



## Active Blog Open Source

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### How Tough Is Linux

In December of 2004 I setup an experimental Linux computer for testing purposes. The distribution I choose was Debian Sarge, the computer was a circa 1997 used Gateway Pentium III 400 with 386 megs of ram and a 60 gig hard drive. The unit ran in the garage and was subject to summer heat, humidity, and the cold of winter. No battery back, no surge protection, and no anti-virus software. The power supply on the computer was rigged so that it would automatically reboot after a power outage. Physically, the only maintenance performed on the computer was to knock the dust bunnies off the top every once in a while (I like a clean garage).

The experimental computer operated as both a file server and desktop workstation but was only accesses from the office over the internet (no keyboard and monitor):

**Server:** The server portion operated as a standard "LAMP" WebHost server (Linux (operating system) Apache (web server) mySQL (database) and PHP (programming language)). A PHP application checked Active Technologies and designhostseo.com online accounts daily, collected data, and stored it in a mySQL database. The server also recorded stats on itself. All of the information was emailed to me on a daily basis simply to let me know that the server was still running.

**Desktop:** The desktop portion ran Gnome desktop over x-window, ooo (open office), foxfire internet explorer, wine ( a program that allows you to run some Microsoft applications in Linux) gFTP (used to transport things to the internet), Microsoft Word (running in wine), and a bunch of games.

Data from the Linux server was backed up daily to another Linux server that I use for development purposes and accounting.

Performance on the experimental computer was comparable to a Dell Pentium IV 1.8 with 1 gig of ram and a 160 gig drive running Microsoft Server 2000 that I use for Windows development. (That server has been replaced with a P IV 3.0 running Microsoft Server 2003 R2)(The P IV 1.8 is now my Linux development server running debian etch (their latest)).

The experimental Linux computer ran flawlessly. The desktop was a little clunky but never failed to function.

However, according to the network monitor that resides on my Linux development server, the experimental Linux computer went down Nov 6 at 3:09am for the last time. Another server recorded a power spike and outage that took out the hard drive on the experimental computer (RIP).

Conclusion: I am very impresses with linux resilence as well as the resilence of the gateway computer.

Microsoft has the killer apps but cannot match Linux resilience and performance. No matter how you spin it, Linux is tough!

***If you require additional information or assistance with this item, please give us a call.***