

Sun City Summerlin Computer Club

Introduction to Linux Seminar

February 5, 2008

About Linux

Linux is an operating system analogous to Apple's Mac OS or Microsoft Windows. Linux is open source software, which is freely available as a web download. Linux is usually available as a *distribution*. A Linux distribution usually consists of the Linux operating system and a large number of user applications, such as: web browser, email, word processing, spreadsheet Several of the more popular Linux distributions are: Ubuntu, Red Hat, Fedora, SuSE, Knoppix and Mandriva.

Here at SCSCC we have decided upon the *Ubuntu Linux* distribution. Ubuntu is a community developed, Linux-based operating system that is perfect for laptops, desktops and servers. It contains all the applications you need - a web browser, presentation, document and spreadsheet software, instant messaging and much more.

Apart from the fact that it's freely distributed, Linux's functionality, adaptability and robustness, has made it the main alternative for proprietary Unix and Microsoft operating systems. IBM, Hewlett-Packard, Intel, Oracle and other giants of the computing world have embraced Linux and support its ongoing development. Well into its second decade of existence, Linux has been adopted worldwide primarily as a server platform. Its use as a home and office desktop operating system is also on the rise. The operating system can also be incorporated directly into microchips in a process called "embedding" and is increasingly being used this way in appliances and devices such as cell phones, Sony PlayStation 3 and the Tivo DVR. Computer manufacturers such as: Dell, Hewlett Packard and Lenovo are now offering computers with Linux pre-installed. Some of the world's busiest web sites use Linux. Among the commercial users of Linux are: Google and Amazon.com.

Linux and its applications are usually distributed under a license that permits copying. If you have downloaded a Linux distribution and burned it to a CD or DVD you can make copies of the media and share it with others. There are no serial numbers, registration requirements, or activation codes.

Using Linux

The Desktop

Panels, Launchers and Workplace Switcher.

Changing the desktop theme or background (wallpaper).

The Panels

- Upper panel has the Application and System menus.
- Lower panel has the running applications and the desktop switcher.
- The panels can be moved and or resized.

The Menus

Applications

Accessories, Games, Graphics, Internet, Office-applications and Sound & Video.

Places

Music, pictures, video, folders and Networking.

System

Preferences: mouse settings, default printer, screensaver

Administration: Network settings, Package and Update management.

Nautilus File Manager

Like the Macintosh Finder or Windows Explorer.

Workspace Switcher

Virtual desktops.

Package Manager

Use to install or remove software.

(Example: install the Thunderbird email program.)

Update Manager

Used to install updates to both operating-system files and application files.

Downloading Linux

Ubuntu Linux is available - *free of cost* - at:

[HTTP://www.ubuntu.com](http://www.ubuntu.com)

Download the *Desktop Edition*.

Burn the .iso file to a CD. (Don't copy the .iso file to a CD, it must be expanded.)

Running Linux from the CD

The CD is a *Live-CD*.

The computer can be booted (started) from the CD.

You can run and explore Linux from the CD without changing anything on your hard drive.

The SCSCC Linux SIG

Meets -

- On the second Wednesday of each month at 1:00pm for a Q & A session.
- On the fourth Wednesday of each month at 9:00am where we go into depth on one or more Linux features.