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I been Buffalo'd

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Buffalo Linux 1.7.3 was released [2] on May 10 and it sounded quite interesting. I'd visted their website [3] a couple times in the past but never installed this oddly named distro. Now with the site up and running I thought the time was right.

The boot up of the new livecd format seems to go well detecting most hardware, loading up necessary modules, and configurations. I could tell almost immediately this distro must be based on slackware, then the interactive configuration dialogues confirmed this.

All seemed to be going fine until it tried to autologin into an X environment. All I got was a big tan screen of nothing else. The mouse responded, but nothing else would. I couldn't kill X or ctrl+alt+Fx to terminal. After seeing all my partitions mounted during boot all I could do was hit reset. Bad bad Buffalo mounting all partitions without asking. Luckily no perceivable damage detected as of yet after fsck. Time will tell for sure tho.

I had one other distro just boot to a blank X screen like that, but I can't remember which one it was now. I wanted to blame it on my video card at first, then remembered that damn small and even pcbsd had no trouble with it. So, I don't know what's up with Buffalo, but I'm gonna be a little shy about wanting to test future releases unless the author turns off that mounting all partitions thing.

Buffalo ain't the only livecd that mounts all the partitions automagically. I think this is a very dangerous trend. Oh I see the reason for it, user-friendliness. But I think somewhere the line needs to be drawn. Why not place an icon on the desktop to a script that mounts them after boot? I'd be making a bigger stink about all this had I lost some important data. Down with auto-mount! Down with auto-mount. Come on, protest with me...

If anyone else would like to review and post screenshots of Buffalo, they'd be most welcome to submit. Another distro that I wanted to review but was not able to boot was flonix. If you have a review of flonix, please submit.

Reviews

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Links:
[1] http://www.tuxmachines.org/taxonomy/term/57
[2] http://distrowatch.com/?newsid=02634#0
[3] http://buffalolinux.dyndns.org/