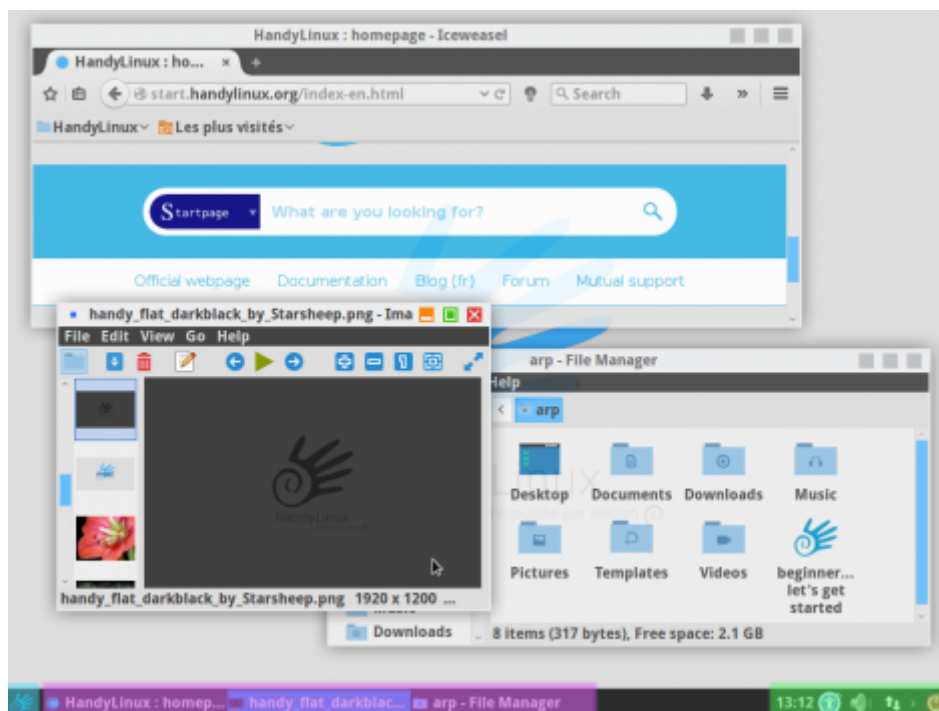# Getting Started with HandyLinux

If you come from Windows, adaptation to HandyLinux should be quick :) HandyLinux has a menu at the bottom left, a tray at the bottom right and the list of active windows displayed in the center of the bar information at the bottom of the screen.
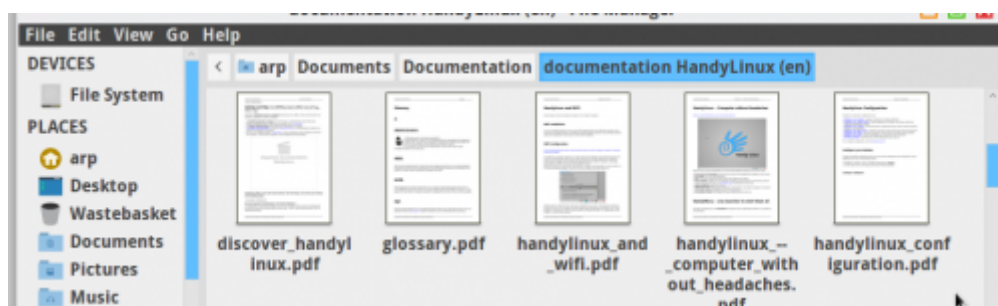

The main applications are similar to those used in Windows (LibreOffice, VLC, Iceweasel/Firefox, Icedove/Thunderbird …) but the solutions proposed by the community are free and safe :) .

Then let's go to take control of HandyLinux in 10 minutes …

In other words, a *QuickStart*, a "I want to use it now" :D

HandyLinux integrates most of its documentation in pdf format : you can find it in your "Documents" folder after installation.
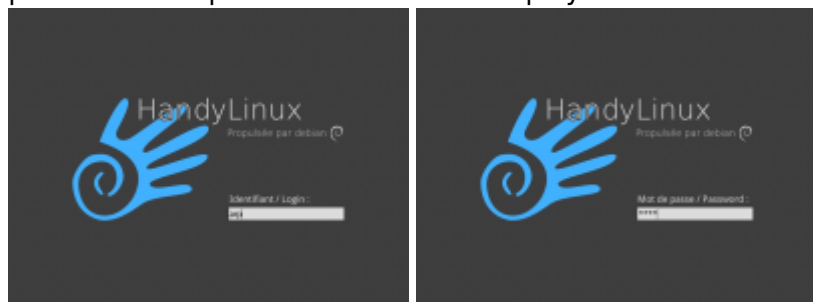
Start your new system

Since HandyLinux-2.3, Slim login manager is replaced by LightDM

After installing HandyLinux (thank you), the machine reboots and the screen begins to fill with text, all goes well, the "graphical server" (the thing that displays the images) is not active yet. The login screen is displayed.
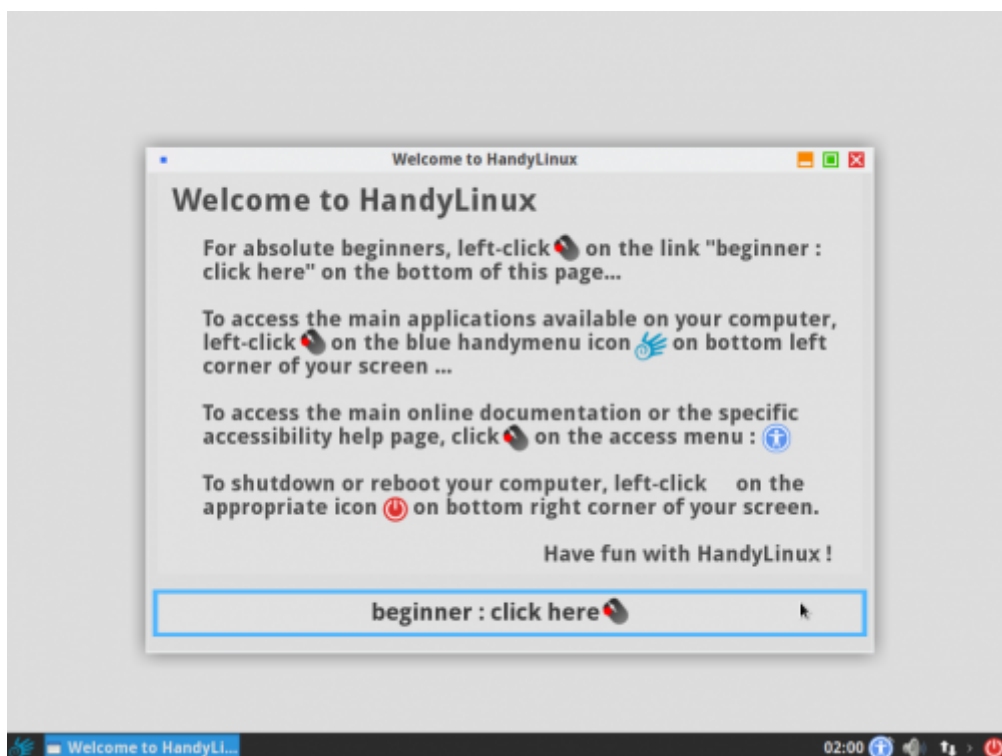
The login screen

The system prompts you for your username (the one you specified during installation) and your password. The password will not be displayed for more security.
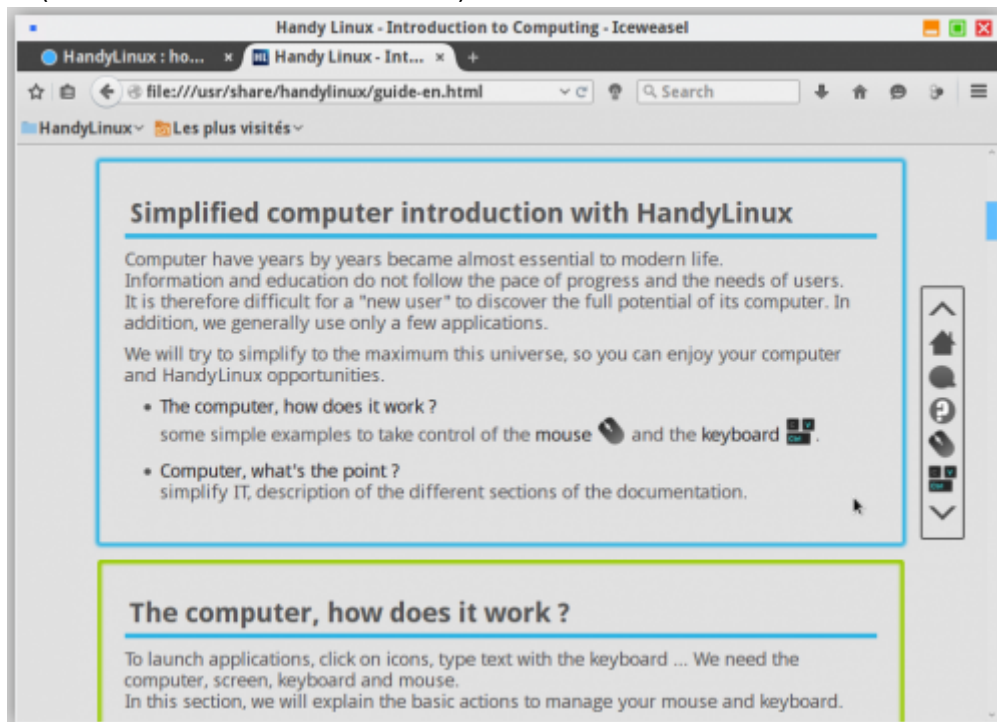
You can configure an automatic log in in next section.

The welcome screen

Once authenticated, your desktop appears and the welcome window is displayed.

- **If you are beginner**, take 10 seconds to read it because it lists the main tools of HandyLinux.
- **If you are an absolute beginner**, click on the "beginner : click here" button at the bottom of the window by pressing the left mouse button. Your browser will open an initiation page from your system (no Internet connection needed). Give it a few seconds on the first launch :) .
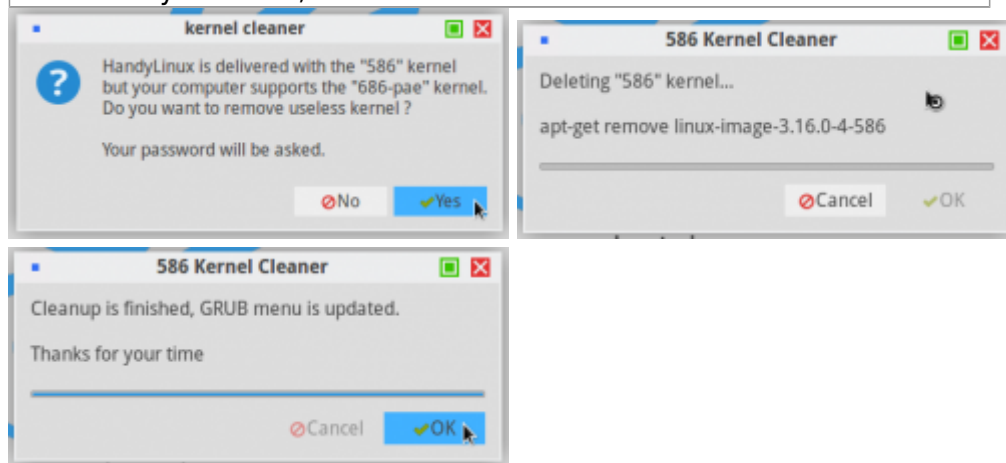
Post-installation

Depending on your computer, one or two steps follows the welcome screen: kernel-cleaner and system update.

HandyLinux includes two "cores" in order to work on many machines. If you are installing on an older PC, you will go directly to the update step. If your machine allows it, the more recent kernel was installed. A window asking you to clean up unnecessary kernel is displayed before proceeding to the update.
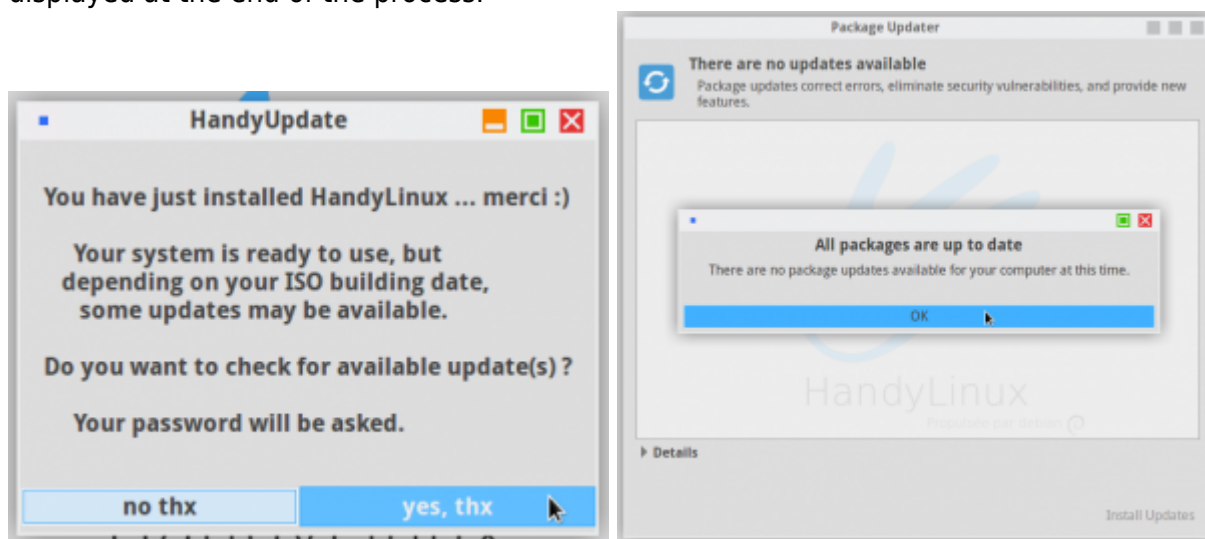
Note that an active internet connection is required to update the system.

- kernel-cleaner on recent computers
  Since HandyLinux-2.2, kernel selection is made without user intervention.

- system update and upgrade : an active internet connexion is needed. A message will be displayed at the end of the process.

Take control of your environment

The first thing to do is the initial setup of your new environment.
The heart of HandyLinux is the **HandyMenu**. It is available by clicking the icon on the bottom left

corner of your screen.   It gives you access to the main applications installed on your machine. These applications are organized by theme to facilitate searching.

To find out more about the HandyMenu, visit this page.

Connect to wireless network

If your wireless network is recognized in a test case (using Live DVD/USB), you will be able to use it after installation. However, you must configure an active connection. A notification will appear in the upper right corner to warn you about available network(s).
You will find all the details of the simplified process in this documentation.

Find your email account online

- If you have a **online email account** at yahoo.com or gmail.com, you can access it directly from your internet browser Iceweasel which is the unbranded version of Mozilla Firefox™. **Iceweasel** starts from the **HandyMenu**, "Internet" section (the first that appears), button "Surf the Internet". You can enter the address of your email provider (for example: openmailbox.org, yahoo.com, gmail.com …) in the address bar and start by pressing [Enter].
All details about **Iceweasel** and its functionalities are on this page.

- If you use a **desktop email client**, HandyLinux contains **Icedove**, the unbranded Thunderbird. You can find it in the "Internet" section of HandyMenu, button "Read and Write Emails".
All the details can be found in the dedicated section of the "internet" documentation.

Find your downloaded files

Browse your files and consult your data, it is the job of **Thunar**: your file manager. The Handymenu "Files" tab brings the usual shortcuts to your documents, your music, your photos and a link to appropriate support.
A button is specially dedicated to your "Downloads" folder that receives default data from your internet browser.
A Simplified sorting tool is also available in your "Downloads" folder.

Retrieve data from a USB key or external drive

Still a work for Thunar which will mount and open automatically any device inserted during a work session. Navigate to the desired data, then drag and drop to where you want in your user folder.

If you do not know what a "drag and drop" is, do not hesitate to visit our initiation page.

Import photos from your digital camera

If your machine has an SD Card reader, the small piece of plastic that fits into the camera, simply insert it. **Thunar**, your file manager, appears and show the content of the SD card. Just open it with **Ristretto**
All information in the dedicated page.

Display your favorite wallpaper

HandyLinux comes with some wallpapers, but you might want to change. It is the configuration tool integrated with your **XFCE** desktop that supporte it. You can even set a fixed wallpaper or randomly display your favorites pictures.
All informations in the dedicated page.

login screen & numlock

To connect without a password, HandyLinux incorporates a simplified tool, **ldmConf**. You can also personalize the login screen apperance (background, colors, font…).
All the details in the dedicated page.

> Before version 2.3 , that was handled by **slimconf**.

You are ready

Visit now the main categories of this documentation to take advantage of all integrated applications. Then you can manage your system To add your favorite applications and build your working and relax personalized environment.

The forum (fr) is also there to help you tame your environment, do not hesitate to ask questions or make your proposals.

> **HandyLinux is a french distribution, but feel free to ask in your native language, we'll make our best to answer ;)**

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