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CORRECTIONS:

The CPU rating scores given in the chart on page 26 of the June issue ("High-Speed DDR2 Death-match") are incorrect. The scores in the text on pages 24 and 25 are the correct ones.

Infinite Loops

Strange stats and other oddball items from computing's periphery

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EDITOR'S NOTE

For many computer users, the words “choice” and “OS” showing up together in the same sentence is a fairly new phenomenon, unless that sentence was, “I’d take DOS 5.1 for an OS over Windows Me if I had a choice.” Regardless of what some people might try and tell you about OS/2 Warp, for many years there were no really good alternatives to Windows out there for everyday computing.

These days, however, Linux comes in lots of flavors, some of them very well-suited to the home desktop, and Apple’s Mac OS is enjoying a renaissance of sorts thanks to the company’s switch to x86 CPUs and the sales of iPods and such.

The question all of this raises, of course, is which OS is best? A definitive answer is tough because such a large portion of OS evaluation is subjective, not to mention that different users have varying needs and desires, making direct comparisons a tricky proposition at best. Things being what they are today in the world of Windows, though, we decided it was high time we looked into the subject. So we put WinXP, Vista, two Linux distros, and Mac OS into the ring for a battle royal for the hearts and minds of power users everywhere.

And now, right on cue, I can hear the emails start to pour in, bemoaning *CPU*’s obvious anti-Microsoft bias for implying that an alternative to Windows is somehow desirable—the *unmitigated cheek!* So let me say up front that our starting premise is not, in fact, that Windows must go. If that were the case, we probably would not have included two versions of Windows in our little contest.

Truth be told, most of us here at *CPU* central use Windows at work and at home and are quite content to go on doing so. But we also know from feedback we’ve received from many of you that not everyone is inclined to just accept the newest version of Windows as their only OS choice, and if that’s the case, where should these huddled masses turn for respite? Read on, oh faithful reader.



Chris Trumble, Publication Editor, *CPU*



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Gotcha.
Here it is.