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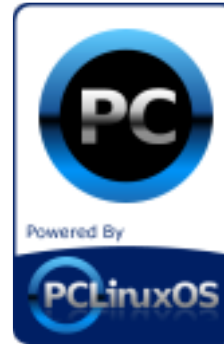
Pimp my Gnome



HOW TO CUSTOMIZE LIKE A PRO

 www.pclosmag.com

PCLOS based Distros



From the Editor

Howdy All,

I am the new editor-in-chief now for the Magazine as Papawoob had to resign from the position due to personal reasons. If you're the praying type please keep him and his family in your prayers.

We have some exciting new articles in this month's edition that I hope everyone will enjoy. The second chapter in the Gnome User Guide, connecting an Xbox to PCLinuxOS and more! Enjoy!

Doug



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CONTENTS



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Editorial.....	2
Using The Desktop.....	4
Accessing The Internet.....	7
Connect To XBox Live.....	14
Testimonial 1.....	16
Linux Media Player Rong Up.....	17
Tips 'N' Tricks.....	22
Testimonial 2.....	23
PCLos-Based Distros.....	25
Help With Documentation.....	29



Basic Desktop Customization

The desktop can be customized to your preferences and tastes in a variety of ways. Here we will explore some basic customizations.

Desktop Background

The background image displayed on the desktop can be changed by running the background application. Just right-click on the desktop and select "Change Desktop Background." This will open a window that looks like the one below and is titled "Appearance Preferences."

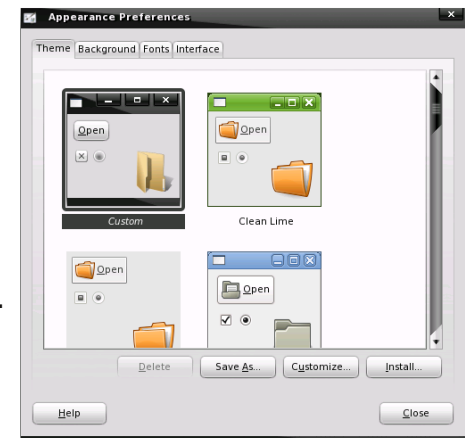
To change the background image, click on the Background tab at the top. Next, scroll through the backgrounds in the "Background" image selector dialog. Choose an image from the

dialog. As you select each image, it will be displayed on your Desktop. If you have other images you would like to use you can click on the "Add" button. This will open your file manager where you can navigate to where your other image(s) are located. Once you have selected your image, click on the open button and it will now be available for use as a background.

Theme

To change the theme of your desktop simply right click the Desktop and choose "Change Desktop Background." Click on the "Theme" tab and you should see a window like the one below.

Choose a Theme that you think you would like and click on it. You will see the effects created by the new Theme as your Desktop will change to it automatically. If you do not find one to your liking you can go to gnome-look.org and download some to your computer. After you have downloaded what Themes you like you can click on the "Install..." button, navigate to where you downloaded the new Theme(s), highlight the one you wish to install by using a single left click and then

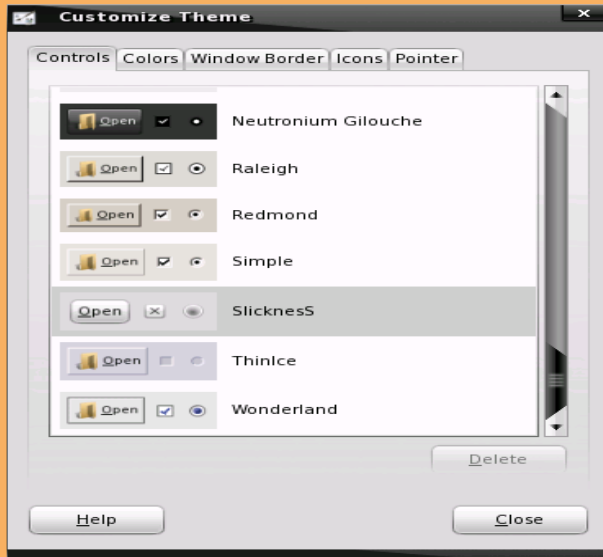




click “Open.” This will install the new Theme in your Theme manager which will allow you to use it.

If you would like to make more minute changes you can click on the “Customize...” button. This will bring up a new window like the one below.

As you can see from the window, you



can make changes to the window

controls, borders, colors, icons, and the pointer for your mouse. As in changing your Backgrounds and Themes simply click on an option and you should see the effects immediately. Go ahead and try different combinations as you can create some interesting Themes.

Fonts

To change the fonts for your Desktop, applications, etc... right click the Desktop and choose "Change Desktop Background." Click on the “Fonts” tab and you should see a window like the one below.

As you can see, there are several options available. The first option is “Application font.” This is the font that you will see every time you open an application such as Firefox or the Gimp. Our second option is “Document font.” When you open a letter or an article you have saved using Abiword or Gedit this is the font you will see.

The next two options, Desktop font and Window title font, are self explanatory. The final option “Fixed width font” is used whenever you need a font that uses fixed widths. By clicking on the long bar to the right of any of these options you will be presented with the “Pick a font” window like the one below (next page).





In the Family window you can choose which font you would like to use for this option. Once you choose a font it will be displayed in the Preview window at the bottom so that you can make your decisions without affecting your current setup. Once you have found a font that you like, you now need to decide on the Style (Regular, Italic, Bold, or Bold Italic) and the Size (7, 8, 9, 10, etc...) All of your changes will be viewable in the Preview window and once you have it exactly the way you want it, click on the OK button

and you will be returned to the Appearance Preferences window.

Clicking on the “Details...” button will give you a window where you can change the way your fonts are rendered. We will not cover this window but feel free to experiment as rendering can cause some subtle yet dramatic changes.

Interface

The last available tab in the Appearance Preferences window is the “Interface” tab. As you can see below you only have three options (Show icons in menus, Editable menu shortcut keys, and Toolbar button labels.) As in the previous windows you have a preview window to view the effects of your changes.

Go ahead and make your changes and then close the appearance Preferences window and go have fun. This is all we will cover this month, but we will have more interesting Gnome-based knowledge for you next month. Keep hanging with your Gnomies!



The Internet has revolutionized information usage and dissemination. It has made the global village a reality whereby almost anyone, anywhere in the world, is reachable if the person has an Internet connection. The most common way to get Internet connectivity is by using the PC, be it at home, in the place of work, the community hall, or even a cybercafe.

In this chapter we shall examine some of the more common methods by which a PC can gain access to the Internet.

The Internet Service Provider (ISP)

For a personal or home user, before you can access the Internet you will need to sign up with an Internet Service Provider (ISP). The ISP usually has a network which is connected to the Internet by a

permanent telecommunication link, i.e., one can view the ISP's network as part of the Internet. The ISP provides the necessary networking infrastructure to enable you to connect to its network. Thus, once your PC successfully connects to the ISP's network, it can then access the resources and services provided by other computers on the Internet.

The Internet can be accessed from your system using a variety of methods, depending on the type of access methods supported by the ISP you sign up with and the type of networking devices you have installed in your system. Currently the most common methods of connectivity by a home or personal user to an ISP are:

Dial-up

DSL or Cable Internet

Dial-up Connectivity

The simplest way to access the Internet is to use a dial-up telephone line connection. Almost all ISPs provide dial-up access connectivity to the Internet using the existing telephone line in the home, or office. To do this you will need a telecommunication device called a "modem." Most modern PCs come with a built-in dial-up modem card or, if it does not, you can purchase one and install it or purchase an external dial-up modem and use the serial port available on your PC for connection.



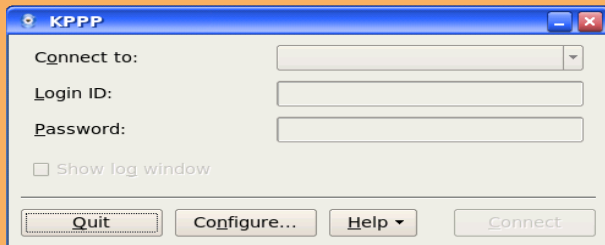
Before you can dial up to your ISP and access the Internet, you have to configure your system to recognize the modem and then dial the correct number to your ISP. You will need to have at hand the following information needed for the modem configuration:

Telephone number to dial to the ISP for the Internet access

Internet access login name and password provided by the ISP

Modem Configuration

To configure your modem for Internet access, start KPPP from the Main Menu:



Main Menu > Internet > Remote Access > KPPP

Select the Configure button. Click on the New button.

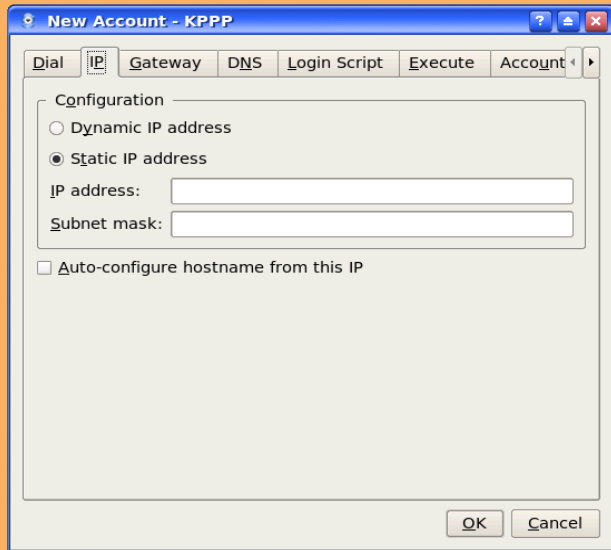
You'll be prompted to Create a New Account. You could try the Wizard to set up your system, but if you live in the United States, the wizard will not find any ISP's. You'll need to use Manual Setup, but that's not difficult.

The Add button will prompt you to enter the phone number of the ISP (Internet Service Provider). If you need to use an area code and/or a dialing prefix to reach the ISP, you should enter them in the box provided, otherwise just enter the telephone number.

Enter the name you want this connection to be known by, usually the name of the ISP is used (this is just a nickname provided by you so that you can recognize this connection). Enter the login name and the password in the boxes provided.



Don't worry about the IP Settings tab. Most ISPs assign IP addresses automatically (Dynamic IP). If not, you'll need to



contact your ISP and get the information from them. Then, just enter your IP address and related information by selecting the Static IP address button.

Click on OK to accept and end the set up.

The KPPP Configuration window will pop up; click on OK to exit from it.

Activating the Modem

To test your modem and Internet connectivity, select the KPPP tool from the Main Menu:

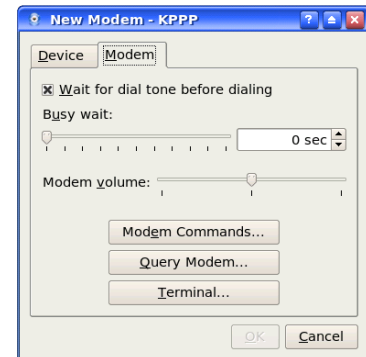
Main Menu > Internet > Remote Access > KPPP

Select the profile you have set up (remember the ISP nickname you used in the set up above?) by clicking on it and then click on the "Connect" button. The modem will start to dial and connect to the ISP and after awhile, upon successful login, the KPPP window will tell you that you are now connected to the Internet. You can now perform the web browsing and other services discussed in the Next few chapters.

To disconnect from the Internet bring up the Network Devices Control window and select the profile which was activated above and click on the "Disconnect" button. You will be disconnected from the Internet. You can then quit the KPPP program.

Troubleshooting

If, for some reason, you do not hear any connection noises, then perhaps your modem was not detected and set up. You'll need to use the Modem tab, and click the New button to make some changes.





To find out if your modem is automatically detected, click on the Query Modem button, and look for a series of little bars and indications that something is happening. If you don't see them, then your modem is probably not detected. That probably means that your modem is actually a Winmodem, which doesn't always work well with Linux (they are designed to work only with MS Windows).

If your modem is a Winmodem, then your best option is to purchase an external serial modem and attach it to an open serial port on the back of your computer. After you have done this repeat the Troubleshooting steps above.

Exercises

Perform an Internet dial-up connection using the modem on the system.

Determine that you have Internet

connectivity by accessing some well known websites.

Disconnect from the Internet.

xDSL / Cable Internet Connectivity

The dial-up Internet connection discussed above provides ready and easy access for places which have telephone infrastructure in place. However, it has the disadvantage that the maximum data transmission speed which normal dial-up technology can provide is about 56 Kbits per second. While this speed may be adequate for email text transmission and web browsing of non-multimedia intensive web content, it is not practical for multimedia access. For heavy multimedia content access using the Internet, a high speed link is required. For the personal or home user, broadband xDSL technologies make this possible.

DSL is an abbreviation used for the family of DSL (Digital Subscriber Line) technologies which enable high speed data transmission through telephone lines.

There are different types of DSL and they include, ADSL, SDSL, IDSL. Collectively these are known as DSL. ADSL (Asynchronous Digital Subscriber Line) is commonly used for the home.

xDSL / Cable Internet Configuration

There are two main types of DSL configuration in use and most ISPs use either one of these:



DHCP over Ethernet

PPoE over Ethernet

Usually if you have to use a login id and password for your broadband DSL connection then you should be using the PPOE configuration, except in those parts of the World where PPOA is used.

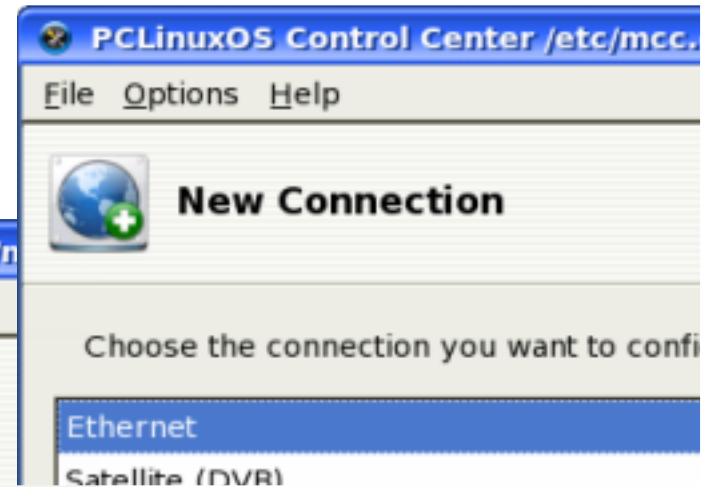
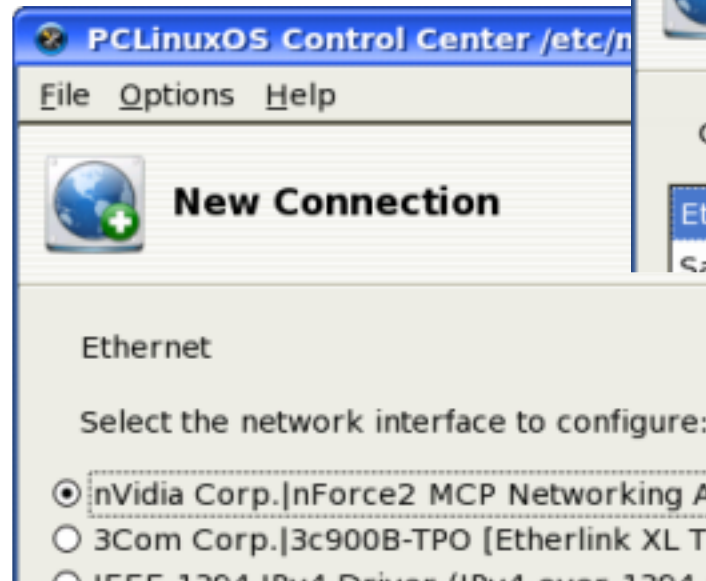
DHCP over Ethernet

Linux has been called "The Broadband OS" because it is very good at detecting and using Ethernet as its main networking capability. The Quick Start way to set up both DSL and Cable Internet is to plug the Ethernet cable (which looks like a phone cable, but with 5 strands of wire instead of 3) into your modem's Ethernet port, and the other end of the cable into your computer's Ethernet port.

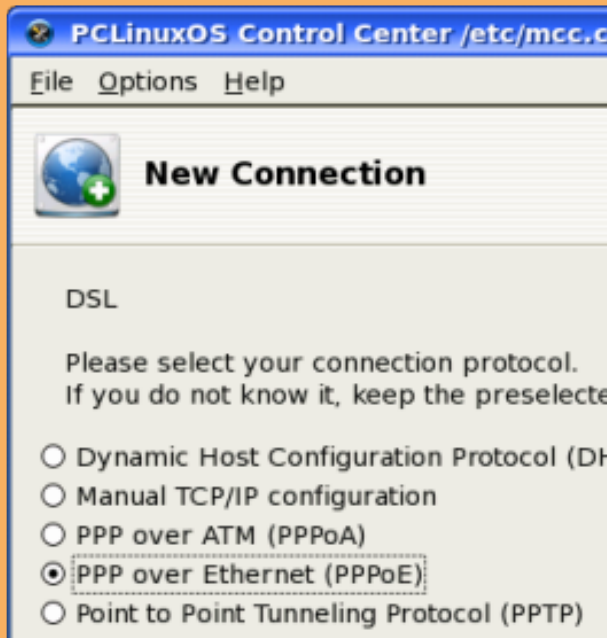
Most modern day flavors of Linux will

autodetect an active Ethernet connection, and assign it to the device name eth0, eth1, and so on. If there is more than one Ethernet interface for your computer, the "ethX" numbers will increase.

For this configuration, what is needed is just to obtain the IP configuration parameters using DHCP (Dynamic Host Configuration Protocol). To set up your DSL connection click on your PCLinuxOS Control Center (PCC) icon in your panel and enter your Root password. Next, choose the Network & Internet tab and then choose "Setup a new network interface (LAN, ISDN, ADSL,...)." You will then see a screen like the one below:



Select Ethernet connection in the select device type screen and click on the Forward button. A screen showing the detected Ethernet card(s) on your system is displayed as seen below:



Select the correct Ethernet network interface. (You usually have only one Ethernet card installed on the system.) Click on the Next button.

The default is to select your IP automatically. You should accept this and all the defaults on the next few pages.

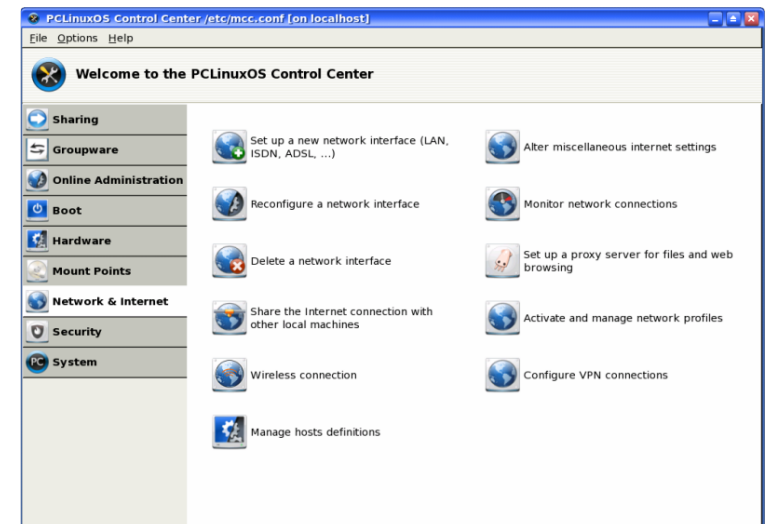
Clicking next will bring up a window where you can enter the login name and password provided to you by the ISP. Click on the Next button.

On the next window check the box next both "Allow users to manage the connection" and "Start the connection at boot" and click Next.

Click next and you will see a window that will ask if you want to start the connection now. Choose yes, click next, and you will see a congratulations window. Click on Finish to accept and end the set up. Log out and back in to avoid any hostnames conflicts.

Activating the ADSL Link

To test your ADSL link and Internet connectivity, click on your PCLinuxOS Control Center (PCC) icon in your panel and enter your Root password. Next, choose the Network & Internet tab and then choose Monitor network connections from the screen below:



If you are using DHCP over Ethernet, select the Ethernet device name (usually this



is eth0) you have used in the configuration set up by clicking on it and then click on the "Connect" button.

If you are using PPOE over Ethernet, select the ISP name you used in the configuration set up by clicking on it and then click on the "Connect" button.

The link will be established after a few seconds and the status of the profile in the Monitor network connections screen will change from "Not Connected" to "Connected." You are now connected to the Internet.

Exercises

Perform the same Internet connectivity tests as done previously with the dial-up modem connection.





How to connect to XBox Live, using Internet Connection Sharing (ICS), and PCLinuxOS.

In this tutorial I'm going to discuss how to connect to XBox Live, using Internet Connection Sharing (ICS) in PCLinuxOS. First, since you are reading this online, I'm going to assume that your computer is already connected to the Internet. Whether your connection is plugged into a Network Interface Card (NIC), or as in my case, a modem, you are going to need a NIC that will be dedicated to ICS. So if your computer only has one NIC, and you use it for your Internet connection, you are going to have to install another NIC before you begin.

So let's say you just installed a NIC, or already had one installed but had never configured it. The first thing to do is open the PCLinuxOS Control Center (PCC). Go to System, and click "Enable or disable the system

service". Now find `harddrake`, and set it to run at boot time. Click OK, close PCC, and reboot your system. During the reboot, `harddrake` will find and setup your NIC.

After you reboot, and have logged back on, open PCC. Go to System, and click "Enable or disable the system service". Find `harddrake`, uncheck run at boot time, and click OK to Close.

Next, go to Network & Internet in PCC, and click on "Reconfigure a network interface". At the top of this window, find the drop down list for Devices. Select the device that you use to connect to the Internet. On the TCP/IP tab, select DHCP for the Protocol. Important! do not change any other setting for this connection. Just click OK to close.

You should now be back to Network & Internet in PCC. Click on "Share the Internet connection with other local machines". When the ICS window opens, click Next to continue. Follow the prompts, select your interface that connects to the Internet. The network adapter that will be connected to your local network, this will either be `eth0` or `eth1`, depending on whether you have one or two NIC's installed. Continue following the prompts, selecting the default settings from this point until you are finished. You may also be prompted to install some additional software along the way. If you would like to do this beforehand, open Synaptic and install `bind`, `bind-utils`, `dhcp-server`, `perl-Authen-Smb`, and `squid`. When all is done, close PCC.

Now for the exciting part. Shut down your computer, and your XBox if it is on. For XBox 360, connect a standard Cat 5 network cable from your NIC, to the RJ-45

HOW TO



connection on the Xbox. For the first version Xbox, you will need a cross over cable to connect between the Xbox and your computer. After the connection is made, turn on your Xbox, then boot your computer to PCLinuxOS. After your computer is booted, log into your user account, and connect to the Internet, if this is not done at boot time.

Go to your Xbox and try to log into your Xbox Live account. If the first attempt fails, you will be prompted by the Xbox to test the network connection. Please do so at this time. The network test should pass at this point, and a connection will be made to Xbox Live. Which means... you're ready to play on Xbox Live! Thanks to the best OS on the planet, PCLinuxOS!

Footnote: I have to give thanks to jaydot for reminding me to always search the forum when you need help, and for an old post written by CO that

taught me how to have harddrake set up a NIC at boot time. Thank you both very much!



TESTIMONIALS



Today at 2:15 pm, Ohio, USA time, I was in the waiting room of an imaging firm for an interview. A Partner of ReproMax (Digital Imaging & Storage.) The secretary went into the back office to let the Production Manager know I was there for the appointment. Well as usual, as I'm waiting, a rush of calls and walk-in customers come in and the Production Manager was in a meeting with the General Manager.

I'm thinking, "Oh boy, great timing for an interview" with all heck breaking loose. A younger than I, but older than most in the forum, sits next to me. She gets on the phone and asks her husband whether the art work was on her lap top or a disk at home. That's right, all she had was the "paper" art work, all by hand and not sure of the color. The office let us know it was going to be at least 1/2 to 3/4 of an hour.

As we talked, she showed me her art

work, and now this is where my PCLOS Adventure has brought me to as of this day 08-08-08. My remaster of MiniMe 2008 with GIMP and Fonts was in my binder so I used her laptop and showed her a few things I have learned from some of the incredible, friendly and knowledgeable people in The PCLOS Forum. I whipped up what she liked for her poster in just about 20 minutes. She used this art work to get what she wanted made, while I was still waiting for my interview. Now please be patient... I said I had to share..... and yes, one of the associates did see my work and I was hired and the young lady well, she was nice...

This is the second time Fate and PCLOS have crossed in my professional life. This is also where I just run out of any words I could use to describe my experience with being around and working with the PCLOS Distro.... I can only tell you the truth, how all of these good-willed people from around the globe have guided,

helped and influenced my usage of not just Linux, but what has turned out to be part of a journey that Texstar and The Ripper Gang started so many years ago. I am humbled by the people I have met here.

I felt lucky when I found PCLOS around .090 I think... now I'm a lifer, and it was FATE. I did not anticipate getting this position, with all of the younger talent with degrees in the market. I know it sounds unbelievable, but I just never imagined it....

By the way I'm no longer just upper management.....now it's "Digital Imaging"

(I almost forgot; she flipped me a \$20 for gas.....)

This is my story and I'm sticking to it!
T H A N K Y O U!

RadOH



Part 3

Welcome to part 3 of our Linux Media Player Roundup. Today we'll be covering even more media players that are available for Linux, and even touching a couple that more than just play music; they also play your movies and DVDs. First, as before, I'd like to add a few clarifications from the previous part of this roundup. One reader wrote in to ask how each media player handles large music collections. Overall, all of them handled my large music collection without any problems as far as sheer number of files is concerned.

Actual media support and how they played the individual files is another story entirely, but that was already covered, so I won't reiterate those here. The only exception was Audio Overload, which only plays specialized files, so it's excluded from this test. Each time I ran the test, each player handled it fine. Amarok had a little

problem with sorting, and Decibel acted a little strange during the sort process, but otherwise those were the only issues I saw. I don't think my trial, however, really puts these players to the test as it should, because my collection only contains about 2500 or so songs. So I can only guarantee that they work as described with collections up to this size. If someone has a collection of 5,000 or 10,000 songs and has tested any of these players with that many songs in the playlist, I'd love to hear from you about how each player performed, so that I can pass along the information to the rest of my readers.

The second comment I received was all of the players shown so far seem to only be for KDE. Actually, that's not true. There are only two which are specifically for KDE. The rest are either written for Gnome, or are not window manager specific. Audacious, Audio Overload, and BMPx are not window manager specific and will run under any window manager that can load the specific libraries they need, be that GTK, or otherwise. Banshee, Decibel and Exaile are specifically designed to run under Gnome, but can also be made to run under KDE or XFCE if you so choose. Amarok and JuK are designed to run only under KDE. KDE was my primary testing environment and Gnome my secondary simply because I'm more familiar with KDE. I hope that clarifies things a little.

Additionally, Amarok and JuK have the ability to be minimized to the system tray. The others I couldn't get to do it, so I don't know if they are able to. Keep the comments coming. They have been very helpful and I appreciate them. And now that I've clarified those things let us look at our next batch of Linux Media Players.



Kplayer

KPlayer (also known as KMplayer) is a fully featured multimedia application for playback of both audio and video files and includes support for MP3, Ogg, streaming video, DVD, VCD, Audio CDs and a number of other formats. It's a fairly good media player that does a decent job, however, it's not the Picasso of media players. Its handling of DVDs is acceptable, but sometimes problematic. It can handle them which is a good thing considering the general state of DVD playback support on Linux. It also seems to handle most elements of the average DVD fairly well. The downside is that it takes a lot of time for DVDs to load. I'm not sure why, but it could be something to do with the way it handles decoding. Its handling of other media formats though appears to be nearly spotless. Even the elusive Microsoft Windows Meta Video (wmv) files played with little trouble.

Audio playback overall is good, but you're not given many options to work

with

when playing music. Creating playlists is fairly simple, but only one playlist at a time is supported. It also has no support for plug-ins or external media players like the video iPod. I also tried running a large playlist of files through it which it seemed to dislike, since it would build the list, but then wouldn't play it. It seemed comfortable with playlists under a hundred.

If all you need is a basic media player, then Kplayer does just that with a fair amount of ease. Kplayer is part of the KDE Multimedia Package and comes by default in most KDE installs and is designed to run only under KDE.

Kaffeine

The KDE Kaffeine player is also a fully featured multimedia application that comes natively with KDE as part of the KDE Multimedia Package. However, unlike Kplayer, it uses 3 of the most used media frameworks in the open source world, Xine-lib, Mplayer and GStreamer Kpart. This allows Kaffeine to play nearly every single media format out there. Think of this as being Kplayer on steroids.

There's more to it than just the added media support. Kaffeine also supports multiple playlists, proper DVD playback, and a fully featured cd ripper and encoder. DVD playback and full DVD menu support is also available in this player and works considerably better than most other players. Even so, it is not perfect as it could play some DVDs, but choked on others. Given that it's not in its full 1.0 version yet,



however, that support only stands to improve over the coming months and years.

While certainly not my favorite DVD and multimedia player, it does a very good job at what it does. I'd rate it as third best, with VLC and Mplayer being the top two picks for all round media players. Even though it's third on my list, it's still top notch and does its job well.

Importing and creating playlists is a bit of a challenge and requires far more fiddling to accomplish than I care for. Kaffeine is also part of the KDE Multimedia Package and comes by default in most KDE installs and is designed to run only under KDE.

Mplayer

MPlayer is a 'jack of all trades' media player. There really wasn't anything I could find that it didn't do. I say

"almost", because I did find a few quirks with it. Navigating the stylized Mplayer control panel proved to be daunting, even though the designers try to make it simple and, if you're after just simple start stop, fast forward and other controls like that, you're fine, but try to get into the advanced options, create a playlist, or something else, and you're presented with something of a challenge. Creating playlists is difficult and tedious, however, once you create them, it seems to do all right. It will just take you a while to do it since there's no way to simply dump a whole directory tree of files into the playlist very easily.

Now that aside, the equalizer, player options and more were all very easy to use once you could find the button on the control panel to access them, but the problems I'm describing with navigating the control panel really only apply to the default skin that comes with MPlayer. Changing that and adding new skins is easy and painless. If you switch to a better skin, navigation becomes a breeze.

As far as codec support is concerned, I'm really floored. I tried to check what audio and video formats were supported, and there were so many that the list literally flowed off the screen. There didn't appear to be any plug-in support for MPlayer (not saying there isn't, but nothing was obvious to me telling of it's existence) and no evidence of support for external pluggable media devices, however, it does include a large number of available video and audio rendering engines. You can even manually set the number of frames per second that each video renders at.

Another nice and interesting feature is that the video window and the player control panel are handled as separate windows. So if you need to get one of them out of the way, you can do so easily. In general, I was very impressed with Mplayer. It also



doesn't seem to care what window manager you use it in. It works fine under Gnome, KDE and XFCE, as well as others, I suspect.

Mplayer also seems to be the base upon which a number of other video players operate. SMplayer, XBMC, VLC, Xine, Screencast, Sipie and a number of others either use Mplayer directly, or tap its extensive libraries in order to facilitate and expand their own playback capabilities, making MPlayer both a stand alone player, and the backbone of many other players.

Mplayer can be downloaded through your favorite package manager, or from the Mplayer homepage. The homepage also has more screenshots, lots of documentation and more.

Miro

Miro, formerly known as "Democracy Player", is more or less a media player that's a 'jack of all trades'. I threw every video file type I could at it, and aside from having issues dealing with some Apple Quicktime files it did a splendid job of playing everything. Music handling seems to be a mixed bag, but from what I've gathered, music playing isn't its primary focus; video is. You could load a song and play it, but it's nearly impossible to add it to a playlist.

Miro is also an Internet TV application. As far as its IPTV support goes, Miro does very well. It's as easy as point and click to add a channel to your player, download and preview a video, and even decide if you want to keep the video. That's one part I love about this - if you have a DVR you can use Miro to download all your favorite videos and then you can copy them across your network to your DVR where you can watch them on your TV.

The number of channels available is quite extensive. The creators boast a staggering 2500 channels. There certainly are a lot of channels, but many seem to be low quality content done by amateurs. There is content from places like the Discovery Channel, The History Channel, National Geographic and more, but no full length shows, at least none that I've found so far.

It also seems slow at adding channels. It does eventually load them, but I'd click on a channel to add it, and then wait anywhere from 15 seconds to a full minute for it to add and load the channel. The loading part I can understand, since it has to grab the information via an RSS feed, but the slow speed at which it adds the channel seems



a bit silly.

On the flipside, Miro does support HD video in its channel selection. If a particular channel is providing its video in HD, Miro can not only download it, but play it too. All HD content is clearly marked. The options available inside Miro are interesting too. While I couldn't get it working, it does have what appears to be the ability to handle video downloads via Bittorrent. You can also import and export video playlists and share them with your friends. If the video channels aren't enough, Miro also supports searching, viewing and downloading video from YouTube, Google Video, Daily Motion, Blip TV and more.

Overall though, as a general video playback application, I would say 'no' to Miro. As an Internet TV application, it's very good. In fact, it's one of the best I've found, beating Joost into the dirt ten feet under. The fact that Miro

has none, supports none, nor ever will have any DRM or any connection to DRM, and is completely Open Source is a wonderful thing beyond words!!

It needs to grow though, both in quality of the player (speed is the primary element that needs to improve), and the selection of shows offered via it's Miro guide, but otherwise it's a great little application. You can guarantee that growth will come. You can get Miro through your favorite package manager, or from the Miro homepage.

Summary

That's it for this part of our roundup. Next time I plan to cover a couple of console based media players that you can use to either play your music, or as the basis for your own Linux powered jukebox, as well as several other programs you may find useful in managing and playing your media collection. As I stated in the beginning of the article, don't be afraid to send in your comments and suggestions. I love them all and on occasion they provide me with some great information I may have somehow missed. In addition, for those who have been mentioning that I haven't gotten to your favorite player yet, don't worry. I'm working alphabetically, so I'll get to it very soon. Until then, stay tuned!

Editors Note: PCLOS prefers that you get packages from the repositories and not individual application homepages.



Attention

Have you ever gotten tired of looking at those "Designed for Microsoft Windows" stickers on your PC or laptop when you know it is "Powered by PCLinuxOS?" If you are like many other PCLinuxOS users and myself, you can now do something about it. Thanks to the efforts of Igross1949, and Gryphen (graphics), you can now order yourself as many as you need to replace them, and every cent of profit goes to Tex & the Ripper Gang to help fund the continuing development of our beloved OS. Below you can see what they look like.



You can order these by e-mailing Igross1949 at: Igross1949@yahoo.com (the first letter is an I (el)) or Igross1949@powerc.net. After you have placed your order he will send you a billing statement through PayPal and you can pay with Credit or Debit Card, or Checking Account. You don't have to have a PayPal account to use it. I would prefer PayPal for payment, but can accept a money order.

The price for them at this time will be for quantities of 1-49 = \$2.60 ea.

50-99 = \$2.00 ea. and 100+ = \$1.50 ea. in US dollars. Please add \$1.00 to each order (not each sticker) from outside the U.S., Canada & Mexico.

I will have the first 500 of these available on January 4, 2008 (Friday) I should be able to start invoicing and shipping immediately after that. So let's get with it and order yours today!

When you remaster your system and you want the "Most used applications" field in kmenu to be clean goto Konqueror Control Center -> security & privacy -> cleanup, there you can pick and choose what you want.



Hello!

My name is Paul Browning and I've been using PCLinuxOS for roughly a year. Recently, I discovered I had made a terrible mistake and ended up 'flat-lined' with a system that wouldn't come back up. (This was due to my clicking multiple repositories in the Synaptic package manager and then doing an update. Several major packages became casualties and the root directory checked out.) Now, with my lack of Linux knowledge, I really began to panic. Did I just lose everything? The scope of the situation I was in began to raise my blood pressure so I ran to a second system that was in the house to begin looking for answers.

First step, jump into the "#pclinuxos-support" channel on freenode.net using an Internet Relay Chat (IRC) program. (I needed LIVE help and wanted to make sure that I was down

a minimal amount of time if possible.) While there, I pleaded my case and was told pretty much that in order to fix the situation, I was going to have to re-install PCLinuxOS. (What!?! No!!! Did I just lose everything???) It was the one thing I did NOT want to hear. There seemed no way around it. I began to feel distant from Linux. I began to second guess whether I wanted to continue on the Linux side of things. Mostly because I didn't want my lack of knowledge to put me in this situation ever again.

Then two people stepped up and began asking me more questions. "Did you put your Home directory in its own partition or on another drive?" I told them that I had put it in its own partition. Then, in a very nonchalant way, they said, just reinstall the OS and just don't format your Home partition and you'll be fine. Fine?!? Was that HOPE that I just heard? Was that "a second chance"? Everything changed at that moment, knowing that all may

not be lost.

So, I was told to get the "MiniMe" flavor and start with that. My situation was turning around, and rather quickly too! Those two guys in the chat room were literally walking me through recovery. (Something I can never repay them enough for.) To make a long short story -(sorry about that), I was up and running like nothing had happened in about an hour.

I had learned a VERY valuable lesson that day and that was WHY you put things in different partitions. Before that incident, I typically put an operating system with all the other stuff in one big partition on one drive. NEVER AGAIN. I had done the 'correct' thing this time, only because someone included it in a recommendation for installing when I had originally started off with this flavor of Linux. I just never realized how important that one step was.

TESTIMONIALS



OK, at this time, the world should know who these two individuals that helped me so much back when my world was on the verge of ending were. SlippJigg and Clarjon1 should be commended for taking the time to help someone they've never met and may never meet. I wanted to publicly thank them for going the extra mile. They've given me something that will help me out in the future. Something that will 'keep' me more grounded in the notion that 'all is not lost' when something goes wrong. I'm still a Linux noob. But I don't plan on being one much longer. These guys have just taught a man to fish and I thank them both for everything they did that night.





by Papawoob

Just thought I would try and bring everyone a list of currently active PCLinuxOS based distros. If I have missed any, I apologize. If anyone knows of any others that are being actively developed please drop me a note at the Magazine website or at Papawoob@pclosmag.com.

CAELinux

CAELinux is based on PCLinuxOS and is designed for computer-aided engineering. Based on the open-source CAE softwares [Salomé](#) & [Code Aster](#), you can load STEP / IGES geometry in Salomé and start partitioning and meshing your problem in just 5 minutes.

Granular Linux

Granular Linux is an easy-to-use, desktop Linux distribution based on PCLinuxOS. Its main features are a carefully selected set of applications

for common tasks, the ability to customize the distribution, and the inclusion of two popular desktop environments - the flexible KDE and the lightweight Xfce.

Karoshi

Karoshi is a free and open source school server operating system based on PCLinuxOS. Karoshi provides a simple graphical interface that allows for quick installation, setup and maintenance of a network.

Ruby on Rails

Rails Live CD is a specialist distribution providing a pre-configured and fully operating Ruby on Rails development environment on a bootable CD. The distribution is derived from PCLinuxOS.

SAM Linux Desktop

SAM Linux Desktop, a live and installation CD based on PCLinuxOS, is an easy-to-use, fast and clean XFCE Linux desktop for home users. The distribution is enhanced by several popular non-free applications, such as Macromedia Flash Plugin, Java and RealPlayer.

VideoLinux

VideoLinux is a PCLinuxOS-based distribution with focus on DVD backups, video encoding and transcoding, DVD authoring, format conversion and pretty much anything else you want to do with video.



[TinyMe](#)

TinyMe 2008.0 “Final” has been released! TinyMe is a PCLinuxOS-based distribution, which is targeted at older computers and people who want a very light and fast desktop environment. Although TinyMe comes as a small, 200MB ISO, it provides tools for most all of your everyday wants and needs.

[PCFluxboxOS](#)

PCFluxboxOS is a series of remasters of PCLinuxOS catering for different end-user needs. All the following remasters are installable live-CDs and all come with the i586 'Legacy' Kernel 2.6.18.8 for increased compatibility with older hardware. Newer kernels can be installed via Synaptic.

[TinyFlux - Version 1.0](#)

PCFluxboxOS 2008 is currently under development and release should tie in with the release of PCLinuxOS 2008. The aim for the next release will be to

create a truly modular operating system using metapackages to enable users to quickly and easily add groups of applications, all fully configured for maximum performance with your Fluxbox desktop. See [TinyFluxdownloads](#) page for full details.

MidiFlux – 0.6b

A large selection of applications in a relatively small ISO 340MB in size.

[Keldix Linux](#)

Keldix is a Linux distribution primarily for the Small business Office and Home Office (SOHO) market. Keldix is a live-DVD built on PCLinuxOS.

[PCLOS Gnome](#)

All new bootsplash, backgrounds, and really nice features, upgraded to a great looking operating system, the best out-of-the-box look and user experience possible!

[Business Edition Linux \(BEL\)](#)

BEL or Business Edition Linux is a business implementation of PCLinuxOS 2007. Our goal is to provide solutions for small business needs using one of the easiest to use Linux Distributions available.



MythTVOS

MythTVOS 2008 is based on MiniMe 2008 and has MythTV and all plugins installed and (pre)configured. Just boot from the liveCD, select your TV / SAT / CABLE card and scan for channels...

EeePCLinuxOS

EeePCLinuxOS is a PCLinuxOS remaster specifically for the EeePC.

PCLinux Educator

A new name and a new, initial, new way of releasing. EduLos will now be called PCLinux Educator and will in first instance be distributed as a 'meta'package. This means that you can just use your vanilla PCLinuxOS setup and in Synaptic select one package that will immediately install all softwares that we think are useful as a primary student, a secondary student or an educator.

MiniMe

This is a minimal LiveCD that is bootable, plus it can be installed. Add in your own background, window decoration, localizations, preferred applications and supporting libraries to fully trick out your desktop. In addition, you can remaster your own custom version of PCLinuxOS. Have fun! You can find the .iso image under the Downloads button at:

http://www.pclinuxos.com/index.php?option=com_frontpage&Itemid=1

Linux EduCD

LinuxEduCD is education-scientist version of livecd type. It can be installed on hard drive but it is not a must. System is maximally simple because for learning purposes in schools. It contains education, graphical, business and multimedia packets.

DFPE

Pre-installed packages for everything concerning the managing and editing of digital images. These are in almost all cases standard PCLOS packages out of the official repositories. In only one case, a package has been upgraded to a newer version and the upgraded packages have been provided upstream to the PCLOS development team.

SaxenOS 2008

SaxenOS is a full fledged Linux office desktop and based on PCLinuxOS. SaxenOS 2008 isn't as lightweight as the former versions. The full OpenOffice package was added to the speedy XFCE desktop. Also, multimedia apps and games were cut in



favour of productivity.

Bugnux

Bugnux is a complete Linux (Mandriva) distribution that runs from a single bootable CD and runs entirely in RAM. Bugnux contains an extensive set of Open Source software testing tools that can be used for functional and performance testing. Standalone tools to test GUI applications and Mozilla Firefox extensions pre-installed to aid in web application testing have been packaged. This virtually can turn any PC into black-box testing device without having to install any software.





Help with documentation

From the PCLinuxOS Documentation Wiki

Another good source of information for anyone new to PCLinuxOS is the Wiki. If you have any howtos, tips, or tricks, you can send them on to me at: papawoob@pclosmag.com and then go to the Wiki and post them there also. This will benefit our readers and by posting them in the Wiki it will benefit everyone who uses PCLinuxOS. Below you will find several links to places where you can lend a hand in many different ways.

Sign up here: sign up to these forums for a login to the [forums and this wiki](#) and then you can:

Make changes to this Wiki. =)

The main Wiki page is located [here](#)

If you want to participate more heavily,

post a note in '[add me to a project](#)' to request documentation channel access and let us know your interests.

Subscribe to the documentation [mailing list](#)

sign up to the main [pclinuxos.com forums](#) (if you have not already) since this Wiki will be moved over there soon.

Help with to do items

Discuss or help with the [todo list](#). It's very helpful to hear your opinions, because it lets us know what's important to you.

Edit and discuss pages

Just check out a page or two, edit it and contribute a little. Even a spelling correction is a big boost. At the top of every page is a 'discussion' tab. Click it to visit that page's "talk page" and add your comments. Sign your comments

with four tilde characters: ~~~~ and your signature will be automatically added.

Be a Gnome

Wiki gnomes are always around without being underfoot. They fix typos, answer questions, and are the magical element which makes a Wiki work well. These are the things you can do to be the best gnome you can be:

We are also trying to move as many of the articles that have been published in this magazine that are howtos, tips, tricks, etc to the Wiki so that both the Wiki and the Magazine will get more exposure and provide more useful information to more PCLinuxOS users. If you are interested in helping with this project please contact me at:

papawoob@pclosmag.com

To volunteer "create account" at the Wiki, then login and start at the "PclosMag2wiki" page. It is as simple as that.

HOW TO



Doing any of these things listed above will be a service to everyone who uses PCLinuxOS and make it that much easier for anyone who wants to convert from Windows or even another Linux or BSD distro. This is an opportunity to contribute to the community and to those who are where you were once. I hope to see some of you there soon!

Papawoob

