

DVD Playback in SUSE Linux 10

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Well, hell froze over: Novell took me seriously when I said they should open source SuSE Linux Professional. Color me impressed ? even if they didn?t name the distribution ?Geeko?. (I guess you can?t have everything.)

I also said in a previous column that if Novell opened SuSE Linux Professional, I?d go out on a limb and run the distribution personally, because its sibling, SuSE Linux is that good. Thus, I recently installed SuSE Linux 10 on my brand new HP nx9600, a fire-breathing, 3.6 GHz, 64-bit, dual-core, Pentium 4 laptop with a 17-inch LCD screen and a built-in DVD-recorder unit.

Imagine my surprise, however, when I discovered that DVD playback capability was intentionally crippled in the open source version of SuSE Linux 10. Whoa! Or should I say, Schei?e!

Of course, you can play DVDs on Linux, and you most certainly can have it in SuSE Linux 10, but to do so, you have to jump through a few hoops, make a few modifications, and possibly break a few laws.

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