Introduction to Linux

And Fedora Core

What will be covered?

- Intended usage of Fedora Core
- Factors to consider
- Hardware support
- Familiarity with Unix-like environment

Introduction to the movement

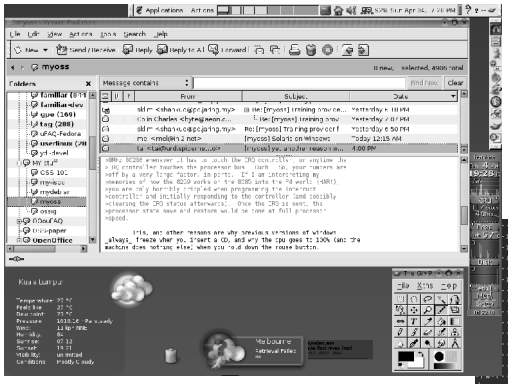
- Started by Richard Stallman with GNU
- Linus Torvalds got cheeky one day
- Others contributed with:
  - Perl, Python, X.org, Mozilla, OpenOffice.org, and many more packages
- Red Hat one of the first “distributions”
- Fedora is the community spin-off

- To learn more about the GNU's Not Unix (GNU) movement, you can read more at http://www.gnu.org/.
- The history of Linux in general is written out very nicely at Linux International (http://www.li.org/linuxhistory.php)
- Linux Journal, in 2002, wrote up a fairly accurate time line of Linux-based history at http://www.linuxjournal.com/article.php?sid=6000.
- Remember, Linux itself is just a kernel (http://www.kernel.org/) - a distribution is what makes Linux usable for the average user.

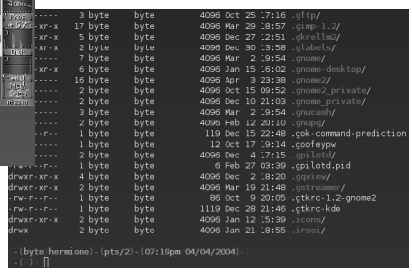
Red Hat & Fedora

- Red Hat Linux has become very popular, and one of the first distributions to survive all the years. They always provided a free download-able copy, with no support.
- To avoid confusion (it was basically a marketing decision), the Fedora Project was created.
- A history of Red Hat releases: http://fedora.redhat.com/about/history/
- Good set of objectives, only for high quality software to be included: http://fedora.redhat.com/about/objectives.html.

Intended usage



- Desktop (i.e. workstation)
- Server



- End-users
- Power users

- Linux scales – be it if you need to be using it on the desktop as a complete end-user for a simple task as reading e-mail, or if you want to run a server that will serve an entire company their e-mail!
- This course is designed for end-users and managing end-users, and will not cover administering your system or even running services.
- So, notions that Linux is console-based (i.e. text) alone isn't very useful any longer – we have very good graphical environments that users find very easy to use.

Factors to consider

- New user?
- Migrating user?
  - Microsoft Windows environment?
  - Mac OS X or Classic environment?
- Different tools to achieve similar tasks
  - *Know how to use a word processor, rather than using a word processing application*
  - Principles are similar

- Usability studies have shown that it's no harder to master a Linux-based desktop than it is to learn Windows XP. So if you were a new computer user with no prior knowledge, it's all going to be a genuine learning curve.
- If you or your users are upgrading, there are some good articles that will benefit.
- IBM's Windows to Linux series: http://www-106.ibm.com/developerworks/linux/library/l-roadmap.html
- Tom's Hardware Guide Migration: http://www.tomshardware.com/howto/20040329/index.html
- Linux pre-installation checklist: http://members.tripod.com/~algolog/lnxchk.htm

Hardware Support

- Sound cards
- Video cards
- Winmodems
- Printers
- Scanners
- USB devices

- CDROM drives, NIC cards, are generally no problem
- Device drivers are required

- In terms of requirements, Linux generally likes averagely new hardware. Minimum requirements of a Pentium II class processor, with at least 64MB of RAM and about 2.5GB of hard disk space would be appropriate – but for comfortable usage, at least 128MB of RAM must exist (256MB and above better), with more disk space so that all the other packages can be installed.
- A good place to check for hardware compatibility is the Red Hat Hardware Compatibility List at http://hardware.redhat.com/hcl/.
- Most sound cards work out of the box, as do video cards – Nvidia make their own drivers for video cards (these are proprietary binary only modules). Winmodems are also supported but downloading drivers might be necessary.

Familiarity with a Unix-like environment helps

- Used Unix before?
  - This is the command line interface
- We have many available applications in the default distribution, to achieve things in the GUI
- Many things done quicker & easier via scripts

- Tuxfiles has a CLI introduction: http://www.tuxfiles.org/linuxhelp/cli.html
- Mandrake Linux Command Line reference: http://www.mandrakeuser.org/docs/mdoc/ref/cmdline.html
- Linux Shell Scripting Tutorial: http://www.freeos.com/guides/lsst/
- And there are many more…

Thank You!

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