

Operating Systems on the AAO

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Recently, I came into the possession of an Acer Aspire One (AOA150, ZG5). It's a modest netbook with a 160GB IDE, 1GB of RAM, and an Intel Atom N270 CPU. The system came to me with Windows XP Home Edition installed on it, which wasn't really to my liking. This started some massive Linux distribution hopping and operating system hopping. I was trying to find one OS that would be responsive, stable, energy conservative, and one that would support all of the AAOs hardware. The following were my results:

Windows XP Home Edition:

XP Home was the pre-installed operating system. While all of the hardware was well supported, I noticed some severe lag when doing simple tasks. The system would darn near come to a halt when doing something as simple as moving files from one medium to another. This was unacceptable to me. The one thing that was nice with XP Home was batter life. I was able to get nearly 4 hours out of the machine with sound muted, wifi off, camera off, and no USB or SD devices plugged in. With everything kicked up, I got about 2 hours which is still acceptable imo.

Windows 7 Ultimate (x86):

Windows 7 was laggy just like XP Home. Battery life was also very comparable (you have to turn off indexing though, the constant hard drive spin-up will kill you). I did enjoy a few of the new features included in Windows 7. The over-hyped snap feature was very useful considering the limited screen real-estate and widescreen aspect ratio on the AAO.

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