How to Install Debian on PowerPC

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Mines Linux Users Group

2017-04-13
Why am I giving this talk?

- To show an inexpensive option for tinkering with Linux on another computer
- To show Linux will run on nearly anything
- You can have another Linux notebook for less than the cost of dinner!
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What options are available?

**iBook G3**
- "Clamshell"
- 300 MHz – 466 MHz
- Max 576 MB RAM
- 800x600 12"
- CD-ROM (Tray)
- Mac OS 8.6 or 9
- Mac OS X (up to 10.4)
- Repairability: 4/5
- Expect to pay $60–$200

**iBook G3**
- "Snow"
- 500 MHz – 900 MHz
- Max 640 MB RAM
- 1024x768 12.1” or 14.1"
- CD or DVD (Tray)
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- Mac OS X (up to 10.4)
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**iBook G4**
- 800 MHz – 1.42 GHz
- Max 1.5 GB RAM
- 1024x768 12.1” or 14.1"
- DVD (Slot)
- No Mac OS Support
- Mac OS X (up to 10.5)
- Repairability: -1/5
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Other Options? Any 2000’s PowerBook
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How Install Debian?

1. Download Debian PowerPC ISO from https://debian.org
2. Burn it to a CD
3. Put in iBook
4. Hold C-key while booting
5. Install using pretty interface
6. ...
7. Profit?
Profit? Not quite yet.

- Tweak the graphics to work better
  I found the `radeon.agpmode=-1` kernel flag makes my iBook G4 happy

- Install wireless firmware
  Either the `firmware-b43-installer` or `firmware-b43legacy-installer` package

- The touchpad is an ADB mouse, and you will probably want to emulate right/middle click using keyboard keys. Edit `/etc/defaults/mouseemu` to configure.

- Can anyone figure out how to get battery display working? If so, I will update the slides.
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- Configured in `/etc/yaboot.conf`
- Adjust `timeout=` to your liking (potentially 0)
- Add any kernel flags you need with `append=`
- Run `ybin` as root to regenerate the bootloader and bless it with Holy Penguin Pee
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Other Options for Linux on an iBook?

- Ubuntu maintains a PowerPC release
- Gentoo is available for PowerPC
- Build Linux from source
- *BSD
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Questions?
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