Moving from CentOS Linux to Pop!_OS   by Rex Djere of https://saxtalk.com/

Summary

In 2020, I decided that I wanted to add some light gaming to my repertoire. I bought the most popular Logitech game controller on Amazon (the Logitech Gamepad F310), and I assumed that since it was so popular, it would work in CentOS 8 with no problems. When the gamepad arrived, I fired up Extreme Tux Racer, but the gamepad wasn't recognized. In this article, I will describe why this lack of Logitech F310 gamepad support in CentOS 8 motivated me to switch from CentOS 8 to Pop!_OS 20.10.

From Fedora to CentOS to Pop!_OS

I spent almost 20 years in the Red Hat/CentOS/Fedora ecosystem, starting with Fedora 1. I ran every Fedora Linux from Fedora 1 to Fedora 30, but in 2019, I decided that I wanted to focus on desktop computer stability, so I switched to the rock solid Linux distribution known as CentOS 8. I absolutely loved CentOS 8 for the year that I ran it: it never crashed, and it was the most stable computer operating system that I have ever used. However, I decided in 2020 that I wanted to start playing games on my desktop computer to keep my mind sharp. I remembered how much I loved playing Tux Racer back in the day.

I went onto Amazon.com looking for a good, well-reviewed, and affordable game controller, and the Logitech F310 wired gamepad kept coming up in my Amazon searches. The price was very reasonable. At the time (mid-2020), the F310 controller was $15, but the price has since been raised to $20, as of early 2021. I'm guessing that the price increase was due to a combination of Covid-19 supply-chain-related issues, and an increase in game controller demand as people play games during home quarantine periods.

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The Logitech F310 was such a popular controller that I just assumed that it would work in CentOS 8. When the controller arrived, I installed Extreme Tux Racer on my main CentOS 8 machine, and I plugged the Logitech F310 controller into an available USB port: nothing happened; the controller was not recognized. I went onto Reddit and I search for solutions, to no avail.

I had been hearing very good things about Pop!_OS for years, and it always seemed that Debian-based apt systems, such as Ubuntu and Pop!_OS, were more popular, and better supported, than Red Hat-based yum systems such as RHEL, CentOS, and Fedora. I felt that it was time to make the switch to Pop!_OS.

Switching to Pop!_OS

Switching to Pop!_OS 20.10 couldn't have been any easier. I went to the Pop!_OS website and downloaded the latest .iso image. Then, in CentOS 8, I installed Fedora Media Writer, and I used it to write the .iso image to a flash drive. I rebooted my system, and set it to boot from the Pop!_OS 20.10 thumb drive. Less than an hour later, I had finished installing Pop!_OS 20.10, and I was greeted by a Gnome desktop very similar to the one that I had been using for the last year on CentOS 8. Now, it was time for the big test.

Testing the Logitech F310 Gamepad on Pop!_OS 20.10

I went into the Pop! Store, and I installed Extreme Tux Racer on my new Pop!_OS 20.10 system. Then, I plugged in my Logitech F310 game controller, and I started Extreme Tux Racer. The familiar game music in Extreme Tux Racer made me nostalgic for the early 2000s. I hit the right steering key on the gamepad: it worked! I had full control of Extreme Tux Racer on Pop!_OS 2010!

Conclusions

I have now spent several months on Pop!_OS, and I am absolutely loving it! Now that I am a part of the Pop! Ecosystem, I will probably end up buying a System 76 laptop with Pop!_OS pre-installed in the future. I still have the utmost respect for the RHEL/CentOS/Fedora community, and I still run CentOS 8 on my home media server because CentOS 8 is so rock solid. Since CentOS 8 end-of-life has been announced, I will probably move my home media server to Rocky Linux in Quarter 2 of 2021. **Thank you for reading this article, and Happy New Year!!**