

Forum:[Hack Forums](#)

Thread: [What Linux dist should I choose?](#)

Zlatane Ibrahimovique - April 15, 2014, 5:09 pm

Hello,

I am a Web Developer and I use mainly computer for it (and listenning to music). I've tried Xubuntu, Linux Mint, and currently I am using pure Ubuntu.

However, I guess it's not EXACTLY what I want, so I would like to have some suggestions from you.

I have not that extreme machine, but it does well.

My specs:

Quote:version: Intel® Core™2 Duo CPU P8600 @ 2.40GHz
slot: CPU
size: 2401MHz
capacity: 2401MHz
width: 64 bits
clock: 1066MHz

memory

*-bank:0
description: SODIMM DDR2 Synchronous 800 MHz (1.2 ns)
product: 37373737373737373737373737373737
vendor: Hynix Semiconductor (Hyundai Electronics)
physical id: 0
serial: 00002137
slot: DIMM0
size: 2GiB
width: 64 bits
clock: 800MHz (1.2ns)
*-bank:1
description: SODIMM DDR2 Synchronous 800 MHz (1.2 ns)
product: 36363636363636363636363636363636
vendor: Hynix Semiconductor (Hyundai Electronics)
physical id: 1
serial: 04008136
slot: DIMM2
size: 2GiB
width: 64 bits
clock: 800MHz (1.2ns)

I would love to get your feedback :)

erhassetbg - April 15, 2014, 6:01 pm

I'd suggest using Debian or Fedora. If you are a little more advanced with Linux, then go with Arch. There's a thread linked in my signature that may help you out as well.

Good luck and have fun!

-erhasettbg

burrito_man - April 15, 2014, 6:23 pm

I like Fedora because I have gotten used to RPM and yum for updates. Debian based distros use apt-get for package management and it is feature equivalent and about as easy to use.

Is there something that you don't like about the distros that you've already tried?

erhasettbg - April 15, 2014, 6:24 pm

(Apr 15, 2014 06:23 PM)burrito_man Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) I like Fedora because I have gotten used to RPM and yum for updates. Debian based distros use apt-get for package management and it is feature equivalent and about as easy to use.

Is there something that you don't like about the distros that you've already tried?

I actually prefer the Debian-based distributions because of apt-get. It's definitely beneficial to learn about different package management commands, though.

Zlatane Ibrahimovique - April 16, 2014, 1:13 am

I am used to package management using apt-get.

Really what I didn't like in these versions? Hmm, I don't know. Once in a while I fucked up some of graphical drivers trying to fix bugs with some software, like fonts not showing up; software not running or crashing all the time, stuff like that.

I guess Debian could be a good shot.

Crunchbang could be a good choice too, as it is based on Debian. I'm gonna investigate more on it.

What do you mean by more advanced with Linux @erhasettbg?

Thanks for all your feedback!

VIPR? - April 16, 2014, 5:54 am

I highly suggest you to try elementaryOS. The new version of it is coming soon and it will be really a kickass distro.

It great for everyday users.

?A.J? - April 16, 2014, 7:41 am

Monarche made a good recommendation. elementaryOS is really a great distro, it's fast, stable and very beautiful.

cyberducky - April 16, 2014, 7:44 am

Get Ubuntu if you are new to Linux, get arch if you are experienced.

randosityDotNet - April 16, 2014, 9:41 am

If you've been using Ubuntu for awhile and have learned a lot from it, I would switch to Arch and use the Awesome WM.

It's great, I just recently installed it on my Lenovo. Be warned though, it does take some know how.

erhassettbg - April 16, 2014, 10:41 am

(Apr 16, 2014 01:13 AM)Pereira Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) What do you mean by more advanced with Linux @erhassettbg?

If you are very familiar with commands and how Linux works, then I'd suggest you use a more advanced distribution such as Arch.

Zlatane Ibrahimovique - April 16, 2014, 11:11 am

I'm becoming undecided between Debian and Arch.

Never tried neither. But yes, after going on the three Linux dists, and working as a web developer, I had the need to learn some at least basic stuff at cli, that I just love to. Right now I can't go back to a shitty Windows without the CLI. Don't ask me why, but I like CLI :P

What are the pros and cons of debian and arch?

sark89 - April 16, 2014, 4:14 pm

Well since we are on hack forums, I'd recommend Kali Linux. I suppose it will also be useful for someone like your self being a web developer as it comes with all the pen testing tools to test your projects. I installed Kali on an IBM T60 which I got off ebay for £40 and it runs very well. Love it to bits!

Zlatane Ibrahimovique - April 17, 2014, 11:08 am

(Apr 16, 2014 04:14 PM)sark89 Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Well since we are on hack forums, I'd recommend Kali Linux. I suppose it will also be useful for someone like your self being a web developer as it comes with all the pen testing tools to test your projects. I installed Kali on an IBM T60 which I got off ebay for £40 and it runs very well. Love it to bits!

Hmm, it could be an option, but I guess most of the tools I will not be using.

TheRelativeSingularity - April 17, 2014, 11:20 am

(Apr 16, 2014 11:11 AM)Pereira Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) I'm becoming undecided between Debian and Arch.

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What are the pros and cons of debian and arch?

You could always install both of them on virtual machines with your current OS and see what you like the best.

Zlatane Ibrahimovique - April 18, 2014, 7:26 am

I've watched some reviews of both, at it looks like Debian is so much slower than Arch.

Is it my impression? I need to have this in count, as most of the previous Linux dists I had installed had a similar problem. Even Ubuntu, when clicking App dashboard was crashing whole system for a few seconds.

Cyber Saint - April 18, 2014, 8:40 am

My personal preference: Arch Linux

However, they have VMWare Free for personal use for a reason, try it out and decide which distribution you wish to use. Heck, you might prefer something else over what you initially thought was your favorite, right?

Linux is quite awesome from my perspective, but the thing is - it isn't for everybody. An issue with a lot of people is they are too scared to explore different distributions, but if you scrape everything down - you have one thing the command line.

Good luck, and remember - it is never a bad idea to explore a new distribution as a virtual machine before you install it to your hard drive.

TheRelativeSingularity - April 18, 2014, 11:44 am

(Apr 18, 2014 08:40 AM)Computing Ninja Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) My personal preference: Arch Linux

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What is your experience with VMWare? Whenever I have to run something in a VM I tend to use VirtualBox, are there any benefits to using VMWare over VirtualBox?

Deathbox - April 18, 2014, 12:40 pm

(Apr 16, 2014 11:11 AM)Pereira Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) I'm becomming undecided between Debian and Arch.

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What are the pros and cons of debian and arch?

I've used Debian for several years, it was one of the first distributions I used. This was back when gnome 2.0 was still rolling. I've used arch for about a week around the same time but I ran into a lot of trouble along the way due to bad hardware and generally being stupid. Few years later here I am back on an Arch desktop and it's truly amazing.

(Apr 18, 2014 07:26 AM)Pereira Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) I've watched some reviews of both, at it looks like Debian is so much slow than Arch.

Is it my impression? I need to have this in count, as most of the previous Linux dists I had installed had a similar problem. Even Ubuntu, when clicking App dashboard was crashing whole system for a few seconds.

When you say slow, do you mean booting time as well or just loading applications? If you plan to use steam and bleeding edge software go with Wheezy Testing not the stable build. Debian is much easier than Arch because all you do is boot up and off you go. It's hard to compare them because they're so different.

While I praise Debian more than most mainstream distributions, Arch has to be the best experience I've ever had. I've distrohopped through majority of mainstream distributions for extended periods of time along with *BSD and I can tell you none of them has given me the same satisfactory feeling as Arch does when you've built your system up. I highly recommend everyone gives it a shot if they're up for it.

Honestly Arch is a LOT simpler than everyone makes it out to be, all you have to do is follow the beginners wikipedia and post installation. Then the fun part begins, pick your DE/WM and software base.

https://wiki.archlinux.org/index.php/beginners'_guide

Feel free to PM me if you want help building Arch.

This is my Arch box

Spoiler [\(Click to View\)](#)

Cha0 - April 19, 2014, 6:57 am

Debian > Anything

That's just my opinion.

It's really a matter of preference.

Kylewest - April 19, 2014, 7:02 am

Get Ubuntu and practice for a while, once you feel comfortable move up to something like arch.