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### NEWS AND VIEWS

By Chuck Hajdú

When we started planning our Upgrading Your Personal Computer series that begins on page 5 of this issue we got involved deeply in EULAs. End-User License Agreements, or EULAs, are those legal agreements you have to click the Agree button for before you can install virtually any software.

For the two OS articles we have in this issue we ended up going over the EULAs for MSFT Windows Vista (hereafter referred to as WinV), Xandros, Kubuntu and Xubuntu. You can find the full text of the EULAs on each companies web site.

The EULAs for the three Linux products are all very simple and easily understood. The WinV EULA is a bit more complex. Here's a very abridged version of them.

The Xandros license agreement

states: *"The End User may install the Software Product on unlimited home computers of his or hers for non-commercial use and one commercial use computer"*. Wow, that's simple and easy. What more can you ask for?

The Ubuntu products have an even easier agreement: *"Legally free to copy, modify and redistribute"*. In case you're not familiar with Kubuntu, Kubuntu (pronounced "koo-boon-too") is an open source version of Ubuntu using the K Desktop Environment. Coincidentally it also means free (as in beer) in Kirundi, spoken in Burundi.

We had heard horror stories about the draconian EULA that MSFT has in WinV and we thought we should check it out before we went too far with the project.

As it turns out, the EULA isn't as bad as we had feared but it still is-

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### THE DEALS GUY

by Bob (The Cheapskate) Click,  
Greater Orlando Computer Users Group

This article about a new operating system to be released later this year might interest you. <http://www.informationweek.com/showArticle.jhtml;jsessionid=VXX3ONZTMMENEQSNLRSKHSCJUNN2JVN?articleID=197801331&queryText=Thomas+and+Claburn> It's a free XML-based OS that runs inside a Web browser. Free software, especially an OS, might be good news, but we'll see when it is introduced.

Also, here is an article about some amazing technology to "rewire the brain" of stroke victims and perhaps help the patients develop movement. <http://www.informationweek.com/showArticle.jhtml>;

## REVIEWS

### XANDROS DESKTOP PROFESSIONAL VERSION 4

By Chuck Hajdú

When we started working on the series of articles we began on page 5 of this issue on upgrading computers to MSFT WinV we took a hard look at all of the computers stacked up in our resource center. Most publications end up with a pile of old, outdated equipment that takes up way too much room, but may prove valuable some day. Our WinV project gave us an opportunity to look at some of our older PCs to see what would work for that project.

One of the PCs we have is a Gigabyte TA4, compact desktop computer. It's a small form factor PC with a 2.8GHz P4 processor, 512MB of RAM, a 30GB hard drive, DVD ROM drive, built in Intel 64MB graphics and a PC Card slot. Not bad for it's day and with a bit of upgrading it could have worked for the project.

However, we decided to go with the Compaq Evo for the higher end project and that put the TA4 back on the shelf. Or did it?

While we had the case open to see what was in the TA4 we went ahead and put in 1GB of RAM, a task we think every computer owner should undertake. It's a cheap performance upgrade. That's when the wheels started turning! Why not use the newly upgraded TA4 for another project: testing the new versions of Linux we've gotten.

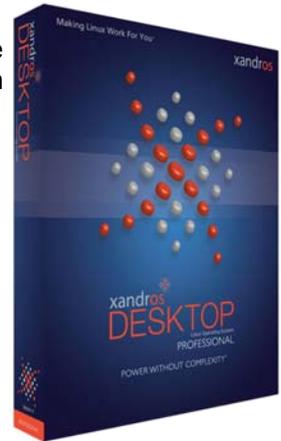
The version of WinXP that was loaded on the TA4 had always been tainted. It gave us various levels of fits every time we tried to use the TA4 for anything. Even reformatting and reinstalling never worked. It was just a WinLemon. That made the Linux tests even more intriguing.

The first two tests we tried were with **kubuntu** and **xubuntu** using the run-from-CD option rather than installing them. Both products are based on the ubuntu product but use different desktops. **Ubuntu** uses the GNOME desktop and we've never been too fond of it. Kubuntu uses the KDE (K Desktop Environment) that we prefer. Xubuntu uses the Xfce environment aimed a older, slower computers. Both products worked beautifully and all of our peripherals were recognized immediately. Of course, performance lagged because we were running from the DVD drive rather than the hard drive.

Our results were encouraging enough that we decided to go ahead with a full blown Linux install on the TA4. If you'd like to check out any of the ubuntu flavors go to [www.ubuntu.com](http://www.ubuntu.com) and download it. Oh yeah, the MSRP is always 0.00 and that's in dollars, euros and yen.

However, instead of a Ubuntu product we decided to go with **Xandos Desktop Professional version 4**. What a great decision that turned out to be!

The Getting Started Guide is short and sweet and makes the installation a pleasure. You can do Express Install or Custom Install and the guide explains clearly what each does. The software offers just about all of the options you may run into, including installing on a clean hard drive, replacing an older Linux product, replacing or co-existing with WinXP. Since our WinXP version always sucked, we chose the replace everything option.



I can honestly say I don't ever recall having a full OS and application installation go this easily and quickly. Kudos to the Xandos developers, they did an outstanding job.

We should mention just what a full installation includes. Naturally you get the OS and all of the Windows like functionality you expect. But you also get OpenOffice, Firefox, media players, PDF writers, IM, Skype, and so on and so on. Literally, everything is included. Including CodeWeavers CrossOver Standard so you can run Windows apps! We've used CrossOver many times in the past and knew it was great.

After the installation was finished, the TA4 restarted and we were greeted with a desktop that any Windows user would be comfortable with. We had connected the built in LAN connection to our internet connection and had immediate connectivity. Nice.

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## XANDROS

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We then checked out the software we'd chosen to install and were pleased to find everything worked perfectly. OpenOffice.org 2.0 did a wonderful job of opening and editing Word and WordPerfect documents. Wouldn't it be nice if Word could open WordPerfect docs?

Our next test was one that pushed the envelope. Every Linux distro we've ever reviewed had problems with wireless connections and we wanted to see how Xandros 4 did.

As a wireless card we chose a **Belkin Wireless G Plus MIMO Notebook Card (F5D9010)**. The Belkin MIMO products have proven themselves to be outstanding performers we were hoping it would work.



We inserted the CD-ROM in the DVD drive and were shocked to see a pop-up window asking if we wanted to install the WinXP drivers for the product. Of course, we said yes and away it went. After the drivers were installed we configured the wireless card to connect to our Belkin wireless router and had immediate internet access. Very cool!! The Belkin card has an MSRP of \$59.99 [www.belkin.com](http://www.belkin.com)

We then reconfigured the built in LAN connection of the TA4 to connect to our network and had full connectivity in minutes. All of our data files are stored on three Linux servers and we weren't surprised at all to find out we had no problems connecting, opening and saving files.

What started out as a series of articles on whether it's even possible to upgrade older computers to WinV has led us to a far more enjoyable project, installing and using Xandros Desktop Professional 4. We can give this product our highest possible recommendation: we use it every day! One last thing: the Xandros license agreement. ***"The End User may install the Software Product on unlimited home computers of his or hers for non-commercial use and one commercial use computer"***.

MSRP is \$99.99 for the whole works  
[www.xandros.com](http://www.xandros.com)

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## NEWS AND VIEWS

*(Continued from page 1)*

n't good. The next paragraphs are kind of wordy and are written in "Simplified Legalese" but are important.

The WinV EULA is very specific: *"Before you use the software under a license, you must assign that license to one device (physical hardware system). That device is the "licensed device." A hardware partition or blade is considered to be a separate device."* MSFT goes to clarify *"You may install one copy of the software on the licensed device. You may use the software on up to two processors on that device at one time. Except as provided in the Storage and Network Use (Ultimate edition) sections below, you may not use the software on any other device."*

In addition MSFT requires Mandatory Activation. What is that you ask? *"Activation associates the use of the software with a specific device. During activation, the software will send information about the software and the device to Microsoft. This information includes the version, language and product key of the software, the Internet protocol address of the device, and information derived from the hardware configuration of the device."*

Also, *"By using the software, you consent to the transmission of this information. Before you activate, you have the right to use the version of the software installed during the installation process. Your right to use the software after the time specified in the installation process is limited unless it is activated. This is to prevent its unlicensed use. You will not be able to continue using the software after that time if you do not activate it. If the device is connected to the Internet, the software may automatically connect to Microsoft for activation. ...Some changes to your computer components or the software may require you to reactivate the software. The software will remind you to activate it until you do."*

What else does MSFT require? Validation! *"The software will from time to time validate the software, update or require download of the validation feature of the software. Validation verifies that the software has been activated and is properly licensed"*.

Even after you've proven you bought it and it's legal, MSFT will spy on you whenever they want to make sure you're not some sort of insidious criminal!

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