Daniel García Andújar/
Technologies To The People
x-devian by knoppix
2003/2004
Social event in public space: production,
promotion and distribution of FLOSS software and advertising video
no URL
Presented with advertising video in the exhibition, and during the Irational Action
Weekend in Dortmund
Judging from the aesthetics x-devian looks like your standard commercial proprietary
software. With its minimalistic »X« and slogan reading »With over 150 innovative
new features, it′s like having an all-new computer«, the stylishly designed black-and-
white cover effectively signals that this product means business — which it does.
However, the content and not least the ethics of the product is explicitly opposed to
the software culture promoted by neo-liberal corporations like Microsoft and Apple.
As a bootable operating system (i. e. it does not need to be installed on your computer
but can be run directly from the portable disk) based on GNU/Linux, x-devian is
involved not in the business of capitalism but of free and shared culture. The system
represents a comprehensive conceptual and practical reconfiguration of the economics
of mainstream software culture. To use it, no investment in expensive software or
hardware is necessary; the disk can be plugged into any computer one uses. Through
the medium of art, therefore, Technologies To The People invites the common user to
experience and reflect upon the alternative wonders of Free and Libre Open Source
Software, the true social and political »evolution of the species« in the computer age.
JL