

# Lab 1 Exploring Linux Distributions

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## Requirements:

- **You will use Github to submit this Lab. Watch the 'What is Git and Github?' video before your start**
- Create a Github account before your start this lab.
- Bold your answers (*2 points*)
- Format your screenshots accordingly (not too big, not too small). If I can't read it, I cannot grade it.
- Video: <https://youtu.be/8Sa52S527Qc>

## Working with Distrowatch

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### 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, i686, powerpc, ppc64el, 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:

- **PakOS, Linux**

2. Which major distro is it based on?

- **Debian**

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://sourceforge.net/projects/pakos/>**

### 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?

- **Ubuntu**

2. What is the country of Origin?

- **Isle of Man**

3. What major distribution is it based on?

- **Debian**

4. What is the distribution category?

- **Beginners, Desktop, Server, Live Medium**

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

- **amd64, arm64**

## 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)

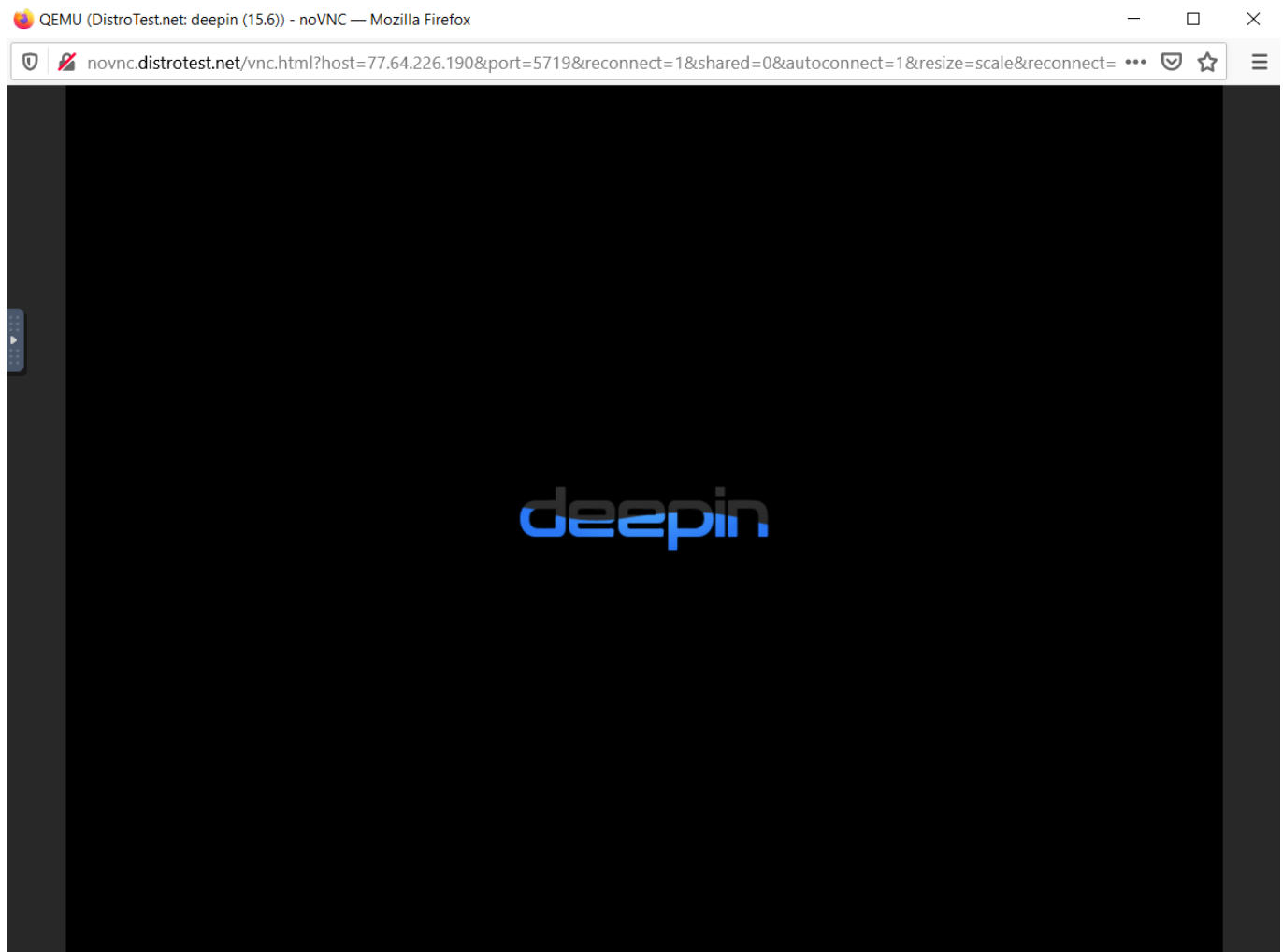
On the Distrowatch homepage in the menu located in the middle of the page, you will find an option called **"Submit Distribution"**. This option lists all the Linux distros that are pending evaluation, on development or that are experiencing some sort of legal constraint. Select one of these distributions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

**I select instantOS distro because it looks pretty nice to me. As I read the homepage, InstantOS is a new distribution which is currently in its creation beta stage. It's Arch-linux based. From WiFi to volume and brightness, theme and notification management, it seems quit easy for user. A graphical configuration menu offers accessibility for anyone, just like a laptop environment. The use of RAM is around 150-160Mb so it is lightweight. Overall, with this distribution, I am impressed and will be sure to keep an eye on its progress.**

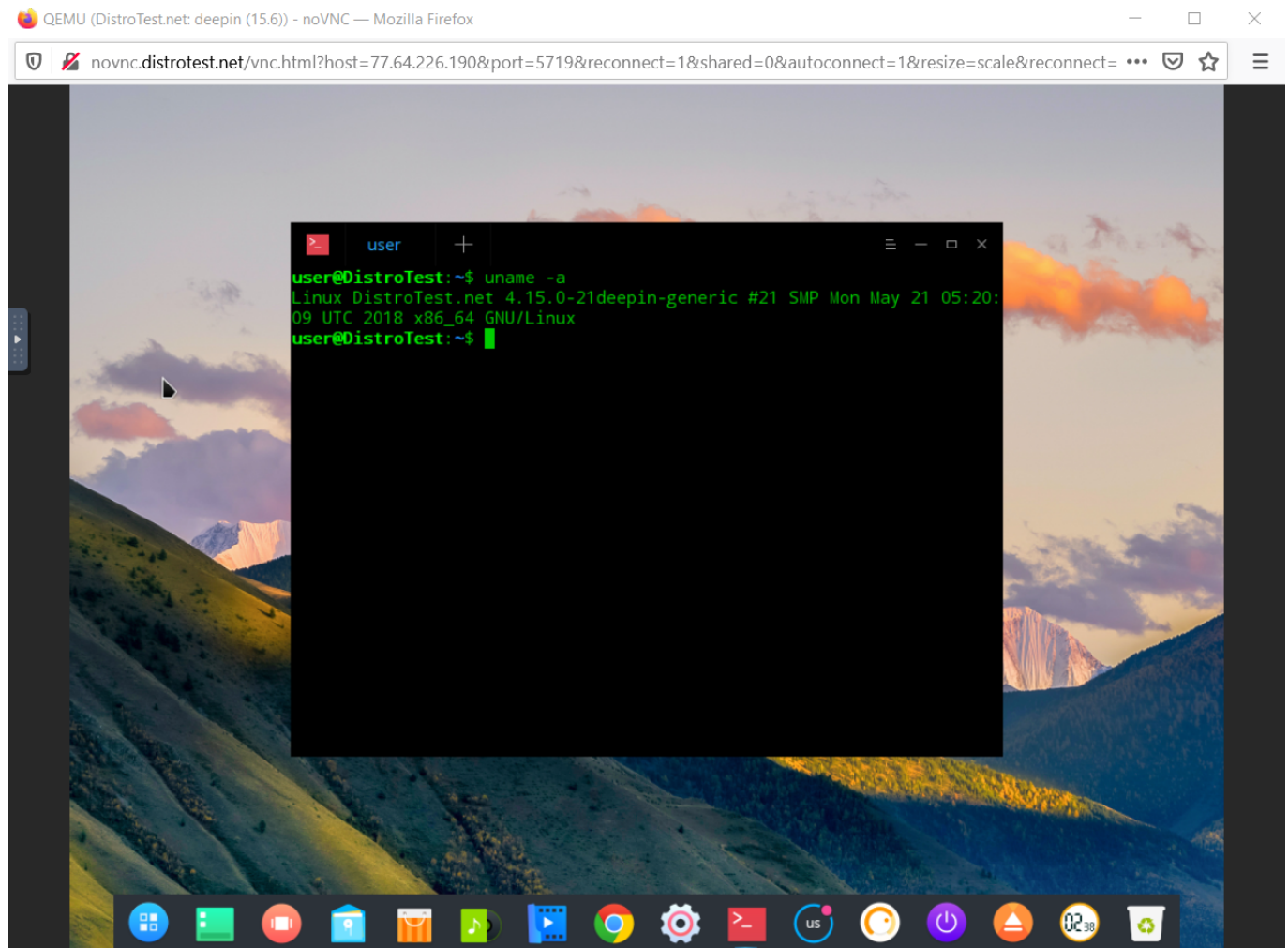
## Working with DistroTest.net

### 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.



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.



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

