

Mandrake Derived Distros

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Today's special is about Mandrake derived distributions, namely,

OpenMandriva Lx 2014 alpha vs **Mageia 4 final** vs **ROSA 2012 R2 final** vs **PCLinuxOS 2013.12 final**.

In (my limited) testing, I've used the X86_64 versions favoring the KDE desktop, and I've used the NVidia binary drivers provided with each distro.

Here's my experience with each one:

1) *OpenMandriva Lx 2014 alpha*

This one installed just fine, but would not startup on first boot. Well, it's an alpha version, so this could be understood.

2) *Mageia 4 final release*

Developers ran across many many bugs during development. In my opinion, they released their final version about two weeks to a month before they should have. Check out their errata [website](#) [2]. While I credit Mageia for the publishing this exhaustive list, it's very long.

For me, I couldn't get kdenlive, kate, and kwrite to launch from the menus. Kate and kwrite would launch from a terminal. Kdenlive just wouldn't start at all. This is attributed to an NVidia driver bug on the errata page.

I know the Mageia devs will fix everything, but it seems too bugridden for a final release.

3) *PCLinuxOS 2013.12 final*

PCLinuxOS has brought in a lot of code from other sources, so it's the furthest from being a Mandrake derived distro listed here. It runs very smooth--and my only criticisms were an older kernel, and the ruby release was only 1.8.7. (In my retirement, I still do some small development, and Ruby is one of my preferred interpreters). I still think PCLinuxOS is the best distro for new linux users.

4) *ROSA 2012 R2 final*

This was a surprise for me, but ROSA runs very well for me. I still have some testing to do, but it seems a very complete distro, and will remain on my "testing" machine for a while. I'm surprised this distro hasn't been more popular on DistroWatch.

Well, that's it for now, it's ROSA for me, with PCLinuxOS a close second. This could change over the next few months.

Source URL: <http://www.tuxmachines.org/node/63174>

Links:

[1] <http://www.tuxmachines.org/taxonomy/term/123>

[2] https://wiki.mageia.org/en/Mageia_4_Errata