Computer Tips

Linux—Has It Arrived? - Part 3

In our previous article we guided you through the process of downloading and preparing your Ubuntu 10.10 for installing. Now lets go step by step through the actual installation.

First, we will assume that you have a separate hard drive in your computer available to use for Ubuntu. This is the easiest option, as using a separate partition on your existing Windows hard drive involves a little more configuring.

Now, take your Ubuntu 10.10 CD, and put it into your DVD/CD drive. You will then need to restart your computer, and have it boot up using the Ubuntu CD. If you are unsure of how to make your PC boot using your DVD/CD drive, do this: Immediately after your computer starts/restarts, press the F12 key on your keyboard. This brings up the boot drive options. Select CD/DVD option, and as long as your Ubuntu disk is in your CD/DVD drive, your computer will startup from that drive.

During the boot into Ubuntu, you will see a lot of black and white writing. This is simply files unpacking into your computer's memory. After a couple of minutes, a black screen will show saying Ubuntu 10.10, with a progress bar beneath it. If all goes well, you will next see a screen with your install options. Click the Install Ubuntu on Hard disk option, and the installation will begin.

The next screen to show will be some options you need to select for the installer. Select the installation drive (this will be a drive letter—make sure it is a letter other than C or D.), your installation size (10GB or more is good), language (English, unless you are efficient in another language), and a username and password. Next click Install.

For the next few minutes, Ubuntu will create partitions on your hard drive, and copy all the necessary files. Once all files are copied, you will see a screen to Reboot your PC. Click Finish, and your PC will restart.

If you have another hard drive in your PC with Windows already installed, during your PC restart, you will see a screen which gives the option to start Windows or Ubuntu. Select Ubuntu, and press Enter.

During the reboot into Ubuntu, the installer will finish the installation. You will need to check your time zone, and keyboard type (these are usually automatically determined for you by Ubuntu), and when all is done, you will be presented with the Ubuntu desktop.

The Ubuntu desktop is a fairly straight-forward. The applications and control panel (called System) are in the upper left corner, the shut-down button, system time, and current connected hardware show in the upper right corner. The current desktop and currently open programs are down at the bottom left, and a desktop switcher tab shows in the lower right corner.

To begin using Ubuntu, have a look around in the Applications and System buttons. The best way to learn about Ubuntu is to use it. Have fun!