

Lab 1 Exploring Linux Distributions

Working with Distrowatch

Question 1

During class, we explored the concept of Linux distribution. During this lab, you will research some Linux distributions using a website called Distrowatch. DistroWatch is a website that provides news, popularity rankings, and other general information about various Linux distributions and other Unix-like operating systems such as OpenSolaris, MINIX and BSD.

Go to [Distrowatch](#). Explore the website to get familiar with the home page. On the top left corner, you have a form that allows you to submit queries to the website. In the **"Type Distribution Name"** box type **"Ubuntu"**. This will return details about Ubuntu. Explore the Ubuntu Distrowatch page and answer the following questions:

1. What is the OS Type:
 - **Linux**
2. Which major distro is it based on?
 - **Debian**
3. Which processor architecture does it support?
 - **armhf,ppc64el,riscv,s390x,x86_64**
4. Is the distribution active or is it discontinued?
 - **Active**
5. What is the distro's home page?
 - **<https://www.ubuntu.com/>**

Question 2

On the top left corner, click on "Random Distribution" and answer the following questions from the distro you got.

1. What is the name of the distribution and the OS Type:
 - **ArchLabs and Linux**
2. Which major distro is it based on?
 - **Arch**
3. Which processor architecture does it support?

- **x86_64**

4. Is the distribution active or is it discontinued?

- **Active**

5. What is the distro's home page?

- **<https://archlabslinux.com/>**

Question 3

On the top of the page, right in the middle, you will find an option that allows you to search for distributions. Click on **"Search"** and after the page loads, fill in the following information in the **"Search Distribution by Criteria"** section and Click on Submit Query.

- OS Type: Linux
- Architecture: x86_64
- Status: Active
- Leave the rest as default.

From the query results, choose any distribution and answer the following question about the distro you chose.

1. What is the name of the distribution?

- **MX Linux**

2. What is the country of Origin?

- **Greece**

3. What major distribution is it based on?

- **Debian(Stable),antiX**

4. What is the distribution category?

- **Desktop,From RAM,Live Medium,Raspberry Pi**

5. Which processor architecture, aside from the one in the original query, does the OS support?

- **i686**

Question 4

Now that you know how to use Distrowatch. Find a Linux distribution for the following scenarios. For each distribution provide the website, name, and supported architecture.

1. A Linux distribution used for Data Rescue/Data recovery

- Distro Name: **Kali Linux**
- Website: **<http://www.kali.org/>**
- Desktop Environment: **Enlightenment,GNOME,KDE Plasma,LXDE,MATE,Xfce**

2. A Linux distribution used for Education that supports the ix86 processor architecture.

- Distro Name: **NixOS**
- Website: **<http://nixos.org/>**
- Desktop Environment: **Awesome, Enlightenment, Fluxbox, GNOME, i3, IceWM, KDE Plasma, Ratpoison, Xfce**

3. A Linux distribution that supports the OEM installation method

- Distro Name: **Linux Mint**
- Website: **<https://linuxmint.com/>**
- Desktop Environment: **Cinnamon, MATE, Xfce**

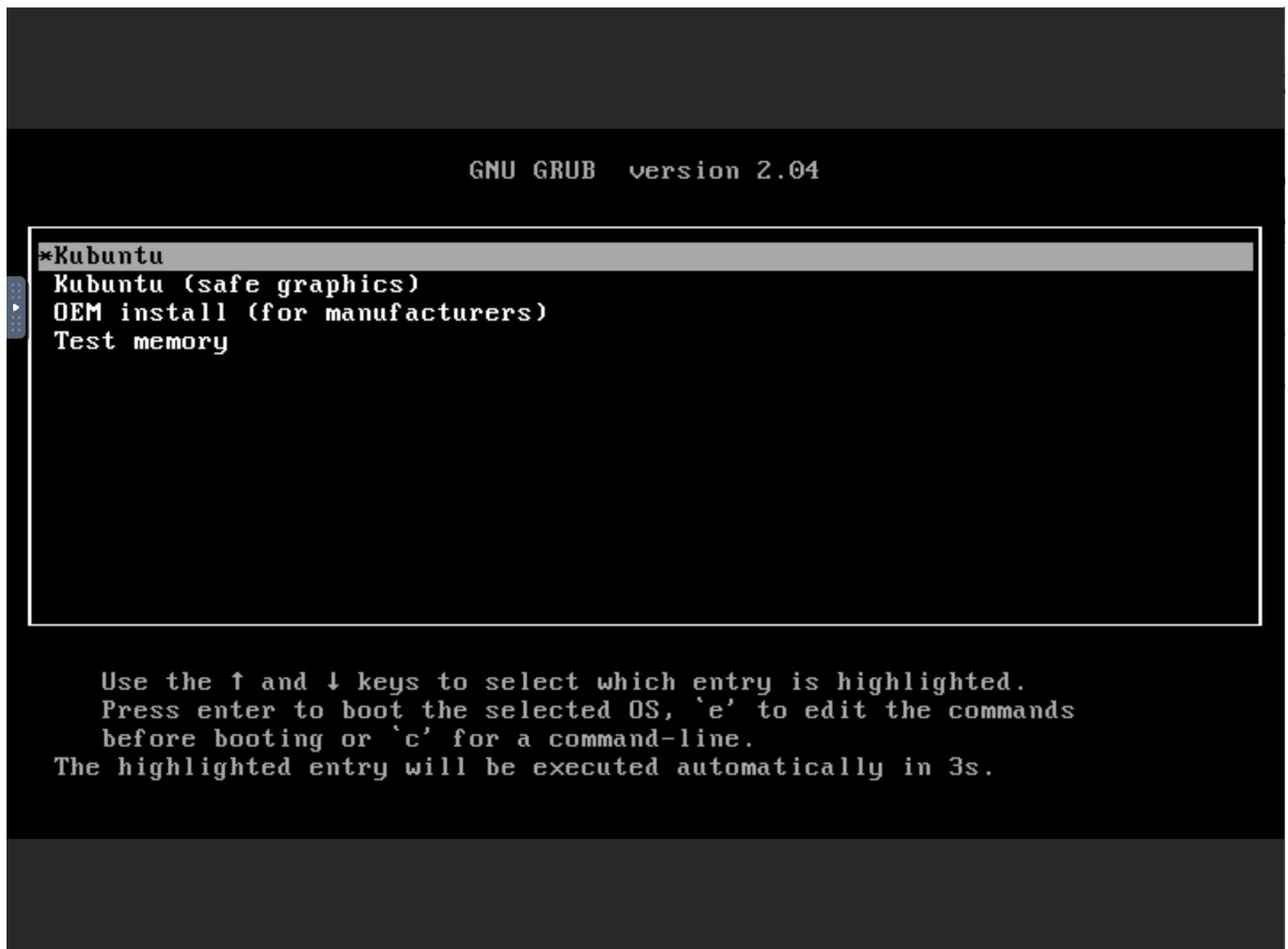
Question 5 (Extra credit 2 pts - Optional)

On the Distrowatch homepage in the menu located in the middle of the page, you will find an option called **“Submit Distribution”**. This option lists all the Linux distros that are pending evaluation, on development or that are experiencing some sort of legal constraint. Select one of these distributions and in a paragraph, share your thoughts. (keep it simple 5 to 8 sentences). **Type your paragraph here**

Working with DistroTest.net

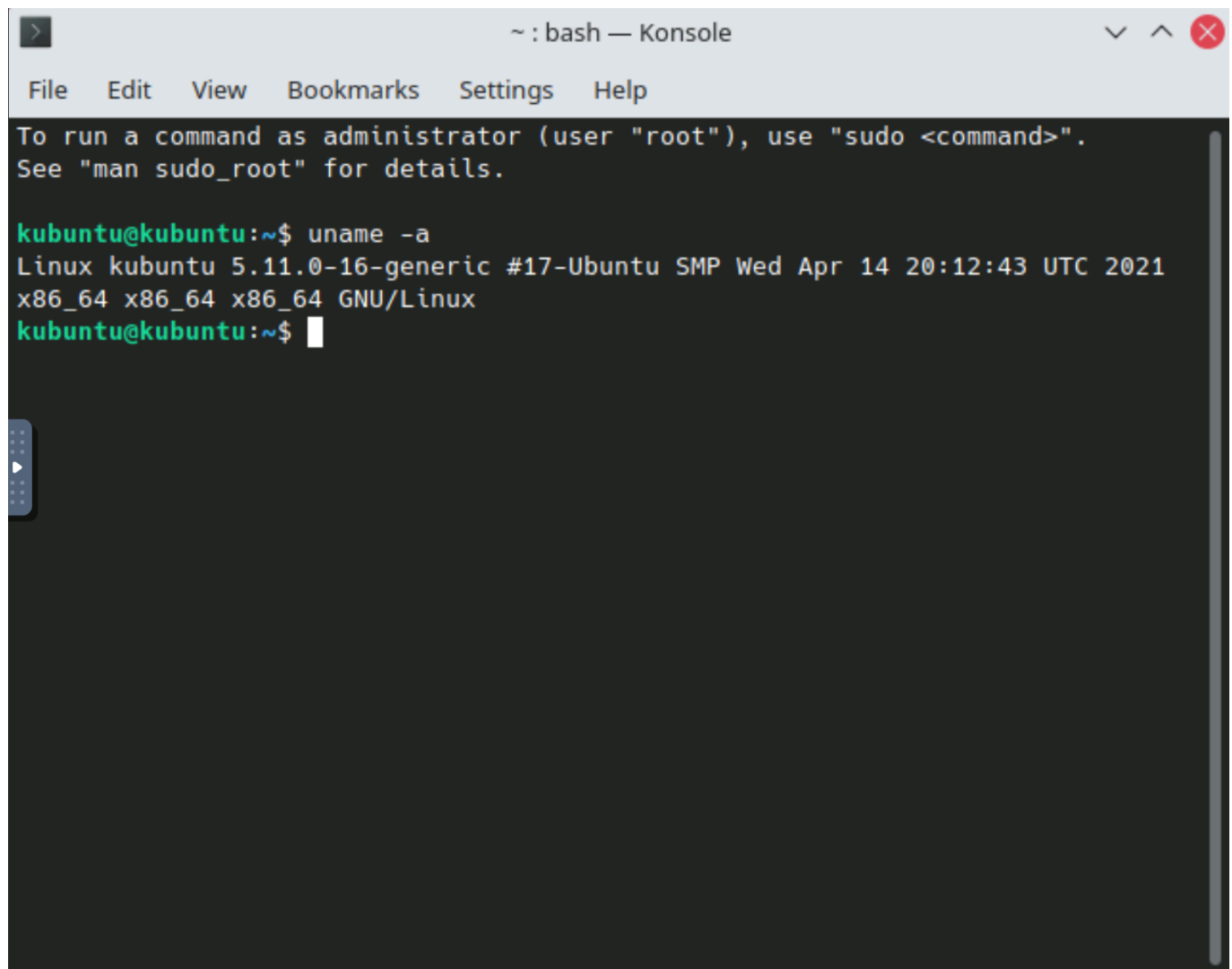
Question 6

DistroTest.net is a project that allows you to test Linux/BSD distributions on your web browser. This website is great for trying out distributions before you even download the ISO file. Go to [Distrotest.net](https://distrotest.net) and click on any of the distributions. Start the distribution and take a screenshot of the browser window that just popped up.



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Locate the terminal application in the distribution you started and type the following command: `uname -a`
Take a screenshot of the browser window showing the terminal application open.



```
> ~ : bash — Konsole
File Edit View Bookmarks Settings Help

To run a command as administrator (user "root"), use "sudo <command>".
See "man sudo_root" for details.

kubuntu@kubuntu:~$ uname -a
Linux kubuntu 5.11.0-16-generic #17-Ubuntu SMP Wed Apr 14 20:12:43 UTC 2021
x86_64 x86_64 x86_64 GNU/Linux
kubuntu@kubuntu:~$
```

Stop the machine and take a screenshot of the browser window showing that the machine has been stopped.

