

Adriane's Brief Guide to Linux Applications and Documentation

Everyday Applications

- Window and desktop managers:

At first, it is probably best to use the default that has been preconfigured by the distro install. It will often come with built-in menus with common applications and distribution-specific tools that manage system settings, etc.

Simpler window managers: FVWM, Enlightenment, WindowMaker, Blackbox, IceWM

Fancier desktop environments: GNOME, KDE, XFCE (my favorite)

Read more: <http://xwinman.org/>

- Terminals:

Usually there is a default terminal already installed and it will do what you need, but, as always, there are lots of options.

Some common terminal programs: xterm, rxvt (my favorite), eterm, gnome-terminal

- Web browsers: firefox, mozilla, opera, konqueror (KDE), epiphany (GNOME), galeon (my favorite), lynx (console)
- Email: thunderbird, mozilla, evolution, kmail (KDE), balsa (GNOME), pine
- IM: gaim
- File managers: nautilus (GNOME), konqueror (KDE), xfe
- Text editors: pico, emacs
- Word processing: openoffice, abiword (instead, try latex)
- Presentations: openoffice (instead, try latex with latexbeamer class)
- Document preparation system: latex
- DVI viewer: xdvi
- PDF viewer: xpdf, acroread
- PS viewer: gv
- Spreadsheet: openoffice, gnumeric
- Calculator: xcalc, gcalculator
- Graphing: gnuplot (very powerful, but not very intuitive — look for a tutorial online)
- Figures and diagrams: xfig, dia (very good for flow charts)

- Image viewing: xv
- Image editing: gimp (similar to photoshop), xv (simple editing only), imagemagick (CL, handy for simple tasks like resizing)
- Ripping CDs: grip, ripperx, abcde (CL, my favorite)
- Burning CDs: xcdroast, k3b, mkisofs/cdrecord (CL)
- Sound playing: xmms (my favorite, looks like winamp), rhythmbox
- Sound editing: audacity, snd, glame, wavesurfer
- Video playing: xine (my favorite), mplayer, realplay
- Video editing: avidemux2, kino, transcode (CL), mencoder (CL)
- Windows emulators: wine, win4lin (not free), vmware (not free)

Where to Get Distributions and Software

Look at the distro's homepage for info on downloads. (Many now offer bittorrent downloads that are much faster than http/ftp downloads.)

Many can also be found at: <http://distros.ibiblio.org/>

For software, first look for software available from your linux distribution. Look for a "Package Manager" or "Add Applications" program in the menu.

If you can't find what you want and you feel confident about installing programs by hand, look elsewhere:

<http://www.linux.org/apps/>

<http://www.sourceforge.net>

<http://www.ibiblio.org/pub/linux/>

Documentation and Help

- google, as always
- Man pages: `$ man command`
- The Linux Documentation Project: <http://www.tldp.org>
- TLDP's Introduction to Linux:
<http://www.tldp.org/LDP/intro-linux/html/intro-linux.html>