

Linux Mint: A Fresh Look



(A goal-based exploration)

STLLUG
19 June 2014

Or, Fixing the Cataloger's Workstation

About Me

I am brand new to Linux Mint, but have set up other Linux workstations since about 1998.

I work as an independent consultant performing system and small network administration, and writing specialized technical documentation.

Acknowledgments

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Outline

- The Cataloger's Workstation
- The problems to solve
- Linux Mint overview
- What happened when I tried it

Workstation – Usage

Lead cataloger at Project Gutenberg – more than 30,000 bibliographic records updated.

Personal use – artwork, games, music, writing

'High availability' – cold spare.

Workstation – hardware history

1999: no-name AMD K6-2

2003: IBM Intellistation 1GHz P3s

2010: Dell Precision 390s

Workstation – hardware details

Dell Precision 390's –

Nvidia Quadro FX 3450

Intel Core 2 6420 @2.13 GHz,

4 MB cache

4 GB ECC memory

Or better.

Workstation – software history

- Red Hat
- Pink Tie
- Debian
- Ubuntu
- Ubuntu 10.04 LTS – the shark jumps
- What Next?

Workstation – The Plan

Find a workable replacement for Ubuntu.

Install on the cold spare.

Restore backup and swap systems.

Wait.

Install on the (formerly) live system.

Restore backup and swap systems.

Mint Project

The purpose of Linux Mint is to produce a modern, elegant and comfortable operating system which is both powerful and easy to use.

Started in 2006, Linux Mint is now the 4th most widely used home operating system behind Microsoft Windows, Apple Mac OS and Canonical's Ubuntu.

Many Flavors of Mint

- Ubuntu / Cinnamon 17 LTS
- Ubuntu / Mate 17 LTS
- Debian /Cinnamon
- Debian / Mate
- Ubuntu / Xfce
- Ubuntu / KDE

Cinnamon Mint – live DVD

- LoC catalog timeouts – fixed
- Youtube videos – fixed
- PDF fonts in browser – fixed
- ArtsZipper – fixed [obsolete :-(]

Cinnamon Mint – live DVD

- Streaming audio (.m3u) fails
- Fans run full speed
- Getting Google was a pain

Cinnamon Mint Install

- Found Ubuntu and WXP, offered to erase Ubuntu and leave WXP in place – great!
- Standard language/timezone/keyboard stuff
- Did not auto-reboot
- 270 MB of post-install updates
- XP still boots

Cinnamon Mint 17 – post install

- What was fixed is still fixed.
- Banshee can play streaming audio
- Setting up Google for default search better

Cinnamon Mint 17 – post install

- Does not resume from suspend – this is a deal killer
- Does not turn down fans – annoying, but riskable
- Right column of start menu corrupt if you move too fast

Cinnamon Mint 17 – post install

- Change video drivers – install 'recommended' driver!
- nvidia-304; version 304.117-0ubuntu1, NVIDIA legacy binary driver. a 53MB download.
- Fixes suspend
- Turns down video card fan...
- bugs.launchpad.net/linuxmint/+bug/1330300
- bugs.launchpad.net/linuxmint/+bug/1330301

Cinnamon Mint 17 – post install

- Difference: flash drives mount as `/media/username/XXXX-XXXX`, instead of `/media/XXXX-XXXX`.
- Requires change to backup script!

Cinnamon Mint 17 – post install

```
deborphan -a -p 2 | sort > old.txt
```

```
deborphan -a -p 2 | sort > new.txt
```

```
diff new.txt old.txt | grep ">" >listToGet.txt
```

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RedHat, Pink Tie, Debian, Ubuntu

XML or SGML based mil-spec documents

Run the Visual C++ debugger or read a switchbox schematic.

Generate 'picture books' for custom test program sets using Python and MS Word.

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Here's what we'll cover...

I provide technical support for the lead cataloger of Project Gutenberg.

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This system has a backup of /home and /etc 1/month, three rotating backup media.

No, it doesn't use Bacula.

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Mint is on Release 17.

The other versions get less developer attention.

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1.2 GB

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Well, the fans start, but the keyboard and screen are still suspended.

May try mechanical methods to quiet the fans.

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