

Random BSD@Desktop experiences

- Who?

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- IrcNET: globalc, on #NetBSD

- What?

- I run NetBSD on a nice Sparc.. but run Linux on my desktops
- So: as AsiaBSDCon is in town, looking at BSD@desktop again
- Sharing experiences. Completely subjective.. but maybe pointing out potential for improvement

- Requirements

- At least my homedir needs to be encrypted (it's 2023, right?)
- NVMe support (Thinkpad here)
- Xorg, Firefox, audio output
- Wlan support for my Thinkpad

- Nice to have

- UEFI
- Japanese fonts, to read pages with Kanji
- Japanese input method

First shot: FreeBSD

- Why? Has reputation for best desktop support.
- The good:
 - Installer offers in expert mode directly homedir encrypt: NICE!
 - NVMe is supported, Xorg easy to get up, also Firefox, audio
 - Wlan comes up
 - Installs nicely with my UEFI only config
 - Japanese fonts easy to install, also Japanese input method
 - Packages available, no need for building from ports
- No pitfalls seen!

Second shot: NetBSD

- Here I actually got stuck looking up disk encryption
- It is available and doable.. just looked so complex I never came to it

Third shot: OpenBSD

- Instructions for encrypting disk are reasonably simple (installer enhanced to directly offer this in next version!)
- NVMe supported, Xorg, Firefox, audio output easy to get
- Wlan support for my Thinkpad, easy config with 'ifconfig'
- UEFI: uh, no. Needed to go back to Bios compat mode (might be due to my boot method?)
- Japanese fonts: easy to install from ports
- Japanese input method: this took much longer than on FreeBSD

Thank you for your attention!

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Special hint, especially for the visitors:

'hard off' stores have used hardware.

NetBSD/dreamcast exists, Playstation 2/3 also available