

# COS 231 Week 2 Notes

George Markowsky

Department of Computer Science

University of Maine

# Textbooks and Sources

- Apparently because of confusion involving me and two book stores there is some confusion about the “official” textbook for the course.
- Some people have “*Red Hat Linux 9 Bible.*” Some people have “*Red Hat Linux Bible: Fedora and Enterprise*”, and some people have “*Red Hat Linux 9 Unleashed*”
  - I will use Bible and Unleashed to refer to the two texts.

# Textbooks and Sources

- I will write homeworks that will work with any of the texts that you have.
- In addition, I will direct you to various useful resources on the Web.
- There are entire books available for free on the Web, along with countless tutorials, documents and user groups
- To be a successful user of Linux, it is important that you learn to use these resources!

# Fedora and Enterprise

- The Red Hat Corporation has taken a new direction with its distribution of Linux
  - It has continued with the development of a free version of Linux which it now calls Fedora. A more conventional name would have been Red Hat Linux 10
  - It is developing a commercial version which is less aggressive with features that it calls Enterprise

# Fedora and Enterprise

- Fedora and Enterprise have much in common with Red Hat 9, and for the purposes of this course, it does not matter which one you use.

# Non-Textbook Sources

- Each distribution of Linux typically has a website devoted to it
- [www.redhat.com](http://www.redhat.com) is a website devoted to the Red Hat Linux distribution. It has links to websites supporting Fedora and other useful sources of information
- You should get familiar with this site since it has much useful information about Red Hat Linux

# Non-Textbook Sources

- You should also get familiar with the websites supporting the Fedora project, because you will probably want to start using Fedora at some point.
- A very handy website that you should be familiar with is TLDP.org.
  - TLDP stands for The Linux Documentation Project

# TLDP.org

- The amount of information on this website is truly staggering, and it is all free
- The homework will ask you to visit this site and get familiar with it.
- If you are having troubles with installations, security, etc., you can find a tremendous amount of information here including full-length free books, magazines, how-tos, etc.

# Google

- You are all probably aware of the power of Google
- You can use Google.com in two ways
- First, you can find information on specific error messages by searching for them
- Second, if you go to the Google homepage you will see a link to Groups. This leads you to a tree-structure of various groups. These contain a lot of information from people interested in the various subjects.

# Linux Magazines

- There are several magazines devoted to linux. TLDP.org has links to some.
- In addition, you should look at [www.linuxjournal.com](http://www.linuxjournal.com) and [www.linuxmagazine.com](http://www.linuxmagazine.com)

# Linux Desktops

- As you read through your text about the Linux desktop, you will note both Gnome's and KDE's similarity to Windows
- I am assuming that you all know how to use Windows or the Mac and feel fairly comfortable in using Gnome which is the default desktop
- For this course you should install both Gnome and KDE

# Linux Desktops

- You can select a different desktop at the login prompt by selecting sessions.
- Chapter 3 of the Bible and Chapter 6 of Unleashed describe the desktops. In addition to reading about them, you should definitely explore both desktops on your own.
- You should read the chapters listed in the syllabus for this week.