Wine
or
Leaving Windows Behind?
Bring your apps with you!

Dan Kegel / Cebit 2009

Pay attention, there will be a quiz at the end!

Hyperlinked presentation online at www.kegel.com/cebit

The opinions expressed in this talk are my own, not my employer's.
For most people, since about 1995, computer = Windows
And Linux is thought of as geeky and hard to use, if at all
So why does HP promote Linux on the Mini Mi?
And why do 30% of Dell Minis run Linux?
Because Linux is now easy to use, thanks to projects like Ubuntu
InfoWorld (Mar '09) says

Desktop Linux: Ready for the mainstream

“I was struck by how XP-like Ubuntu 8.10 is. And that's a good thing. It took me very little time to find where standard functions are, given the similarities. In fact, it's a much easier transition [than Vista]”.
And OpenOffice has become a very usable free office suite
PC World says (Mar 2009)

4 Ways to Save Money on Software

“OpenOffice can easily take the place of Microsoft Office”
And Windows-only websites are now rarer thanks to great free browsers like Firefox.
Moreover, Windows has issues. Windows Vista doesn't fit on most netbooks.
And Windows costs $20-$50, which hurts a lot on laptops that sell for $250.
And Microsoft limits Windows netbooks to 1GB RAM, 1GHz CPU, 16 GB Flash, 10.2” Screen, no DirectX 10 to protect sales of more expensive computers.
The restrictions are not subtle
Now that HP and Dell have chosen Linux, should you try it?
Linux comes with thousands of apps and free updates.
You're free to install Linux wherever and whenever you like
You're even encouraged to share Linux with your friends
Any programmer in the world can fix or improve Linux
Linux upgrades never forced
New versions of Ubuntu always free
Linux has ~1% as many viruses
(source: netlux.org)
Munich, Niedersachsen, France, Spain, China, Russia, and Brazil are using desktop Linux.

Reasons: flexibility, independence, cost.
OK, I'm convinced, I should try Linux. But there's just one more thing:
I need this one app, can I take it with me?
You could use VMWare and Windows, but then you still have to deal with Windows licensing and upgrades.
If Linux is a free clone of Unix, can't it be a free clone of Windows, too?
Yes! With Wine, Linux now runs many apps. Just add it in "Add/Remove Applications"
But isn't Wine complicated to use?
No! To install a Windows app, just double-click its installer
The app then shows up in the menu
And its files show up in wine's C: directory
Here's what Firefox's files look like
Wine is a work in progress

WineHQ.org is where to go for support
Wine's App Database is your friend
Check here before trying a new app
The appdb says **Powerpoint 2007** needs a configuration tweak and **wine-1.1.14 or later**
Newer versions of Wine can be downloaded from winehq.org
Tweaks are done with **Winecfg**

Six mouse clicks and one word later, Powerpoint is happy
Missing libraries or fonts can be installed with **Winetricks**
Wine is free?
How can that work?
What's Wine's business model?
Is it made by Heinzelmaenner?
A few dozen large customers and many volunteers are enough to sustain Wine
The Wine team is dozens of volunteers plus ~10 paid programmers
Selected user-sponsored improvements

1998: Corel – WordPerfect
2000: Borland – Kylix
2003: Disney – Photoshop 7
2004: Gupta – Team Developer
2005: Google – Summer of Code
2006: Google – Picasa
2008: Google – Photoshop CS2/CS3

Every time a large user sponsors bug fixes, Wine grows stronger. Thanks!
So who should try Wine?
Don't try Wine yet if you need:

Win64 (2009Q4?)
Direct3D 10 (2009Q4?)
USB dongles (patch available)
WPF / XAML (not started)
If you need dozens of apps to work perfectly

or

you don't want to help track down problems

then Wine probably isn't ready for you
If you need a few apps to work perfectly and you are willing to help track down problems then Wine might be ready for you.
But first, try to switch from Windows apps to open source or Web apps because direct support is always better.
What if something goes wrong?
Free support options (forums, chat, FAQ, doc, wiki, bug tracker):

Wine: www.winehq.org/help

Ubuntu Linux: help.ubuntu.com

Or any Linux user group
Commercial paid support options:

Wine: codeweavers.com/support or codeweavers.com/services

Ubuntu Linux: ubuntu.com/support or canonical.com/services

Or any Linux support vendor
Case studies
Computers: 10
Native Apps: Firefox, OpenOffice
Wine apps: ASPI (Czech legal software)
Mobile County District Attorney
Mobile, Alabama

Computers: 200 (MacOSX)
Wine apps: IE6, media players
Uses commercially supported Wine
Engaged Codeweavers to improve codec support
Xavier School
Manila, Philippines

Computers: 600

Native Apps: Firefox, OpenOffice, Notes

Wine apps: *Winplot* + custom VB6 apps
City of Munich
Germany
Computers: Windows(12800), Linux(1200)
Apps: Firefox (all), OpenOffice (8000)
Wine: Geoinfo, WS_FTP, a legal app (250)
“Deploying Linux is more about managing change than about technology”
But what about quality? Is Wine developed with care?
True, Wine is developing rapidly
but each change passes rigorous tests
and bugs are tracked and fixed steadily
Why is it called Wine?
Wine Is Not an Emulator
-- it's a catalyst
QUIZ
If it costs 10 million EUR to fix all Wine bugs, and EU has fined Microsoft 1.7 billion EUR,

Q. Can you think of a cost-effective way for the EU to use some of that money to stimulate competition in the operating system market?

Q. How much would each of CeBIT's half-million visitors have to contribute to fix all known Wine bugs?
Questions?
Slides/video online at kegel.com/cebit

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