

# /DEV/RANDOM/

## Final thoughts, musings and reflections



**Nick Veitch** was the original editor of Linux Format, a role he played until he got bored and went to work at Canonical instead. Splitter!

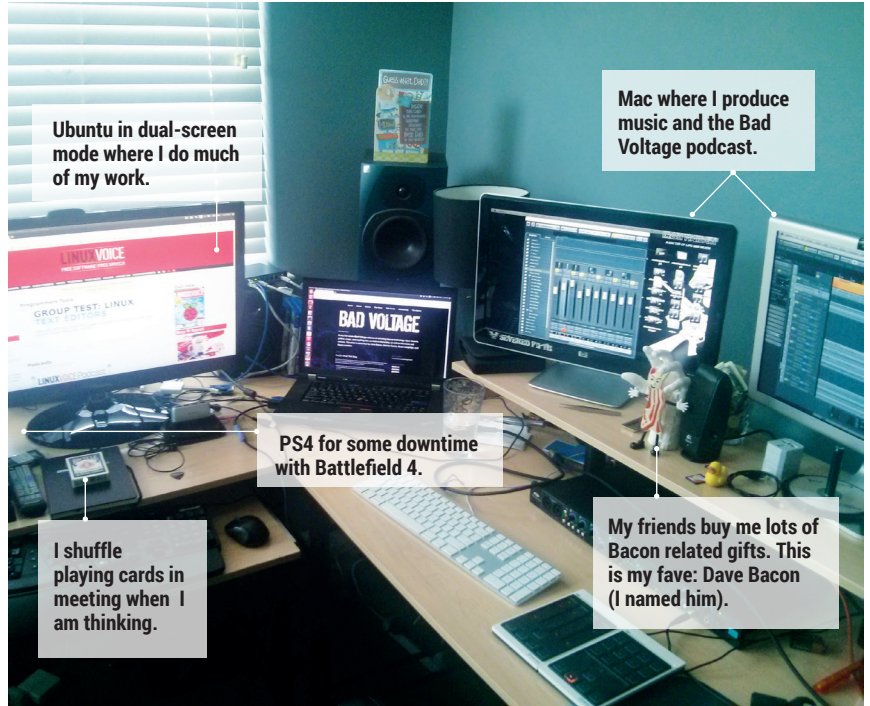
Developing software can be hazardous. I don't mean the risks of RSI or health problems associated with over-caffeination. I mean receiving death threats.

There has been a lot of media attention focussed on the threats to various people involved in the games scene recently. From the coverage it would be easy to deduce that the internet is full of unpleasant teenage boys with disturbing attitudes towards women.

However, the problem isn't limited to games or boys. There has been a growing incidence of this sort of threatening behaviour, or at least of people who have decided they are not going to put up with it. Most recently, Seth Vargo, who worked at cloud enabling software company Chef ([www.getchef.com](http://www.getchef.com)) has quit, citing unwanted death threats from the community as one of the motivators. You can read his blog here: (<https://sethvargo.com/leaving-chef>).

In my day things were more personal – I got death threats in the mail. These days threats can be delivered in moments by hastily opened dummy accounts. One problem with such behaviour is that it shuts down any reasonable discussion. An *agent provocateur* need only lob a molotov of threats from within an otherwise sensible protest and everything becomes all CS gas and water cannon. When everyone is shouting, nobody is listening.

Either people are going to need to grow up and realise that threatening behaviour never does their cause any good (unlikely) or at the very least, communities are going to need to be managed better to make this sort of thing have consequences. It seems impossible to do that without some restrictions on web anonymity, which seems like a high price to pay, but we also can't expect developers to put up with threats.



Ubuntu in dual-screen mode where I do much of my work.

Mac where I produce music and the Bad Voltage podcast.

PS4 for some downtime with Battlefield 4.

I shuffle playing cards in meeting when I am thinking.

My friends buy me lots of Bacon related gifts. This is my fave: Dave Bacon (I named him).

## My Linux setup Jono Bacon

The man at the helm of the Bad Voltage podcast, Xprize Foundation community chap and formerly Ubuntu person.

**Q** What version of Linux are you using at the moment?

**A** On my laptop I am running Ubuntu and on the desktop machine, which I use for producing Bad Voltage as well as recording music, I'm running Mac OS X. I also run Ubuntu on my servers.

**Q** What desktop do you prefer (as if we can't guess)?

**A** My desktop of choice is Unity. I like how it just gets out of my way and lets me focus on my work.

**Q** What was the first Linux setup you ever used?

**A** I started out with Slackware 96 back in 1998. I then moved over to using

Red Hat, then Mandrake, a quick flirt with Corel Linux, then to Debian, and finally Ubuntu. I have never considered anything else since Ubuntu.

**Q** What Free Software/open source can't you live without?

**A** A few things; *Firefox*, *Chromium*, *Gimp*, *Inkscape*, and *XChat* on my laptop. On my servers I couldn't live without Wordpress and Discourse (and their associated servers/databases).

**Q** What do other people love but you can't get on with?

**A** A bunch of people use KDE, and I have tried, but it just doesn't work with my brain. This isn't KDE's fault, my brain is stupid. ☹️