



RASTASOFT - *'for the freedom of creation'*

Is the brainchild of Italian born Jaromil. RASTASOFT is part of the open source phenomenon that developed out of the computer hacking / code cracking activities of the 1980's and is concerned with the free distribution of Information and the tools to create to all.

'If you are in front of a computer you own it'

Jaromil's first words as he began his eloquent introduction to 'Pure Dyne' at the Canteen media and arts centre in Barrow in Furness last Saturday. A collaboration between Rastasoftware and goto10 'Pure Dyne' allows just that, being developed with creative users in mind and along the same lines as the first 'Live' CD that he witnessed at a world hackers convention in Italy 2001, 'Pure Dyne' allows its user access to any computer which has a CD drive and boots up its own unique desktop interface, bypassing all passwords and granting access to the entire contents of its hard drive. It doesn't stop there, 'Pure Dyne' is a revision of 'Dynebolic' an operating system that allows its users to develop and create with open source tools 'out of the box'. Its contents include a great collection of artistic tools for video, audio, network clustering and Internet streaming.

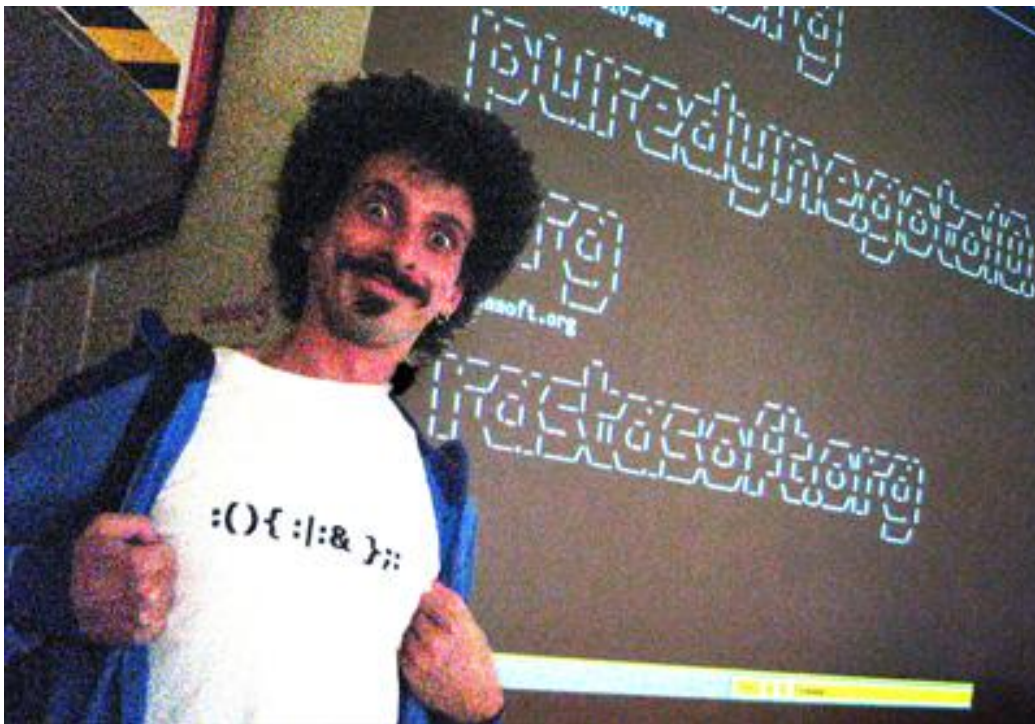
REVERSE ENGINEERING

That's how the operating system LINUX was developed. Through the hacking of a Microsoft windows system and remodeling it for use in open source developments. Linux was one of the first systems used by the developers of open source tools, yet it is based on servers and made for servers not end users,

making it awkward to use as a creative developer and impossible to install for the uninitiated.

'The understanding of Linux can be a big effort, Dynebolic grew out of the working of a system to employ Linux that was very easy to understand.'

Jaromil believes that companies like Microsoft would be better disposed if they were to expose their systems rather than keeping their users unaware. The right of freedom to information and access to the tools from which we can facilitate the progress of humanity is a basic human right. Many countries outside of the western world are reliant on vastly under resourced centres, the constant upgrading of computer systems give those under the threshold little chance of exploring the potential of new technologies.



**Jaromil wearing his digital poetry T-shirt emblazoned on the front are 12 symbols
if input into the terminal window of dynebolic would crash the system completely.**

'12 symbols are enough to crash the Linux computer without even being rude'

'Pure Dyne' specifically targets the use of low spec machines, understanding that many public learning centres in countries like Africa, India and the Arab world don't have access to the same high powered computers as we do, and that there are so many old pcs in little use. 'Pure Dyne' has a clustering functionality

enabling such low spec machines to work together as one larger machine.

'The inclusion of a dynebolic system and one new computer working as network would enable the recycling of these old computers and make them useful again'

This clustering functionality may also be of use in the UK where vast amounts of high spec machines are being used everyday, simply to surf the Internet.

'Pure Dyne' has also been created for use on a chipped Xbox games console, which seems very popular in Japan where the vast majority of these were dumped as they passed their shelf life.

Dynebolic is made by the users and develops in terms of a horizontal network, rather than in any hierarchal terms, being unfunded it develops slowly in a more organic way and on a voluntary basis. This kind of development is far better in the long term meaning those involved with its creation are involved with it on all levels, yet not so fast in the short term where major corporations battle it out and throw millions of pounds of investment into new development tools, in a bid to keep customers in their ball field.

Jaromil in beautiful spaghetti English certainly raised many issues I had not considered concerning my own personal practice and choice of tools whilst working with multimedia projects within the western world. His final words as the workshop was brought to a close –

'To ask you to consider being part of the revolution, part of an eco system not just an end user. Freed from the hands of corporate uses and to feel free to do anything we want with it'.



Denis "Jaromil" Rojo (also known as the **Rasta Coder**) is a free software programmer, a media artist and activist. He has made significant contributions to the development of multimedia and streaming applications on the GNU/Linux platform. He was born in Pescara, Italy, but now lives in Amsterdam, Netherlands.

He is author of the **dyne:bolic** GNU/Linux liveCD, and of various free software projects, including MuSE and FreeJ.

As an artist, he has created netart installations and performances. He also founded Dyne in 2000 under the flag of Freedom of Creation, playing hybrid between the fields of politics, art and technology.

Grow Your Own Media Lab is a trans-regional action research project that aims to investigate, improve and document a low cost, participatory, open source media lab model. This particular series of events is hosted by Folly Digital Arts Organisation.

rastasoft – <http://www.rastasoft.org>

puredyne – <http://puredyne.goto10.org>

Goto10 – <http://www.goto10.org>

Flossmanuals – <http://www.flossmanuals.org>

the streaming suitcase – <http://www.streaming suitcase.com/frame.html>