

Easy to install, easy to use —
see what Ubuntu can do for you

Ubuntu[®] Linux[®]

FOR

DUMMIES[®]

**A Reference
for the
Rest of Us!**[®]

FREE eTips at dummies.com[®]

Paul G. Sery

Coauthor of all editions of
Red Hat[®] Linux[®] For Dummies

Includes a live version
of Ubuntu Linux
version 6.10
on CD

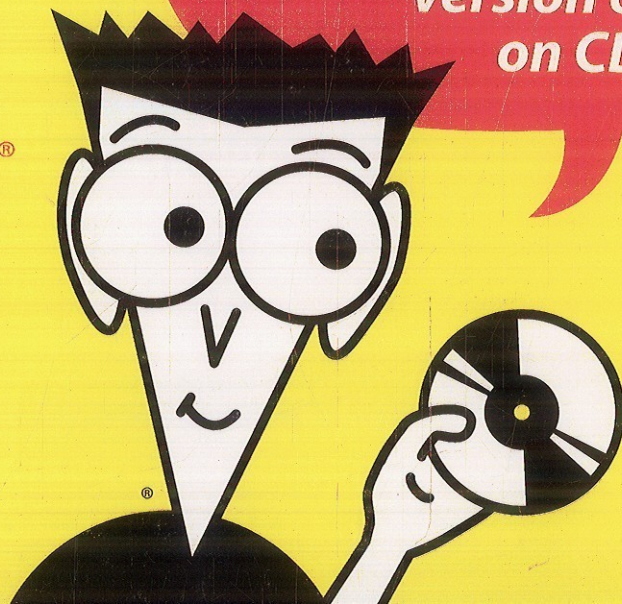


Table of Contents



Introduction..... 1

About This Book.....	1
What's in This Book.....	1
Part I: Starting Fast.....	2
Part II: Networking and the Internet	2
Part III: Working with Ubuntu Workstation	3
Part IV: Multimedia Ubuntu.....	3
Part V: The Part of Tens.....	3
Part VI: Appendixes.....	3
Foolish Assumptions	4
Conventions Used in This Book	5
Italics.....	5
Special font.....	5
Command paths	6
What to use, click, or run	6
Understanding URLs	6
Ubuntu Linux Is Ubuntu.....	7
Icons Used in This Book.....	7

Part 1: Starting Fast 9

Chapter 1: Ubuntu and U 11

Introducing Ubuntu Linux.....	12
Choosing a Version of the Operating System	13
Ubuntu Desktop.....	14
Ubuntu Server.....	14
The Canonical Source.....	15
Getting Started	16

Chapter 2: Live Ubuntu 17

Making Sure You Can Use Ubuntu on Your Computer.....	17
Running Live Ubuntu.....	18
The Graphical Environment.....	22

Chapter 3: Preparing to Install Ubuntu	23
Preparing to Make Room for Ubuntu	23
Backing Up Your Data	26
Creating your backup plan	26
Considering storage devices	27
Backing up Windows XP with a wizard	29
Backing up Windows Vista	35
Prepping your Hard Drive	37
Removing unnecessary files	37
Organizing your files with Disk Defragmenter	38
Repartitioning Windows: Scootch Over and Let Ubuntu Sit Here!	41
Resizing your Windows partition	41
Formatting the new partition	43
Chapter 4: Installing Ubuntu Linux	47
Stage 1: Gathering Your Resources	47
Stage 2: Starting the Install	49
Stage 3: Selecting Your Time Zone	50
Stage 4: Setting Up Your Login Account	52
Stage 5: Selecting a File System	54
Selecting an unused partition	55
Erasing an entire disk	56
Stage 6: Installing Ubuntu Linux	56
Stage 7: Finishing the Installation	58
Chapter 5: Ubuntu 101	63
Understanding the Linuxisms	63
Thinking about processes and programs	64
Getting to know the Linux file system	65
Using the shell	69
Linux user accounts	71
Log in, log out	71
sudo	72
Starting and Stopping Ubuntu	74
Booting	74
Choosing from the options that stop your computer	74

Part II: Networking and the Internet **77**

Chapter 6: Zen and the Art of Ubuntu Networking	79
Connecting to a Wired Network	80
Using the Network Configuration Tool	80
Choosing network connections	81
Configuring a dynamic connection	82
Configuring a static connection	84

Chapter 7: Cut the Cord: Using Wireless Networking91

Preparing for Wireless Networking.....	92
Quick start: Getting connected fast	92
Wireless networking basics.....	93
Security standards	94
Wireless standards	95
Network scenarios	96
Connecting to Access Points	98
Unencrypted APs.....	98
WEP-encrypted APs	102
WPA-encrypted APs	103
Using a Windows Device Driver	111
Discovering your Windows wireless network interface driver	111
Copying the Windows driver files to Ubuntu.....	112
Installing the ndiswrapper utility	114
Loading the Windows driver	114

Chapter 8: Broadening Your Horizons with Broadband117

Choosing between DSL and Cable.....	117
Using Cable Modems	119
Subscribing and getting your cable modem	119
Connecting your computer and cable modem	120
Configuring your Ubuntu computer to work with your cable modem.....	121
Using DSL Modems	121
Selecting your DSL provider	122
Connecting to your DSL modem.....	123
Configuring your Ubuntu computer to work with the DSL modem	124
Configuring the DSL modem to connect and authenticate with your DSL provider	124

Chapter 9: Internet Old School: Using Dialup Modems127

Choosing a Modem	128
Configuring Your Modem	129
Firing Up Your Modem.....	132

Chapter 10: Protecting Yourself with a Firewall133

Protecting Your Computer with Firewalls	133
Quest for Firestarter: Installing a Firewall Configuration Tool.....	134
Using the Firestarter Configuration Wizard	136
Fine-Tuning Your Firewall.....	138
Configuring Firestarter to allow incoming connections	139
Allowing incoming SSH connections.....	140
Testing Your Firewall	141

Part III: Working with Ubuntu Workstation..... 143

Chapter 11: Introducing GNOME145

Getting to Know the GNOME Desktop	145
Looking at the default desktop	146
Taking a closer look at the GNOME panels	148
Introducing GNOME icons	150
Managing files and folders with Nautilus	150
Navigating the GNOME Desktop.....	151
Using panel menus	151
Manipulating GNOME windows	153
Exiting from or locking GNOME.....	154
Altering GNOME's Appearance.....	155
Creating and modifying folders	155
Changing themes and backgrounds.....	156
Creating desktop shortcuts.....	157

Chapter 12: GNOME's Going Places159

Introducing the Nautilus File Manager	159
Finding out what you can do in Nautilus.....	162
Working with files and folders	163
Starting applications.....	164
Finding and using network shares	165
Introducing GNOME Applications.....	167
Accessories	167
Games	168
Graphics	168
Internet	168
Office.....	169
Sound & Video	169
Add/Remove.....	170
Preferences.....	170
Administration.....	170

Chapter 13: Printing with GNOME171

Connecting Printers	171
Setting up local printers	171
Setting up network printers	174
Using Your Printer.....	181

Chapter 14: Firing up Firefox183

Introducing the Firefox Browser	183
Using Firefox	184
Configuring Firefox.....	186
Selecting a home page	187
Blocking pop-ups	188
Encrypting passwords	189
Clearing private data.....	190
Adding multimedia plug-ins	191
Adding Themes to Firefox	195

Chapter 15: Evolution E-Mail, Calendars, and Addresses197

Introducing Evolution.....	197
Configuring Evolution for E-Mail	198
Opening the configuration wizard and setting up your e-mail account identity.....	198
Setting your incoming e-mail server	199
Selecting optional e-mail receiving options	200
Setting your e-mail sending options	201
Choosing your time zone.....	202
Entering your e-mail account password.....	203
Using Evolution	204
E-mail messaging with Evolution.....	204
Keeping track of contact information	205
Calendar with Evolution.....	206
Setting up meetings using Evolution calendars	208

Chapter 16: Opening Your Ubuntu Office with OpenOffice.org211

Getting to Know OpenOffice.org	211
Writer the word processor.....	212
Calc the spreadsheet	213
Impress slide presentation editor	214
Popular Functions and Tools.....	215
Managing files	216
Setting properties.....	218
Using macros.....	218
Change tracking.....	220
Seeking help	221
Printing	221

Part IV: Multimedia Ubuntu223

Chapter 17: Telephonic Ubuntu225

Configuring Ekiga	225
Registering your Ekiga.net account	226
Configuring the Ekiga client	228
Calling Other Ekiga Users	232
Finding other users	232
PC-to-PC calling.....	234
Text messaging	235
Calling Real Telephones	237
Creating a PC-to-phone account.....	237
Placing calls to telephones	239

Chapter 18: Instant Messaging241

Configuring Gaim.....	241
Registering with Instant Message services	242
Adding other IM services	244
Communicating through Gaim	245
Sending messages	245
Adding buddies.....	247

Chapter 19: Connecting to the Dark Side: Working Remotely on Windows249

Introducing the Remote Desktop Protocol	250
Configuring Your Windows Remote Desktop Server	250
Using Terminal Server Client	253

Chapter 20: Lyrical Ubuntu: Using Multimedia Applications255

Playing CDs	255
Playing MP3s with XMMS.....	256
Installing XMMS	256
Playing audio files with XMMS.....	257
Playing Internet radio streams	258
Playing Ogg Files with Rhythmbox	259
Ripping Music with Sound Juicer CD Extractor	262
Burning Audio CDs.....	265
Converting MP3-formatted files to WAV format.....	265
Installing the Audacity sound editor	265
Burning an audio CD with Serpentine.....	268

Chapter 21: Graphical Ubuntu271

Transferring Photos from your Digital Camera to Your Ubuntu Computer	271
Viewing Your Pictures.....	273
Displaying thumbnails with gThumb.....	274
Displaying images.....	274
Improving Your Images with The GIMP	277

Part V: The Part of Tens281

Chapter 22: Almost Ten Ubuntu Resources283

Accessing Local Documentation	283
Looking at man pages: Read the manual	283
Pulling up the info documents	285
Finding Debian package-based documentation.....	286
Asking for Ubuntu help.....	287
Opening application-based help.....	289
Finding Online Documentation.....	289
Reading Ubuntu documentation	290
Talking to other Ubuntu users: Community support.....	290
Hiring commercial support	292
Google, google!.....	292

Chapter 23: Almost Ten System-Administration Functions293

Updating Debian Software Packages	294
Installing New Software Packages	296
Reading System Logs	298
Using System Log Viewer	299
Using Logcheck.....	299
Working with User Accounts	302
Changing File Permissions	304
Changing the Time and Date.....	306
Monitoring Your System.....	307
Starting and Stopping System Services.....	309
Managing Your Computer's Power Use.....	310

Part VI: Appendixes.....311

Appendix A: Tutti-Fruti Ubuntu313

Trying a Different Look: Kubuntu	313
An Operating System for Kids: Edubuntu	315
Downloading Edubuntu	315
Burning the CD.....	316
Running Edubuntu.....	316

Appendix B: Stupendous OpenSSH Tricks319

Interactively Connecting to an SSH Server	320
Using the OpenSSH Server.....	320
Installing the OpenSSH server	320
Testing your OpenSSH server	321
Executing a Remote Command.....	321
Using OpenSSH Port Forwarding	322
Using Public-Private Key Authentication.....	324
How public-key authentication works	324
Creating a OpenSSH public- and private-key pair	325
Configuring your remote account with your public key	325
Using public-key authentication to log in to your remote account.....	326
Using ssh-agent to Store Private Keys.....	327
Creating an Encrypted Wireless Network Using OpenSSH	329
Configuring your second AP	330
Configuring your VPN server user account	331
Configuring Firefox and Thunderbird to use OpenSSH port forwarding.....	333

Appendix C: About the CD335

System Requirements	335
What You Find	336
If You Have Problems with Your CD.....	336

GNU General Public License337

Index.....343