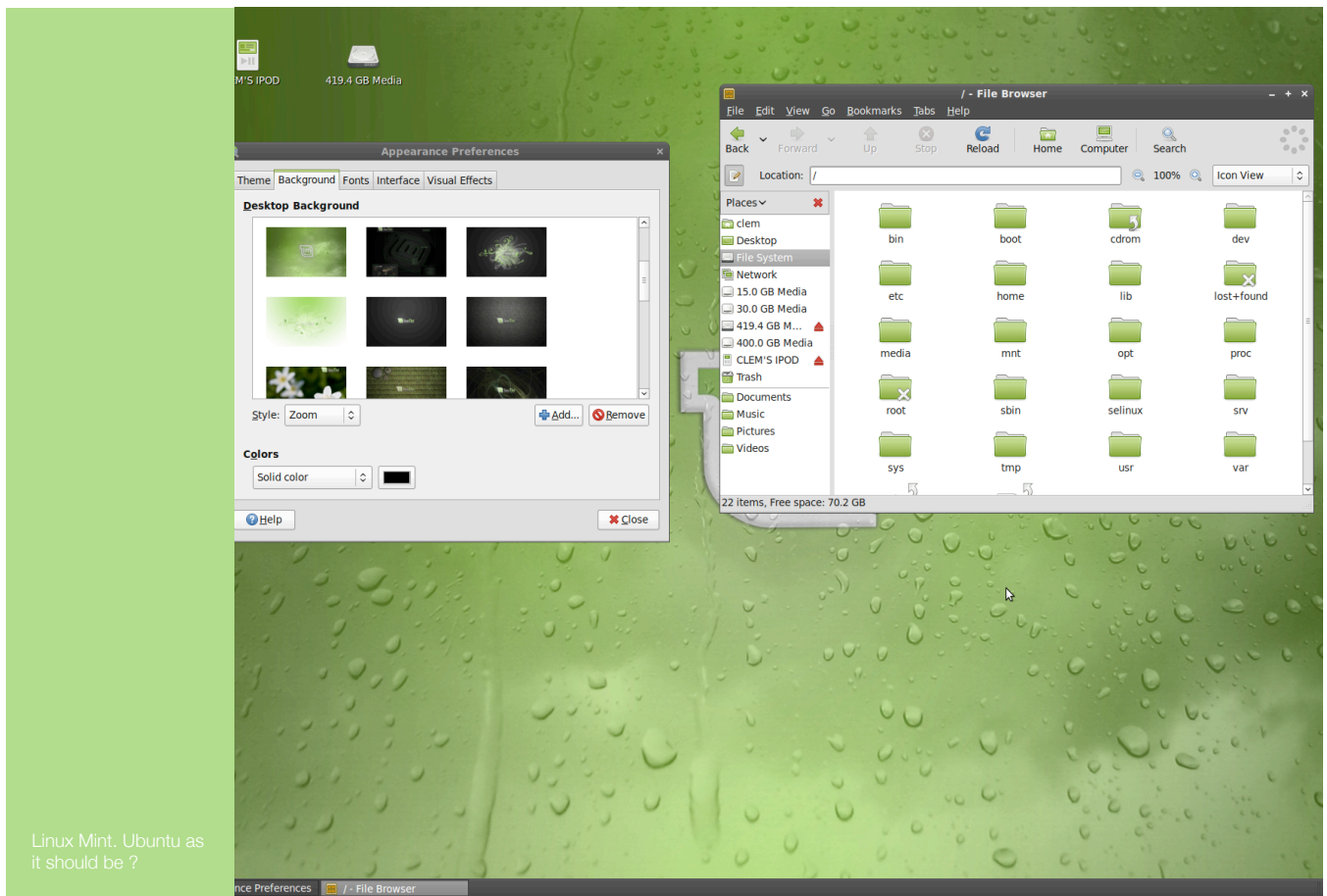


5 Jul 2011



Linux Mint. Ubuntu as it should be ?

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By knightwise

IT'S NOT EVERY DAY that I get to sit down, in all peace and quiet on our back porch. With my Macbook air planted in front of me, the rays of the setting sun play lazily beyond the shadows so I can write in all tranquility (and without glare). Right next to me I have planted down my giant cup of tea. A white glass mug, that proudly bears the Knightwise.com heron, and from its steaming top portrude some fresh stems of mint. I am aware that this is not a Starfleets captains drink, (Tea, Earl Grey, Hot

but the soothing green stems and the enticing flavors make it quite the drink for a summer night.

AND IT IS FITTING, for it is of mint I wish to speak to you today. For several years now I have been using Ubuntu versions as my main Linux distro's. Coming from a "newbies woddle" where you sway from distribution to distribution, until you find one that works (or that plays

mp3's natively), I had settled on the brown circle more then 4 years ago. Having tried Suse, Redhat, Mandrake, Mandriva, Yellow dog and even College linux, I had been unable to find an open source operating solution that would "endure" my newbiesh shenanigans long enough before I gave up, reformatted the drive with XP and walked away.



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UBUNTU GAVE ME

SOLACE. Thanks to the wonders of "Automator", the mother of al newbie scripts, I was able to install all the things a computer user needs to get through his day, straight up, on Linux.

That is of course, if you don't eat stuff off your shoes and are named Richard Stallman. Then you don't even need a browser. (I presume the man watches porn in Ascii, but i'm too scared to ask.)



UBUNTU'S STRENGTH WAS THAT IT WAS "DRIVEN" BY

MARK SHUTTLEWORTH, his company Canonical, and of course Mark's big pile of cash. It enabled them to entertain the philosophy that Linux should be accessible for everyone and that this was no longer the exclusive domain of the deep deep nerds. More importantly, they had the money to back that philosophy and went on their way. Aside from this brilliant philosophy, Ubuntu also had another thing going for it. It's development was not "controlled" by a giant virtual committee of developers who where scattered in their mothers attics all over the planet. In essence, Mark, Canonical and Marks big bag of coins pointed out the way to the horizon.

Now, it is a historical fact that you get much more done in a totalitarian regime then in a society where you need a referendum on deciding what color is blue. And this also

worked for Ubuntu. It had vision, gained popularity and hard choices where made by "the ominous leader" and the developers waddled after him. But even ominous leaders are not infallible, so when Mark's Shuttle took

a turn towards the Unity interface.. quite a bit of followers burned up in the re-entry to version 11.04. Ironical as it may seem, the Linux geeks who push ex-windows users into a culture shock

by switching them over to Linux, got a heart attack when they had to leave their beloved Gnome behind for a new interface. "This will not stand !" they shouted.

BUT THE BEAUTY OF OPEN SOURCE IS THAT THERE ARE ALWAYS CHOICES,

always alternatives. And a little "seedling distro" that had been lurking in the shadows managed to get its place in the sun. Linux Mint had been Ubuntu's hot-looking fully featured "cousin" that was described as "ubuntu as it should be". Where Stallman would get a heart attack if I smelled anything that was not completely "open - free as in beer - GNOOOO - smell my finger - source", and Canonicals legal department would balk at installing Flash out of the box.. the Linux Mint guys didn't mind. They would give you a system that would do everything, right away, out of the box .. and it would look good. In essence : Linux mint is the only distribution that lets you watch streaming porn from the Live Cd.

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**SURE,
THAT LAST
ARGUMENT
GOT YOU
SOLD,
RIGHT ?** But

there is more :
this "derivative"
has spawned its
own derivatives
for those of you
who anally retain
their choice of
desktop interface.
There is
"Standard Mint",
an Ubuntu Based
Gnome 2 version,
Linux Mint
XFCE for those
boys who go all
'Ebenezer

Scrooge on their
system recourses" , Linux Mint KDE, for the
fans. and Linux Mint with the pretty LXDE
interface, all who are based on the latest
Ubuntu distribution. All distributions come
with all the bells and whistles you require and
have a feature set that is surely "Stallman
Unfriendly" but just about perfect for
anybody with a "real life" and a girlfriend
who is NOT deflatable when you have
company over. Linux Mint is for "geeks with
girlfriends".

For those of you not happy with Ubuntu's
6 moth release cycle, you can ditch the brown
circle all together and go hardcore, bleeding
edge Debian.. there is the "Rock and Rolling
release of Debian Mint, that gives you the
newest releases of all the applications you use.
Please don't hold back as we love to see
people's cutting edge kernels take an entire
installation down like a giant ball of burning
poo. At least you'll have a nice tale to tell at
the pub next week.



**THE BOTTOM LINE, IS
LINUX MINT UBUNTU 'LIKE IT
SHOULD BE' ?** The answer lies in your
taste. If you are a sandal - wearing open-
source hardcore Gnu-Linux beard wearing
advocate .. probably not your thing. If you
don't like Green ... not your thing either. If
you love your Linux distribution to work for
you in "every possible way" , have all the
goodness of flash, mp3 playback, Skype,
Google chrome and many many more
things ... Mint is something you might want
to glance at. And in the end, there is one
more important reason for Mint converts : If
you would rather, voluntarily sign up for a
one way, manned mission to the center of an
elephants rectum, then use UNITY ... you
just want to go mint instead .. it smells better .

Sincerely yours,

Knightwise