

Distro : **Manjaro**
Wikipedia : https://nl.wikipedia.org/wiki/Manjaro_Linux
Website : <https://manjaro.org/>
Twitter : [@ManjaroLinux](https://twitter.com/ManjaroLinux)
Status : May/12 2021
Author : [summertime tech](#)
CPU : Tested on x86 & ARM

Complete .iso:

- Including Updates 30/4
- 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.
- (*) if it was not built-in but "only" in Repo there are methods to block specific packages: <[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

- [manjaro-gnome-20.2.1-210103-linux59.iso](#)
See Cat.1, & 4 and images Annex-1
- [manjaro-kde-20.2.1-210103-linux59.iso](#)
See Cat.2, 3 & 4 and images Annex-2
- [manjaro-xfce-20.2.1-210103-linux59.iso](#)
[See Cat.3 & 4 and images Annex-3](#)

Cat.1 Telemetry

- GNOME
→ During installation setup account Welcome Screen "Allow Applications to determine geographical location?" default set to <on> (Mozilla Privacy Policy) – User set to <off> ; see Annex-1 Img6 & Img7

Cat.2 Telemetry

- KDE
→ Via Menu App Settings "Cookies" & "Browser Identification" User set values to private ; see annex-2 Img6 & Img7

Cat.3 Telemetry

- GNOME
→ Via Menu; in App Settings; option "Manjaro Logs Helper": Send Configuration Various parameters can be set including "Personal data"

rename" default set to <not>; User set to <yes>; Parameter "Send configuration info into the internet" default set to <off> ; see Annex-1

■ KDE

→ Manjaro Log Helper in Repo; not installed ; see Annex-2

■ Xfce

→ Manjaro Log Helper in Repo; not installed ; see Annex-3

Cat.4 Telemetry

■ GNOME

→ Added KUserFeedback to Repo; not installed; see annex-1 Img2a/b

→ Added App dolphin to repo; not installed; with KUserFeedback dependency; see annex-1 Img4a/b

→ Added App kate to repo; not installed; with KUserFeedback dependency; see annex-1 Img5a/b

→ Added App discover to list of Apps in Repo; not installed; with KUserFeedback telemetry dependency; see annex-1 Img11

■ KDE

→ KUserFeedback telemetry engine built-in & can't be uninstalled or removed. Via Menu; in App System; option User Feedback; parameter Plasma default <off> ; Although "off" engine will function in background gathering information & store in /home/user/.config/kde.org/files*

→ App dolphin, kate in Repo with KUserFeedback telemetry dependency ; see Annex-2

→ Added Discover in Repo to list of Apps with KUserFeedback dependency; see annex-2 Img12

■ Xfce

→ KUserFeedback telemetry in Repo; not installed

→ Dolphin in Repo with KuserFeedback dependency; If User install dolphin (or kate) then KUserFeedback becomes active: see Annex-3 Img7. After that, if User removes dolphin KuserFeedback telemetry file will not be deleted: see Annex-3 Img8

Idem Kate in Repo with KUserFeedback dependency ; see Annex-3

→ Added Discover in Repo to list of Apps with KUserFeedback dependency; see annex-3 Img9

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 Manjaro complied and made this forced dependency.
- Manjaro Gnome and Xfce: have cat.4 KUserFeedback telemetry in Repo and can be installed (not advised) and afterwards be removed without freezing the system. But in Manjaro KDE desktop cat.4 KUserFeedback telemetry is mandatory; If removed the system freezes beyond repair.

Annex-checklist

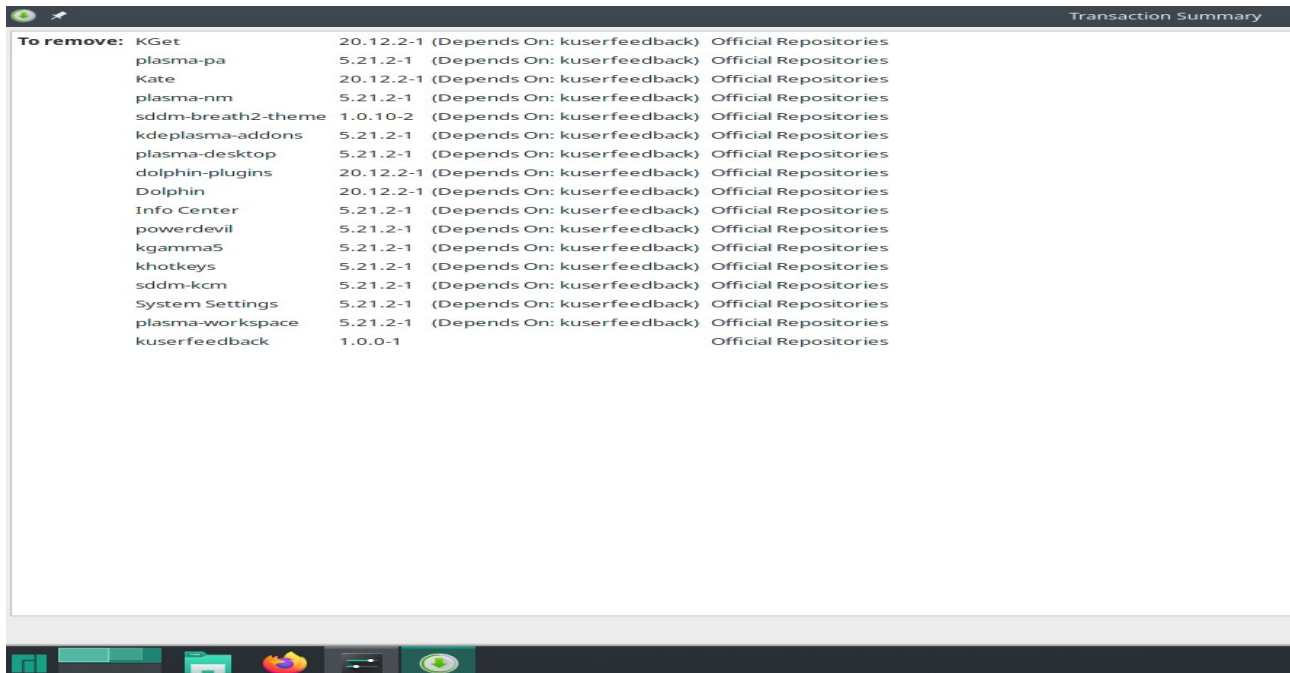
Implementation of Telemetry and "Spying on User"-software within Linux desktop domain is expanding and as such a moving target. Therefore investigation results can vary. Occurrence of known software situation as listed below are checked at date: see "Status" in header this document.

- 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: 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

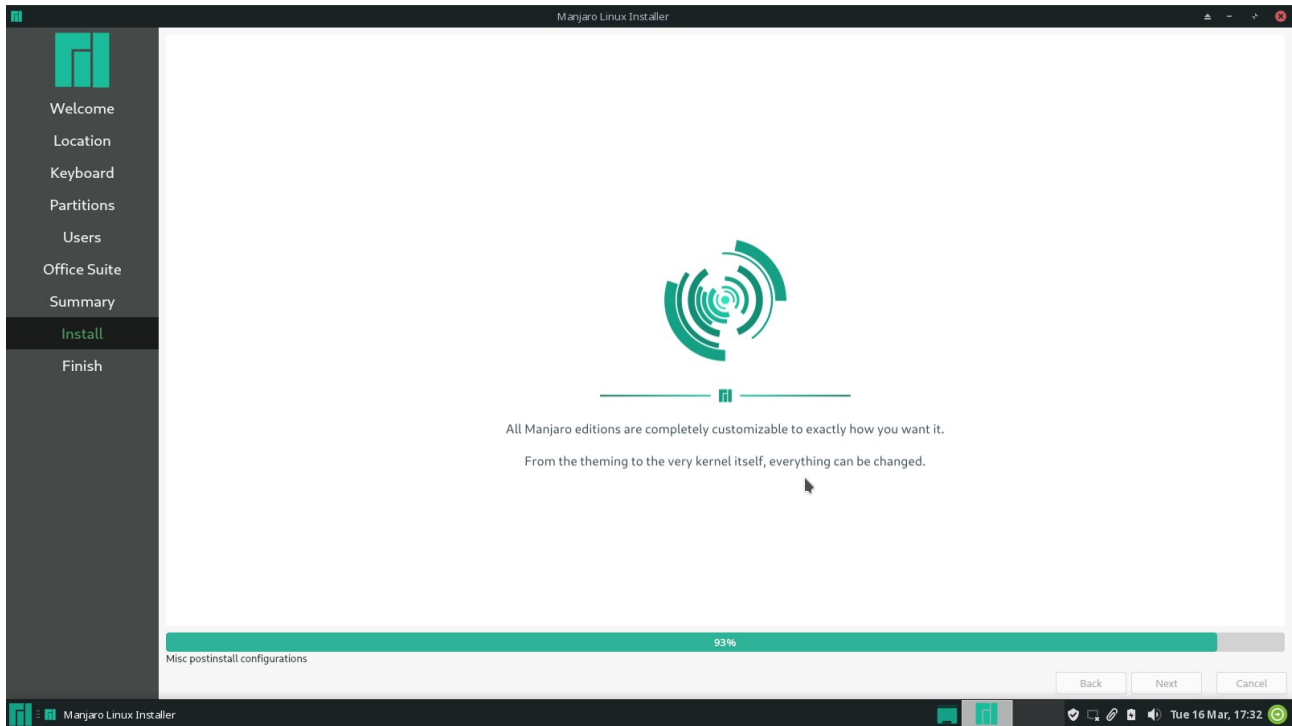
About:

- 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>

✖ KDE: If User wants to remove package KUserFeedback then fictional “dependencies” are presented; if User continuous to remove then complete installation freezes beyond repair.

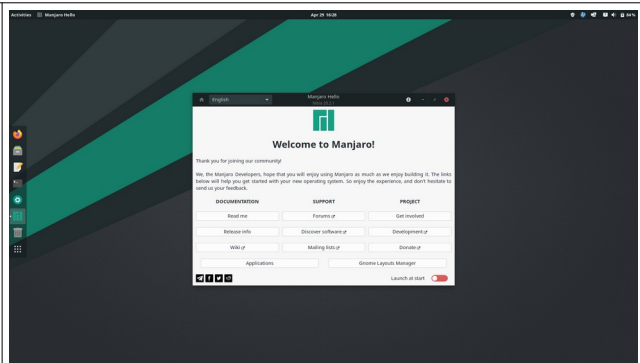


- ✗ Manjaro during Installation Slideshow presenting text:
"All editions are completely customizable to exactly how you want it"
→ Promise is NOT true: Telemetry KuserFeedback can't be deleted!

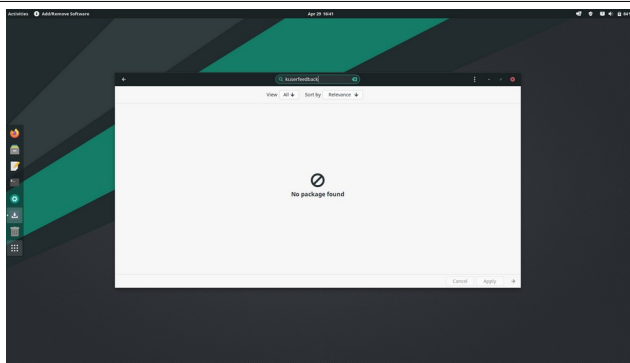


Annex-1

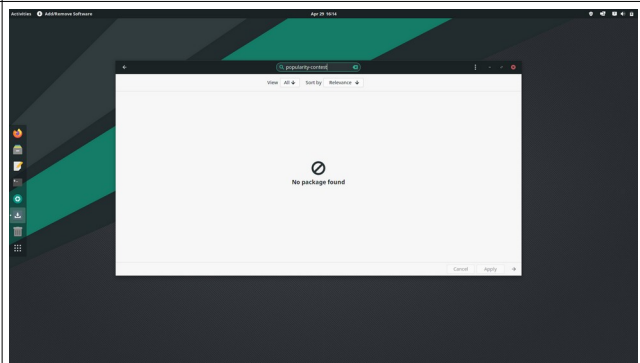
Manjaro GNOME
2021-05



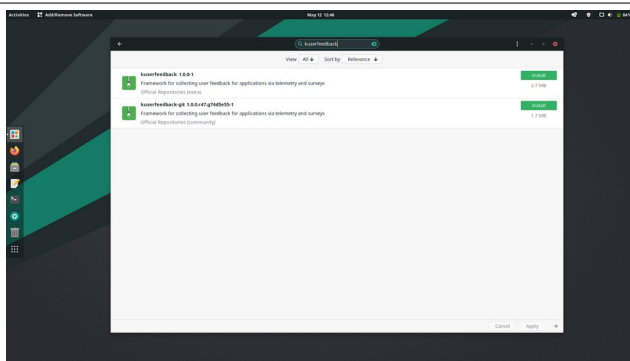
Img1 desktop info



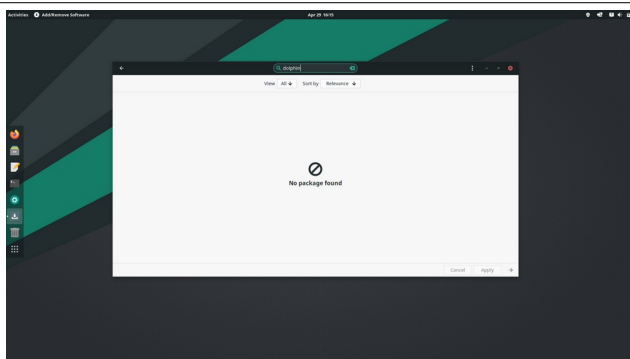
Img2a KUserFeedback not in Repo



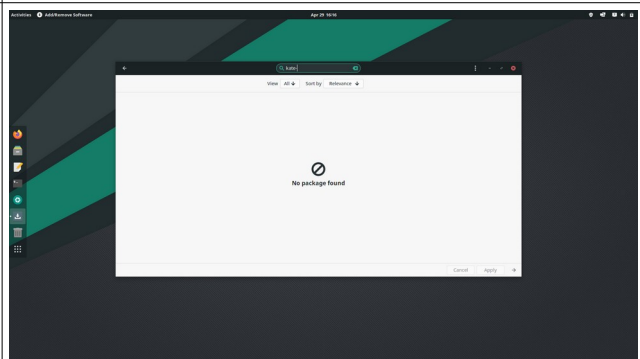
Img3 popularity-contest not in Repo



Img2b KUserFeedback added to Repo



Img4a dolphin was not in Repo



Omg5 kate was not in Repo

Img4b dolphin added to Repo – with KUserFeedback dependency

Imgb5b kate added to Repo – with KUserFeedback dependency

Img6 during installation location is default set to ON

Img7 via App Settings Locations
Service user set to OFF

Img8 Manjaro Log Helper installed

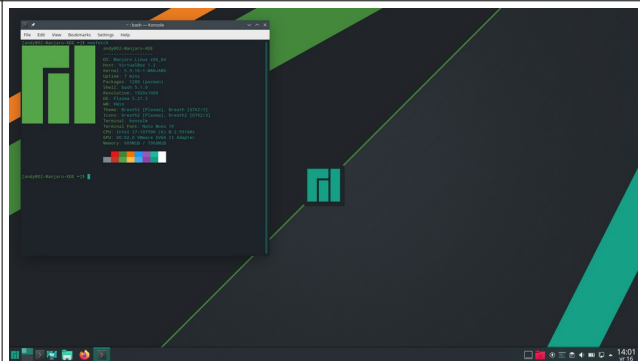
Img9 Manjaro Log Helper MSG
personal data is removed

Img10 during installation MSG user can fully customize desktop – not true

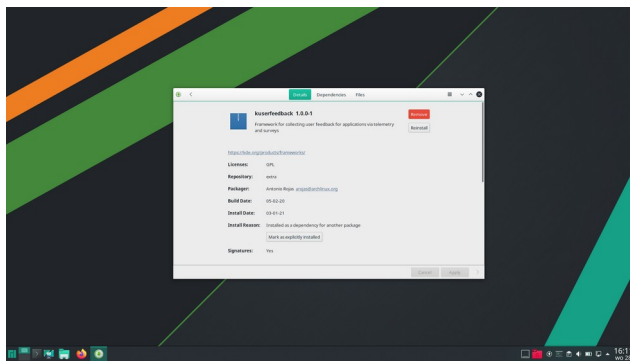
Img11 discover in repo – with KUserFeedback dependency

Annex-2

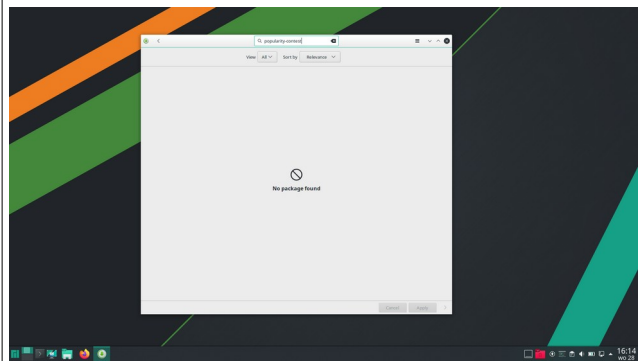
Manjaro KDE
2021-05



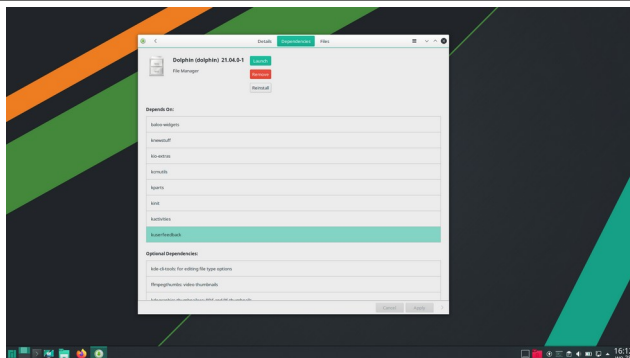
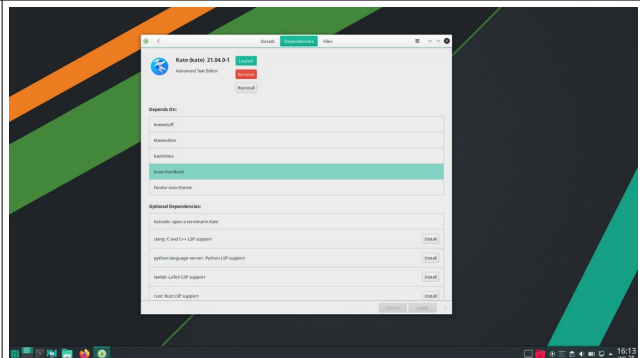
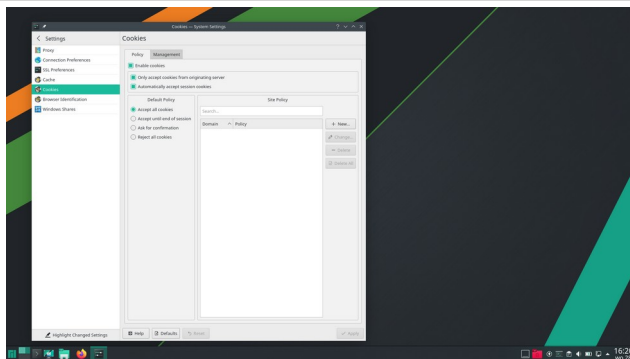
Img1 neofetch



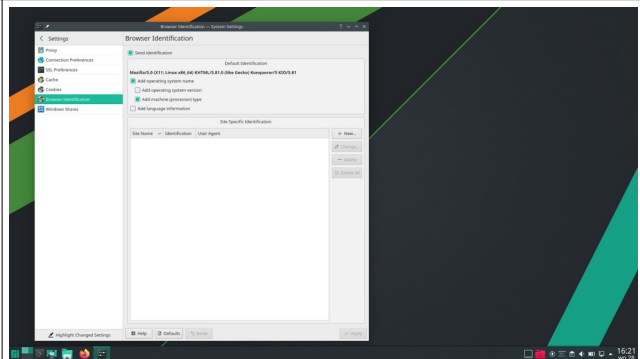
Img2 KuserFeedback installed



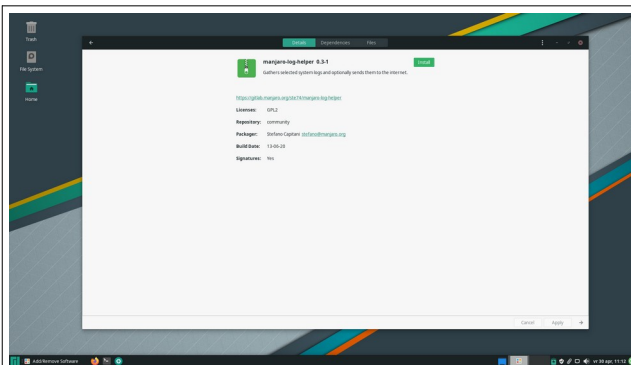
Img3 popularity-contest not in Repo

Img4 dolphin installed with
KuserFeedback dependencyImg5 kate installed with
KuserFeedback dependency

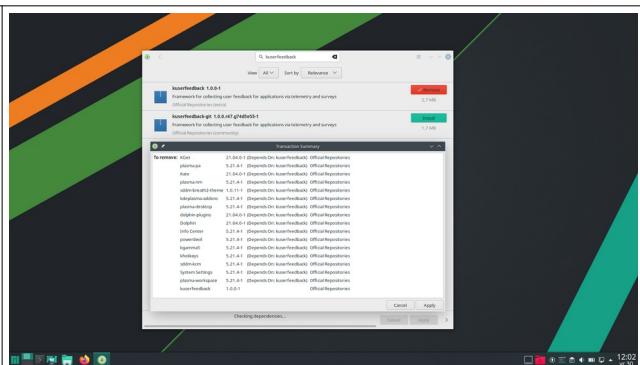
Img6 Settings – Cookies



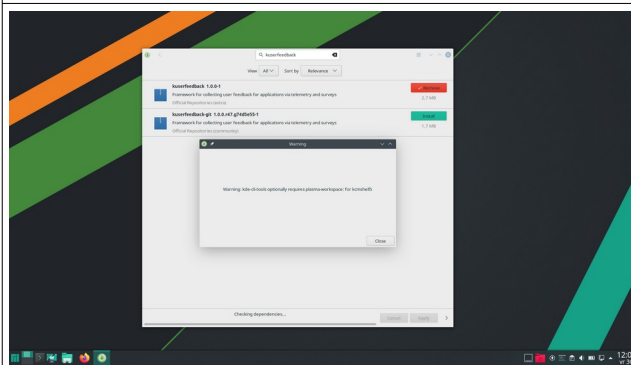
Img7 Settings – Browser ID



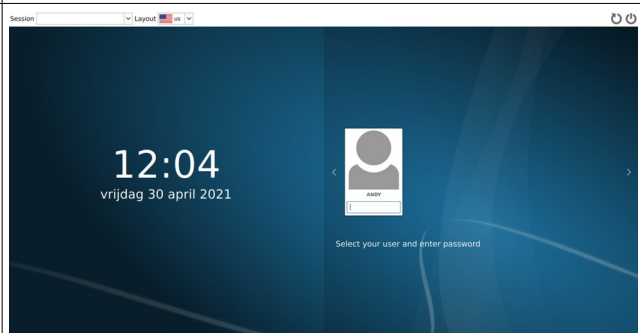
Img8 Manjaro Log Helper in Repo



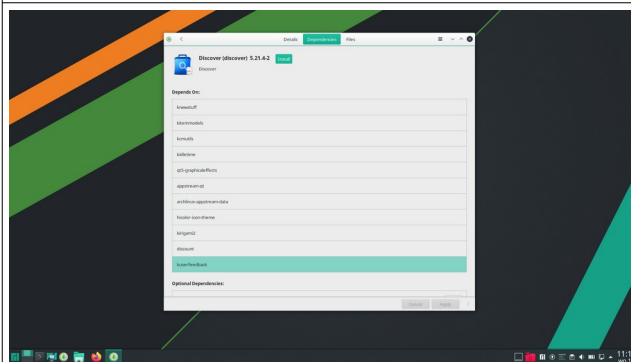
Img9 List of KUserFeedback dependencies



Img10 warning when removing
KUserFeedback



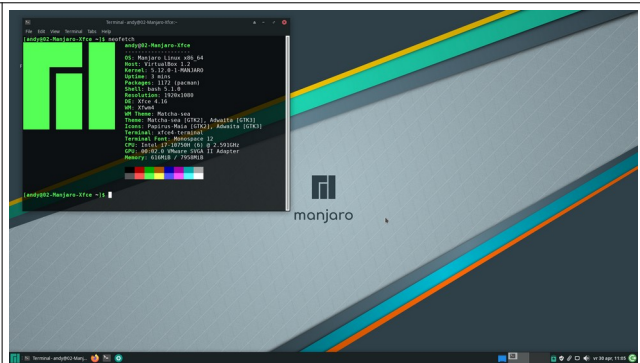
Img11 After KUserFeedback has been removed desktop is gone and installation freezes



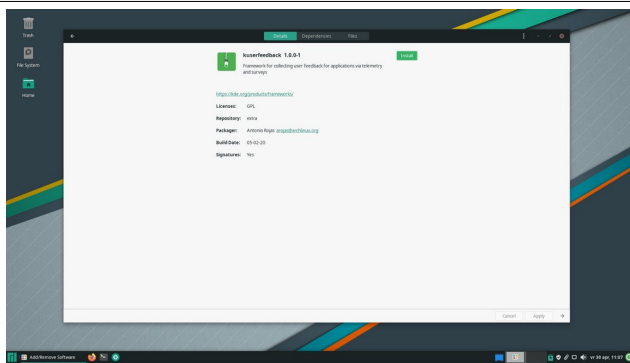
Img12 discover in Repo – with KUserFeedback dependency

Annex-3

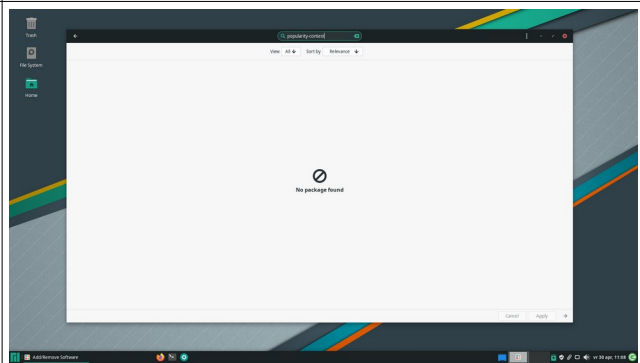
Manjaro Xfce
2021-05



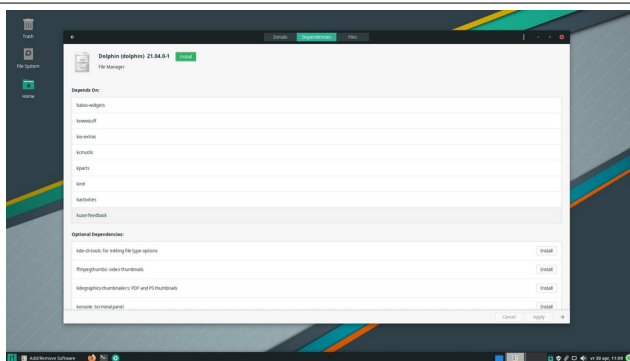
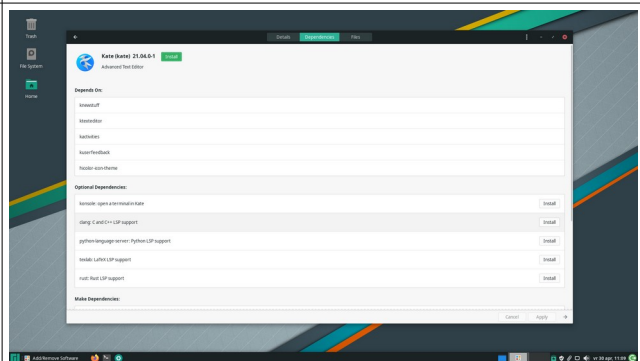
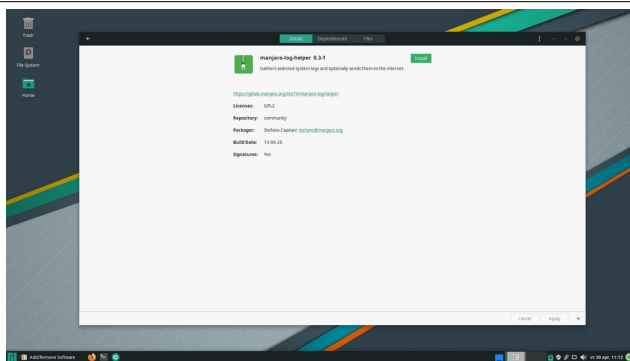
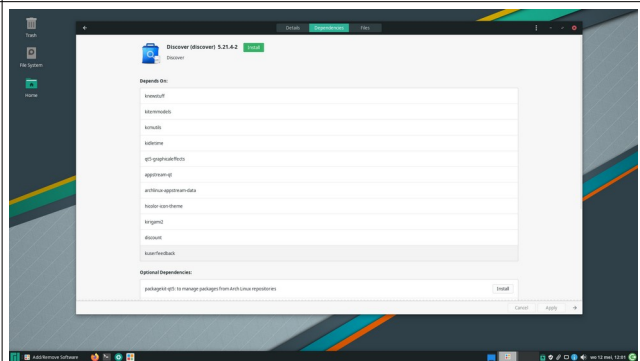
Img1 neofetch kernel 5.12

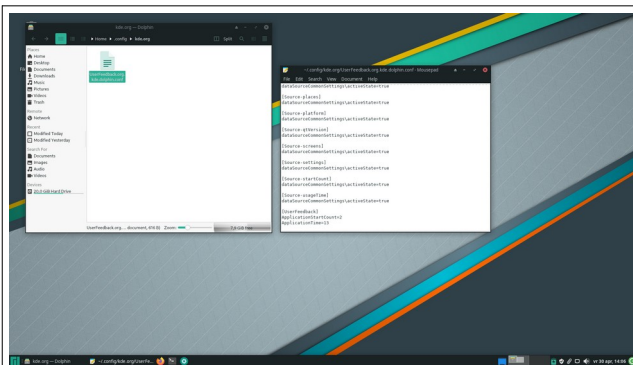


Img2 KUserFeedback in Repo

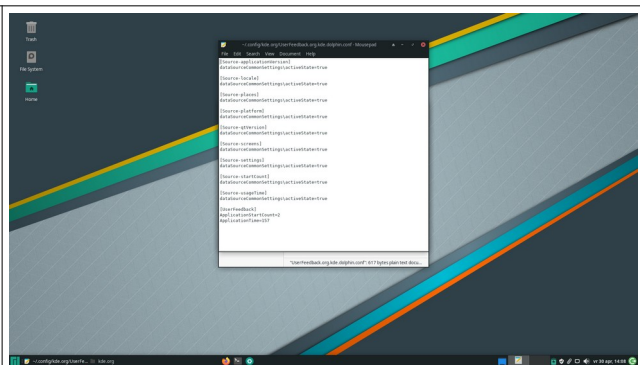


Img3 popularity-contest not in Repo

Img4 dolphin in Repo – with
KUserFeedback dependencyImg5 kate in dolphin – with
KUserFeedback dependencyImg6 Manjaro Log Helper in Repo –
not installedImg9 Discover in Repo – with
KUserFeedback dependency



Img7 dolphin installed and KuserFeedback telemetry becomes active



Img8 dolphin removed but KuserFeedback telemetry file not deleted

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 deletable non stoppable "spy on user" engine. Either built-in (KDE) or in repo's.