

Letters to the editor

Write access

■ DVD Cover Online

Thanks for including the DVD in the international edition!



This summer holiday I was in the UK and bought a copy of the magazine which has a nice DVD case included. I understand that including the case in the worldwide edition is too expensive, but maybe you could include the cover of the DVD case,

so we – international readers – could put the DVD in a nice case?

Michael Erkens, The Netherlands

LM We place the DVD cover for each issue in our online archive as a PDF file.

For example, to find the DVD cover for issue 47 / October, see the links at the bottom of this page: <http://www.linux-magazine.com/issue/47>. Here, you can choose either a high or low-resolution PDF that you can print out yourself and place in a blank DVD case.

■ Remastering the .iso

How can I boot a bootable Kanotix or GNUStep CD from the DVD for use in a PC without a DVD drive? Secondly, how could a boot menu (like the DVD) be created for the above CD image for those PC's that do not support booting *isolinux* (like the PC I was using yesterday).

Please give detailed instructions. I haven't used Linux for years.

C M Williams, by email

LM To make the various CD *.iso* images bootable from a DVD drive, we needed to unpack them.

You can still remaster the DVD boot stuff into *.iso* images by using the *mkisofs* command. You would need something like the following (with Gnopix as an example):

```
mount /dev/dvd /mnt/dvd
cd /mnt/dvd/_DIST_
```

```
cp -a GNOPPIX ~/gnopix_new/
chmod a+w ~/gnopix_new/
isolinux/isolinux.bin
umount /mnt/dvd
cd

mkisofs -J -T -v -r
-c isolinux/boot.cat
-b isolinux/isolinux.bin
-no-emul-boot
-boot-load-size 4
-boot-info-table
gnopix_new
> gnopix-new.iso
```

■ Defending Linspire

I use Linspire OS 4.5 and read about issues surrounding Linux in your Magazine. I am a longtime Windows user and have found Linspire an excellent way to get me to use Linux. There are few mentions of Linspire in your magazine and when there are, they are normally dismissive for several reasons:

- The system is unsafe as users are logged in as root... I never log in as root unless I am making system-wide changes. This may have been a misunderstanding when your people tested the system and failed to make user profiles to test it.
- Just because you have to pay for the distro is no different to other supported distros like Redhat or SuSE. The difference is that this distro is specifically aimed at Windows users and assisting them to move to Linux.
- The recent change of name was part of



Figure 1: The Linspire desktop.



Please send your comments and suggestions to letters@linux-magazine.com

an agreement to get the billions of \$ of Microsoft legal people off the CEO's back and let him get on with developing Linspire for our benefit.

- CNR does not sell software (other than 'pay for software') but allows Linux novices to find and install software from the library with only one or two clicks. CNR is not selling the software but providing a value added system where users can find and install the software with no Linux knowledge and without having to use the command line to do things.
- Once a member of Linspire community there is a vast amount of support from both Linspire and forums which are all supported by linux gurus and novices alike.

I just thought you should hear from someone who reads your magazine and often finds it patronizing or misleading to readers who do not use the OS you sometimes comment about.

Except for this, I find your magazine compelling reading, although often far beyond my comprehension of Linux. Keep up the good work.

Nigel Graham, by email

LM Thanks for the feedback. Every Linux distribution has advantages and disadvantages, and we are happy to print well-reasoned responses to any of the strong opinions you read in these pages. In the final result, any operating system that helps users make the move from Windows is a good thing. ■