

First Impressions: Mandriva Spring 2008

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Maybe I am wrong, but I have seen only raving reviews about the new Mandriva Spring 2008. Positive reviews. Since I always like to draw my own conclusions and Mandriva is one the releases this spring, I decided to give it a spin. I installed it in a virtual machine on my desktop and on a separate partition on my Acer 3681 WXM laptop.

Editions

Mandriva offers a few variations of Spring 2008: the free Mandriva Linux One 2008 Spring and the real free Mandriva Linux One 2008 Spring that conforms to the definition of free software (meaning without proprietary drivers or codecs). Then there are the commercial editions: Powerpack and Flash (runs of a nice USB key). The Powerpack edition comes with a set of codecs, Picasa, Cedega and three months of e-training and support. I ran a testdrive with the ?non-free? free version.

Installation

With today?s Linux distributions it would be a surprise if it wasn?t easy to install them and Mandriva is no exception. It shouldn?t be too much of a problem for novice users to follows the steps and install Mandriva on their boxes. Of course, taking care of the partitions is always a challenge but a skill that can be learned.

Look and feel: Where are the penguins?

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