Minty 4.0 Fresh

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While there are some Linux users who still insist on running free software exclusively, a growing number are more than happy to mix and match open-source and proprietary software. For these latter users, Ubuntu 7.10-based Mint 4.0 is a distribution made in heaven.

To see if Mint was as angelic as it promised to be, I ran it on one of my older systems: an HP Pavilion a250n. This PC has a 2.6GHz Pentium 4 processor with 800MHz frontside bus, and 512MB of PC2700 DDR (double data rate) RAM. For graphics, it uses a low-end Nvidia GeForce4 MX.

If that doesn't sound like much of a system, you're right, it's not. Vista would be nothing except annoying on it and even Windows XP would be cranky. Desktop Linux, though, even the newest of the new, does quite well on older systems.

Installing Mint, from a freshly burned CD, took about 20 minutes. Once in place, everything just worked. No fuss, no muss.

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