

The Best of The Joy of Tech

Paul Hudson has finally figured out how to get paid to read comics...

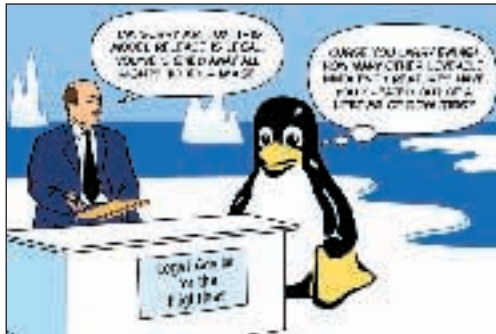
BUYER INFO

- **AUTHOR** Nitrozac and Snaggy
- **PUBLISHER** O'Reilly
- **ISBN** 0-596-00578-4
- **PRICE** £9.99
- **PAGES** 192

Alongside other classics such as *Dilbert*, *The Joy of Tech* stands out as an entertainment icon read and enjoyed by geeks around the world. Nitrozac and Snaggy (Liza and Bruce to their offline friends) have been working on the online edition of *Joy* for some time now, but this is the very first edition to appear in print. If you're a long-time fan, you will need no introduction to their sharp



and topical humour, but if this is your first toe-dip in the hilarious and satirical geek universe that's been so lovingly hand-crafted by its two creators, let us give you a taste.



Whether you get your kicks trying out the tips in *How to lose a geek in 10 seconds* ("Surprise him by re-organising all those icons on his computer's desktop for him"), reading all about the adventures of *Linux*

Lass ("Super Linux Evangelist! Software Freedom Fighter! Defender of the GNU and the Open Source Way!"), or just wending your way through the myriad of references to Mac OS X and *Star Wars* (such as Luke and Leia buying a Father's Day card titled, "You're sick, twisted, and evil, but you're still our Dad"), there you are sure to find *something* to amuse in here.

Each of the comic strips have been carefully scaled up to much higher resolutions than previously available, and they benefit greatly from the touching-up. Some of the colours used by the artists often looked a little too brash on screen, but this isn't the

case here at all – the pictures nearly always look better in print than they do if you look them up online, which makes the pictures live up to the humour in every way. Artistically speaking, this is as good as it gets, and it's good to see that O'Reilly has pulled out all the stops to make the book high quality.

Perhaps the most amazing thing about this book is its price: it's just £9.99. If this book were £19.99, we would still consider it a bargain because there are over 100 pages of high-quality and hilarious comics that will keep sides splitting in any geek environment. There are some in-jokes that will take a little getting used to, but that's no bad thing – watch out for digs at the 'Switch to Mac' campaign, relentless jibes about Microsoft (all in good humour, of course!), and guest-star appearances by George Lucas, Steven Spielberg, Steve Wozniak, and Cowboy Neal. This is all part of the fun, though, and the sooner you start reading the better! **LXF**

LINUX FORMAT VERDICT

This is geek culture at its finest – some of which will even be accessible for non-geeks – and we can't get enough of it! Three cheers for Nitrozac and Snaggy!

RATING **10/10**

