



GNOME™
GNOME Desktop

Where open source meets proprietary...

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About the author

My name is Nelson Marques and I'm a Marketing Management student in IPAM Aveiro, Portugal.

In 2001 I've organized with Bruno Ferreira, a Aveiro LIP 2001, a Linux Install Party event which gathered over 400 visitors in Aveiro's Congress Center during a weekend. This event was sponsorship by Sun Microsystems (donated 500 Star Office CD's), SuSE GmbH (2 crates with diverse merchandise, retails boxes of SuSE Linux, t-shirts, pins, Live CD's, etc), some national Linux resellers and hardware companies.

I was a member of PLUG (Portuguese Linux Users Group) and maintained for some time the Documentation.

I am a fan of GNOME since it's early days and recently joined the GNOME Marketing Team as a contributor. This article itself is a personal critic to how I see my elected Desktop Environment and the role it has in my life daily.

Abstract

A Desktop is often referred as a workplace through which users control and interact with their applications. Computers are widely used for productivity, leisure and communications. Whenever a user buys a computer it comes with proprietary operative systems, and sometimes with one of the most popular open source alternatives Linux under a flavoured distribution. This provides the user a set of tools, amongst them several Desktop Environments, being the most popular KDE (<http://www.kde.org>) and GNOME (<http://www.gnome.org>).

There is a philosophical concept behind Linux and GNOME, mostly inspired by Richard Stallman, founder of the Free Software Foundation.

Linux is also a supported platform with several proprietary code laying around like graphical drivers, proprietary technology plugins, productivity applications, etc. It seems some do believe there is an opportunity of business and in Linux's capability to establish himself on the Desktop.

But what really matters for the consumer and how does he integrate this ideals as well?

Article

Personal Review

Special Thanks