

Move from Fedora 17 to Linux Mint Debian



My desktop screen using LXDE with Linux Mint Debian

I may be leaving Fedora Linux for good this time. Fedora 17's added "features" were not a plus for me. Moreover, things that worked fine before became quirky. For example, switching to Japanese input using Ibus required me to press Ctrl + Space 3 or 4 times to make it work. Linux Mint Debian works instantly and gives me the added feature of merely pressing the Hankaku key (on Japanese keyboards).

All the apps I used in Fedora work fine. Wine takes a bit longer to load and the display font was incorrect immediately after installation, but after running from Terminal:

```
sudo apt-get install ttf-liberation
```

Wine works great! The Windows text to voice application, Text Aloud works fine, and it recognizes AT&T Natural Voices!

The default Mate Desktop Environment loaded unusually slow so I installed LXDE and am using it instead. Though LXDE has a few less features than Mate, it's more responsive. And it has one feature Mate doesn't have: LXDE aligns desktop icons automatically next to each other after deleting an icon.

Though I could install Dansguardian in Fedora 17, I couldn't figure out how to get it to filter. The tutorial I wrote on <http://linux.jamesjpn.com/how-to/dansguardian-install.html> didn't work for Fedora 17. Using a tutorial on <http://www.howtoforge.com/dansguardian-content-filtering-with-transparent-pro>

[xy-on-ubuntu-9.10-karmic](#) works on Linux Mint Debian! There was only one command that I had to modify on that tutorial. It was:

```
sudo update-rc.d tproxy enable 5
```

rather than just

```
sudo update-rc.d tproxy
```

Moved from Fedora 14 to Linux Mint Debian



The other day I discovered that [Linux Mint recently came out with a Debian edition](#) with features that are still lacking in Ubuntu. One of the main features that caught my interest is the ability to install Linux Mint Debian on a PC with **multiple hard disk drives**. It has been my practice for a few years now to have the /home partition on a second hard disk, and to use the first hard disk for the OS on a 40 gigabyte first partition and the second partition as a backup of the /home directory on the second drive. Ubuntu's installer still does not recognize more than one hard disk during installation.

Other features of Linux Mint Debian that interested me are said to be:

- Better sound support (addressing conflicts between Pulse Audio and Flash) – This is something Fedora still has a problem with. Sometimes the microphone for Skype works, and sometimes it doesn't.
- Performance boost using cgroup, the notorious 4 lines of code better than 200 in user-space.
- The fact it is a “rolling distribution”, meaning there will be no major

releases every 6 months, just one constant upgrade over time. This means I won't have to do a clean re-install twice a year as I did with Fedora..

So far so good! The installation procedure is different than Fedora, but pretty straightforward and easy to follow. The PC didn't boot after installation, but changing the BIOS settings of the primary boot drive fixed the problem.

I am now working in Debian for the very first time thanks to Linux Mint!

The good thing I've seen so far:

- All multimedia codecs seem to be already installed. MP3 and WMF files played with no further tweaks. I have to add a third party repository in Fedora to make most multimedia play.
- Skype was installable from the package manager.
- Flashplayer is part of the default installation. Youtube videos played at full screen even without having to install the device driver of my Nvidia card.
- Nvidia drivers were installable from the package manager without further tweaks. Fedora needs the RPM fusion repository for this.
- Fedora 14 used to hang during a certain point in booting. This happened after upgrading my CPU to a newer one. Pressing the Esc key would continue the process. I don't have to do this now.
- Performance does seem to be better. Openoffice writer and Gimp load faster.

I read so far one negative user experience of an upgrade breaking Linux Mint Debian. He couldn't fix it. Perhaps I'll have a better experience.

I've been using Fedora since Fedora Core 3. So far Fedora has been the only Linux distro that has worked consistently well for me. Ubuntu live CDs have come in handy to fix certain Windows problems, but I never could quite get everything to my liking using a Ubuntu installation on my own PC. Fedora has had it's own quirks from time to time, but I learned either how to fix them or they ironed out over time. Everything I need to do on a PC, Fedora and its friends have provided both the software and the know how. Will Linux Mint Debian be better overall for me? Will I eventually get sick of it and go back to Fedora? Will Linux Mint Debian eventually break so bad that I won't be able to fix it? In a few weeks I'll know for sure!