LastOSLinux

User Manual

2024 v0.1

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# Mission Statement

LastOSLinux was developed during the 2nd half of 2024 with the goal of replacing Windows installations on hardware that wasn’t able to properly upgrade to Windows 11, although it also works well on modern hardware, its focus is being lighter on resources than some other distributions. it isn’t a light OS as it includes a lot of applications and games that many users would want to use. The main concept was to create an Application Management system that is able to work off locally stored and online repositories. Many of Linux’s tools will self update if installed using the default repositories, LastOSLinux Store only automates this task, the store is more than just Apps and Games, it also offers tweaks, themes and offers fixes you can optionally apply to your installations. The reason so many applications are included by default is to allow someone who might never have installed a PC to use it without knowing where to find them, what things are called or learning how to install from a store that shows everything (including libraries and runtimes) or how to install them from a terminal. You are still able to access all the advanced tools and methods, to adopt as your skills and needs develop. But think of a person who only wants to get on the internet, look at or edit photos, print a few things, watch videos, listen to music or play some basic games to fill in time.

Many of the Computers/Laptops that I salvage and refurbish are lower spec and would otherwise have been landfill, this shouldn’t be something anyone does with their old hardware, many places are very willing to accept your old things and share/sell them to someone who can’t go buy the latest Laptop, or even if it’s a broken laptop, others aren’t able to pay to upgrade their memory or fix a broken HDD when it fails, so a lot of what many consider rubbish is still able to provide benefits to others. So donate your old hardware to your local online center or drop them off at an op shop and they will make sure it gets to people who can use them.

I have spent over 25 years modding Windows operating systems and automating common tasks, as well as I do not like the way Windows is following Apple’s footsteps in trying to get people to subscribe to have convenience at the cost of freedom and choice. The best operating system for home users and beginners is one that isn’t an ultra light or locked fortress where every decision needs to be asked, every action requiring a password, it is simply a tool that gets the results without them needing to know how things work, or why they work. Many home users are the only people who will use their computer and having a login password and a lock screen is enough for them, especially as Google, Microsoft etc are all moving away from passwords and instead using two-factor authentication and alternatives. By relaxing the security enough that a basic user is able to use their computer without getting frustrated by it, they are more likely to keep using it in the future.  
  
Using the skills I gained and the knowledge of home users needs, I took the first steps into making a free and open alternative, as I’d not use Linux since 2012 I was happy to see how much more capable it had become, but none of them felt like using Windows 10, they just felt different and a little off. WINE was meant to fix this feeling by giving users the same applications running on Linux, but many of the things needed to get it working needed time and effort to sort out, instead of making any of that stuff optional, for the sake of about 200mb of HDD space, I have included them all by default, fonts, libraries, runtimes, all of it. The same with older Linux games, many of them were never updated to work with the newer Linux, so for the sake of another 300mb HDD space I’ve included all them too. Now your able to just run things, like you do on windows, and it’s all still a lot smaller than windows WinSxS folder that does a similar job. The mindset that linux should only include the things it needs to do the jobs one person need is one of the barriers that stop new users from becoming frustrated when they follow the instructions they find online that were written 9 years ago and they don’t work, by including all the things I do, they do work and while I was testing they work I made them available from LastOSLinux store.

# Installing LastOSLinux

The first step to installing LastOSLinux is making a bootable USB (or burn a DVD if you prefer), I have included the tools to make a USB in the OS, but you will not be able to use them until you have 1 PC installed with LastOSLinux, instead you will manually have to download Ventoy,

<https://www.ventoy.net/en/doc_linux_gui.html>

Once you have installed a USB with Ventoy you are able to copy the LastOSLinux\_amd64\_2024-xx-xx\_xxxx.iso file to the USB drive, that is all you need to do.

If you only have a Windows PC you can download and use Rufus to make a bootable USB:

<https://rufus.ie/downloads/>

Download the portable version, extract it and run Rufus.exe, pick the ISO, pick the USB and when asked to download syslinux, allow this to happen. It will take longer if your USB drive is slower, from about 7 minutes for a USB 3 HDD/SSD and up to 50 minutes on a USB 2 speed one.

Once you boot your USB you will need to decide if you want to erase everything on your PC or manually partition it to work with existing Data or even keeping your Windows installation. The main thing you need to know is you need to make a 600mb boot/efi drive (for best futureproofing) and if it’s not EFI then you will need to make a 100mb FAT32 partition and set thet to boot and grub.

I always recommend you make the main / (System) disk above 120 to 180GB and the rest of the space set aside for your data /home partition, although the system would be fine with 60GB, the more apps and games you install the more space you need, 120GB is where I found most people could get by. The data drive should be over 80GB but more is better.

If you have 2 Disks in the computer you are better to make 1 of them dedicated to the system disk and then set the 2nd HDD to be the data disk for your /home folders

The reason I recommend having data on a 2nd disk is to make sure if you need to reinstall or it fails, you’ll have your data safe on the other disk. But even a 2nd partition lets you reinstall without having to do duplicate backups or restore after the install.

Many people who are just starting out using Linux are recommended that you remove your Windows HDD/SSD/M.2 and replace it with another spare/new one for Linux, this is a very cautious approach and if you chose to do so then make sure to backup the data that’s on it first so that you can easily access it off a USB or online backup.

Once the Operating system is installed, on the first boot it will set up WINE and configure things to work as easily as possible, do not interrupt it while it does the automated tasks, it will leave a notification bell with one notification saying Install Completed when it’s ready to use, this is only to stop you skipping over the jobs and tools it provides you.

# LastOSLinux Settings

The settings app is a new addition to LastOSLinux, it is just a way to access the tools and settings most users need after a fresh installation, it also includes a way to run Linux Mint’s welcome screen if you want to follow through their first boot information. The Settings offer themes that will change ALL themes to Dark or all to light, it will include more options in the future, it just needs to be in place so the LastOS Updates will work as intended.

# LastOSLinux Store

The main part of all LastOS releases is having the ability to have an AIO location to access all the optional tools, apps, games and tweaks we recommend to improve your experience. The store is a catalog of Online and locally available files, it uses LLApp for the apps and LLGames for the games they can be in a folder which will not have to be extracted before it’s installed, making it faster if your using it on an older PC with a Magnetic HDD or a USB 2 source. They are only packaged into archives to make downloading them much quicker and easier, as they are kept in a single uncompressed .tar file (archived). The store also offers the ability to install ppApps and ppGames which are what LastOS uses in Windows for it’s Permanent Portable items (they are portable), not installed, but create shortcuts and keep settings in it’s own folder where possible, instead of integrating into the operating system. Windows also offers ssApps which do install like a system integrated app. These require SetupS (the tool used in LastXP, LastOS 7, 10 and 11), which is one of the tools installed on first login.

The Store can also be run as a Launcher to preview all of the installed LLGames and ppGames you have on the system. Able to start them running without needing to hunt them down. It offers a way to set the screen resolution (by holding shift or right clicking games) as well as the ability to press Ctrl + Alt + Break or Ctrl+Shift+F4 to quit ALL wine running games, reset the screen resolution back to your default desktop one and makes your system recoverable from a game freezing/crashing.

The store can be automated to install a saved preset using the command line arguments and it can include Manual scanned locations. It offers a settings screen in case you want to disable local or remote/online repositories and other options. By default almost all LLGames will install to ~/LLGames/ and LLApps will generally install to other folders but ~/LLApps/ is available to use.

# LLFile Editor

To make use of the store you need new apps and games, the way to make them is by using LLFile Editor, this tool’s main job is to make sure things stay standardized and can be used for all the features available in the Store. This tool is unable to edit ppApp/ppGames or ssApps, these can be edited with ssEditor, which is a Windows version of the tool, I left this tool included to keep the existing library of apps hosted at LastOS;

<https://repo.lastos.org/list_v3a.php?dir=repo&sort=date&order=desc>

Not all the apps will work on LastOSLinux, they are for actual Windows OS’s to use.

# Context Menus

One of the most powerful timesaving tools is the context menu (right mouse button), instead of navigating to the tools you need and then opening the files you want to work with, you simply right click the file/folder and use the context menu to process them directly, or open them.