

# Reviewer Guide

**openSUSE 12.2**

Updated: September 2012



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# openSUSE Distribution

The **openSUSE distribution** offers a robust core and rich "out of the box" experience based on sane defaults. The distribution comes with powerful tools for system configuration and customization and offers flexibility and freedom of choice with a wide software selection. It is also the base for SUSE's award-winning SUSE Linux Enterprise products.

## Key Features

- An all-in-one solution— the openSUSE Distribution offers tightly integrated desktop applications essential for today, including the LibreOffice productivity suite, the Mozilla Firefox Web browser, the powerful system administration tool YaST, the Kopete instant messenger and more.
- With KDE and GNOME, openSUSE offers both major Free Software desktops as well as a number of smaller desktops, all with a high level of polish and support.
- openSUSE is ready to run on workstations, laptops, netbooks and servers while working together with mobile, web, cloud and other leading industry technologies.
- openSUSE offers seamless integration into your existing network and compatibility with other operating systems and tools.
- openSUSE is unique in offering both regular releases (on an 8 month schedule) and the 'Tumbleweed' rolling release repository. openSUSE offers smooth upgrades between versions as well as back and forth from tumbleweed.

## Version 12.2

The latest openSUSE 12.2 provides a reliable, modern platform, bringing improved performance and a polished user experience on top of an evolved infrastructure.

openSUSE 12.2 brings improved performance with the latest kernel and system libraries as well as adoption of newly matured distribution technologies and polish to existing features. A few of the most notable changes include:

### Performance enhancements

openSUSE comes with speed-ups across the board. The 3.4 release of the Linux kernel introduces a faster storage layer preventing blocking of the system during large data transfers. glibc 2.15, the core system library, accelerates many areas, especially on 64 bit systems. openSUSE takes advantage of the capabilities of Systemd 44 to improve boot times and this release ships the latest 4.8.1 release of Qt, making the desktop more fluid and responsive.

### Evolved infrastructure

openSUSE adopts the latest developments in Linux distribution technology as they mature. The GRUB2 bootloader is now the default with support for newer hardware, Plymouth brings flicker-free transitions and attractive animations during bootup, and 12.2 begins the process of revising and simplifying the UNIX filesystem hierarchy.

### Polished features

openSUSE brings incremental improvements to existing functionality, improving the user experience all over. The novel Btrfs filesystem comes with improved error handling and recovery tools, GNOME 3.4, developing rapidly, brings smooth scrolling to all applications and features a reworked System Settings and Contacts manager while XFCE has an enhanced application finder.

Aside from these technical changes, the documentation team has made a major revision of the reference manuals, and has introduced changes to make it easier for community contributors to write openSUSE documentation.

"We are proud of this release, maintaining the usual high openSUSE quality standards." says Andrew Wafaa from the openSUSE Board. "The delay in the schedule caused by our growth in the last two years means we have to work on scaling our processes. Now this release is out, the community has time and opportunity to work on that at the upcoming openSUSE conference in October in Prague, Czech Republic."

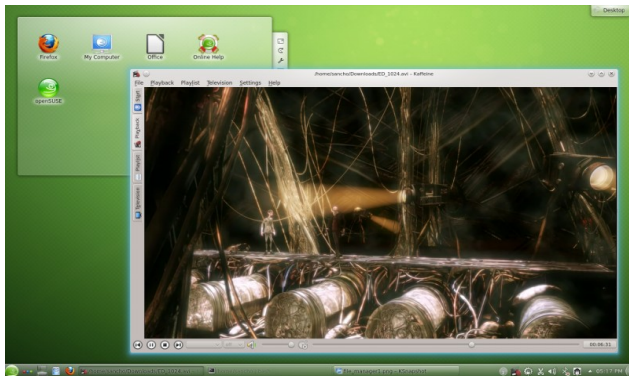
For more details about the latest innovations in openSUSE 12.2 visit

<http://opensuse.org/12.2>

## Feature Summary



**KDE** offers a flexible and modern workspace as well as a wide variety of powerful applications for people who need to get work done.



**GNOME** brings an easy to use and modern desktop environment with an intuitive interface and a full suite of user-friendly applications for distraction-free computing.

(screenshot of GNOME Shell)



**Firefox** is a popular multi-platform web browser from the Mozilla Community and the Mozilla Corporation. Firefox delivers safe and easy web browsing following the latest web standards, a flexible yet familiar interface and a powerful extensions system to let users get the most out of the web.

### **KDE introduces Oyaros, Apper and Plasma Active**

openSUSE 12.2 ships the KDE Plasma Desktop 4.8 as default workspace which brings improved performance in basics like window management but also in the Dolphin file manager and the Kontact PIM suite. Much work has also gone into stabilizing and polishing the day to day user experience of using the KDE workspaces by bringing smarter and easier power management and improved image and document handling.

Developers will enjoy improvements to the text editor's search and replace functions, vi mode, and a faster translation tool with support for more file formats.

### **GNOME Shell is improved and refined**

The second release featuring GNOME Shell, openSUSE 12.2 comes with GNOME 3.4. This release adds a new document browser app and introduces 'Web', a repackaging of the existing Epiphany as a lightweight default web browser.

In the communication area, there is support for video calling, Facebook and Windows Live Messenger chat in Empathy.

Gnome Shell now shows application menus from the main title bar, and includes integrated document search functions from the overview.

openSUSE enables tap-to-click and disables the touchpad while typing on laptops.

Firefox brings much improved memory handling and better performance as well as support for the latest web standards including the new SPDY protocol to speed up the loading of complex web pages.

Last but not least, this version brings Firefox Sync to openSUSE, allowing users to synchronize their bookmarks, history, passwords, add-ons and open tabs with another copy of Firefox.



**LibreOffice** is a free power-packed personal productivity suite, that gives you six feature-rich applications for all your document production and data processing needs: Writer, Calc, Impress, Draw, Math and Base. Support and documentation is free from a large, dedicated community of users, contributors and developers.

### Under the hood

(screenshot of 12.2 booting)

The latest **Libreoffice** brings many UI and performance improvements to the users. Major changes include new header/footer handling and page break indicators in Writer, a new multiline input bar and a redesigned Autofilter popup in Calc, and much better import filters all over, including new SmartArt and custom shapes in Draw, a new MS Visio and improved MS OOXML import filters and more.

Although the most obvious improvements to openSUSE 12.2 may be on the surface, we have made a slew of improvements under the hood as well to improve booting, hardware management, and system configuration.

The Linux 3.4 kernel supports the latest hardware with improved power saving modes, better wireless drivers and enhanced virtualization. The latest systemd, plymouth and GRUB2 bring support for UEFI, booting from LVM and btrfs partitions as well as from password handling for encrypted drives and shorter boot times.

In the graphics area openSUSE 12.2 brings OpenGL 3.0 support, and VMware virtual machines as well as systems without physical 3D hardware have software 3D rendering. Other features include multi-touch support and [SPICE](#) to remotely connect to virtualized systems' applications and devices.

The new glibc 2.15 and the latest 4.7.1 release of GCC improve performance overall and in the security area, openSSH 6 and openssl 1.0.1 support new security features like TLS 1.2, NPN and SRP.

## System Requirements

- Pentium\* III 500 MHz or higher processor (Pentium 4 2.4 GHz or higher or any AMD64 or Intel\* EM64T processor recommended)
- Main memory: 512 MB physical RAM (1 GB recommended)
- Hard disk: 3 GB available disk space (more recommended)
- Sound and graphics cards: supports most modern sound and graphics cards, 800 x 600 display resolution (1024 x 768 or higher recommended)
- Booting from CD/DVD drive or USB-Stick for installation, or support for booting over network

## ***Additional Resources***

For more information on openSUSE Version 12.2, visit <http://en.opensuse.org/Portal:12.2>

## **Summary**

**openSUSE 12.2** offers a robust core and rich „out of the box“ experience based on sane defaults. The distribution comes with powerful tools for system configuration and customization and offers flexibility and freedom of choice with a wide software selection. It offers tightly integrated desktop applications essential for today, all major Free Software desktops, seamless integration into your existing network and compatibility with other operating systems. The timed 12.2 release with an easy upgrade path from previous openSUSE versions is ready to run on workstations, laptops, netbooks and servers.