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## From the Desk of the Chief Editor

Here we are with the third issue of PCLinuxOS Magazine, and I feel confident that all our readers and our staff are pleased with the result. I know I am.

In this issue we have a mix of articles for you to enjoy. There are tips for 'newbies' and a straightforward howto to help those who have problems getting X to start after an update (haven't we all had that happen at least once?). We have articles to bring you up to date on several of the PCLinuxOS remasters; I'm sure you'll all enjoy Rodney's second installment on web page design and KDulcimer's insights into how to get several popular browsers to play nice with Google Mail.

PCLinuxOS Magazine is a community effort; it is not my, nor any other individual's, project – it belongs to the PCLinuxOS community. It will develop and grow as we have participation from others in our community – both PCLinuxOS and Linux at large. We need input from our readers to make this magazine what YOU want it to be. Here is how you can contribute:

First, and always, we need submissions. If you haunt the main forum (<http://www.pclinuxos.com/forum/index.php>) like I do, no doubt you have seen my posts asking for articles. Every day I visit the forum and read the new posts; it takes lots of time, and there are some days when I simply cannot read them all. We have quite a few experienced users there who can explain a solution to a problem or steer someone to the answer they are seeking. Every month we need articles on subjects other PCLinuxOS users will find interesting or informative. I ask each of you to spend a little time in the forum and make a concerted effort to spot posts that will make good articles, or a person answering a question who might be able to provide an article. Send me a PM on the forum identifying the post and I will follow up and contact the poster to solicit an article. Or, if you prefer, collect all the information and write the article yourself. We don't care if you are not a professional writer; most of us aren't. Just put words together and send them to the magazine.

Second, we need your feedback. We all appreciate hearing that you are pleased with the magazine, but we'd also like to hear what you'd like to see changed or added. If you have an idea for an article, please let us know. Even if you can't write it yourself, your ideas are valuable to us.

Until next month, enjoy the magazine and let us know how we can improve. It is YOUR magazine.

PCLinuxOS Magazine is a community project of MyPCLinuxOS.com to provide an additional means of communication to the PCLinuxOS community.

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**Project Coordinator:** Derrick Devine  
**Publisher:** MyPCLinuxOS.com  
**Contact:** [mag@mypclinuxos.com](mailto:mag@mypclinuxos.com)

**Chief Editor:** Tim Robinson

**Senior Editor/Webmaster:** Rodney Adkins

**Editors:** Seán Leamy, Neal Brooks

**Proofreaders:** Clay Perrine, Guy Tayler, John Paxton, Doug Wilson, Seán Leamy, Jan Allen, Danny Crane, Warren Mullenax

**Contributors:** Jan Allen, V.V. Heirman, Derrick Devine, Joel J. Adamson, Brian D. Burns, KDulcimer, Tim Robinson

**Page Layout & Graphics:** Archie Arevalo



**Home on the Net:**

<http://www.pclinuxos.com/forums/>  
<http://www.mypclinuxos.com>

# Announcement: PCLinuxOS 0.93a Released

Texstar announced on August 21, 2006 the availability for download or online ordering of **PCLinuxOS 0.93a Full Edition** aka **Big Daddy**.

The full edition comes with Kernel 2.6.16.27, KDE 3.5.3, Open Office, Firefox, Thunderbird and Nvu. Digikam, Gimp and Gqview for your digital photo needs. Amarok, Audacity and Audio Creator for your digital music needs. Frostwire, bittorrent and gftp for file transfers and p2p file sharing. Mplayer and Kaffeine for video viewing. (libdvcss2 required for dvd encrypted playback). Kopete and Xchat for online chatting. Blogging and podcast software also included. PCLinuxOS Big Daddy is the full monty!

## PCLinuxOS 0.93a Big Daddy

PCLinuxOS 0.93a - Full Edition aka Big Daddy is now available. This is our full version of the PCLinuxOS Distribution.

### Internet Suite

Internet, Email, instant messaging, and more! PCLinuxOS includes The Mozilla Firefox Web Browser and Thunderbird Email Client. Kopete Instant Messenger allows your to chat with friends on Yahoo, MSN and AIM.

### Complete Open Office Suite

PCLinuxOS comes with a complete Open Office suite for word processing, spreadsheets, drawings and slide presentations.

### Digital Photos

Digikam is a pre-installed photo management program that allows you to download, organize, edit, and share your entire photo collection. Easily connect your digital camera to your computer and import all of your pictures with a few mouse-clicks. In addition to Digikam, PCLinuxOS also includes the powerful GIMP image editor.

### Digital Music

Manage your favorite tunes with Amarok, an all-in-one music player built into PCLinuxOS. Burn and rip your favorite music with Audio Creator. Fileshare through Frostwire.

### Web Publishing Tools

PCLinuxOS includes Nvu, a powerful, easy-to-use web design program that is open-source. Anyone can create web pages now, even those with no technical expertise or knowledge of HTML.

PCLinuxOS allows you to try it in Live mode without touching your current system. If you like PCLinuxOS you can easily install it to your computer using the easy to use Installation program. After installing PCLinuxOS to your computer, you can access an additional 5000 programs and libraries from our free software repository.

If you are tired of Windows constantly crashing all the time, the blue screens of death, the nasty viruses/trojans, constant pop-ups, and sluggish performance then PCLinuxOS is for you.

### Switch to PCLinuxOS today!!!

The current list of programs on the Full Edition of PCLinuxOS 0.93a can be found at <http://www.pclinuxos.com//page.php?13l>.

**Read about PCLinuxOS 0.93a Junior on page 23.**

# A Windows User's Delight

From our "Linux is for Total Newbies" series  
courtesy of J. Allen for reallylinux.com

**Y**ou may also find this related article beneficial:  
[Linux Works Even for Newbies.](#)

As a former Windows user, I know that it can be easy to feel overwhelmed by the volume of available distributions. Often, to help decipher the lingo and choose a capable distribution, those new to the community seek guidance from existing users. Sometimes this can lead to a really positive result, as another Windows user joins the Linux community.

However, for some potential migrants, the experience

is not so pleasant. I know of some who have found the terminology foreign and daunting, and the choices overwhelming. As with any new venture, the trick is to dip one's toe into the water and not expect to make great progress in the early stages of migration. Linux is not another Windows. It offers many new and beneficial experiences.

So, compared with uprooting one's entire family and moving to another country, it should, can, and often is a pleasant journey into a new world. But finding a path that allows a gradual change is always best, and in my case this meant starting with the PCLinuxOS flavour.

The Linux community, in general, is fiercely protective and supportive of newly arrived immigrants like myself. There is plenty of guidance available. The IRC channels in particular are a ready source of help and encouragement. From my reading, it is clear that most Linux users experiment with a number of "flavours" until they settle on the one with the best "taste" for them. As their moniker declares, PCLinuxOS is "radically simple." This was precisely the kind of distribution I needed.

<http://www.pclinuxos.com>

<http://www.mypclinuxos.com>

<irc.efnet.ca/#pclinuxos>

For your convenience, I have included links at the beginning of my article to encourage those who want to go ahead and read what the forum users say. You may also want to take a moment to join the IRC channel for some discussion and to ask applicable questions.

PCLinuxOS was devised and is maintained by a small, dedicated, extremely hard-working team led by Texstar. This very adaptable flavour is intended to be as easy as possible for someone totally new to Linux, but not necessarily new to computers.

## Balance of Versatility & Capability

PCLinuxOS offers the flexibility of being both a Live CD, and includes all necessary components for a full installation. As a Live CD version it can boot directly from a CD drive without any installation to the hard disk. But more importantly, it includes an easy to use installer that allows you to fully install it when you are ready. Of course, as with many major distributions, there are excellent guides on the website for helping you use the installer. As if these characteristics were not enough, the system can be remastered to suit the user's needs and desires, as witnessed by the various offspring including: PCLinuxOS 92, MiniMe, Kid-Safe, and Supergamer.

## Remasters of PCLinuxOS

**PCLinuxOS Kid-Safe** - A delight for both children of all ages and their parents, this Live CD allows children to surf the web in safely, play fun and educational games while their parents can relax in the knowledge that their children can do no harm to their existing system. The big benefit

is that children are also reasonably protected on the web by Dansguardian.

This version includes a wonderland of jolly games, some of which I have played. They have amusing graphics and effects that offer an undiluted joy of learning. There are also installed games to suit all ages in this system; Patience, my favorite, is also in there! Although Tuxtype is designed for young people, it is an excellent tester of one's typing skills and can help children gain typing skills in a fun way.

The one drawback is that this particular specialist version is not currently installable. You have to run it from the CD or DVD drive, which is a bit slow but certainly effective. An installable remaster is in the works and will soon be available.

**PCLinuxOS Supergamer** - This is for dedicated gamers and includes public domain demos of some of the famous 3D games. Here's a paste from the wiki:

- Doom 3 and Quake 4 - The playable demos!
- Enemy territory - Wolfenstein: Enemy Territory
- Neverball - This really is a great game. Go play it!
- Chromium B.S.U.- Fast paced, arcade-style, top-scrolling space shooter.
  - Battle Zone capture Flag - The 3D tank battle game.

- Nexuiz - A fast-paced free-as-speech ego shooter with excellent graphics
- Supertux - SuperMa.. uhm, Tux! Does Tux do plumbing as well?
- PlanetPenguin Racer and Tuxkart - Penguin fun for everybody. Go Tux!
- UFO: Alien Invasion - A strategy game featuring tactical combat against hostile aliens! And,
- Cube, Battle for Wesnoth, Foobilliards, pinball and many more.

Apart from all of these, the Supergamer version includes many of the games also found in most Linux distributions. Of course, to render the most splendid graphics it does require a high-end computer with plenty of power. This version is fully installable, so you can try it out as a Live CD and then later install it to your system.

**PCLinuxOS AmaroK** - A collaboration of AmaroK and Magnatunes, among others, this boots and goes straight on-line, ready to stream music for the user. Some tracks have already been set up for the user to play. This version is also fully installable.

I encourage you to read about each of these in detail on the website and follow the links to download the ISO images.

## Personal Gratification

My own experience with PCLinuxOS has been a joy from the beginning. Knowing a little about Linux, I started to use it seriously beginning in September, 2005. When I discovered PCLinuxOS in March, 2006, my knowledge and use began to reach the stratosphere. It was so easy to use day-to-day.

To keep things simple and ensure you start off quickly, PCLinuxOS abounds in pre-installed applications. A new user's delight is finding that after the installation there are numerous useful programs – all ready to run. Even without bothering to read the instructions, it was intuitive to use and so easy to install. Configuring is also easy and I have already created my first personalized Live CD.

## Personalizing Your PC

The PCLinuxOS Control Center (PCC), is a comprehensive utility that enables any user to fully configure the system. It includes essential tools such as the Synaptic software installer and updater. Keeping the system up-to-date is a simple matter of checking the remember box when a message panel appears the first time it is used. Then just click "Reload". Three mouse clicks later and your entire

system is updated. Also included is the KDE Control Center, which allows you to enhance practically any aspect of your desktop. You gain control over backgrounds, buttons, color and font options and more. More importantly, all of these can be adjusted to suit your needs with a few clicks of the mouse. For a donation of \$20 you can gain access to PASS, a fast download repository of programs and files, updated regularly by the developers. You get your own user-encoded `sources.lst` to add to Synaptic – and Texstar (the lead developer) gets to eat once in a while.

## Conclusion

Overall, PCLinuxOS offers many benefits for someone getting started with Linux. Besides being flexible and easy to use, offering both a full install and Live CD, it includes many programs I know you will need for day-to-day use. If you are considering trying Linux, PCLinuxOS offers you an ideal starting point.

J. Allen is an enthusiastic hobbyist computer user of some years' standing and in no way an expert. He enjoys contributing his experiences with Linux to encourage others.

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# Hooray for Linux

by Joel J. Adamson, Biostatistician, Psychiatry Department  
Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston, MA

**Disclaimer:** The following is my experience, with my hardware, my software preferences and my own opinions. Although I will mention the other distros that I tried to use, none of it should be considered "bashing" – they may work for you and PCLinuxOS might not. All I know is that so far, PCLinuxOS is the only one that does work for me.

**I** have finally installed Linux on my desktop and replaced the Microsoft monopoly in my house. A year and a half ago my wife and I decided that for her to keep up in school and for us to be up-to-date with technology, we needed a new computer. We, of course, went straight to [www.Dell.com](http://www.Dell.com) and looked things over. We found a system that was right for our house and offered everything we wanted, especially Microsoft Office, with PowerPoint, Publisher and everything else. I remember being seriously bummed looking at the catalog and finding out all the other crap we were going to get "for free!" with this computer, meaning it was always going to be expensive, even if we left out all the stuff we didn't want. And with all the software we "had to have" it was going to cost US\$1,500. "Well," we thought, "It's the only way, and this is a necessary expense." Then

we got the computer, it was easy to set up and despite being too small to fit my extra hard drive it had a cool design and we got lots of stuff with it. I could tell you how many hours I spent removing stuff that we didn't want – and how many hours thence I spent trying to get rid of the annoying little advertisements that would pop up. Don't these people get it? I don't want to have this shoved in my face! I want it to work. And it was *adequate*.

Then one day I looked up "C compiler" on Yahoo! Actually, after I got a bunch of ads, I looked up "free C compiler." I found a link to the GNU project GCC page. "Oh, cool," here's one ... but it doesn't use Windows; it uses some kind of Unix. I'd heard of GNU and seen the GNU all over the Internet and wondered what it was all about. Somewhere on the



page I saw "GNU/Linux" and that jogged my memory: "Linux is Unix, but for a PC," a friend had told me in high school in the early nineties. I thought he meant "as opposed to a Macintosh" and I now know he meant "as opposed to a server or workstation." So, I went to Wikipedia and looked up Linux. "Oh, cool, that's free too," I thought again. My experience with Unix was entirely console-based and I loved it but I knew my wife was going to need something more stimulating in her computer use so I was not immediately interested. Then I started seeing things like "Live CD" and "distro." There was even a distro chooser. I clicked on that, answered a few questions and got a list: PCLinuxOS was at the top. I looked that up on Wikipedia too. What I found astounded me: it was a full-on system with a desktop, applications, all the stuff we were using and it was all for free. Plus, I could do my programming that got me interested in the first place.

My knowledge of computing took a huge leap forward that day. I really had believed that I had two choices in computing. I was wrong. I read about the philosophy surrounding open source, free software and a bunch of other cool stuff. I started daydreaming about how much money I was going to save people by insisting on free software for myself and for them because it's better and, of course, cheaper.

So, I downloaded the ISO, and after "turning several CDs into coasters" I got the Live CD set up and booted it. It worked pretty darn well. I had some trouble getting the Internet going and until then it was just a dead-end curiosity. After looking at the very helpful forum I did get it working with ndiswrapper. I was really impressed. I spent time programming in Python and checking things out in general. I tried out a few other distro's, including MEPIS, Ubuntu, Knoppix, Puppy Linux, Freesbie and a few others. I liked the ideas of BSD best and, out of the distros I tried, I liked MEPIS. I talked to a friend who was a long-time Linux user and found out he uses Ubuntu, he said because "I hate having to spend hours configuring; I just want it to work and I'll mess with it later."

I liked BSD because I really like UNIX. They say "People use Linux because they hate Microsoft, people use BSD because they love UNIX." I liked that perspective, despite both statements being true of me. However, we only have one computer and I eventually resigned myself to the idea that Windows was "good enough" and started using XEmacs, TeX, Python, R and other things in Windows. Nothing ever worked quite right so when the opportunity presented itself, I said, "We're switching."

My wife was going out of town and that would give

me a week to back up our files, install a few things and see what worked best. Plus it would be some good goof-around time. So I had the time pressure of getting everything up and running by the time she got back. My plan was FreeBSD, then MEPIS, then Ubuntu or Knoppix. Even though I failed to realize it at the time, PCLinuxOS was the only one out of all of these that had consistently worked. I didn't like it because it looked too cartoonish, too home-made to be my full-time desktop. Nevertheless, I knew it was the one that could get me a working Internet connection, so I kept the CD around just in case.

In this case that is exactly what happened. After the thrill of getting Windows off the machine, I was left with a FreeBSD console and just messing around trying to get X running. Then I realized what I really needed was an Internet connection because I needed it to get help and packages. So in went the PCLinuxOS CD and I had my Internet connection running. That could have been my solution right then and there; unfortunately for me, my girlfriends in high school and college and others, I am stubborn and work really hard to get things to work before I "give up."

Sometimes giving up is the best solution; it actually leads to new things that were better than what I was trying to do and does indeed get me what I wanted.

After two days of fooling around with BSD I said,

"She's coming back on Tuesday, I need to get the system running." So I installed MEPIS. That worked well. The Internet worked – for a while anyway – and the office stuff worked so I was happy. Then when I tried to watch Richard III starring Laurence Olivier, the DVD player kept crashing. Then I couldn't eject the CD. "You don't have enough rights," or "You are not root." The hell I'm not! I found myself logged in as root all the time which I knew was bad. I realized I was having to reboot all the time to get the Internet running. Then, when I did look at the forums I realized I was using an older version that included a lot of bad software. I said, "Time to try something new."

So I installed Ubuntu. That worked really well too. All around, it was very nice; I did a lot of shell work, installed the software I wanted and we could watch DVDs. Pretty cool. Then a funny thing started happening. The Internet connection would die after about five minutes. I went through hours and hours of entering the same ndiswrapper configuration and wireless configuration commands. I checked out Linux wireless books with hundreds of pages about Bluetooth specifications, and I reinstalled three times. I spent hours on their forums. I went back and forth with my landlord about the wireless Internet -- included in our rent. He came down with his laptop and we tried to map out the reception. We switched

channels, we tried moving the antenna, all sorts of things. While he was sitting there he mentioned "I used to use Linux for my desktop, but I got tired of reinstalling it; whenever I would install a piece of software that it didn't like, I'd have to reinstall."

I found myself sitting there thinking I just want something that works as well as Windows. As WELL AS WINDOWS!? Was I out of my new super-computing mind? Getting away from Windows was the whole point -- well, at least most of the point, inasmuch as Linux allows us to do things that Windows makes you pay for. Windows makes you pay for everything else too. I didn't want to go back there, however I was getting tired of disappointing my wife when, in her new-mother+medical-student weary tones she would say "Does the computer work?" I felt totally impotent. This sucks. If I can't get this to work in two days we have to go back. We depend on it.

Then I realized, "This never happened with PCLinuxOS" and I popped in the CD for a reliable Internet connection and checked the Ubuntu forums. I found six other threads with people describing the exact same problem.

Then I found the proposed solution. It's a matter of the ethernet configuration when you install so you just have to reinstall until it works. That's not a solution.

What if it dies again?. Then am I going to back up thirty GB of data and then reinstall it six more times until it chooses to work? No way.

I also remembered that the Ubuntu forums reminded me of a chemistry TA I saw in the "help lab" one afternoon in my sophomore year of college; she would go from student-to-student purportedly helping them by saying, "I can't help you with that! What is that? I don't know what that is! I can't help you!" Whenever somebody posted a problem, saying they couldn't connect to the Internet, the Ubuntu forum people would tell them to connect to the Internet and download something.

Then I installed PCLinuxOS. This was version 0.92 so I got on the Internet using ndiswrapper and installed. The first time I rebooted I got a kernel panic. Great, it doesn't actually work any better than the rest of them. More problems. This is not what I expected when I decided I wanted to use Linux. I wanted WOW. I wanted to be able to have people come over and say, "Whoa, this is free? This is way better than what I pay for!" I wanted to send cool, digital videos of our six-month-old son to our family and say, "This hilarious video was completely created using free software," with the implication that it's for real people too. I wanted my own computer the way I wanted it, not the way Dell wanted to sell it to me. I was disappointed.

This is BOGUS!!!

Then I came to the PCLinuxOS forums where the people are always helpful and friendly. (Why is that so different from the other forums?) I found the solution: remove the USB flash drive! Also, while I was at work, I had a friend download and burn the "Big Daddy" CD. Then when I got home that night, I installed 0.92, cranked up the Internet and off I went. That was cool for a few minutes and then I wanted to see if Big Daddy would work as well. I always had the 0.92 CD if it failed.

It did not fail. It detected our much-discussed wireless adapter and connected to the Internet with only two commands (setting the ESSID and dhclient). It has its own Linux driver for an adapter that made people say, "You can't use Linux." I emailed Texstar right away.

This is what I was searching for: this was WOW! This is better than Windows like all distros say they are. This is cool.

I feel relief, except it's better than relief. I'm really impressed. The distro that I had previously dismissed and said "Well, I'll just use it cause it's the only one that works," turns out to be the BEST LINUX DISTRO I'VE USED. Yeah, it's the only one that works; that means it's the one that works on very

difficult hardware that the other distros reserve for people who they think should be satisfied either with a crippled (i.e., standard) MS Windows system or a crippled Linux system.

Now, I have had a couple problems since last night. The sound won't come on and the printer still is not recognized (it's a Dell/Lexmark -- I knew that would happen and it's okay). However, those are manageable problems. Reinstalling an operating system until it "gets things right," is an unmanageable, huge problem. An operating system that won't let me use my computer is an unmanageable, huge problem. PCLinuxOS solved those problems.

And as for the cartoonish, home-made desktop? Gone! I love the new desktop. One of my "big projects" that I planned on having to do was to totally mess with the desktop to get it the way I want it. I'm surprised to say I actually like the desktop on the new PCLinuxOS better than any of the others I've tried. It's really cool-looking.

Now I can deal with the real stuff, like installing the software I want (most of which I've already done in a few seconds), and oh yeah, using the computer.

HOORAY FOR PCLINUXOS! HOORAY FOR LINUX!

# Gaming with SuperGamer-1

by Tim Robinson

Disclaimer: Some of the content of the Supergamer-1 DVD may be unsuitable for younger users. This article does not contain screenshots of such material.

**S**upergamer is a remaster of PCLinuxOS, optimized for gaming. It includes video drivers for 3D acceleration and was originally based on PCLinuxOS version p.91. Darin, the developer, states that Supergamer is compatible with PCLinuxOS and you may use the normal PCLinuxOS servers via Synaptic to update it. Supergamer comes as a Live DVD, meaning it will run completely from your DVD drive, without modifying your hard drive in any manner. However, as with PCLinuxOS, it can be installed to your hard drive once you determine that



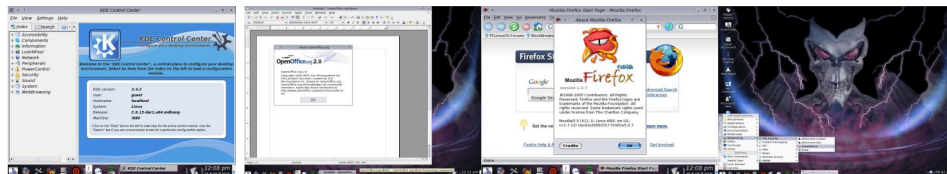
this is what you wish. There is a wide range of games, both full versions and demos for you to enjoy. They include:

- **3D:** America's Army, Cube, Doom 3, Enemy Territory, Legends, Nexiuz, Privateer, Quake 4, Soldier of Fortune, UFO: Alien Invasion, UT2004, Wesnoth
- **Arcade:** BzFlag, Chromium, 3D Pinball, Frozen Bubble, Neverball, Neverput, Penguin Racer, Supertux, Tuxkart
- **Cards:** Pysol
- **Strategy:** Foobillards

Other included software:

- **Kernel:** 2.6.13amd64op-smp squash 3 with source and stripped source installed
- **Office:** OpenOffice 2
- **Misc:** Xorg 6.8.2, gcc 3.3.1, Firefox 1.0.7, and kde 3.4.3.

Screenshots: In addition to screenshots included in this article, there is a large gallery available at <http://www.tuxmachines.org/gallery/supgam1/desktop>.

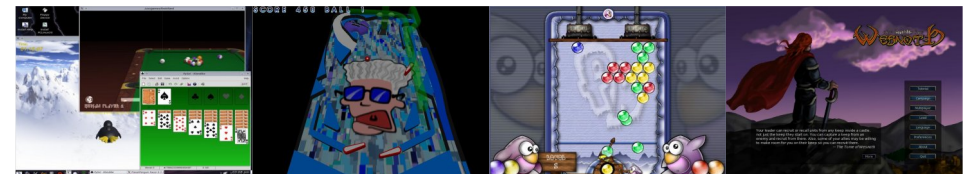


The impressive wall paper and related artwork was conceived by Darin's wife. You first meet the theme graphics during boot up. The icons and overall color scheme match the wallpaper throughout. The login screen also is slightly different to the standard PCLinuxOS distribution.



Darin says he created the Supergamer because of requests on the PCLinuxOS forum for a gaming version. He started with a basic PCLinuxOS base and added to it, based on suggestions from forum members. Apparently, it was a good direction; The Supergamer is constantly gaining support and interest.

Some of the more common Linux games are there. They all play as designed, and at good speed, even from the live DVD.





Even games such as Doom3 and Quake4 (demos included on the DVD), which make heavy demands on the system, play well. Delays are rare even though the software accesses the DVD. Screens tend to get darker as the quality setting is raised, but this is a function of the game software, and not due to PCLinuxOS Supergamer.



Quake4 suffered the same dark atmosphere at higher qualities. The screen shots are darker than the scenes appeared during play. Both games play well, even when running from the live DVD.



Soldier of Fortune is a slightly older game, so the

graphics are not up to current levels, but it plays well, and makes relatively low demands on the system.



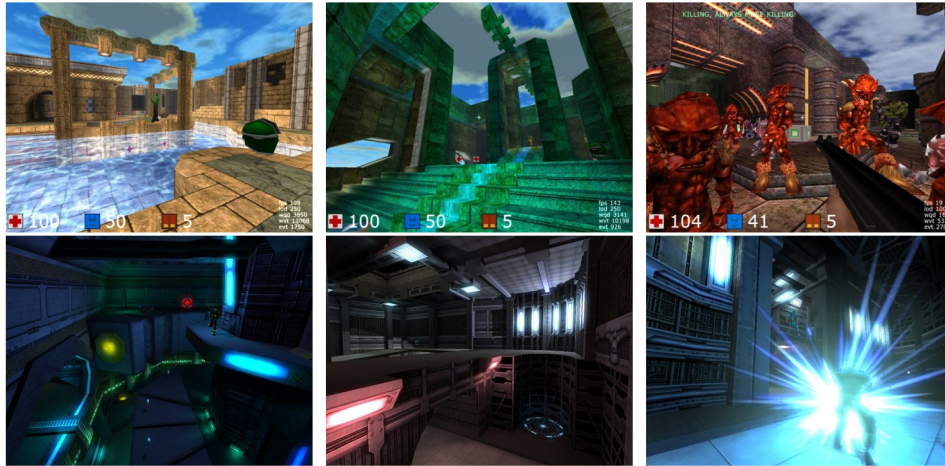
In the third screen shot below, you see what happens if you shoot your drill instructor in the head while playing America's Army. You go to Leavenworth, and sit. Nothing happens, you're just there.



If you like on line play, you'll enjoy Legends. The environment is interesting and the scenery is attractive.

Here are some screen shots from Cube and Nexiuz:





I've covered only part of the wide range of games and other software included in the Supergamer DVD. The download is 3.6 gigabytes, but if you have the bandwidth, it's definitely worth a look. There is a torrent available here: Supergamer Torrent. If you can't deal with a 3.6 gigabyte download, why not visit On-disk.com and purchase a DVD ready to use, for a very modest fee (doing so, also sends Texstar, PCLinuxOS's creator, a small donation).

There is an active board on the PCLinuxOS Forum for discussions, questions, or requests.

## Make PCLinuxOS Beautiful!



In line with another MyPCLinuxOS.com project, PCLinuxOS Magazine is proud to announce PCLinuxOS Beautification Project headed by gryphen. The project is an effort to bring an overall "complete" feel to the default desktop. Get involved with the project now, and make every one of your ideas and graphics count! Visit <http://www.mypclinuxos.com/index.php?topic=272.0>.



# TinyMe

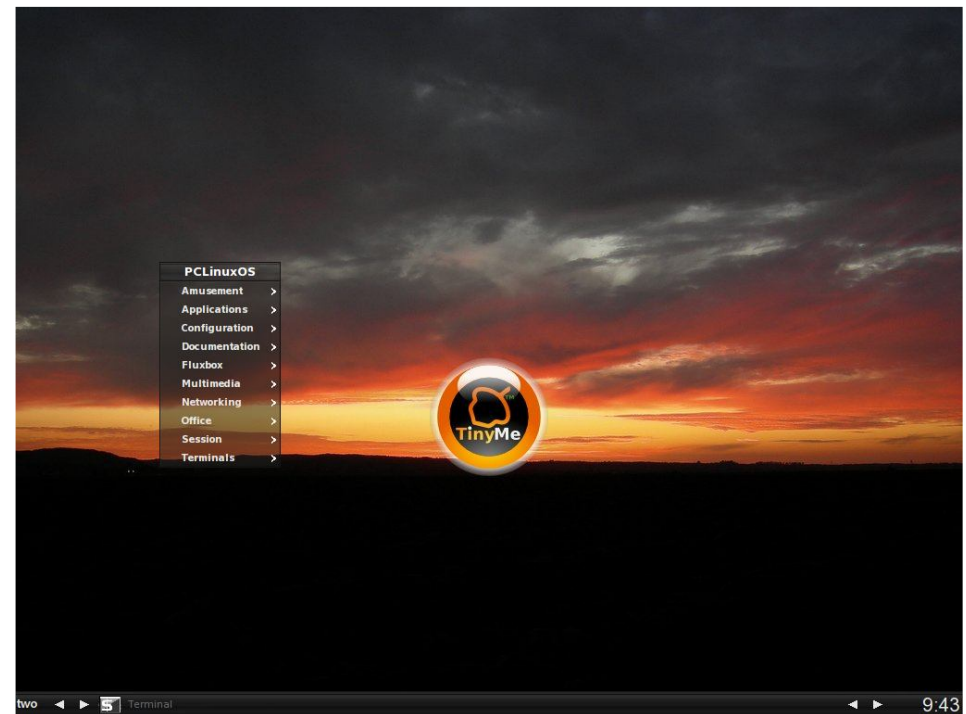
by KDulcimer

**T**inyMe is the latest PCLinuxOS effort intended to create a competitor to distributions such as Puppy and Feather Linux. It is targeted at computers that have little memory and/or a slow processor, while maintaining compatibility with the PCLinuxOS repositories.

The inspiration for TinyMe began with .93a MiniMe. Many applications have been removed to create a slimmer and more efficient operating system for computers with minimal hardware resources. We have added the Fluxbox desktop with a black theme, along with basic applications for file browsing, writing, e-mail, and web browsing. Efforts to reduce the size of the ISO to 100-150MB are ongoing.

Although the latest installment in the PCLinuxOS family is not intended for the new Linux user, TinyMe should provide new life and speed to old computers

and will inspire more projects.



# Kid-Safe Live CD

*And what better way to help spread the good news about PCLinuxOS than through the Kid-Safe LiveCD! After all, children are our future.*

by Brian D. Burns <[wizard.rb@gmail.com](mailto:wizard.rb@gmail.com)>

**F**or many years, I've been fascinated by the idea of Linux and the Open Source community. Finally, in February of this year, I took the plunge and decided to give Linux a serious look. At every turn, I've been amazed at the progress that has been made. In fact, there's so much going on in the world of Linux these days, it's enough to make your head spin!

As I began my journey, I quickly discovered the wide variety of distributions available. I played with several, including building a few LFS (Linux From Scratch) systems in an effort to gain a deeper understanding of Linux. During this learning process, I discovered

LiveCDs. Being the geek that I am, I knew I had to build one.

The idea of a Kid-Safe LiveCD seemed obvious. The fact that a LiveCD operates without disturbing the host system makes it the perfect platform to let kids play on the computer. I tried several different methods to create this system, including LFS, Knoppix and Slax, but none of them worked the way I wanted. I knew that in order to achieve my goal, I needed to be able to login to an operating system, customize it, then create a LiveCD from it. After many days of searching, I stumbled upon PCLinuxOS p.93-MiniMe. In less than 8 hours of looking at this system, I was in heaven! I

was so excited, I went straight to work building the first release.

Since that time, I've come to really appreciate PCLinuxOS. Not only the OS itself, but the community as well. And what better way to help spread the good news about PCLinuxOS than through the Kid-Safe LiveCD! After all, children are our future.



With the current release of the Kid-Safe LiveCD (0.25-beta), I feel that the look and feel of this system has really taken shape. But there is still so much to do... and for me to learn. I'm working now on learning more about KDE and its kiosk features, as well as RPM packaging. I hope to be able to produce either a

single RPM, or a combination of RPM's, that can be applied to the latest MiniMe release of PCLinuxOS which will put into place all the required components to create the Kid-Safe LiveCD. I'd like to make it as simple as possible for anyone to create their own customized version of this system.

Current information about this project can be found on my home page at [http://bellsouthpwp2.net/w/i/wizard\\_rb/kid-safe/](http://bellsouthpwp2.net/w/i/wizard_rb/kid-safe/). Once the RPM's are ready, the project's home page will be moved to SourceForge at <http://kid-safe.sourceforge.net/>. This will allow those interested in contributing to the project easy access to the sources.

Finally, I'd like to thank everyone for their support and interest in this project. The world can be a very cruel place for children... especially these days. The only way to make this world a safer, friendlier place is for parents to make their responsibility of raising their children their number one priority. Only with a great effort will we be able to produce a new generation of young adults and future parents who will nurture the good that is within all of us, and defeat the evil that surrounds us. If my efforts in creating a safe, wholesome environment for kids to learn about computers can play a part in this great struggle, well... it's the greatest reward anyone could ask for.

# Creating Your Own Web Site

by Rodney A. Adkins

**R**eview: In the last issue of PCLinuxOS Magazine we created a very basic web page. As stated before in the tutorial, the opening tags always have a closing tag. In the page below the main codes that make the page are `<html></html>` `<head></head>` `<title></title>` and the `<body></body>` tags.

```
<!DOCTYPE HTML PUBLIC "-//W3C//DTD
HTML 4.01 Transitional//EN">
<html>
<head>
<title>Jerry-Lee The Dog</title>
</head>
```

```
<body>
<h2>Welcome to Jerry-Lee's Web
Site</h2><br>
<p>
I am a twelve year old German Shepard
that does not bark. I have big brown
eyes and really know how to beg. <br>
I have a good life, sleep on the sofa
in the play room. Have lots to eat
and I am happy. It really is a dogs
life!<br>
I know you will come back soon </p>
<p>Jerry-Lee. </p>
```



face="veranda". Now coding a web page has changed. Today most sites use Cascading Style Sheets (CSS). There are two types of style sheets: internal and external. An internal style sheet works the best if you are only going to use that style on one page. An external style sheet gives more flexibility when you are going to apply the style across the whole web site. This allows a person to change the look and feel of the web site by changing one style sheet.

This is what an Internal style sheet looks like:

```
<html>
<head>
  <title>Internal Style Sheet
  Example</title>
  <style>
    <!--
      body { background: #C9F1C5 }
      h1 { color: #54B24B; font: bold
14px Verdana, Arial, Helvetica }
      p { font: 12px Verdana, Arial,
Helvetica }
    -->
  </style>
</head>
<body>
<h2>Welcome to Jerry-Lee's Web
Site</h2><br>
<p>
I am a twelve year old German Shepard
that does not bark. I have big brown
eyes and really know how to beg. <br>
I have a good life, sleep on the sofa
in the play room. Have lots to eat
and I am happy. It really is a dogs
life!<br>
I know you will come back soon </p>
<p>Jerry-Lee. </p>
</html>
```

For our document we are going to link an external style sheet. The style sheet is linked to the web page by coding a link between the two header tags. The style sheet for this web page is called jerry.css. The link is `<link rel="stylesheet" type="text/css" href="jerry.css" />`. Remember to put the link between the two header tags in the document.

**To create a style sheet** all you need is a text editor. Open the editor and save an empty document as `jerry.css`. As I plan to put a background down the left side of the Web page I will add the image to the background in the style sheet. The code will look like this:

```
/* Created by Rodney Adkins
```

```

*/

body{
background-image:url(bone.jpg);
background-repeat:repeat-y;
margin-bottom:15px;
margin-left:65px;
margin-right:20px;
margin-top;2px;
font-family:Verdana, Geneva, Arial,
sans-serif;
font-size:90%;
color:#000000;
}
p {
margin-left:100px;
margin-right:80px;
font-family:Verdana, Geneva, Arial,
sans-serif;
font-size:90%;
color:#000000;
line-height:150%;
}
h2{
text-align:middle;
font-family:Verdana, Geneva, Arial,
sans-serif;
font-size:medium;
color:#740000;
line-height:150%;
}

```

```

img{
margin-left:1px;
}

```

Notice in the coding for the background, the coding has `repeat y`. If I wanted the image over the whole page I could have coded `repeat x` as well or just `repeat`. The margins are where I choose to put them. I have margins for the left, right, top and bottom of the page. Also I stipulated the text size for the page to be 90% of the size the person usually views web pages at. If they want to increase the size of the font they still can. Font sizes to choose from are, `xxsmall`, `xsmall`, `small`, `medium`, `large`, `xlarge`. You can also do the size in percentage. Try different sizes, font styles and colors in the CSS and see the changes you can make to the web page. Alter the margins too.



*Browsers work very simply; if they do not recognize a tag they will ignore it. If this happens make sure the tag is spelled correctly, make sure there are no extra characters in the tag. Like the tag `<p align="right">`, a browser may have difficulty in recognizing a `<p align="right>`. Also remember the "" (quotation marks) in tags.*







In the next issue we will discuss linking documents, linking internal documents and moving around a document using jumps.

So far the document has used heading tag, paragraph tag and img tag. The formatting that has been done at this point in the creation of this page is to break the lines, tell the paragraphs where to start and end, as well as telling the image where to display and how far to keep the text away from the image. The document now has specified font sizes and margins for the

documents. The document has also had a background and a footer added to it.

*To be continued next issue.*

## PCLinuxOS 0.93a Junior

Texstar announced the release of PCLinuxOS 0.93a Junior on August 9, 2006

PCLinuxOS 0.93a Junior was the next step up from MiniMe. Junior comes with just the basic desktop allowing full user customization.

PCLinuxOS 0.93a Junior is a self booting Live CD with advanced hardware detection. In addition to running Junior in Live CD mode, you can also install it to your computer. Easy to follow instructions are included on the Live CD as well as a chat channel for instant help.

Junior comes with a set of pre-selected programs for Web Browsing, Email, Instant Messaging, Blogging, IRC chat, Music, Graphics, Video (additional software required for encrypted DVD playback and proprietary formats), Digital Camera, Games, Ftp, Bit torrent transfer, CD/DVD burning and more.

If you are first time Linux user or someone migrating from Windows then PCLinuxOS 0.93a Junior is a great way to get started using Linux. After installing PCLinuxOS to your computer, you can access an additional 5000 programs and libraries from our free software repository.

The current list of programs on Junior can be found at <http://www.pclinuxos.com//page.php?12l>.

# Get GMail to Work in Your Browser

by KDulcimer

**M**any people here have a GMail account and like to check it via the Web. However, GMail only officially fully supports Internet Explorer, Mozilla, Safari, and Firefox. Many others here prefer Opera (which I use) or some other browser like Konqueror. In these browsers, some of the GMail features do not work or GMail does not work at all. Here, I'll tell you how to get GMail running to the best of your browser's ability.

## Dillo

Go to V--> Options--> Network--> change user agent to Mozilla 4.0. This will not fully enable GMail, but it will make it usable.

## Opera

Go to mail.google.com, then open Tools--> Quick Preferences--> Edit site preferences--> Network--> change Browser Identification to "Mask as Mozilla?". Now log in and proceed as normal.

## Flock

Flock needs no tweaking; GMail works perfectly.

## Konqueror

In Konqueror, go to Settings--> Configure Konqueror--> Browser Identification--> set domain to mail.google.com, then set Konqueror to identify itself

as Mozilla on Windows.

## eLinks

Elinks works surprisingly well with Gmail. I couldn't find any tweaks to make it work better.

## Epiphany, Writely

Epiphany runs off the Firefox engine and requires no tweaking.

The same is true for Writely.

## Addendum by davecs:

*How to make it EVEN BETTER in Firefox (This should work for Flock, too).*

Add the following extensions:

- 1.Greasemonkey
- 2.Google Notebook
- 3.GMail Manager (if you have more than one account)
- 4.GMail Space.

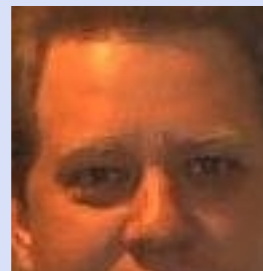
Note that you get Google Notebook by typing in <http://www.google.com/notebook> and you find Greasemonkey at <http://greasemonkey.mozdev.org>.

Once you have added Greasemonkey, you can try the

following Greasemonkey scripts:

- 1.GMail Cleanup
- 2.GMail Unlabeled
- 3.GMail Conversation Preview
- 4.Hide GMail Right Side Ads
- 5.Secure GMail
- 6.Mailto Compose in GMail

The last of these is great, it makes any e-mail address link in your browser throw up a GMail compose window rather than starting Thunderbird or KMail.



## Have you seen this man?

Who is he? Is he a Black or a White Hat? What is Linux to him? Find out more at

<http://www.tuxmachines.org/node/30>

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Consider a  
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# Suggestions and Tips for Newbies

by V.C. Heirman

**I**'ve been using the PCLinuxOS distribution since May 2006. There were obstacles along the way, of course, but nothing that couldn't be solved with some help from the PCLinuxOS main forum, or by just experimenting. There were many instances, however, when I wished I had a person sitting next to me that I could ask basic questions. Since this is a luxury not all of us have, I decided to write this article with some suggestions, and to share some of my newbie experiences with you. It's nowhere near as good as having your personal nerd, but I hope it is helpful.

Like many newbies, I often forget to use the search

function before getting frustrated or asking questions online. I have since realized that 85% of the things I want to know are answered already in one of the forums or Wikis. Making an effort to search (it may take a few tries) is a timesaver for yourself and for the community. Remember to use appropriate and sensible search terms.

Adjusting your computer, operating system and programs can make all the difference between a superb, fun, efficient computing experience and agonizing drudgery. Some examples:

**Tweaking Firefox** really makes it much neater, faster,

more secure and convenient. If you spend a lot of time surfing you will notice a marked positive difference with an appropriate setup. To accomplish this, I recommend upgrading Firefox first, since not all of the addons work with older versions that may come with your distribution. The best addons in my opinion are most of the top ten extensions on <https://addons.mozilla.org/firefox/>. I always include Session Manager 0.4.3 (which will add some great functionality), the Black Japan theme (very easy on the eyes yet great legibility) and remove the Google and other commercial search engines and replace them with the likes of Wiki, Rotten Tomatoes and other such engines. The Scroogle engine will allow you to search as efficiently as Google, without the major drawbacks.

The Thunderbird mail client is amazing, but being rather new to mail clients I often have trouble setting them up (the configuration for the outgoing and incoming mail servers, etc). If you have trouble with this ask your provider for help, as having a powerful mail client really improves the quality of computing, especially when compared to certain online mail services. If you know how, it is a three minute set up. Once you have it working, go through the settings and write them down on paper (keeping them on your PC is useless if your PC ends up fried) as you are likely to need them again one day. This goes for all your

essential settings and tweaks.

As a person who likes order, I really do my best to keep my desktop as clean and functional as possible. That means I always make an "Initial Icons" folder in the corner of my desktop and dump all the icons I rarely use into this folder. This includes the Beginners Manual icon, the Donate icon, the secondary Home icon and more. If ever I need or miss them, I can always find them there or even put them back where they were. The idea is to have as few icons as possible cluttering up your desktop, and the ones you do have should link to programs and directories you access most often.

PCLinuxOS comes with many great and clear icons installed. I like using a nice picture of a hard drive on my desktop called "All Drives," which is linked to "All Media" as I need to access this often. Also, I find the igloo icon for Home (folder) very cute but ambiguous, so I replace it with the little house icon instead. Many other icons are also useful for MP3 players, specific programs and folders, etc. These type of things may seem very minor, but I find they end up saving you work with the mouse and time too. Additionally, people new to PCLinuxOS will find the process of searching for locations and programs a lot easier if you make it visual. If you're not sure how to replace icons, check the manual or Wiki. It's really

very easy and quick.

If you intend to buy hardware (especially printers, CD-writers and MP3 Players), always check the lists on the Internet to see if it is Linux compatible. Check out this site which has a list of PCLinuxOS-compatible hardware: <http://www.theloveoflinux.com/hwdb/>.

It pays to shop around. For every piece of hardware there is always at least one or two manufacturers that offer great quality, price, and support Linux too. The Sandisk Sansa E 270 6 Gb "I Pod Nano" clone is a good example. I have used both and the Sandisk is better in almost every way than the Nano, and a bit cheaper. It works straight away with PCLinuxOS. In this example, by shopping around you would end up with a player that has 2 Gigabytes more storage space, much longer battery life/hours of playback, a superior screen, expandable memory and other improved features. The conventional choice is not always the best one; this goes for hardware as well as operating systems.

I found there are many useful applications and helpful programs included in PCLinuxOS. Even so, it's easy to assume they're not there or even miss them altogether. Spend some time each boot up checking out one or two of them. I found that nearly everything I needed was there, right under my nose, but I still had

this Windows mindset of *"Great... I need a program, I guess I better go find freeware, download it, install it or alternatively pay out a truckload of money for commercial software."* A particular example in my case would be Kmix (if you need a small volume control in your system tray), particularly useful if you are watching videos on line and don't want the whole neighborhood to enjoy them too because the volume is not set right. Also there are one or two applications that will help you fix your MP3 ID tags and names quickly.

Linux may be solid as a rock, but backing up is essential here also. Remember, if you are new to an OS (no matter which) chances are very good you will mess it up at various times; you will actually learn a great deal from this, so no need to worry about it, (providing you backed up of course, preferably on a separate physical drive). Back up the things that are irreplaceable to you. In my case these include pictures, music, settings and documents. Ideally you could have a program running in the background that automatically makes duplicates of certain directories at set time intervals (I am still looking for one of these). Another option would be to make your own Image/Live CD with all your settings; see the Wiki for this.

In the same vein, make sure you don't log in as Root

unless you really need to and change your Root password when you first install.

I personally tried quite a few distros before I found that for me PCLinuxOS was the very best. Results may differ for you, check out [www.distrowatch.com](http://www.distrowatch.com), do a live-cd distro test, think about your needs and hardware, and try a couple. Distros I thought had real merit were Puppy - especially on older/slower rigs, Mandriva, Kubuntu and a couple more. But there is also the old adage of "if it works, don't fix it!" By that I mean that if you find a distro that runs great on your hardware and does everything you want it to then stick with it. Try as many live CDs as you like, but test those CDs a lot and think long and hard before you overwrite your main distro. Of course having another PC for testing purposes solves this problem, but that option is not available to everyone. It's often the details that you don't see at first that make a great distro. In my opinion this is one of the areas where PCLinuxOS truly shines.

I found the file system, directory structure, and partitioning that Linux employs to be total mumbo jumbo at first, but it helps to think of the directory structure as a family tree. It also helps to figure out what Linux calls your hard disks: hda, hdb, hd... (not C: or D: as in Windows). You will find there is usually more than one way to navigate to a certain (deeper)

directory and this can get confusing. Again, writing things down, employing quick access icons, and reading is the way to go. Look up "Var," "Home," "Lost and Found," "/", "Root" and others in the online tutorials and Wikis, and really make an effort to visualize what they are, what belongs in them, and how to navigate to them. Then write it all down.

Sometimes you will get stuck. A couple of days ago, I removed some directories I thought could be redundant. Oops! On the next reboot, the graphical environment wouldn't load and I was left with a command line only. I tried to correct this problem with the Live CD, but got frustrated and decided to reinstall. That was a good choice in this case. Everything works even better now and I took the opportunity to repartition and reformat my secondary drive using the native Linux file system. Things seem speedier now. So, sometimes reinstalling is quicker and easier (especially since the PCLinuxOS install procedure is lightning fast when compared to the Windows equivalent) than troubleshooting certain problems. The downside is you will probably need to redo your settings although the PCLinuxOS Wiki explains how to avoid that!

Above all enjoy! It's truly a joy to use an operating system that is legal, stable, free, complete and above all a labor of love! If ever you get stuck or frustrated,

remember there are many people on the boards and elsewhere willing to advise. As you can probably tell from this article I am no Linux whiz-kid, but PCLinuxOS puts a smile on my face every time I use it; I hope you have the same experience.

And one more thing, donating to Tex & the team is the right thing to do. They've put a lot of work into developing a fabulous distribution and the community's financial support makes it all possible. If you haven't sent in a contribution yet, I would encourage you to do so. Even if just to say, "Thanks!"

## PCLinuxOS MiniMe 0.93a

PCLinuxOS MiniMe 0.93a is the minimal version of our Live CD for those who just want a basic desktop without the bloat allowing for full user customization. Simply put the CD into your CD or DVD drive and run it in live mode without ever touching anything on your computer. In addition to the Live CD mode you can also save your changes to a usb key disk.

PCLinuxOS MiniMe can be installed to your computer by simply clicking on the install icon on the desktop and using the easy to follow instructions provided you like PCLinuxOS and it runs well on your computer.

After hard drive installation, you can access over 5000 programs to fully customize your desktop the way **YOU** want.

## Surfing Anonymously

by Tim Robinson

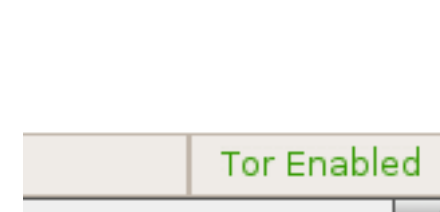
Recently I needed to visit a site anonymously. That is, without that site being able to identify my IP address. There are services out there that perform this function, but for interactive web sites they charge an annual fee. If I had the money for that, I'd send it to Tex first. So...

I installed Tor (in the repositories) and also Privoxy (also available through Synaptic. Visit this page: <http://tor.eff.org/docs/tor-doc-unix.html.en> and follow the instructions there. Open Privoxy's "config" file (look in /etc/privoxy/ or /usr/local/etc/) and add the line

```
forward-socks4a / localhost:9050 .
```

to the top of the config file. Don't forget to add the dot at the end. I had to copy that file into /home/me for Tor to use it.

Then visit <https://addons.mozilla.org/firefox/2275/> and install the Torbutton Plugin, restart Firefox and you will now have a single click way to activate/deactivate Tor when in Firefox. To use it, Tor must be started in a terminal window ("tor -f" without the quotes) and Privoxy also ("privoxy" without the quotes as Root). The Torbutton will be in the bottom right corner of Firefox.



Now, when you need to be anonymous, just click the button before visiting the site. Turn it off when not needed, as it does slow your connection speed noticeably. A simple, free solution. Thank you, Tex for having just what I needed already there in the repositories.



# Xorg.conf Repair

by Devnet

If you're like me, you change things constantly in your Linux desktop. I'm always entering and tweaking `.conf` files to see what I can do and where the limits of things might be. In my attempt yesterday to get my EXACT monitor supported in PCLinuxOS, I hosed my `xorg.conf` file, which is where all the Xsession settings (or Xwindows session) are stored (like mouse, keyboard, monitor, and graphics driver settings). Since I hosed this up, my graphical user interface and window manager would not start. So I was dropped to login via the shell. This might be daunting for some new users in Linux so I figured I'd write up this short how-to that would get them back on their feet.

First, don't be intimidated by the shell. It's more powerful than a `cmd` line in windows and you'll have complete control of your computer from the confines of this awesome tool. Plus, you're about 15-20 seconds

away from having your desktop back up and running by executing only a few commands.

In order to fix your `xorg.conf` file, it's important that you become root; so login as root and let's fix your `xorg.conf` file in four commands.

*Editor's note: If you have an always-on Internet connection, it might be wise to disconnect that cable from your computer while you perform these steps.*

First, let's get to the right directory to work with `xorg.conf`:

```
[root@lostmain ~] cd /etc/X11
```

Next, let's remove all `xorg.conf` files and any backups (usually saved as `xorg.conf.old` or `xorg.conf.bak`) with the next command:

```
[root@lostmain X11] rm -f xorg.conf*
```

The `-f` flag forces the deleting of the files without prompting and the `*` means that we'll delete any file that starts with `xorg.conf`. That means `xorg.conf.bak` and `xorg.conf.old` will be deleted right along with our original `xorg.conf` file as well. Now let's fix this by using the shell PCLinuxOS Control Center. That's right, you don't have to have KDE fired up and running to access the PCLinuxOS Control Center; you can do it right here:

```
[root@lostmain X11] pcc
```

Now go into hardware and configure the display. When choosing a monitor, the quickest and easiest way to get back into a GUI is to use a "Generic" setting. I chose Generic 1280X1024 @ 76 for my Samsung Syncmaster 710N 17" LCD screen. Next up, If you have the ATI or Nvidia driver installed, it will ask you if you'd like to use it (choose yes). It will then ask if you'd like to change any options; the default is usually OK. Now it will take you in to test the configuration. If you see the rainbow test screen, you're set. If not, you'll have to change things (normally resolution) until you're able to see it. The test screen will ask you if you'd like to use the settings it's using to test the screen; hit yes (it might be "OK", I'm going from memory here) and you'll be dropped

right back to the shell.

Now we could start `kdm/xdm` and an `Xsession` here, but it's much easier for new users to simply reboot so:

```
[root@lostmain X11] reboot
```

Next time you start up things should be back to normal. Isn't it nice to be able to have quick resolutions to many Linux problems via the PCLinuxOS Control Center? What a great tool!

That was one of the main reasons I chose PCLinuxOS over other desktops. It has the PCLinuxOS Control Center available for me to configure samba, groupware, LDAP, Printers, etc. Pretty much anything I need to configure in Linux is ready and waiting for me in this fantastic control center. It usually puts new users at ease as well, since they're used to the control panel in Windows. I know when I was first introduced to Linux I noted that there was not a central place where I could control all things Linux (although `/etc` in Slackware is handy). Plus, if you're missing anything, send a quick word to the developers and chances are you'll see it included very soon. So get used to that PCLinuxOS Control Center! Remember that you can call it via the shell using the `pcc` command. Hopefully, this little tip has been helpful to you.

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