FAQs

Frequently Asked Questions

General

Is there a Manual we can consult about MX Linux?

Yes. The thorough **Users Manual** is on the desktop, 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 Fluxbox 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) re-installation is needed for a continued reliable use. It is not difficult to reinstall when a new version becomes available.

- Instructions for migration of MX versions can be found here: https://mxlinux.org/migration/
- There is a handy app '**User Installed Packages**' that makes it easy to restore packages 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. See app help button for more info. NOTE: apps removed from the new verision of MX Linux and/or Debian will not be reinstalled.
  - **NOTE:**: Appimages, Flatpaks and programs copied in (user/scripts) are <u>NOT</u> captured.

- Settings are important as well. If possible, the easiest method is to select to reuse the home directory, aka 'Preserve /home (ext4)' during the new installation. Otherwise, you should make a separate backup of the Home directory and manually transfer any .config settings you want to keep (e.g. browser or email) to the new installation.
- To be safe, store the entire Home directory to an external storage device such as a good-quality USB with sufficient capacity.

What's the MX release cycle?

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

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.

Many other distros are dropping 32-bit versions. What about MX?

The Debian 32 bit kernel was discontinued as of Debian 13, thus ending new 32-bit releases from MX for the MX 25 series and foward. Packaging of 32 bit applications will continue as long possible.

Does MX Linux release other official versions?

Four options exist: Xfce, KDE (AHS enabled) and Fluxbox, as well as advanced hardware (AHS) versions of Xfce. There are also many Community respins available 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. Snaps require systemd. Appimages: https://mxlinux.org/wiki/applications/appimages/. Flatpaks: see MXPI Help.

Does MX have any social media presence?

MX has very active communities; most have a strong MX Developer presence.

Obtaining and Installing an ISO (disk image)

Can I buy hardware with MX Linux already installed?

Sources known to us are listed 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 the remaining screens.

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

If the machine currently has Windows installed, then steps must be taken to deal with the presence of UEFI . Fast Boot (motherboard firmware) and Windows Fast Startup need to be disabled.
if you have problems, check the links to videos and documents in the Users Manual, Section 2.4.1; or seek advice on the MX Forum.

There is no 'Installer' 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

How can I move the Xfce panel somewhere where I want it?

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

How can I install the codecs needed for multimedia?

Almost all needed codecs are already installed due to the VLC media playerbeing installed. To bring in more DVD playback support see MX Program Installer > Popular Applications > Video folder and install **libdvdcss**.

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

Consider first starting instead with the KDE or Fluxbox version by MX using Package Installer > Popular Applications, in Desktop Environments or Window Managers.
A number of other desktops not part of MX Linux are also available in the MX Package Installer in basic default format.

Can I use apps from another desktop on Xfce?

Applications from Desktop Environments 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, their 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+Right-click to grab the lower-right window corner and drag to the size you want. Alternatively, select a theme (Settings > Appearance) with a 'thick-border' attribute.

How to 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'."

Can I use Ubuntu Personal Package Archives (PPAs)?

Ubuntu is not Debian, so installing PPAs will very likely cause problems aka FrankenDebian. 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-23, MX-25, etc.) and ask if the PPA can be be ported or updated for our own repository.

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 Enabled Repos (Debian Stable), MX Test Repo, Debian Backports and Flatpaks.

• Synaptic Package Manager, a tool for a whole range of actions with Debian packages. KDE - Plasma uses **Discover** instead.

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.

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