

# The \*Nixed Report

Issue 04

Unix and Overlooked Pop Culture

July 2013

---

## FIRST AMENDMENT

**Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or *abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press*; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.**

.

## A Blast from the Past: My Arcade Machine (P. 3)

For my 30th birthday, I received an arcade machine as a gift. This multicade has many of the classics including Donkey Kong, Space Invaders, and more.

## Unix

### Distro Journey: Debian “Wheezy” (P. 4)

Debian 7 is the latest release of one of the oldest distros out there. Similar to Red Hat's policy, Debian uses what's considered the most stable versions of various software, drivers, applications, and the Linux kernel itself.



## Overlooked Pop Culture

### What Warrensburg Media Missed: A Retrospective (P. 8)

September 2012: A homicide was committed in Warrensburg, Missouri for the first time in several years. Reginald Singletary shot bar owner Blaine Whitworth and later claimed that Zyad Abid hired him to do so.



This article explores what local media missed as well as the response to the feedback that the fan page received as a result of Episode 14 of the podcast.

./

---

## A Blast from the Past: My Arcade Machine

By Thomas Holbrook II



For my 30th birthday, I was given the arcade machine (above) as a gift. The good news is that has many of the classics such as Donkey Kong, Space Invaders, Gun.Smoke, and more. The bad news is that there are no quarter slots built in, so making money off of it is out of the question.

Compliments were given when guests have visited on a number of occasions. Mitchell Brown, one of my co-hosts for the podcast, liked it. He thought it was pretty cool. I do have plans to move the machine to a different part of the living room so that the doorway and the hall to restroom has one less obstacle.

Do you have pictures of old school computers, electronics, and more that you want to share? Send all pictures in JPG or PNG to [thomash@thenixedreport.com](mailto:thomash@thenixedreport.com) with **dot slash submission** in the subject line. Be sure to have a brief description of the photo and where it was taken. You must have the rights to said photo and give The \*Nixed Report rights to re-use it. Other than that, you retain the rights to your work.

By Thomas Holbrook II

The following systems were used to evaluate this distro:

ZaReason Breeze 3110

- 1.6 GHz Intel Atom CPU
- 1 GB RAM
- 320 GB Hard Drive
- DVD-ROM Drive
- Intel GMA 950 Graphics
- Interface: XFCE



Toshiba Satellite L305-S5921

- Dual Core Pentium T3400 (Max Speed: 2.16 GHz)
- 2 GB RAM
- Intel GMA X4500 Graphics (mobile version)
- 120 GB Hard Drive
- DVD burner
- 1280x800 LCD Display
- Multimedia buttons
- Atheros Wireless adapter
- Ethernet controller
- VGA Port
- 3 USB Ports
- Interface: GNOME 3 (Shell)

Acer Aspire One 722 (USB DVD-ROM used for installation)

- Dual-Core AMD C60 (Max Speed: 1.33 GHz)
- AMD Radeon HD 6250 Graphics
- 2 GB RAM
- 320 GB Hard Drive
- Ethernet
- Atheros Wireless Adapter
- LCD with 1366x768 resolution and integrated webcam.
- Interface: LXDE

## Intel Desktop

- Intel D946GZIS Motherboard
- Intel Core 2 6300 CPU at 1.83 GHz
- 1 GB DDR-2 PC-5300 RAM
- 80 GB Hard Drive
- DVD/CD-RW Combo Drive
- Intel GMA 3000 Graphics
- Intel Audio
- Ethernet
- Interface: XFCE

## HP Pavilion Elite 410y

- AMD Phenom II X6 1045T (Max Speed: 3.2 GHz)
- 8 GB RAM
- AMD Radeon HD5570 with 1 GB RAM
- 1 Terabyte Hard Drive
- Ethernet
- Wireless adapter (not used)
- Interface: GNOME 3 (Shell)

## Installation

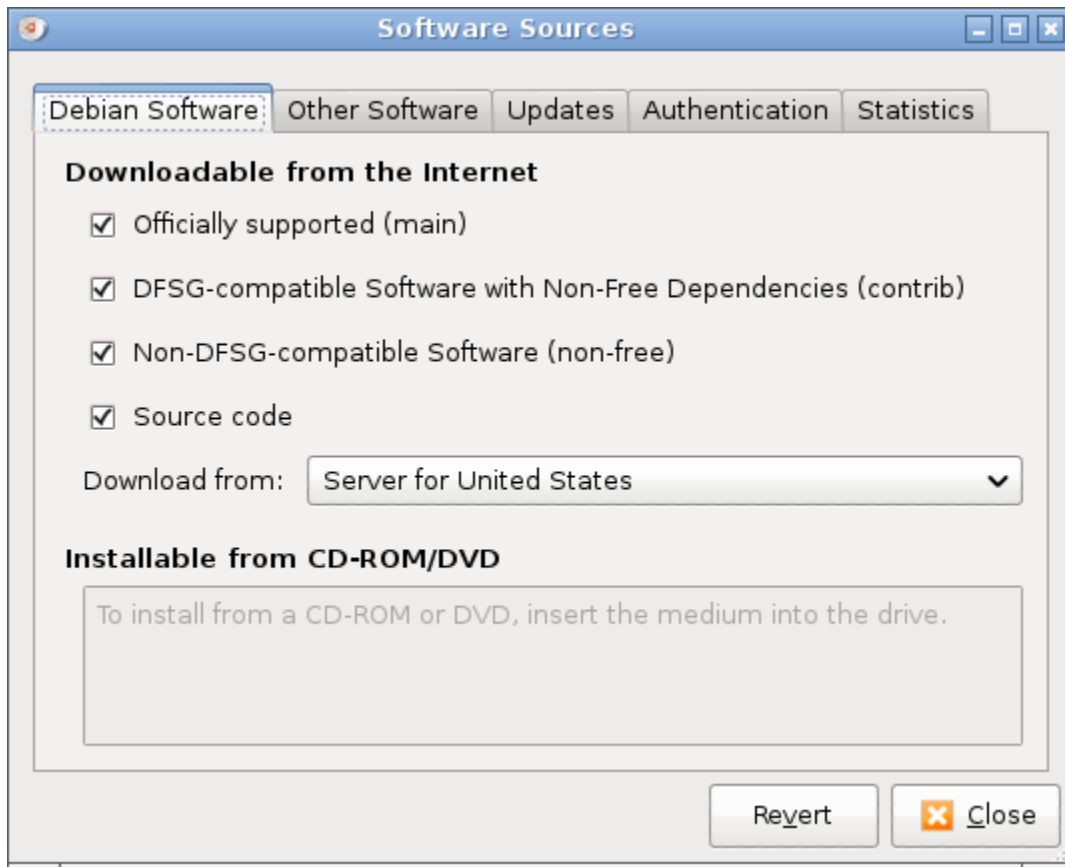
The net install CD image for both i386 and AMD64 were utilized for installation. Advanced options will allow a choice of other desktop environments such as KDE, XFCE, and LXDE. I chose LXDE on the Aspire One 722. For the Intel desktop and Breeze 3110, XFCE was the interface of choice.

I opted for the non-graphical installer, because I've found it to be more effective than the GUI-based offering. On the HP desktop, I got a message about missing firmware for my wireless device, but since my connection to the Internet on that machine used Ethernet, I wasn't worried.

Installation went smoothly, and I was able to add a username and password without any issue. The philosophy is different from Ubuntu and other distros in terms of security. Instead of using sudo, the root account is used for administration of the system.

Though the open drivers worked quite well on systems with AMD graphics, I wanted to see how easy it was to install the Catalyst drivers, especially on the Aspire One 722 (the APU performs better with proprietary drivers).

The first order of business was to open Synaptic and change the software sources. While I was at it, I made the decision to add the deb-multimedia.org repositories so I could add DVD playback. Though people may complain about the legalities (or possible lack thereof) of playing a DVD movie on a Linux machine, I'm an individual who prefers that all features of his hardware be accessible.



The software sources were added, and after updating everything, was able to install the Catalyst drivers. 3D acceleration worked much better than with Trisquel GNU/Linux with the availability of proprietary drivers.

One issue I ran into was regarding my HP printer/scanner. I had to work some command line magic to get it to work on the HP desktop. Such tasks require the use of one's favorite search engine, which was Google in my case. Other than that, hardware functioned quite well.

### Applications

Fortunately, GIMP 2.8 was included, which means single window mode was available. For smaller screens, it comes in handy. A plethora of multimedia applications such as Inkscape, Blender, Openshot, and more were available, especially after adding deb-multimedia.org to the software sources list.

LibreOffice 3.5.4.2 is included, which isn't the newest, but is quite stable. I opted to install Google Chrome instead of using Iceweasel, which was out of date compared to the other builds of Firefox. Just in case Chrome decided to act strange on certain pages, I also made sure the Adobe Flash plugin was installed as well.

### The Interface

GNOME Shell functioned quite well on Wheezy. Functionality involves the use of the mouse. The upper left corner brings up the option to open your favorite application, switch back and forth between running apps, and navigate currently installed apps. The lower right hand corner is for apps and

services that can be accessed from the background, similar to a system tray in other interfaces.

XFCE ran as well as expected, but a different theme had to be used in order to have a consistent look between GTK2 and GTK3 applications. LXDE was very responsive on the Aspire One 722, and similar theme tweaking had to take place for a consistent look.

Other than theme tweaking, wallpapers were changed on the HP desktop and Toshiba notebook.

### What I Liked

All the systems were stable. The software wasn't necessarily the latest, but it wasn't as outdated as the offerings from Red Hat Enterprise Linux 6. The Debian team takes stability very seriously.

### What Could Be Better

The graphical installer was attempted on the HP desktop, and I ran into an error message. I had better luck using the traditional installation method (command-line based). The graphical installer is a good idea, but it still needs some work.

### Conclusion

There are going to be those who complain that the software is out of date. The idea of Debian “stable” is to have the most stable software possible. There are also those who may complain that there are issues with wireless devices.

The reason behind this is because the Debian team attempts to avoid proprietary firmware. The installer offers an option to obtain the firmware from a separate disk drive, such as a flash drive, so Jack M. Germain was incorrect in stating that no provision existed to resolve that issue.

I was fortunate that open drivers existed for my portable systems.

For those who want an enterprise level operating system without paying an expensive subscription fee may want to look at Debian 7, nicknamed Wheezy. Depending on hardware peripherals, such as printers and scanners, some tweaking under the hood may be required. Other than that, things run quite smoothly.

### Websites

More information may be obtained via the following websites.

<http://www.debian.org> (Debian Website)

<http://www.deb-multimedia.org> (Additional Multimedia Add-Ons)

### Next Stop on the Journey

The next stop on the journey is PCLinuxOS. Texestar and crew have finally finished the 64-bit edition, so it can be tested on the HP desktop.

## What Warrensburg, Missouri Media Missed: A Retrospective

By Thomas Holbrook II



On September 1, 2012, Warrensburg, Missouri would see its first murder in years. Bar owner Blaine Whitworth was shot and killed by Reginald Singletary outside of Whitworth's home at 1006 Sunflower. Through the local media's coverage, the image of the whole affair being a murder for hire was painted.

According to local coverage, Ziyad Abid, a foreign exchange student from Saudi Arabia, hired Singletary to murder Whitworth. Rumors of Abid either wanting to own one of Whitworth's bars or having business dealings with Whitworth himself surfaced.

It was not until June of 2013 in which missing information came to light that raised even more questions about what happened and why. Bill Draper of the Associated Press interviewed Abid's attorneys and according to them:

- Singletary changed his story three times. First, he said a Kansas City gang put him up to it. Then he said it was the mafia. Then he said Abid hired him.
- Singletary was a bouncer at one of Whitworth's bars. He was terminated a week before the shooting.
- Both Abid and Singletary were roommates.

When Mitchell Brown, formerly of the Muleskinner, decided to discuss the topic for episode 14 of the podcast, we had no way of knowing that we would actually receive feedback from the new managing editor of the Muleskinner itself.

**Andy Lyons** You know, instead of criticizing local media and hypothetically asking questions you can email us via our "contact us" pages. And you're completely right, local media dropped the ball. Although I'd love to compare myself to Bill Draper, the AP reporter with all the information I missed, I refuse to do so. Despite working for the paper I have to work to support myself and can't dedicate nearly the same time to anything as someone who gets paid full-time to do so. I don't have the connections or the credentials Draper has. I knew Singletary didn't work at the bar anymore but I didn't know the circumstances and I didn't know Abid and Singletary were roommates. My coverage has come from court documents and that evidence isn't in any of the 120+ pages I have. Thanks for letting me know my work is shit, you guys are cool.

Like · Reply · 1 · June 19 at 1:49am

**Mitchell Brown** [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=\\_\\_ICEXgFxfU](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=__ICEXgFxfU)



**Justin Timberlake - Cry me a river (Lyrics)**  
This is Justin Timberlakes Cry me a river

Like · Remove Preview · June 19 at 4:19am



**Andy Lyons** Brilliant. For someone so dedicated to the intelligent side of things, the points you try to poke have a lot of gaping holes, and your responses border on elementary. I think you're just bitter you couldn't hack it as a reporter for a weekly newspaper and can't get over what was, in all honesty, a genuine mistake. A glaring one, but I wouldn't sacrifice the paper to make you look like a bigger prick, you do that well enough on your own.

[Like](#) · June 19 at 4:22am

**Andy Lyons** And really, why even criticize the local media. You, admittedly, give no shits about Warrensburg, UCM, or anyone in the area. Seriously just bitter, still, after six months and the apologies from anyone remotely involved. Watch the video again yourself, and quit crybabying.

[Like](#) · June 19 at 4:23am



**Mitchell Brown** 1. Your claim that you were too busy or did not have the resources to actually engage in the process of investigation is invalid. You said you didn't know that Abid and Singletary were roommates or the circumstances why Singletary no longer worked at the bar. Fair enough, but as an "investigative journalist," it's part of the job to find these things out. If you were dedicated to trying to present a well-rounded account, you would not have limited your reporting to court documents.

When someone wears the label of "investigative journalist," I would assume this person would know how to investigate. I know for a fact you go down to Pine Street to party a lot--what was stopping you from taking your digital audio recorder with you one night? I recall you saying that your man Jay from Hastings knew Singletary and that they went to high-school together or something like that. What stopped you from interviewing him?

I find it bizarre that the Muleskinner can have all of the editing staff on the scene of a house fire but cannot dedicate a fraction of that effort to investigating details of the biggest homicide Warrensburg has had in years. Such inaction reeks of complacency.

2. No, I didn't stop writing for the Muleskinner because I couldn't "hack it." I stopped writing because of the disrespect I encountered. I wrote for the paper for 3 years, under 3 different managing editors and 4 different news editors. After the known incident in question, I came to the conclusion that three years of doing stories and opinion pieces was enough time to build a decent portfolio. When I told Bird-Meyer I would no longer write for the Muleskinner, his response was "I don't blame you."

If Taylor would not have wrote that childish nonsense and defaced my work, me and you would still be on the same team. Yes, I received a series of apologies, but it's kind of like this--If I was going out with a woman and found out she was cheating, an apology after the deed was done amounts to empty words. An apology does not nullify the act. At that point it's too late, and I'm out the door.

Also, I have a code, a set of principles that I live by, and in my own personal book, I have an entire chapter of how I deal with disrespect. I will wash my hands of those who push disrespect too far, and usually some type of payback might follow.

4. You accuse me of "crybabying" for speaking out and explaining how the Muleskinner is mismanaged, yet you pitch a fit over legitimate criticism of the publication in another media outlet. I think the psychological term "projecting." applies to you at this point.

5. You still have an open invite to come on the show and tell your side of the story and have a debate.

## The Retrospective

The reason why I named the student newspaper at UCM among the local venues in terms of asking hard questions about coverage is because that's what was available in terms of local papers. While the digitalBurg is an online venue, it still acts as a newspaper.

Both the digitalBurg and Muleskinner are the closest things that Warrensburg has for a Warrensburg paper. The Daily Star Journal covers news in Warrensburg, but it's a county wide paper. Coverage from radio stations should have been looked at as well. My question at this point is whether or not there would have been different information that would have matched Draper's.

In a sense, the assessment from one of the comments on the fan page is correct. It was a calling out of John Q Public in a sense. Local publications are often a reflection of the community that they are based in. The unfortunate reality is that a cosmopolitan population is competing with an older generation that takes issue with certain forms of modernization.

As can be seen from the partial screen shots, a different policy is in place at this media venue. Censorship, even in the guise of editorial decision making, is something that is to be abhorred in my view. Though I disagreed with posting a Justin Timberlake music video in response to Lyons, I chose not to delete it. This publication and the rest of this media venue encourages elevated levels of thinking.

The reason why the First Amendment from the Bill of Rights of the U.S. Constitution was quoted verbatim is to remind readers that it applies to all citizens of the U.S., not just those in any form of media. One of the overreaches of British soldiers was in limiting freedom of speech before the Revolutionary War. Free speech is something that I ardently believe in, which is why those comments will remain, unless the ones who posted them decide to delete them.

Either way, screen shots will remain. Media criticism is a form of free speech. If one can not take such criticism without resorting to name calling and accusing somebody of "not being able to hack it," then perhaps the newspaper business is the wrong industry to be participating in.

I also recognize that the student newspaper has run into the problem of lacking a talent pool to draw from. I do not buy the story of "re-tooling" certain departments at UCM. In reality, the Journalism Department was gutted, and instincts indicate that it may have something to do with the fact that the student paper itself published scathing editorials after the decision was made to not renew Aaron Podolefsky's contract.

As for Mr. Lyons, if he wishes to give his side of the story, he is still free to do so. As an ardent believer in freedom of speech, I will not allow censorship of any kind. He is still welcome to come on to the podcast or to submit a piece to the website and/or magazine. The door will always be open.