

REPURPOSED
TECH

THE IPOD'S NEW BAG OF TRICKS

Make your iPod play games and more by giving it a second personality

OUT OF THE BOX, the iPod is basically a one-trick pony. The games and applications found under the "Extras" menu get old faster than Britney. But thanks to four years of work by a crafty group of programmers, you can now use your iPod's processing power and scroll-wheel interface to play dozens of games, record voice memos, or browse Wikipedia, all without messing up the existing software or your music.

The secret is iPodLinux, an alternative operating system you can install free alongside the existing one on any iPod model. Once geeks-only turf, the Linux option can now be added simply by downloading and double-clicking a new automated installer. Find a few of our favorite new 'Pod programs below, and see popsci.com/ipodlinux for detailed instructions and links to the latest apps.—JOHN MAHONEY

PUT LINUX ON YOUR IPOD

10 MINUTES

The basic installer will load the core Linux system, the Podzilla interface, and a good selection of games and applications.

FREE

1. Download the installer for your computer's platform (Windows, Linux or Mac) and your iPod model from ipodlinux.org.

EASY 1 2 3 4 HARD

2. Connect your iPod in "disk" mode, and run the installer. Choose which OS you want your iPod to load by default.

3. Reset your iPod (on most models, hold down "menu" and "select"). Press the "<<" key during reboot to launch the non-default system.

Railgun
For artillery running on rails, see railway gun. A railgun is a form of gun that converts electrical energy—rather than the more conventional chemical energy from an

Railgun
For artillery running on rails, see railway gun. A railgun is a form of gun that converts electrical energy—rather than the more conventional chemical energy from an

1. ENCYCLOPEDIA

encyclopedia.sourceforge.net
Load all of Wikipedia—searchable and with working links between articles—into less than a gigabyte of space. Note: If you have Encyclopaedia, it's the only Linux app you can run.



2. IDOOM

idoom.hyarion.com
Play the popular first-person shooter *Doom* with crisp graphics (especially on color screens) and an easy-to-use interface. Just download and copy the "iDoom" folder to your iPod.

MORE 'POD APPS



3. IBOY

sourceforge.net/projects/iboy
Play nearly all the original Nintendo Game Boy's classics on your iPod—just search for the ROM files online. The controls can be awkward, but having *Zelda* on your iPod is worth it.

5 THINGS...

YOU NEVER KNEW YOU COULD SWAP ONLINE

1 GIFT CARDS

Can't find anything to blow that Gap gift card on? Post it on Swapagift.com for \$4 and trade it for cash or for another card from a place you actually shop. Try TheGiftCardTrader.com for an even exchange (free to list; \$2 for each party if it goes) or CardAvenue.com (free) for an auction-style listing.

2 CDS

On Lala.com, launching this month, you create a "Have" list of CDs you own and a "Want" list of CDs you, well, want. Trade discs (no cases) with others in Netflix-style envelopes for \$1.49—49 cents for shipping plus a \$1 fee, 20 percent of which is paid to the artist whose CD you're trading.

3 DVDs

Peerflix.com offers a similar trading scheme for DVDs you don't watch anymore. Instead of a straight one-to-one swap, though, each disc is priced in "Peerbux" depending on its demand—*The Matrix* costs 2; *The Sopranos* season five, 10. Earn Peerbux by sending out your DVDs, or just buy 'bux outright for \$5 each.

4 BOOKS

PaperBackSwap.com has around half a million titles. List nine books to begin trading. At FrugalReader.com, five listings gets you into play. On both sites, you pay only the postage on orders you send (\$1.59 for 16 ounces or less by media-mail rate).

5 ANYTHING

For \$1 per swap, the Web is your oyster on SwapThing.com. Trade guitars, church pews, even a live four-foot snake. You have to arrange your own swap, and some offerers just want cash, making it kind of a poor man's eBay.—KATE ASHFORD