

## Re: Thinking about upgrading to Solaris 10

**Source:** <http://unix.derkeiler.com/Newsgroups/comp.unix.solaris/2005-01/2559.html>

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"Richard B. Gilbert" <[rgilbert88@comcast.net](mailto:rgilbert88@comcast.net)> writes:

> >

> *I'm sure the trivial input filter would have solved the problem if I  
> had been able to find one or known how to write one. I found  
> virtually nothing in Sun's documentation to guide me! What I did  
> find didn't help or didn't work. HP laser printers are everywhere.  
> If Solaris supplies anything in the way of support for them, it's  
> practically invisible. I suspect that any printer that required both  
> a carriage return and a linefeed for each line (I think that's most  
> printers) would have presented similar problems.*

>

> *The solutions are probably obvious to the experienced sysadmin. To  
> the newbie, it not obvious how to do it nor is it obvious how to find  
> out, other than to find someone who knows and ask him! I tried asking  
> and was told about a filter called something like "unix-to-dos".  
> Someone else promptly denounced that recommendation as an abomination!  
> The documentation tells you to install a filter but nothing about which  
> filters are available, if any, and nothing about writing a filter.*

>

> *Installing and configuring printers is one of the areas where Windoze  
> is clearly superior!*

The only trouble I've had with getting jetdirect or lpt port HP printers going with Solaris has been me setting things up wrong. That, and I had to slow down the Ultra 60's parallel port so the printer could keep up. For me, the total cost in time of working out printer connectivity issues in Solaris has been about the same as Windows.

Windows tries and sometimes succeeds in being inexperienced-friendly at the cost of making harder things extremely difficult and inflexibility. Solaris is not inexperienced-friendly, it tries to get out of the way to let you do the harder things the way you need to. I imagine many of the other unices have the same philosophy- OS X excepted.

One could apply your same argument to saying horses are superior to

cars because they don't need batteries. Clearly, its not possible to make an informed judgement between the 2 operating systems without reasonably equivalent experience with both.

It really amazes me that people install an OS and expect everything to just fall into their lap. Installing an OS is sort of like installing a new engine in a car– theres lots of little fiddly details you have to know to make it work– the new engine doesn't come with a detailed installation manual, the customer is SUPPOSED to come to the task with enough experience and knowledge to do the job or a checkbook to pay for the people who do. Lacking both, the customer has to figure it out him/herself with as much help as they can get from others. And that means the customer needs to ask specific questions about specific problems and be prepared to do a good deal of often frustrating homework to understand both.

Gregm