

Microsoft's Best Kept Secret (Ubuntu Linux)

I have used Microsoft products for many years and paid the price just like many of you have. But now I have found the answer to saving money. Like everyone else that uses a computer, we had two choices either Microsoft or Apple. I always thought Apple was a good choice but the cost always keep me for getting one. The PC was cheaper but then the only choice of Operating Systems was Microsoft Windows or a very techie Linux or Unix. So the world went the Microsoft way.

Because of this, just about all the software was designed for Windows, so Microsoft took control of this industry. But things are changing and many people are waking up because money is getting tighter.

This brings me to the subject of this writing:

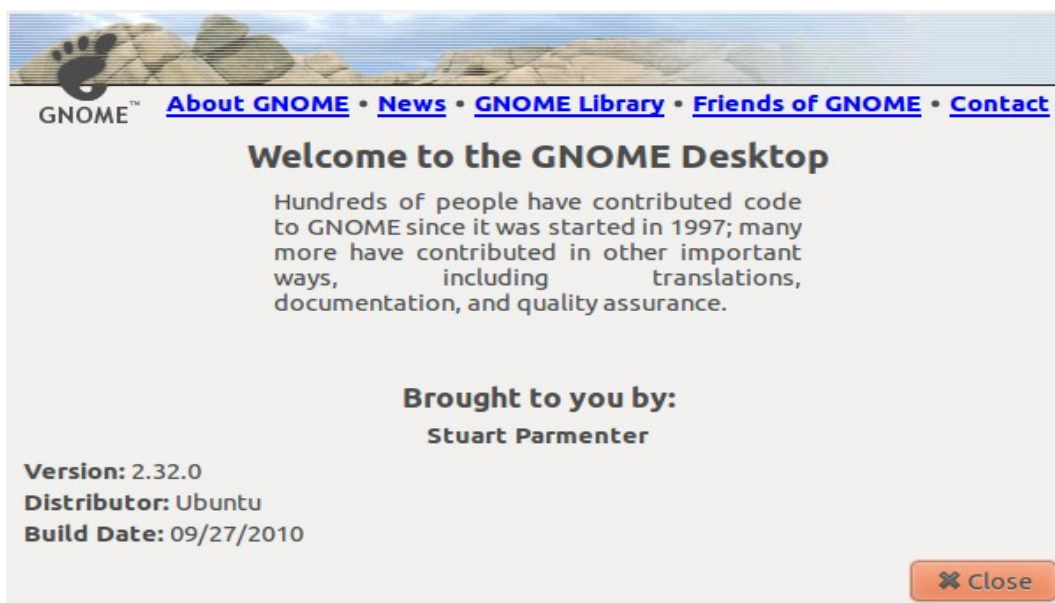
Ubuntu Linux

I started using Ubuntu back in 2005 and prior to that time I tried many other distributions. Open SuSe, Red Hat, Fedora, etc. I even tried FreeBSD which is really Unix. If you would like to see how many are now available go to DistroWatch.com, their URL is <http://distrowatch.com/> To make a long story short, none really fit the bill. They were not ready to replace my Windows system. But things were changing.

I really feel that Ubuntu Linux has **come of age** and is a true replacement for Windows, In fact I find it better than Windows 7. And with very little time for learning it is much easier to use. Now the thing I find to be the biggest point to using Ubuntu Linux is the fact that I can change it to suit my everyday needs. I can do thing from the GUI (Graphic User Interface), or from the CI (Command Interface) or command prompt. Other users that I have installed Ubuntu on their PC's tell me that it runs and boot much faster then Windows. Also they like the fact that they do not need to run an Anti-Virus software to protect their systems. This fact alone will speed up the daily use of the OS (operation system).

Let me show you some screen shots and you make up your own mind.

First lets look at the Desktop that come with Ubuntu. It is call Gnome:





This is my Desktop under Gnome.

Under the desktop is the ability to apply special effect by using Compiz. Here is a screen shot of the cube effect. By the way you can have multiple desktops. This means you can switch between them very easily.



There are many many more special effects that can be used. Water drops, being able to write with fire on the screen, and much more.

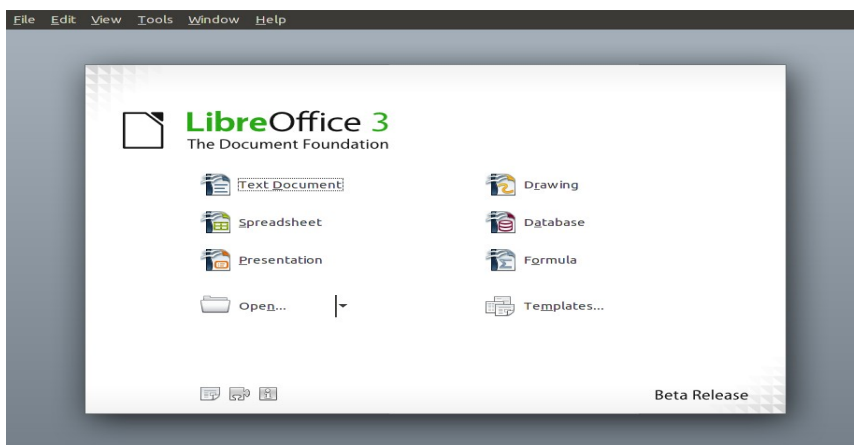
Now let look as some practical stuff. To make my system look a little like a Mac, I use a utility called Avant menu.



This menu can be setup anyway you want.

Now when it comes to software, you can spend days exploring all the packages that are available for the download. I think I forgot to tell you that they are free, like free beer, or free burgers.

Let's talk about MS Office. Linux has a replacement called OpenOffice. And we have a replacement coming down the line, and the bata release is out already.



OpenOffice.org 3.2.1
OOO320m19 (Build:9505)
ooo-build 3.2.1.4, Ubuntu package 1:3.2.1-7ubuntu1

Copyright © 2000, 2010 Oracle and/or its affiliates. All rights reserved.
This product was created by Debian and Ubuntu, based on OpenOffice.org.
OpenOffice.org acknowledges all community members, especially those mentioned at <http://www.openoffice.org/welcome/credits.html>.

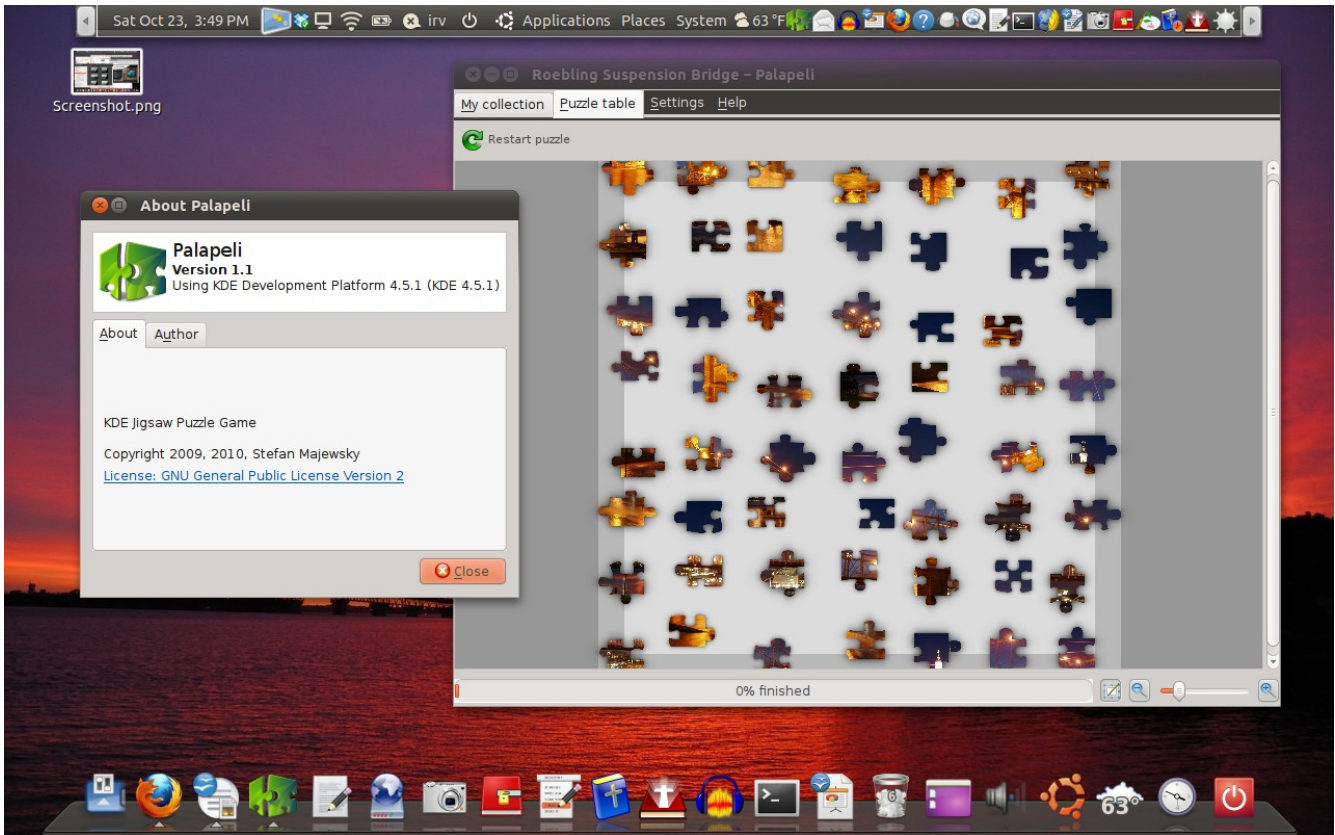
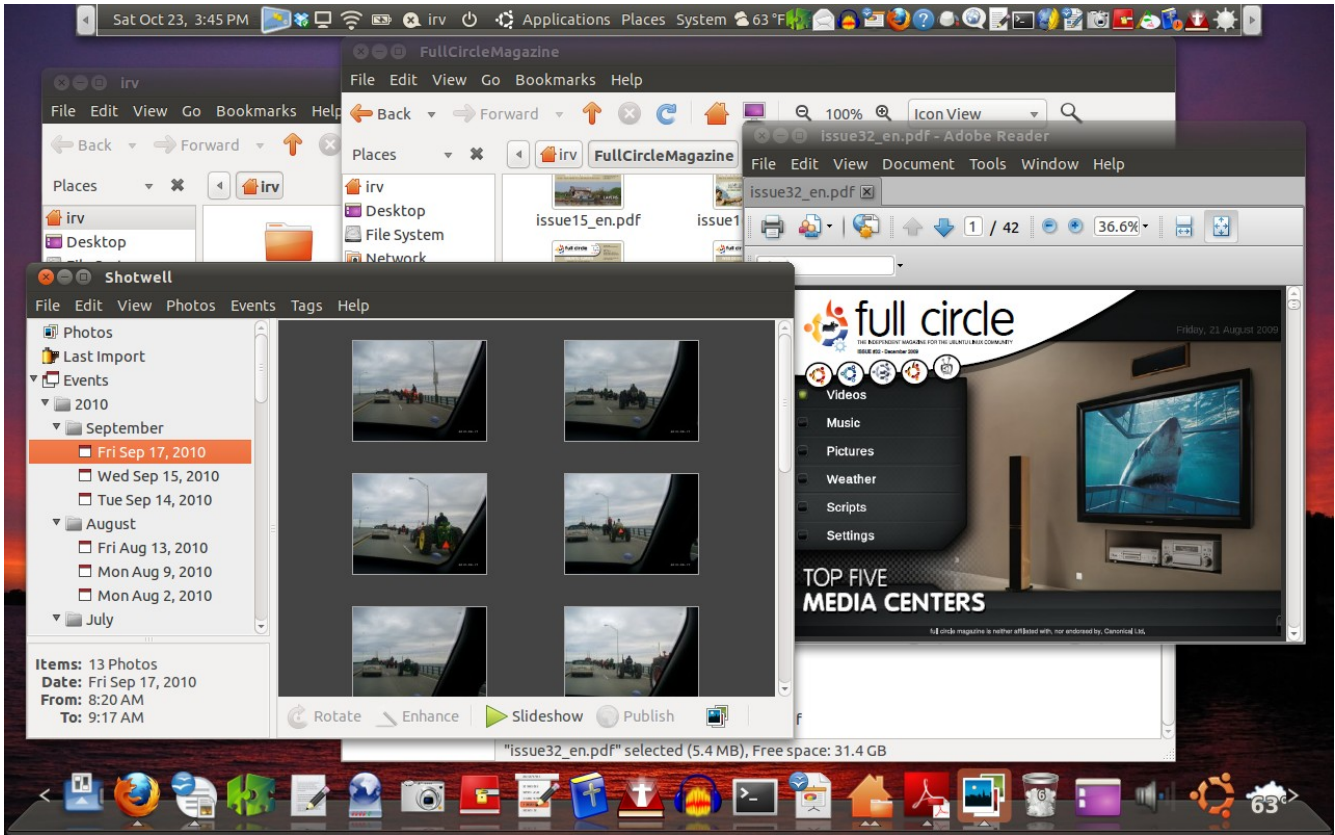


more screen shots.

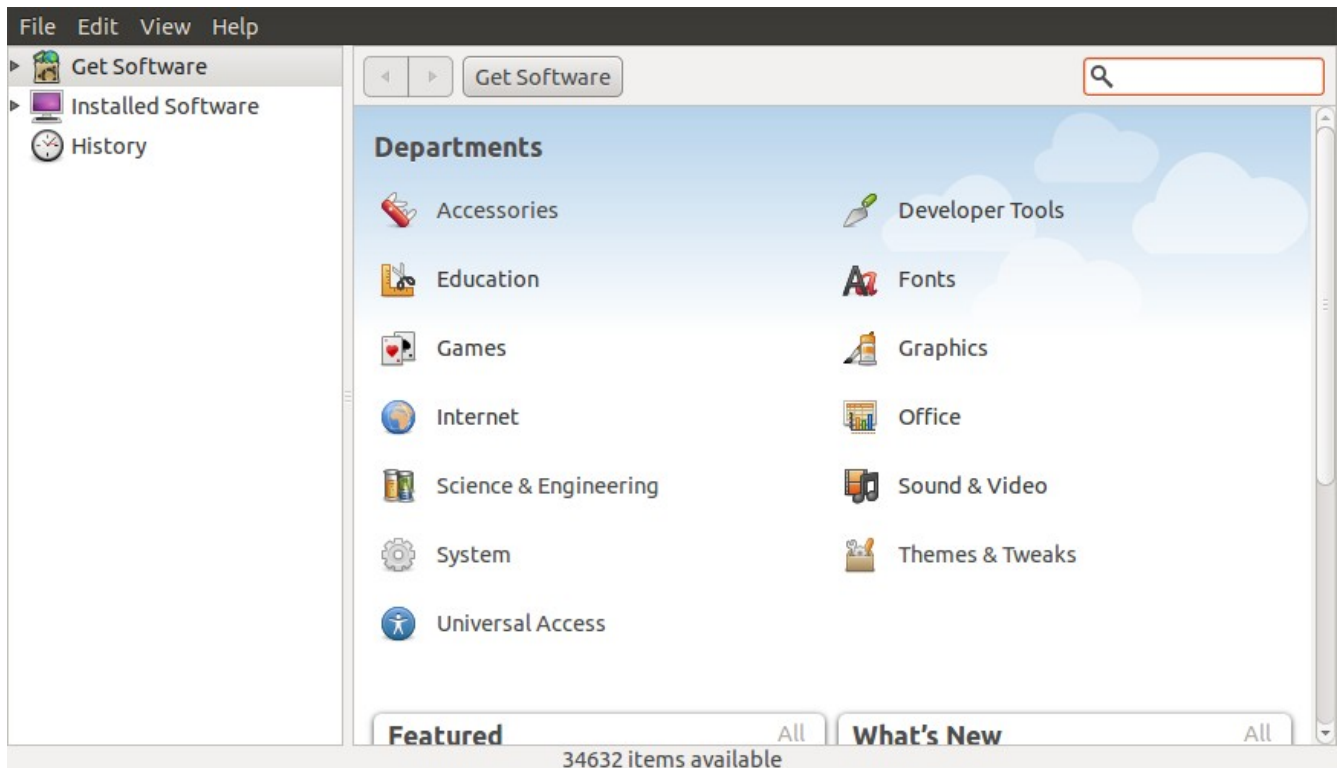
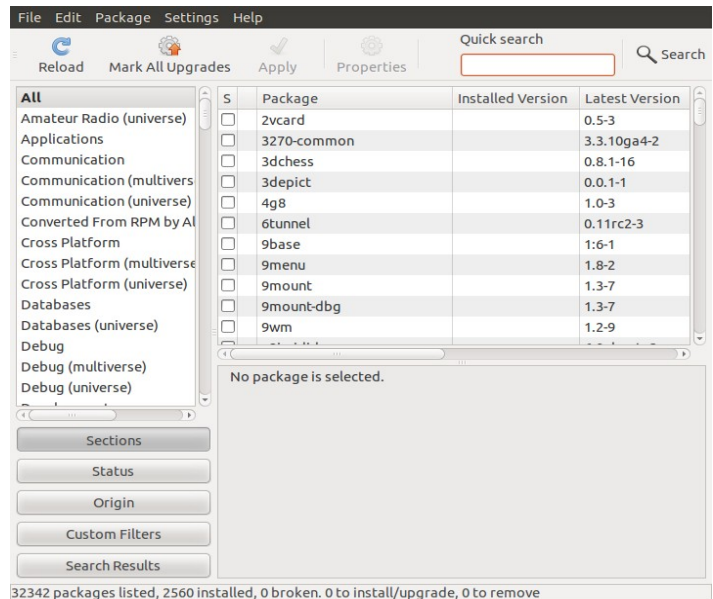
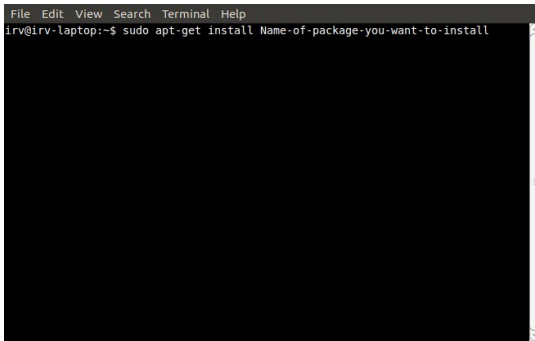
OpenOffice has done a wonderful job on making itself upward compatible with MS Office. And again at no cost to you. I believe that LibreOffice will be the same way.

Now when it come to using products for the Office, I find that scanning document or photo and converting them over to a PDF format this task is made simple by using a program called Xscan.

Talking about PDF, you can export any of your OpenOffice document to a PDF format just like I am going to do with this one. I can then just upload it to the Internet by simply using a plugin for Firefox web browser called FireFTP. To me things are so simple to do, and no more blue screens of death or computer lockups. No more viruses or malware to worry about. Here are a couple



You have three ways to install software, the command line, the package manager or the new Software center. All three have there strong points. Here are a few screen shots.

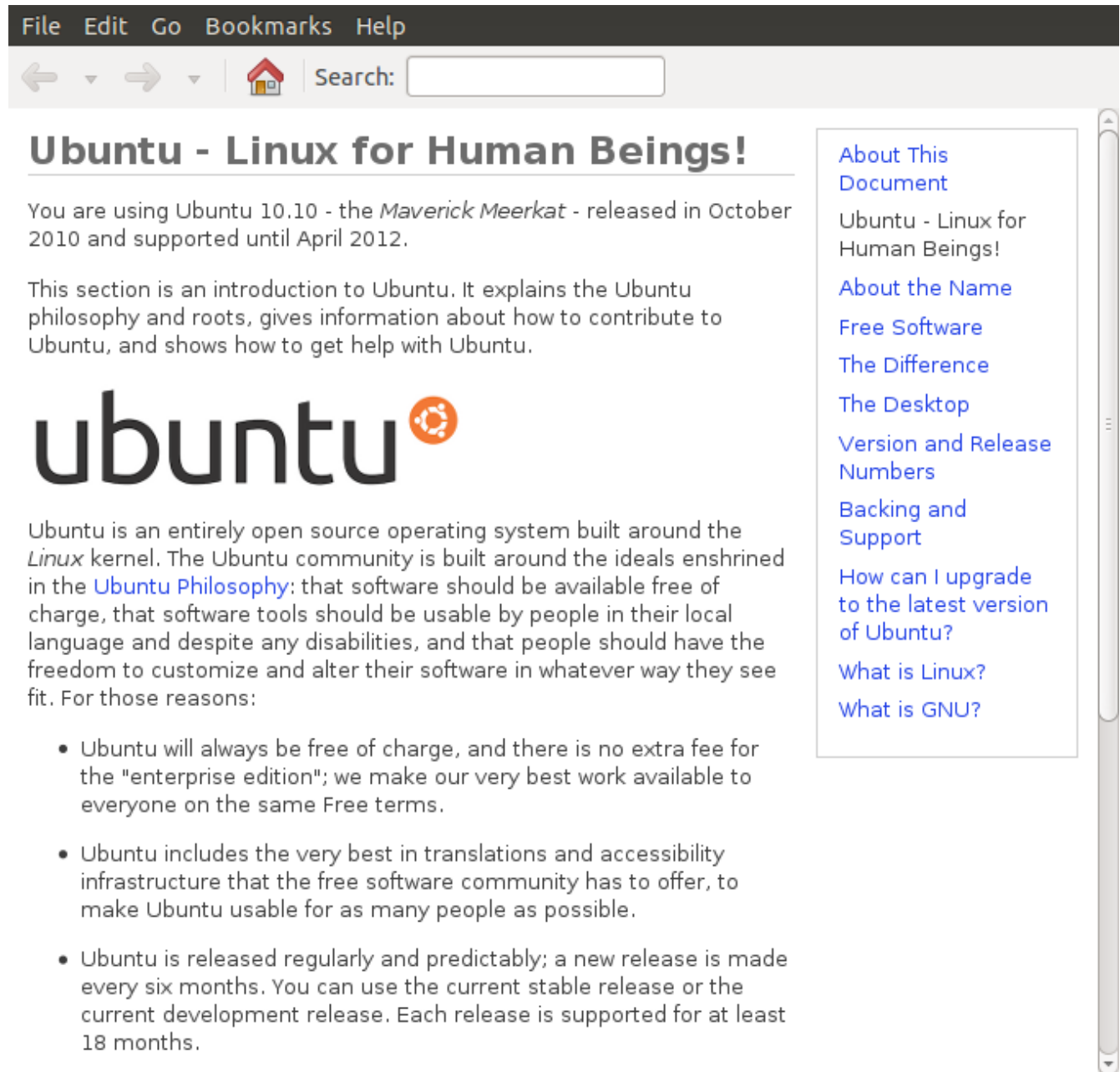


If you are interested you can download the OS from <http://www.ubuntu.com/> burn a CD and either run it from the CD to check it our or Install it.


Now if you are thinking, what about support and help with learning and using it. There is a Ubuntu Forum where you can go with your questions, and there are thousands of user out there to give you the right answers to all your question. As the word Ubuntu means, Humanity for other, or people helping people. This is a great concept.

If you don't feel comfortable installing and setting it up I am here for you just give me a call, maybe I can answer your questions about getting started. I can do the install for you, or hold your hand getting started. My phone number is (651) 565-2302. Just ask for Irv.

I have Ubuntu running on three computer in my home, My server, my laptop, and my desktop.



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Ubuntu - Linux for Human Beings!

You are using Ubuntu 10.10 - the *Maverick Meerkat* - released in October 2010 and supported until April 2012.

This section is an introduction to Ubuntu. It explains the Ubuntu philosophy and roots, gives information about how to contribute to Ubuntu, and shows how to get help with Ubuntu.

ubuntu

Ubuntu is an entirely open source operating system built around the *Linux* kernel. The Ubuntu community is built around the ideals enshrined in the [Ubuntu Philosophy](#): that software should be available free of charge, that software tools should be usable by people in their local language and despite any disabilities, and that people should have the freedom to customize and alter their software in whatever way they see fit. For those reasons:

- Ubuntu will always be free of charge, and there is no extra fee for the "enterprise edition"; we make our very best work available to everyone on the same Free terms.
- Ubuntu includes the very best in translations and accessibility infrastructure that the free software community has to offer, to make Ubuntu usable for as many people as possible.
- Ubuntu is released regularly and predictably; a new release is made every six months. You can use the current stable release or the current development release. Each release is supported for at least 18 months.

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About the Name

[Ubuntu - Linux for Human Beings!](#)

Ubuntu is a South African ethical ideology focusing on people's allegiances and relations with each other. The word comes from the Zulu and Xhosa languages. Ubuntu is seen as a traditional African concept, is regarded as one of the founding principles of the new republic of South Africa and is connected to the idea of an African Renaissance.

A rough translation of the principle of Ubuntu is "humanity towards others". Another translation could be: "the belief in a universal bond of sharing that connects all humanity".

"A person with ubuntu is open and available to others, affirming of others, does not feel threatened that others are able and good, for he or she has a proper self-assurance that comes from knowing that he or she belongs in a greater whole and is diminished when others are humiliated or diminished, when others are tortured or oppressed."

— Archbishop Desmond Tutu

As a platform based on Free software, the Ubuntu operating system brings the spirit of ubuntu to the software world.

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In closing I would also like to let you know that you can run Ubuntu on the same PC as you have Windows install and run it alongside with no problem. You can either boot into Windows or Ubuntu, so you can have the best of both worlds. And if you have an older computer laying around, good chance Ubuntu will run on it. I found that Ubuntu works great with most network and wifi cards. Linux has come a long way in supporting most hardware.

Hope this writing has help to inform you on this new OS that is storming the world. Many countries and companies have started using Linux to save money, maybe it is about time you do the same. Not only is it easy to use, but you will find it a fun experience.