



The LinuxFocus project

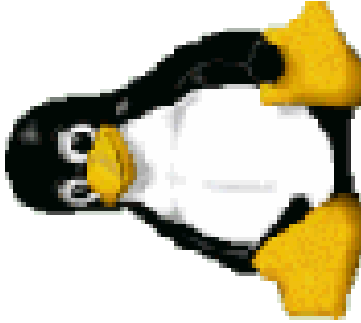
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project leader



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Overview



- What is LinuxFocus?
- Why did we start LinuxFocus and why does it exist?
- How does this Linux project work?
- Why is it interesting to work in this project?

LinuxFocus.org

- International online magazine with articles about Linux and the world around it
- Information sharing in a "free" way where Linux users write for Linux users
- It started with the idea to provide documentation not only in English. The first language was Spanish.
- Today it is available in: Dutch, English, French, German, Spanish, Chinese, Italian, Korean, Russian, Turkish
- It is still the only magazine available in so many languages
- We publish every second month





Index of September issue

Software Development

-  [REBOL the rebel](#), by Georges Tarbouriech
Let's say REBOL is a messaging language, but as a matter of fact, it's much more than that.

Applications

-  [MagicPoint](#), by Charles Vidal
MagicPoint is one of the very few applications to create presentations under X- Windows.

Community

-  [Approaching Vector Linux](#), by Sujun Swearingen
Review of a mini linux distribution
-  [How to report bugs on Debian 2.2?](#), by Egon Willighagen
This article describes how Debian users can help the community and report bugs they find.

System Administration

-  [Bastille- Linux](#), by Frédéric Raynal
Bastille- Linux is not a new Linux Distribution but a set of security scripts.
-  [Building Scalable ISPs with open- source software](#), by Aatif Ghaffar
Building and ISP server on LDAP and Linux.
-  [Slackware 7.0 part I: Installation Guide](#), by Jeffrey Degrande
The author describes in detail the installation of the Slackware 7.0 Linux distribution.

Webdesign

-  [Book review: Professional PHP Programming](#), by John Perr
This article reviews the book "Professional PHP Programming" from WROX press.



Difference to other Linux magazines

- It's driven by the authors. They write about the subjects they know and find interesting. It's not the editor that decides about the subject
- Most articles offer precise solutions to real world problems
- Different languages
- No real banner advertisements



Some statistics (data from linux.de and linuxfocus.org)

- 35 % of Linux users use it for less than 1 year
- 66% are between 18 and 35 years old
- 42% are students and pupils

----> Many people are fairly new to Linux.
----> The typical Linux user is young and well educated

English is taught in most schools in the world:

- Does that mean everybody speaks English?

Documentation in your own language

- Computer English and technical English is quite different from the English taught in schools. Consider the term "default value".

As Linux becomes more mainstream more young and non technical people will give it a try.

If you want Linux to be a success then documentation in your own language is important.

--> This is the idea behind LinuxFocus

What makes it possible that LinuxFocus exists?

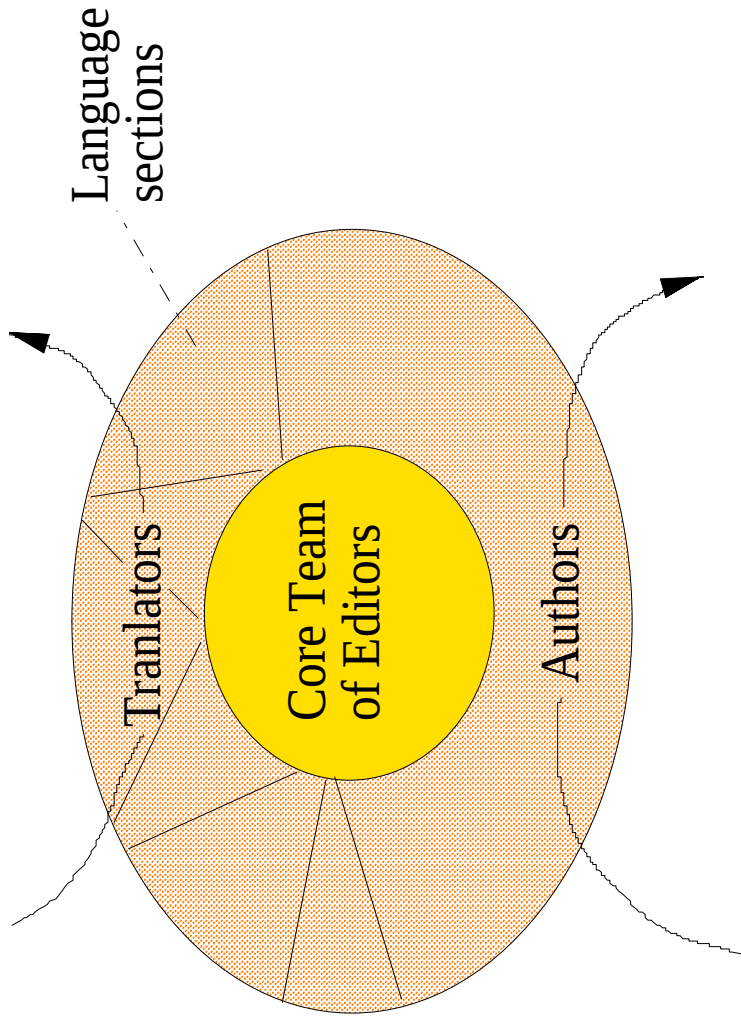
- ▶ The project lives from the people that support the idea and vision of an international online magazine for Linux
 - Editors
 - Article authors
 - Readers
 - People who write tiny tools to improve the website
- ▶ Sponsors to provide
 - Network bandwidth
 - Registration fees
 - Hardware

Why do people contribute?

- Why do people contribute to software?
 - A bug hurts and you want to fix it
 - You add functionality that you need
 - You like the community and want to give something back
- Why do people contribute articles to LinuxFocus ?
 - Give something back to the community
 - See their name in the magazine
 - Be part of a team and the Linux community

How does the organization work?

- Responsibility and tasks are spread out
 - Everybody can join





How can you take part in it?

➤ Write an article
➤ Translate

➤ Help to improve the LinuxFocus site
➤ Encourage good work

What do you need for the project?

- The obvious: Webserver, Mailing list, Database, support for mirror sites, ... (small and simple is beautiful)
- It should be easy to join and contribute.
 - At the beginning the main editor had the huge task to check and re-format all articles.
 - In the early days LinuxFocus had no specific article format and the editor spent 30 and more hours a week on LinuxFocus.
 - Needed: Platform independent file format and anybody should be able to read and write this file format. The solution: html with special headings to tag and structure information. A converter and syntax checker written in perl.
- You need a good way to spread responsibility between the teams
- Tiny scripts and tools to maintain the website: e.g check broken links



Maintain the site

- Web interface to upload pages checks file types, authorities and notifies others.
- Everything is done from remote.
- Every team maintains their part of the web-site:

The screenshot shows a web form with a teal background. It contains three main sections: 1. A login section with the text 'Enter your LinuxFocus user ID:' followed by a text input field containing the letter 'I', and 'Enter your upload password:' followed by a password input field with masked characters. 2. A file selection section with the text 'Select the patch file (tar.gz archive, on your local disk)' followed by a large empty text area and a 'Browse...' button. 3. An 'execute it' button at the bottom right.



Linux is more than an OS and LinuxFocus is a part of it

- ▶ Linux is not only an OS.
- ▶ It's a whole philosophy.
- ▶ It's a play ground with very low entry costs.
- ▶ It's a community.
- ▶ It's an identity.
- ▶ It's a team and everybody can contribute and be part of it