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Switch to KDE 4.2.2

By *gfranken*
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My main home production machine has been PCLinuxOS based for some time. Since PCLOS doesn't yet support KDE 4, I had to change distros. What would be more natural than installing PCLOS's foundational parent, Mandriva? Mandriva has a full complement of KDE 4 (and Gnome) applications, and the KDE 4 stuff is the latest 4.4.2. So I backed-up the home partition of my production box to an external hard disk drive, and installed Mandriva Spring 2009 RC 2 over PCLOS.

One thing driving my switch is the desire to do some C++ and Python development with the Qt 4.5 tools, and Mandriva's Spring 2009 RC2 includes those tools, all nicely integrated.

So, am I happy? In a word, yes. With the Desktop "Folder Containment view", things behave much like the old KDE, so I can get around fairly well, and do what I need to do. And, as Mandriva is building toward their final Spring release, they are releasing daily scads of bugfixes and updates--resulting in my system now becoming very stable, which is essential for a production machine. I'm going to (for comparison purposes) try Kubuntu Jaunty Jackalope on my experimental machine, as it too uses KDE 4.4.2 and is at release candidate status. While I've been a harsh critic of the 'buntus (mostly toward newbie 'buntu users and 'buntu users who act as if 'buntu IS Linux), it's time I took another look at 'ubuntu.

With Mandrive Spring 2009 RC2, I had some initial trouble with sound. I finally installed all the Xine stuff, told KDE 4.4.2 to use Xine rather than GStreamer as the back end, disabled Pulseaudio--and now sound works fine.

So far, so good.

Linux

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