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Course: Operating Systems and System programming

Date: 16 / 08 / 2017 e.c

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Introduction

OpenIndiana is a free and open-source illumos distribution compatible with SPARC and x86-64 based computers. The project began in 2010, forked from OpenSolaris after OpenSolaris was discontinued by Oracle Corporation, and is hence inherented from UNIX System V Release 4.

Created by a development team led by Alasdair Lumsden, the OpenIndiana project is now stewarded by the illumos Foundation, which develops and maintains the illumos operating system. The project aims to make OpenIndiana "the *de facto* OpenSolaris distribution installed on production servers where security and bug fixes are provided free of charge." with the focus of stability, performance and advanced features.

OpenIndiana takes its name from Project Indiana, the internal codename for OpenSolaris at Sun Microsystems before Oracle's acquisition of Sun in 2010.

Objectives

The primary objectives of OpenIndiana include:

- To provide a stable and secure operating system for both server and desktop use.
- To support a wide range of hardware and software applications.
- To foster a community-driven development model that encourages contributions from users and developers.
- To maintain compatibility with existing Solaris applications while introducing modern features.

Requirements

i. Hardware

- **Processor**: x86-64 compatible CPU (Intel or AMD)

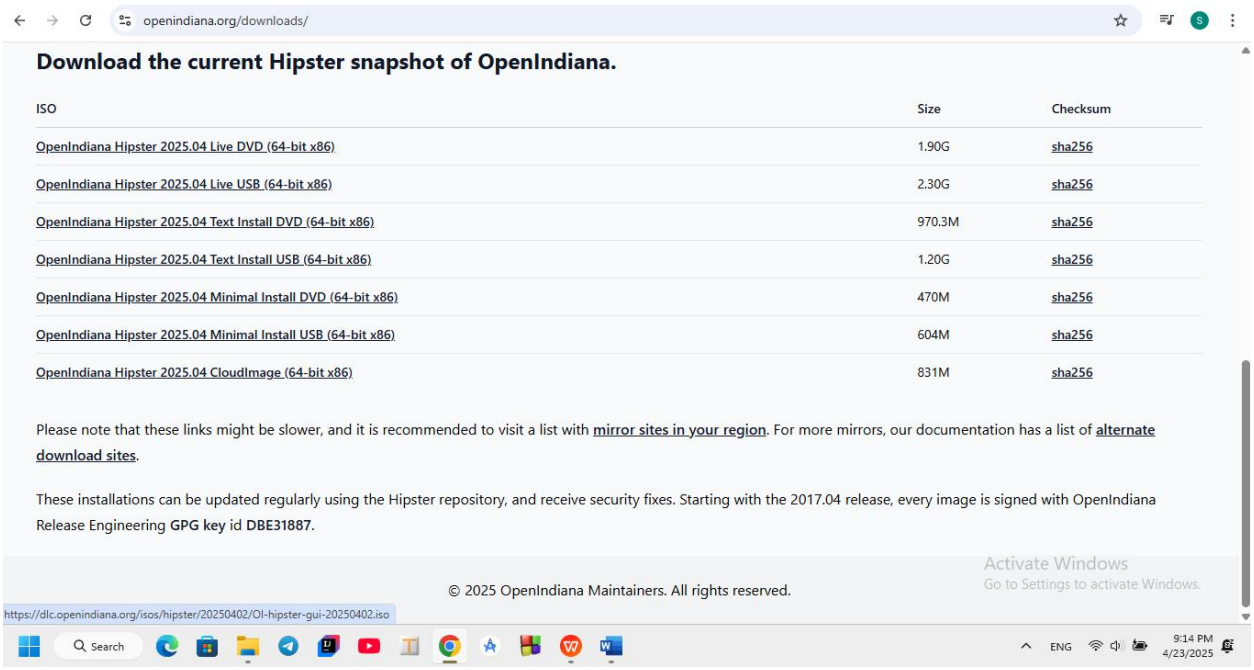
- **RAM**: Minimum 2 GB (4 GB or more recommended)
- **Storage**: At least 20 GB of free disk space
- **Network**: Ethernet or Wi-Fi adapter for internet connectivity

ii. Software

- **Bootable Media**: USB drive or DVD for installation
- **Operating System**: OpenIndiana ISO image (latest version)
- **Optional**: Virtualization software (e.g., VirtualBox) for testing in a virtual environment

Installation Steps

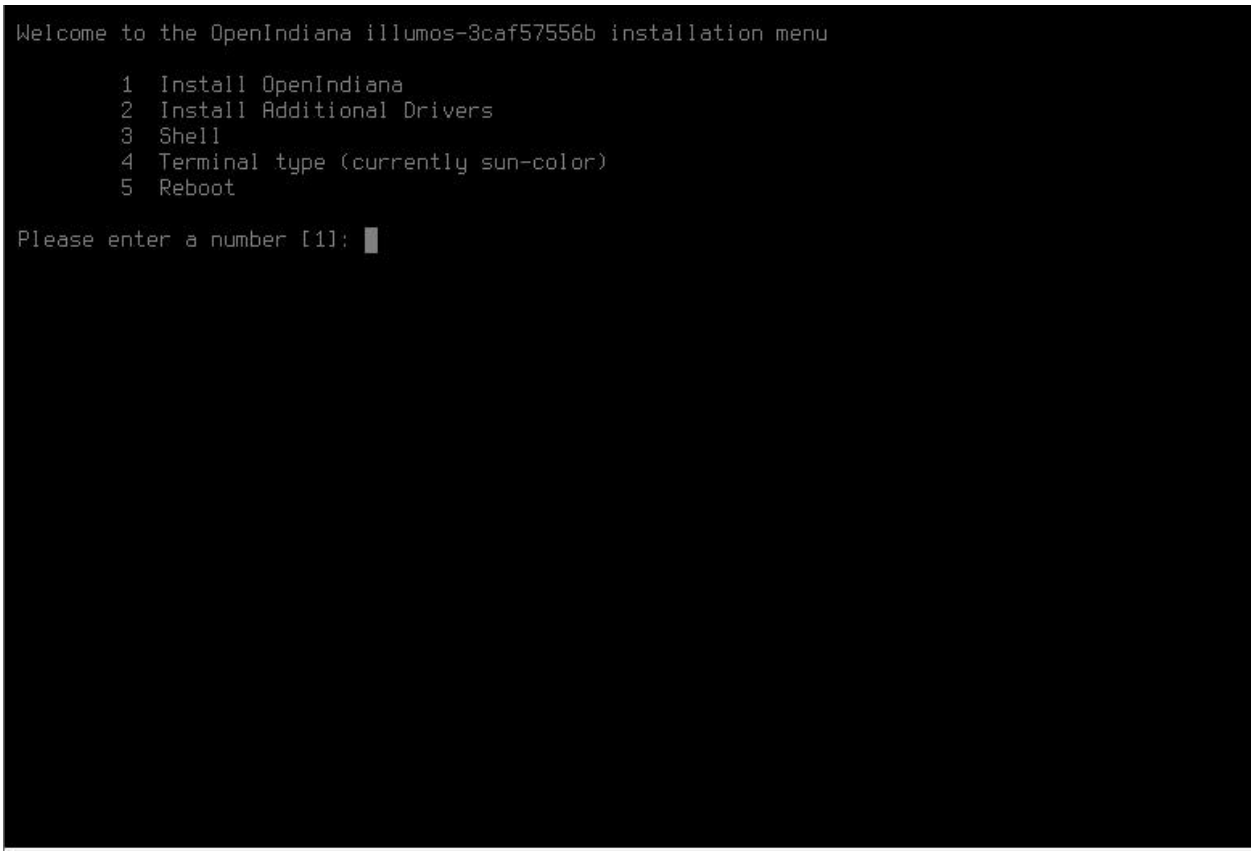
1.Download the OpenIndiana ISO: Visit the official OpenIndiana website(https://www.openindiana.org/) and download the latest ISO image.



Choose the first .DVD file since it is ISO file and not require burn

2.Boot from the Media: Insert the bootable USB or DVD into the target machine and restart. Access the BIOS/UEFI settings to set the boot order if necessary.

3.Select Installation Option: Choose the "Install OpenIndiana" option from the boot menu.



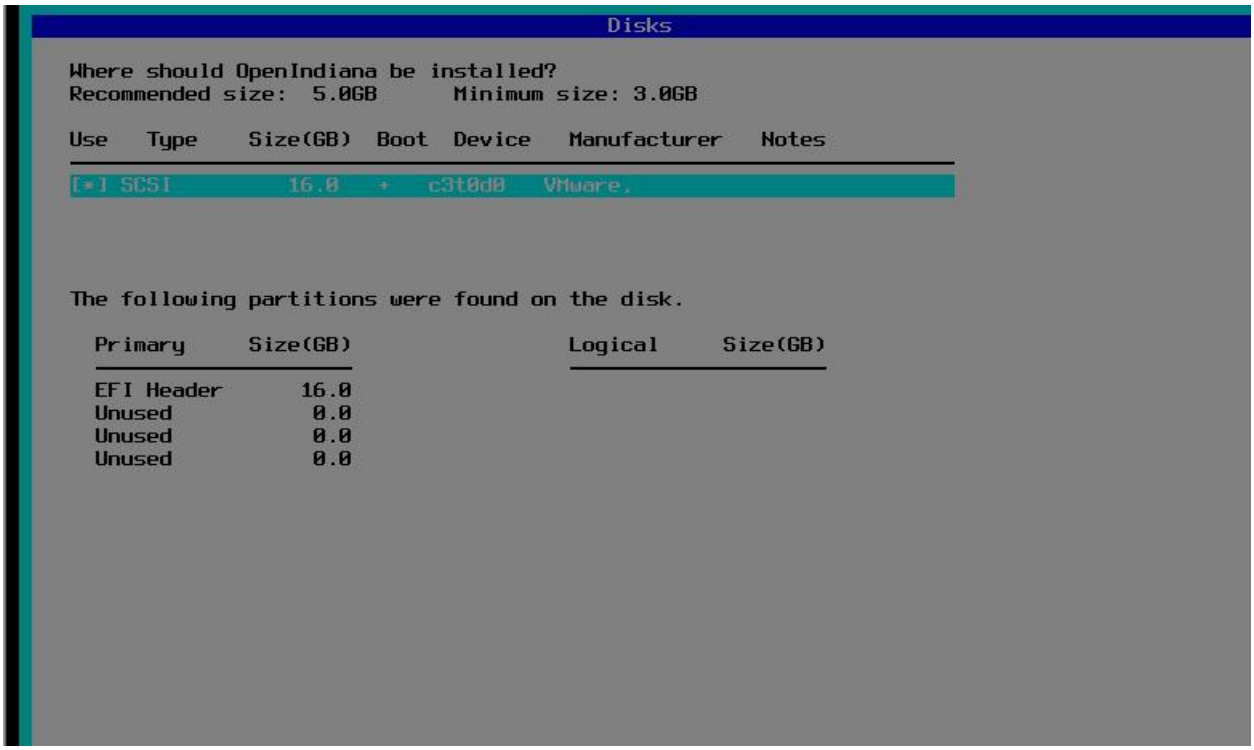
4.Follow Installation Prompts: Proceed through the installation wizard, selecting your language, keyboard layout, and disk partitioning options.

```
Loading /platform/i86pc/amd64/boot_archive.hash...
Booting...
OpenIndiana Hipster 2024.10 Version illumos-3caf57556b 64-bit
Booting to milestone "milestone/single-user:default".
Loading NVIDIA Kernel Mode Setting Driver for UNIX platforms  470.256.02  Thu May  2 14:30:39 UTC
2024
Hostname: openindiana
Remounting root read/write
Configuring devices.
Probing for device nodes ...
Preparing live image for use
Done mounting Live image

 1. Arabic                      12. Hungarian
 2. Catalan                     13. Indonesian
 3. Chinese - Simplified        14. Italian
 4. Chinese - Traditional       15. Japanese
 5. Czech                       16. Korean
 6. Dutch                       17. Polish
 7. English                     18. Portuguese - Brazil
 8. French                      19. Russian
 9. German                      20. Slovak
10. Greek                       21. Spanish
11. Hebrew                      22. Swedish
To select the language you wish to use, enter a number [default is 7]: 7
User selected: English
Configuring devices.
Requesting System Maintenance Mode
SINGLE USER MODE

Enter user name for system maintenance (control-d to bypass): solomon
Enter solomon password (control-d to bypass):
```

Choose language

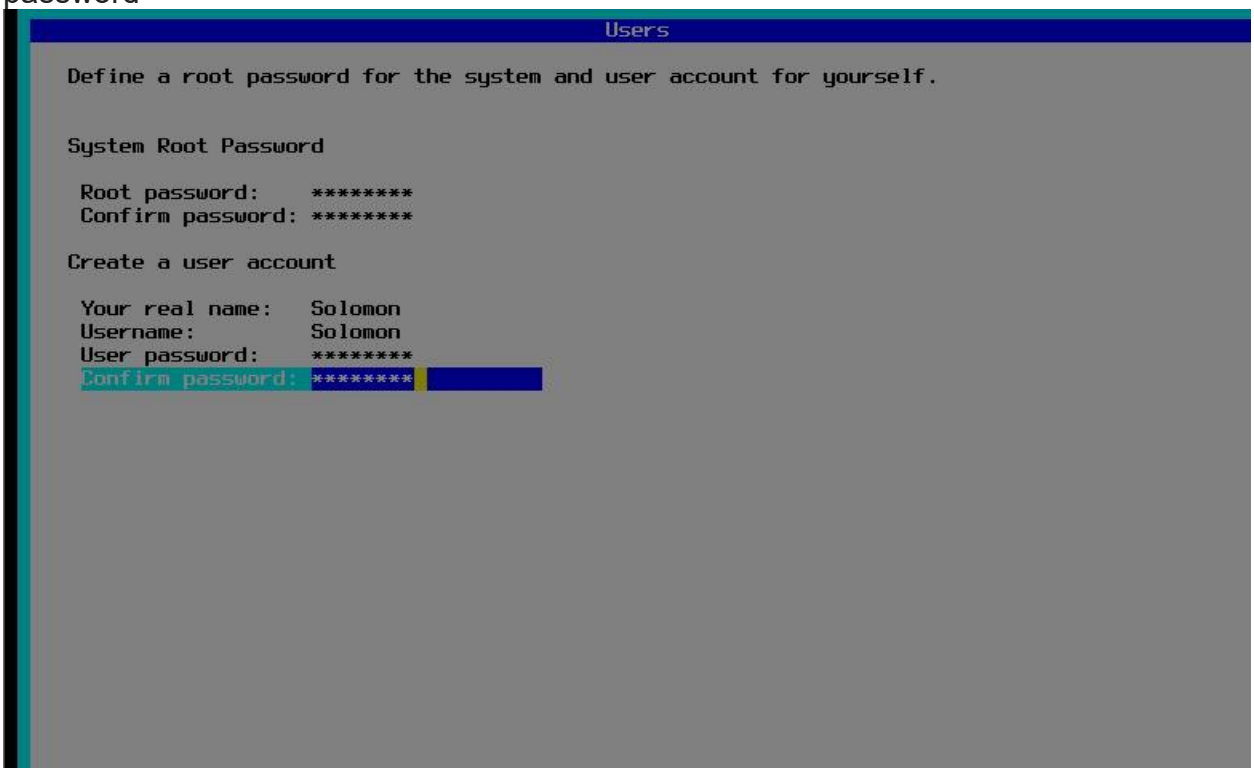
```
                    Welcome to OpenIndiana

Thanks for choosing to install OpenIndiana! This installer enables you to install the
OpenIndiana Operating System (OS) on SPARC or x86 systems.

The installation log will be at /tmp/install_log.

How to navigate through this installer:
- Use the function keys listed at the bottom of each screen to move from screen to screen
  and to perform other operations.
- Use the up/down arrow keys to change the selection or to move between input fields.
- If your keyboard does not have function keys, or they do not respond, press ESC; the
  legend at the bottom of the screen will change to show the ESC keys for navigation and
  other functions.
```

Welcome page

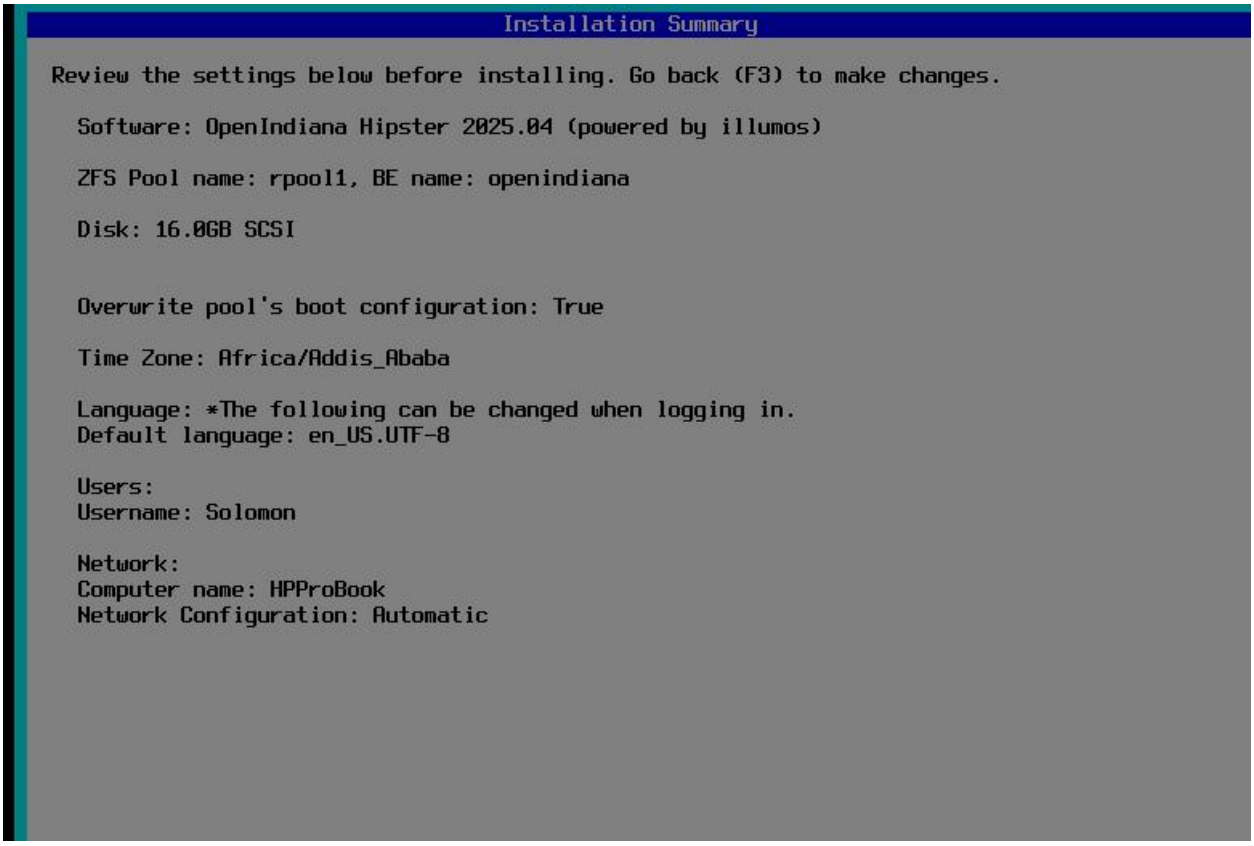


5.Create User Account: When prompted to create a user account, enter the username "SOLOMON" and set a secure

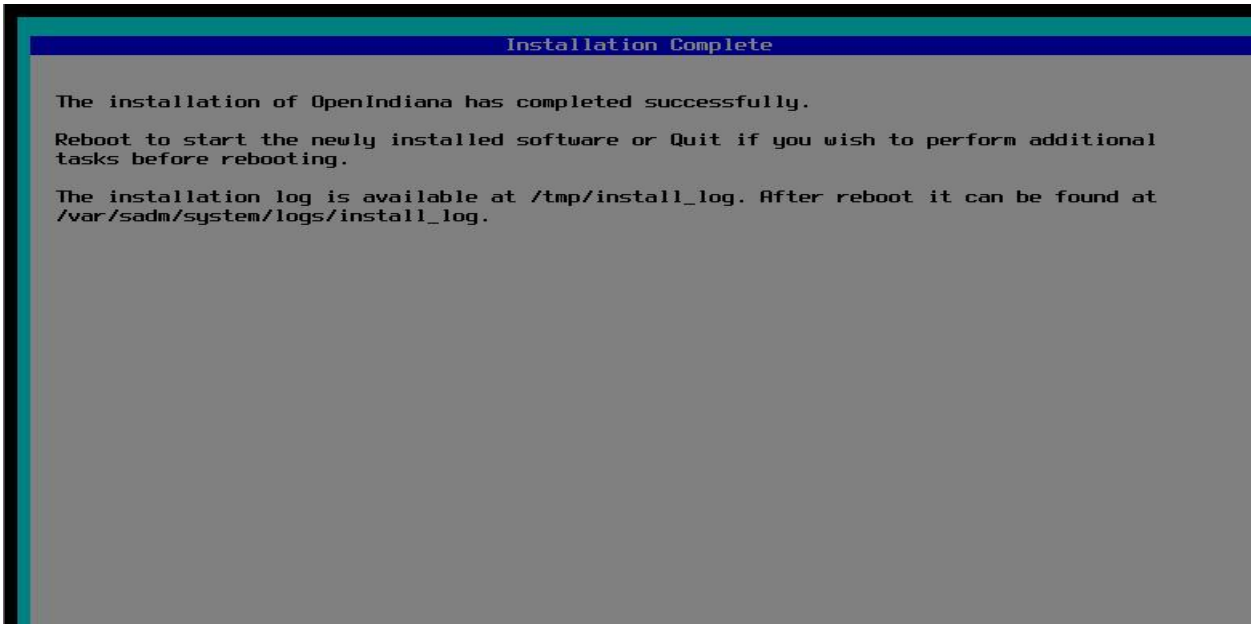
password



6.Complete Installation: Finish the installation process and reboot the system.



Check what we choose before installation



Finish look of openindiana GUI

Issues and Solution

Issue 1: OpenIndiana uses the GRUB bootloader, but it may conflict with GRUB from Linux or bootloaders like Windows Boot Manager.

Solution:

- Install OpenIndiana after Windows/Linux, but don't overwrite the bootloader.
- Use a tool like GRUB2 from Linux to manage boot entries.

Issue 2: OpenIndiana might not support your Wi-Fi, graphics, or trackpad out of the box.

Solution:

- Test OpenIndiana using Live CD/USB to check hardware compatibility.
- Use Ethernet for installation and update drivers afterward.
- Look for compatible drivers in the OpenIndiana community or forums.

Issue 3: OpenIndiana is niche, so finding help can be harder than with Linux.
Solution:

- Use official resources like: OpenIndiana Docs
- Backup your system before experimenting.

Issue 4: Some hardware may cause the installer to freeze or crash.

Solution:

- Try a **different ISO version**, like the **text installer** instead of GUI.
- Check compatibility of your CPU and chipset on OpenIndiana forums.

File System Support

OpenIndiana supports several file systems, but its main strength lies in its native use of **ZFS (Zettabyte File System)**. ZFS is not just a file system—it's also a volume manager, which makes it unique compared to what you find in traditional Linux or Windows systems.
ZFS is known for its strong data integrity features. It uses checksums to detect and correct silent data corruption, which is great for systems that need high reliability. Another cool thing about ZFS is how easy it makes managing storage. You can create snapshots, clones, and even compress data on the fly without much effort.
Besides ZFS, OpenIndiana also offers limited support for:

- **UFS (Unix File System)** – Mostly for compatibility with older Solaris systems.
- **FAT32** – Read and write support, mainly useful for USB drives and shared partitions.
- **NTFS** – Read support is available, but write support is experimental and not recommended for daily use.
- **ISO9660** – For mounting CD/DVD images.

ZFS is the default choice during installation, and most users stick with it because it’s powerful, stable, and designed to handle modern storage needs.

Advantage and Disadvantage

Advantages of OpenIndiana OS

1. **ZFS File System**
   One of the biggest strengths of OpenIndiana is its use of the ZFS file system. It offers powerful features like data integrity checking, snapshots, cloning, and built-in compression. This makes it ideal for systems that need reliability and performance.
2. **Open Source and Free**
   OpenIndiana is completely free and open-source, which makes it accessible for students, developers, and hobbyists. You can study its source code and customize it however you like.

3. **Designed for Stability**
   Since it's a continuation of OpenSolaris, it's built with a focus on system stability and long-term reliability, especially for server or enterprise environments.
4. **Good for Development and Testing**
   It supports a wide range of development tools and has features like DTrace for real-time system debugging and performance analysis.
5. **Solaris Compatibility**
   OpenIndiana can run many old Solaris applications and binaries, which is useful for people maintaining legacy systems.
6. **Rolling Release Model (Hipster branch)**
   You get newer packages and features regularly without having to do a complete reinstall every time.

Disadvantages of OpenIndiana OS

1. **Hardware Compatibility Issues**
   Unlike Linux or Windows, OpenIndiana doesn't support a wide range of hardware out of the box. Some laptops may not have working Wi-Fi or graphics drivers without a lot of tweaking.
2. **Small Community and Limited Support**
   It doesn't have as many users or developers as Linux, so finding help, tutorials, or updated drivers can be harder. Most problems require searching forums or asking in niche communities.
3. **Not Ideal for Daily Desktop Use**
   Although it has a graphical desktop, it's not as user-friendly or polished as modern Linux distros like Ubuntu or Fedora. Some common software may not be available or require manual installation.
4. **Steep Learning Curve**
   The system uses concepts from Solaris and Unix that might be unfamiliar to new users. Tools like SMF (Service Management Facility) and IPS (Image Packaging System) are powerful but not intuitive.
5. **Lack of Commercial Software**
   Most commercial or mainstream apps (like Adobe software or popular games) aren't available for OpenIndiana, which limits its use for non-technical users.
6. **Dual-Boot and Installation Can Be Complicated**
   Setting it up alongside Windows or Linux requires careful partitioning and bootloader configuration. It's not very beginner-friendly during installation.
7. OpenIndiana is an open-source operating system that continues the legacy of OpenSolaris, offering a stable, Unix-like environment mainly suited for developers and system administrators. It stands out for its use of **ZFS**, a powerful file system with features like data integrity, snapshots, and compression.
8. The goal of exploring OpenIndiana was to understand its setup, system features, and evaluate its usability in dual-boot environments. Installation requires at least 2 GB RAM, a 64-bit processor, and some free disk space. Issues such as bootloader conflicts or hardware compatibility can occur, but most have clear workarounds like using GRUB, switching to UEFI/Legacy mode, or testing with a Live USB.
9. OpenIndiana mainly supports **ZFS**, but also allows UFS, FAT32, and limited NTFS use. Its advantages include advanced tools, strong reliability, and regular updates. However, it has a steep learning curve, fewer apps, and limited hardware support.

In summary, OpenIndiana is ideal for technical users who want to explore advanced OS features, but it's less suited for beginners or daily desktop use.

Conclusion

OpenIndiana is an open-source operating system that continues the legacy of OpenSolaris, offering a stable, Unix-like environment mainly suited for developers and system administrators. It stands out for its use of ZFS, a powerful file system with features like data integrity, snapshots, and compression.

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Future Outlook and Recommendation

As open-source technologies continue to grow, OpenIndiana has the potential to become more relevant, especially for users interested in system-level development, ZFS, and Unix-based server environments. With continued community support and updates through the **Hipster branch**, OpenIndiana can remain a reliable platform for testing, development, and legacy application maintenance.

Recommendation

OpenIndiana is best suited for students, developers, and IT professionals who want to learn about advanced system features like ZFS, SMF, and DTrace. It's recommended for educational labs, testing environments, or server setups. For general desktop users or beginners, Linux distributions like Ubuntu or Fedora are more practical choices due to their broader hardware support and user-friendly interfaces.

2.Virtualization in Modern operating system

Virtualization in modern operating systems is a technology that allows multiple virtual instances of operating systems to run on a single physical machine, effectively mimicking hardware functionality. It is important because it enhances resource utilization, improves flexibility, and enables efficient management of IT resources by isolating applications and workloads.

Virtualization works through hypervisors, which create and manage virtual machines (VMs) by abstracting the underlying hardware, allowing each VM to operate independently with its own operating system and applications.

What is Virtualization?

- Virtualization is a technology that enables the creation of virtual instances of physical hardware, such as servers, storage, and networks, allowing multiple operating systems to run on a single physical machine.
- It involves the use of software to simulate hardware functionality, creating virtual machines (VMs) that can operate independently.

Why is Virtualization Important?

- **Resource Efficiency**: Maximizes the utilization of physical hardware by allowing multiple VMs to share resources, reducing idle capacity.
- **Cost Savings**: Decreases the need for physical servers, leading to lower hardware, maintenance, and energy costs.
- **Flexibility and Scalability**: Facilitates rapid deployment and scaling of applications, enabling organizations to adapt to changing demands quickly.
- **Isolation and Security**: Provides a secure environment for applications by isolating them from one another, reducing the risk of conflicts and vulnerabilities.

How Does Virtualization Work?

- **Hypervisors**: The core component of virtualization, hypervisors manage the creation and operation of VMs. They can be classified into two types:
    - **Type 1 Hypervisors**: Run directly on the hardware (bare-metal) and provide better performance and security.
    - **Type 2 Hypervisors**: Operate on top of an existing operating system and are typically used for desktop virtualization.
- **Virtual Machines**: Each VM operates as a separate entity with its own operating system and applications, allowing for diverse environments on a single physical server.
- **Resource Allocation**: Hypervisors allocate CPU, memory, and storage resources to each VM, ensuring they function independently while sharing the underlying hardware.

3.Implementation of system calls