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# Ubuntu, Pearl: 2 true new gems

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Two new items arrived this week. They haven't been on hand long enough for a full review, but here are some first impressions.

Ubuntu ([www.ubuntu.com](http://www.ubuntu.com)) carries a subtitle, "Linux for human beings." That's a refreshing concept. Six years ago, you could put Linux on a desktop computer but it required advanced computer skills or a techie to get the job done.

The applications available for this "open source" operating system -- one whose basic code is available to anyone to use, modify or improve -- were not as plentiful as they are now. Nor were they as good, at least compared with the Windows and Mac alternatives of the time.

Much has changed since then. OpenOffice.org has, as noted here once or twice, released several revised versions of the Microsoft Office-compatible productivity suite.

[Full Story](#) [2].

[Ubuntu](#)

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[1] <http://www.tuxmachines.org/taxonomy/term/121>

[2] <http://washingtontimes.com/technology/20061017-010757-1895r.htm>