iPhone Linux

Planetbeing , the owner of linux on the iPhone blog at http://linuxoniphone.blogspot.com/ , announced on November 28, 2008 that Linux 2.6 kernel has been ported to Apple's iPhone platform.
The alternative operating system supports the first and second generation iPhones as well as the first generation iPod touch. Although still missing many drivers, this is a rough first draft of the port demonstrating that an operating system other than Mac OS X can now run on the most popular handheld device.

Many mobile platforms came to birth recently, including OpenMoko, Android, Ubuntu. All are based on linux. The successful porting of linux to iPhone open the possibility of running these alternative platform on the iPhone. This is certainly good news for software developers, since it is always a good thing to have more choices.

Porting linux to Apple handheld devices is not new. Linux on iPod http://ipodlinux.org/ exists for a while already. The iPodLinux project involves porting uCLinux onto iPod platforms and providing a GUI replacement called podzilla. Compared to iPhoneLinux, iPodLinux has more drivers ported, which means there are more reverse-engineering work for iPhoneLinux to do.

What iPhone Linux supports now:

- Framebuffer driver
- Serial driver
- Serial over USB driver
- Interrupts, MMU, clock, etc.

The following is in openiboot, but hasn't been ported yet:

- Read-only support for the NAND

What iPhone Linux don't have yet:

- Write support for the NAND
- Wireless networking
- Touchscreen
- Sound
- Accelerometer
- Baseband support

Many say that this may make soft-unlocking of the second generation iPhone (iPhone 3G) come sooner.

A demonstration video can be seen here: http://www.vimeo.com/2373142
Instructions here: http://www.iphone-dev.org/planetbeing/LINUX-README.txt
Download here: http://91.186.26.18/iphone/files/iphonelinux-demo.tar.gz
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