

Re: Ugn!

business with Vista, too, since a repair will usually mean buying a new Windows license that costs more than a bottom-end PC.)

And just in case the new strategies don't fill the coffers, and software rental doesn't pan out, Mr. Ballmer has begun putting out the word that Linux actually belongs to him and Bill:

<http://blog.seattlepi.nwsourc.com/microsoft/archives/108806.asp?source=rss>

"But to the degree that people are going to deploy Linux, we want Suse Linux to have the highest percent share of that, because only a customer who has Suse Linux actually has paid properly for the use of intellectual property from Microsoft."

Ironically, Microsoft is the one paying ... for now. They paid Novell \$350 million to get their foot in the door, while Novell paid them \$40 million. So actually, Microsoft paid Novell \$310 million for the chance to claim there's MS IP in Linux.

Strange days.

Watch out for new OEM PCs. I've built systems recently with stock from Tiger Direct, but you have to do some research to make sure you can support Win9x. Many hardware companies are taking advantage of Microsoft's cancelling of support in order to drop support themselves. (VIA is a good bet for chipsets.)

Another issue is SATA drives. As far as I've been able to figure out, Win98 can handle SATA, but disk imaging and partitioning software may not be able to handle it. It seems like an unnecessary risk to me, yet many motherboards are now coming with SATA drives and only one IDE plugin on the motherboard, at most.

I'm running 98 and have no need of anything that I haven't already got. Eventually I will need something, I suppose. But I can boot into Linux if I really have to do something that I can't do on 98.

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