

# /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!

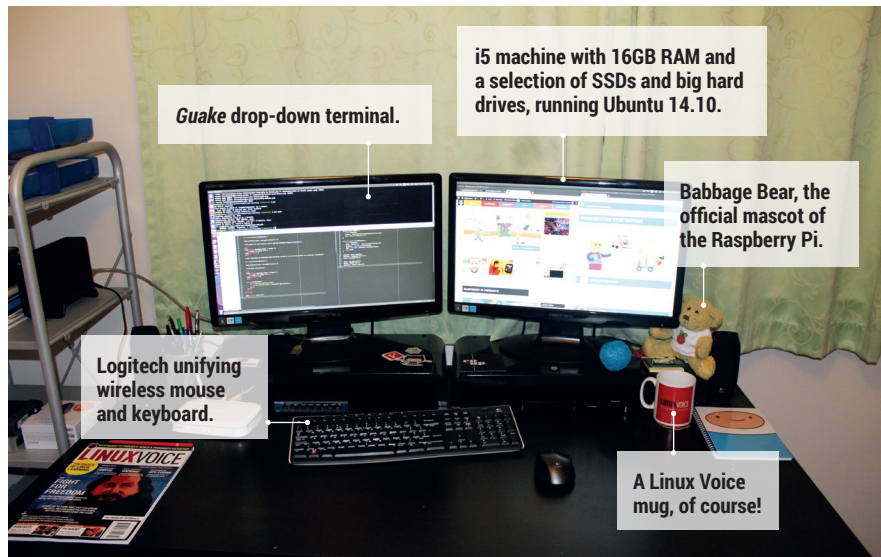
One of the very great things about Linux is the many splendid flavours available. Some of them cropped up at the recent CES show, where Intel unveiled its “PC on a stick”, a dongle-sized quad Atom thing (running Ubuntu) for next to no money. I am still thinking about what I would use it for. Maybe I need more than one.

Of course, Linux featured heavily in the TV section too. Not just the endless Android powered devices (it still runs a sort-of-Linux kernel after all), but the latest Samsung Smart TV (which uses the Tizen OS it originally shipped with some phones), and one or two featuring Roku (the operating system that’s also available in some media boxes of the same name). It is a bit of a wonder that nobody has tried to put *MythTV* into an actual TV.

### Supreme Leader’s distro

There seems to be a Linux for everything. Unless you are in North Korea, in which case there is only one Linux deemed suitable for the Sony-hating masses – Red Star Linux, which in its latest incarnation seems to have borrowed quite a lot of look and feel from somewhere else – surely they don’t take field-trips to Cupertino? Anyway, it is testament to what one can do with KDE (see for yourself – <http://goo.gl/DxOPSu> courtesy of Wikimedia), but I think you may have to travel there to actually buy a copy.

Of course, this celebration of distros can’t miss out on one of my favourites (or should that be three of my favourites, since the development team decided to split it up into bits?): Fedora. While the new versions are all very exciting, I did notice some “end of life” messages for an older version. Yes, release 19, codenamed “Schrödinger’s cat”, is officially dead.



## My Linux Setup Ben Nuttall

Education and outreach human at the Raspberry Pi Foundation.

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

**A** I have a desktop at home and a laptop for work – both running the latest Ubuntu release. I also have a little HP ARM Chromebook, which is great for when I’m travelling. Chrome OS is nice for browsing (and even SSH), but I can switch to an Ubuntu container with *crouton* if I need to hack at something.

**Q** What was the first Linux setup you ever used?

**A** I ran my computer solely from an Ubuntu live disc for a good few weeks once when my hard drive was playing up, back in around 2007. A couple of years later I started using it more, and by then I’d met a bunch of people who used it day-to-day so I had more support, and that’s really important.

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

**A** One of the first things I install on a new machine is *Guake* – a simple

drop-down terminal. It suits the way I work really well, as I like to have focus on some window, like a web browser, and have quick access to a terminal or three, without juggling different windows.

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

**A** A lot of people use the GitHub desktop GUI, but I guess that’s Windows and Mac only anyway. I’m perfectly happy using *git* from the command line.

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

**A** I’m a fan of the *Sublime Text* editor, and although you can download it for free it’s not open source. I’m starting to use GitHub’s open source editor *Atom* more, which is still in beta but it’s more feature heavy and really nice to use. Having said that, I probably use *Vim* more than anything – but graphical editors definitely have a place. 🐧