Barf's dBox page

Table of contents

1. Legal

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2. General

One of my interests is Tuxbox project. It aims for a free, Linux based operating system for the digital TV-Receiver known as the dBox2. See the project's home page. I am active in the Tuxbox forum using the nickname "Barf".

This is a fun project. It is both technologically and socially very interesting. There has *never* been an official release, and there are also no release-schedule. The project in its current stadium is explicitly aimed at experienced Linux users/programmers. However, there are often unofficial images released. Through these, the project has had a considerable impact, far outside of the programmer community. "Linux on the dBox" has established itself — amazing for a project with no releases! Unfortunately, it has also proved to be a powerful platform for implementing illegal pay-tv decoding, something that is a severe concern for the project. There are also, in particular in the forum, a large number of unexperienced users, who often, sometimes in obnoxious tone, complain over missing support, unfixed bugs, lack of Unix capacities in Windows, etc. (Calling the password file `\etc\passwd`, routinely killing processes with `kill -9`, making files executable with `chmod 777`,...) Official documentation, both user documentation and API documentation, is largely missing. As often the case in situations like this, this breeds the HOWTO-tradition: Documents written by authors who, often, have a very incomplete understanding of the problem, describing (at best) a cookbook method for reaching a particular goal, without any attempts of understanding. (Occasionally, also valuable documents by knowledgeable persons are called "HOWTO"s.)

As a supporter and contributer of free software, nowadays sometimes called open source, for example in the sense of the Free Software Foundation, I am concerned about the relative emphasis on tools for non-free operating systems (in particular for those from a certain Redmond based firm), as well as binary-only releases. The best example of this is the Windows boot manager, a very useful and capable tool, that is almost indispensable in the initial phase.

As I said, an interesting project...

3. Articles and Tutorials

- [Building images and Yadds with newmake](#) (beginner(?) to advanced). Also available in [German](#).
- [The newmake architecture](#) (advanced)
- [Setting up and using the automounter](#)
- [Setting up an online image- and update server for Neutrino](#)
- [Analog and Digital Video- and Audio-outputs on the dBox with Neutrino](#) (intermediate to advanced)
- Improved AV-Switching. Obsolete; content merged into the [previous entry](#).
- [Some Hardware Modifications of the Nokia dBox](#)
- [Photogallery Modding](#)
- [Setting up a Unix/Linux dBox server](#) (beginner to intermediate)
- [Noninteractive flashing with Unix/Linux and dboxflasher](#) (beginner to advanced)
- [The dBox IR-Keyboard](#)
- XML and XML transformations for dBox users and developers (beginner to intermediate) (planned)

4. Barf's Patches

I have written a number of patches, that for one reason or another, are not checked in into CVS. They are presented on the [patch page](#), sometimes together with binaries.

5. FAQ (for this page)

[FAQ](#)

6. Feedback

Suggestions, criticism, etc are welcome, either directly to [me](#) or in [the forum.](#)