

THE COMPUTER CORNER

No. 299: LINUX: SOME APPS YOU JUST CANNOT LIVE WITHOUT

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Vanessa comes with an amazing array of apps, which it installs when you install Linux. The Libre Office suite, Firefox web browser and others make Linux Mint Cinnamon 21 ready to go the minute you finish installation. But there are also others that are really helpful when you need them. Some apps you cannot live without (Stan's personal bias), and you may find others yourself when you look under Software Manager.

VLC VideoLan Media Player. Plays MPEG, DivX, MOV, WMV, QuickTime, MP3, DVDs, VCDs, Podcasts and multimedia streams. Install it; you won't be sorry you have it when you need it the first time (it will know when to appear and offer to help).

Thunderbird If you need an email client, this is the best. It always was the best, even in the Windows world.

Inkscape An illustration editor (vector graphics), probably a step beyond the drawing tools that come in the Libre Office suite.

GIMP (GNU Image Manipulation Program). An advanced picture and photo editor.

Gparted detects and shows partition tables and allows you to manipulate them (make them bigger, smaller, remove them, etc.). At the very least, it shows you what you have going with regard to your current setup. Its a nice program to just let you just see what you have, even without making any changes.

And here are two you may *not* need. In other words, don't install them unless you really need them.

Wine Originally an acronym for "**W**ine **I**s **N**ot an **E**mulator". In a nutshell, it is a program that will (maybe) *let you run Windows programs in your Linux machine*. An ongoing project, it is constantly getting better, but it doesn't yet work in every case. The way to find out if it will meet your needs is to install and try it.

Virtualbox a free x86 virtualization solution allowing a wide range of x86 operating systems such as Windows, DOS, and even other Linux versions to run on your Linux system. Don't forget: for either this or Wine (above), you will need extra hard drive space and memory (RAM) to have a shot at success. *Happy Computing!*