

Distro : **Mint**
Wikipedia : https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Linux_Mint
Website : <https://linuxmint.com/>
Twitter : [@Linux_Mint](#)
Status : May 2021
Author : [summertime tech](#)
CPU : Tested on x86 – 64bits architecture

Offline installable .iso:

- Complete with latest Update
- Report about: see Annex-checklist

Conclusion:

- Because of the built-in(*) telemetry this distro is only suitable for use in DEV- & TEST environments. At this moment there is no .iso without telemetry, so distro is not useable in ACC- & PROD environments.
- (*) User can remove App like "mintReport" and then block specific package: <[read article](#)> ; for long-term solution ask/tweet distro to remove telemetry package from Repo
- Distro is not "Privacy by Design" ; Overview & Suggestions for improvements: <[read here](#)>

Cat.0 Telemetry

- [linuxmint-20.1-cinnamon-64bit.iso](#)
See Cat.2 & 3 and images Annex-1
- [linuxmint-20.1-mate-64bit.iso](#)
See Cat.2 & 3 and images Annex-2
- [linuxmint-20.1-xfce-64bit.iso](#)
See Cat.2 & 3 and images Annex-3

Cat.1 Telemetry

- N/A

Cat.2 Telemetry

- Cinnamon
 - "popularity-contest" telemetry in Repo; not installed; see Annex-1 Img3
 - Via Menu "System Info"-upload telemetry installed & active; details & upload IP/domain destination not clear; see Annex-1 Img9
- MATE
 - "popularity-contest" telemetry idem Cinnamon; see Annex-2 Img3
 - "System Info"-upload telemetry not present
- Xfce
 - "popularity-contest" telemetry idem Cinnamon; see Annex-3 Img3

Cat.3 Telemetry

- Cinnamon

→ Via Menu "Administration"; in App "Crash Reports": User details & fingerprinting installation with complete system configuration Kernel, Desktop, Machine, Battery, CPU, Graphics, Audio, Network, Drives, USB, Sensors, Repos, Xinfo, chips ID serial numbers. Previous it was mentioned that root can block reports in /etc/hosts 127.0.0.1

termbin.com but as of May'21 no such instructions provided; User can remove App "mintReports" see Annex-1 Img6,Img7 & Img8

→ Related to previous but separate App "Apport" installed; see Annex-1 Img11

- MATE

→ Idem Cinnamon "Administration"; App System Reports aka "Crash Reports" aka Mint Report; see Annex-2 Img6 & Img7

→ Related to previous but separate App "Apport" installed; see Annex-2 Img8

- Xfce

→ Idem Cinnamon System Reports aka "Crash Reports" aka Mint Report; see Annex-3 Img6 & Img7

→ Related to previous but separate App "Apport" installed; see Annex-2 Img8

Cat.4 Telemetry

- N/A

Remarks:

- Instructed by KDE-org all distros desktops have to create forced dependencies with cat.4 KUserFeedback telemetry if user is to install KDE software like Kate or Dolphin. And Linux Mint did not comply and made no forced dependency. See annex below.

Annex-checklist

Implementation of Telemetry and "Spying on User"-software within Linux desktop domain is expanding and as such a moving target. Therefore investigation results can vary. Occurrence of known software situation as listed below are checked at date: see "Status" in header this document.

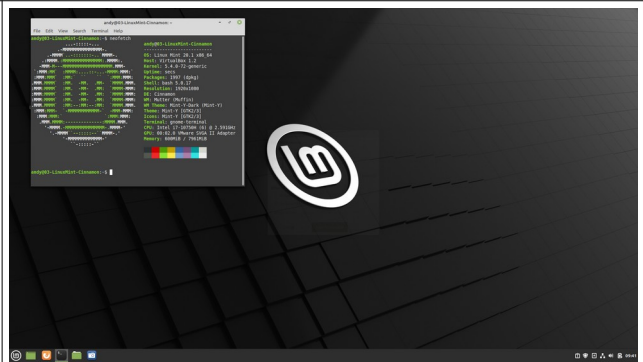
- KUserFeedback Telemetry package (KUFB)
- Dolphin: target KUFB track& trace
- Kate: target KUFB track&trace
- Discover Software Store KDE Plasma: target KUFB track&trace
- popularity-contest: reporting to Distro HQ
- Crash Report App Apport: reporting to Distro HQ
- Bug Report: reporting to Distro HQ
- Connectivity Checking: regular reporting to Distro HQ
- Info Update: reporting to Distro HQ
- User Location: reporting to Distro HQ
- OS Settings: Cookies & browserID reporting to Browser HQ

About:

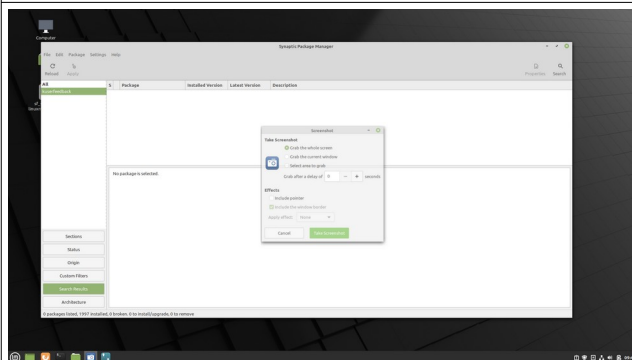
- Origin & instruction to distro of KUFB & App targetting
→ KDE.org
- Implementation & control of KUFB & App targetting
→ Distro.org
- Survey package "popularity-contest": <https://popcon.debian.org>
- Crash Report: <https://launchpad.net/ubuntu/+source/apport>

Annex-1

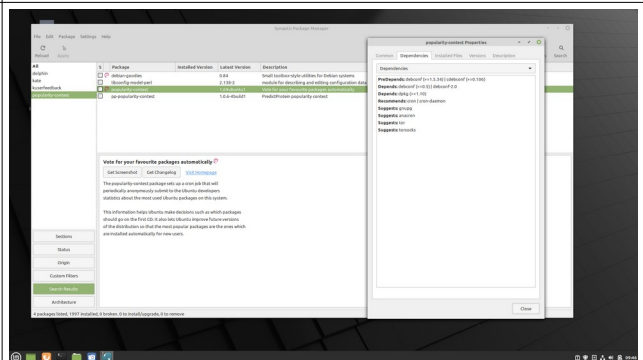
Linux Mint Cinnamon 2021-05



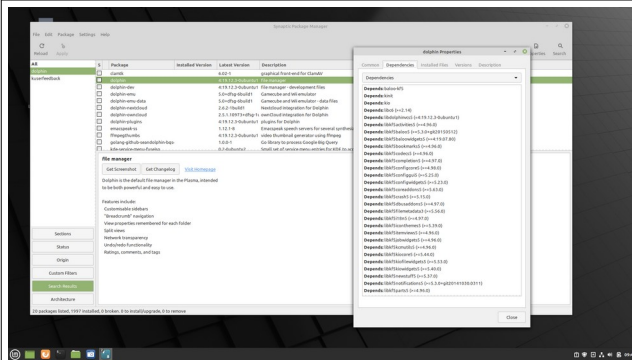
Img1 neofetch



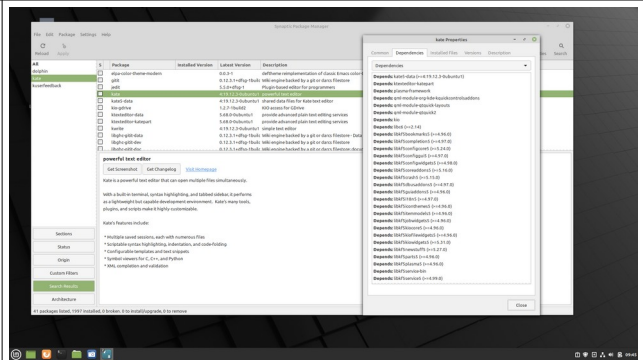
Img2 KuserFeedback not in Repo



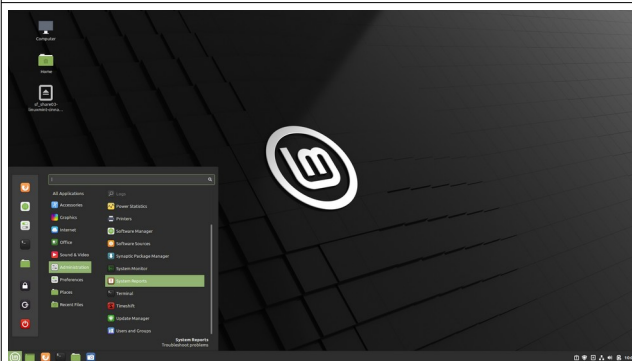
Img3 popularity-contest in Repo



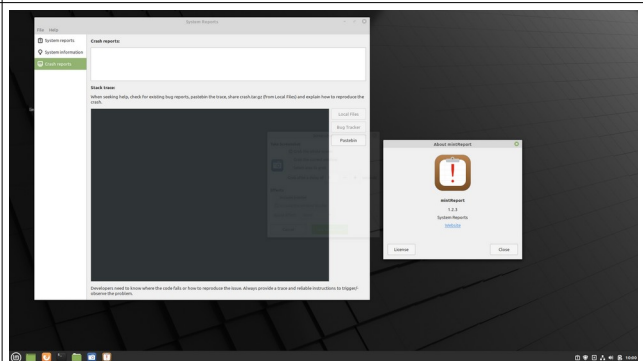
Img4 dolphin in Repo – no
KuserFeedback dependency



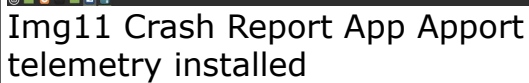
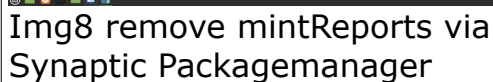
Img5 kate in Repo – no
KuserFeedback dependency



Img6 Administration – Crash Reports

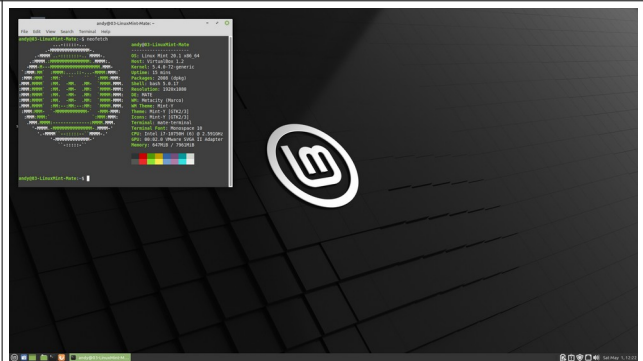


Img7 App mintReports telemetry into
the cloud

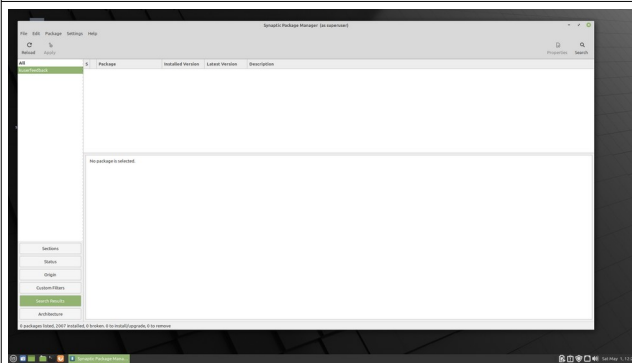


Annex-2

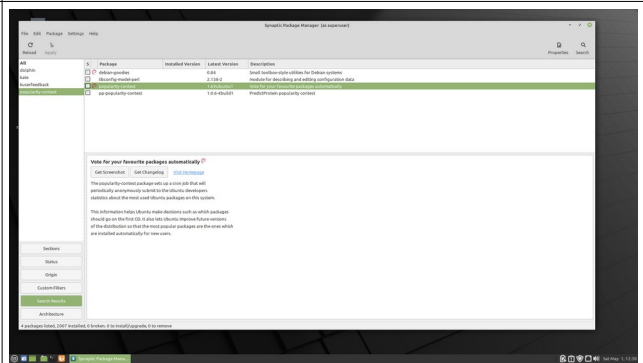
Linux Mint Mate 2021-05



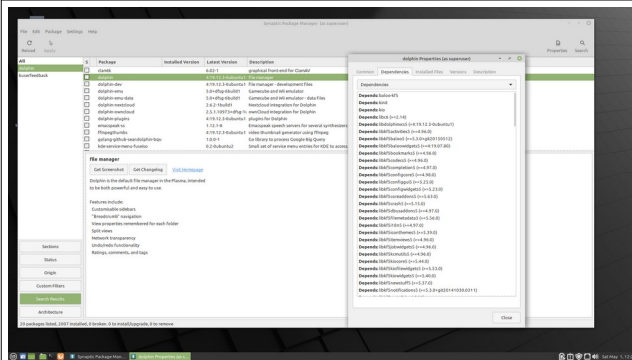
Img1 neofetch



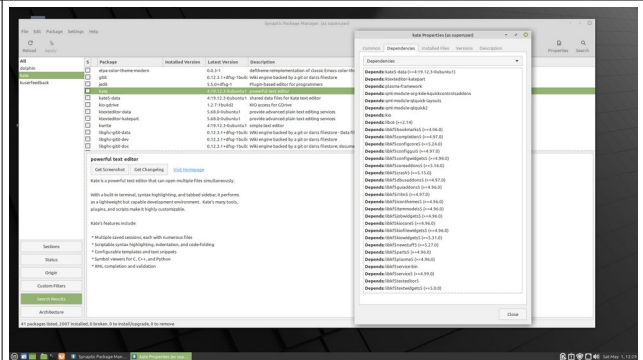
Img2 KuserFeedback not in Repo



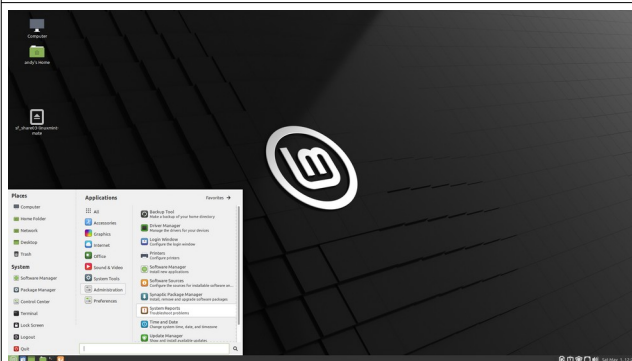
Img3 popularity-contest in Repo – not installed



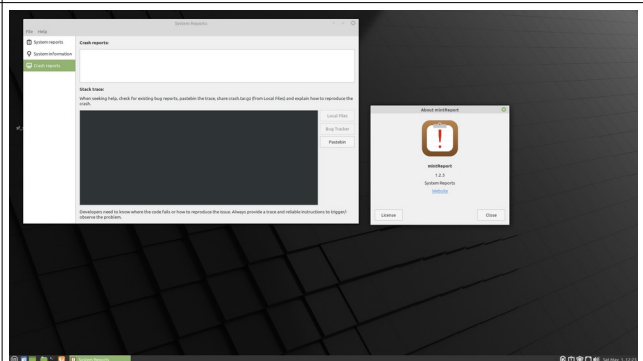
Img4 dolphin in Repo – no KuserFeedback dependency



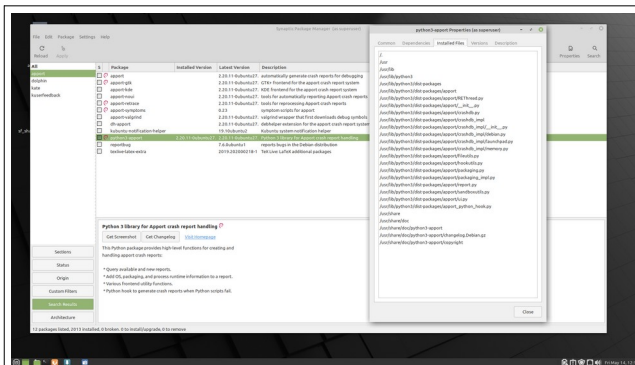
Img5 kate in Repo – no KuserFeedback dependency



Img6 via Menu System Reports aka mintReports



Img7 mintReports – can be deleted



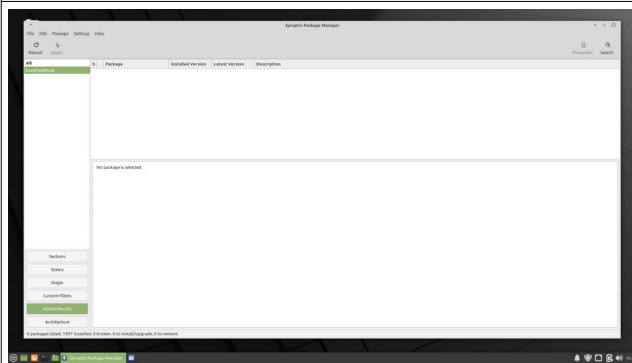
Img8 Crash Report app Apport telemetry installed

Annex-3

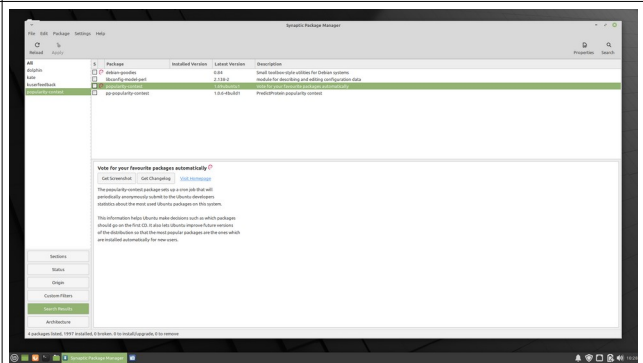
Linux Mint Xfce 2021-05



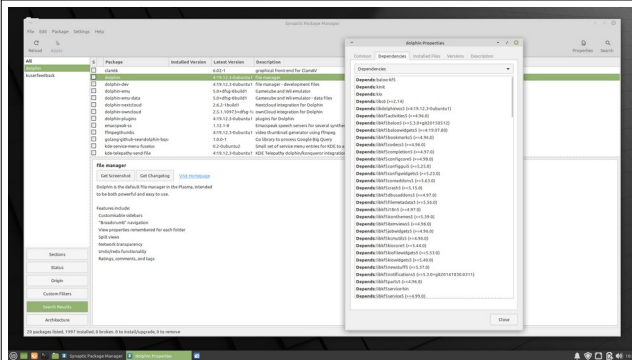
Img1 neofetch



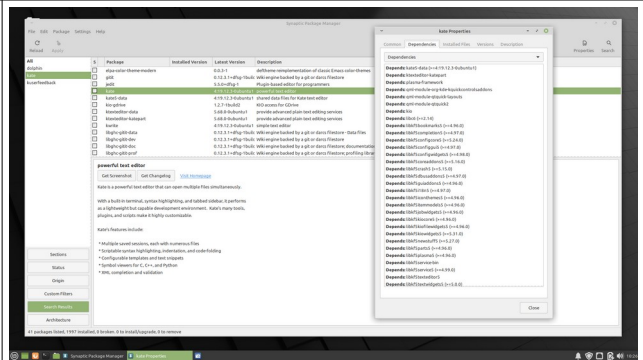
Img2 KuserFeedback not in Repo



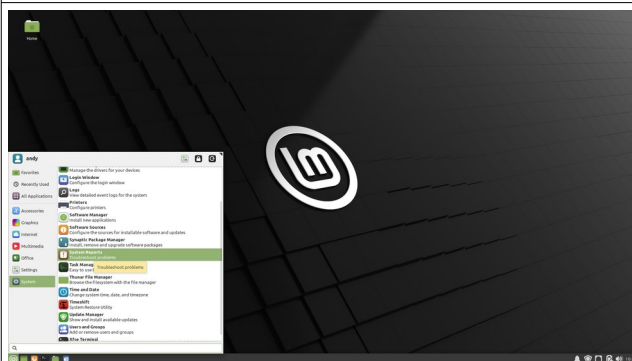
Img3 popularity-contest in Repo – not installed



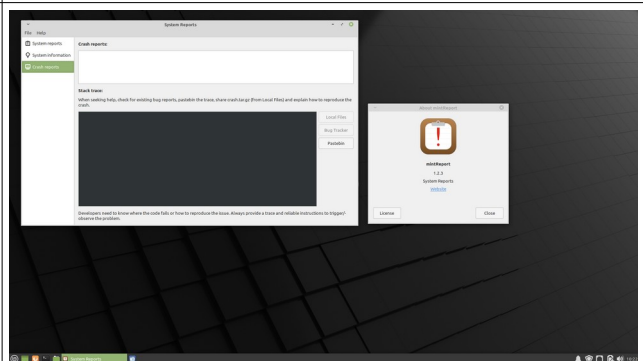
Img4 dolphin in Repo – no KuserFeedback dependency



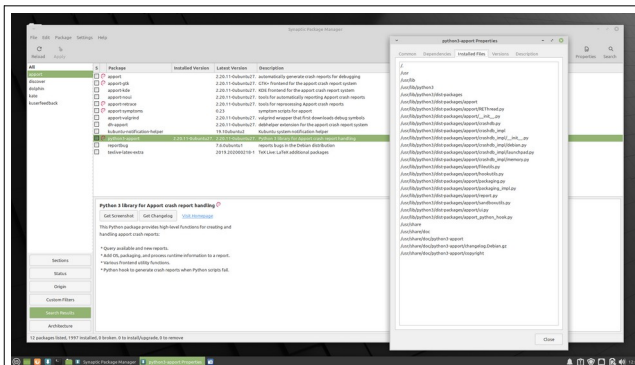
Img5 kate in Repo – no KuserFeedback dependency



Img6 Menu Settings System Reports
aka Mint Report telemetry



Img7 Mint Report telemetry installed
& active



Img8 Crash Report app Apport telemetry installed

Linux distros categorized:

– [Cat.0 is having no telemetry](#)



Zero telemetry is the reason for companies, governments, organisations and users all over the world to adopt & migrate to "Privacy by Design" Linux.

– [Cat.1 software for location telemetry built-in](#)



As is downloadable .iso has Usage statistics telemetry and is not suitable for Production Environments & Personal use. Installation need change of settings or Command Line Interface CLI & privacy health check after Updates.

– [Cat.2 is Cat.1 & user survey telemetry built-in](#)



As is downloadable .iso has Survey telemetry and is not suitable for Production Environments & Personal use. Installation need change of settings or Command Line Interface CLI & privacy health check after Updates.

– [Cat.3 is Cat.2 & QI collect & analyze user data telemetry built-in](#)



Quality Improvement (QI) via collect & analyze user data built-in downloadable .iso is not suitable for Production environment & Personal use. Installation need change of settings or Command Line Interface CLI & privacy health check after Updates.

– [Cat.4 above & track/trace user activity & content telemetry built-in](#)



Distro downloadable .iso not suitable for Production Environments & Personal use. Installation has sophisticated non deleteable non stoppable "spy on user" engine. Either built-in (KDE) or in repo's.