

Linux: An Introduction

Oddities, Trivia



© Anand Vaidya
vaidya.anand@gmail.com
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Strange Names

Why does Linux have strange application or distribution names?

- ◆ Linux names are drawn from all over the world. Many names are not in English
- ◆ Some are just cheeky abbreviations
 - ◆ Less (file viewer, has more features than another viewer named *more*)
 - ◆ Some recursive acronyms: **W**ine **I**s **N**ot an **E**mulator

KDE, GNOME

- ◆ KDE apps were often misspelt with a K-prefix or a K somewhere in the name.
 - ◆ Konqueror, kate, krita, okular, koffice, kopete etc
- ◆ Same with GNOME but with a g replacing a K
 - ◆ gphoto, gqview, gocr, grdesktop, ghemical, gfax etc

Recently, this problem is on the decline

Terse commands, responses...

- ◆ In the early days of computing, when using a 150bps modem, you need to send / received a lot less
- ◆ Hence many frequently used *nix commands are short
- ◆ Responses are minimal at best and none if op complete successfully.
- ◆ Eg: ls, pwd, w, cd, ps, rm, etc.

Strange Names

Ubuntu is an African word, which has been described as "too beautiful to translate into English".

The essence of Ubuntu is that "a person is a person through other people". It describes humanity as "being-with-others" and prescribes what "being-with-others" should be all about.

Ubuntu emphasises sharing, consensus, and togetherness.

Strange Names

Program called “less” has more features than program called “more”

Akonadi is KDE's new storage backend, named after the oracle goddess of justice in Ghana.

Khalkhi is designed to be the new contacts framework for KDE 4, which happens to be the Georgian word for "people"

Names, names...

Some really have no obvious meaning:
(atleast to me)

- ◆ cdparanoia, kopete, gammu, sagasu, ekiga etc

Some apps named after animals:

- ◆ dolphin, firefox, python,

Or gems & states of matter:

- ◆ ruby,
- ◆ plasma, oxygen

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