

COVER FEATURE

DISTRIBUTION-TEST



	Debian 2.2 R2	easyLinux 2.2
Manufacturer URL	www.debian.org	www.easylinux.com
Supply source	Linux Emporium	EasyLinux.com
Full version price	£29	\$49
Number of CD's	6 - 9	5
CDs with free binary packages	3	2
CDs with commercial binary packages	depends on reseller	2
CDs with source texts	3	1
Boot diskette included	-	1
Number of pages in manual	343	345
Overall impression of the Manual	good-satisfactory	very good-good
Kernel	2.2.18pre21	2.2.16
XFree86	3.3.6	3.3.6
KDE	-(now included)	1.1.2
GNOME	1.0.51	-
Overall impression of the system	satisfactory-adequate	adequate
3D Graphic card activation	no	no
SCSI-card PCI	yes	no
ISDN-card PCI	no	yes
External modem	yes	yes
Soundcard PCI	yes	yes
TV card PCI	no	Partly
Printer drivers	lpr	CUPS, lpr
USB support method	Kernel 2.2.18	Backport-Patch
USB Hot Plug compatibility	no	no
USB Wheel mouse	no	no
Overall impression installation: Features	good	good-satisfactory
Overall impression installation: Operability	adequate	very good-good
Standard desktop	Console / GNOME	KDE
Mounting procedure for removable media	manual / automount	manual
Overall impression: Desktop clarity	good	good
Automatic HW recognition	no	no
Central configuration tool	no	eSystem
Overall impression: Basic system administering	adequate	good
Standard packet manager	dpkg	rpm 3.0.3
Packet manager frontend	dselect / gnome-apt	kpackage
CPU-optimised	i386	not found
Automatic resolution of packet dependencies	yes	in distribution's own packets
Online update function	Using apt	no
Overall impression: Handling of binary packages	very good-good	satisfactory
Free manufacturer support	Mailing-Lists, IRC (unlimited)	90 day installation support
Other support centres	Debian Consultants	on request
Start places for online updates	packages.debian.org	../download/update.php
Overall impression: Support	very good	good-satisfactory
Overall assessment:	2,00	2,58
Current newbie/user-friendliness of distribution (higher is better)		
Remarks	Distribution updated by freelance developers	Version 2.4 English only
Weighting factor	Debian 2.2 R2	easyLinux 2.2
Manual 10%	2,50	3,50
Is the system up to date 20%	1,50	1,00
Installation features 5%	3,00	2,50
Installation operability 20%	1,00	3,50
Desktop clarity 5%	3,00	3
Basic administrability 20%	1,00	3
Handling of binary packets 10%	3,50	2,00
Support 10%	4,00	2,50
Total score	2,00	2,58

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SuSE 7.1 Personal	Mandrake 8.0	Red Hat 7.1 Deluxe
SuSE	www.linux-mandrake.com/	www.redhat.com
£29	Linux Emporium	LinuxLand, ixsoft
3	Unknown	£59
2	N/A	N/A
-	N/A	N/A
1	N/A	N/A
2	N/A	N/A
63 + 118 + 288	272 + 290 (previous version)	163 + 485 + 9 (previous version)
very good-good	good (previous version)	good (previous version)
2.4.0 / 2.2.18	2.4.3	2.4.2
4.0.2	3.3.6 / 4.0.3	4.0.3
2.0.1	2.1.1	2.1.1
1.2	1.4.0	1.2.4
very good	very good	very good
yes	mostly	sometimes
yes	yes	yes
yes	yes	yes
yes	yes	yes
yes	yes	yes
no	sometimes	no
LPRng	CUPS, lpr	LPRng
Kernel 2.2.18 / 2.4	Kernel 2.4.3	Kernel 2.4.2 (+Patches)
no	no	yes
no	yes	yes
very good-good	very good-good	very good-good
good	good	very good-good
KDE 2.0.1	KDE	GNOME 1.2
automount	supermount	Kernel autoloader
satisfactory	good	good-satisfactory
yes	kudzu	kudzu
YaST / YaST 2	DrakConf	control-panel
good	very good-good	good
rpm 3.0.5	rpm 4.0	rpm 4.0
YaST(2) / kpackage	rpmDrake	gnorpm / kpackage
i386	i586	i386
in distribution's own packets	in distribution's own packets	no
via YaST2	rpmDrake	up2date (RHN)
good-satisfactory	good	satisfactory
60 day installation support	60 days MandrakeExpert installation support	60 days RHN, 60 days Internet
Also commercial	Mailing lists, MandrakeExpert	Also commercial
.../de/uk/support/download/index.html	.../en/updates/	ftp.updates.redhat.com (for a charge)
good	very good-good	good-satisfactory
3,10	3,38	3,15
SuSE also sells the £49 Professional Edition. Special feature: Support for the blind (Braille).	Only the download version was tested here. But the basic system should be largely similar to the Powerpack Edition. Special feature: 3D hardware acceleration; many graphics cards are supported automatically	Only the download version was tested here. But the basic system should correspond to that of the Deluxe variant. Manufacturer updates and bugfixes after 60 days are charged for; special feature: USB hot-plugging
SuSE 7.1 Personal	Mandrake 8.0	Red Hat 7.1
3,50	3,0	3,0
3,50	4,0	4,0
4,00	3,5	3,5
3,00	3,0	3,5
2,00	3,0	2,5
3,00	3,5	3,0
2,50	3,0	2,0
3,00	3,5	2,5
3,10	3,38	3,15