GAMING ON LINUX

The tastiest brain candy to relax those tired neurons

WHEELS OF STEEL

Liam Dawe is our Games Editor and the founder of gamingonlinux.com, the home of Tux gaming on the web.

This issue our fancy has been tickled by an excellent resource for people wanting to bring their old gaming loves back to life using Linux. What we're talking about is "Puppy Arcade", a retro gaming live CD that hasn't been around for too long.

Live CDs are one of Linux's greatest strengths, and this shows it off perfectly. Puppy Arcade includes emulators for a vast number of old gaming systems (including the popular Sega consoles, Amiga, Atari and many, many more) so you can run games on any computer that has an available CD/DVD/Blu-ray or USB drive to run a live image.

Projects like this are important because they help remind us of the generations of computing that came before what we have today, and for the attendant warm nostalgic glow.

Using a tool like this would be far less expensive than searching somewhere like Ebay for a raft of old computers and consoles that could die within minutes. Not to mention older units are getting rarer and can be difficult to come across.

This could be especially useful for use on a big TV for when you have your gaming friends over – it's much nicer to have a Linux distribution aimed at retro games and built around them on a big TV than trying to crowd around that desk of yours.

You can find it here: **http://scottjarvis.com/page105.htm** – be sure to tell us what you think of it in the Linux Voice forum: **http://forums.linuxvoice.com**

Unreal Tournament

Unreal Tournament is coming back to Linux! Ultrakill!!

Unreal Tournament hasn't been on Linux since 2004, and it's set to smash back onto our screen in a very big way. Epic Games has not only announced that Unreal Engine 4.1 supports Linux, but it has also confirmed that Unreal Tournament will be on Linux.

The game will be free, but not just free to play – 100% free, and it will be a great showcase for how the Unreal engine performs on Linux. The developers plan to have a marketplace where third parties can put up mods at a price, and everything will be

Take this image, up the graphics and remove the cost!

community-oriented. This is also how Epic Games plans to earn its money from a free game, as it will take a cut from each sale on the marketplace of mods. Everything is still in the early stages, and we'll keep you posted in future issues of Linux Voice!
www.unrealengine.com/blog/the-future-of-unreal-tournament-begins-today

Door Kickers

Flash out! Tango down!

Door Kickers is a fantastic little indie game where you control a squad of SWAT members as you take on terrorists holing up in all manner of different locations – including the house from *The Simpsons*.

You might be wondering how The Simpsons got into the game… well that's the beauty of Door Kickers, as it has full Steam Workshop support to allow for all kinds of crazy mods with the click of a button. During each mission you can pause and completely change your tactics if needed, and that really does come in handy as

It looks like a real crime scene!

the terrorists move around inside whatever complex you are storming.

There isn't much in life that's more satisfying than throwing a flash-bang into a room and then proceeding to storm it

shooting wildly as you go. Be careful though, as the game has its realism aspects to it and you can lose SWAT members quite easily if you don't have your tactics right.
http://inthekillhouse.com
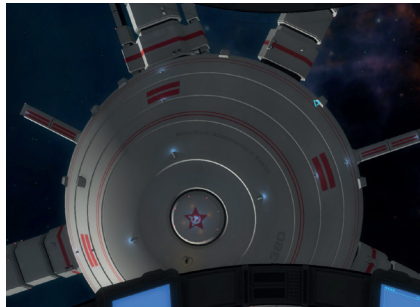
Paragon
Brace yourselves for hyperdrive!

Paragon is a really beautiful space trading, exploration and combat simulation game that has been forked from Pioneer. Paragon's engine is also open source, much like Pioneer, but the media isn't free.

Even in the early stages this game is looking awesome, with some really well done art to go along with the excellent sci-fi gameplay.

Like most space simulation games, Paragon is non-linear, meaning you can go anywhere and do anything you want while ignoring any kind of story if you so wish, which is one of the things that makes it truly great.

Make it so
This is your chance to go off and visit millions of different star systems in a game. It's fully single-player, but you won't feel alone as a vast number of AI captains go about their business keeping the

Be a good chap and open the pod bay doors…

Paragon world nice and busy. The game has a deep back-story to keep you busy, so you can expect to sink plenty of hours into this one.

We don't know whether there are Thargoids in the Paragon universe, but we'll keep a close eye out. And, as with all the best space games, the music sounds like it's going to be great.
www.paragongame.com

Tesseract
Plent of pewpewpew in this one!

Tesseract is a brand-new open-source FPS game forked from the Cube 2 FPS project, which means among other things that it shares the ability to edit maps in real time with other players. The game features fast-paced FPS gaming at its finest with an instant-kill deathmatch mode complemented by a capture-the-flag mode, as we all love running around waving flags right?

Tesseract is really quite beautiful and runs very smoothly, but it's another game in the early stages and there isn't much to it yet. It has a long way to go before it becomes as stable as games like Xonotic and Red Eclipse; it does however show real promise for the Linux gaming scene.
http://tesseract.gg

Nuclear Throne
Post-apocalyptic 2D Bullet Hell.

Nuclear Throne is the second game to come to Linux from famed indie developer Vlambeer, and it promises lots of action. The game is a "procedural death labyrinth", which is a fancy new name for Rogue-likes to better describe them. You choose what character you wish to play as, and each comes with its own unique abilities to suit your preferred playing style. The game is tortuously hard, and it has permanent death, so when you die that's it – game over, which can be frustrating.

It's in Steam's Early Access section meaning it's not quite ready for the masses yet, but each update seems to add a ton of excellent content.
http://store.steampowered.com/app/242680/

ALSO RELEASED…

Stunt Rally
Stunt Rally is the rather good-looking open source racing game for Linux. It has been in development for a long time and has just come out with a brand new whopper of an update.

The game now features a staggering 153 tracks promising to keep you rather busy; we found the controls quite hard to master, so be sure to let us know how you find it.
https://code.google.com/p/vdrift-ogre

The Last Tinker
The Last Tinker is an absolutely beautiful mixture of adventure and action in a very colourful world. It's the first title from new developers Mimimi Productions, and if this title is anything to go by we can look forward to plenty of excellent work from them on Linux in future. The game features easy-to-use controls, some good combat and an interesting story. Well worth a look!
http://store.steampowered.com/app/260160

Fistful of Frags
Fistful of Frags has been revamped from the bottom up in the latest Source Engine SDK, and along with it came Linux support! It's a free first-person shooter that's quite different from anything we've played before. You pick your load-out on spawn, and you have the ability to kick people away from you (it's quite fun to try to kick foes into the water!).
http://store.steampowered.com/app/265630