# Damn Small Linux

*Not to be confused with [DSLinux](#), a different Linux distribution for the [Nintendo DS](#) [handheld game console](#).*

Damn Small Linux

Damn Small Linux 4.0

| | |
|---|---|
| **Developer** | John Andrews, *et al.* |
| **OS family** | Linux |
| **Working state** | Current |
| **Source model** | Open source |
| **Latest release** | 4.4.10 / November 18, 2008 |
| **Kernel type** | Monolithic kernel |
| **Default user interface** | JWM |
| **License** | Free software licenses (mainly GPL) |
| **Official website** | www.damnsmalllinux.org |

**Damn Small Linux** or **DSL** is a free operating system for the x86 family of personal computers. It was designed to run graphical applications on older PC hardware—for example, machines with 486/early Pentium processors and very little memory. DSL is a **Live CD** with a size of 50 MB. What originally started as an experiment to see how much software could fit in 50 MB eventually became a full-fledged Linux distribution. It can be installed on storage media with small capacities, like bootable business cards, USB flash drives, various memory cards, and Zip drives.

# History

[change | change source]

DSL was originally conceived and maintained by John Andrews. The community now includes Robert Shingledecker, who created the MyDSL system, DSL Control Panel, and other features.

DSL was originally based on Model-K, a 22 MB stripped-down version of Knoppix, but soon after was based on Knoppix proper, allowing much easier remastering and improvements.

# System requirements

[change | change source]

DSL supports only x86 PCs. The minimum system requirements are a 486 processor and 8 MB of RAM. DSL has been demonstrated browsing the web with Dillo, running simple games and playing music on systems with a 486

processor and 16 MB of RAM. The system requirements are higher for running [Mozilla Firefox](#) and optional add-ons such as the [OpenOffice.org office suite](#).

# Features

[[change](#) | [change source](#)]

The current version of DSL is 4.4.5, released [September 3](#), [2008](#). DSL currently includes the following software:

- [Text editors](#): Beaver, [Nano](#), [Vim](#)
- [File managers](#): DFM, emelFM
- Graphics: [MtPaint](#), [xzgv](#) (image viewer)
- [Multimedia](#): gphone, [XMMS](#) with [MPEG-1](#) and [VCD](#) support
- Office: [SIAG](#) ([spreadsheet](#) program), [Ted (word processor)](#) with [spell checker](#), [Xpdf](#) (viewer for [PDF](#) documents)
- Internet:
  - [Web browsers](#): [Dillo](#), [Firefox](#), Netrik
  - [Sylpheed](#) ([E-mail client](#))
  - [naim](#) ([AIM](#), [ICQ](#), and [IRC](#) client)
  - AxyFTP ([FTP](#) client), BetaFTPD (FTP server)
  - [Monkey (web server)](#)
  - [SMB](#) client
  - [Rdesktop](#) ([RDP](#) client), [VNC](#) viewer
- Others: [DHCP](#) client, [SSH](#)/[SCP](#) client and server; [PPP](#), [PPPoE](#), [ADSL](#) support; [FUSE](#), [NFS](#), [SSHFS](#) support; [UnionFS](#); generic/[Ghostscript](#) printing support; [PC card](#), [USB](#), [Wi-Fi](#) support; calculator, games, [system monitor](#); many [command-line](#) tools

DSL has built-in scripts to download and install [Advanced Packaging Tool](#) (APT). Once APT is enabled, the user can install packages from [Debian](#)'s 'Woody' [repository](#). Additionally, DSL hosts software ranging from large applications like [OpenOffice.org](#) and [GCC](#), to smaller ones such as [aMSN](#), by means of the "MyDSL" system, which allows convenient one-click download and installation of software. Files hosted on MyDSL are called "extensions". As of June 2008, the MyDSL servers were hosting over 900 applications, plugins, and other extensions.

# The MyDSL system

[[change](#) | [change source](#)]

MyDSL is handled and maintained mostly by Robert Shingledecker and hosted by many organizations, such as [ibiblio](#) and Belgium's BELNET. There are 2 areas of MyDSL - regular and "testing". The regular area contains extensions that have been proven stable enough for everyday use and is broken down into different areas such as "apps", "net", "system", and "uci" ("Universal Compressed ISO" - Extensions in .uci format are [mounted](#) as a separate [filesystem](#) to minimize RAM usage). The "testing" area is for newly

submitted extensions that theoretically work 'as advertised', but may have any number of bugs.

# Versions and ports

[change | change source]

Release history[1]

| Version | Date |
|---------|------|
| 1.0 | 2005-04-13 |
| 1.1 | 2005-05-05 |
| 1.2 | 2005-06-07 |
| 1.3 | 2005-07-14 |
| 1.4 | 2005-08-02 |
| 1.5 | 2005-09-06 |
| 2.0 | 2005-11-22 |
| 2.4 | 2006-05-16 |
| 3.0 | 2006-06-20 |
| 3.1 | 2006-11-29 |
| 3.2 | 2007-01-18 |
| 3.3 | 2007-04-03 |
| 3.4 | 2007-07-03 |
| 4.0 | 2007-10-23 |
| 4.1 | 2007-12-02 |
| 4.2 | 2007-12-18 |
| 4.3 | 2008-04-22 |
| 4.4 | 2008-06-09 |

The standard flavour of DSL is the Live CD. There are also other versions available.

# Live USB

[change | change source]

A Live USB of Damn Small Linux can be created manually or with UNetbootin.[2]

# Related pages

[change | change source]

- Mini Linux
- Feather Linux
- Puppy Linux

# References

[change | change source]

1. ↑ DistroWatch.com: Damn Small Linux
2. ↑ http://unetbootin.sourceforge.net/

# Other websites

[change | change source]

| |
|---|
| Wikimedia Commons has media related to ***Damn Small Linux***. |

- Damn Small Linux website
- USB DSL tutorial Archived 2007-01-27 at the Wayback Machine
- X-DSL - an Xbox port of Damn Small Linux Archived 2008-08-07 at the Wayback Machine
- Damn Small Linux at DistroWatch
- DistroWatch interview
- IBM developerWorks review
- OSNews review
- Tech Source From Bohol review

Retrieved from "https://simple.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Damn_Small_Linux&oldid=8786515"