

/DEV/RANDOM/

Final thoughts, musings and reflections



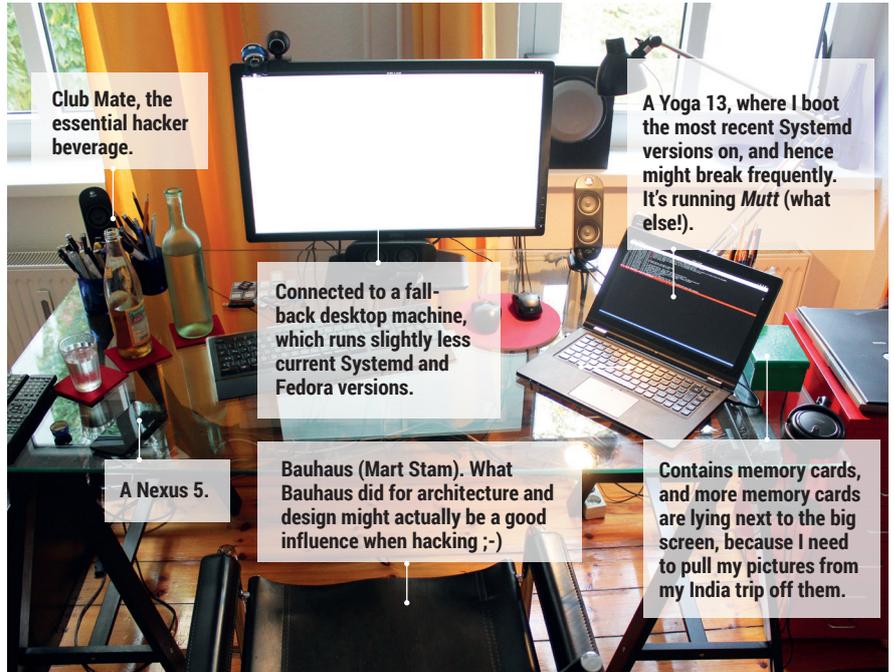
Nick Veitch was the original editor of *Linux Format*, a role he played until he got bored and went to work at Canonical instead. Splitter!

It has been 10 years since the first version of Ubuntu launched to largely unsuspecting masses. It was brown. It was easy to install. It changed the history of Linux distros (whether or not you ever used it) and 10 years later on is more or less the most popular version of Linux in the known universe. There has been controversy. No doubt there will continue to be so. The world rarely changes without it. But even detractors would have to admit that in the primary mission of making a “Linux for human beings” it has been tremendously successful.

A lot of other things have changed in 10 years. Who would have thought you would ever see a Microsoft CEO delivering a keynote in front of a huge screen proclaiming “Microsoft ♥ Linux”? And yet, it has come to pass (<http://goo.gl/dpJloJ>). This is largely because of Azure, Microsoft’s cloud platform, which has to be Linux-friendly because various flavours of Linux (notably Ubuntu) are the most popular images used in the cloud (and about 20% of Azure).

A lot of other things haven’t changed. It is still difficult to find a choice of laptop with Linux pre-installed, and even if you decide to install it yourself, some shop staff often seem, erm, confused about what that entails (<http://goo.gl/Hnh4JO>). But wait, things have changed here too, as Currys reaffirmed that wasn’t their official policy (<http://goo.gl/U0DGcb>).

Who knows what may change in the next ten years? By the time we get around to Omnipotent Owl maybe (if *Systemd* hasn’t morphed into Skynet and destroyed humanity) people will be happy with their desktop environment, all hardware will ship with Linux support and Linux Voice will be beamed directly to your neurons. I bet Berlin still won’t have settled on a standard for office software though.



Club Mate, the essential hacker beverage.

A Yoga 13, where I boot the most recent Systemd versions on, and hence might break frequently. It’s running *Mutt* (what else!).

Connected to a fall-back desktop machine, which runs slightly less current Systemd and Fedora versions.

A Nexus 5.

Bauhaus (Mart Stam). What Bauhaus did for architecture and design might actually be a good influence when hacking ;-)

Contains memory cards, and more memory cards are lying next to the big screen, because I need to pull my pictures from my India trip off them.

My Linux Setup **Lennart Poettering**

The creator of PulseAudio and Systemd gives us a glimpse of his coding den.

Q What version of Linux are you using at the moment?

A I have a laptop with current Fedora Rawhide, which I use for day-to-day hacking. I also have a desktop with stable Fedora 20, so that I always have a machine I can email from.

Q What was the first Linux setup you ever used?

A I got Slackware from a friend, some time in 1996, when I was 16. It was awful, I really didn’t understand a thing I was doing back then, so after two weeks I deleted Slackware again and moved back to Windows.

A year and a half later I then bought a shrink-wrapped box of Red Hat 5.0, together with a friend. I still didn’t get it really, but I found it interesting enough to stick with it, and then switched to Debian

which I stayed with for a long time.

Q What Free Software can’t you live without?

A Uh, oh. To be honest, from time to time when I travel I live without any computer or software for a month, and I really enjoy it... That said, if you press me hard I’d say *Emacs*, of course!

Q What do other people love but you can get on without?

A Hmm, good question. *LibreOffice* Impress, maybe? I do all my slides with *Latex Beamer*!

Q Is there a piece of proprietary software you wish were free and open source?

A The Coverity static analyzer is really the only thing that comes to mind here for me! ☹