

The Real Business



Dear Linux Magazine Reader,

Since this is my first visit to the comment page, I should begin by saying I am very happy to be here. I know I need to go

beyond that, though, or at least, maybe I need to start somewhere else.

For all my years in publishing – eleven to be exact – I’ve never had my own opinion column, and to tell the truth, I’ve always had strong opinions about opinion columns.

Part of the problem with columns of this sort is the presumption that the author will be prepared to serve up something profound just because a deadline is looming. But, in the case of the open source world, my biggest objection to the column game is that the emphasis on talk instead of tech has always seemed a matter of misplaced priorities.

Search the news sites, or read the rap in the computer magazines at your local newsstand, and you’ll find an endless stream of chatter, much of it a recycling of the same few ideas.

If you follow the high tech opinion industry, you’ll watch the same ideas bounce around from column to column,

or you’ll read everyone’s too similar rendering of the same popular theme (like maybe SCO, for instance?).

The words roll on forever, and that is good, because we all like words. But when you go to a place like SourceForge or any of the other open source repositories, you will too often find very good programming and not enough words.

The programming volunteers are giving their best work to the programs we all enjoy, and it seems to me that maybe some of the word volunteers should stop writing about SCO and start working on documentation. (If you want to help, try the Linux Documentation Project: <http://www.tldp.org>)

This brings me to my point. The big vendors like Microsoft spend millions on writing. They have their own publishing companies and pay dozens – probably hundreds – of writers to churn out Help files.

In order to compete, the open source community has to document as it goes. That’s what I like about Linux Magazine. You’ll find an opinion here and there, but usually it is in the context of describing how to use an open source tool, and often it is a tool no one else is describing.

We cover a variety of topics this month on subjects from programming to printing. As you know if you looked at the the cover, our emphasis this month is on better printing, and we lead off with four articles focused on the Linux printing environment.

We also have a kind of mini-emphasis this month on groupware alternatives, with two features you should read together on KDE’s Kontact and Suse’s Open Exchange 4.1.

If you’re a web programmer, we have much to offer you in this issue. In these pages you will find articles on PHPNuke



We pride ourselves on the origins of our publication, which come from the early days of the Linux revolution.

Our sister publication in Germany, founded in 1994, was the first Linux magazine in Europe. Since then, our network and expertise has grown and expanded with the Linux community around the world.

As a reader of Linux Magazine, you are joining an information network that is dedicated to distributing knowledge and technical expertise. We’re not simply reporting on the Linux and Open Source movement, we’re part of it.

and PHP security, along with a feature on creating a web menu using Mozilla’s XUL. And as always, we have much more on desktop tools and techniques.

So if you’re going to skip a page, skip this one. The real business is up ahead...

Joe

Joe Casad
Editor in Chief

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For this issue, see the link at the bottom of this page:

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