Installing an operating system

Manjaro is an open-source Linux distribution that is based on Arch Linux operating system.

Having that in mind, you get a rolling-release distro with almost up-to-date packages, keeping stability in mind.

Manjaro has a focus on user friendliness and accessibilty and it’s designed to work “straight out of the box” with a variety of pre-installed software. Manjaro also uses pacman as its package manager.

It’s one of the best Linux distributions for beginners that is not based on Ubuntu.

The first step is downloading the ISO file. Manjaro provides disk images for a range of Desktop Environments (DE). The most polished ones are XFCE and KDE. The ISO file can be found on their official website and the install process remains the same for all DEs.

After downloading the ISO, it needs to be burned to a USB flash drive, to avoid any hassle it is recommended to use a flash drive at least 4GB large. Burning it on an USB drive can be done in many programs.

Once the ISO is burned to the drive, we can boot into Manjaro’s live installation environment. After selecting the Manjaro drive, you are greeted with a menu. If you have a discrete graphics card, you should choose the proprietary drivers.

After that, everything is pretty simple, you select your timezone and keyboard layout.

Navigate to the ‘boot’ option and boot into Manjaro and you will be greeted with the Welcome screen.

Step 4 is the actual installation. Once you connect to the network, you can start the installation process by clicking the ‘launch installer’ button.

The next step is important, you need to chose how you want your partitions to be used.

You can ‘install alongside’, which is ideal for beginners, it shrinks space from a partition and installs it in the space. You can also replace a partition, erase disk or partition manually.

After all of this, you fill in the user data, username and passwords. You can set different passwords for normal use and for administrative tasks (root access), you can also enable auto-login at boot.

After partitioning, you’ll see a summary of all changes you will make, at that point no changes are physically done to the device, so if you made a mistake, you can go back. But once you clicked install, there is no going back. So be careful and check twice if you missed anything.

Once install is pressed, the installation process begins and it takes around 10 minutes.

When all of that is completed, you’re given the option to reboot, which you’re supposed to do.

After that you’re greeted by the lock screen, and you’re free to experiment and make Manjaro your own.