Cloverleaf

Press release for Raspberry Pi owners

RISC OS – the fastest OS for your Raspberry Pi

Are you one of the 30 million people around the world who use a Raspberry Pi? Unleash its full potential and see it fly as never before with the little-known but super-fast operating system, RISC OS. If you run a Linux distribution on your Raspberry Pi, you hamper the experience by using an overloaded operating system that's difficult to set up efficiently and hard to use, and that overburdens the system with lot of processes that you don't need most of the time.

RISC OS unlocks the full speed potential of your Raspberry Pi. In fact, RISC OS is not a new operating system at all: it was the first operating system programmed explicitly for the ARM processor, and was written by the same people who designed the processor itself. RISC OS was created over 30 years ago by Acorn Computers Ltd in Cambridge, United Kingdom. Acorn designed the operating system with an innovative graphical user interface for its own groundbreaking RISC CPU that is now known the world over as the ARM processor, and which is now used in mind-blowing numbers to power every kind of smart technology, from intelligent cables to mobile phones.

The ARM processor was originally created by Acorn as a low-power, high-performance 32-bit CPU. ARM CPUs are so superior to all other CPU concepts that 90% of the world's mobile phones are now based on them. Apple recently announced a transition from Intel processors to its own ARM-based Apple Silicon for its Macintosh systems, meaning that its entire computing product portfolio, from budget iPhones to high-end professional Mac workstations, will soon be based on ARM processor designs. And a compatible ARM CPU core is already at the heart of your Raspberry Pi.

Why should RISC OS be so fast on the ARM processor? Because it was originally designed to run well on the very first 8MHz ARM CPU in the late 1980s. Your Raspberry Pi runs at least 100 times faster than that. Unlike Linux, RISC OS is not slowed down by having been designed to run on any hardware platform. In RISC OS there are not multiple layers of software modules between the application and the hardware. From the outset, RISC OS was designed exclusively for ARM processors, and its speed-critical portions are written directly in ARM code for maximum performance.

Another reason for the high-speed user experience is the cooperative multitasking design that gives priority to the application that you are actually using. So try it out and join the RISC OS community! Existing users consider that, in many ways, it offers the best and most productive experience of any desktop operating system.

A large library of excellent third party application software has built up over the years, much of which is now free or very affordable. There is a choice of excellent applications covering most major categories, including word processors, spreadsheets, databases and desktop publishing. Indeed, RISC OS is particularly well suited to DTP, as it has always had full inbuilt support for vector graphic editing and a world-leading outline font system, still unmatched in quality by any mainstream system other than perhaps macOS (which gained similar features well over a decade later).

If you are a retro-gamer, you will have lots of fun with RISC OS. There are numerous emulators available for a wide range of systems, including Acorn BBC Micro, Sinclair ZX Spectrum, Commodore 64, DOS and many more. You can

also enjoy high-quality gaming with ScummVM and native ports of classics such as Doom, Duke Nukem and Lemmings. Not to mention the best ever implementation of Elite!

But RISC OS is still not a fully polished OS for the modern world. Over the last 20 years since the demise of Acorn, development has been relatively slow, and it is still lacking drivers for some important new technologies such as Wi-Fi, Bluetooth and NVMe storage. A full-blown modern web browser will be released in some months' time.

So, we have created a crowdfunding project, Cloverleaf RISC OS, to gain support and funds to implement the missing drivers and offer new native RISC OS hardware. If you want RISC OS to be part of your computer lifestyle, then please support us in our efforts and help fund our RISC OS Cloverleaf campaign at Kickstarter.

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