Is FreeBSD ready for desktop (Mozilla Flash)

Source: http://unix.derkeiler.com/Newsgroups/comp.unix.bsd.freebsd.misc/2005−09/0219.html

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Date: 09/08/05

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note: all dates are in American format mm/dd/yy

09/05/05 Installed new FreeBSD − 5.4

This is the allegedly "stable" version − right?

OK, here's a simple run−through of doing somthing totally weird, something totally outrageous, something so far out there that only maybe 2 or 3 really superior humans in the world have ever even attempted − let alone succeeded − getting Flash to work with Mozilla − or Firefox... or anything.

First of all, my bleeding edge motherboard with onboard video is not handled. What is this wonder of digital electronics? Some bizarre prototype made by an experimental "skunk−works" group in Area 51 that specializes in leaking alien technology into mainstream human production? 'fraid not − it's a fairly boring MSI Via motherboard − to be specific, a model K8MM−V. MSI makes about 14−jillion motherboards per year. Not particularly exotic − or "bleeding edge".

The install totally fails to figure out the onboard video, and settles on selecting the VESA driver as the best possible driver. (hint: some sort of attempt at the unichrome driver would have been nice)

Of course, in spite of the fact that I also have a very generic monitor, (an AOC model 7F), somehow the install fails to detect such bizarre and weird parameters as the horizontal synch and vertical refresh − which I must configure manually, in order to even get an X desktop. (hint: basic identification of generic hardware would also be nice)

OK, that may be an XOrg problem, but it's still a problem.

Next, having finally gotten an X desktop, I fire up Mozilla. More bad news. The first site I hit tells me I have no Flash

support. OK, OK, in spite of the fact that when I installed
BSD I asked for a fairly complete X desktop, Flash is just too
new, too wild, too far out there to consider for inclusion.

So I go to the handbook. No, I go to ***THE HANDBOOK***. You
know, the one that every time you mention it, there are sounds
of heavenly trumpets in the background?

What does ***THE HANDBOOK*** say? I quote, chapter and verse:
"Macromedia Flash plugin is not available for FreeBSD. However,
a software layer (wrapper) for running the Linux version of
the plugin exists. This wrapper also supports Adobe® Acrobat®
plugin, RealPlayer plugin and more."

Cool. I mean, the Linux emulation on FreeBSD is highly praised,
right? The BSD developers have pulled a miracle out of their
respective butts, and against incredible odds have managed to
support one completely open−source *nix on anothe