

# The PCLinuxOS magazine

Volume 58

November, 2011

*Happy Thanksgiving*



**The PCLinuxOS Community Bids  
A Tragic Farewell To A Beloved Forum Mod  
Joe Gable, a.k.a. Joble: 1963 - 2011**

**Gnome 2.32:**

**An Overview**

**Gnome 2.32:**

**Control Panel, Part 1**

**Gnome 2.32:**

**PCLinuxOS Tweak**

**WindowMaker On**

**PCLinuxOS: Using A  
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**Ratpoison Window Manager**

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# Welcome From The Chief Editor

My wife, Laura, and I typically work the same shift, same days at the same hospital. For those who may not know, we are both registered respiratory therapists. On Tuesday, October 18, my wife got to stay home from work, due to a slightly decreased workload at the hospital. After seeing me off to work at 5:30 in the morning, she went back to bed.

After she re-awoke sometime after 10:30 a.m., she was bored and fired up her computer. One of her favorite Firefox add-ons is the StumbleUpon button. She clicked the Stumble button, and it immediately took her to an article about a double homicide in Helena, Montana. As she read the article, she couldn't believe what she was reading. It was talking about a good friend, Joe Gable (more affectionately known as "Joble" by his PCLinuxOS family), being shot and killed by his estranged wife. To verify what she was reading, she went to Joble's Facebook page (she and he were friends there, sharing a common interest in the Facebook game, "Vampire Wars"). Confirmation came from all the outpouring of emotions on his Facebook page over what had happened.

Meanwhile, I was in the middle of my second set of patient rounds at the hospital. I frequently make small talk with my patients, especially the ones who are regulars and that I have gotten to know fairly well. As I was preparing a breathing treatment for one of my more familiar patients, we were engaged in the typical small talk. Topics can range over a wide gamut. This particular time, I was telling my patient about my friend who lives in Helena, Montana.



At about the same time, my portable hospital phone went off in my shirt pocket. It was around 11:15 a.m. Looking at the caller ID, I saw that it was my wife calling from home. Since we both work at the same hospital, she knows what times I am doing my patient rounds. For her to call me in the middle of my

rounds, it had to be something pretty important. Answering the call, she said that she had something very important – and bad – to tell me about, and asked me to call her back when I finished working with my current patient.

Since my patient was in the middle of taking his scheduled breathing treatment, I excused myself and stepped out into the hallway, telling my wife to please just let me know what it was. It was then that I learned that Joble had been shot and killed by his estranged wife.

To say that I was stunned would have been an understatement. I told my wife that I would call her back after I had finished my rounds, and asked her to email me the link to the article that she had found.

Once I finished my rounds, I called her back. I talked her through signing onto IRC (via Xchat ... she also runs Phoenix on her computer), then joining the #pclinuxos-mag channel on Freenode. I asked her to make the announcement, along with the link to the article, on the magazine's IRC channel. I also asked her to stick around for a bit, just in case anyone in the channel wanted to talk about it. I didn't want her to announce something like this, then run off. So, she hung around for a while before going to run her errands – and even left herself logged in when she did leave, just in case anyone wanted to talk about the news. It goes without saying that Sproggy and Meemaw, who are regular visitors to the magazine's IRC channel, and friends with Joble, were floored by the news.

The oddities surrounding Joble's untimely passing don't stop with how I found out about what had

happened. Just one day before he met his tragic end, he posted three songs on his Facebook page: Phil Collins' "I Don't Care Any More," Ted Nugent's "Strangle Hold," and Godsmack's "Crying Like A Bitch." Knowing Joble as well as I did, after hour upon hours of chatting late into the night on the magazine's IRC channel, I am certain that the lyrics of those songs were aimed squarely at his estranged wife, Michelle. Finally, after more than two years of being separated from her, the choice of songs that he posted makes it apparent that he was finally finished with that chapter of his life, and that he was looking to move on.

Additionally, one of Joble's last several posts included an Aerosmith video. It was "Janie's Got A Gun," and was denied September 23, just two days after he was denied an order of protection from his estranged wife.

Many PCLinuxOS community members knew Joble well, including me. He helped many others in the forum, especially with issues in getting wireless cards up and running properly. He was a valued, cherished member of the PCLinuxOS community. His contributions will be sorely missed. His humor will be missed. His friendship will be missed.

All too often, folks are tragically ripped from our lives. Sometimes, it results from an untimely accident. Other times, as with Joble, it results from a senseless act of violence. Since none of us know when we'll be leaving this mortal coil, it serves as a reminder to always treat one another with kindness and respect.

I've watched the [outpouring of condolences](#) on the PCLinuxOS forum concerning Joble's passing. It illustrates just how strong of a bond exists among the members of the PCLinuxOS community. We are more than just users of a common operating system. We are more than just users of a common Linux distro. The PCLinuxOS community really and truly is a family. It makes me proud to be a part of that community, that family.

Joble, my friend, you did not deserve that which you received. Your time among your friends and family has been senselessly cut way too short. You are dearly missed.

#####

This month, we start a series of articles over Gnome 2.32. Even though Gnome 3.x has been released (still in testing for PCLinuxOS users), having a good understanding of Gnome 2.32 is important, since Gnome 3.x has a "fall back" mode that allows you to set it up similar to Gnome 2.32.

This month's cover is a public domain painting depicting the first Thanksgiving between the Pilgrims and the Native American Indians in the 17th Century.

Until next month, I wish each of you prosperity, serenity, peace and happiness.



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The PCLinuxOS Magazine is a monthly online publication containing PCLinuxOS-related materials. It is published primarily for members of the PCLinuxOS community. The magazine staff is comprised of volunteers from the PCLinuxOS community.

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# R.I.P. Joe Gable, a.k.a. Joble: 1963 - 2011

by Paul Arnote (parnote)

Sometimes the reality of life becomes surreal. It throws us a very unexpected curve that makes us

stop and take a second look – and maybe even cause us to re-evaluate our own lives. On October 18, 2011, the PCLinuxOS community received such a curve, when we learned of the tragic and untimely death of one of our own, Joseph Andrew Gable,

better known simply as “Joble” among his PCLinuxOS family. Joble was just 48 years old.

## Joble’s Time With PCLinuxOS

Joble joined the PCLinuxOS community on October 4, 2007, and most recently [posted](#) on the PCLinuxOS forum on October 12, 2011 – just one day before his untimely death.

Joble frequently joined in on any forum discussion that caught his eye or struck his fancy. Particularly, Joble focused on helping users get their wifi cards running properly, either with native Linux wifi drivers, or via ndiswrapper and Windows drivers. Joble was especially good at the latter.

Never at a loss for words, Joble had a penchant for interjecting humor into just about any topic. Things didn’t tend to stay on a serious note for long with Joble around. Topic after topic, time after time, Joble would find humor in just about any topic, and would lighten the mood by revealing the aspects of the topic that he found to be humorous. Sometimes, that made it hard to know when Joble was serious or when he was just joking around.

In 2009, Joble was appointed as a Global Moderator in the PCLinuxOS forum. It’s a position he held for the rest of his time with PCLinuxOS. In 2010, when Sproggy had to briefly step away from maintaining Phoenix, Joble stepped up to the plate and became the maintainer of Phoenix, until Sproggy’s subsequent return.



Joble was there from the beginning when I made my debut as the chief editor of The PCLinuxOS Magazine. He would frequent the magazine's channel in IRC, as well as the main PCLinuxOS channel and the PCLinuxOS Support channel. Although not "formally" a magazine staff member, he was always there in the early days of my tenure as the magazine's guiding force, offering advice, opinions, and his usual injection of humor.

The IRC discussions would often continue late into the night. As was typical for Joble, there was no "sacred cow" topic. He often flirted (harmlessly) with my wife – or any other female – who happened to be present, but always remained respectful.

Even though he wasn't "formally" a member of the magazine staff, Joble was an administrator at the magazine forum. He was a huge supporter of The PCLinuxOS Magazine, and often raced to be the first to download the latest issue. He usually followed up his "victory" with a "neener-neener-neener ... I got my copy first" type of post in the PCLinuxOS forum. He even wrote a couple of articles for the magazine. The first was his own "self-interview" for the magazine's "Behind The Scenes" series, in the November 2009 issue. The second was a guide on how to [create a packaging environment](#) in Phoenix, in the July 2010 issue.

There was a time when Joble couldn't afford his own internet connection. So, to maintain his connectivity, he would sometimes "piggyback" his connection on a neighbor's unsecured wireless signal. Most of the time though, he would frequent the local coffee shop, where they also happened to offer free wifi access. He would take either his laptop or his prized



**Chapter Campout - Red Lodge, MT - Sept 2003**

netbook along and spend hour after hour keeping up with his favorite Linux distro and his PCLinuxOS friends, who became a part of his family.

#### **More about Joble**

Joble always feared revealing his "real" name and identity to the public, and revealed it only to his closest online friends. He served in the U.S. Air Force as a military police officer, and he was ever

fearful of retribution from those whom he had arrested and sent to jail or prison. It was in 1986, while he was stationed at Andrews Air Force Base, in Maryland, that he married Michelle.

Up until his death, Joble worked for the Montana Department of Transportation, as a computer support specialist.

One of Joble's other passions was riding his Harley-Davidson motorcycle. He was proud of his motorcycle, and frequently went on long rides along the highways and byways of the scenic Rocky Mountains surrounding his home in Helena, Montana. He had moved to Montana sometime around 2003.



Joble's Vampire Wars Avatar.

More recently, Joble became deeply involved with "Vampire Wars" on Facebook. Unbeknownst to his PCLinuxOS family, he generously offered up his help to many there who were just getting started playing "Vampire Wars," as evidenced by an outpouring of emotional sentiment on his Facebook page.

Joble would also sometimes visit and interact with those on the [Montana Linux](#) site, assembled as a gathering place for Linux users living in Montana.

### What happened

On October 13, 2011, Joble was shot and killed by his estranged wife at his Helena, Montana apartment. The two had been separated for over two years, with his wife, Michelle Collier Gable, living with her parents in Clinton, Maryland during that time period. Over that period of time, Joble fended off repeated suggestions and urgings from Michelle that he move to Maryland.

Sometime in September 2011, Michelle returned to Montana, according to news reports. On September 20, 2011, Joble was in the process of changing the locks on his apartment when Michelle came by to gather her personal belongings. An emergency 911 call was placed by Michelle, stating that she had been assaulted by Joble, who was not present upon arrival of police authorities.

On September 21, 2011, Joble filed a petition for a temporary order of protection (also known as a restraining order in some jurisdictions), citing that Michelle had stalked him, tried to intimidate him, and held him against his will. Joble goes on in his application for the order of protection that, "She has been out of Montana on the East Coast in Maryland for over two years, came back unannounced and is now trying to disrupt my life any way she can apparently." He went on to add that, to the best of his knowledge, Michelle did not own or possess any firearms.

Later that day, District Judge Dorothy McCarter denied Joble's petition, stating that Michelle posed "no personal danger or threat" to Joble.

On October 11, 2011, Joble filed divorce papers, citing "serious marital discord" and no prospect of reconciliation. Two days later, Joble was shot and killed by Michelle, along with Joble's female friend, Sunday Cooley Bennett, from Texas.

Michelle was found by police officers at the scene, standing in the doorway over Joble's wounded body. Police heard Joble state, "My wife shot me," and was dragged to safety from the scene by police officers, because he was unable to move. Upon learning from Joble that Sunday had been shot, police officers entered the apartment and found her with a gunshot wound to the chest.

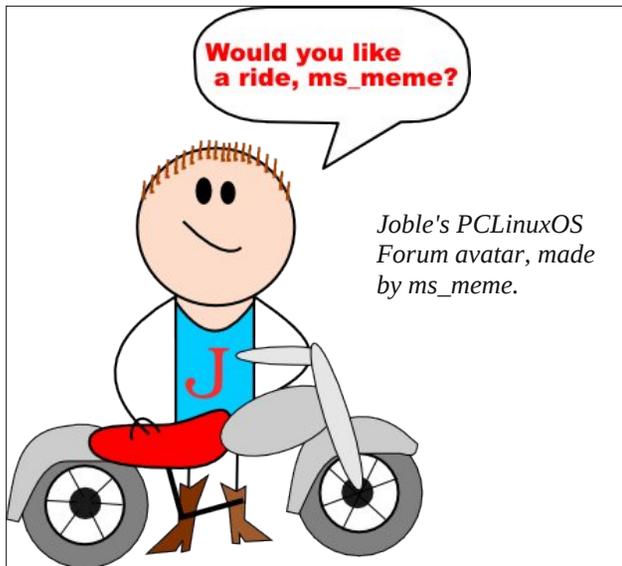
Joble was pronounced dead at an area Helena, Montana hospital at 6:59 a.m., and Sunday was pronounced dead at 7:06 a.m.

Michelle is currently in custody, and faces two charges of deliberate homicide, each of which carries a \$50,000 fine, as well as 10 years to a maximum of life (or 100 years) in prison.

You can view news reports of the events [here](#) and [here](#). Additional news accounts can be easily found by performing an internet search on any of the names of those involved.

### Missing a friend and family member

The PCLinuxOS community will undoubtedly miss Joble and his contributions over his brief time with us. Along the way, Joble touched the lives of many



PCLinuxOS users, both with the generous help he would offer, along with his humor.

Every once in a while, you meet someone who has a profound effect on the lives they touch. Sometimes, neither person – the person having the impact, nor the person whose life is being impacted – realizes the extent of the impact they are having, at that time. Joble was such a person.

All of Joble's forum posts included this line in his forum signature: "Hero means I talk a lot, nothing more, nothing less!" He also lived by the motto of "do one thing, and do it well."

Rest in peace, Joble. You were a friend to us all. You were family. You did it well.

## Screenshot Showcase



Posted by Ramchu, October 4, 2011, running KDE4.

# Gnome 2.32: An Overview

by Paul Arnote (parnote)

The Linux world has been all abuzz about the new Gnome 3.x desktop environment. Some like it. Many, including Linus Torvalds, hate it. Just as KDE went through a metamorphosis (with much consternation) a couple of years ago when the move from KDE 3.5.x to KDE 4.x took place, it's now time for Gnome users to experience similar growing pains.

Those Gnome users who hate the new version have few choices. First, they can opt to change desktop environments. As a result, the Xfce desktop is seeing many Gnome refugees, including Linus Torvalds. Some Gnome users are giving a more mature KDE 4 another shot.

As a second choice, many are opting to stay with Gnome 2.32 as long as possible. The third choice is to support the effort to fork Gnome 2.x, thus keeping it alive much longer. Such a fork has already taken root, with the [Mate Desktop Environment](#) project. Even Linus Torvalds, calling Gnome 3.x an “unholy mess,” [called out](#) to his Fedora/Red Hat friends, urging them to consider forking Gnome 2.x. Although unofficial, the [BlueBubble project](#) is yet another attempt to fork Gnome 2.x by a Fedora Ambassador. It's too early to tell if Mate or BlueBubble will have any more success than the Trinity project, designed to keep KDE 3.5.x alive.

Wait ... what? Starting off a Gnome 2.32 overview article talking about Gnome 3.x? Yep. Here's the deal. Much as was the case when KDE 3.5 gave

way to KDE 4, Gnome 3.x is coming, like it or hate it ... and the “hate it” camp is rapidly filling up. Texstar and the rest of the PCLinuxOS development team are currently working to bring the Gnome 3.x desktop to PCLinuxOS users. Members of the PCLinuxOS Testing mailing list have been able to run a testing version of Gnome 3.x. So why start off a talk about Gnome 2.32 by talking about Gnome 3.x? Well, there is a “fallback” mode in Gnome 3.x, allowing it to function much as Gnome 2.32. In order to understand and use that “fallback” mode adequately and efficiently, we need to cover Gnome 2.32.

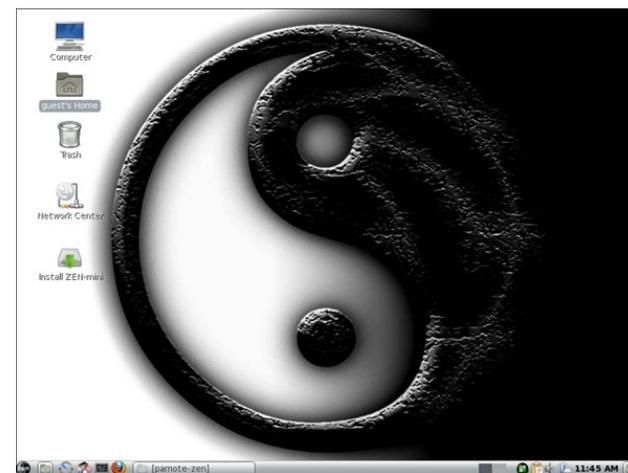
## Zen Mini 2011.07

To get a good handle on Gnome 2.32, the magazine staff is using the last Zen Mini Live CD that Siamer made before resigning from the project, due to changing demands and responsibilities in his life.

From the description about Zen Mini, on the Zen Mini home page:

*ZEN-mini (often shortened to ZEN) is a minimal Live CD that is bootable and can be installed. It comes with a very basic GNOME desktop without additional applications. It is designed for advanced users or for users who wish to learn how to customize their system with the applications and support files they want to use. Additional software can be installed through the Synaptic Software Manager (requires network connection). Add your own background, window decorations, web browser client, email client, music client and fully trick out your desktop the way you want it. ZEN is based on PCLinuxOS!*

Upon launching the Zen Mini 2011.07 Live CD, you will be greeted with the following on your screen:



Upon first glance, you may be taken aback by its very non-Gnome-like appearance. In fact, the screen in the default Zen Mini installation could easily be mistaken for an LXDE desktop. Or a KDE desktop. Or most any other Linux desktop. When most users look at a Gnome desktop, they expect to see the panels at the top and bottom of the screen, with the usual Gnome Applications, Places and System menus at the upper left corner of the top panel. After all, it's the “standard” appearance of the Gnome desktop that we've become accustomed to seeing. In fact, it's how many of us immediately recognize the Gnome desktop.

Siamer broke with Gnome tradition in Zen Mini, opting instead to go with a single panel at the bottom of the screen. As a result, he has produced a very clean looking, yet functional, Gnome desktop.

If you want a “more traditional” Gnome-like appearance to your Zen Mini desktop, it’s easy enough to recreate the typical Gnome appearance, with panels at the top and bottom of your screen, along with the usual Gnome Applications, Places and System menus at the left side of the top panel. This is what I have done on my Zen Mini installation.



To do this, I moved the bottom panel to the top, then recreated a second panel at the bottom. I also inserted the typical Gnome menus on the left side of the top panel. In the process, I changed to a wallpaper created by PCLinuxOS Gnome/Zen Mini user Dragynn, as well as adding in some additional panel plugins that I typically find useful.

I have Zen Mini 2011.07 physically installed on my test machine. This computer, an IBM Thinkpad T23, has a 1.13 GHz Intel Pentium III Coppermine processor, 512 MB RAM, 8 MB video RAM, DVDRW/CDRW, and a 1024 x 768 LCD display.

Despite the relatively old status and slower processor on this computer, Zen Mini 2011.07 flies on this T23. Certainly, it doesn’t run as fast as the lighter weight desktops (such as Xfce, LXDE or Openbox), due to the overhead of all the Gnome dependencies, but the performance is quite adequate and sufficient. The only slowdowns that I have experienced is when the modest 512 MB of RAM becomes filled, and items are moved to the swap partition of the hard drive.

### Plans & Conclusion

We hope, through our articles about Gnome 2.32, we can help unravel some of the mystery surrounding Gnome 2.32. Just as we’ve done through articles on KDE 4, Xfce, LXDE, e17 and Openbox, we hope to give you greater insight into the Gnome desktop, and some of the things that you can do with it. Plus, with the “fallback” mode in Gnome 3.x, understanding Gnome 2.32 takes on even more importance.



For the magazine staff, we picked the 2011.07 Zen Mini release from siamer. We believe that it is a more balanced version than the 2011.09 release from Melodie. Siamer had a better blend of included applications and multimedia codecs. It was as though he understood what a Gnome user was looking for when seeking out a miniature version of Gnome. Melodie’s 2011.09 release strips out those

codecs and adds in applications that are either redundant or unnecessary in a mini release. With a mini release, which is usually aimed at a more advanced user, any extra applications can be added as the user wishes right from Synaptic.

Undoubtedly, there will be many PCLinuxOS Gnome users who balk at using Gnome 3.x. It has been the same pattern of complaints with every distro that has released a version of Gnome 3.x. Gnome 2.x made many settings obscure to all but advanced users. Yet with Gnome 3.x, the Gnome developers have taken obscurity to a whole new level. According to Linus Torvalds, perhaps they have gone too far. When discussing Gnome 3.x, Torvalds has been quoted as saying, “This ‘users are idiots, and are confused by functionality’ mentality of Gnome is a disease. If you think your users are idiots, only idiots will use it.”

You definitely owe it to yourself to give Zen Mini a try. It’s fast, responsive and has a “just right” blend of applications to get work done. Sure, you may have to install a few applications from Synaptic, but siamer has anticipated the needs of an average user in his 2011.07 release so well that you will find yourself installing a minimum number of extra applications. Most users installing a mini ISO of any desktop enter the equation with a core list of applications that they normally use. With Zen Mini, you get a very stable core of basic applications upon which to install your list of most-used applications.



# ms\_meme's Nook: GIMP Image Manipulator

Opened my Gimp and I started to draw  
Something on my layer and it looked like Meemaw  
Added some roses and I said ooh ee  
I'm making something really artsy

I love my G I M P image manipulator  
I'm so busy that I'll have to see you later  
G I M P image manipulator  
Sure looks good to me

The selection tool made a little fuss  
When I tried to select a hippopotomus  
Longtomjr gave a little smile  
Said ms\_meme I really like your style

I love my G I M P image manipulator  
I'm so busy that I'll have to see you later  
G I M P image manipulator  
Sure looks good to me

Menotu added if you're gonna create  
You need tutorials that are up to date  
Members gave advice on installing a font  
And all given with a bit of detente



I love my G I M P image manipulator  
I'm so busy that I'll have to see you later  
G I M P image manipulator  
Sure looks good to me

Dragynn showed me fractals a Gimpy thing  
He used to make a beautiful wing  
Timeth cried wow fantastic mate  
You are really first rate

I love my G I M P image manipulator  
I'm so busy that I'll have to see you later  
G I M P image manipulator  
Sure looks good to me

Download the Gimp from Synaptic  
Do it right now it's oh so quick  
Give your art work a bit of a flair  
Then put it in the forum for all to share

You'll love your G I M P image manipulator  
Be so busy that you 'll have to see me later  
G I M P image manipulator  
Sure looks good to me

OGG

MP3

# *ms\_meme's Nook: Certificate Of Achievement*



## *Certificate of Achievement Inkscape and Gimp Users*



*Do you sit and stare bewildered at the Gimp interface  
Do you think it looks like something from outer space  
Do you read all about it in a file called knowledge base  
Then you're just like me ..... another nut case*

*Do you open up Inkscape and then begin to drool  
Do you think that you can make something really cool  
Do you come to realize you don't know how to use a tool  
Then you're like me ..... just another fool*

*But somehow we keep trying and won't be outdone  
All those filters and options we will never shun  
Creating this and that and having lots of fun  
Knowing it's all been worth it in the long run*

# Double Take & Mark's Quick Gimp Tip

Double Take

by Mark Szorady



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Find at least seven differences between cartoons.

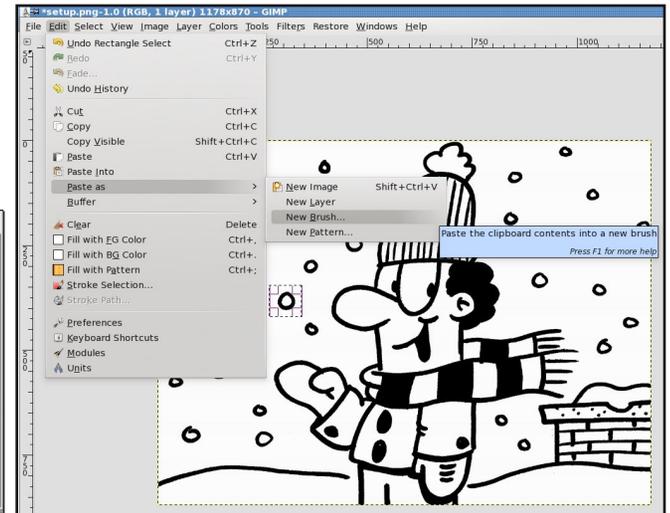
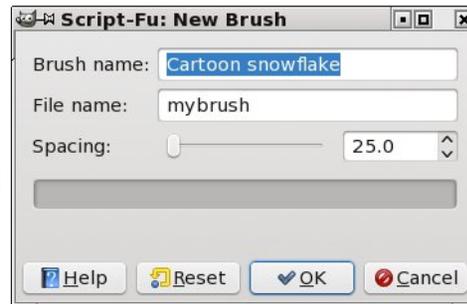
Answers on Page 17.

## Mark's Quick Gimp Tip



Gimp offers a number of different ways to execute the copy and paste routine. One of the more creative options offered is Gimp's ability to paste clipboard contents as a new brush. It's easy to accomplish. For instance, when I've created a cartoon with a winter scene and need to add more snowflakes (those little round circles in that stand-in for snowflakes in the cartoon world), I simply select one small snowflake and copy it to the clipboard. Then, from the menu, I

select **Edit>Paste as>New Brush**. The Brush dialog pops up asking me to give my new brush a name. I name the brush and click **Okay**. The new brush's thumbnail now appears in my brush panel and is ready for use!

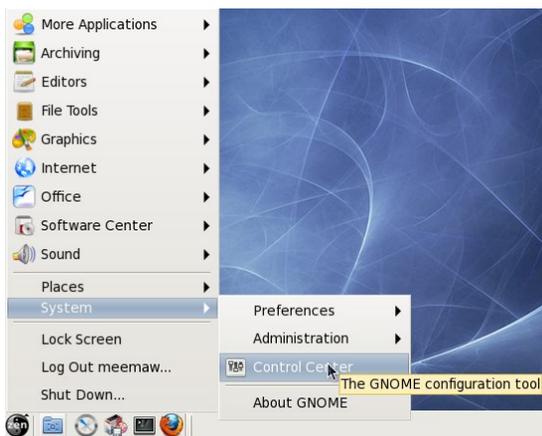


-Mark Szorady is a nationally syndicated cartoonist with [georgetoon.com](http://georgetoon.com). He blogs at [georgetoon.com/blog](http://georgetoon.com/blog). Email Mark at [georgetoon@gmail.com](mailto:georgetoon@gmail.com).

# Gnome 2.32 Control Center, Part 1

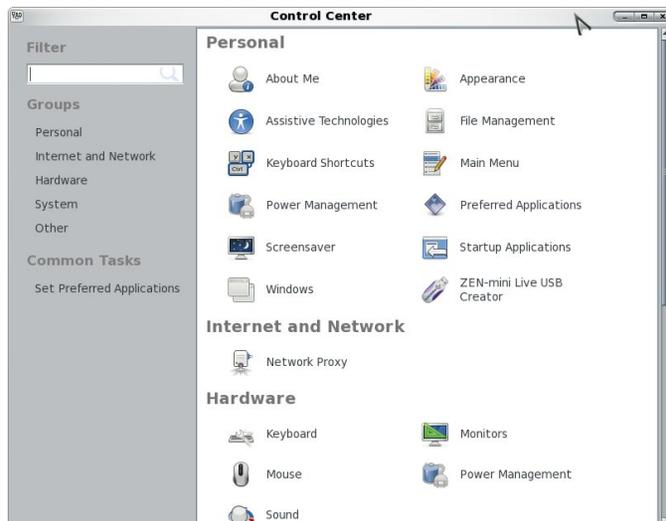
by Meemaw

The first thing many people do when they finish installing their new Live CD is configure their desktop, if they didn't already do it while running it while running the Live CD. The place to do that in Gnome is in the menu at **System > Control Center**.

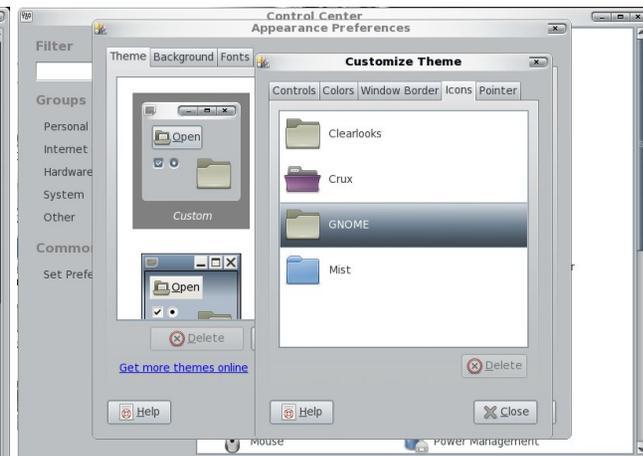


Clicking on this menu item will open the Control Center. The Control Center is arranged in five different sections, which are listed in the left-hand column. In this article we will cover the first two sections, Personal and Internet & Network.

**Personal** is the largest section. It has twelve sections, all dealing with configurations for your desktop. The first section, **About Me**, allows you to add in your personal information, if you want it to be saved on your computer. You can change your picture and password from here, as well as adding your email address(es), IM nicks, home address and even work information and your web pages.



The next section, **Appearance**, is where most of the desktop configuration can be done. This section works a little differently than it does in some of the other desktops. The first window presents you with theme, background (wallpaper) and fonts tabs. To find the additional items you may want to change (such as your mouse pointers), you should choose the theme you want to use, then click 'Customize'. You will see another window with five tabs: **Controls, Colors, Window Border, Icons and Pointer**. **Controls** is the configuration for buttons and check boxes. In **Colors**, you can change your window background color, highlight color, or default font color. **Window Border** lets you configure the shape of your title bar and border thickness. **Icons** is where you choose the icon set you wish to use from the ones you have installed, and **Pointer** is where you select your desired mouse pointer. It even has a slide bar so you can make your pointer bigger.



This configuration window works well, because if you like one theme's colors and another theme's window borders, you can 'mix & match' until you get what you like. Changes that are made take effect immediately, so if you choose something you don't like, you are free to change it back immediately.

The next section is **Assistive Technologies**, which allow you to program special ways for computer access. When you click **File Manager**, you will get the Preferences window in the Nautilus file manager. **Keyboard Shortcuts** lets you designate hot-keys for specific functions. Clicking **Main Menu** gives you a window where you can edit your menu. Be careful that you don't delete something you need!!!

The next item is **Power Management**. From here you can configure the time frame for standby or sleep modes. **Preferred Applications** is next where you can decide the default program that opens when you click on a sound or video file, web link or

terminal icon. You can also choose your default news reader. **Screensaver** lets you configure your screensaver, and **Startup Applications** lets you designate the programs, such as conky or Dropbox so that they start when your desktop starts.

**Windows** is actually Window Preferences, and you can choose other preferred actions for your windows (one being the action you want if you double-click a window's title bar). Finally, **ZEN-mini Live USB Creator** is located right here so you can make a backup copy of your install, just in case of a problem.

The second section, **Internet and Network**, contains a single item; **Network Proxy**. Most of us will choose direct connection, but many companies use a proxy, and would choose to configure it manually.

In Part 2 we will cover the rest of the Gnome Control Center.



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<http://twitter.com/iluvpclinuxos>

## Screenshot Showcase



Posted by omskates, October 2, 2011, running KDE4.

# Happy 8th Birthday, PCLinuxOS!

by Meemaw & Paul Arnote (parnote)

In the summer of 2003, Tex became interested in livecd technology after looking at Knoppix and Mepis. He had been packaging rpms for Mandrake for 5 years. A South African fellow by the name of Jaco Greef was developing a script called mklivecd and was working on porting it to Mandrake Linux. Tex and a few others began working with Jaco to help debug the scripts, which gave Tex an idea to make a Live CD based on Mandrake Linux 9.2, along with all his customizations, just for fun. He and the others decided to name the Live CD after their news site and forum, pclinuxonline, thus PCLinuxOS.

Preview .3 was his first attempt to make a livecd. It was distributed initially to about 20 people to get their reaction and feedback. Everyone who tested it loved the livecd, but it couldn't be installed to the hard drive! srlinuxx, from tuxmachines.org, came up with a novel way to copy the Live CD to the hard drive and posted it on the forums. Jaco utilized this information and inspiration from the Mepis installer and wrote a pyqt script to make the livecd installable. Thus began the birth of a new distribution.

On **October 24, 2003**, PCLinuxOS Preview .4 was released as a fork of Linux Mandrake (Mandriva) 9.2, utilizing mklivecd scripts from Jaco Greef, a multimedia kernel from Thomas Buckland (2.4.22-tmb) and a customized KDE (3.1.4-tex). Previews .5 through .93 were built upon on previous PCLinuxOS releases. After 3 years of

updating one release from the other using the same gcc and glibc core library, they found that too many programs would no longer compile or work properly against this aging code base. Many of us started with preview .92 or .93 and found, even then, that the installed system "Just Works."

In November 2006, they utilized a one time source code snapshot from their friends at Mandriva to pull in an updated glibc/gcc core and associated libraries. They spent the following 6 months rebuilding, debugging, customizing, patching and updating their new code base, pulling in stuff from the old code base, and utilizing patches/code from Fedora, Gentoo and Debian, just to name a few.

On May 20th 2007 they felt the base was pretty stable, and released PCLinuxOS 2007, utilizing their own kernel from Oclient1, KDE built by MDE developer Ze, updated mklivecd scripts from IKerekes & Ejtr, a heavily patched Control Center, graphics from the PCLinuxOS beautification team and many application updates from Thac and Neverstopdreaming.

Shortly thereafter, MiniMe was released. MiniMe represented a barebones KDE installation, with little else than the bare desktop and core Linux OS files. Designed for more advanced users, MiniMe allowed users to install only those applications that they wanted. Even though this distro uses the "rolling release" update method, new Live CDs were released every year (and recently, even more often) so a user wouldn't have to download a huge number of updates after installing to make sure they had the most up-to-date system available.

In 2009, several developers left PCLinuxOS to start their own distro. While this happens in many other distros, PCLinuxOS hasn't suffered from it, and is still one of the top distros. In the wake of their departure, others stepped up to fill the vacated developer roles. Several other users stepped up to create the various "flavors" of PCLinuxOS. Today, there are over a dozen versions, or "flavors," of PCLinuxOS available to users.

Today we have the KDE that Tex used initially, along with KDE Full Monty, LXDE, Zen Mini (using Gnome), Phoenix (using Xfce), E17 and Openbox. In addition, some



specialized Live CDs have been developed, like PCLinuxOS-Edu with all sorts of educational programs included, and Black Cat Astronomy, which contains many astronomy programs.

Following the rolling release design, improvements are always being made, and things evolve. Tex has started testing a much-wished-for 64-bit edition of PCLinuxOS. Requiring a rebuild of all of the applications in the repos, the 64-bit repo now has over 8,700 of the 12,000+ applications in the PCLinuxOS 32-bit repo.

As a user who has been with PCLinuxOS since I installed PCLinuxOS .93, I have enjoyed seeing new users post in the forum about this wonderful distro that they are using, and how everything works as it should.

Thanks, Tex, for all your hard work!

Happy 8th Birthday, PCLinuxOS!

**Answers to Mark Szorady's Double Take:**

- (1) Hair longer in back of head;
- (2) Turkey snood shorter;
- (3) Drawer moved;
- (4) Chef smiling;
- (5) Bib knot missing;
- (6) Bowl smaller;
- (7) "Chicken" changed to "duck"



# Screenshot Showcase



Posted by ferry\_th, October 29, 2011, running KDE4.



# WindowMaker on PCLinuxOS: Using a Keyboard and Mouse with WindowMaker

by Patrick G Horneker (phorneker)

Most of us use a mouse and keyboard for our daily activities on our PCLinuxOS machines. WindowMaker is no exception. This article discusses configuration and usage of keyboards and mice for WindowMaker.

## Mouse Buttons

What happens when you click on the mouse or use the mouse wheel depends on where the mouse pointer is when the event takes place. By default, the left mouse button simply focuses on whatever window the pointer happens to be on, unless it is on the Dock, the Clip, any Icon or the background of the Workspace. In this case, no default action takes place.

Clicking the middle button (or pressing down on the mouse wheel as the middle button) on the background opens a list of currently opened windows. Clicking on the Clip has no default action. Clicking the middle button on an open window sends that mouse event to the opened window that has the Focus. The action taken depends largely on the application that opened the window. On the Dock, the application associated with the Icon is launched.

Clicking the right button on the background opens the applications menu. Clicking the right button on the Dock opens a menu where you can choose from the following:

**Keep on Top:** Selecting this will keep the Dock and all attached Icons visible on the desktop.

**Launch:** If the Icon is associated with an application, that application will be launched.

**Settings:** This opens a dialog box where you can choose to have the associated application launched when WindowMaker starts. You can lock the icon to the desktop to prevent accidental removal (by dragging the Icon away from the Dock), select an icon file (in PNG, JPG, TIFF, XBM or XPM format) to associate with the Icon, and enter the command and options to execute.

Further discussion on Settings will be in a future article.

Clicking the right mouse button on the Dock opens a menu where you can choose from the following:

**Clip Options -> Keep on Top:** Like the Dock, this keeps the Dock visible on the desktop.

**Clip Options -> Collapse:** This causes all Icons attached to the Dock to hide inside the Clip.

**Clip Options -> Autocollapse:** Icons attached to the Dock will hide inside the Clip.

**Clip Options -> Autoraise:** Icons attached to the Dock will always be visible on the desktop.

**Clip Options -> Autoattract Icons:** This acts as a magnet for Icons that are not attached to the Dock.

**Rename Workspace:** By default, Workspaces (or desktops) are named *I, II, III, and IV*. Names given to Workspaces can be changed to anything you want (such as *Bob, Chuck, Harvey and Nate*).

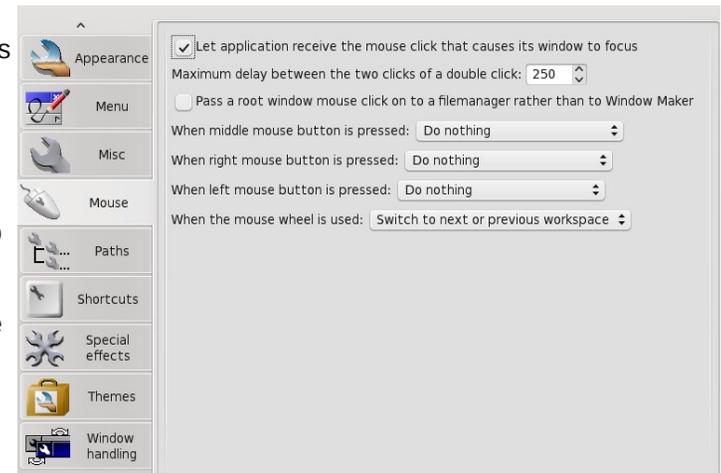
**Move Icon To:** This moves the attached Icon to the Dock located at the Workspace you select from the secondary menu.

**Attract Icons:** This places all application Icons not on the Dock onto the Clip.

**Settings:** This shows the same settings dialog as with Icons on the Dock.

## Configuring Mouse Settings

The Configuration Manager has some settings that can be used to configure the behavior of the mouse when used under WindowMaker.



**Give the Focus to the Application Where the Mouse Pointer Is.**

The first setting, labelled *Let Application Receive the Mouse Click...* is the default action for the left mouse

button on most window managers and desktop environments. Hence, this setting is selected by default.

## How Fast is a Double Click?

Double clicking is the action of rapidly clicking twice on a mouse button. This is the setting that adjusts how fast (in milliseconds) you need to click the mouse button twice in order for WindowMaker to call the action *double clicking*. By default, the second click should come one quarter of a second after the first click, or 250 milliseconds. You may adjust this setting depending on how fast you can double click on the mouse.

## A Rather Silly Option

WindowMaker has an option that allows you to *Pass a root window mouse click to a filemanager*. The *root window* refers to the background on your desktop. I see no reason why anyone should select this option.

## Reprogram the Mouse Handling Defaults

The next three options have a menu where you can select what WindowMaker does when you click on the mouse buttons. By default, no default action is selected. For each button, you can select from:

- \* Select multiple windows
- \* Display a list of open windows for you to select from
- \* Open the Applications Menu

## A Good Use for the Mouse Wheel

The last option here is configured so the mouse wheel is used to switch between Workspaces within

WindowMaker. By default, this is enabled.

## Mouse Actions on the Title Bar

On the left side of the title bar is the *Minimize Box*, and is present on every window which can be minimized. Clicking on that box will minimize the window.

On the right side of the title bar is the *Close Box*. This works the same as the close box (usually marked with an X) on most window managers and desktop environments.

*Not all windows can be minimized or closed with these mechanisms. If these functions are not active for any given window, the icons will not appear on the title bar.*

## Pulling up the shades

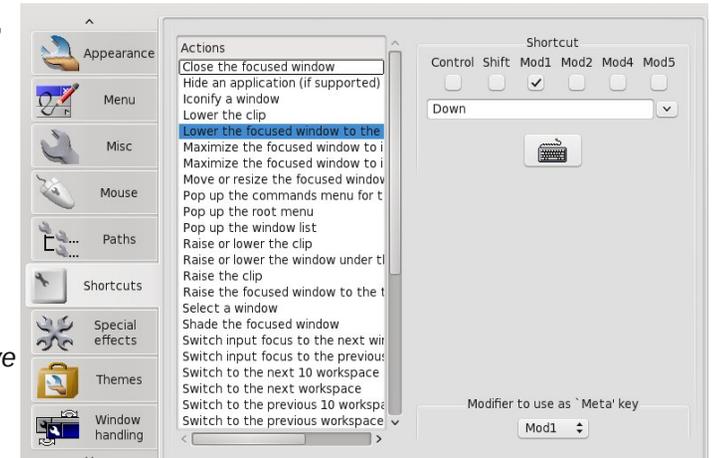
If you double click on the title bar (outside the Close or Minimize Boxes), the window itself will roll up into the title bar, not unlike window shades that you can install in your home. Double clicking after that restores the contents of the window.

## Keyboard Shortcuts

We all know that holding down the *Alt* key while pressing the *Tab* key cycles through the list of open windows. The *Alt-Tab* combination is an example of a keyboard shortcut, and can be a useful tool when it comes to getting things done efficiently on your computer.

WindowMaker comes with a number of keyboard shortcuts already configured for PCLinuxOS. These

shortcuts can be reprogrammed using the Configuration Manager to any key combination you wish.



The easiest way to reprogram any shortcut is to first, click on the button with the picture of the *keyboard* on it, then press the requested keystroke combination to assign the keystroke to the shortcut.

For most PCLinuxOS installations:

**Mod 1** refers to the *Alt* key on your keyboard.

**Mod 4** refers to the *Windows* key on your keyboard.

**Menu** refers to the *Menu* key on your keyboard.

**Be careful when assigning keystroke combinations.**

Pressing **Control-Alt-F1** through **Control-Alt-F7** will place your screen in text mode with a login prompt. These keystroke combinations are *hard coded* into the X.org display server. *If you accidentally press*

one of these keystroke combinations, press **Control-Alt-F8** to get back to the graphical display.

Also, **Control-Alt-Delete** will reboot your system, and **Control-Alt-Backspace** will exit you back to the login screen *without prompting*. **Do not assign anything to these keystroke combinations.**

### Default Keyboard Shortcuts

You would expect **Alt-F4** to close open applications as in KDE or GNOME. By default, both the *Mod 1* and *Mod 2* keystroke modifiers have been selected, hence disabling **Alt-F4** from closing windows. Uncheck *Mod 2* to enable **Alt-F4** to close application windows.

The reason for this? At the time WindowMaker was first being developed, **Control-Q** was the standard keystroke combination for exiting applications in UNIX. But then, IBM preferred **F3** as a standard keystroke for exiting out of most anything, be it an application running on a AS/400 mainframe, or OS/2 running on a PC.

**Alt-H** and **Alt-M** minimize application windows. The difference here is that not all applications running in WindowMaker support window hiding, i.e. when an application is placed in the background but not shown on the desktop; for example, the CUPS daemon waiting for the next print job to arrive. **Alt-M** works with all applications whether they support hiding or not.

**Alt-PgDn** lowers the current window with the Focus to the bottom of the visible window stack, basically sending the open window to the background, while still remaining visible.

**Alt-PgUp** raises the current window with the Focus to the top of the visible window stack in all its glory.

**Control-Escape** opens the current window's popup control menu the same way it does for KDE, GNOME and Windows.

**F12** opens the Applications Menu. This is a good candidate for reassigning to the Menu key on your keyboard.

**F11** opens the list of open windows on your current desktop.

Just as **Alt-Tab** cycles through the list of open windows, **Alt-Shift-Tab** does the same thing except that **Alt-Tab** cycles forward, while **Alt-Shift-Tab** cycles backward through the list.

**Control-Alt-Left Arrow** and **Control-Alt-Right Arrow** switches between Workspaces on your desktop the same way you can switch Workspaces using the mouse wheel.

*Desktop Note: On KDE and GNOME, these keystroke combinations work with the 3D effects active, and all the physical desktops showing while cycling through the desktop list using the keyboard.*

WindowMaker allows only the first ten Workspaces to be assigned to keystrokes. Pressing **Alt-1** will take you directly to the first Workspace, **Alt-2** will take you directly to the second Workspace, and so forth through **Alt-9**, which will take you to the ninth Workspace. **Alt-0** will take you to the tenth Workspace.

WindowMaker does allow you to create (theoretically) an infinite number of Workspaces. You can assign keystrokes to advance or go back *ten workspaces* at a time. There is no default keystroke assigned to this function.

Why anyone would want to have that many desktops active is beyond comprehension, unless you actually have a good reason to do so, such as opening terminal windows for access to many machines, such as that in a cluster of servers (for cloud computing).

There are other functions that have not been assigned keystrokes. For purposes of this article, we should not worry about these for everyday use of WindowMaker.



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The **PCLinuxOS** magazine

# Alternate OS: NetBSD - Part 2

by Darrel Johnston (djohnston)

Thanks to [kernowyon](#) who alerted me of a problem with running NetBSD in VirtualBox. He said,

*"Regarding your NetBSD item in the mag, it seems that installing NetBSD - at least in VirtualBox - has a problem for machines which do not have VT-x or AMD-V. You end up with an error and the setup halting before anything actually gets done.... There is a workaround as given [here](#) -*

*Despite the 'patm' entry apparently having an error, it worked for me! So I used -*

*VBoxSDL --nopatm --startvm NAMEOFMYBSDVM*

*and it worked. Of course, one has to create the VM first (as per your article). But when it comes time to start the VM, I had to use that command."*

We set the root password by running `/usr/bin/passwd`. I added the user darrel and included him in the group wheel, so he can have su access. I then set darrel's password. Next, we run `sysctl kern.rtc_offset` to find the timezone in relation to GMT. ----->

I set system time to US/Central, which is my timezone.

```
In -fs /usr/share/zoneinfo/US/Central
/etc/localtime
```

```
echo rtclocaltime=YES >> /etc/rc.conf
```

```
Next, we need to restart the clock.
sh /etc/rc.d/rtclocaltime restart
```

```
Then double-check the changes.
sysctl kern.rtc_offset
```

Yep. 300 seconds is 5 hours behind Greenwich Meridian Time. (bottom right)

We need to make sure we have network access. Do this by editing the `/etc/rc.conf` file. NetBSD includes two editors out of the box, `ed` and `vi`. `ed` is a simple line editor and `vi` is the default editor.

```
vi /etc/rc.conf
```

Add the lines:

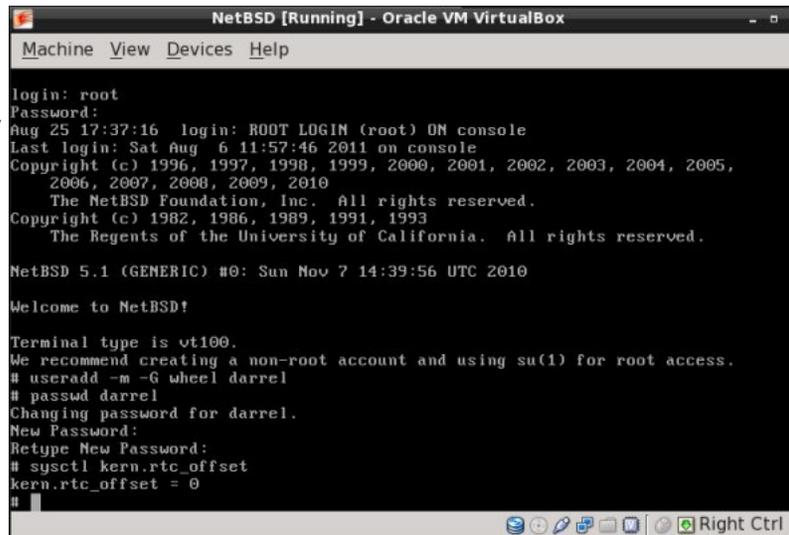
```
dhclient=YES
defaultroute=192.168.1.1
```

If we want to have a network address assigned by `dhcp`, we set it as shown below. Note that 192.168.1.1 is the address of the router my computer is connected to. Your setup may be different. After making above changes, we reboot to check our configuration. (top, next page)

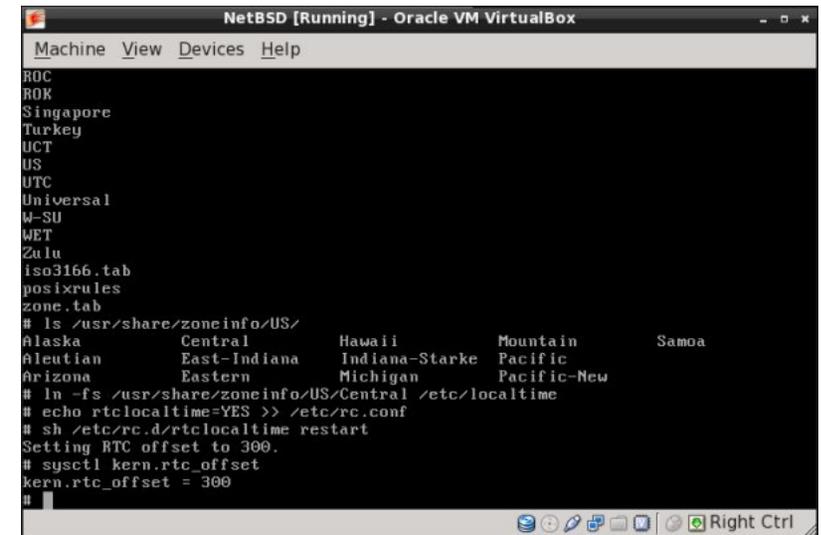
To see if we have network access after the reboot, login as a user and do:

```
ping -c 5 google.com
```

It would be nice to have a GUI. In order to get one, we need to install a window manager. But, first we must configure NetBSD's package manager, `pkgsrc`.



```
NetBSD [Running] - Oracle VM VirtualBox
Machine View Devices Help
login: root
Password:
Aug 25 17:37:16 login: ROOT LOGIN (root) ON console
Last login: Sat Aug 6 11:57:46 2011 on console
Copyright (c) 1996, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005,
2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010
The NetBSD Foundation, Inc. All rights reserved.
Copyright (c) 1982, 1986, 1989, 1991, 1993
The Regents of the University of California. All rights reserved.
NetBSD 5.1 (GENERIC) #0: Sun Nov 7 14:39:56 UTC 2010
Welcome to NetBSD!
Terminal type is vt100.
We recommend creating a non-root account and using su(1) for root access.
# useradd -m -G wheel darrel
# passwd darrel
Changing password for darrel.
New Password:
Retype New Password:
# sysctl kern.rtc_offset
kern.rtc_offset = 0
#
```



```
NetBSD [Running] - Oracle VM VirtualBox
Machine View Devices Help
ROC
ROK
Singapore
Turkey
UCT
US
UTC
Universal
W-SU
WET
Zulu
iso3166.tab
posixrules
zone.tab
# ls /usr/share/zoneinfo/US/
Alaska Central Hawaii Mountain Samoa
Aleutian East-Indiana Indiana-Starke Pacific
Arizona Eastern Michigan Pacific-New
# ln -fs /usr/share/zoneinfo/US/Central /etc/localtime
# echo rtclocaltime=YES >> /etc/rc.conf
# sh /etc/rc.d/rtclocaltime restart
Setting RTC offset to 300.
# sysctl kern.rtc_offset
kern.rtc_offset = 300
#
```

```
NetBSD [Running] - Oracle VM VirtualBox
Machine View Devices Help
# see rc.conf(5) for more information.
#
# Use program=YES to enable program, NO to disable it. program_flags are
# passed to the program on the command line.
#
# Load the defaults in from /etc/defaults/rc.conf (if it's readable).
# These can be overridden below.
if [ -r /etc/defaults/rc.conf ]; then
    . /etc/defaults/rc.conf
fi
#
# If this is not set to YES, the system will drop into single-user mode.
rc_configured=YES
#
# Add local overrides below
#
wscons=YES
rtclocaltime=YES
dhclient=YES
defaultroute=192.168.1.1
:wg
```

Checking config

Defining repo

```
NetBSD [Running] - Oracle VM VirtualBox
Machine View Devices Help
# see rc.conf(5) for more information.
#
# Use program=YES to enable program, NO to disable it. program_flags are
# passed to the program on the command line.
#
# Load the defaults in from /etc/defaults/rc.conf (if it's readable).
# These can be overridden below.
if [ -r /etc/defaults/rc.conf ]; then
    . /etc/defaults/rc.conf
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# If this is not set to YES, the system will drop into single-user mode.
rc_configured=YES
#
# Add local overrides below
#
wscons=YES
rtclocaltime=YES
dhclient=YES
defaultroute=192.168.1.1
:wg
```

As root, do:

```
export
PKG_PATH="http://ftp.NetBSD.org/pub/pkgsrc/p
ackages/NetBSD/<PORT>/<RELEASE-
NUMBER>/All"
```

## export PKG\_PATH

Note that the first line, **export PKG\_PATH="http:// ... /All"** is all one line. Do not press [RETURN] or [ENTER] after the word "export". **<PORT>** is the architecture of your PC, in this case, i386. **<RELEASE-NUMBER>** is the installed NetBSD version number. The installed version is 5.1, which is the current version. So, in this case, the command entered would be:

```
export
PKG_PATH="http://ftp.NetBSD.org/pub/pkgsrc/p
ackages/NetBSD/i386/5.1/All"
```

To make the PKG\_PATH permanent, put the above in the /root/.profile file, because it's root that must install packages.

```
NetBSD [Running] - Oracle VM VirtualBox
Machine View Devices Help
# export PKG_PATH="http://ftp.netbsd.org/pub/pkgsrc/packages/netbsd/i386/5.1/All"
# export PKG_PATH
#
```

Now that pkgsrc has been configured and the repository defined, we can begin adding packages. We can add precompiled packages with the pkg\_add command. All packages will be checked for

required dependencies. The dependencies will automatically be installed along with the packages specified. The full package list can be viewed in a web browser at <http://ftp.netbsd.org/pub/NetBSD/packages/pkgsrc/REAME-all.html>.

I chose to add Firefox, then KDE. As root, do:

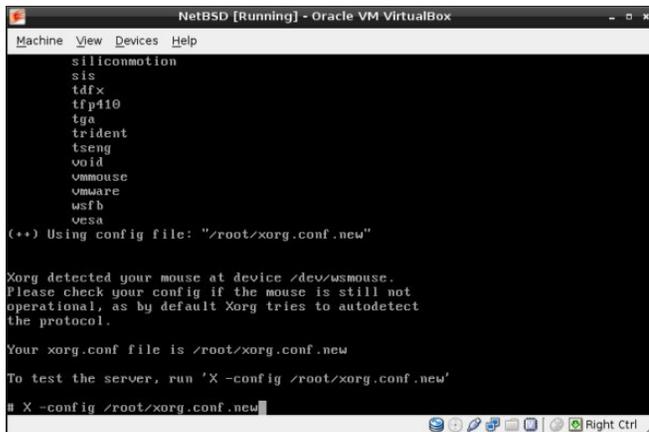
```
pkg_add -v firefox
pkg_add -v kde
```

```
NetBSD [Running] - Oracle VM VirtualBox
Machine View Devices Help
lib/firefox/defaults/profile/prefs.js
lib/firefox/extensions/(972ce4c6-7e88-4474-a285-3288198ce6fd)/icon.png
lib/firefox/extensions/(972ce4c6-7e88-4474-a285-3288198ce6fd)/install.rdf
lib/firefox/extensions/(972ce4c6-7e88-4474-a285-3288198ce6fd)/preview.png
lib/firefox/firefox
lib/firefox/icons/document.png
lib/firefox/icons/mozicon128.png
lib/firefox/modules/NetworkProtitizer.jsm
lib/firefox/modules/distribution.js
lib/firefox/modules/openLocationLastURL.jsm
lib/firefox/removed-files
lib/firefox/run-mozilla.sh
lib/firefox/searchplugins/amazondotcom.xml
lib/firefox/searchplugins/answers.xml
lib/firefox/searchplugins/creativecommons.xml
lib/firefox/searchplugins/eBay.xml
lib/firefox/searchplugins/google.xml
lib/firefox/searchplugins/wikipedia.xml
lib/firefox/searchplugins/yahoo.xml
lib/firefox/updater.ini
share/applications/firefox.desktop
share/pixmaps/firefox.png
Running install with PRE-INSTALL for firefox-3.6.16.
Package firefox-3.6.16 registered in /var/db/pkg/firefox-3.6.16
# pkg_add -v kde
```

Now that we have a window manager installed, we must configure the X server. By default, there is no /etc/X11/xorg.conf file supplied, even after the X server has been installed. Although the X server can be started and run without an xorg.conf file, I found the result to be a lot less than desired. To generate an xorg.conf file, as root do:

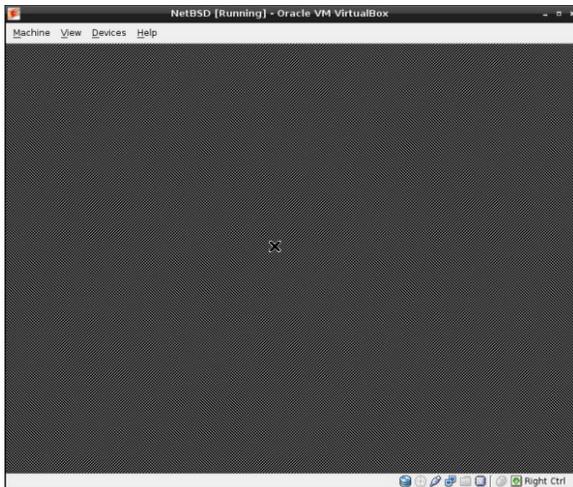
## X -configure

**X -configure** will generate the file /root/xorg.conf.new.



To test the configuration file, do:

**X -config ~/xorg.conf.new**



If the mouse is responding, copy the file /root/xorg.conf.new to the /etc/X11 directory as xorg.conf.

**cp /root/xorg.conf.new /etc/X11/xorg.conf**

To have KDE start up after logging in, we can issue the command **startkde**. To have KDE start automatically when the **startx** command is issued, logout of the root session by issuing the **exit** command. At the login prompt, login as the normal user. Create the file **.xinitrc** in your home directory. Add the following line to the file, then save the file:

**exec startkde**

Once the **startx** command is issued, we see the KDE setup screen.



Yes, that's KDE 3.5.10, to be sure. The "classic" KDE users will be pleased. After running the KDE setup, we are still left with an 800 x 600 screen as the largest option.

Screen space is a little tight. I wanted to increase the screen size to 1152 x 864, so I attached an iso which contains an example OpenBSD xorg.conf file to the virtual machine. New users are often surprised by the fact that although the installation program recognized and mounted their CD-ROM perfectly, the installed system seems to have "forgotten" how to use the CD-ROM. There is no special magic for using a CD-ROM. You can mount it like any other file system. All you need to know is the device name and some options to the mount command. You can find the device name with the **dmesg** command. As root, do:

**dmesg | grep ^cd.**

For example, if **dmesg** displays:

cd0 at atapibus0 drive 1: <ASUS CD-S400/A, V2.1H> type 5 cdrom removable

the device name is **cd0**, and you can mount the CD-ROM with the following commands:

**mkdir /cdrom**  
**mount -t cd9660 -o ro /dev/cd0a /cdrom**

To make things easier, you can add a line to the /etc/fstab file:

**/dev/cd0a /cdrom cd9660 ro,noauto 0 0**

Without the need to reboot, you can now mount the CD-ROM as root with:

**mount /cdrom**

When the CD-ROM is mounted you can't eject it manually; you will have to unmount it as root before you can do that:

### **umount /cdrom**

There is also a software command which can be run by root which unmounts the CD-ROM and ejects it:

### **eject /dev/cd0a**

I mounted the iso and copied the xorg.conf file to my user's home directory so it could be edited. By comparing it to NetBSD's generated xorg.conf file, I added the following lines shown in bold.

#### Section "Monitor"

```
Identifier "Monitor0"
HorizSync 31-80
VertRefresh 30-100
VendorName "Monitor Vendor"
ModelName "Monitor Model"
```

EndSection

#### Section "Screen"

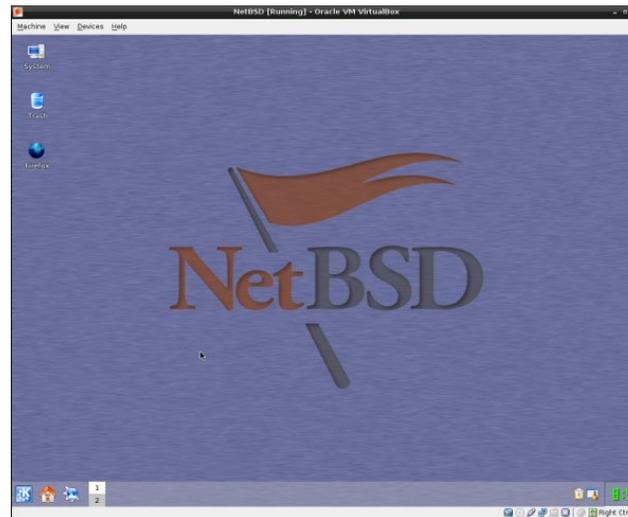
```
DefaultDepth 24
Identifier "Screen0"
Device "Card0"
Monitor "Monitor0"
SubSection "Display"
Viewport 0 0
Depth 24
Modes "1152x864"
```

EndSubSection

EndSection

After starting KDE again with the **startx** command, I have an 1152 x 864 screen. With a little further

tweaking, I have configured the KDE desktop to my liking.



Firefox had to be added manually to the KDE menu. I also added a desktop shortcut for it. It would be nice to have KDM, the KDE Display Manager, start up at bootup. It can be easily configured by using the KDE Control Center, but there is a little trick you must do in order to make it work properly. You must do this because KDE Control Center saves the configuration file in one place and KDM looks in another. Do as user root:

```
rm /usr/pkg/share/kde/config/kdm/kdmrc
ln -sv /usr/pkg/etc/kdm/kdmrc
/usr/pkg/share/kde/config/kdm/kdmrc
```

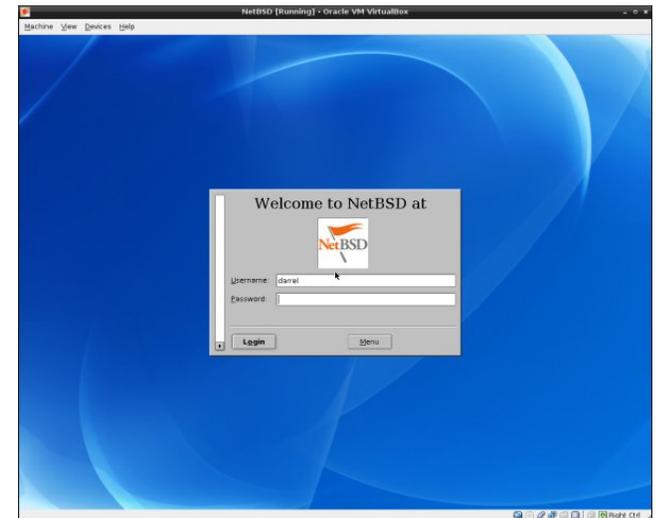
Also as user root, run **startx** and open the KDE Control Center. Go to System Administration > Login Manager. Open the Users tab and disable all the

users and groups you don't want shown at login. Click Apply. Next, click the Shutdown tab. In the Commands section, Halt: field, change **/sbin/halt** to **/sbin/shutdown -p now**. Click Apply. If you leave the field at default, the virtual machine will not power off when Turn Off Computer is selected from KDE's logout menu.

For the last step, as user root, add the following line to the end of the /etc/rc.local file:

```
/usr/pkg/bin/kdm
```

End the root session by logging out of the KDE session, then issuing the **reboot** command. On the next reboot, you will be greeted with the KDM login screen.



Installed packages can be updated by downloading source packages and compiling them.

Before you download any pkgsrc files, you should decide whether you want the current branch or the stable branch. The latter is forked on a quarterly basis from the current branch and only gets modified for security updates. The names of the stable branches are built from the year and the quarter, for example, 2011Q3, the current stable branch.

The second step is to decide how you want to download pkgsrc. You can get it as a tar file or via CVS. CVS is the recommended method. Both ways are described in Chapter 2 of NetBSD's pkgsrc manual. It is available [online](#) or as a [pdf](#) file.

To download pkgsrc-current tarball, run as root:

```
ftp
ftp://ftp.NetBSD.org/pub/pkgsrc/current/pkgsrc.tar.gz
```

Then, extract it with:

```
tar -xzf pkgsrc-20xxQy.tar.gz -C /usr
```

To fetch the pkgsrc current branch via CVS, run as root:

```
cd /usr && cvs -q -z3 -d
anoncvs@anoncvs.NetBSD.org:/cvsroot
checkout -P pkgsrc
```

CVS must be configured. The instructions are contained in Section 2.1.2 of NetBSD's pkgsrc manual.

Compiling the downloaded source files are beyond the scope of this article. Two more excellent NetBSD instruction sources are the NetBSD guide, available

[online](#) or as [PostScript](#) or [pdf](#) files, and the [NetBSD Wiki](#). Note that although the wiki's main page indicates it has not been updated since June 30th, 2010, the recommended [new wiki](#) is still under construction and has not been edited for the last 7 months.

Upgrading a NetBSD installation from one version to the next can be done from a bootable media such as CD-ROM or USB drive which contain at least the base and kernel distribution sets. Chapter 4 of the NetBSD guide contains the basic instructions. Since files already installed on the system are overwritten in place, you only need additional free space for files which weren't previously installed or to account for growth of the sets between releases. Usually this is not more than a few megabytes. Since upgrading involves replacing the kernel, boot blocks, and most of the system binaries, it has the potential to cause data loss. Before beginning, you are strongly advised to back up any important data on the NetBSD partition or on any other partitions on your disk.

I have barely touched on all the configurations required to install NetBSD installation for a particular purpose or for personal choices. For example, all services are disabled by default in a fresh NetBSD installation. Desired system services must be added by the user. Please refer to the official NetBSD [documentation](#) and third-party online guides and tutorials.



Support PCLinuxOS! Get Your Official  
**PCLinuxOS**  
 Merchandise Today!

# *ms\_meme's Nook: Spirals Of My Mind*

See the beautiful spiral I've created with Inkscape  
Never ending or beginning such an ever spinning shape  
Lovely gradients twirl like rains in monsoon  
As I pull on the nodes and with them I commune

Lovely patterns I draw as jpegs I trace  
And create pngs to take their place  
My desktop soon will shine as Inkscape I embrace

See the circles and the squares that I change into a path  
How it happens I don't know for I can't do the math  
Insert Join Delete Break path of selected nodes  
Ecstasy and delight from my pen now explodes

Export bitmap to a folder of my choice  
I'm so enthralled can't you hear it in my voice  
Wallpaper I've made and now I rejoice

OGG

MP3

# Gnome 2.32: PCLinuxOS Tweak

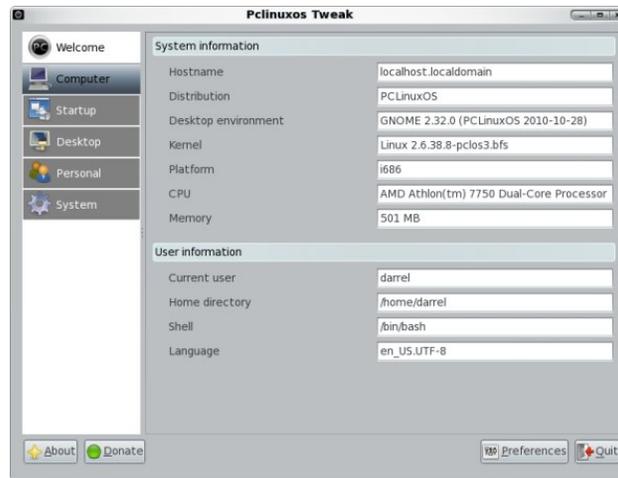
by Darrel Johnston (djohnston)

PCLinuxOS Tweak is a custom package written for PCLinuxOS. It allows the user to set some "hidden" options within the Gnome desktop. Install the pclinixos-tweak package from Synaptic, then start the application by selecting System > Administration from the PCLinuxOS Gnome menu. You will be greeted with the Welcome screen.

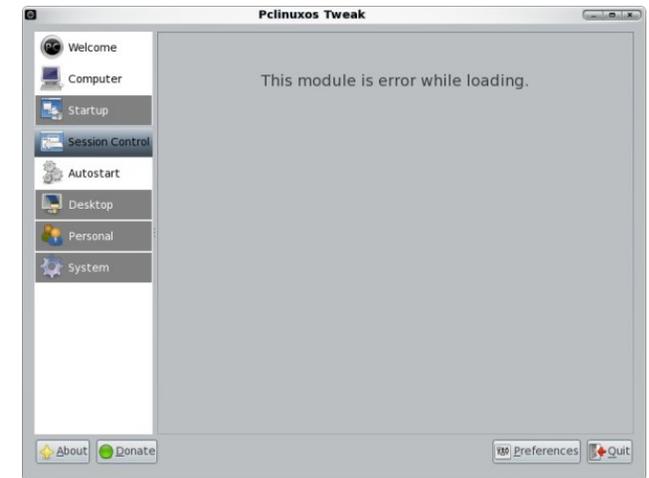
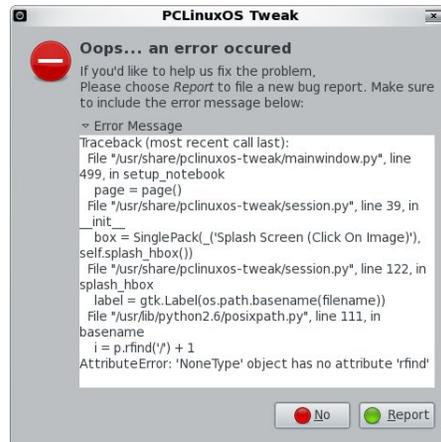


Click the Computer button in the left panel to see system and user information displayed in the right panel. Although it may appear so, none of the information shown can be edited, even as user root. Both information lists are very basic (image top of next column).

Clicking on the Startup button in the left panel unhides two subsections, Session Control and Autostart. Session Control is selected automatically, and brings up an error window. Clicking on the Error message dropdown arrow shows us the error



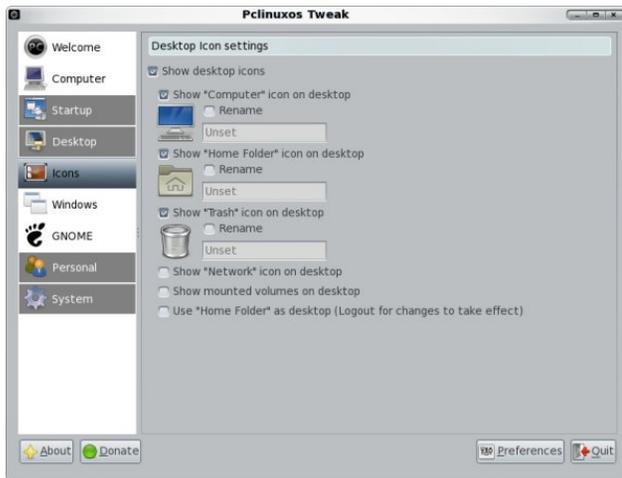
messages. Three python scripts are involved in the errors, /usr/share/pclinixos-tweak/mainwindow.py, /usr/share/pclinixos-tweak/session.py, and /usr/lib/python2.6/posixpath.py. This problem has been reported [before](#). Note that the plans are to drop this package from the repository, as the settings will no longer apply in Gnome version 3.



Clicking on the Autostart button in the left panel shows a list of programs that are started when you login. You can enable or disable each one by checking or unchecking the item. There are two options below the right panel. Show comments will enable a brief description for what each program does. I see no extra programs displayed when I check the Show all runnable programs box.

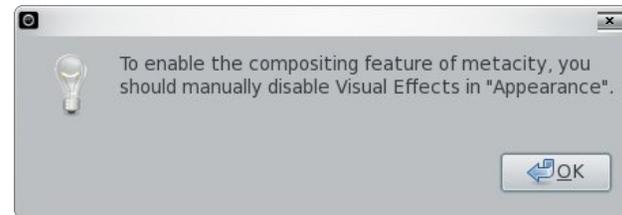


Clicking Desktop, the next button down in the left panel, brings up three subsections. The first subsection, Icons, has the desktop icons settings. Except for the last settings, all options are for what icons to show on the desktop. The last item is to show the contents of your home folder on the desktop.



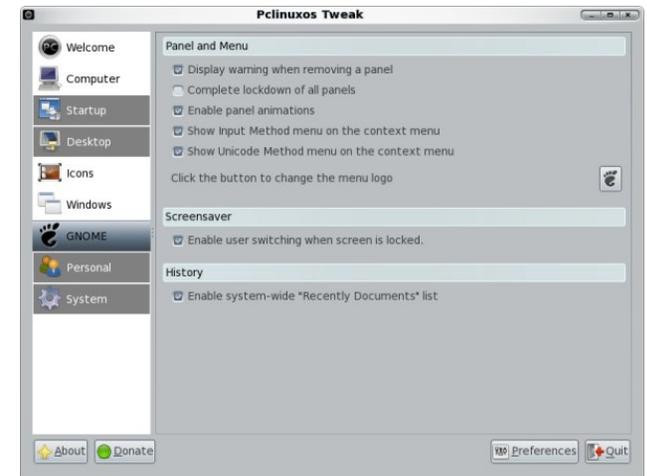
The next Desktop subsection is Windows. The first section in the right panel is Window Decorate Effect. We can choose to use the Metacity window manager's theme instead of Gnome's. We can also choose to enable active and inactive window transparency, and set the level of transparency for each. The second section in the right panel is Window Titlebar Action. All actions are based on the mouse wheel or mouse clicks. The mouse wheel has only two options, none or roll up. Each of the mouse clicks have six options: none, maximize, minimize, roll up, lower or menu. The third section in the right panel is an option to enable Metacity's window compositor. Clicking on that option will bring up a

message window stating that visual effects in "Appearance" should be disabled.

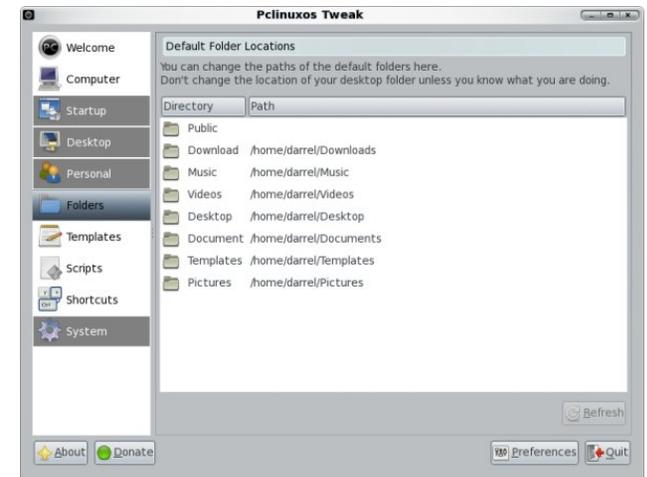


The third Desktop subsection is GNOME. Under Panel and Menu, we have three panel options and two input method options for the context menu. Next is a Screensaver section, followed by a History section, each with one option (first image, top of next column).

The next major button in the left panel is Personal. Clicking it reveals four subsections. In the first one,



Folders, we can set the default paths for folders commonly used by programs.

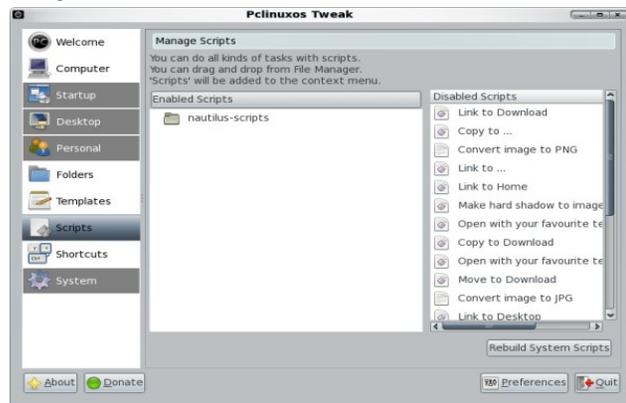


The next subsection button is Templates. Here, we can manage document templates by simply

dragging them from one window pane to another. The active templates will be the ones shown in the desktop and folder right-click context menu under Create Document.



The next subsection button is Scripts. Many of these are file manager shortcuts, such as Copy to or Link to. Some call external programs, such as Convert image to PNG.

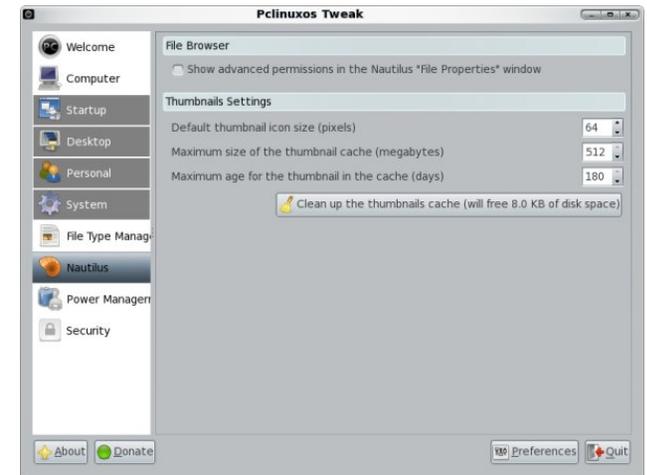


The last subsection button under the Personal button is Shortcuts. This section is for defining keyboard bindings. Double-click one to input a new key combination and the command to be associated with it.



Clicking the last major button, System, also reveals four subsection buttons. File Type Manager allows you to select what application program will open a particular filetype. Double-click one of the filetypes to make the program selection. Unchecking Only show filetypes with an associated application will show all system filetypes (first image, top of next column).

Clicking the next subsection button, Nautilus, will allow you to set a few Nautilus file manager options (second image, next column).

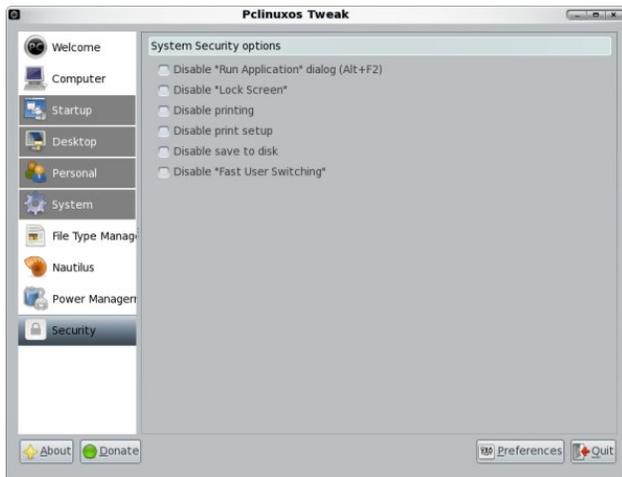


The third subsection button, Power Management, will allow you to set a few advanced power management options (first image, next page).

Advertisement



The last subsection button and last button in the left panel, Security, allows you to set some of the system security options.



PCLinuxOS Tweak gives you quick access to many Gnome desktop features, as well as a few not available in Gnome's desktop preferences. Note that

all the selections shown above are system defaults after a fresh installation with a few new packages installed.

## Screenshot Showcase



*Posted by DarkEra, October 8, 2011, running Xfce.*

# Ratpoison Window Manager

by hootiegibbon

As some of our forum members will testify, I am known - among other things - for typos and a love for 'left of center' applications and window managers.

Ratpoison window manager is one of these. When you first boot into a ratpoison session, you may mistakenly think that it is just a blank screen, that something has gone wrong, and move onto another window manager - like Kwin or IceWM.

Ratpoison is not specifically a tiling manager, although it does do manual tiling if you want it to.

Ratpoison as a window manager is oblivious to the mouse. It's keyboard and keybinding driven. That's not to say you cannot use the mouse with the apps you use while using ratpoison. I still use my laptop's trackpoint within my browser, `xxterm`.



Although ratpoison is very lightweight, it is not necessarily designed for older machines. However, due to how it manages windows, it is an extremely good choice for smaller screens, as you can deal with one window-decoration-free full screen app, that really is full screen. On larger and multi screen set ups, you can have dedicated tiles that fully

capture your keyboard when you select a particular window, until you release or move the mouse and keyboard to another tile or window.

All configuration is carried out through a file called `.ratpoisonrc`. This allows you to change, (from what I have experienced), any part of the window manager usage configuration .

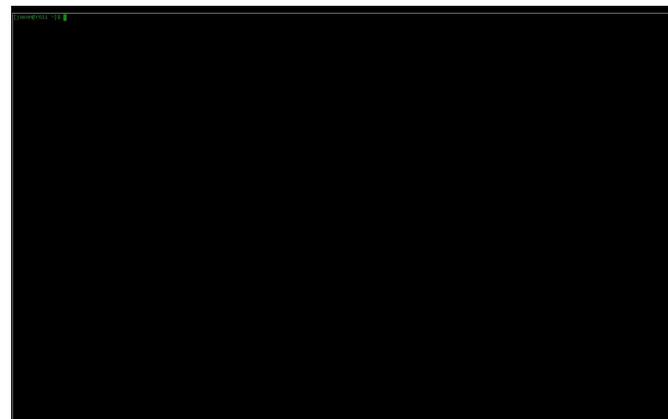
[Here is a link to my .ratpoisonrc file](#) (referred to below as `mrp` - my `.ratpoisonrc`). Feel free to use it and change it if you wish.

Commands are passed to the window manager by first escaping normal keyboard function. This is done by the use of what is known as an 'escape key.' By default, it is set to 'Ctrl + T,' which to me is not a sane choice, so I used `ratpoisonrc` to change this to use the right Control key (on its own). This is handy, as it allow me to use either hand to enter the window manager command mode. In order to see what all the available commands are, you would use 'escape key + ?.'

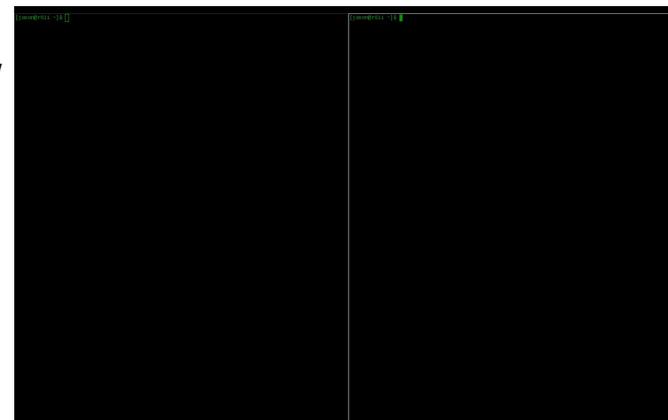
Okay. So if I have persuaded you to try ratpoison out, lets try it a little.

While facing the initial black screen, use the defined escape key then `c`. This launches a single screen `xterm` terminal. If you are using `mrp` and have `Sakura` installed, just use `Shift + Winkey + Enter` to launch an instance of `Sakura`. It should look like this: (top right)

Now that you have a full page app, let's split the screen. To do this, use the defined escape key + `Shift+S` to get a vertical split. To move into the new split, use the defined escape key + right arrow, then



repeat the launch sequence for the terminal. It should then look like this:



Okay. Lets do one more split.

This time, let's split the screen horizontally. To do this, use the defined escape key + `S`. Then use defined escape key + down arrow to move into it.

Once again, launch a terminal. It should now look like this”



Now, you should have three tiles. Each of these tiles can have almost unlimited numbers of apps within them, with one being in focus at a time (Gnu-screen users will be familiar with many aspects of this).

To quickly navigate between tiles, use the defined escape key + F. This will number each tile. Select a number to move focus to that tile. As a shortcut, if you know the number, you can use the defined escape key + number to move the focus to that particular tile. Alternatively, to see a list of all windows available use, use the defined escape key + W, which produces a list for you to see the numbers.

Okay. so let's navigate to the large window. There, we are going to launch a web browser. In order to do this, it's best to have a shortcut set up. I have mrp set up to launch xxxterm if I use the Winkey + F1. You can edit that entry to have your favorite browser

launch instead. If using the default, you will need to launch a bash command to do this. Use the defined escape key + ! and type in the app name.

You will now have four apps – three copies of xterm and one copy of xxxterm – running, and three tiled 'screens' to view them on.

To change between the windows on your display (like flipping pages in a book), you can either use the defined escape key + N (Next) or the defined escape key + P (Previous). If you are using mrp, the Winkey + XF86Back or Winkey + XF86Forward (page back on your keyboard, and sometimes Alt + Right and Alt + Left arrows, although you may have a dedicated key, like I do on my Thinkpad keyboard).

In order to kill an application, you can use the defined escape key + K. If you are using mrp, you can use the Shift + Winkey + Esc.

As for what applications work well with ratpoison, you can basically use any with good configurable keybindings. Here is a short list of ones that I found that work well, to get you started.

#### Graphical Web Browsers:

xxxterm (in repo - tabbing)

Jumanji (in repo - tabbing)

surf (in repo - non-tabbing - instead of tabs launch single instances and "flip" though the windows using the defined escape key + N or P)

Vimperator (an add-on for Firefox)

Vimprobable2 (non-tabbing webkit browser - more advanced than surf - this is a package that i would love to build or have it built)

#### Email Client

alpine

mutt (need to get my head around its config)

sylpheed

#### IRC Client

irssi

weechat-ncurses

xchat

In fact, the only apps that I have found that do not play well are those that have more than one window to start with (Gimp, for example). For these, there are two ways to deal with them. First, you can "unmanage" them using the ratpoison command **unmanage [name]**. Here is how the "unmanage" command is defined:

*Add name to the list of unmanaged windows. Thus, windows of this name will not be managed but allowed to choose their position themselves.*

*In non-interactive mode calling it without arguments will print the list.*

*The list can be cleared again by calling **clrunmanaged**.*

The second way is to use the `tmpwm` command. The “tmpwm” command is defined like this:

*tmpwm WM*

*Temporarily give control over to another window manager, reclaiming control when that WM terminates.*

I hope this little tutorial has been useful in getting some basic ratpoison experience. The best two resources are to check out all the command sequences (defined escape key + ?) and, of course, the [ratpoison manpage](#).

To keep up on the latest discussion involving the ratpoison window manager, please check out the [ratpoison thread](#) in the PCLinuxOS Forum.

# Lin(PC)us

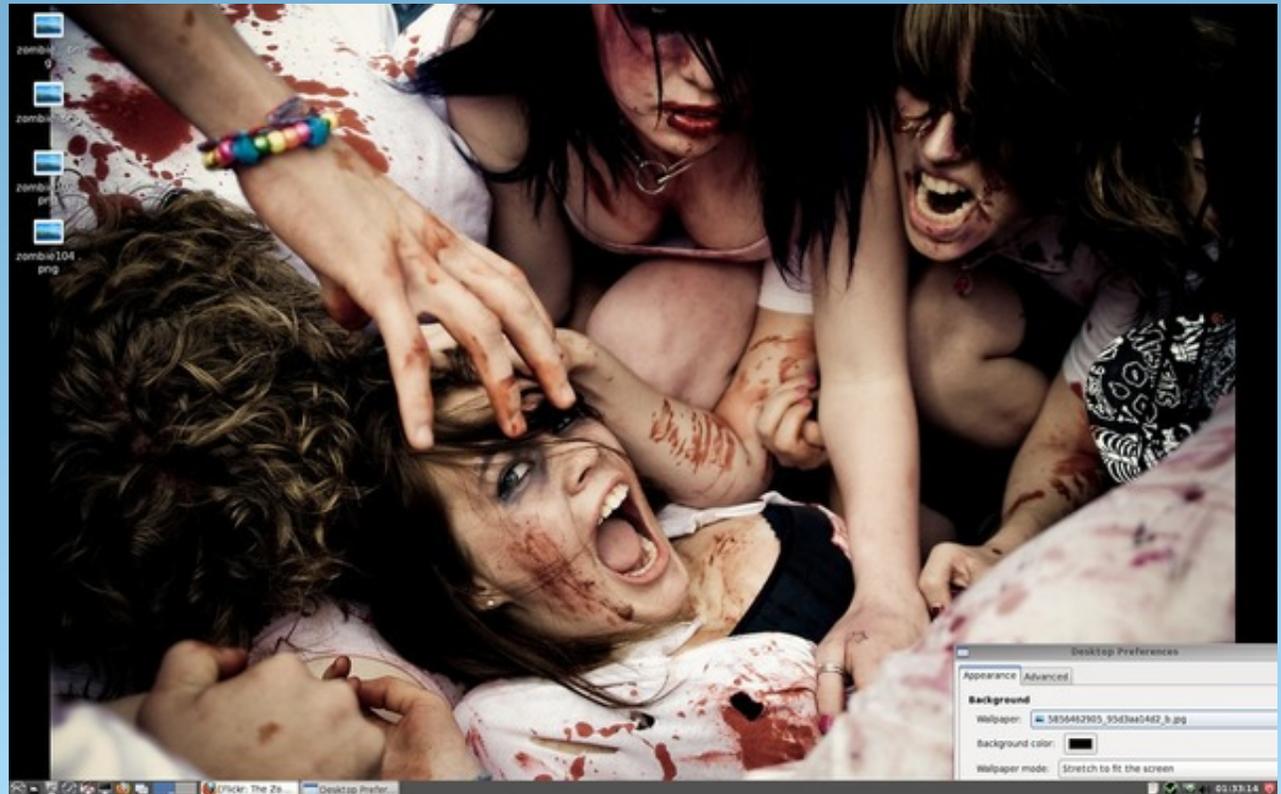
Managing My Data Center.

Flexible  
Reliable  
Secure  
On-Demand  
Computing  
...delivered in a  
win/win relationship



EN\*KI The Computing Utility™ [www.enkiconsulting.net](http://www.enkiconsulting.net)

## Screenshot Showcase



Posted by konaexpress, October 5, 2011, running LXDE.

# ***.ratpoisonrc - The Breakdown of a Config File***

by hootiegibbon

## This article is presented in a way that allows you to directly use it as .ratpoisonrc. It contains  
## a few extra details and options not present in my current published ratpoisonrc

## OK, so you have decided to download my RatPoison remaster of PCLinuxOS here  
## <http://cozmodesigns.co.uk/jase/files/>

## You know that the 'EK' or EscapeKey is Control\_R or the "notsign" (↵) and that some  
## keyboard combinations do some cool things on screen

## You are also aware that this remaster is based on my personal setup of ratpoison and the  
## way I like it - you may not like it all or want to make it yours whether that means you want  
## different default apps or a different key combination that matches your needs.

## I thought it may be nice to breakdown the ratpoisonrc file on a line by line basis and  
## discuss/explain/waffle about each section of the configuration file and offer some potential  
## alternatives

## So the first line looks like this:

```
#####start
```

```
#exec conky
```

## To many this will be obvious as being a commented out command to launch (ie start up)  
## conky, which is a hugely configurable monitoring application (worthy of an article of its own)

```
## I have left this commented as I like to invoke it only as required; in fact while writing this  
## it seems to be a good candidate for a keybinding to turn it on and one to turn it off)
```

```
## lets add a conky on/off keybinding  
## to turn it on requires the selection of an unbound key I will choose the #/~ key  
## lets launch it with EK and then # and turn it off (kill it) with ~  
## you need to know the actual name of those two symbols, fortunately ratpoison makes this easy  
## by using the message system (in the right top corner of the ratpoison wm) try pressing EK  
## ie Control_R then the # in the right hand corner its name appears - and states it's unbound  
## do the same with ~  
## the two names should be "numbersign" and "asciitilde" so now we can bind those two keys to  
## two commands - one to launch conky (exec) and another to kill the process (killall) the lines  
## will look like this
```

```
bind numbersign exec conky  
bind asciitilde exec killall conky
```

```
## conky-on/conky-off, not so difficult eh? ratpoison really does make it as simple as possible  
## to add custom keybindings
```

```
## ok back to the subject matter  
## the following lines set up some command chains to a key, in this case it set up various split  
## screen formats with up to 4 usable windows to manually switch between.  
## the echo lines appear in the top right-hand corner of the ratpoison screen.
```

```
bind F1 exec ratpoison -c "select -" -c "only" -c "next" -c "echo Fullscreen!"
```

```
bind F2 exec ratpoison -c "select -" -c "only" -c "vsplit" -c
"next" -c "echo Layout 1"

bind F3 exec ratpoison -c "select -" -c "only" -c "hsplit" -c
"next" -c "echo Layout 2"

bind F4 exec ratpoison -c "select -" -c "only" -c "hsplit" -c
"next" -c "focusright" -c "next" -c "vsplit" -c "next" -c
"focusleft" -c "resize 200 -40" -c "next" -c "echo Layout 3"

bind F5 exec ratpoison -c "select -" -c "only" -c "vsplit" -c
"next" -c "hsplit" -c "next" -c "focusdown" -c "hsplit" -c "next"
-c "echo Layout 4"

bind F6 exec ratpoison -c "select -" -c "only" -c "vsplit" -c
"next" -c "focusdown" -c "hsplit" -c "next" -c "echo Layout 5"

## Workspaces stuff, the following line sets up 10 virtual work spaces which
uses Alt + F1-F10
## to switch between them

exec rpws init 10 -k

## ok this following line is what changes the EK from the default C-t combination

escape notsign

## having changed the EK lets make it more user friendly (at this point you can
hear the
## hard-core ratpoison users scream)
## this will change the behavior of ratpoison to use a single control key instead
of the
## combination of the ctrl-t.
## The control key set by this string is the "right control" key on the right side of
keyboards, it will
## also mean you can use the notsign key as an alternate.

definekey top Control_R readkey root
```

```
definekey root Control_R link notsign
## now I want to be sure that the default is completely removed so we unbind the
key combo
## this stops this key combo taking preference over opening a new tab in
xxxterm or other apps

unbind C-t

## ok, I killed the default welcome message with this line I have yet to learn how
to replace it
startup_message off
## perhaps this can be done with the use of an unbound echo command that will
execute at startup..

exec ratpoison -c "echo Greetings and Salutations $USER"

## works for me!

#use the app name rather than title in the window list

defwinname name

##app groups? let me know if you figure out app groups, as I am not clear on the
matter..

#gnewbg one
#gnewbg two
#gnewbg three

## Moving on....
## here are a couple of cool keybindings
## the first allows you to copy any url from the screen to the clipboard and then
go to the site by using EK then g

#copy & paste selected highlighted links into browser

bind g exec xxxterm -n `SRATPOISON -c getsel`
```

```
## even better this next one will paste any copied text into a search engine
##(its a good secure search engine Andy, so relax)

#search for highlighted by using copy and then EK \ to paste that directly into a
search engine

bind backslash exec xxxterm -e "tabnew
https://startpage.com/do/metasearch.pl?query=`$RATPOISON -c
getsel`"

## I prefer smaller fonts for information stuff if you want a bigger font change this
to 11 or 12

set font fixed-8

## sets how each application is named in the winlist (EK then w) choices are title
| name | class

set winname name

## ok this is the fomate of how the winlist entries are shown options are
# %a by the application name (resource name),
# %c by the resource class,
# %f by the frame number,
# %g by the gravity of the window,
# %h by the height of the window,
# %H by the unit to resize the window vertically (height_inc)
# %i by the X Window ID,
# %p by the process ID,
# %l by the last access number,
# %M by the string Maxsize, if it specifies a maximum size,
# %n by the window number,
# %s by window status (* is active window, + would be chosen by other,
- otherwise)
# %S by the screen number
# %t by the window name (see set winname),
# %T by the string Transient, if it is a transient window
# %w by the width of the window
```

```
# %W by the unit to resize the window horizontally (width_inc)
# %x by the xine screen number and
# %% by a single %
# the default is

set winfmt %n %s %t

## the winlist can be shown as a column or a row

set winliststyle column

## wingravity nw|w|sw|n|c|s|ne|e|se
## Set the default gravity new normal windows will get.
## Possible values are the same as in the gravity command,
## which changes the gravity of an existing window: cardinal points or
numbers 1 to 9. northwest.

set wingravity center

##transgravity nw|w|sw|n|c|s|ne|e|se
## Set the default gravity new transient windows will get.
## Possible values are the same as in the gravity command,
## which changes the gravity of an existing window: cardinal points or
numbers 1 to 9.

set transgravity center

## maxsizegravity nw|w|sw|n|c|s|ne|e|se
## Set the default gravity new self-maximised windows will get.
## Possible values are the same as in the gravity command,
## which changes the gravity of an existing window: cardinal points or
numbers 1 to 9.

set maxsizegravity c

#this next one gives enough room for my conky script to fit in (takes up the top
12pixels of the screen)
## just to explain that the numbers represent the 4 sides of your screen LEFT |
```

TOP | RIGHT | BOTTOM

```
set padding 0 12 0 0
```

## This sets the border around each window

```
set border 1
```

## this sets the border that the command/message box gets

```
set barborder 0
```

## and the padding around it

```
set barpadding 4 4
```

## and where on screen it appears options are nw|w|sw|n|c|s|ne|e|se

```
set bargravity ne
```

## the width of the command bar

```
set inputwidth 350
```

## these set the basic background and foreground colors

```
set fgcolor grey
set bgcolor #090909
set fwcolor grey
set bwcolor #343434
set waitcursor 3
```

##This keeps a list of the session commands and undos (undo is EK then u)

```
set historysize 50
set maxundos 50
```

# still not got the grip of this next one

```
rudeness 12
```

## Lets set up some handy keybindingd to show the date and as an example the acpi detail

```
bind a exec ratpoison -c "echo `date '+%A %d %B, %Y %R'`"
bind B exec ratpoison -c "echo `acpi -V | sed 's/
//g'`"
bind c exec sakura
```

## this is the alternative terminal (the reverse is ro reverse teh foreground background as I dislike lightterminals

```
bind C-c exec vte --reverse
```

#pointerstuff = this sets a cursor arrow instead of the crosshairs

```
exec xsetroot -cursor_name left_ptr
```

#alias keys within ratpoison

## bind semicolon (EK then ;) to launch a ratpoison command.

```
bind semicolon colon
```

## and execute a command via the colon (EK then :)

```
bind colon exec
```

## group moving still don't quite get groups - let me know...

#bind greater gnext

#bind less gprev

#following to automate the use of tmpwm however I found that using this method ties up my terminals afterwards

## if you can't use terminals or have less than 192ram this may be the most effective way to use floating apps

## like gimp and skype

```
bind C-M-space exec ratpoison -c "tmpwm icewm-light" -c "echo  
returning you to ratpoison"
```

```
## so as a work around I suggest using the following line which will open up a  
new Xserver on ctrl+alt+F9  
## the keybinding for this is EK then Crontr+Alt+Insert - this should work  
smoothly with 192 megs or more
```

```
bind C-M-Insert exec startx /home/$USER/.xserver2instruct -- :1
```

```
#the following do not need the escapekey to action C=Control s=mod4 S=Shift  
M=Alt
```

```
#the following sets up the winkey (mod4) as a launch modifier as an alternate to  
the defaults not using the winkey.
```

```
#definekey top s-Print exec scrot ~/Pictures/screenshots/'%Y-%m-%d--  
%H:%M:%S--$wx$h.png'  
#definekey top s-x exec xlock  
#definekey top s-F1 exec /usr/bin/xxterm  
#definekey top s-F2 exec sakura -e alpine  
#definekey top s-F3 exec sakura -e weechat-curses  
#definekey top s-F4 exec xnview  
#definekey top s-F5 exec pcmanfm  
#definekey top s-F6 exec leafpad  
#definekey top s-F7 exec pcc  
#definekey top s-F8 exec gksu dbus-launch /usr/sbin/synaptic  
#definekey top s-F9 exec Ted  
#definekey top S-s-Return exec sakura  
#definekey top s-r exec dmenu_run  
#definekey top s-Escape delete  
#definekey top s-XF86Back prev  
#definekey top s-XF86Forward next
```

```
#  
#if you do not have a winkey then don't worry as the following to use a mix of the  
ctrl and the alt keys
```

```
#  
#control &Fkeys used to prevent issues with workspaces  
  
definekey top C-F1 exec /usr/bin/xxterm  
definekey top C-F2 exec sakura -t alpine -e alpine  
definekey top C-F3 exec sakura -t weechat -e weechat-curses  
definekey top C-F4 exec xnview  
definekey top C-F5 exec pcmanfm  
definekey top C-F6 exec leafpad  
definekey top C-F7 exec pcc  
definekey top C-F8 exec gksu dbus-launch /usr/sbin/synaptic  
definekey top C-F9 exec Ted  
  
definekey top M-Print exec scrot ~/Pictures/screenshots/'%Y-%m-%d--  
-%H:%M:%S--$wx$h.png'  
  
definekey top M-x exec xlock  
definekey top M-Return exec sakura -t Terminal  
definekey top M-r exec dmenu_run  
definekey top M-Escape delete  
definekey top M-XF86Back prev  
definekey top M-XF86Forward next  
  
### ok that's this config file. I hope that this conversational config file has been of  
interest  
### if it has I may cover further configuration files in future articles  
### Please keep the next line intact if you copy paste this file  
### .ratpoisonrc by hootiegibbon for the PCLinuxOS Magazine
```



# Forum Foibles: Over The Net

Over the Net and through the Sandbox  
In the Neighborhood we'll meet

At ms\_meme's Inn where with a grin  
She's made lots of grub to eat

Over the Net and through the Sandbox  
Now step up to the bar

Have a drink with all your friends  
They come from near and far



Over the Net and through the Sandbox  
At the table find your place

Have a chat with this and that  
Get away from life's rat race

Over the Net and through the Sandbox  
Enjoy the chips and dip

Then use Pay Pal to lift his morale  
Give Texstar a great big tip

OGG

MP3

*ms\_meme's*  
**Neighborhood Grub Inn**  
**Fine Dining**

**~ Appetizers ~**

*Mounted Mushrooms*  
*Stuffed Python*  
*Distro on the Half Shell*

**~ Soup ~**

*SU Sweet Swap*

**~ Salads ~**

*Leafpad Greens*  
*Lilo on Wedge of Linux*  
*Enlightened Endive*

**~ Fruits ~**

*Configured Figs*  
*Data Dates Applets*  
*Delicious Devices*  
*Splashscreen Surprises*

**~ Entrees ~**

*Filet of File Foolishness*  
*Partition Patties*  
*Roasted Root Rubbish*  
*Gagabyte Goolash*  
*Repository Roast au jus*

**~ Beverages ~**

*Software Soda*  
*Wine*  
*ROFLMAO Champagne*  
*Sparkling Water with Twist of Vim*  
*MAN OH MAN Coffee Cocktail*

**Tip and Gratuity to Texstar**



**~ Vegetables ~**

*Bashed Mashed Potatoes*  
*Synaptic Green Beans*  
*Roots with Rice*  
*Kernel 2.6.38.8 of Corn*  
*Command Line Carrots*  
*Encrypted Eggplant*  
*Geek Leeks Perl Peas*

**~ Desserts ~**

*Desktop Delight*  
*Gimp Goodies*  
*Newbie Nothings*  
*Cable Cookies*  
*Daemon Food's Cake*  
*Tweets Twitters and Twaddle*

# Forum Family & Friends: Crow

by Archie Arevalo (Archie)

**Felipe Avalos** is also known to many PCLinuxOS Forum regulars as Crow. He resides in Tamaulipas, México with his wife and two kids. Felipe is a psychologist working up ways to promote human values among university students.

“All my life, I’ve been in clinical and educative fields, mainly in Special Education.

“Family and my work fill almost all my time - from 5:30 in the morning to 11:00 at night. When I can, I like to collaborate with people working in Special Ed. I love to read; I’m a sort of Stephen King and Dean Koontz fan, but if I have time, I read almost anything I can get my hands on. I also like doing small maintenance at home. I love martial arts, especially Kenpo, but left the practice. These days, together with my kids, we practice Judo.”

*I asked him what got him into Linux?*

“I grew tired of the viruses and instability of Windows, and a friend told me about a new operating system. I read a lot about it and downloaded Mandrake, which turned out to be an amazing discovery. My friend is an IT professional, and after that, we both started using Linux.”

*Don't most of us find Felipe's reasons familiar? Felipe is a long time Linux user. He registered with Linux Counter on October 11, 2003 and sports the number 330412.*

“Right now, I exclusively use PCLinuxOS KDE4, LXDE and Enlightenment 17, but I had tried Mandrake/Mandriva, Kubuntu, Puppy, Slackware, Mepis, Vector and many others. One which I used a lot as a Live CD was dyne:bolic. I have had lots of good memories with it.

“I don’t remember very well how I ended up in PCLinuxOS, but I think I read somewhere (probably at Linux Today) that it was Mandrake done right. I left Mandrake when it became Mandriva and had a lot of bugs, so I downloaded PCLinuxOS, tried it, and I was just hooked. Some



months later, I registered at the forums because I needed support.”

*Felipe is also a proponent of PCLinuxOS e17 and a club member.*

“I am an end user. I switched to e17 at work when KDE4 arrived with it's hype and erratic behavior. Given my responsibility level, I couldn't afford failings. Linuxera did a great job ... and who can resist Agust's themes? I like all that I'm using and sometimes that makes for a very busy desktop.

“PCLinuxOS is probably the best distro for end users right now. I have used it for years now in my daily work, and it has never failed me. None of the other fellows at work can say the same from their operating systems - Windows and OSX. I think that says all about the developers.

“Derivatives are a world of options. I want to someday try Full Monty, which I have been seeding and installed for several times, but I've never actually used it.”

*Felipe has been a PCLinuxOS Support Forum member since January 29, 2007 so I asked him about our community.*

“We have the best community, a sort of a family. And in families, there are all kind of personalities and we have to respect them and let them be. We are part of the diversity we all live in. If someone behaves badly, we say Papa Neal or another mod, and that's all. The forums have a good reputation but a Mexican song says “no soy monedita de oro”

(translation - I'm not a gold coin), so let's face it ... we can't please everybody.”

*So I guess his signature "When life hands you lemons... add a little salt and Tequila", aptly says much about our friend and family member Felipe Avalos.*

*I had one last question I was trying to decide whether to include on the article or not. I asked Felipe if he thinks the world will end at the end of next year.*

“Not the world. Humanity could end soon if we keep this population rate of growing.”

*OK ... so I guess the first to go will be China then India ...*



**The PCLinuxOS Magazine**

**Created with Scribus 1.3.9**

## Screenshot Showcase



Posted by menotu, October 19, 2011, running KDE4.

# Computer Languages From A to Z: ZPL

by Gary L. Ratliff, Sr. (eronstuc)

This series began more than three years ago and three editors past of the PCLINUXOS Magazine with the APL language. It now completes with the ZPL language.

Both of these languages are unique in that APL used a set of non-standard symbols. These were not able to be easily displayed until the development of the screen enabled the character set to become easily available. This was coupled with the use of the UTF set, which defined characters used in virtually every language. ZPL is unique in that it is an array processing language, which uses a method of computation, one which is more understood by scientists.

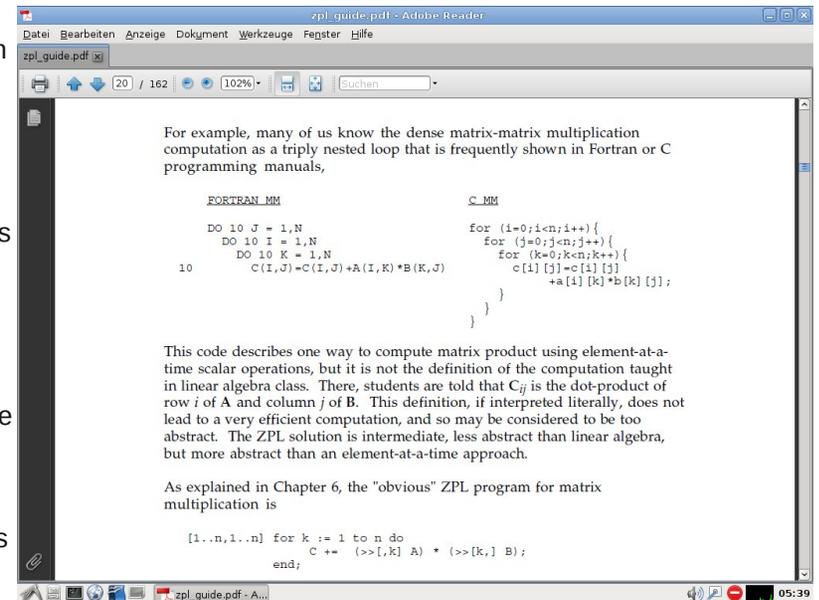
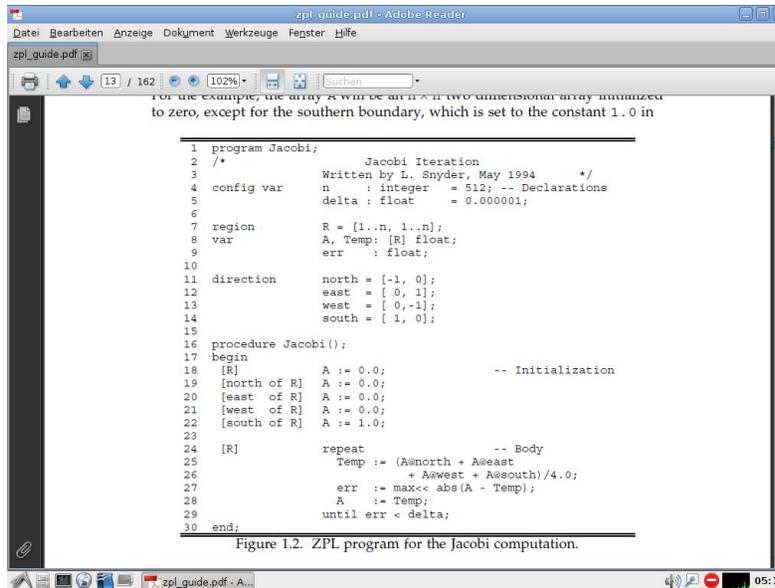
The language is best understood by reading the text of the language, which is available online as a PDF book. The book's title is [A Programmer's Guide to ZPL](#).

This text takes you systematically through the language, and introduces the language with a program, showing the structure of the language: -->

Here we notice some items which are quite unfamiliar: the concept of the region and the concept of direction. The first chapter fully explains the program.

Chapter 2 shows the concepts with which most programmers would be familiar. This covers the types of numbers which are used in the language, the form of comments, the size of the variables and the proper form for naming constructions.

The ZPL compiler is shown to compile the ZPL source program into ANSI C, and then use the system's native C compiler to create the object program. During this series, many of the languages



have been shown to actually compile the source into a C language program, such as, for example, the gfortran language.

The difference in that line of thinking is given in an example to show how structured languages, such as C and Fortran, differ in their

methods from an array language, such as ZPL. (above)

In the next chapter: (Chapter 3), the text concentrates on the concepts that are unique to the ZPL language.

Once this has been done, the rest of the text explains how to use the language, as illustrated by this example of a statistics application: (next page)

Since my orientation is more geared toward the structured computer languages, I found following the material difficult. So my intent is to just let you know that such a language exists. Its home is at the Computing Center of the University of Washington, which was donated by Paul Allen, a co-founder of Microsoft. He reveals in the text of his memoirs:

```

1 program Sample_Stats;
2 /* Program computing the mean and standard deviation of a sample */
3
4 config var items : integer = 100;      -- Problem size
5 region R = [1..items];                -- Problem space
6
7 procedure Sample_Stats();              -- Start of Program
8 var   Sample : [R] float;              -- Declare data array
9       mu, sigma : float;              -- Declare scalars
10
11 [R]begin
12   read(Sample);                        -- Input from zin
13   mu := +<<(Sample/n);                 -- Mean
14   sigma := sqrt(+<<((Sample-mu)^2/n)); -- Std deviation
15   writeln("Mean: ", mu);              -- Print
16   writeln("Standard Deviation: ", sigma); -- results
17 end;
    
```

Figure 4.2. Sample statistics program.

The mean,  $\mu$ , defined as

The coverage of the ZPL language in Wikipedia mentions that nothing has been added to the language since the what's new entry in 2004. And this language, like poor Yorick, may be passing away. Computer languages, like spoken or written languages, are born, then may soon become dead languages.

Searching for computer languages, one may learn that thousands are available. In my selections, I tried to pick every language type. And, if available, one which was available using Linux. As I mentioned in the coverage of XML, one could easily construct an alphabet of just a selection of XML languages.

So if you want to become proficient, you should pick out a language which is to your liking. We have presented examples of the many types of languages. The language C, as it was used to create the Unix system, from which Linux was derived, would be a natural choice.

This language is the basis of the excellent introduction to Linux Programming offered by Wrox: *Beginning Linux Programming 4th Edition* by Neil Matthew and Richard Stones. It is published by Wiley Publishing Inc.

This text starts with an introduction to programming and explains the uses of creating shell scripts and then proceeds in a systematic manner through the topics of programming using C. The book finishes up with the treatment of using the GUI for programming in Gnome and KDE (which uses the language C++ for all its many applications.) I was able to enter the items for Gnome, but could not find the needed library to allow me to get the KDE items to function.

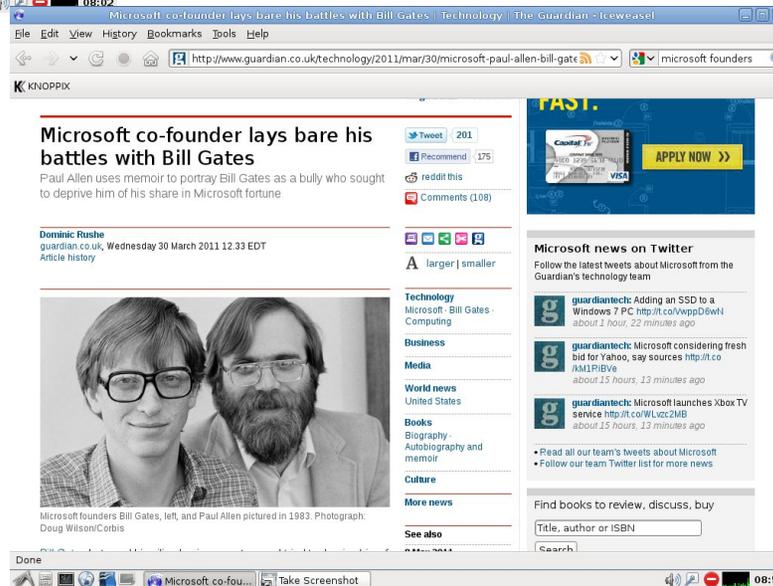
I hope you have found this series useful. If you missed any of the articles the material is covered in my blog: "My Computer Articles" This can be found at <http://eronstuc.blogspot.com>. As each language was covered, an item was presented along with a link to the article.

Today, as I write this, I am learning of the passing of Steve Jobs. A great pioneer in computing has passed.

*The Idea Man*, some of his difficulties with his Microsoft co-founder. -->

So here we have the alphabet of computer languages, as it has been presented in the pages of The PCLinuxOS Magazine during the last three years. This series started with an article about the APL language, which appeared in the July 2007 issue, and concludes with this article about the ZPL language, appearing in the November 2011 issue. During that time period, we have covered the following computer languages:

APL, Basic, C++, Dylan, Elisp, Fortran, Guile, Haskell, Icon, J, Korn Shell, Lisp, Modula 2, Netlogo, Octave, Pascal, Q, R, S, Tcl, Unicon, Vala and Visual Basic, Watfave, XML, Yorick, ZPL.



# Testimonials

## ***If Heineken Made an OS, It Would Be This One!***

by john030655

Well, I've been using PCLinuxOS for just over six months now (KDE version). I've had the odd crash and lock up along the way, but all these have been caused by my fiddling. I have discovered some icon sets work, some lock the system and sometimes I've asked the system to do too much. But I now have it set how I want, and it is very very stable. Even for my set up, it is the fastest OS I have used as a full desktop installation.

I also love that I don't have to wait for a new version to come out. I've set up auto updates and know that every time I use the computer, I'm running the most up to date system I can. It's very user friendly, once you get used to it, and does everything that any other distro or other OS can do and more.

To be honest, for a while I got a little bored. There was nothing to do: no defrag, no registry repairs, no re-install to the latest version. Then it dawned on me. I can now use the computer for what it was intended for.

I am really impressed with KDE. I like that it hasn't changed too much, unlike Gnome. My computer still looks like a computer, and not a 22" iPhone.

So, a big thanks to the team behind PCLinuxOS. You have, without a doubt, made the best Linux OS there is, in my opinion.

Like the beer advert, if Heineken made an OS, it would probably be this one.

John  
PCLOS KDE and here to stay.



## ***One Small Life Story - Or How I Stopped Working and Learned To Love the Linux***

by laethe

Last night I had a dream of the Windows 3.11 screensaver Flying Windows (if you're old enough, you know) and that made me think about the past, and how I finally ended up here.

I believe I'm of the first generation which has lived its entire life amongst computers. I remember when my father carried home our first one. It was 386SX with amazing 33Mhz processor and DOS. And man, was that the stuff! Soon after, we got a 486 with Windows 3.11 (must have been something like '92-'93), and 33.6kbs modem! Oh the configuration! I believe I could still get on the net with Trumpet Winsock and Netscape.

And the games! Original Settlers, the first NHL Hockey, Civilization 1&2, Wolf 3D & Doom. Dammit, that was amazing at the time. And countless shareware games, side-scrollers and simulations. Oh, the times.

Sometime around 2000 was my first contact with Linux (got fed up with Win 98 and ME), but that was a great failure. I bought BestLinux2000 at a local store. It was a localized version of RedHat with a huge manual, but unfortunately many things have been changed in the release since the printing of the manual, so it wasn't really of use. I believe I tried something else too, but can't remember for sure.

Then there was a long gap in my interest of computers, after the release of XP. I used it until last year, but it was just a tool for me, since I started this so-called thing called 'living' at that time.

Looking back, I have to wonder how I'm still alive, but I still can't regret anything. I used to play in a punk band, hang around with some really weird people, do drugs and drink (too) much. There was weeks of drunken haze, doing all the stupid things that seemed really funny at the time. Today, some of those friends are dead, some are in mental

hospitals, many are ... people I care not to hang out with. But back to the point: It's been almost a year when I was dating a girl who had quite strong left-wing policies and she convinced me to give Linux a go once again. I had just tried Win7 and it was actually really good (can I say that here?), but she was really hot so what else could I do?

So, last January I started my Linuxing with "another distro" and quite frankly, the the only difference I could see compared to Windows was the inability to play good games with it (yes, I tried wine, but nothing seemed to work completely). However, I grew into it, began to really like it and started tinkering. After about a six months I decided that I needed something else and stumbled on distrowatch.org. I finally ended up with Arch Linux and fell in love with its spartan simplicity, speed, and the control which I had over it. I had a lot of free time at the moment, having broken up with my girlfriend, being unemployed and slowly starting to detach completely out of society, so I learned a lot of things during summer.

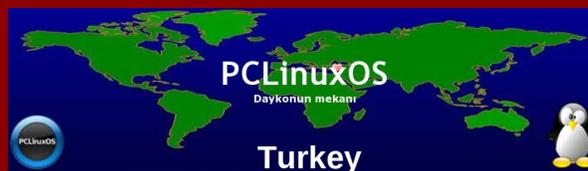
I've been always somewhat of a music freak (<http://last.fm/user/laethe>), so one of the things really annoyed with Linux was its lack of GOOD music players. Sure, there seemed to be dozens of players, but they all seemed like copies, with the same features and a lot of unnecessary bloat. Finally I found gmusicbrowser, which is still the only Linux MP3 player that can be compared to foobar2000. And what do you know, I'd say it even beats foobar 4-3. Still, I wasn't completely happy with gmb, so I spent about two months learning how to code. I really put myself into it, spending about 8-10 hours \*every day\* staring at gmb source – but in

the end I learned something. The result was laitePLAY (<https://github.com/laite/laiteplay>), and I'm really happy about it. It's damn close to perfect – for me. There is only one minor bug, which would be easy to fix, but as with most of the things in life, if I know how to do something, it's probably not worth doing. It's bothersome. It's work. So once I got laitePLAY to the state where it works, I've not touched any code since and I believe I never will, unless I really want to do something I can't with current software.

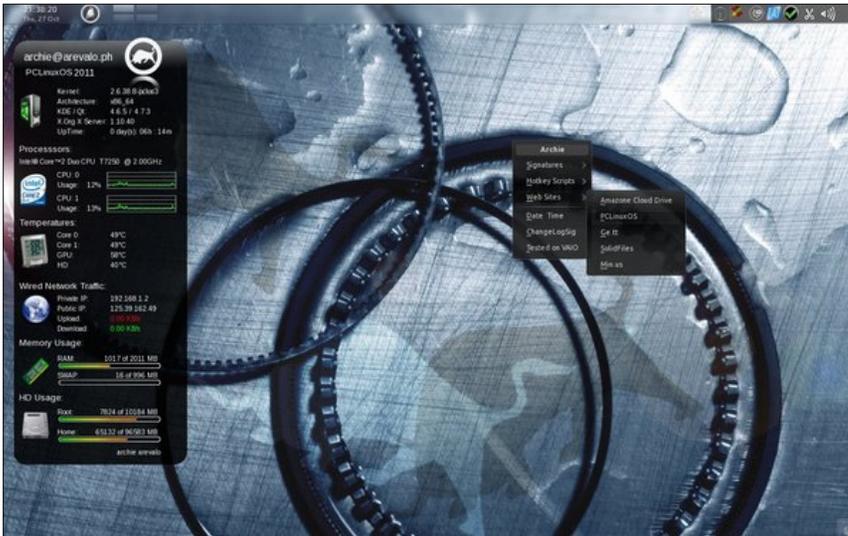
So, in the end I used Arch until a few weeks ago, when I finally got enough of the general instability and the huge amount of updates. That's when I began the Big Search for the perfect distribution. I tried dozens of distros. Many of them were good. Many were bad. Some were simple and some too complex for me. I never meant to keep PCLinuxOS. It was just one of the many, but for some reason I really liked it. You know, how every distro has certain "feel" to it? PCLinuxOS seemed instantly comfortable, adjustable and stable – I can't explain why. I've learned that many things in life can't be explained, and I accept that. I even removed it couple of times to give room to other distros, but always re-installed it. Now I have Arch with KDE as a backup distro, and PCLinuxOS as my main OS, and I couldn't be happier.

Finally, I'd like to say hello to everybody here, and thank if someone of you bothered to read my ranting - I just got to write it down somewhere and this seemed like a good place.

## International Community PCLinuxOS Sites

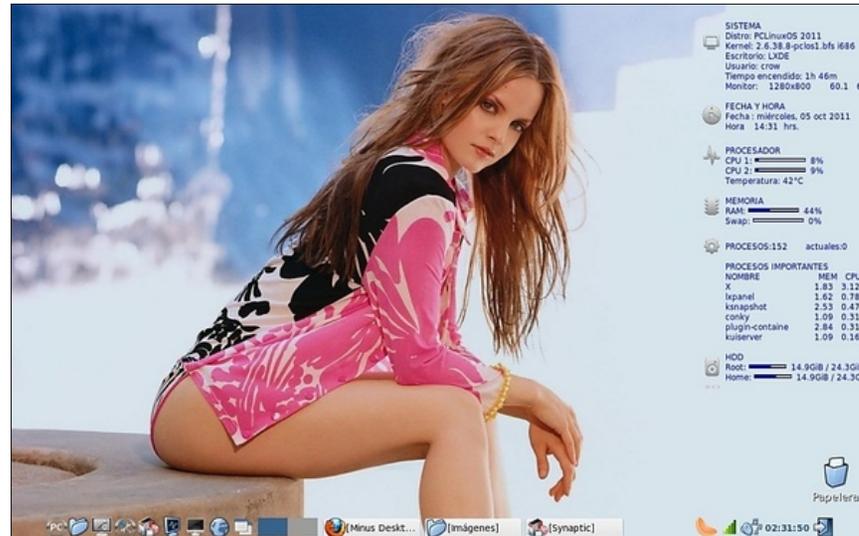


# More Screenshot Showcase



Top Left: Posted by Archie, October 27, 2011, running KDE4. Top Right: Posted by LKJ, October 15, 2011, running Openbox.

Bottom Left: Posted by coffeetime, October 28, 2011, running Openbox. Bottom Right: Posted by Crow, October 5, 2011, running KDE4.



# 2011

## November

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

*Happy Birthday Andrzej!*

