

LINUX SIG MEETING

Date of meeting: March 22, 2009

Dennis McCormick conducted the meeting.

Dennis McCormick brought in two LiveCDs:

One contained "PCLinuxOS 2009 with KDE desktop"

and

the other contained "PCLinuxOS 2009 with Gnome desktop"

He stated that these "distros" are super-easy for computer-challenged people to use.

He demonstrated how each of them appear on screen and the list of default applications in each. He

copied the LiveCDs using K3b for SIG attendees who wanted a copy.

The KDE .iso image file can be downloaded at

http://www.pclinuxos.com/index.php?option=com_ionfiles&Itemid=28

The KDE version contains a copy of "OpenOffice.org" and the KDE version is the default version at the PCLinuxOS Web site.

The Gnome .iso image file can be downloaded at

<http://linuxgator.org/download/download.html>

The Gnome version has some less well-known office applications such as the "Abiword" "Abiword" is a free, open-source Word processing application that can be downloaded for

Windows or Linux at

<http://www.abisource.com/download/>

"Abiword" can open, create, and revise most of the file formats that are created by Microsoft Word and Openoffice.org's "Write".

Dennis uses "Bittorrent" for fast downloads. It is available for free at

<http://www.bittorrent.com/>

Harry Elver demonstrated the "Presto PC" operating system, using an old, low-end Pentium II computer that he brought in.

"Presto" is a simple but powerful desktop operating system that starts up really fast (in less than half a minute) and shuts down quick (in several seconds). It runs well on older PCs that have small amounts of RAM. Harry Ever's clunker PC only had 256 Megabytes of RAM.

After you install "Presto PC beta", whenever you power up your computer, the "Windows Boot Manager" (of Windows Vista) or "NTLDR" (of Windows XP or Windows 2000) will let you choose between the "Windows" or the "Presto PC" operating systems. You can go to www.prestomypc.com to download "Presto PC Beta" for free until April 13, 2009. The file you will download is called "Presto1b.exe". You then install this file from inside Windows as if it were a Windows application.

"Presto" is a "distro" of Linux that that is being developed by the Xandros company.

According to

http://www.xandros.com/about/corporate_background.html

many of Xandro's products were/are derived from "Debian" Linux.

If you want to see the market share for Linux or any other operating system, go to Net Applications' report at

<http://marketshare.hitslink.com/operating-system-market-share.aspx?qprid=8>