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Ubuntu 10.04: The Perfect Consumer Operating System?

The upcoming release of Ubuntu 10.04 is on the way and with its new theme, looks simply stunning. With an online music store built in integrated cloud backup services and a strong focus on social networking, could this finally be the release consumers have been waitin

Christopher Smart
Wednesday, March 24th, 2010

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The Complete Package (almost)

So Mark Shuttleworth's benchmark for Ubuntu is OS X. This is what he wants to surpass and with 10.04 he's definitely getting close. Commercial application support is still missing and while the Cloud Service is nice, an integrated backup solution like Apple's Time Machine would be a great addition.

You can see the focus on this goal all over the distribution. It really is perfectly aimed at the consumer, with carefully chosen applications. The Ubuntu desktop is not designed for the power user, not by default anyway. All of the applications are specifically designed for simplicity and functionality. This new release drops GIMP, which has also caused a lot of controversy. Remember though that Ubuntu has a specific set of goals, focusing on simplicity. What do consumer end users actually want? Something simple. They want to be able to remove red eye from their photos, crop them, rotate them, enhance them and use them elsewhere. If GIMP doesn't suit that, then out it goes. Simple as that.

Of course, if you still want GIMP then it's a snap to install. You could even use the new Software Centre, which is starting to take shape very nicely. Once again, you can see here Ubuntu has clearly included the possibility of applications direct from third party vendors. This is nothing new, the partner repository has been around since the beginning, but now it's plain as day, right there on the desktop. Currently, it only includes Adobe products like Flash, but who knows, perhaps Canonical will strike a deal to create native Linux versions of programs like Photoshop, delivered for a fee directly via Ubuntu's Software Centre.

Community Tools

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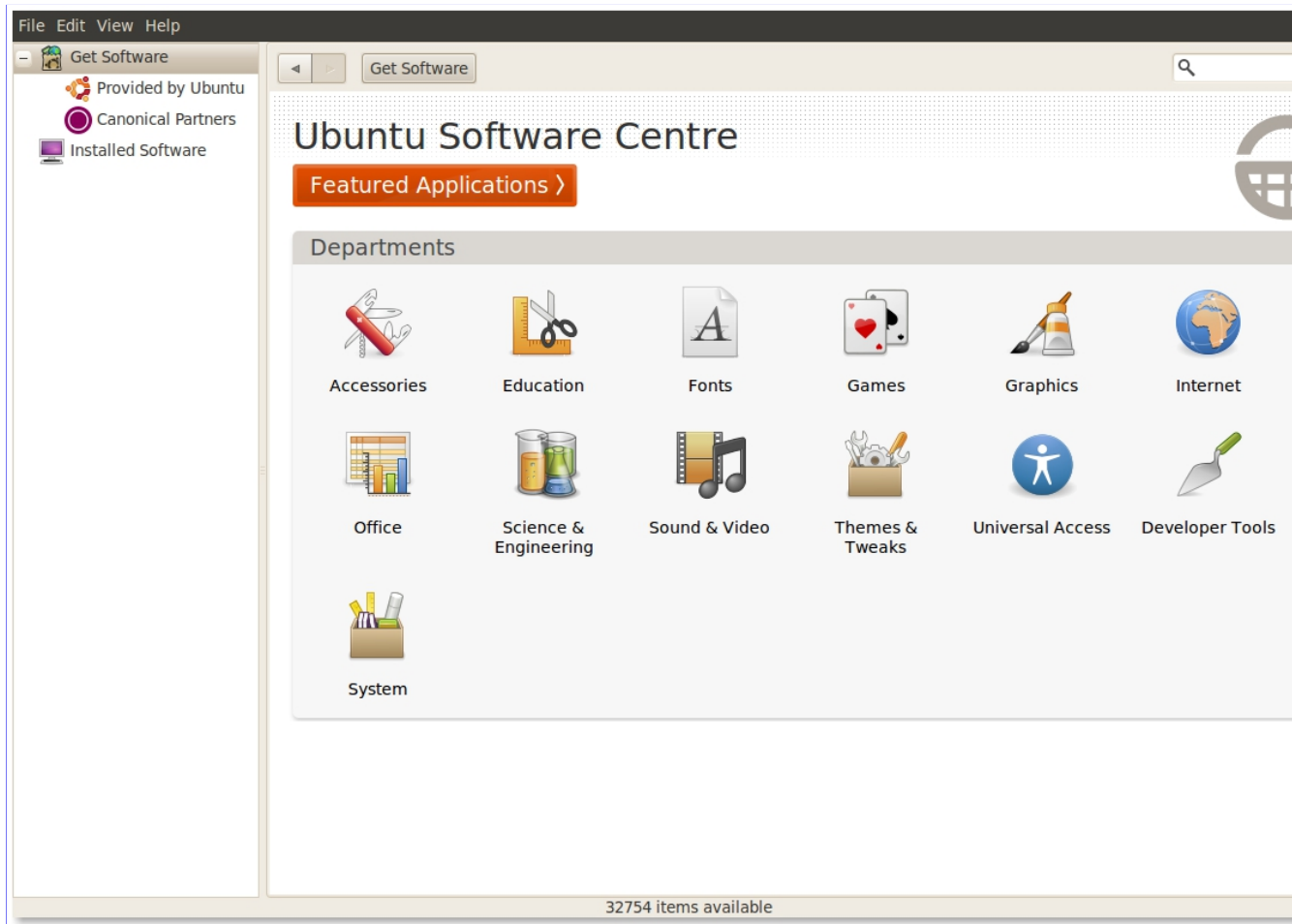(**20** votes, average: out of 5)
Loading ...
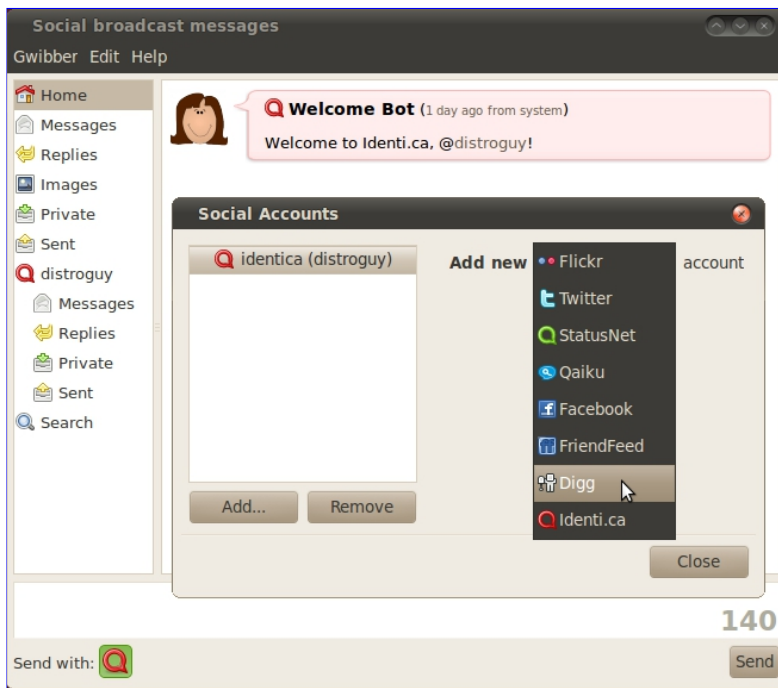**Users Who Liked This**

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Lucid Software Centre

A perfect example of this desire to simplify the desktop is Simple Scan, a new program to Lucid. While Sane certainly made Scanner Ac
Now Easy, the user interface left a lot to be desired. Actually using X Sane to scan something is not the prettiest nor easiest of tasks. Si
Scan on the other hand, makes the act of scanning simple (you might have deduced that from the name). It's a neat little app, that help
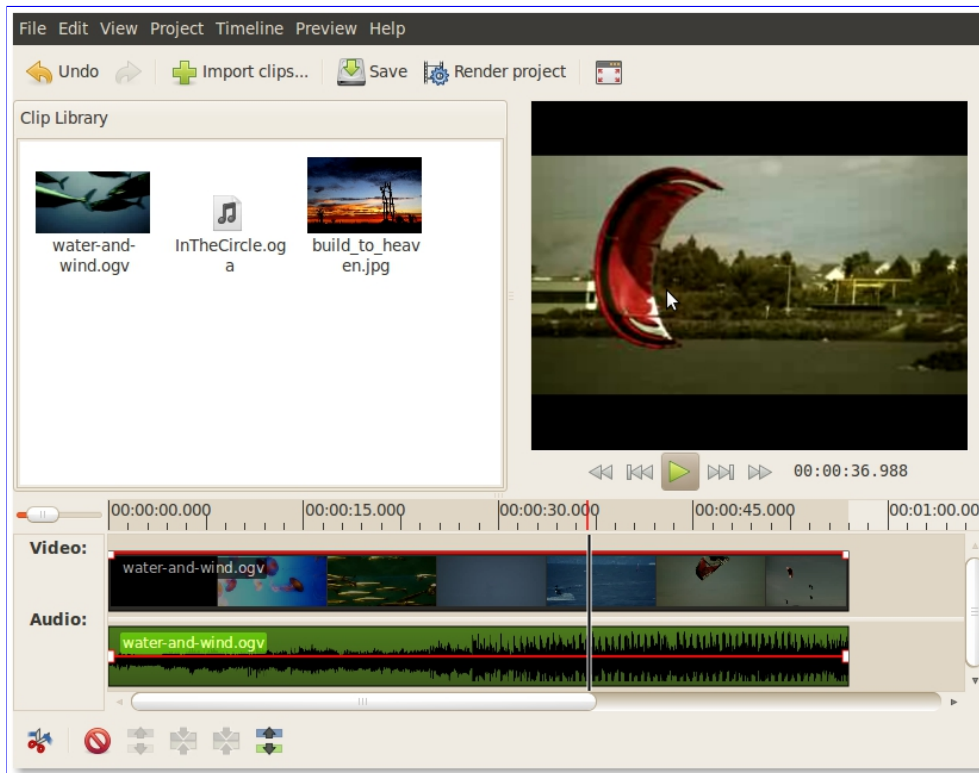using the desktop that much nicer.

The social networking client Gwibber is now built right into the desktop. Yes, users can connect directly with a myriad of social networ
providers right from the comfort of a single user interface. Empathy is there too, integrated into the taskbar and ready to let you chat a
any network you please.

Lucid built in social networking with Gwibber

What else does OS X have out of the box, that Linux doesn't? A video editor. That's right, making its debut in this release also, is PiTiVi non-linear video editing program. This is one major application which has been sorely missing from the Linux desktop for far too long.
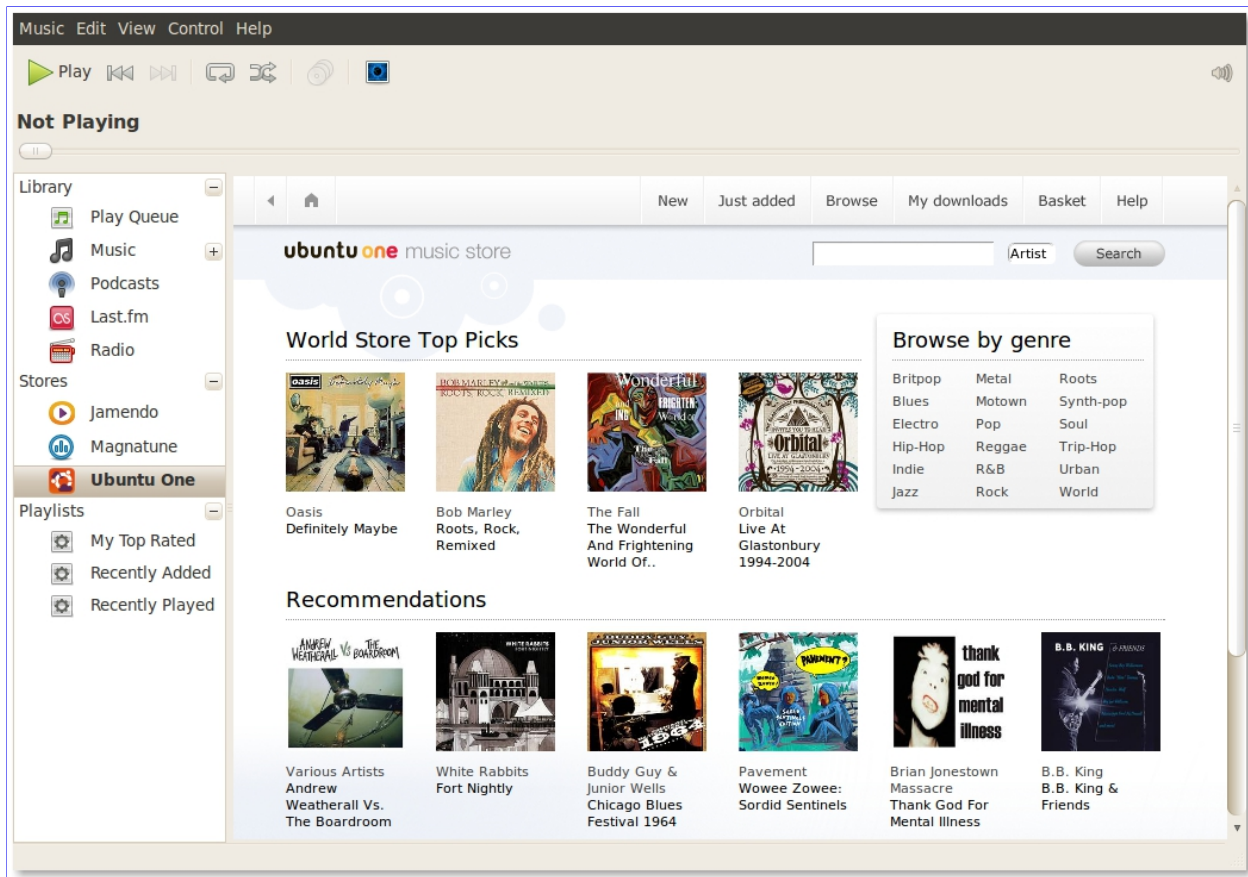
Over the last year or so, we have seen dozens of these suddenly spring up, and thankfully some are now at the point of inclusion in majo distributions. Once again, the fact that Ubuntu includes this by default really shows the market they are going after.

Video editor in Lucid, PiTiVi

Also making its debut in this release is the Ubuntu Music store. Tied into the default music player, Rhythmbox, users can purchase MP and synchronise it directly to not only their iPod, but their cloud based account on Ubuntu One. This has been one major feature sorely on the Linux desktop, something that OS X has had well and truly sewn up for far too long.

Unfortunately, only MP3 files are available at present, but hopefully this will be extended to Ogg and more importantly, FLAC, down the Still, the ability for Ubuntu to satisfy this important component is crucial to its success in the consumer market. It's certainly one less adoption, "Yeah, Ubuntu can sync your iPod and you can even purchase Music. You don't need iTunes!"

Lucid Online Music Store, available via Rhythmbox

For the first time ever, it looks like a very attractive overall package. It's focus on simple, useful applications is bound to please consum possibly disappoint power users). All the modern tasks that users perform are integrated right into the desktop, and it's all done really this was on offer in the computer shops, I'm confident it would be turning heads and making sales (although some might dismiss it as a rip off).

Quality Assurance

My biggest gripe about Ubuntu in the past is its lack of quality. Things break far too often, more often than they should (and more often they do in other distros), for some reason. We've discussed this a lot in the past and I don't wish to re-hash the same old arguments (bu you've only ever used Ubuntu, then you have nothing to compare it to). Still, I have much higher hopes for this release. Why? It's a Lon Support release. That means that people who pay Canonical money for support will be looking to upgrade to this stable version. Canoni to get it right, or it's really, really going to hurt.

The non-LTS releases *are* considered stable, but they certainly aren't given the same attention as those of LTS status. They are built fro Debian unstable for a start, whereas LTS is from testing. Still, that's no excuse for some of the major bugs that have entered the distro, they come from upstream or not. This release should be great, but it's still one month away and its final quality still remains to be seen. least, we should get better treatment of bugs in this release as it has to be stable for a much longer period. Time will tell, but things sh much improved.

I'm certain that with 10.10, Ubuntu will go back to their old habits. For now at least, it looks like we'll have a phenomenal release.

With the Lot, Please

This version really looks to have the lot - stable packages, a new look and feel, all the apps that count and near perfect integration. Fror consumer perspective, it's almost the perfect desktop. It includes most things they might want out of the box - browser, social networki applications, multimedia applications, full blown office suite and cloud based synchronisation services. There are lots of bits that Apple offer for free and this runs on *any* computer. Ubuntu has a reputation for being *the* distribution you give to friends new to Linux when it all to just work. Hopefully it will be able to do just that.

If the final quality stands up to the test, this will be one hell of a release. Massive. It's just the sort of thing you would expect to see for computers at your local department store, and hopefully we will soon see just that. If so, this could be the real beginning of a great new with Apple.

[Christopher Smart](#) has been using Linux since 1999. In 2005 he created Kororaa Linux, which delivered the world's first Live CD show
3D desktop effects. He also founded the [MakeTheMove](#) website, which introduces users to free software and encourages them to switch
spare time he enjoys writing articles on free software.

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linuxmagazine said:

The upcoming release of Ubuntu 10.04 is on the way and with its new theme, looks simply stunning. With an online music store k
integrated cloud backup services and a strong focus on social networking, could this finally be the release consumers have been
for? **Add your comments below.**

Posted 4 days ago ([permalink](#))

bendib said:

HOW DARE THEY MOVE THE BUTTONS!!!!! HOW DARE THEY GET RID OF GIMP!!!! HOW DARE THEY BASE UBUNTU ON DE
UNSTABLE!!!!!!! Long Live Fedora! (but damn 12 to HELL!)

Posted 3 days ago ([permalink](#))

kghosh22 said:

Has the Net-Manager applet been fixed in this release ?

Posted 3 days ago ([permalink](#))

rdevoe said:

i put ubuntu netbook remix on my msi wind netbook and have had zero problems. Of course I'm just a low end user, no youtube p
all day im ing , i dont edit video , i could care less whats on my ipod (did get it working though i detest itunes) . I install new dist
old pcs from time to time. Fedora12 looks good but getting all the multimedia working is a pain. If i recall my UNR played flash v
quick and easy. If a pretty paint job (desktop) gets people weaned from the big players , more power to Linux. People are so scar
free (or cheap) software . If more people started with Linux they would have more of an idea of how things work. There are so ma
people who have no clue and want to stay that way. Anything that helps in expanding the masses mindset has to be a good thing

Posted 3 days ago ([permalink](#))

jonjermey said:

So they've taken OUT the image editor and put IN a video editor? Because more people edit videos than images? Or because vide
are cool and GIMP has an embarrassing name? Just change the name, folks, that's all you need to do. There's nothing wrong with

You could call it the Pictorial Ubuntu Service.

Posted 2 days ago ([permalink](#))

silverwave said:

I have been using Lucid since March 19 and it is rock solid, I love it.

I usually install the Ununtu RC's but never a Beta.

In this case you are safe - its from testing and its a LTS.

_____

If you are on Karmic and want to test lucid use TestDrive.

Terminal:

sudo add-apt-repository ppa:testdrive/ppa
sudo apt-get update
sudo apt-get install testdrive

_____

Then run "TestDrive" (System Tools menu).

Posted 2 days ago (permalink)

silverwave **said:**

Forgot to link to my Lucid report:
http://silverwav.wordpress.com/2010/03/19/taking-a-chance-on-lucid-10-04-beta-1/

Oh and Gimp takes 2 min to install so no big.

Posted 2 days ago (permalink)

excaliber27 **said:**

Wow, this is a huge improvement from 9.10. Nice work Mark Shuttleworth.
In the 9.10 release, I was subject to the nvidia n6600 issue, not allowing the live OS or install to boot. Therefore, the only way I c
an install was through a clean copy of 9.04 and upgrade to 9.10.
But not this time. Here nouveau helps out, allowing the 10.04 lts beta 1 to boot. And it's faster.
Looks like Ubuntu is now ready to make serious inroads to the pc OS market again.

Nice work and a solid kudos from www.linuxgameconsortium.com

Posted 2 days ago (permalink)

dmesg **said:**

Installed on P4 1 GHz w/2GB RAM... not bad, but the software manager is a pain.

It appears to begin searching the 30,000 or so packages the instant you type one letter in the search window, which basically sto
right there. I have had to kill/restart the software package manager 5-6 times now, I have spent 5 hours with it and only got it to
wireshark and a few samba server packages.

I thought Mandriva's package manager was slow and klunky... but damn it works, never locks up and finds things in seconds, not
like this ubuntu thing...

Posted 1 day ago (permalink)

boysha **said:**

Time to maybe try Linux Mint to see what highly professional, sleek, commercial grade operating system is. I know it's made from
but the point is that, what Ubuntu is showing just now, Mint has shown a couple of years ago.
Just a thought...

Posted 21 hours ago (permalink)

perles **said:**

I don't use Ubuntu and I don't like it either, but it would be great to see the biggest Linux spam getting mature and achieving its
dreamed goal - easy use. It is good for everybody, even who does not like it. However, if they had based their desktop on KDE the
results would be a lot easier and lot more polished now.

Posted 21 hours ago (permalink)

basilf **said:**

I am a fan of Ubuntu but its like its a bueaty queen keep changing its look. I use Ubuntu and Windows 7 something I would never
printer driver are VERY lacking in Dell brands or not at all.

I have a Dell V105 which is going straight to the bin as soon as I get the fully functional Brother 4 in 1 on Linux. Some companie
should actually support there hardware in Linux since it claims it supports Ubuntu, but it quietly removed Ubuntu support here
Canada. What they call support is a single Indian Man not even in a Dell building who had no clue what a terminal was or that th
more than one GUI, very very sad.

I plan to drop Windows 7 I can now run Window Office under wine in Ubuntu 9.10 its a snap. I hope Ubuntu 10.4 has pre-install
1.4?? or higher it makes my 100% switch that much easier. I can't wait for 10.4 the beta version is a blast, finally the dog S#$%$
theme is gone.

Posted 21 hours ago (permalink)

korin43 **said:**

I just wanted to say two things:

1) The placement of the minimize-maximize-close buttons matters. Not to technical users, but Ubuntu's target audience: people w

their computer has a virus if the buttons are in the wrong place. Just trust me on this, if you take Ubuntu, stick the taskbar on th of the screen, change the Applications-Something-Something menu to a single button that says "Start" and change Firefox's name "Internet Explorer, your grandma won't be able to tell the difference, but if you take that same setup and put the close button on side of the windows, she'll flip out and say that she doesn't understand how to use her computer (and will probably never accept

2) I wish Ubuntu would just make the options "Rolling Release" and "Long term support" and not put people through major upgr every 6 months. Ubuntu's problems are no worse than we get with Windows. The differences are that you don't upgrade Windows months and you can download new programs without updating Windows.

Posted 8 hours ago ([permalink](#))

grabur said:

I'm still happily using hardy, so @korin43 I don't know what you're moaning about, you don't have to be bleeding edge. I've had on my system for years and stuck on the last LTS, as it has been pretty much solid. I've a few irritations with compiz and my scre but I've learnt my way around them.

Synaptic has always been slow. The new software centre looks absolutely horrible. If they like the mac way of doing things why n the mac installer idea?

I hope suspend resume woes will be banished, and the network manager will be better. If ubuntu really want to copy osx, they sh copy the mac preferences panel. I can't stand drilling through menus for things, it's bad enough in windows.

The theme still looks all over the shop. Orange icons and purple... gasp. Let's hope the release is more than eye candy.

It would be nice to know what's new in the server edition. I use ubuntu server, and it's been more user friendly than redhat. I've compulsion to try the interim server releases.

Posted 2 hours ago ([permalink](#))

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