iLinux OS Talk

iLinux+MATE: Usability above everything

AxelF 05 Apr 2022 08:13:05

I switched to iLinux because of MATE on steroids!

I like what the devs have done to MATE in iLinux though it was kinda strange at first cause i couldn't change anything in the top panel and it felt weird. MATE is a truly complete Desktop and unlike XFCE/LXDE/etc, MATE doesn't feel like a half-assed job done in the name of being "light-weight". All those people that go after lightweight forget about usability. Lightweight is no use when you lack basic features.

I was shocked when i saw the Control Center screenshots and for a moment i thought was that MATE or Cinnamon WTF?! :o

Having tried XFCE too i say this: XFCE and MATE, though they might appear to be the same, there is a whole lot of difference between "uses more memory" and "runs faster" concepts. My old Xubuntu installation was sure enough quite economical in the use of RAM, but the MATE installation is faster and feels snappier - i really don't care how much RAM it actually uses cause unused RAM is wasted RAM anyways, isn't it? If you are happy with the app speed and responsiveness on your desktop, why should you even care how much memory it uses?

MATE is a solid and usable DE. I'm personally not a fan of Gnome3/Unity and the idea of removing useful things for the sake of "simplicity" or changing things just for the sake of changing them. IMO there isn't anything like MATE at the moment in terms of environments (that im aware of) so i'm glad that it's the base for iLinux UI and people have the option of an "elevated" MATE derivative.

iLinux proved to me how expandable and useful MATE is in real use case scenarios. You can fool around, linux ricing, distro hopping and bitch with any linux distro but you can't work with any linux distro. I mean iLinux devs were very smart: instead of creating a new DE from scratch they tweaked MATE to hell and created a new DE unlike any other in terms of usability and speed combo.

Also i absolutely dig the total freedom of speech in this forum: come in, no censorship, talk without register, gone. I've had enough with toxic linux forums and fucked up moderators all those years. Disco rules! My 2 cents...

Replies 1

#1. Sonic de Lonic 05 Apr 2022 14:05:46

I agree. Mate was indeed the most usable DE and it beats down XFCE but all that until iLinux arrived. The first thing I always looked for in a linux distro was the settings panel. Lightweight is good but settings are a core component of any OS and if they are not sufficient the OS goes to trash. If you use iLinux Control Center once you can't go back to anything else. Cinnamon System Settings is the only competitor but Cinnamon is considerably heavier compared to Mate. What I like about iLinux's Control Center is the amount of extra settings that turns iLinux into a completely different beast compared to vanilla Mate. Vanilla Mate is good and usable but too basic. iLinux devs blew it out of proportion but with a good reason I believe. Many may say that they exaggerate (...and they have...) but if you look at it from a usability perspective it can't get any better.

I think iLinux devs were fed up (as many of us) with incomplete and heavy DE's and decided to do something about it. You can see it in the details all around iLinux. Sure, Openbox and LXDE are fast but when it comes to settings and the overall usability/user experience so long Openbox, so long LXDE. Sure iLinux devs have used components of lighter DE's to built iLinux's interface but in a way that all components melt great together in a very pleasing aesthetic result without compromising speed.

My 3 cents!

#2. Linux Soul 05 Apr 2022 17:59:34

Ah! Usability...

That's what I love the most in iLinux...

#3. Animal 06 Apr 2022 10:34:44

Control Center in iLinux is a user's bliss!

Simple is good but if simple means crippled it's not simple man, it's stupid.

I believe in KIUS (Keep It Usable Stupid) rather than KISS (Keep It Simple Stupid) because developers have turned KISS into KICS (Keep It Crippled Stupid)...

Animal added on 06 Apr 2022 10:41:20

For example: I love the simplicity of Chrunchbang, Bunsen Labs and all Openbox distros but when it comes to system settings OMG WTF?

#4. Kathy 06 Apr 2022 13:14:09

@Animal

> *“ I believe in KIUS (Keep It Usable Stupid) rather than KISS (Keep It Simple Stupid) because developers have turned KISS into KICS (Keep It Crippled Stupid)... ”*

HELL YEAH!

#5. ClickNin 06 Apr 2022 13:41:18

This post was deleted by its owner

#6. ClickNin 06 Apr 2022 13:45:03

This post was deleted by its owner

#7. ClickNin 06 Apr 2022 13:45:55

This forum is very bugged out right now as it keep automatically posting my reply when I'm typing.

ClickNin added on 06 Apr 2022 13:50:14

Or maybe it's a problem on my side?

#8. ClickNin 06 Apr 2022 13:56:11

Here is my opinion (previous post deleted)

> *“ MATE is a truly complete Desktop and unlike XFCE/LXDE/etc, MATE doesn't feel like a half-assed job done in the name of being "light-weight". All those people that go after lightweight forget about usability. ”*

First, why compare MATE with other DE?
XFCE/LXDE and a lot of lightwight DE are all complete and rock stable DE, they had all basic features, and offer all of the customizations, what you want more? Of course some DE like Openbox or some Window Compositor has way more less features and customization, but since they are for different purposes (such as for server that work mostly on CLI and requires very little GUI interaction, or for computer that have limited hardware, etc), why mention about it?
Not to mention that you said that they lack basic features, did you REALLY tried it?

> *“ I was shocked when i saw the Control Center screenshots and for a moment i thought was that MATE or Cinnamon WTF?! :o ”*

Why you put a Settings/Control Panel app over everything to rate a DE (or OS)?

> *“ i really don't care how much RAM it actually uses cause unused RAM is wasted RAM anyways, isn't it? ”*

> *“ If you are happy with the app speed and responsiveness on your desktop, why should you even care how much memory it uses?* ”

Not correct, more unused RAM, the more your computer will work smoothly. As the core process of the system needs RAM too! Not only the DE. And let's say you playing some games, then you say unused RAM is wasted RAM? Imagine the used RAM is 99.9% and there is barely any RAM left for the system, then the system will crash, of course. And oh boy, imagine browsing the internet with only 500MB RAM left ocupied by a game and some background process nowaday (if your system still alive).

And okay, GNOME 3/Unity are the real foundation of Linux Graphical Environment from the early days, when Ubuntu still using Unity, it has much more features, work more smoothly, and simply more lightweight. GNOME has a similar design to Unity, however it really not "lightweight" anymore, and more like mobile-orbiented.

> *“ I mean iLinux devs were very smart: instead of creating a new DE from scratch they tweaked MATE to hell and created a new DE unlike any other in terms of usability and speed combo.* ”

Basically, that's not creating a new DE, if you tweaking something to make it look different, it's customization, and so iLinux's DE is still MATE and just heavily customized.

> *“ Also i absolutely dig the total freedom of speech in this forum: come in, no censorship, talk without register, gone.* ”

And toxic, no word fitter, people swearing, etc.

#9. Agreeing Man 06 Apr 2022 15:15:18

I have to agree, **@ClickNin**. The people here are just stupid and dumb.

No one can get dumber than saying "Google knows India better than Indians".

Google is a search engine, not a person. Google's results are from multiple websites, and if you search something India/Indian on Google, the websites Google will show will be either written by Indians, or tourists who have visited India, and misinformed/uninformed people like @Fotini.

And speaking of @Fotini, go learn Indian history if you think India is ruled by tyrants and has a "brutal" caste system.

#10. root 07 Apr 2022 05:24:16

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#11. root 07 Apr 2022 05:26:39

> *“ I believe in KIUS (Keep It Usable Stupid) rather than KISS (Keep It Simple Stupid) because developers have turned KISS into KICS (Keep It Crippled Stupid)... ”*

- Animal

> *“ I'm personally not a fan of removing useful things for the sake of "simplicity" or changing things just for the sake of changing them. ”*

- AxelF

You both nailed it.

These are the two basic principles on which every Operating System should be based if it wants to be successful.

#12. ClickNin 07 Apr 2022 06:01:11

> *“ These are the two basic principles on which every Operating System should be based if it wants to be successful. ”*

And I already know that, and are you dumb or what?
I'm literally talking about why comparing MATE with others DE and saying that only MATE has "basic features".

#13. ClickNin 07 Apr 2022 06:05:00

And also, Windows kind of putting KIHS (Keep It Heavy, Stupid) than anything, and iLinux does too. Because of all of these bloatware that may fit this but not that. A separate build of iLinux that does not contain about of these useless preinstalled crap is recommended.

But anyway, Windows is still successful. Every OS has all the basic features, and lightweight OS usually remove some thing that may be not required for performance, that's normal. And if you don't like that, don't use it. Remember, not all OS are for the same purpose xd

#14. ClickNin 07 Apr 2022 06:10:42

But you are misunderstanding on the term of KISS. Keep it simple means only basic features that everybody need are here, and other useless features are not. If your opinion is that you prefer KIUS, then KISS does exactly that. Simple IS NOT crippled.

#15. root 07 Apr 2022 06:14:27

@ClickNin

As always you are out of topic.

iLinux is lightweight.

Having preinstalled Apps is irrelevant to CPU and RAM consumption.

#16. root 07 Apr 2022 06:18:00

@ClickNin

Read before you write.

Animal said "developers have turned KISS into KICS (Keep It Crippled Stupid)".

#17. ClickNin 07 Apr 2022 06:19:52

> *“ Having preinstalled Apps is irrelevant to CPU and RAM consumption. ”*

For me, it does. As a lot of preinstalled apps (listed in the site) does have background services, which you know, run in the background, that consume RAM/CPU too. Also the more apps installed, the system will requires more Disk IO task, the DE will also use additional resources to render the icons, and that will affect performance too.

#18. ClickNin 07 Apr 2022 06:21:20

> *“ Animal said "developers have turned KISS into KICS (Keep It Crippled Stupid)". ”*

Can you point me to a OS/DE/Program that does that? As I said, SIMPLE is not CRIPPLED.

#19. root 07 Apr 2022 06:56:59

@ClickNin

Which preinstalled Apps that are listed on the site (**https://ilinuxos.com/a-complete-computer-setup-with-500-free-applications-preinstalled.html**) have Background Services ACTIVE if they are not open?

> *“ Can you point me to a OS/DE/Program that does that? As I said, SIMPLE is not CRIPPLED. ”*

GNOME/Unity are crippled to death as Desktop OS's because they are designed for Mobile Devices (Tablets and Phones).

LXDE/Openbox and other lightweight DE's are crippled because they lack essential System Settings and/or essential functions.

Again, as others have said in this thread, usability should not be sacrificed in the name of "simplicity" because unusable is not even simple. It's unusable.

#20. Fotini 07 Apr 2022 07:09:26

@root

The problem with developers is that they usually develop OS's with a developer perspective and not with an End User perspective.

We've seen it multiple times in Linux distros.

As I've said before, has it ever occured to developers that people use Linux just to use their computer and not to learn how to use Linux?

Fotini added on 07 Apr 2022 07:11:10

Even macOS is getting crippled over time in the name of "simplicity".

#21. ClickNin 07 Apr 2022 07:45:58

> *“ LXDE/Openbox and other lightweight DE's are crippled because they lack essential System Settings and/or essential functions.* ”

They are "lightweight", as the word mean, there is practically no way to just make something work best and more lightweight just by heavily customize it. LXDE/Openbox are heavily crippled because they are NOT DESIGNED for production environment. They are designed for the servers, or computer that requires little to no GUI Interactions. LXDE are for very, very week computer which has limited hardware, so that's why.

> *“ GNOME/Unity are crippled to death as Desktop OS's because they are designed for Mobile Devices (Tablets and Phones).* ”

Unity is not, but GNOME is. If you think so, then tell iLinux Creator to remove that macOS-like dock from iLinuxOS.

And, everything is customized, just not in a friendly manner. Terminal is here, it's here to stay and allow you to do anything, so saying that they lack essential system settings is totally NOT CORRECT, but it may for who unfamilar in CLI environment, which make me wonder why they want to use these DE at all?

#22. ClickNin 07 Apr 2022 07:49:15

> *“ The problem with developers is that they usually develop OS's with a developer perspective and not with an End User perspective.* ”

It's not end user, Linux is NOT a commercial product, it's a kernel and depend entirely on community to develop software, are you dumb or what? Linux itself does not target anything. The beauty of Linux is that it's a community thing and not a commercial thing, so that mean there is no end user as it's a community thing, did you want Linux to become a commercial software or what?

#23. root 07 Apr 2022 07:58:51

@ClickNin

> *“ If you think so, then tell iLinux Creator to remove that macOS-like dock from iLinuxOS. ”*

As usually you don't make any sense.

Tell him yourself.

> *“ And, everything is customized, just not in a friendly manner. ”*

End of story.

Not friendly = Unusable for 99% of users

#24. Fotni 07 Apr 2022 08:01:09

This post was deleted by its owner

#25. Fotini 07 Apr 2022 08:02:07

@ClickNin

> *“ And, everything is customized, just not in a friendly manner. Terminal is here, it's here to stay and allow you to do anything, so saying that they lack essential system settings is totally NOT CORRECT, but it may for who unfamilar in CLI environment, which make me wonder why they want to use these DE at all? ”*

You are talking about the Terminal in a world that 97-98% of everyday computer users don't know what Terminal is, they don't care and they will never use it.

That's how far you are from the real world.

You live in your own "Linux wannabe bubble" and nothing else matters.

Well guess what, the most easy and usable interfaces in history of computing (Mac OS, iOS) don't involve the use of Terminal. And that's why I love iLinux. Because it brought that ease in linux too. You install it and start working immediately. BOOM! And that's why you hate it.

#26. ClickNin 07 Apr 2022 08:02:44

> *“ Not friendly = Unusable for 99% of users ”*

But you are weird, why someone want to use LXDE/Openbox when Xfce/Cimmanon exist? Both of them are very good and beginner friendly. Also please note that Linux is not a commercial product, and so that why people comes to Linux are always advised to learn the usage of Terminal first, to troubleshooting issues and tweak the system better.

#27. ClickNin 07 Apr 2022 08:04:18

> *“ You are talking about the Terminal in a world that 97-98% of everyday computer users don't know what Terminal is, they don't care and they will never use it. ”*

macOS/iOS are different OS you dumb. They are designed for different purposes.

ClickNin added on 07 Apr 2022 08:12:57

On Linux it's a different story.

#28. ClickNin 07 Apr 2022 08:04:40

You can't compare a commercial product to a community product.

#29. root 07 Apr 2022 08:18:13

@ClickNin

As far as USERS are concerned, Linux is a product so they compare it to other similar products.

As far as USERS are concerned, Linux is an OS so they compare it to other OS's.

Cinnamon is heavy compared to XFCE/MATE.

Some Linux distributions are commercially oriented/designed.

Terminal IS HOSTILE as far as USERS are concerned. Period.

USERS ARE NOT DEVELOPERS OR PROGRAMMERS. THEY ARE USERS.

You have it all messed up in your head.

#30. Fotini 07 Apr 2022 08:21:04

About the Terminal:

https://linuxdistrowatchers.com/linux_reviews_and_blog/files/c8431bd75bd64e2df503228c08dd9e80-70.php

#31. ClickNin 07 Apr 2022 08:29:03

> *“ https://linuxdistrowatchers.com/linux_reviews_and_blog/files/c8431bd75bd64e2df503228c08dd9e80-70.php ”*

For the first time ever, this is correct lol

Just a simple question, you want Linux to be commercial product?

> *“ As far as USERS are concerned, Linux is a product so they compare it to other similar products. ”*

Linux is a kernel, not a product. Linux itself is very useless.

> *“ As far as USERS are concerned, Linux is an OS so they compare it to other OS's. ”*

It's not a OS, it's a kernel.

> *“ Cinnamon is heavy compared to XFCE/MATE. ”*

Indeed, but for most of computer today it very lightweight. Even my 2009 laptop run fine with it (for basic task of course).

> *“ Terminal IS HOSTILE as far as USERS are concerned. Period. ”*

Don't use Linux, trust me, if you don't know how Terminal work, using Linux can get you in a lot of trouble. Stay in Windows or macOS.

> *“ USERS ARE NOT DEVELOPERS OR PROGRAMMERS. THEY ARE USERS. ”*

Like above.

People always advise that you need to atleast know how Terminal works, and to using it you don't need to code! It just a shell to run program. You are messed up between Terminal and Programming Language.

#32. ClickNin 07 Apr 2022 08:33:39

And here is why you shouldn't use Linux at all if you don't know how Terminal/Shell works.

Linux is so massive, it has a lot of functionally but that means more problems too. And if problem occurs, you might not be able to a GUI program to fix that. Since you can;t use GUI, the only

thing you can do to recover is using Terminal, if you don't know how to use it, you are so fucked up.

Kernel Panic, Kernel not found, disk IO error, memory freeze, permission error, filesystem error, and so much more. Linux is very stable if you know how to use it but yet it very easy to break too.

ClickNin added on 07 Apr 2022 08:40:20

Also if you want to install a program, you will probably need using Terminal for sure, although lot of program exist on GUI software store, a lot doesn't. Don't know how Terminal work can be a very risky as you copy command from Internet and don't know what it does, then it will wipe your entire disk drive LMAOO

#33. Agreeing Man

07 Apr 2022 10:48:39

Once again I agree with you **@ClickNin**.

When I was a Linux noob, with no programming experience, and no experience with Linux whatsoever, I enjoyed using Linux Mint.

It had a nice selection of wallpapers, a theme store inbuilt to the Settings app, and enjoyed the simplicity of the Terminal.

I found the Terminal "fun" as a Linux noobie. Why? Because the commands were (and still is) simple, short, and easy to remember.

SUDO for temporary root privileges (I thought it was "sudoku" as a noob, and ls for listing files, cat😸 for displaying text files without opening a text editor. I found it very fun. Of course I am not assuming everyone is like me, but I believe Linux GUIs should have more choices and options, but should be idiot-friendly and not be very dumbed down, or "crippled".

Unity wasn't crippled, GNOME isn't. GNOME is too simple and they aren't the most likable, but they are idiot friendly in a way or so.

KDE isn't idiot friendly, but they are usable. Xfce is not exactly idiot friendly, but it is more idiot friendly than KDE.

What should Linux DEs and distros should be doing is being following the "Lightweight, without compromising features and usability". MassOS GNU/Linux follows this philosophy. It comes with what the average user needs, and a GUI app store with additional software from Flathub. While my time using it I never had to use the Terminal, because there is a GUI. It is also very lightweight, because it doesn't have much background processes, while not compromising features. I understand distros have different visions and philosophies, like Fedora embraces newer technologies, Slackware uses older technologies (basically the opposite of Fedora), and Arch being a rolling-release distro with the newest software, and Debian with stability as it's #1 priority.

Whatever I have written here is my opinions and my point of view. Have a nice day.

#34. Fotini 07 Apr 2022 11:38:56

@ClickNin @Agreeing Man

As usual you are out of topic.

This thread is about usability.

#35. ClickNin 07 Apr 2022 12:06:42

> *“ This thread is about usability.* ”

Why **@root** talk about terminal and CLI stuff?

#36. Agreeing Man 07 Apr 2022 12:07:10

@Fotini

I may have gone out of topic but I still have shared my points on Linux desktop usability.

#37. root 07 Apr 2022 15:00:01

@ClickNin

I think you are schizophrenic.

You should seek medical treatment ASAP...

You talked about Terminal and CLI first, in this thread at 07 Apr 2022 07:45:58.

Remember?!

#38. Fotini 07 Apr 2022 15:52:21

@Agreeing Man

You are almost always out of topic...

#39. ClickNin 08 Apr 2022 05:01:41

> *“ I think you are schizophrenic.* ”

Imagine calling someone schizophrentic when they talk about something lmao, I ran out of word to describe you.

Fine then, your opinion is yours, my opinion is mine.

#40. Optimus Prime 08 Apr 2022 06:40:52

It's 2022. Computer Graphical User Interfaces (Desktop Environments) exist since the early '70s. Today Linux users have many to choose from. And there are people in this thread saying that you shouldn't use Linux if you don't know how Terminal/Shell works? This is just tragic... These people refuse to move forward and evolve. They don't see the big picture.

On the topic, iLinux interface is way beyond vanilla Mate and I think everyone (users and developers) should take a very good and serious look at it because it set a new standard. Sure, Mate was developed as a Gnome 2 continuation but users' needs evolve and so must computer interfaces. Mate developers are stuck and iLinux devs literally rolled out "Mate 2" (Mate on steroids as AxelF said). Sure, iLinux does not have custom panels like Mate but I don't care about custom panels as long as I can use my computer/OS effectively out of the box without any customization.

I have used many Linux distros and the overall usability factor of iLinux is above anything I have used so far. Even though I use iLinux on a daily basis I continue to test drive many Linux distros and I am disappointed to say that most of them are hostile to the End User. Even Ubuntu/Gnome is too simple and crippled it get's unfriendly. Computers are not smartphones and not for use only by tech nerds and command line gurus. Having to use the Terminal after installation to adjust your system is hostile to the End User. Searching for Linux help on the web you see that 80-90% of the answers/solutions invoke the use of Terminal. This is hostile to the End User. I don't want to use the hostile Terminal, I want to use my friendly Computer.

AxelF got it right on the thread title, usability above everything.... That's what counts for the End User.

I feel that iLinux's success can be narrowed down to this: iLinux is a complex OS but yet it seems dead easy and extremely friendly to the End User.

PS. Facing the arrogance, self-righteousness and "holier than thou" in most Linux forums/irc channels is hostile to the End User. I have to admit that this forum felt strange at first but the Admins don't block, kick or shut anyone out no matter what, despite the personal attacks, epic flame wars and thread hijacking. For me that's as friendly as it gets. For me that's the definition of a truly Open Community. I feel respected here. I feel I have a voice here and that my voice can be heard. And this for me is as important as OS usability.



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