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Assignment 2

CSC 104

Two popular distributions of Linux are the Netrunner and Neptune distributions which share a common lineage. Both are rooted in the well-tested Debian distribution, one of the oldest and known for being one of the most stable available. Each, however, has it’s own features and target audiences. Netrunner was originally released back in 2010 by Blue Systems, which also supports the KDE project. Netrunner was started as a Kubuntu-based distribution but since has changed to support the KDE Plasma environment powered by Debian. Neptune is relatively newer, being created and released by German developer Leszek Lesner with the hopes of giving users a lightweight and user-friendly Debian approach, primarily utilizing the Xfce desktop environment. The KDE Plasma suite utilized by Netrunner is known for being modern, feature-rich, and very visually appealing lending to the primary distinction between the two distributions. Neptune’s Xfce desktop environment prefers the options that come with being lightweight and highly configurable. Neptune tends to be more suited for older hardware or users who prefer the traditional desktop experience. Where Netrunner favors style and stunning experiences, Neptune chooses efficiency and speed. Netrunners follows a release schedule where its new updates and features are continuously rolled into the current distribution, meaning that users are required to make more frequent system updates than the fixed schedule of Neptune. Neptune, however, comes with a much more limited selection of software instead focusing on the delivery of more core applications and freedom to install according to need. Netrunner on the other hand comes preloaded with multimedia tools, office programs, and web browsers for a variety of applications. The primary advantage Netrunner has over Neptune is the backing of Blue Systems, whose resources are fundamental to the rapid support structure it follows. Neptune is, instead, more of a community-driven project, using forums and other forms of contributions.