

The problem with Gentoo: my reactions

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One of the articles Tyler passed me this morning was a brief post on three problems with Gentoo by Dion Moul. There are a few things he's mentioned that I definitely agree with. Having used the distribution for a little over a month, some minor changes would go a long way to making the experience less painful and more usable.

Updated Documentation

This is the biggest factor that I think impacts Gentoo uptake, adoption and continued use. While the installation guide is very detailed, it's beginning to show its age: there's no mention of the ext4 filesystem, and it only details XFS briefly. Since choosing a filesystem and partitioning scheme is one of the first things that needs to be done during the installation process, it's important to give the most amount of information possible to prevent users from having to change things down the line.

Likewise, the X.org configuration guide discusses the difference between using `/dev/input/mice` and `/dev/mouse` as a pointer input device, but both configurations neglect the more recent `evdev` and `HAL`. To their credit, the wiki maintainers indicate that the information is out of date, but getting X.org up and running is absolutely essential for a desktop or workstation configuration.

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