

GNU/Linux is a different operating system from Microsoft windows operating system, which is released and distributed by a sole company. A GNU/Linux operating system consist of a Linux kernel, a pack of GNU apparatus, an installation function, a package management structure and many more software components. Because all these functions are for open to use and to distribute, any individual can pull together and configure them as per their needs and develop their very own GNU/Linux system. As from 1993, many people and firms have been dispensing Linux systems. These distribution enabled people to obtain and run a working GNU/Linux operating system on their computers.

Initially a small number of distributions were obtainable. Nowadays there are countless, so it would be pointless to evaluate all of them. All distributions consist of the Linux kernel created by Linus Torvolds and GNU tools created by Richard Stallman but they do not essentially use their most up-to-date editions. Some distributions even try and make modification to the kernel. Here we will compare two of the most commonly distributed operating systems.

Fedora

One of the famous Linux firm in the world is Red Hat, established in 1995 by Bob Young and Marc Ewing. By 2003, Red Hat determined to focus on business and discontinued its open distribution. The firm opted to support a society driven project referred to Fedora. Red Hat Linux version 9 was the final edition in the Red Hat invention line and its place was taken by Fedora Core. This distribution is very distinctive and mixes cutting edge functions and conservatism. The outcome is a steady and secure operating system with regular releases and updated packages which fits both server and client installations. The package organization is founded on Red Hat Packet Manager, developed by Red Hat, and it is improved by a package of tools like Yum, which convey extra features related to the Debian package organization. Because of its secure association with Red Hat this edition is very accepted by various firms. Attempts were also made to appear appealing to the public and Fedora is packed with graphical design and management tools. The system is a popular option for both personal computers and servers among Linux end users. Fedora is a universal-purpose edition. Fedora is released every six months and each version is maintained until two versions are released which are greater. This means it is about a whole year of support. The maintenance however normally entails replacing the earlier fashions (Sharma and Thomas 287).

Fedora is a general purpose Operating System and it does not focus only on one particular market. It is appropriate for home users, software developers and the commercial server. However, in each case it necessitates some customization. It is the worth that requires to be paid for being good for every user.

Fedora installer is very mature, providing features both for normal users and professional users. It entails most of the functionalities a modern Operating System should contain. The only setback can be installation speed and does not have a separate professional mode. In package selection, Fedora has single packages which can be selected and all dependencies are decided. It has a very well-thought package clustering. All package clusters entails packages run by default and elective ones. The default installation is a desktop operating system with GNOME. It has no unique professional mode. Most of the installation screens, for example partitioning, entails advanced alternatives for non-standard configuration. Fedora speaks the language chosen when installation was run. Certainly not all applications are well-translated, but Fedora-related ones normally are (Mookhey, Burghate and ISACA).

Debian

Although Debian is a non-commercial distribution, it is one of the most famous and well-appreciated Linux edition. Sophisticated users are concerned to its steadiness, powerful package organization and clean Open Source stand. It also hold-up the biggest number of diverse hardware platforms. Apart from standard Personal Computers, Debian editions are also normally used on Macs and systems from SUN.

Debian systems at present use the Linux kernel; however, modification is in evolution to offer Debian for other kernels, mainly for the Hurd. The Hurd is a compilation of servers that operate on top of a microkernel to employ various features. The Hurd is open software developed by the GNU project. Apart from Debian/Hurd, innovative people can be comfortable with Debian/FreeBSD and Debian/NetBSD.

When Debian is first installed, you will get a base system. The system contains extremely little; typically just sufficient to download the remaining of whatever is required for the operating system. It offers more than a pure Operating System; it also comes with in excess of 25000 packages, precompiled program packaged in a good format for straightforward installation. It is a stable distribution whose main aim is stability across all platforms.

Stable editions of Debian are infrequent and the updates are not many in number and small in extent. Generally back-porting repairs not packaging up-stream editions. It also provides the biggest open software repository of all systems in distribution. Easily configured and after some work it is a very user-friendly Operating System. However, it calls for some knowledge.

In installation, Debian Sarge installer aim at non-technical users and it does a quality work in aiding the installation procedure as simple for them as possible. For professional users more alternatives are accessible so that every user can decide on their way to run the installation. Overall Debian installer is very operational, mature and error-free. Of late, a graphical installer was released, still in beta, which formulates it to be even more user friendly for the normal users (Tracy 12).

In package selection, Debian aptitude is accessible in running installation; all packages are clustered and well-described. Although it is not as eye-catching as Fedora's or openSUSE's package selector it certainly works. There is also an option to choose package clusters, like: desktop settings, database system, software development environment and many more. It has a default text or dialogue-based installer which performs its job very well. Its graphical installer which is still in beta is an operational replica of the console installer in GTK+ (Koch 30).

Debian installation speeds is slow and even a standard one can consume up to forty minutes. This is where all packages undergo the auto-configuration process. Certainly, the base systems run faster, but deciding this option implies that you have to run all extra packages manually. It has no special configuration tool for graphical management. But it has a very good quality package configuration too for console-based system management (Mookhey and Nilesh 7).

In system boot-up pace, Debian is slower than most of the other releases. This is typically as a result of a lot of server programs loaded by default. You can remove unnecessary programs to aid in making the Operating System snappier. Security is one of major objectives in Debian. All of the significant security packages together with the kernel package are updated on daily basis. This makes it not a security concern for users.

Conclusion

Fedora and Debian distributions of GNU/Linux are more or less the same. While Fedora is business oriented, Debian is attracted to computer professionals and software developers. Both have the same security features as depicted in all other distribution. Where Debian is slow in system boot-up, Fedora is much faster to boot. Fedora pretty well localized in its language while Debian installer is interpreted into forty languages which makes it one of most famous in the case of localization.

Work cited:

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