

# In Search of KDE 4

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Dear Ma,

As you know I've been trying to like KDE 4 since its inception, but that hasn't happened. Despite my resistance, I know I need to make the move. KDE 3.5 lost its last footholds in Linuxville and it will be hard to continue using it. So, with the good things I've been hearing about 4.3.2, I figured now was the time. It's been quite a journey so far, and I'm probably not home yet. But here are some of the places I've seen and things I've done.

## The Portage Peninsula

### Toorox

Being from Gentoo I first tried KDE 4 from the Portage peninsula first. First was an extended visit into Toorox. It was so pretty there I almost sent for all my files to stay. But it didn't take long before ground trimmers began crashing once in a while and the traffic congestion just slowed things down to a crawl. The building regulations were so fixed, it was difficult to customize anything. And they were using version 4.3.0 of the plans, so, I packed up ole kitbag and headed further up to Sabayon.

### Gentoo

Then I returned home to upgrade the old homestead back in Gentoo, but something didn't turn out just right. It was very slow even without any fancy decorations or anything. So, I thought I'd head out again and see the sites.

### Sabayon

Sabayon was pretty too and things were much easier to customize for as much as KDE 4 will allow. However, it suffered from a bit of congestion causing it to be a bit slow going for aging bit conveyance. And there was this rumbling under the streets all the time swapping back and forth. It was fairly stable there tho, which as I was to come to discover is a major asset.

# R.P.M

## Mandriva

Not being one who can stand slow traffic I left for the country of RPM. First stop, Mandriva. They are still under construction over there, but most of the work is done, just a few last minute touches were left to do. But unfortunately they must have built on a fault or have lower standards because things kept crashing all around me. Of course they aren't done yet, but Mandriva has always had trouble with those earthquakes. They were real bad over in the Akregator section of town, that Kontact foundation crashed several times a day. I had to move to steadier ground. I might go back after they've wrapped up construction.

## PCLOS

Little to the east of Mandriva is PCLinuxOS, so I thought I'd stop by there. Unfortunately, all their infrastructure is still quite old. The planning committee is working pretty hard towards the citywide rollout, but for now citizens have to file their own `/etc/apt/sources.list` and wait for delivery of the upgrade kit. Fortunately, workman did all the heavy lifting putting everything in place, so I just stood back and let them have at it. They finished pretty quick and the result was fairly nice. They even decorated it to their own ethnic tastes. One of the best things is the speed. They left out some of the most confining curves and signs such as the desktop search, which made commutes much faster. Now they did leave in some of the fancy architecture, but it still was much faster than anywhere else I've been. Once I removed those, it is quite comfortable here. I did feel one little quake that crashed the Akregator, but hopefully they're rare here. And they insisted Firefox be the on ramp to the information superhighway, but I could file for a new association and they let me use Konqueror. It has met most of my needs. If it just wasn't for getting my heart broke once here, I might stay. But there's just too many bad memories on every steet and corner here. I'll probably be continuing on at least visiting elsewhere for a while. Maybe by the time the committee here rolls out the citywide reconstruction...

I've done flybys of openSUSE, Fedora, and even over the TGZ Island of Slackware, but I didn't land and look around, so I'd like to re-visit those places. I'd like to travel some more exotic and smaller locales such as Mepis, Pardus, Vector, and others too before I decide where lay down root. I hear good things about North APT. I'll let you know what I find in those villages after I get my Visa straightened out and get there. I can't wait to sample their local ambiance and cuisine.

Oh, here's a postcard of my digs in PCLOS. I might repaint and some other stuff, but for now this is what it looks like. I wish you were here!

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