

New Linux with an Old Laptop: Fedora Core 4

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Guest Editor Apostasy has decided to take a look at current distributions and how they perform and install on an older laptop. This article is the first in a series of many that will look at distributions such as Suse 10, Fedora Core 5, Mandriva, and other desktop-centric distributions.

The Hardware

- Compaq Armada E500 Laptop
- 700MHz Intel Pentium III
- 256MB PC133 SDRAM
- ATi Rage Mobility
- Intel Ethernet Pro 100
- Toshiba 10GB Hard Disk
- Netgear WG511 Wireless PCMCIA Card

Installation

I chose to use a network install via HTTP. This went quite smoothly, initially via a text interface for configuring the network and entering the address to install from, then a graphical interface for partitioning and package selection. Right from the start Fedora looks like a professional O/S, it's not fluffy and cute, but it is very pleasant to look at. Partitioning was handled automatically by Disk Druid, no problems at this stage.

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