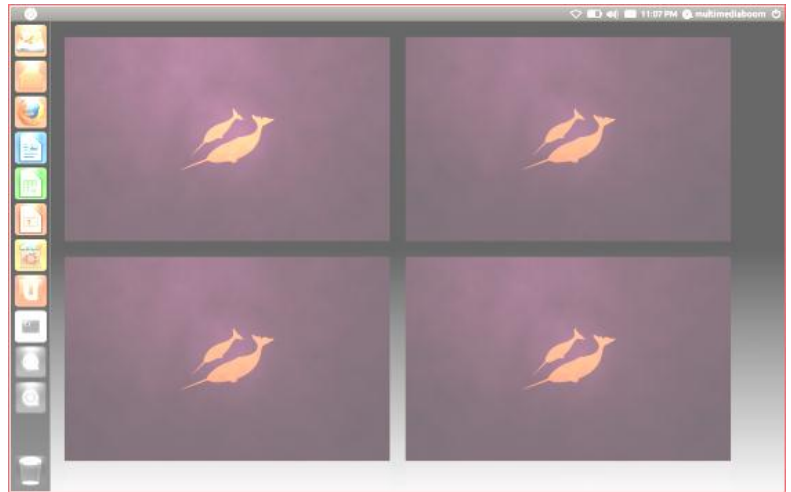


Things I like about Ubuntu 11.04

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ABSTRACT

Ubuntu is the most popular version of Linux. And, it's free. The latest, 11.04, has been out since April. This free version can be downloaded and installed on any computer that will run Windows XP. If your hardware has advanced features suitable for Windows 7, it will utilize those features for greater performance. It has been well received in the technical community because of features, support and overall user-friendliness. This lecture/demonstration will underscore the best of Ubuntu.



Look and Feel

1. Much faster boot than any Windows version. Applications run faster.
2. New Unity Launcher icon bar on the left side is similar to Windows task bar.
3. New Unity search icon, “+” lets you search for application programs instantly.
4. Unity shows most recently used applications.
5. LibreOffice included in basic package. This free software is compatible with MS Office.

General

1. Ubuntu is a “Parallel Universe”. It generally does not run Windows applications: It runs applications that are similar to Windows programs but are designed to run on Ubuntu. For example, it does not run Photoshop but it has applications that are similar to Photoshop that work with your camera files. These applications are normally free to download and use. It can't use Internet Explorer but Firefox is provided.
2. Over **70** programs are installed with the default package. These include Word Processing, Video, Music, Sound, Photo Editing, email, Printers, and others.
3. Over **2300** free application programs can be installed instantly. The Ubuntu Software Center (a desktop icon) makes “window shopping” easy.
4. Built in ISO burner for CD and DVD images.
5. New Control Center similar to Windows Control Panel.
6. Better speed than Windows 7, Vista, or XP.
7. Virtual Desktops (Workspaces): Like Windows you can run multiple programs simultaneously. However, those programs can be grouped onto 4 different desktops. This greatly decreases “Window Clutter” where one window covers another.
8. Much lower hardware requirements. Works well on older computers: P4, 1GHz cpu, 512MB ram, 5GB hard drive.
9. Ubuntu is very secure. Anti-Virus software is not required.
10. Compatible with most hardware like mp3 players, cameras or printers. Networks too!
11. Super high quality FLAC (free lossless audio codec) audio is built-in as is “torrent” downloading.
12. New “Ubuntu One” can optionally get you into “cloud” computing with 2 Gigabyte free trial.

Computer Test and Maintenance

1. A “no changes” version of Ubuntu either on a CD-ROM disk or on a memory stick can be installed in about 5 minutes on any computer.
2. You can now verify all hardware and access all Windows files.
3. You can even copy important data (like photos or documents) to a backup drive.

Installation

1. Download a disk image (**.iso**) and burn an install disk. (32 bit and 64 bit versions are available). On Windows 7 this means “download to the desktop and double-click on the filename”. Other computers will require ISO burning software like Nero or Roxio.
help.ubuntu.com/community/BurningIsoHowto
2. You now have the equivalent of the \$220.00 Microsoft Windows 7 installation disk and you may use it on any number of computers. Total cost = 0.
3. Next, place CD-ROM into your computer and boot from it to install either a temporary version (no changes) or a permanent version (modifies hard drive) of Ubuntu. (Most computers allow booting from CD-ROM.)
4. For permanent installations, be sure to use the “Update Manager” to download the latest patches for the system. This should be done every week to stay Up-to-Date.

Demonstration Computer

1. Windows 7 Home Premium
2. System Board (MicroATX) – Intel D945GCLF2 all-in-one with the following specs:
3. Intel Atom 330 Dual Core 1.6 GHz Processor w 2 Gigabytes of Ram.
4. Video – Intel Express chipset on-board with 256 Megabytes of Ram.

Technical Links

1. <http://www.ubuntu.com>

Other Distributions

1. Ubuntu 11.04 is just one of many Ubuntu versions. In addition to 32 bit and 64 bit desktop and server versions there is still active support for older versions that have even lower hardware requirements. For example there are some versions that work with computers that have only 128 Megs of ram.
 2. Ubuntu is the most popular. There are other free distributions that may be of interest. These include: PCLinuxOS, Gentoo, Mandriva, openSUSE, Debian GNU/Linux, FreeBSD, and others.
 3. There are also some non-free versions of Linux that come with phone support. These are most often used in businesses. (Novell, Red Hat, SUSE, etc.)
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