

/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!

So, at this time of year, there is one burning question on everyone's mind. I don't mean whether Santa will be able to deliver a 3D printer on time, but... will 2015 finally be the year of Linux on the Desktop?

I'm sorry, it's just my seasonal joke. 2015 will come and go and still analysts will tell us that Linux is irrelevant, nobody uses it and even Mac OS X is more worthy of attention. Maybe, in some ways, they are right. I know I have long since tired of trying to convert friends and relatives to the way of Linux.

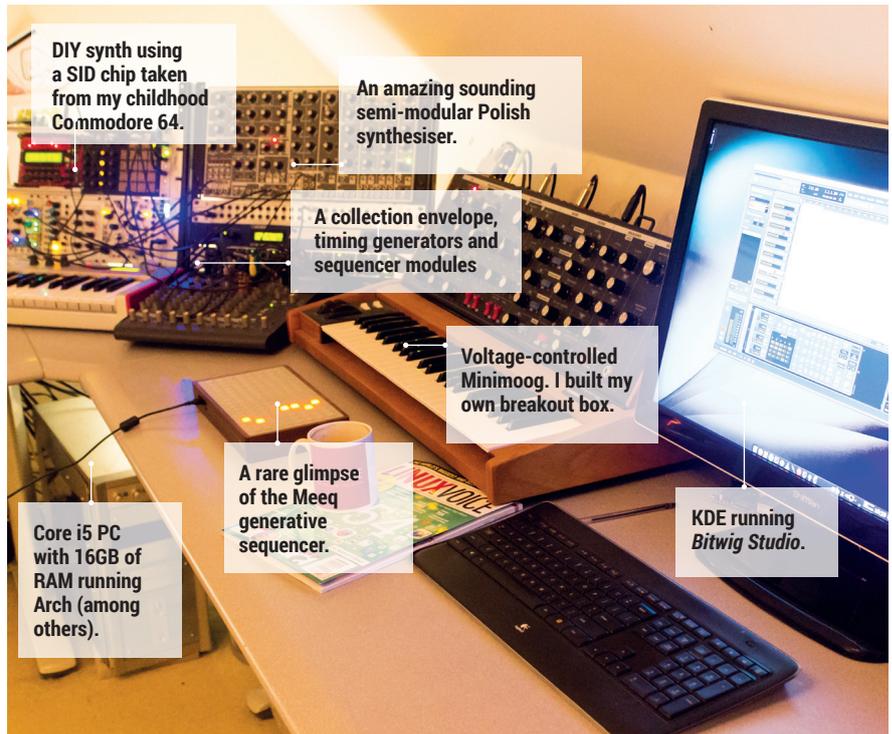
If anything, running Linux is a great get-out-of-jail-free card for me, because at family gatherings I can truthfully deny being able to help them with their IT problems, since I have never run Windows 8 or seen a version of OS X since they stopped naming them after cats.

The amusing thing is, that aside from the desktop, Linux is not only flourishing, but open source operating systems dominate.

Servers have long been the mainstay of Linux usage, but in emerging areas of computing, like clouds, Linux all but eclipses everything else. You may argue whether Android really counts as Linux (I would say not), but in the mobile and tablet space it also eats the competition.

But those are boring examples. A lot of the systems run by the European Space Agency are based on their own version of Linux – it forms part of the standard software deployment for remote experimentation. Even better, a lot of the Antarctic ice shelf was just measured by this (www.who.edu/page.do?pid=21140) – an autonomous underwater vehicle that runs on Ubuntu. Because why not?

Let the "others" keep the desktop – everything exciting runs on Linux. And I won't have to answer so many support questions at dinner.



My Linux Setup **Graham Morrison**

Editor of *Linux Voice* and creator of weird music noises.

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

A I've been using Arch for a couple of years. But that's not really a badge of honour. I'm constantly breaking it and getting told off. But I do love the user repository and the package management.

Q What was the first Linux setup you ever used?

A I tried getting Red Hat 5.1 running on a Commodore Amiga and gave up when I couldn't get X to work. After that, it was Mandrake 6.0 on a PC a couple of years later.

Q What Free Software/open source can't you live without?

A There's just so much; Vim/X/KDE/Audacity/Bash/kernel/Kodi/Arduour/

Gimp. The list is endless. But to be a little more adventurous, I launch everything from KDE's *Kickoff*.

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

A I really don't like most music players – such as *Amarok*. I listen to quite a lot of music and I just want quick access to audio and simplicity. I don't want Wikipedia entries, lyrics and VU meters.

Q Is there one single piece of proprietary software you wish were open source?

A Adobe's *InDesign*. That way I'd be completely free of any other operating system but Linux. ☑