

LinuxBierWanderung 2002 – Doolin, Ireland

Hack the Cliffs of Moher

It is getting to be somewhat of a tradition – the fourth annual Linux Beer Hike took place in August this year. After Pottenstein (Germany), Coniston (England) and Bouillon (Belgium) 91 members of the Linux community from all over the world met in Doolin (Ireland) this year to hack, hike and imbibe that old liquid magic. **BY HEIKE JURZIK**

The arrival of the first hackers on Saturday afternoon immediately saw the first data packages streaming through the hall. In next to no time the wiring was laid, screws were tightened up, tools installed and soon, fingers

were flying over the keyboards. And then disaster struck: The ISDN line in Russell Community Centre refused to work and there was no chance of changing that before Monday morning, as there were no technicians available. But the LBW

would not be the LBW, and geeks would not be geeks if they had not got that fixed in a matter of minutes. Instead of attaching the LBW, which had spread out to occupy most of the village, via the hall the network specialists installed an aerial in the “Activity Lodge” where some of the participants had set up camp. A wireless LAN based in the Lodge was then used to attach the Hall, the campsite and a house to a working ISDN line.

In the Russell Community Centre itself a PC with a wireless LAN card was put in the window (for better reception) and used as a gateway. However, Irish hills and valleys were in the way of a direct link to the campsite. So the PC in the Hall window had to talk to the “Activity Lodge”, which in turn relayed the signal to the house with the ISDN line and to the campsite. This meant that people from the Lodge and the campsite (and probably most of the local Doolin residents) could access the Internet or the Hall network via wireless LAN.

Of course a setup like this had to be celebrated – and there were enough pubs in the village of Doolin to allow a “Pub of the Day” to be announced daily. The evening of the first day saw a crowd of exuberant Linux fans invading a room at “McGann’s” with cuddly toys and pint glasses – and although some of the participants were suffering from jet lag following up to 30 hours of travelling the party was on.

Geeks just wanna have fun!

The locals soon got used to the penguin toting weirdos and entered into the spirit of the event, dropping in to the Russell Community Centre to chat, have a beer or even take a look at Linux. The LBW is addictive and by the end of the week at least one local PC was declared a Windows free zone. Newbies attending the event were in good hands, and users who had been thinking about moving to a new distribution or even a different operating system soon found willing

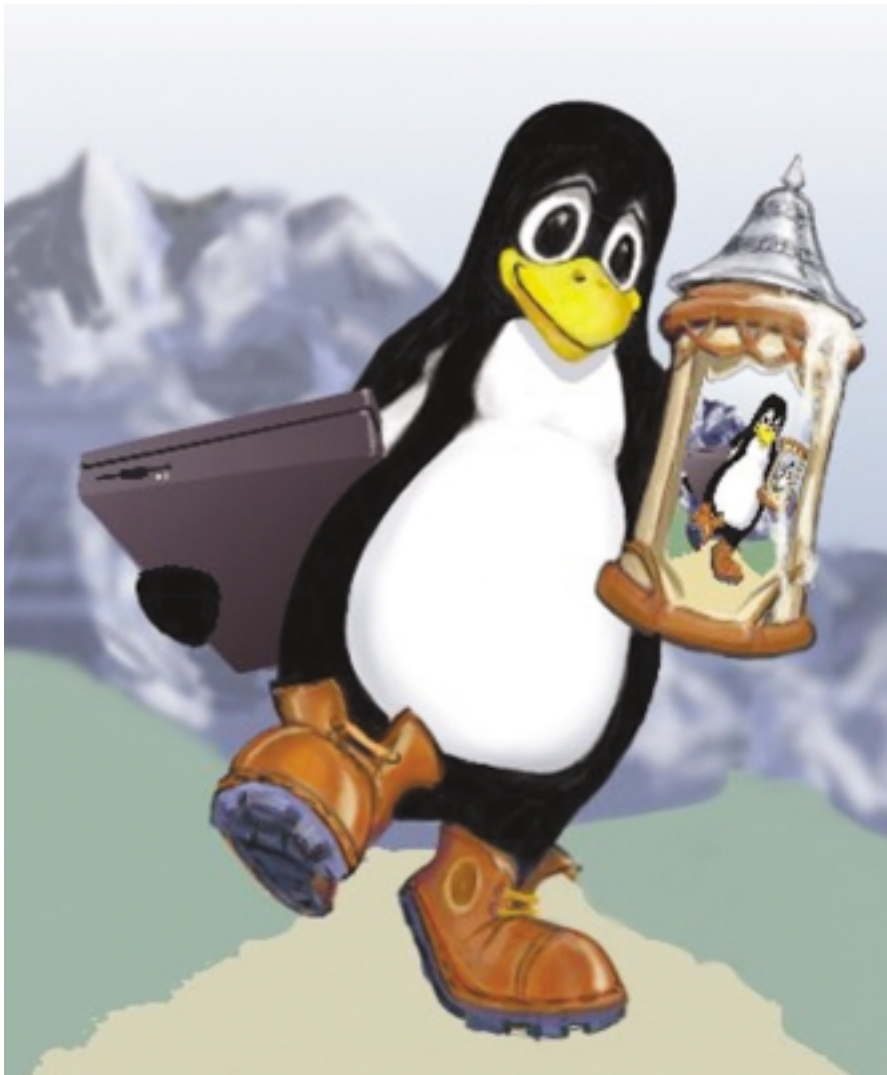




Figure 1: Happy Hacking



Figure 2: Sacrificed on the Linux Beer Walk Altar

helpers. Although, I did notice some weird rituals going on in the kitchen in the middle of the night, purportedly to appease the new Linux versions...

Thanks to a generous donation by the Irish Linux Users Group (ILUG) special brews from the region were up for the takings at the Russell Community Centre from Tuesday onwards. The Biddy Early Brewery supplied ample liquid nourishment for the whole week, and after only a few attempts eventers were capable of pulling a perfect pint of stout (Black Tux), ale (Red Tux) or lager (Blonde Tux).

Have Penguin, will travel

With all that partying going on, there was no avoiding some mental or physical exercise. And with the weather cooperating most of the time the Linux eventers pulled on their boots, grabbed their GPS

receivers and went off to explore the West coast of Ireland. A trip to the "Ailwee Caves" saw intrepid penguins getting into potholing, numerous beaches inspired the eventers to build sand Tuxes and the nearby "Cliffs of Moher" saw several spontaneous gatherings.

Eventers wanting to avoid all that exercise and fresh air had ample opportunity to visit lectures and seminars on fire-walling, network management, grid computing or IPv6. A video projector in the Seminar Room at the Town Hall provided valuable service and was only rarely misused for nightly showings of the "Muppet Show".

After a week full of Linux, beer and walking most eventers sadly had to leave for home and the daily grind. And although no one is quite sure where the next LBW will take place, one thing is for sure – the penguins will be back! ■

INFO
http://www.lbw2002.draiocht.net/
http://lbw2001.ynfonatic.de/
http://www.lbw2000.eu.org/
http://www.lbw2000.eu.org/lbw99/
http://www.linux.ie/
http://www.beb.ie/
http://www.doolin.com/



Figure 3: Guinness is good for you



Figure 4: Hacking the Cliffs