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Join the Breezy Badger set

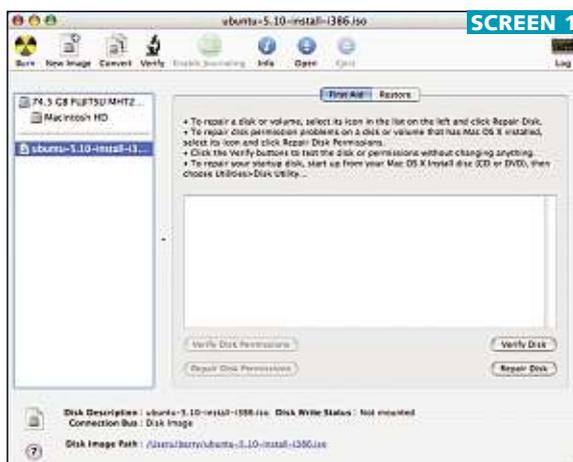
In the first of a two-part series, find out how to install the popular Ubuntu Linux

If you've kept up to date about Linux, you'll have heard about the Ubuntu Linux distribution. A little over a year on from its first release, Ubuntu has had a huge amount of success. The first release came in October 2004 and was codenamed the Warty Warthog. Six months later came the Hoary Hedgehog, and one year on the Breezy Badger arrived. The immense popularity of Ubuntu is surprising given its short lifetime, but once you use it you might see why. This month we begin a two-part series looking at installing Ubuntu and setting it up for an average desktop user.

The first step is to get hold of the installation CD. There are three ways to do this: the easiest is if you have the DVD edition of this month's PCW – simply copy across the CD image to your hard drive. Alternatively you can download the image from any one of Ubuntu's many servers. Head over to www.ubuntu.com/download for a list of servers and pick the PC (Intel x86) install CD. On a 2Mbits/sec broadband connection the download should take around 45 minutes. The final option is to order a free CD from Ubuntu's website. You'll receive a CD free of charge but will have to wait at least two or three weeks for delivery. Go to <http://shipit.ubuntu.com> to order.

Burning the CD

If you've downloaded the CD image or copied it from the cover DVD you'll now need to burn it to a blank disc. An ISO image file is a replica of an entire disc stored as one large file. You must not burn the file the normal way, as this would only copy the single file across. Instead you need to burn the image directly. If you're using Windows you can do this with software such as Nero by choosing 'burn image' (or similar), otherwise download 'ISO Recorder' from



<http://isorecorder.alexfeinman.com/> and follow the instructions.

If you've already got Linux installed, the quickest way to burn an image is directly from the command line. Log in as root and run:

```
# cdrecord dev=/dev/cdrom   
driveropts=burnfree image.iso
```

 (Key: ↵ code string continues)

Replace 'image.iso' with the name of the image, which if unchanged from the server should be 'ubuntu-5.10-install-x86.iso'.

Finally, for OSX users, run the Disk Utility, drag the ISO image file into the left-hand pane, select the image and click 'Burn' (see screen 1).

Getting started

With the CD ready it's time to get the installation started. This takes place in two phases: first the disk is set up and the files are copied across, then after a reboot the packages are extracted and configured and the system boots up ready for use (see screen 2). Insert the CD into the drive, and make sure the PC is set to boot from CD before the hard disk; if the CD is ignored at boot-up you can change these settings in the system Bios. It's very unlikely you'll need to use any special settings here, so just hit Enter to start the process.

The first few steps are simple enough: choose a language and a location. The install program then suggests a sensible option for the keyboard setting, though you can change it if required. Next a few packages are loaded from the CD and the network is detected. If you have more than one network interface installed (quite common on recent motherboards) you will have to choose which one to use, otherwise the program immediately attempts to configure itself with DHCP.

We always strongly recommend using a broadband router and modem combined for Linux since it makes life considerably easier; if you've got this equipment, Ubuntu should detect your network and configure itself automatically. Otherwise you can enter static network information manually.

Next up is the hostname which your machine should be known by. Unless you have special circumstances you can enter whatever you like here – just enter a single word. If no network can be detected you can still go ahead and install Ubuntu and either work as a standalone machine or save the network configuration for later.