

WELCOME TO UBUNTU USER

Dear Ubuntu User Reader,



Senior Editor, Marcel Gagné

Okay, I admit it. My interest in computers started because I was heavily into science fiction. As you probably know, computers in science fiction can do some pretty amazing things. There was HAL from Arthur C. Clarke's *2001: A Space Odyssey*; Dora, the computer AI that controlled (and was) Lazarus Long's ship in Robert Heinlein's *Time Enough for Love*; the M5, designed by Dr. Richard Daystrom in the original Star Trek; Colossus from the movie *Colossus*:

The Forbin Project; HARLIE from David Gerrold's *When HARLIE Was One*, Deep Thought from Douglas Adams' *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy*; and Max Headroom from, well, *Max Headroom*. Some were good, some were evil, others were just plain misunderstood. All were seriously cool. Computers, and artificial intelligence, took on a whole new life with the stories of Isaac Asimov, so much so that the "Three Laws of Robotics" seem just plain obvious when considering machine intelligence.

Computers in those books, on the big screen, and on my small television screen, were amazing things that promised a cool future with a capital C. I was going to be able to talk to my car, walk into my house and hold a conversation about the day's events, and transmit my thoughts directly into some virtual storage somewhere in the ether. Mostly, I was going to have a great time, because despite the potential for danger, the potential for fun was orders of magnitude greater.

Your Ubuntu 9.10 DVD

This issue comes with a double-sided DVD featuring a grand assortment of Ubuntu variants, including:

- The full 32-bit DVD version Ubuntu 9.10 "Karmic Koala."
- A Multiboot menu that lets you install Kubuntu or sample live versions of Kubuntu, Xubuntu, and Ubuntu Netbook Remix.
- Bootable ISO images with Mythbuntu, Lubuntu, and Ubuntu Studio. Burn an image to a CD to sample a specialty distro.

See page 15 for more information!

Maybe my expectations haven't totally been met – my house doesn't greet me as I walk in – but computers have certainly proven to be amazing things and the "fun" part has certainly kept its promise. Sure, computers are tools designed for countless repetitive and sometimes tedious jobs, but they're also engines of fun, and that's what keeps me, and many of you, coming back. That's also why Linux and open source software has so much appeal to so many of us. The power of computers, the promises delivered, and those yet to be ... all that belongs to you and me when we fire up Ubuntu. Above all, running Ubuntu Linux and open source software delivers on the fun.

It seems fitting then that the issue you are reading features stories covering two great multimedia and home entertainment systems built on open source, Freevo, and MythTV. The latter comes to you in the shape of the Mythbuntu distribution. Meanwhile, Linux multimedia guru, Dave Phillips, provides us with a roundup of Linux video editors so that you, my friends, can indulge your creative side and deliver some multimedia magic of your own.

You'll also find out the latest on Wine in Karmic Koala. While I do love a good Cabernet or Pomerol, we're talking about software here. Feel free to pour yourself a glass while you read.

Karmic Koala is the current Ubuntu gold standard, but Lucid Lynx is prowling the perimeter. We've also got the goods from the recent Ubuntu Developer Summit (UDS) regarding Lucid Lynx. Read our interviews with Jane Silber, Canonical's new CEO, and with David Siegel, leader of the Ubuntu Paper Cuts project.

If you need more excitement, this issue delivers Upstart, Webgen, Scribus, Amarok, and Writer's Cafe. There's more fun with Machinarium and the Battle for Wesnoth.

Oh yeah. Some guy named Marcel Gagné also has an excellent roundup of Ubuntu and Ubuntu-inspired netbook distributions. If your cool little netbook came with some strange closed-source operating system, it's time to upgrade.

Explore. Experiment. Excite your inner child. And don't forget to have fun. Because in the end, that's what computers are all about. Or at least it should be. ■

