The Race to Convergence: Or is it a Marathon?

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This article started out kind of exciting. It explained how Ubuntu was about to show, on a large commercial scale the unveiling of convergence of multiple devices. For those who don't know what convergence is, it's the ability for multiple devices to converge into one user experience - without the need for multiple processors and hard drives. For a company that sells desktops, laptops and tablets, it is a scary, scary business proposition. For a company that sells high quality screens or high powered mobile phones, it could be a dream come true. Essentially, the 'computer that you carry in your pocket' can be instantly connected to whatever screen you feel like. It's truly the most disruptive reality to hit the computer hardware market, in my opinion, in recent history. One thing is for sure - the entire world is begging for it whether they even know it or not. Combining that with the increase of people sticking their digital lives on 'clouds' (other peoples' computers) this disruption is also poised to be a seriously dangerous one for those who don't make wise choices. This article, although it was smart to feature Ubuntu as a forerunner, it foolishly tried to give credit to Microsoft for 'truly being the first' to do convergence. First, did they?   I had no idea. Nor do I care. Nor does anyone else I roll with. If the name has 'Microsoft' in it, we flee for the hills. Why? Because it's compromised out of the box. It is dangerous. So, while reading this article, it became even more apparent to me that the 'battle for the operating system' will eventually be won by Ubuntu in numbers (it is already won in principle) and it will happen not by speed (even though development is moving fast like lightning) but by security and, although the word might sound cheesy and not a popular choice in a tech article - love. You see, Ubuntu cares about you, because it's built by people who care about things other than shareholders' dividends. Let's run this basic scenario. You buy the latest, most fashionable phone by Microsoft or Apple. They boast this cool new feature that allows you to plug it into a big 60" screen and now it's your computer (Ubuntu had this for years, btw, but I digress). It's convergence! You show Grandma and Grandma thinks you are the bees knees. You take a selfie with Grandma and there is a picture of her Bible behind her favourite chair. As you get in your car your photo is magically whisked away to the cloud service you love so much provided, by force, by your over-priced phone manufacturer. Meanwhile, back at your local government, they decide (without vote, of course) that they don't like what these Bible readers believe and decide to persecute them and kill them. They ask Apple and Microsoft for access to review stuff on their servers (your cloud) and they say no. They say yes. They say no. They pull out the guns. They say yes. They say yes, too. Oh! And look! There is Grandma with her Bible. Busted with Bible. Bye bye, Grandma. And so my point is this: it doesn't matter who gets to convergence first. It matters who gets there securely and with freedom as a top agenda. And if you didn't know, you could, right now, have Ubuntu in your pocket. You can either buy one out of the box, or have someone help you put it on supported hardware. What are you waiting for? Your Grandma to get busted? Go healthy. Go Ubuntu.

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