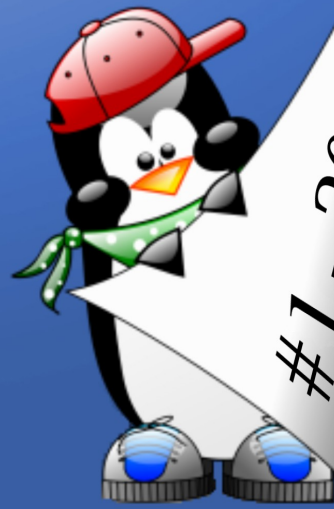


The Magazine by the Community for the Community

**MandrivaUser**★*de* International



#1 - 2007!

**MagDriva** International

*Free like in 'freedom'*

# Hello World!

## In this Issue:

- Editorial p. 2
- About MandrivaUser.de p. 3
- Review I  
An installation from DVD p. 4
- Review II  
An FTP-Installation p. 5
- Thoughts about Mandriva p. 7
- Tipps & Tricks p. 9
- Sharing data p. 10
- Linxtag 2007 p. 11
- DVD-RAM p. 15
- Virtualization p. 17
- Opinions  
about Mandriva Linux p. 19
- Impressum p. 20

## Good things take time

Nobody told me that they also need commitment, motivation and a lot of pushing posts in the forum! Anyhow, here it is, the first international issue of the German Community Magazine MagDriva.



We decided to release our first issue as a sort of „Reader’s Digest“ of previous issues to present our style and the kind of content you may expect to find in our magazine. For starters I will give you a short history of MandrivaUser.de, how it came to be and what it is all about. You will read about the way a user found his way to Mandriva Linux, what another user thinks of the Mandriva Universe, how to exchange files between Windows and Linux, some tips and tricks, installation reviews, and more.

All articles were written and translated by members of our community, no professional writers nor translators nor native English speakers were involved. All of them committed to Open Source, Linux and the community of users.

Please keep that in mind while reading and please send in your feedback, your criticism, your suggestions and your ideas to wolfgang AT mandrivauser DOT de

Have fun wherever you are!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'w0lfgang'.

*Admin Mandrivauser.de*

*Chief Editor MagDriva International*

## Community!

That's one of the key words wherever Linux users meet, discuss or write about their Open Source system. *The Community* does this or that, *The Community* wants this or that, and without *The Community* there is no Open Source. Very well, but who or what is *The Community*?

## How it all began

As in many cases our community project *MandrivaUser.de* started out from an unsatisfactory situation. German-speaking users were not very happy with the very few German contents there were and the lack of support of their language in the Mandriva Club and on the Mandriva support pages. One day I grabbed a domain, posted this on the German Mandriva mailing list and asked for help. On **Oct 19, 2003** we opened up *MandrakeUser.de*, a phpBB discussion forum for German speaking Mandrake users.

## Growing...

At the beginning we did not plan to build a community, we just wanted to provide a platform for users to come together and discuss Mandrake related issues in their own language. After some enhancements and much *Blood, Sweat and Tears* *MandrivaUser.de* is now the main platform for the community of Mandriva in Germany. Given the poor support of German on Mandriva Expert and in the Club many users regard our project as a special Mandriva support site for Germany. We are not, although over the time we turned out to be THE unofficial support site. There are lots of statements like „Were it not for *MandrivaUser.de*, I'd be using SuSE or ...“.

## Becoming mature...

After a year and a half, Dieter, an experienced sysadmin, and I started to talk about our own server. But the question was - as always - the funding. We needed around 900 Euros to rent a root server for 2 years.

In a discussion users unanimously voted for totally anonymous donations, so I opened up a bank account, and 4 working days later the account showed a total of well over 1,000 Euros! I regard this day as the change from a German discussion forum to a true user community.

From then on we kept growing, not only by numbers of users and postings but also by projects and ideas.

There have been ups and downs, we had lively discussions about this or that topic. Sometimes you want to log off and stay away for days but you'll always come back. Many of our regular members don't use Mandriva Linux anymore, some not even Linux, but they stay because of the nice community.

We added a download area for RPMs built by our own packager team, implemented a wiki containing lots of articles and recently created a new section with animated tutorials. Our visibility grew, and from 2006 on we have had our own booth at the main German Linux fair, the Linuxtag (read a report about Linuxtag 2007 later in this issue).

## MagDriva

We started a magazine featuring articles about various topics related to *MandrivaUser.de*, Mandriva Linux and Linux in general. The first issue was online for just 9 days when it broke the 2,000 downloads barrier. By now we are preparing the 9th issue. All articles and columns are written by members of the community and all articles are (of course) in German.

We had numerous requests from other communities and from Mandriva to publish an English version - but this is easier said than done. Some authors do not speak English at all, others don't know the language well enough to translate from German into English, and many users also think that others can always take the German issue and translate it into whatever language they want - why should we do that?

Lately we decided to start a test - and here you are, reading our first international magazine with a selection of articles from the last 4 German issues. Should we continue publishing these international issues? This depends on your feedback and on the commitment of the translators - everybody can help, especially native English speakers, who would be willing to help us to translate or to act as proofreaders. Send your feedback and/or any related questions to [wolfgang AT mandrivauser DOT de](mailto:wolfgang AT mandrivauser DOT de)

## Where to find us?

The URL is <http://www.mandrivauser.de> as you may have guessed. As for the MagDriva issues, find them at <ftp://ftp.mandrivauser.de/magazin>. Come in and have a look around, you're very welcome (as long as you write in German ;) )

wobo

# Review I: Mandriva Linux 2007.1 "Spring"

## Installation from DVD

*written by Sigrid aka eskroni*

The installation from DVD is still the most common way to get your Mandriva Linux system installed. That's why we start our reviews with a short description of this installation.

First a listing of the two target systems:

	Machine 1	Machine 2
<b>Processor:</b>	AMD, 1 Mhz	AMD, XP-M (LV) 1750+ Mhz
<b>DVD:</b>	HL-DT-ST DVD RAM GSA 4082B (LG)	Sony DVD RW
<b>CD:</b>	Plextor CDROM PX-40TS (SCSI)	HL-DT-ST DVDROM GDR 8163B (LG)
<b>Graphics:</b>	Nvidia GeForce MX 4000	661/741/760 PCI/AGP or 662/761Gx PCIE VGA Display Adapter (onboard)
<b>RAM:</b>	512 MB	512 MB
<b>USB:</b>	USB 1.1	USB 1.1 und 2.0
<b>Display:</b>	CRT 17"	LG Flatron L 1510H (TFT)

Table 1.: System configuration

### The installation

First of all I put the DVD into the DVD-ROM drive and booted the system. In the boot/installation menu I selected "Installation". Since I've been using Mandriva on both computers for quite some time, this presented no problem.

In the language list I selected „German“ to make things easier for me. On the next screen I accepted the license agreement. As my default keyboard setting I always choose "German with dead keys", so I can use the accent keys - I've never found any problem with this setting. The standard security level is "high", and so far I have never discovered any problem with this security setting either.

I partitioned my hard drive using the "user defined" (customized) option, letting the installer create a new /home directory for the new installation and keeping my old data partition which I subsequently mounted in /home\_old.

### Next step: software selection.

I usually select some additional software packages – after all, I prefer to have a broader choice of desktop environments, not just KDE. I often earmark Gnome, Fluxbox, Xfce and other desktops for installation. While both computers were busy copying and installing, I found the time to enjoy a nice cup of coffee. :)

Once the installation on computer 1 was finished, I was asked if I wanted to use the proprietary driver for my graphics card. Of course I answered with "yes" and the driver was installed. As a last step, I checked all the settings in the summary screen and rebooted my computer.

After the first boot-up of my freshly installed system I tested my network connection (internet connection via DSL/router) and updated the software. Everything went like a breeze.

### Machine 2

On the second computer I had to install the vpnclient software (Cisco Client) before being able to go on-line. After this minor inconvenience the network connection worked like a charm and I could update the installed software.

### Conclusion

All in all I can say that installing Mandriva 2007.1 on my two computers was just as easy and fool-proof as I have come to expect from Mandriva Linux. I can print, I can go on-line, what else do I need?

# Review II: Mandriva Linux 2007.1 "Spring"

## Installation via FTP

written by Manfred aka Windhund



**This article is meant for people who want to discover a new way to install a distribution: Not via CD or DVD but from the FTP server instead.**

### Requirements

Required is an existing Linux distribution using GRUB as bootloader, installed in the MBR. Some more things have to be done first to make this possible.

- One partition / enough space on your hard drive (minimum 6 GB).
- One medium to boot from, e. g. the boot.iso, that you can find here:  
<ftp://ftp.nluug.nl:21/pub/os/Linux/distr/Mandriva/official/2007.1/i586/install/images/boot.iso>
- A fast internet connection (broadband)
- Courage

### Go!

### Preparations

Normally you would burn the boot.iso to the CD. But it's nonsense to put a small 10 MB file on a CD that can bear 700 MB. My proposal is something different:

If you have a partition in ext3 or vfat format then you can use it to start the boot.iso from your hard disk. In this case you'll spare the CD.

Assuming, that hda5 can be used for this, you open a console (shell) and log in as root:

```
su (root-Password) ENTER
mkdir /mnt/loop
mount -o loop ~/boot.iso /mnt/loop
cd /mnt/loop
cp -r isolinux /dev/hda5/
```

This copies the isolinux directory from the boot.iso into your partition hda5.

```
cd /
umount /mnt/loop
```

If you already have a bootloader installed in the MBR (e. g. grub) then edit the file menu.lst (as root, you'll find it in the directory /boot/grub).

Please add the following lines at the end:

```
title Mandriva ftp-Installation
root (hd0,4)
kernel (hd0,4)/isolinux/alt0/vmlinuz
ramdisk_size=128000
root=/dev/ram3
acpi=ht vga=791 quiet
initrd (hd0,4)/isolinux/alt0/all.rdz
```

Once this is done, you've done all the things for preparation. Now you can start with the installation.

### Installation

Reboot your computer and choose the entry: *Mandriva ftp-Installation*

Although there is no CD in the CD-drive, the boot medium starts.

The following questions are all about the installation: what kind of installation (ftp), which version of Mandriva (Official), which server you want to use from the given list. My selection is [ftp.nluug.nl](ftp://ftp.nluug.nl) because I had good experiences with it (it's the fastest server for me).

The installation image will be downloaded. This can take a while, depends on your connection, the number of connections to the server, and so on. In my case, it's really fast.

You'll see the first graphical interface. Here you can select your country, language and keyboard layout.

Security: Default setting is "HIGH", I change it to "STANDARD".

The partitioning tool is the next step: I have two hard drives hda and hdb. I choose hdb, because on hdb2 I already have a preformatted and empty partition with 8 GB. For this partition I choose / as mountpoint, filesystem ext3. Before doing anything else, you can check again, if everything is correct. Until now, nothing has been done to your hard drive. If everything is correct, please click ok and hdb2 will be formatted.

The package set lists hdlist.cz (for all branches) will be downloaded from the server. After evaluation of the packages lists, the installer offers you a selection of different packages groups. Selected by default are: Workstation, Office workstation (incl. OpenOffice.org), Multimedia station, Internet station, Configuration, Console tools, Graphical interface: KDE.

If you don't agree with this selection, you can choose "individual selection" and then press "next". In the directories you'll see then, you can scroll up and down and select or deselect whatever you want.

During the next step your selected packages are downloaded from the server and installed. I didn't change anything of the selection, so there were 985 packages to download and install. This might take a while....

If you really want to know, how long it takes to install, please have a look at your own watch and don't count on the estimated time of the installer. The time given at the beginning was a lot longer than one hour, but after downloading the big packages like OpenOffice.org or KDE, the estimated time dropped a lot. All in all the time needed was about 30 minutes in my case.

**Hint:** One important point is that with this method you get newer packets than with DVD installation. For example with ftp-installation you get kernel-2.6.17-14mdv instead of kernel-2.6.17-13mdv which is on the DVD.

### Configuration

When the download and the installation are finished you'll have to configure the system. This requires several steps, which will also cause additional packages to be downloaded and installed.

First of all the administrator (root) needs a password. After doing this you can add regular users. After all entries in the dialogue are done press "Accept user" and then press "next".

One user can be logged in automatically (without entering a password) to the graphical desktop. If you don't want this (also for security reasons) you can just deselect this option.

Since my internet connection uses dhcp via my ethernet card, it's necessary to install two additional dhcp packets.

The bootloader is now prepared, grub is the default. Since I have already a bootloader in the MBR, I install this one **in the root partition of this installation**.

The screen resolution is checked. This is important in cases, where the system isn't sure about the correct settings. I can't give you any advice here, since I have no problems.

At the very end, you'll see a summary of the configuration. There you can check each point and make changes - if necessary. Luckily, the hardware detection of Mandriva is very good, so you probably don't have to change anything. If everything is to your liking just click "next" and accept all suggestions.

Updates aren't necessary after an internet installation. :)

**Congratulations!** Now you have to restart your computer.

### Post installation work

In my existing menu.lst from grub I have to add the following entry:

```
title Mandriva 2007.1

root (hd1,1)
```

(the 1 before the colon is my second harddrive, the 1 after the colon is the second partition hdb2 - grub starts counting always with 0!)

```
chainloader +1
```

This starts the bootloader from Mandriva. Changes on this entry can only be done, when you press F2 while seeing the menu.

### That's it!

If the reboot works well until the login screen for your graphical desktop environment (I'm using KDE) then you have done it, congratulations!

Depending on the graphics card you're using you might face some problems as you can read in many forums. Ask there for advice if you discover any problems. I can't give you tips for this case, my intention was to describe the installation as such.

Have fun with this kind of installation.

*Manfred aka Windhund*

# Thoughts of a Mandriva User

*from our member arthuro*



## Do I belong to a minority ...

... or am I the typical Mandriva user? For me, Mandriva Linux is just the base for all the other programs that I use in my leisure time. I feel most comfortable when everything is working well and I don't have to fight any problems. An update causes some panic feelings. Mostly with no good reason. The last update from Mandriva 2006 to 2007 didn't cause any problems at all. Just put in the DVD, install and finished.

## My way to LINUX or Mandrake/Mandriva:

Everything started with the war in former Yugoslavia.

When the communication to Yugoslavia via telephone or post became more and more difficult, I decided that I needed a computer to send emails. The first computer I bought was a used one with Windows 95® and a 2.5 GB harddrive. I bought some extra RAM. The necessary installation (with modem) was done by a colleague. He also installed Word and Excel. At this time I did not know that with this setup I could surf the internet. I only discovered this later while trying everything.



*Per aspera...*

As you can see I don't have huge experiences with computers. I've been using them only for a very short time. Most teenagers are more experienced than I. Additionally, I belong to the older age group (more than 50 years old), at least in the different forums that I visit regularly.

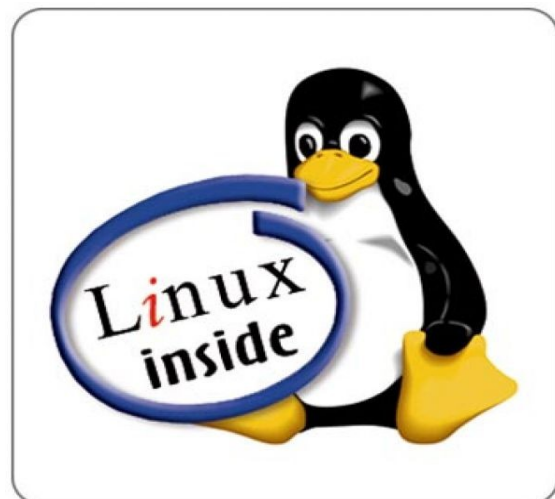
In my younger years I've listened to the Beatles and the Rolling Stones, I read the newest ScienceFiction stories about Perry Rhodan.

I didn't go to a gym to work out but instead used self-made weights instead. Personal computers didn't exist in this time.

For everything I wanted to do with my computer I had to keep the needed disk space in mind. 2.5 GB isn't that much. Christmas 2004 my daughters surprised me with a new computer. Windows XP was preinstalled and there was lots of space. Unfortunately not everything worked well, as I had hoped for. During this time I've talked with a colleague about all my computer problems.

## And that's when Linux came in...

This colleague suggested I should try Linux-Mandrake. There exists a nice forum and a software similar to the "SmartSurfer", called "OptiSurf". This is very important for me, since I'm still using an analog modem.



*... ad astra!*

The test CD and the advices from my colleague convinced me that I should try this adventure. **In February 2005 I installed Mandrake 10.1...** and bought a lot of Linux magazines to learn about this new system.

At the beginning I discovered several problems. There were a lot of posts on Mandrivauser.de: OptiSurf didn't work as expected, I had no sound, my USB-key didn't work and I couldn't convince RealPlayer to work properly. I also tried to install a html file, because I just didn't know. But as you can see: I've learned a lot. Around May 2005 everything works as expected. .

Only later, during the installation of Mandriva 2006 I met a "bluescreen". After some searching, I replaced the DVD drive by a new one and everything worked like a charm. The installation of the software didn't cause any problems at all.

Although I had that many problems I never wished to go back to Windows. With this new operating system I got additional features: the huge number of additional (cost free) software offered me the chance to use them. My favourite software is Gimp, NVU and Blender. On Windows I would never have searched for new software.

Right from the start I had the feeling to belong to a "big family". If something didn't work as expected I could easily ask in the appropriate forum or I could communicate with the developers of the software. Developments that you can follow yourself are really fascinating for me (for example the first short film made with Blender. Open Source of course.)

### **Free Software, Closing the "Digital Gap"**

Since my roots are still in the "green alternative movement" and as it is still my conviction that a different world is possible, my change to Linux was more than just "logical" for me. In my opinion it's a good thing, that there is a free software at no costs, which makes it possible that everyone can communicate with each other via computer. I don't think that things like software patents would help the poor people in this case. I also doubt that attempts like a "christian" or a "islamic" Linux would do any good.

At the moment it doesn't look like that everyone has the same chance to use a computer. There are very broad connections from east to west, but only a few connections from north to south.

I've heard, that in London there are more internet accounts than on the whole african continent. More than ¾ of all internet users live in the rich OECD countries. I strongly support campaigns that try to install internet cafés all over Africa. A campaign that I've supported was started by [www.blendernation.com](http://www.blendernation.com). They wanted to equip a classroom in one of the developing countries. Within only 7 days the users donated \$ 4120.

In other countries they try to close the digital gap by developing simple laptop computers. In India this computer is called "Simputer" and it is aimed to help the illiterate people to connect to the internet. The portable computer contains 32 MB RAM and Linux as operating system. A similar attempt is planned in Brazil. They do research for a "people computer" also with Linux as operating system. (1)

I really appreciate the news, dated of 13 March 2007, that Mandriva supports the the classmate PC initiated by Intel. There are many technology companies involved in this project. The goal is that pupils in third world countries can access modern technology.

### **„Open source“ does not mean „everything at no costs“**

Please let me add some thoughts about the topic of "free software". I like it a lot to be able to download all my preferred software at no costs. But this doesn't imply that open source is always cost free. That's not true. There are some idealists but these are also people and need money for living. So everyone should ask himself if he/she could buy a piece of software or a book from time to time.

A much discussed topic in this area is "Google, Apple, Microsoft. The new emperors of the world. About the global power of the american internet- and computer-giants" (documentation on the channel Arte). Enough reasons for me to switch to Linux et al.

(1) Telepolis-Artikel-URL:

<http://www.heise.de/tp/r4/artikel/9/9109/1.html>



# Tipps and Tricks of our MandrivaUsers

.... gathered by Usul



In this column we publish short and easily applicable tricks, sometimes even quick & dirty, to make your life as a MandrivaUser more comfortable and to help in case troubleshooting is called for. Let us start with two examples from our latest German issue of MagDriva.

## Finding information about the hardware of your machine

or „What kind of mainboard do I have?“

For solving problems with Linux/Mandriva it is often essential to know (everything) about your own hardware. Otherwise you'll have problems by finding solutions on the internet. The needed informations aren't always easy to find - and if you bought your computer at one of the big discounters or you try to solve a problem at someone else's machine, it's more than likely than not that even the documentation that came with this computers isn't of any help at all. That's my reason to introduce this software that will help you to ease the tasks at hand.



I'm talking about „dmidecode“, that you'll find as package with the same name in the main repository of Mandriva, so it's very easy to install. Running this tool (as root) in a console you get a bunch of information, some of them „cryptic“, others quite easy to understand.

For example you can see the manufacturer of my mainboard:

```
[root@itchy man]# dmidecode | head -15
# dmidecode 2.8
SMBIOS 2.3 present.
49 structures occupying 1375 bytes.
Table at 0x000F2940.
```

```
Handle 0x0000, DMI type 0, 20 bytes
BIOS Information
```

```
Vendor: Award Software, Inc.
Version: ASUS A7V ACPI BIOS
Revision 1010A
Release Date: 03/19/2002
Address: 0xF0000
Runtime Size: 64 kB
ROM Size: 256 kB
Characteristics:
    PCI is supported
```

## aria2 - a simple downloadmanager

Aria2 is a simple downloadmanager for the console, far more powerful than the well-known „wget“. With aria2 it is possible to download a file (even an ISO of a distribution) from several different servers at the same time which makes sure that you can use all the bandwidth you have. :)

The usage of aria2 is quite simple:

```
aria2c server1/datei1 server2/datei1
server3/datei1
```

With this command, you download ‚datei1‘ from 3 different servers at the same time. It's also possible to mix the used protocols. Aria2 supports Http, Ftp and Bittorrent.

As usual, you'll find more information in the manpage or on the website of the project: <http://aria2.sourceforge.net/>

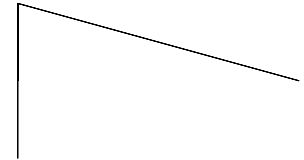
As far as I know, Aria2 can be found in the contrib repositories of Mandriva.

As for the use of each downloadmanager: Please think carefully about the effects that this tool can cause. If a new version of any distro is announced (and the downloadservers for this distri have a huge load) please don't use the downloadmanager to not make the whole situation worse for everyone.

Thanks.

# Sharing data between Linux and Windows using the ext3 file system

by *Andreas Ritter*



## In most cases the exchange of files between Linux and Windows is quite an issue:

You can't write to NTFS partitions from Linux (or at least it is difficult and still in experimental state). OTOH, with FAT32 you have the disadvantage of an outdated filesystem: no files larger than 4 GB, waste of clusters and fragmentation of your hard-drive. And most people do not have a fileserver with Samba / NFS-drives at home.

The opposite way is also possible: ext2/ext3 partitions can be read by using Windows, but it isn't easy to map a drive to one letter like D: or E: But now there is a driver which works perfectly well: the ext2-IFS-driver for Windows [1]. With this driver you can mount Linux ext2 and ext3 filesystems to a „drive letter“ under Windows. You can have all the advantages of a modern filesystem by using Windows and Linux parallel!

For myself I've been using this driver for more than 5 month now and I didn't experience any problems with my external 300 GB hard driver nor with the internal data partition. Using Linux I have all the advantages of this filesystem and using Windows all the partitions react like they were native NTFS partitions. I also did not discover any problems during my tests with the video capture programs, huge DV-files (around 20 GB/file) and OpenOffice.org. There wasn't a lack of performance compared with NTFS.

But there are 3 small disadvantages in this solution:

1. Missing fsck under Windows. If your computer freezes you can't mount the ext3 partition before you've done a fsck check. Since there is no such tool for Windows you have to start Linux first. During the boot sequence the harddrive is checked and afterwards you can start Windows again.
2. Missing rights management under Windows. Windows doesn't care about the different rights of files, the current user has always full access to everything. If you create a new file on the ext3 partition using Windows, the file has the same rights as his parent directory. So this solution is only suitable for single user systems with a shared data partition.

3. German umlauts in filenames. All users should use the version 1.10a (not the current 1.10b) and your Linux system should use ISO encoding instead of UTF-8, since this version doesn't support UTF-8. If you do not use any umlauts in your filenames than don't worry about this.

Some quotes from an email conversation with the author:

*Language specific characters are displayed correctly only if you use Ext2 IFS 1.10a (with the emphasis on the „a“) and if you use a Linux without UTF-8 encoding.*

*In version 1.10b something changed with the code-pages that improves one point but makes another one worse: asian users are now able to open files with multibyte characters (they couldn't do this before). Latin and cyrillic specific characters are messed, but at least you can open the files (users that are using UTF-8 encoding also discovered this mess earlier). It also solves the problem with the double filenames.*

*The next version, probably 1.11, will need some time. Current status is:*

- *h tree directories (is finished, it was a huge exercise, if you want to have a good implementation, so it's better than in the Linux kernel 😊)*
- *UTF-8 encoding (is finished),*
- *some minor parts (finished),*
- *completely new configuration software that can use PnP (not finished yet; but it's important, because the current software is difficult to port to x64 architectures)*
- *porting to the x64 platform for Windows XP/2003 (not finished, but it shouldn't be that big amount of work)*

## Note:

There is a version 1.10c being published, but this version doesn't solve the problems with the German umlauts and it also doesn't support UTF-8. So if you need any of these please stay with version 1.10a. But it shouldn't be a long time to wait until there's a version that supports UTF-8.

[1] <http://www.fs-driver.org/>

# Linuxtag 2007 in Berlin

## *Wobos tale of a Herd of Penguins and the Janitors*



### Let's go to Linuxtag 2007 !

It's that time again. caravans of bearded laptop carrying disciples of The Tux are on their way to the main Linux event of the year; this time to Berlin, the capital city of Germany.

### The Easter Bunny exists...

While last year's Linuxtag took place in Wiesbaden, which is right around the corner of my home town, this year I had to go to Berlin, a good 400 miles trip away from home. Being invited to a cost free booth by the Linuxtag Committee did not mean free hotel rooms and meals – a serious problem which I did not know how to solve.

Although MandrivaUser.de would present Mandriva Spring and represent Mandriva – in a way - we did not receive any support from the Mandriva company – a well known experience of previous years.

And this is where the Easter Bunny comes in: Mr. Herbert Feiler, the Managing Director of the German partner of Mandriva (Mandriva.de) promised to pay for my accomodation! Of course I agreed in return to promote his shop and hand out marketing material at our booth.

This problem out of the way I had to find some helpers for the booth. That was easy for Friday and Saturday but as in 2006 there was a shortage of volunteers for Wednesday and Thursday. Anyhow, in the end Frank (aka katzenfan) volunteered to be there on the first two days.

So, all set to go I grabed my bags, 2 laptops, one 19" TFT monitor and lots of hope and boarded the fast train to Berlin.

### In the beginning there was ...

Arriving at the Berlin fair ground at noon I thought I came back to the ruins of 1945. Unfinished boots, carpeting not laid out, carpenters and painters and important looking technicians everywhere, in short: what should have been ready for moving in the day before was still work in progress.



*In the beginning there was ...*

When we received the invitation for a free booth we were informed that there would be other projects sharing one large booth with us. Because of this sharing concept we all agreed that our neighbor (ArchLinux) will provide one large switch for the internet connection of all 4 projects of the booth. Of course the guys of Arch-

Linux were not there, so all I could do was wait.

But suddenly, after 4 pm everything happened at once: the booth was finished, the carpets laid and the guys from ArchLinux were there. Great! Until the big switch decided to quit working. Anyhow,

we all know the main line of „Gone with the wind“: Tomorrow is another day!



*My storage corner (aka hotel room)*

I left my 19" flatscreen in the box, left my suitcase with the laptops there and prepared for a good pizza somewhere in Berlin. I knew I could get the booth ready in 10 minutes the next morning.

### The Penguins

Arriving at the hotel the next surprise was waiting for me. Herbert of Mandriva.de had sent some parcels with marketing material and a large cardboard box. I never guessed what was in there: a flock of 12" plush penguins, all to give away! Thank you, Mandriva.de!

## The Janitors

Next morning came and I arrived at the fair ground, armed with the penguins and ready to start the first day of the fair. But my good spirit soon vanished: the box with my 19" flat screen was gone!

Security was pretty tight and the guys were sure that nobody left the ground with a box in his hands. The solution of the puzzle: There was a final cleaning during the night and the janitors removed the box because they thought it was empty!

A bad start but what could I do? So I changed the layout, set one laptop on the front counter for visitors and another laptop on a table for more in-depth demonstrations.



*Ready! Set! Go!*

## The first day ...

The first day of the fair is usually the day when you make yourself familiar with the essential things like „Where is the next coffee shop? Where is the smokers area? Where are all my friends?“.

So most of my time was filled with walking around, greeting old friends and old foes, while Frank (aka katzenfan) manned the booth and answered to the questions of the first visitors.



*CoffeeCoffeeCoffee!*

It's always a pleasure to meet old friends. One of these is Till Kampeter, a well known person in the Mandriva universe. He is also a member of MandrivaUser.de and attended to meetings at previous Linuxtag events in Karlsruhe and Wiesbaden.

## ... and the first impressions

The difference to last year's Linuxtag was obvious right from the start. Everything was more professional, larger and that little bit better organized than at the Wiesbaden event.

Then the first visitors arrived. Normally the first day of the fair is also the day with the lowest visitor count. But in Berlin the first day saw more visitors than the most crowded day in Wiesbaden. Bei it the bonus of the capital city, the larger location in the famous Berlin Fairground or the whatever – the difference was obvious in the first hours.

Another positive point was the presence and the care of the Orga team. Marko and Wolfgang were everywhere and tried their best to solve all the small problems which usually arise on the first day.

But the best experience of this day was the coffee shop – as you can see! :)

I ended this day with a Turkish evening and after a good sleep we started Day #2.

The second day was not much different to the first day, so I can't report any special highlights – except a significant improvement of our internet connection!

Thanks to Frank I had the time to look around at other booths like the Free Software Foundation Europe, where I met their press relations manager Joachim Jakobs who is also known to the MandrivaUser.de members as guest author for our magazine.

Right at the entrance of our hall I found Radio Tux with another old friend, Manuel Schneider. I didn't let him go until he promised to write an article about Radio Tux for our magazine – he asked and received a plush Tux in return. :)

So, the first plush Tuxes found their new parents, Frank did a very good job at the booth and wobo was happy – the second day was another good day.

## Alien worlds

The second half of the fair was filled with visits on alien worlds and I met some people I already knew for a long time.

There was Magnus, our man at the booth, who kept his calmness at all times and was the perfect representant of MandrivaUser.de. :)



*Manuel Schneider, Tux and wobo*

And there was a young man, who stopped by and greeted us with the words, „Hi, my name is Jens, also known as Webstar.“ - Ah, so that's Webstar, a very active member of our project!



*Ole and Webstar, two committed members*

There were more members of MandrivaUser who stopped by and said hello, unfortunately I was „on tour“ many times. We definitely need another day of the exhibition being closed for visitors – as many long term exhibitors use to say: „Linuxtag is not made for the visitors, it's a gathering of the exhibitors with the visitors as excuse!“

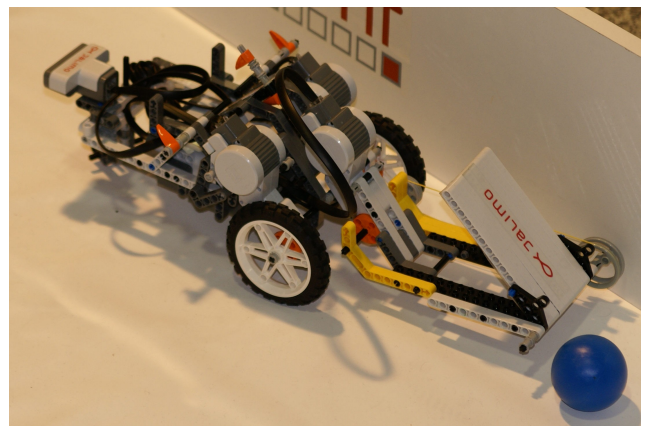
Later that day I continued my exploration of the fair and stumbled upon this:



*From an unsorted chaos of Lego parts...*

*Built on a Lego frame the mobile device stormed forwards and passed the yellow ball to his team member who stopped for amoment and then „kicked it like Beckham“ - goooooooooaaaaa!*

You can read this short sports report on the website of [tarent GmbH](#). These people construct phantastic mobile „robots“ by using Lego pieces and a Nokia Tablet PDA N80, the Lego Set Mindstorm and some ultrasonic sensors.



*... a sports star arises*

## Gamers

From the Lego world it is not far to the Gamer's Palace. Sound, action, colorful 3D scenes, that's the world of LinuXGamers.net.

LinuX-Gamers presented a new product on the fair: a live DVD, based on an embedded version of Arch-Linux, containing several high class games.

Of course I tested this DVD and it worked perfectly on my mainstream laptop. A true highlight for every gamer, downloadable for free at: <http://live.linux-gamers.net/>



*Gamers Heaven!*

### Talking about the devil..

... he's right around the corner! In our case it was the red Beastie of the \*BSD family who had his booth area at the entrance of the fair.

No question, I grabbed the FreeBSD CD for testing. :) Being indoctrinated a couple of years ago I still have some interest in the \*BSD system, especially because of the ports system.



*Beastie and Friends*

I could go on and on with this report. But here comes the conclusion:

### The good mood...

... of the first day continued on the following days and even grew better by each day. The environment, the infrastructure, the number of visitors – all this was just as it should be and caused an atmosphere of busy marketing but also the confidence of being part of a good community.

There was also the feeling of contentedness, the risk of our participation paid out and we are all looking forward to future Linuxtag fairs in Berlin. During the days of the fair the main promotion organization, Linuxtag e.V. announced that they signed an agreement with Messe Berlin and the Orga team for Free Projects told us that we will have sponsored booths with same conditions again next year.

Wrapping up all this I declare that we had a tremendous time, we loved being there and we hope that MandrivaUser.de will come back next year for Linuxtag 2008.



**MandrivaUser.de is looking forward to meet you at the Linuxtag 2008 in Berlin!**

# DVD-RAM

*written by Magnus*



At some time in the beginning of the year 2006 I needed a new CD/DVD-Burner, since my old SCSI-CD-Burner didn't let me install Mandriva 2006 correctly. Since I wasn't very patient during this time period, this was a good excuse to buy a new burner.

I read an article in the German Linux magazin called „Easy Linux“ and this encouraged me to buy the NEC DN 4550A. The main reason for this decision was, that this format (DVD RAM) is the best solution for making back ups.

## **DVD-RAM – What is it?**

Besides the name - it has nothing to do with the regular DVD, but it has the following advantages:

- high security for your data,
- high „life expectancy“, minimum 30 years, caused by the missing organic layer,
- If you use it correctly, it can be reused (rewritten) 100 000 times,
- You can access to the DVD-RAM similar to a hard disk, there's no extra burning program needed,
- A DVD-RAM is preformatted, when you buy it.

There are some disadvantages, that I will tell you about:

- A DVD-RAM can only used on newer (and probably more expensive) video-DVD-players,
- DVD-RAMs aren't as easy to find in shops as regular DVDs, probably mostly via mail-order (price in Germany is about 2,50 EUR)
- The read-/write speed is not as high as with DVD-R/W and DVD+R/W,
- Not every DVD-burner or every DVD-Reader can read or write DVD-RAM,
- Not all DVD-RAM media and devices are compatible,
- There is a huge amount of different kinds of DVD-RAMs (storage capacity, format class for the speed, package),
- Not every DVD-RAM burner works with Linux.

The usable standard is currently the one sided bit slice with 2 to 5 times writing speed and a capacity of 4.7 GB (~ real 4.3 GB) of the type II in jewel case or a cake box. The two sided DVD-RAMs are in a special cartridge, that needs a specialised burner.

Normally, the DVD-RAMs are formatted with an UDF-filesystem. This system is platform independent and takes care of a steady use of all parts of the DVD-RAM, since every bit can be used only a given number of times.

## **Mount manually**

For my first tests I've mounted the drive manually, this means, I've entered the whole command with all the necessary options. Of course, you'll have to be root for doing this. This is, how my command looks like:

```
mount -t udf -o rw,noatime,async,users /dev/dvdram /mnt/dvdram.
```

By doing this, you can access to your DVD-RAM after a umount /dev/hdb by using /mnt/dvdram. The umount command was needed, because my system mounts the device automatically with /mnt/cdrom at boot time (see also my /etc/fstab at the end of this article).

## **Needed adjustments for my system**

Since it is - at least in my opinion - stupid to enter the whole mount command every time you want to use the DVD-RAM, I've changed some settings in my fstab.

- Adding an additional entry in my fstab (see my example later)
- Adding a new device on the KDE desktop (for /mnt/dvdram)
- Rebooting the computer (I did this, to see the situation after a new start)
- Finished

The use with KDE is now like this:

1. If you insert a CD, DVD or DVD-RAM and do nothing, the automatic mount takes place and you can use the media like any regular DVD.
2. If you insert a DVD-RAM and you connect immediately to the device (by using the icon), the bit slice is mounted as DVD-RAM. (right mouse click on the icon and select „connect to device“).

3. If the automatic mount has been done already you can just unmount and remount it as DVD-RAM.

If you prefer the console, the process is similar like the one I've described.

1. as above,
2. type `/mnt/dvdram`,
3. type `umount /dev/hdb` followed by
4. `mount /mnt/dvdram`.

I have no other optical device built in in my computer. But I think, that the process will take place in a similar way on every computer, since in most cases, there will be a „double usage“ as CD-/DVD burner or DVD-RAM of the given device.

Additionally, I did install the `udftools` for formatting DVD-RAMs. You should remember, that the 4.7 GB is just an advertising capacity and refers to 4.7 billion bytes. This means, that the real size of this media is about 4.3 GB.

If you delete a file on the DVD-RAM the system creates automatically a „dustbin“ (.trash). If someone knows, how to avoid this, I would be very happy to hear this suggestion.

It would be even better, if the system could be do the mount automatically correct, depending on the media you've inserted. If you have any ideas according this task, don't hesitate to tell me about this.

#### Links

[1] EasyLinux 2006/01  
<http://www.easylinux.de/Artikel/ausgabe/2006/01/018-brenner/>

[2] DVD-RAM HowTo <http://www.multimedia4linux.de/howto/DE-DVD-RAM-HOWTO-10.html>

Sorry, both links are in German.

#### My `/etc/fstab` after the necessary adjustments:

```
# This file is edited by fstab-sync - see 'man fstab-sync' for details
/dev/hdc1 / ext3 defaults 1 1
/dev/hdb /mnt/cdrom auto umask=0,user,icharset=iso8859-15,
codepage=850,noauto,ro,exec,users 0 0
none /mnt/floppy supermount dev=/dev/fd0,fs=ext2:vfat, umask=0,icharset=iso8859-
15,sync, codepage=850 0 0
/dev/hda1 /mnt/win_c ntfs umask=0, nls=iso8859-15,ro 0 0
/dev/hda5 /mnt/win_d ntfs umask=0, nls=iso8859-15,ro 0 0
/dev/hda6 /mnt/win_e vfat umask=0,icharset=iso8859-15,codepage=850 0 0
none /proc proc defaults 0 0 /dev/hdc6 /usr ext3 defaults 1 2
/dev/hdc5 swap swap defaults 0 0
/dev/dvdram /mnt/dvdram udf noatime,noauto,owner,user,rw 0 0
```



# Virtualization – what is possible ?

## What is not possible?

*introduced by Manfred aka Windhund*



### Let me start with a disclaimer:

This article resembles only my own experiences, meaning: I'm not an expert in this field. So I can't say anything about qemu, xen and others, I can only say something about

1. Vmware
2. VirtualBox
3. Parallels.

### General facts about Virtualization

How do I explain to someone, what virtualisation really is? As a layman, I'd say something like this:

*Your computer provides the hardware components for your operating system. By using a virtualisation software it's the software that „provides“ the hardware for the operating system. This means, that the hardware is being „replaced“.*

This „trick“ works very well with the currently available programs. At least, this is my impression. You're able during a running Windows-session to start a virtual Linux distribution and vice versa.

### And what is this useful for?

An example: Someone prefers to go online with Linux only (e. g. for security reasons) but still has to use some Windows programs that do not exist for Linux yet. In my case: I need Quicken for direct debit (a typical Windows program that doesn't exist for Linux). So I can only use the virtual environment, here Windows XP in the virtual machine.

In the following text I give a short overview on the programs I mentioned above and which make this virtual environment possible.

### 1. Vmware

<http://www.vmware.com/de/>

The program which is the most popular, as far as I know:



**VMware-Workstation**

The program is commercial (this means, you have to pay for it) and for private users it is too expensive. You can test it for one month at no costs. After this month you can ask for a new license key and can use it another 30 days at no cost.

With the workstation it's very easy to „produce“ a virtual machine, with some fine-tuning it is possible to install nearly every distribution.

The workstation is available for different operating systems. A finished virtual machine can be used without the workstation. For this, you'll need the cost free



**VMware-Player**

With this reduced and less resources consuming player you can reload any existing virtual machine.

**A sidenote:** With a trick you could also create a virtual machine by using the player - at least until the second latest version. You only had to press the ESC key during the boot process to reach the boot menu. Here you could choose the different boot media, for example cdrom.

In the meantime there exists another program at no cost (for private users):



### VMware-Server

The server fulfills most needs, it has many features of the workstation, but also own advantages. Currently, I'm using VMware Server and Player of all the products of VMware.



### VirtualBox

<http://www.virtualbox.org/wiki/Downloads>

A serious alternative to VMware is VirtualBox currently available as version 1.3.8. It comes in 2 different editions: Closed Source and Open Source Edition.

There are packages available for some distributions, for example Mandriva rpms. InnoTek offers the closed source version for Mandriva 2007.1, Mandriva Cooker offers the OSE version instead, also for 2007.1. Most important difference between the two versions: the OSE doesn't support USB.

According to my own personal experiences with the closed source version, VirtualBox is (partly) better than VMware. Sure, there are points to improve and to expand. InnoTek plans to offer the possibility to open VMware virtual machines by using VirtualBox. I'm curious about the development during the next time.



### Parallels

<http://www.parallels.com/>

Parallels is focused on installing Windows in Parallels. You'll discover this soon, because the Parallel tools are only made for Windows. For this, it would be very interesting for myself. I actually downloaded it and entered my email address to receive a license key.

Using Cooker, I wanted to install it, using urpmi. But right at the start I got an error message:

Can not install because of missing dependencies.  
libXft.so.1 is missing or can't be installed.

All current Linux distributions, that I've installed, are using libXft.so.2. I had to use a trick, to be able to install it: I made a link. And like I've said before, I could install the Parallels Tools, but while using Linux the corresponding menu entries are greyed out. And with a Linux installation, the shared folders won't work.

For me the price of about 50 EUR is too high for just being able to install Windows, that I've already registered and activated in my VMware Server installation. Two weeks are enough for testing to see how Windows works using Parallels.

### Links for further reading

The reader who needs more detailed descriptions should have a look at the following links:

<http://www.linuxforen.de/forums/showthread.php?t=87251>

There's a german speaking forum for VMware: <http://vmware-forum.de/>

And there's a brand new forum about virtualisation only: <http://www.virtualizing.org/forum/>

VirtualBox (InnoTek) now has also its own forum: zu <http://forums.virtualbox.org/index.php>

Manfred aka Windhund

# My opinion on Mandriva Linux: The Distribution, the Company and the Community

*written by O. Fischer (aka quasi)*

During the last quarter of 2006 MandrivaUser.de started a competition, asking the users to write an article on their opinion about Mandriva Linux. Here is one of the winners. It is a fine piece and hopefully I can transport the feelings of the author in my translation.

wobo

## How to come a cropper - facing upwards!

In the prime of the italian renaissance Niccolò Machiavelli wrapped up all the wickedness and furtiveness of the principals of his time in his book „Il Principe“ (The Prince), a classic masterpiece about reckless striving for power. This same man wrote a smart comedy titled „La Mandragola“ (The Mandrake), which still causes teenage students to blush and giggle - think about Viagra :) Mandrake/Mandriva bears some of the charm of this frivolous european tradition.

But my normal working day was not always filled with such inspired thoughts. I had to switch to floppy disks to hand in my texts to the management, which brought me into contact with Windows. No warning, no prior preparations, from then on I had to deal with tons of manuals and I felt abused, in a way.

## From Windows to Linux

After the first time of familiarization, blessed with my own computer at home, my resistance started against this existing paternalism by Microsoft. Following my political ideas I started looking for an alternative. I had heard about Linux but it was just a word, nothing real so far. Until that day at a local newspaper kiosk when I found a magazine with a Mandriva cover cd. I started out to set up a dual boot system, following the directions in that magazine by the letter. After that I never had to face serious problems with my Mandriva, everything had to work - in other words: I did not dare much, I did not start to explore - and I did not learn very much. Then my harddisk crashed and with a new disk I dived in and put all my coins on Linux. Never change anything if not necessary, that was my motto. And it worked.

Then came 2006. There were some problems with Mandriva 2006, I damaged my PowerPack DVD, suffered from a loss in my circle of friends - and Mandriva kicked out Gaël Duval.

That's when I changed to Kubuntu and Kanotix, but not for long! Mandriva Linux 2007 saw me back with this superb distribution. It is a typical french product like a Citroën, a very comfortable car with certain little quirks under the hood. Likewise is the headquarters in Paris an environment where some expressions seem to have a different meaning than elsewhere.

## The Community

Making up for this special way of the Mandriva company - that seems to be the task of this forum here. Mandriva is a typical european product. Umberto Eco once answered to the question about a european language: „Yes, there is one - the translation!“

This forum here enjoys a good administration and is an environment which gives you room enough to breathe freely. It turns up all the problems and skills of the participating users while visitors have the opportunity to improve their knowledge just by stopping by and reading. I get the impression that I am learning many new things and understanding more and more. But facing a real problem I start to panic! I forget all I learned, like having a blackout. For example when I have to define a second hard-disk in Grub I fiddle around in endless attempts, looking in numerous magazines and forums to find that one useful information, while I should have these two or three clicks in my memory. Therefore I suggest to have more short and quick tips and tricks in the wiki, helping fast in such a situation but also leading to other more comprehensive articles for further reading. Another wish I have is a documentation of Windhund's installation method to use an ISO for an installation without burning this ISO to a cd.  
(Remark by the editor: both suggestions have been met by now)

## Conclusion

All in all: There are always moments where I shoot myself in the foot, where I am out of my depth. But it's not a free fall, it's more like slipsiding on a wet boat plank. It takes time to get up again. But the confidence to be on the right ship makes up to that. My current status is like the picture on the coat of arms of Paris, France: a small boat amidst the torrent of a river. The words beneath the picture say:

## Flucat - nec mergitur

(amidst the torrent but not drowning).

# Impressum

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