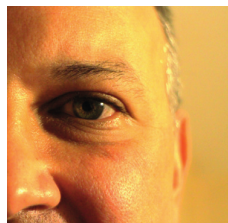# /DEV/RANDOM/

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!

Money is great. You can do all sorts of things with it. It really is rather amazing, and we should all pay due homage to Pheidon, who struck the first recognised coins (in Argos, or possibly Lydia) in about 700BC, since which time it has certainly been a much easier trip to the supermarket.
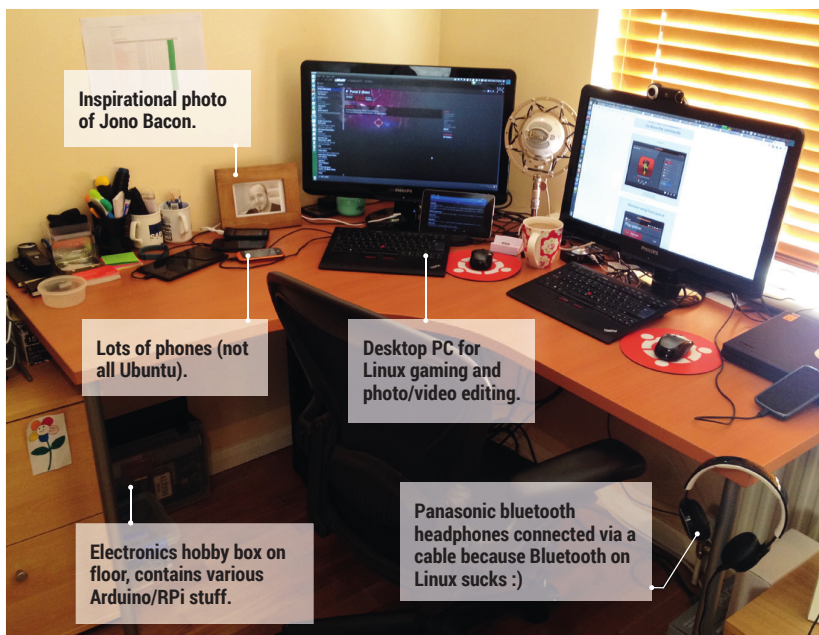
It is therefore a good thing that Linux Voice is giving away 50% of its profits to the needy of open source. Loads of projects, big and small, useful and silly, will no doubt benefit. But, in a terrible paraphrasing of Bob Geldof, "it's not enough". Not that I think 50% isn't enough – I mean money isn't enough.

Many a time, when I have been confronted by a pernicious bug, or some rogue documentation or an unintelligible user interface, I have taken a crisp £20 out of my wallet and waved it at the screen saying "here, for the love of everything that doesn't suck, fix this". Sometimes I have got up to £100, but the screen stares impassively back, taunting my impotence.

As I have already mentioned, money is incredibly useful. Projects can use it for much-needed hardware, or maybe for inescapable ISP costs, attending events or securing an adequate supply of caffeine...

But. What projects often need, sometimes even more than Bitcoins, is vitality, effort and responsiveness. This is usually achieved by having a vibrant, involved community. There have been dozens of articles online and elsewhere on different ways you can help open source software, even if you can't write code.

Paying your way in open source is a good thing, but getting involved is better. If you like software, support it. Get involved. Sometimes little more is required to keep a software project ticking along than just people turning up.

Inspirational photo of Jono Bacon.

Lots of phones (not all Ubuntu).

Desktop PC for Linux gaming and photo/video editing.

Electronics hobby box on floor, contains various Arduino/RPi stuff.

Panasonic bluetooth headphones connected via a cable because Bluetooth on Linux sucks :)

My Linux setup Alan Pope

@uupc podcaster and Canonical chap shows us the office.

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

A Ubuntu Trusty (which will become 14.04) on laptop and desktop. Also, Ubuntu on the Nexus 4's and Nexus 7's. One 2012 Nexus 7 running Android constantly running **irssi-notifier** to alert me of IRC pings.

Q What desktop do you use? If we had to guess, we' say...

A ... Unity on the laptop, desktop and phone.

Q What was the first Linux setup you ever used?

A Red Hat, which I got with a book in around 1996. I had no clue what I was doing, but the terminal seemed cool! Next stop Debian, then Ubuntu where I've stayed for nine years.

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

A Linux itself. While I use the entire stack every day, without the work done by the Linux kernel developers, I can't imagine most of the rest of it would be as advanced and usable as it is.

Q What do other people love but you can't get on with?

A KDE. I promised to try it for a full 6 months. Got intensely frustrated with it after a month and gave up, never looked back.

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