MX-17 Users Manual

v. 20171101

Ctrl-F = Search this Manual

Ctrl+Home = Return to top

Table of Contents	
Section 1	Introduction
Section 2	Installation
Section 3	Configuration
Section 4	Basic Use
Section 5	Software Management
Section 6	Advanced Use
Section 7	Under the Hood
Section 8	Glossary

1 Introduction

1.1 About MX Linux

MX Linux is a cooperative venture between the antiX and former MEPIS communities, using the best tools and talents from each distro and including work and ideas originally created by Warren Woodford. It is a midweight OS designed to combine an elegant and efficient desktop with simple configuration, high stability, solid performance and medium-sized footprint.

Relying on the excellent upstream work by Linux and the open-source community, we deploy Xfce 4.12 as Desktop Environment on top of a Debian Stable base, drawing from the core antiX system. Ongoing backports and outside additions to our Repos serve to keep components current with developments.

The MX Dev Team is composed of a group of volunteers of various backgrounds, talents and interests. Details: About us.

Special thanks for strong ongoing support of this project go to the MX Linux Packagers; to video producers Dolphin_Oracle, richb and m_pav; to our great volunteers; and to all our Translators!

1.2 About this Manual

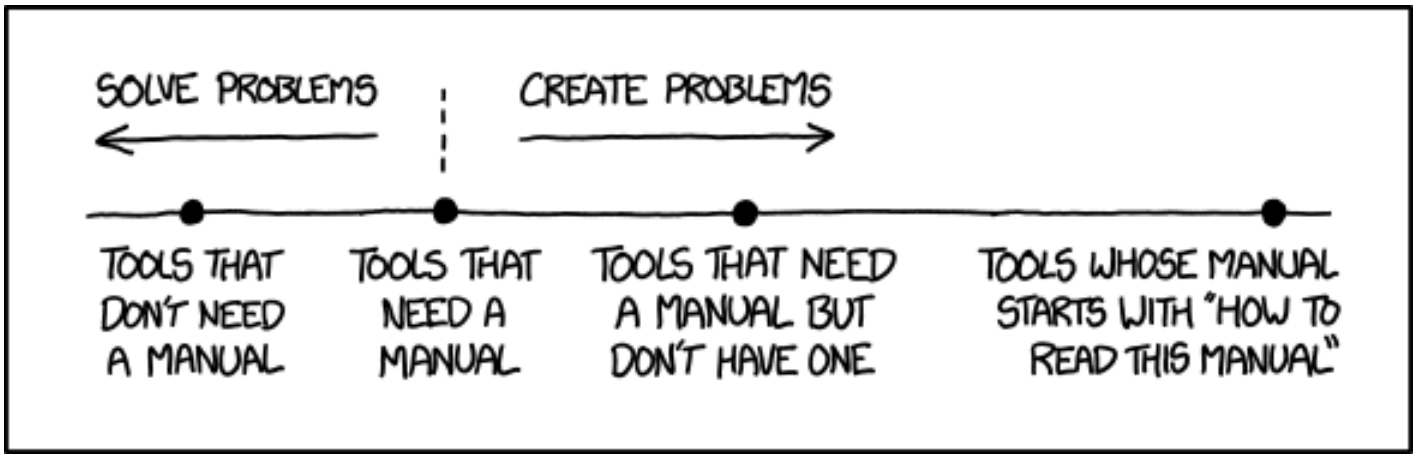

*Figure 1-1: The *need* for manuals (xkcd.com)*

This Users Manual is the product of large group of volunteers from the MX Linux community. As such, it will inevitably contain errors and omissions, although we have worked hard to minimize them. Please send us corrections or suggestions using one of the methods listed at the beginning. Updates will occur as needed.

The Manual is designed to walk new users through the steps of obtaining a copy of MX Linux, installing it, configuring it to work with one's own hardware, and putting it to daily use. It aims to provide a readable general introduction, and purposely gives preference to graphical tools

when available. For detailed or infrequent topics, the user should consult the Resources or post on the Forum.

New users may find some of the terms used in this Manual to be unfamiliar or confusing. We have tried to limit the use of difficult terms and concepts, but some are simply unavoidable. The **Glossary** located at the end of the document provides definitions and comments that will help in getting through difficult passages.

Feedback:

- Email: manual AT mxlinux DOT org
- Forum: MX Documentation and Videos

> **MX Linux Community Documentation Project. 2017. Users Manual for MX Linux.**

1.3 System requirements

For an MX Linux system installed on a hard drive, you would normally need the following components.

Minimum

- A CD/DVD drive (and BIOS capable of booting from that drive), or a live USB (and BIOS capable of booting from USB)
- A modern i486 Intel or AMD processor
- 512 MB of RAM memory
- 5 GB free hard drive space
- A SoundBlaster, AC97 or HDA-compatible sound card
- For use as a LiveUSB, 4 GB free.

Recommended

- A CD/DVD drive (and BIOS capable of booting from that drive), or a live USB (and BIOS capable of booting from USB)
- A modern i686 Intel or AMD processor
- 2 GB of RAM memory or more

- At least 10 GB free hard drive space
- A 3D-capable video card for 3D desktop support
- For use as a LiveUSB, 8 GB free if using persistence.

1.4 Support

What kind of support is available for MX Linux? The answer to this question depends on the type of support you mean:

- **User-based problems**. A raft of support mechanisms exists for MX Linux, from documents and videos to forums and search engines. See the Community Support page for details.
- **Hardware**. Hardware is supported in the kernel, where continuous development goes on. Very new hardware may not yet be supported, and very old hardware, though still supported, may no longer be sufficient for the demands of the desktop and applications.
- **Desktop**. Xfce4 is a mature desktop that remains under development. The version shipped with MX Linux is considered stable; important updates will be applied as they become available.
- **Applications**. Applications continue to be developed after the release of any version of MX Linux, meaning that the shipped versions will get older as time passes. This problem is addressed through a combination of sources: Debian (including Debian Stretch Backports), individual Developers including MX Devs, and the Community Packaging Team, which accepts users's upgrade requests as much as possible.
- **Security**. Security updates from Debian will cover MX Linux users well into the foreseeable future.

1.5 Bugs, issues and requests

Bugs are errors in a computer program or system that produce incorrect results or abnormal behavior. MX Linux defines "issues" as upstream bugs about which the Dev Team can do nothing. Finally, "requests" are additions requested by users, either as new applications or new features for existing applications. MX Linux deals with these in the following manner:

- All three of these are managed by means of the Tracker.
- Users should make a post in the Bugs and Request Forum, being careful to provide information about hardware, system, and error details

- Devs as well as Community members will respond to those posts with questions, suggestions, etc.
- If Devs conclude that a legitimate bug/issue/request is involved, they create a new entry in Tracker.
- Users can consult Tracker to monitor progress on their post

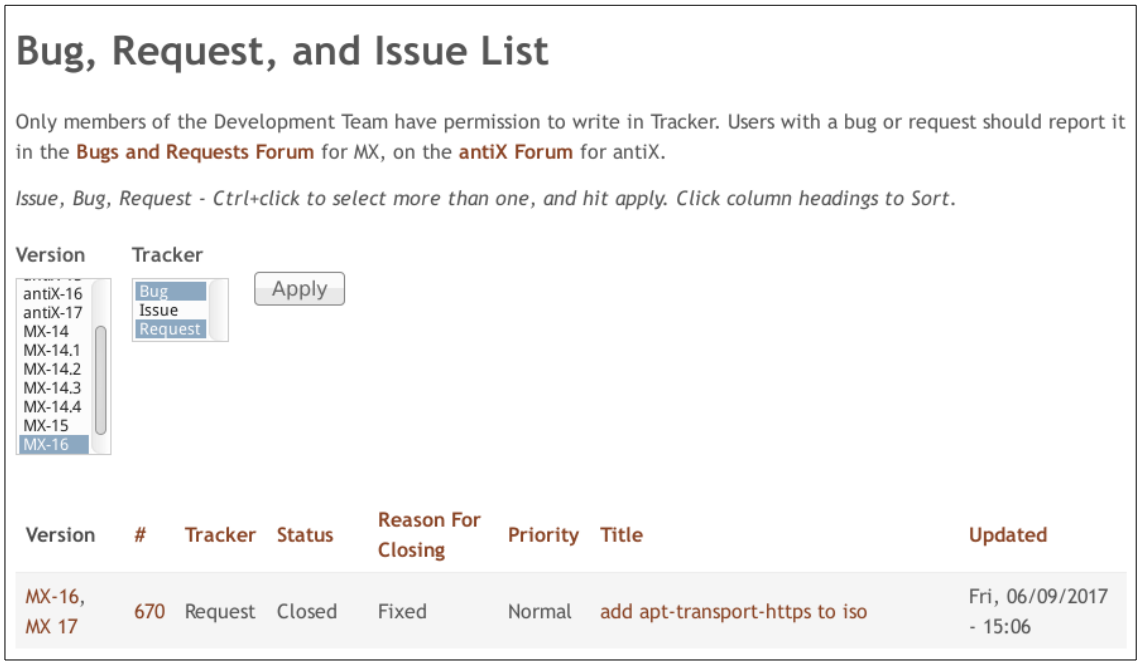

Figure 1-2: Tracker

1.6 Migration

Whenever possible, a migration path is provided with distribution upgrades (i.e., *apt-get dist-upgrade*) so that users can avoid reinstallation. Check the migration page for the current procedure.

The exception to this standard procedure arises when the Debian base changes. Debian Stable is a wonderful solid distribution that can be upgraded in place from version to version automatically as long as the Debian Stable repos are used exclusively. MX uses Debian Stable as a base, but updates a lot of the userland programs & libraries, and backports newer programs from testing by building them against the Stable base. That gives a better user experience but interferes with Debian's dist-upgrade path. Our current choice to stick with sysvinit instead of going to full systemd also interferes with that path.

So it's a trade-off: better desktop user experience at the expense of having to do a quick fresh install (which lets you save /home if desired) when the Debian base changes, typically every 2-3

years. This is the case now for the move from MX-16.x and MX-17, so no migration path is offered.

1.7 Systemd

Because the use of systemd as a system and service manager has been controversial, we want to be clear about its function in MX Linux. **Systemd is included by default but not enabled.** You can scan your MX system and discover files bearing systemd* names, but those simply provide a compatibility hook/entrypoint when needed.

MX Linux uses *systemd-shim*, which emulates the systemd functions that are required to run the helpers without actually using the init service. This means that SvsVinit remains the default init yet MX Linux can use Debian packages that have systemd dependencies such as CUPS. This approach also allows the user to retain the ability to choose his/her preferred init. A basic method of enabling systemd in MX Linux is provided in the MX/antiX Wiki, though no official support will be provided for users who choose to run MX Linux using systemd.