

/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!

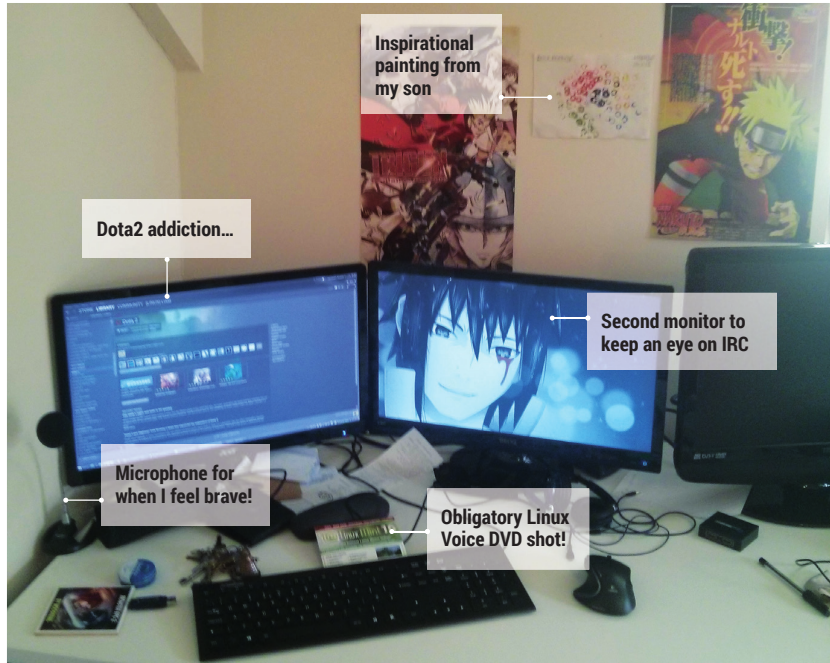
A short time ago I found myself at the head of a table one of the many restaurants of a large Las Vegas hotel. To the left of me, some of the very best Go programmers in the world were conducting a vociferous and sometimes vicious argument with those situated opposite, a collection of some of the world's very finest Python programmers (these are not mutually exclusive sets, but it paints a nicer picture).

As I slurped on my noodles, I listened in wonder and some small degree of awe as the fundamentals of each language were subject to the sort of withering critique only possible if the participants have spent much of their lives worrying about integer sizes and garbage collection. There was much to-ing and fro-ing on DRY principles and boilerplate code.

Eventually, after slipping a small but exquisite rum baba down the hatch, I noticed attention had turned in my direction, as though having exhausted rational argument some sort of consensus could only be agreed by an independent arbitrator.

"You are all wrong" I said, daintily dabbing crumbs from my lower lip, "everything since 6502 machine code was a mistake".

I do have a weakness for the elegance of some well turned assembly, but it is true that, though ruthlessly efficient, it is rather hard to express some of the modern world's problems easily in the language of machines. The particular problem they were grappling with was concurrency, and it is indeed something that Go does more convincingly than Python. (Cue flame war.) But maybe that's just because this is the best book-burning description of concurrency I have ever seen: <http://concur.rspace.googlecode.com/hg/talk/concur.html>.



My Linux setup **Liam Dawe**

Originator of gamingonlinux.com – and our games editor!

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

A Right now I'm using Linux Mint 16 on the desktop, as I find it comes with everything you need. I originally used Ubuntu, but I just don't like their direction anymore. I also use Android on my Nexus 4 as there isn't a Linux distro for phones I am comfortable with putting on it yet.

Q And what desktop? Cinnamon or Mate?

A Cinnamon 2.0. It has the best mix I've found between simplicity and features while not being KDE-flashy and in your face.

Q What was the first Linux setup you ever used?

A My first taste of the Linux brew was actually Mandrake 9.2 before it became Mandriva – the first PC that was

purchased for me actually came with it pre-installed and I could never keep myself away from Linux since then.

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

A It has to be Simple Screen Recorder, as it's hands-down the best screen capture software around. Many people just use some sort of FFmpeg script that just crams everything audio/video together without making it sync correctly, where as SSR does this for you.

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

A Gnome Shell & Elementary. Give me back my darned minimise buttons! Elementary at least has a normal dock where applications minimise down to, but Gnome Shell is just trying too hard to be different. ☹