



FAQs

Frequently Asked Questions

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General

Is there a Manual we can consult about MX?

Yes. The thorough **Users Manual** is available from the Menu or by pressing Alt+F1. Use the Table of Contents in the side panel or search with Ctrl+F to look for something specific.

MX Linux Fluxbox has a separate Manual that is launched on that platform with Ctrl+F1.

Is MX Linux a rolling distro?

No. When the Debian base changes (about every 2 years) reinstallation is needed for continued reliable use. It is not difficult to reinstall when a new version becomes available.

- There is a handy app “User Installed Packages” that makes it easy to restore packages (if the packages are still available) you had installed and retained after your original installation. Launch it on your current installation to create the package list, then launch it again on the new installation to restore the packages.
- Settings are important as well. If possible, the easiest method is to select to reuse the Home directory during the new installation. Otherwise, you should make a separate backup of the Home directory and manually transfer any settings you want to keep (e.g. browser or email) to the new installation.

What's the MX release cycle?

Major version change happens once Debian releases a new “Stable” (roughly every 2 years). A number of MX “point releases” in between them will come through the standard update channels for existing users.

What's the best way to upgrade from one version of MX to another?

Instructions for migration of different MX versions can be found on the Migration page of the MX Community website: <https://mxlinux.org/migration/>

How long will a version of MX be supported?

A chart is located here: <https://mxlinux.org/previous-releases/>. A detailed look can be found in the Users Manual, Section 1.4.

Does MX Linux release other official versions?

Three options exist: Xfce, KDE and Fluxbox. There are also many Community respins available; see the list on the Forum: <https://tinyurl.com/tb5hud5z>.

Can I use Flatpaks, Snaps and Appimages?

Stand-alone packages are different in that they are essentially independent from any particular OS and do not need to be installed in the usual sense. For details, consult these Wiki pages:

- Appimages <https://mxlinux.org/wiki/applications/appimages/>
- Flatpaks <https://mxlinux.org/wiki/applications/flatpaks/>
- Snaps <https://mxlinux.org/wiki/applications/snap-packages-and-mx-linux/>

Does MX have any social media presence?

MX has very active communities: <https://mxlinux.org/wiki/other/mx-linux-social-media/> Many have a MX Developer presence.

Obtaining and Installing an ISO (disk image)

Can I buy hardware with MX Linux already installed?

There is a list of known sources here: <https://mxlinux.org/hardware/>

Why does my installation stop at 94%?

The MX Installer program is waiting for you to fill in the information being requested on the right side of the screen. Press “Next” to go through all information-gathering screens.

Can I install MX Linux on a computer that has Windows?

If the machine already has Windows 8 or later installed, then special steps must be taken to deal with the presence of (U)EFI (<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/UEFI>) and its best-known feature: Secure Boot.

Most users are urged to turn off Secure Boot by entering the BIOS as the machine starts to boot. The exact procedure to disable Secure Boot varies by manufacturer.

If you have problems, check the links to videos and documents in the Users Manual, Section 2.4.1; or seek advice on the Forum.

There is no install icon on the desktop, so what do I do?

That happens sometimes, especially with personal snapshots. Press F4 to open a terminal, and enter:

```
minstall-launcher
```

Configuration and customization

I hate the panel on the side of the Xfce version! How can I move it somewhere where I want it?

The MX Tweak tool can easily move it to your preferred position.

I don't like Xfce. How can I install a different desktop?

Consider first starting instead with the carefully curated MX Linux KDE or Fluxbox version. A number of desktops in basic default format are available in the MX Package Installer under the category "Desktop Environments" that can be installed easily. Simpler default Window Manager environments are available under "Window Managers".

Can I use apps from another desktop on Xfce?

Applications from Window Managers other than those in the default repos can be installed. Note that very often they will bring in other applications and libraries that are dependencies of the application.

In some cases full functionality of the installed app *may* not be achieved. This will possibly require some research on how to enable that functionality. Also, its appearance *may* not be consistent with the default theme.

The window borders are too thin and I can't easily resize windows. Is there a way to do that?

Use Alt+F8 or Alt+RightClick to grab the lower-right window corner and drag to the size you want. Alternatively, select a theme (Settings > Appearance) with larger borders.

How can I add a button to the Xfce Panel for one-click logout / shutdown / restart?

Right-click the green Action Buttons icon on the panel > Properties and uncheck everything except what you want to see. You can leave “confirmation” unchecked for even faster functionality.

System

Is MX secure? How can I check my system?

MX is based upon Debian Stable, and automatically receives its security updates. You can check the status of the kernel by examining the output of Menu > Quick System Info under “CPU.” Security updates can also be found in the MX Package Installer > Manage Popular packages under “Kernels.”

Can I use Ubuntu Personal Package Archives (PPAs)?

Ubuntu is not Debian, so installing PPAs will likely cause problems. See this article for details: <https://mxlinux.org/wiki/system/add-ppa-repository/>

Solution: On the Forum > Development > MX Repositories, go to the “Package Requests / Status” sub-forum for your MX version (MX-19, MX-21, etc.) and ask our Packaging Devs if the PPA can be be ported or updated for our own repository.

How can I fix random login problems using Network Manager?

This is usually due to a known bug, see this Wiki article: <https://mxlinux.org/wiki/hardware/network-manager/>

Which Package Manager should I use?

There are three graphical Package Managers:

- MX Package Installer (MXPI) for one-click installation/removal of popular apps, as well as apps in the Debian Stable, MX Test Repo, Debian Backports and the Flatpaks repo.
- Synaptic Package Manager, a tool for a whole range of actions with Debian packages.
- KDE (Plasma) uses Discover in lieu of Synaptic Package Manager.

For details about these as well as command-line utilities, consult the Users Manual, Section 5.

How will I know when updates are available?

The icon in the Notification Area will change color; click on it to see the new packages. In a terminal, you can enter:

```
apt update
```

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