

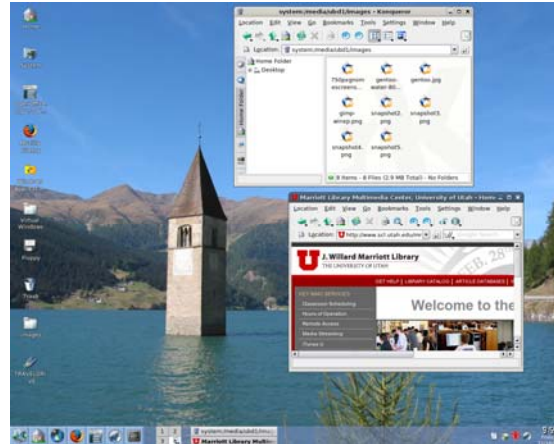
Available Software on Gentoo SCL Image

These are some of the software programs that are available on the Gentoo systems in the Marriott Library Student Computing Labs:

- Open Office-features programs similar to MS Office.
- The Gimp-Image editing software
- Firefox-web browser
- K3b-CD & DVD burning
- CrossOver Office
- VMWare-Virtual machines
- Amarak-Audio player
- MPlayer-Video player
- Kopete-Instant messaging
- There are also numerous games, graphics, multimedia, and utility software applications.



Screenshot of The Gimp software which is an image editing application similar to Photoshop.



For More Information

For additional information regarding the Gentoo operating system, visit their site at:

<http://www.gentoo.org/>

A good site that has basic training courses in Linux as well as links to other Linux sites is Linux Online!:

<http://www.linux.org/lessons/>

Another good site with basic Linux lessons is Lowfat Linux:

<http://lowfatlinux.com/>

Marriott Library Student Computing Labs

295S. 1500E. RM DOCK

Salt Lake City, Utah 84112-0860

University of Utah

Phone: 581-6494

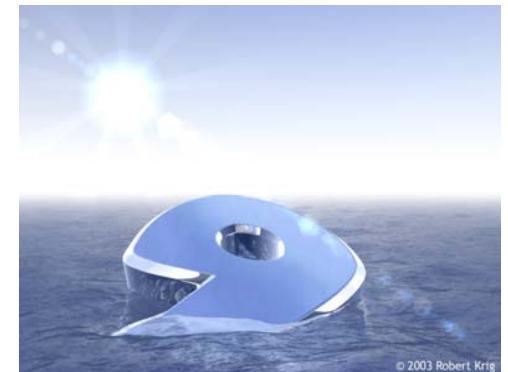
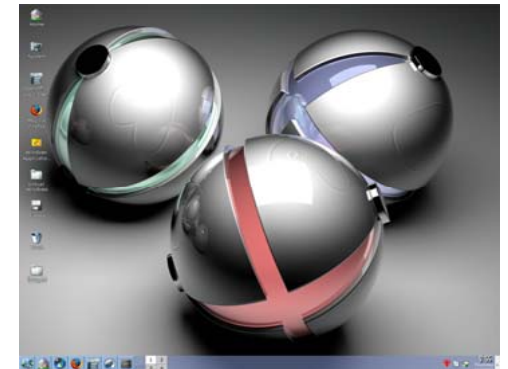
Email: suggest@scl.utah.edu



Using Linux

Marriott Library Student Computing Labs

Using Gentoo Linux



A beginner's guide to using Gentoo Linux in the Student Computing Labs

What is Linux?



Linux is an operating system for computers, much like Windows is for PCs and Mac OS X is for Macs. What began as a hobby by a student named Linus Torvalds and the GNU free software project has now become one of the more dominant server platforms in the computer industry. It is also used in many desktop computers, routers and mobile phones.

What makes Linux so different from other operating systems is that the software is free and part of what is an ongoing open source development. New features and software applications are continually being added along with upgrades, making the Linux operating system infinitely expandable and able to adapt quickly to trends in the computing industry.

Users new to Linux should have little problem adapting to the new surroundings. Just like most modern operating systems it has a graphical interface with files, folders, programs and documents. Users will find a wide array of software packages, utilities, games and more that

are available for their use., including the ability to customize your desktop in a variety of ways. Using programs like Crossover Office and VMWare, users can even run many Windows programs on the desktop or in an emulated Windows environment.



Distributions & Flavors

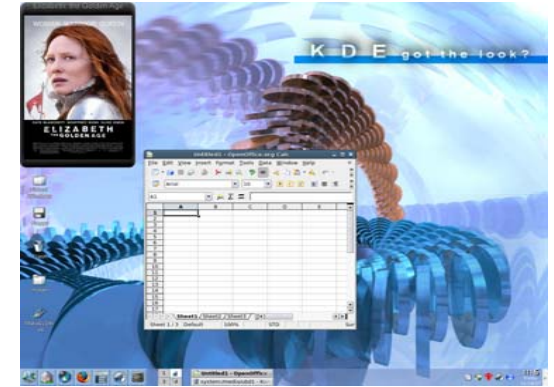
Unlike Windows or Mac OS X, Linux has a large number of what

are referred to as “flavors” or “distributions”. There are literally hundreds of different Linux distributions such as SuSE, Fedora, Slackware, Mandriva, Debian and more. There are also distributions based on others such as Ubuntu, SimplyMEPIS, PCLinuxOS, Xandros and Zenwalk that make them easier for the average user to install. Linux is a very customizable package system where you choose which software packages and features that you want for your system.

Linux should be thought of as a customizable system where you choose which software packages and features you want for your system. Each different flavor or distribution gives you a variety of items that you can choose to install. The Marriott Library Student Computing Labs has chosen the Gentoo Linux distribution because of its speed and extra configurability. For most home users we would recommend one of the easier to install distributions mentioned above.

Why Should You Use Linux?

One of the major advantages of using Linux is that you are fully in control of your computer. It has all of the features you would expect from an operating systems and many more that others don't have. An ex-



ample is the multiple desktop feature which allows you to switch between workspaces and work on multiple projects with ease. There are numerous software programs to assist you in doing everything from email and surfing the internet to advanced image editing and desktop publishing. Almost any program that is currently available in Windows has a Linux equivalent and most of them are free. Linux itself is free to download and install, with a wide variety of choices that you can customize. It is also free from viruses and spyware as it was specifically designed from the start with security as a top priority. So why should you use Linux? Because Linux gives you the choice of what to do with your computer.

