mills <Paul-NOT@xxxxxxxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Thu, 21 Dec 2006 18:38:40 -0600
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-----BEGIN PGP SIGNED MESSAGE-----

Hash: SHA1

Byron A Jeff wrote:

In article <osudnV-PM7cE2RfYnZ2dnUVZ_umlnZ2d@xxxxxxxxxxxxxx>, Patches Forever <mr.correct@xxxxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote:

I learned MSDOS and Windows by tinkering and asking questions. I am looking for an older version of LINUX that I can install and tinker with as a learning tool.

I snipped the rest. I just wanted to offer one piece of advise: don't look to install an older version.

Modern Linux distributions has all of the command line toolsets of its predecessors. So you can install a modern version and still access all of the tools at your level of interest. If you boot any modern Linux distribution without X, you're transported right back to the 80x25 green screen days of the 70s.

I think the way to go is a modern version, with a command line only installation. The problem with using an old version is going to be hardware compatibility. There were lots of problems in those days, and to use the old versions on present day, or even hardware a few years old could be impossible to overcome.

I went from MSDOS to MSWin 3.1 to MSWin 95 to Slackware Linux to Debian Linux. MSDOS was fun, but very limited and inconsistent in a number of ways (late 80's). MSWin was a bit more consistent, but unstable, and not fun.

In the early 80's I started using Slackware and the fun was back. I used command line for months as getting X Windows to work in those days could be difficult. Lots of things did not work without

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serious effort, but still fun.

The first time I stumbled on a Debian CD, I decided to try it, and became hooked. Original reason was the large number of packages available. But it was also much more predictable, and more logically put together. I have used Debian ever since. Would be my first choice, but may not be for everyone. Debian (and others) are available for downloading, no cost. You can download a net install, then install other parts from your minimal net install. One thing that can be intimidating with Debian is the huge number of packages available -- thousands.

Whatever choice you make, get one that is up to date, just go for a fairly minimal install to start.

Good Luck and have fun!

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begin:vcard
fn:W Paul Mills
n:Mills;W Paul
org:The Mills Chaos In The USA
adr;;;Topeka;Kansas;;USA
email;internet:Paul-NOT@xxxxxxxxxxxxxx
title:Electronics Technician
note:Hint: remove -NOT
x-mozilla-html:FALSE
url:<http://Mills-USA.com>
version:2.1
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