

Infopoint activity

Talk to students: **Ubuntu for students**, UK college of further education

February 2011. Alan Cocks

Attendees' ages 17 to 20 years approximately, studying various 3 year long courses with some more or less computer related content. Total attendees approx 100.

Noted:

A few attendees were not techie at all, and did not initially know the answer to 'What operating system are you using at home?'

This group asked Q's such as

Q: What is the difference between Windows and Ubuntu?

A: Ubuntu is not installed on your computer before you buy it, otherwise I prefer Ubuntu.

This group was very openly impressed by graphics effects such as wobbly windows, spinning cube, and tried to look at water effect. The control key presses for effects were difficult to discover.

This group were encouraged to try ubuntu as live sessions and to seek local ubuntu install help if they wanted installations, including windows backups of data.

Of the more technically minded attendees, one had reinstalled (or restored) Win7 such that the ubuntu partitions had gone. The usb app the person was then using to investigate, did not apparently include gparted, or at least, he was not attempting to use a gparted, which meant that available partitions were not clearly and easily seen.

Another similar attendee was repeatedly failing to mount windows drives from Ubuntu. It was not known why but I later wondered if he was always using Windows encrypted partitions, he seemed the type of person who might.

I found that in a mid range PC in a live session from USB (10.04.1) the response times were surprisingly fast, I guess there being no CD drive spin up time. This speed was commented upon by the attendees who were aware of their institution's PC's slower, response times.