LINUX - MANDRAKE 8.0 IS NOW AVAILABLE IN THREE NEW

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MandrakeSoft announces the immediate availability of Linux-Mandrake version 8.0 with three new products: Linux-Mandrake Standard Edition 8.0, Linux-Mandrake PowerPack Edition 8.0 and Linux-mandrake ProSuite Edition 8.0. With this new version, MandrakeSoft confirms its commitment to offering the most complete, powerful and user-friendly Linux operating system available.

The 8.0 product range is designed for all types of users from beginners to Linux professionals. With value-added features and support, coupled with unparalleled ease of installation and configuration, Linux enthusiasts will marvel at the latest enhancements included in Linux-Mandrake 8.0. Productivity-enhancing, automated administration tools, enhanced printer support and an entire suite of graphical interfaces, combined with new utilities, office applications, games, updated security applications and online support to create a complete and powerful graphical operating system.

According to Frederic Bastok, Co-Founder of MandrakeSoft, "We are very proud of our new distribution. Not only is it user-friendly and powerful, but Linux-Mandrake 8.0 also comprises over 2,300 applications, including StarOffice - the complete office suite compatible with MS Office and IBM Via Voice - the market-leading voice recognition system. Once again, in the purest Open Source tradition, our distribution and its codes were made available on the Web for free download several weeks before the commercial release".

Novelties and benefits of Linux-Mandrake 8.0

-The best graphical interfaces:
MandrakeSoft continues to build on its promise of offering its users an easy to use and fully-graphical Linux operating system for both the novice and professional user. Linux-Mandrake 8.0 contains the best possible graphical interfaces, available in their latest version, including KDE 2.1.1 with Konqueror, the multi-purpose file manager and fast Web browser and Kmail, a full-featured mail program along with many others.

GNOME 1.4 is also included and the Gnome environment now comes with Nautilus 1.0, an innovative file manager. Evolution 0.9, a complete groupware suite is also available allowing enhanced e-mail, contacts and appointments in a single unified environment.

Efficient and easy installation

A user-friendly tool allows a personalised installation with many configuration tools. The Logical Volume Manager offers a simplified extension of the stocking space without having to repartition. Linux-Mandrake 8.0 also includes the latest version of DrakX Installer, recognised as one of the best installation tools available. It will "automatically" partition the hard-drive, keep MS Windows®, install the appropriate packages and automatically detect most of the hardware and peripherals.

System - The 2.4 Kernel and Xfree86

Kernel 2.4.3 has been included as the default kernel in Linux-Mandrake 8.0. New features include, wider USB support, better SMP (Symertic MultiProcessing Support), brand new IP and firewalling stacks and a 64Go memory support. The 2.2 kernel has also been included, together with XFree86 in version 4.0.3 supporting the latest video cards.

Streamlined system maintenance

In order to simplify and improve the set of the Linux box, all the tools included in Linux-Mandrake 8.0 are now centralised in a unified configuration tool, the Mandrake Control Center. Tasks such as software management, network or printer configuration are easily carried out thanks to this new complete and centralised post configuration tool.

Hardware Support

MandrakeSoft is known as the distribution that best supports all the latest hardware. HardDrake offers a very broad spectrum of hardware supported thanks to the introduction of the latest kernels, drivers and patches.

A thorough and powerful server solution

Powerful server tools are also available. These tools include an optimized version of Apache Web Application Server to deploy Web applications, POP3 and IMAP for reliable email servers and a selection of the most efficient database servers. Network protection is achieved by a firewall and router that is optimized thanks to the 2.4.3 kernel and a range of easy-to-use configuration tools.

Games

A great variety of 2D and 3D games are included, such as Pingus, Clanbomber, Nil, Chromium, Tuxracer, Bzglag, Gltron, Cannon Smash, Tuxkart and Tux: a quest of Herring.

Flight gear, a flight simulator based on real aviation sites, is available in the PowerPack and ProSuite editions. http://www.mandrakesoft.com/products/range/80/games

Latest available programs

A wide range of programs cover all the needs of all users, from the Linux beginner to the professional, such as the Gimp, Mozilla, Gnapster, Konqueror, Kmail, Kdevelop, Nautilus, Evolution, Sun StarOffice 5.2, IBM ViaVoice in its full version, Acrobat Reader, Flash, Netscape, Java 2, Real Player 8.0 and the rest. Many development tools are also available, including Kdevelop, Glade, GCC 2.96, Glibc 2.2.2 and Qt.

MandrakeExpert, MandrakeSoft's online support

Users will also benefit from MandrakeExpert, an e-support marketplace that aims to tap into the technical knowledge of the MandrakeSoft community.

MandrakeExpert.com, is directly accessible from the desktop. It allows users to submit Linux-related questions to registered experts of their choice, based on the latter's expertise and on an innovative user rating mechanism. MandrakeExpert.com will shortly be equipped with e-commerce functionalities allowing users to look up information provided by Linux experts and offer tips on problems they have solved. http://www.mandrakeexpert.com

A distribution broadly adopted by OEM manufacturers

Constantly aiming to offer its users the best solutions possible, MandrakeSoft has signed partnerships with major OEM manufacturers. IBM recently certified the Linux-Mandrake distribution on its Intel xSeries server range, while HP Europe certified the distribution on its server Intel IA32 series. A global partnership was also signed with Compaq, aiming to facilitate Linux-Mandrake development on Compaq platforms. By forming a partnership with Compaq Mandrake has know become a member of the Compaq Strategic Alliance Program.

Available packages:

Linux-Mandrake 8.0 is available at leading software retailers in three distinct packages:

Linux-Mandrake Standard Edition 8.0: Linux for the people. Ideal for beginners and experienced users alike, features all the tools necessary for a desktop workstation and basic server use. Includes 3 CD's, an installation guide and 30 days of MandrakeExpert Web technical support. Price: $29.

Linux-Mandrake PowerPack Edition 8.0: All the power of Linux. Based on the award-winning Linux-Mandrake operating system, this extensive package includes the best Open Source and commercial software available. PowerPack 8.0 is ideally suited for setting-up a workstation or server with both ease and security. Includes 7 CD's, an installation guide, a detailed reference manual, 30 days of phone support and 60 days of MandrakeExpert Web technical support. Price: $69.

Linux-Mandrake ProSuite Edition 8.0: The Linux enterprise solution. Designed for small and medium businesses, the Linux-Mandrake ProSuite Edition 8.0 has been specifically designed to include all the necessary tools and applications required for today's demanding computing environment. In addition to extended enterprise support, powerful tools make the ProSuite Edition ideal for setting up stable and secure servers. The package includes 7 CD's, an installation guide, a detailed reference manual, 60 days phone support and 90 days of MandrakeExpert Web technical support. It also comes with 2 updated CD's during the product life. Price: $149.

For further information: http://www.mandrakesoft.com/products/80/

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About MandrakeSoft

MandrakeSoft provides a trusted interface between users of information technology and open technologists.

The company offers customers in the small office, home office (SoHo), small and medium size enterprise, government and educational sectors a set of GNU Linux and Open-Source software and related services, user-friendly and highly competitive information technologies at a very attractive total cost of ownership. In addition, MandrakeSoft offers technologists committed to open software and courseware a trusted channel to offer their services.

The Linux-Mandrake distribution, which became the leader in US retail sales last year (PC Data), received the awards for 'Best Product of the Year' and 'Best Linux-Distribution/Server' at LinuxWorld Expo 99, as well as the PC Answers Platinum Award in April 2000, the Linux Magazine Editor's Choice Award in September 2000 and the Chip Magazine 'Best Technique and Winner of the Test' in December 2000.

"Born on the Internet " in late 1998, MandrakeSoft established headquarters in Pasadena (U.S.), Montreal (Quebec), England, Germany and Paris (Europe). Please visit the Web site, http://www.mandrakesoft.com for more information.