

Amnesiac Incognito: Tails Secure Distro

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These days, security and privacy issues are increasingly making the news, but where can the average free software user learn more about safer practices? One of the best answers I have found is Tails, a Debian-based distribution that seems as much about teaching users to make informed decisions as about the software itself.

Tails produces a Live DVD or USB image called Amnesiac Incognito that you can use to preserve your privacy and anonymity. However, as useful as Tails itself is for safeguarding privacy, the documentation is of equal or greater value. Every step of the way, Tail's documentation explains in simple, no-nonsense prose what your options are, and what you might lose or gain with each choice ? including why you might trust Tails itself.

Tails' project members take these issues so seriously that many of its contributors remain anonymous, although a few names appear on the Tails mailing list. No doubt, reasons for the anonymity differ, but some include a wish to avoid being associated with a project that some might see as suspect and a conviction that decisions about Tails should be based on what the software offers, not who's associated with it.

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