How to RICE Linux

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Chapter 1

Introduction

Who the fuck am I? Why are you here? And most importantly, should you stay?

1.1 What is this book

This book is something that I wished to find when I started my Linux journey. I have my glorious king Brian Ward to help me with the backend stuff, but what about the frontend? I had to learn all of this stuff on my own, and I feel like I'm not even 1% there. I hope this book is useful to somebody.

1.2 Who is this book aimed at

If you do not know anything about a Linux system, what the hell are you doing here? Go read "How Linux Works by Brian Ward" immediatly. Or some other documentation until you reach a basic understanding of the system, then come back here. Instead, if you are an experienced Linux user, enough to want to correct me every time you see "Linux" and not "GNU/Linux", then again, what the hell are you doing here? This is a book for unexperienced people, take your experience elsewhere, like my email inbox, so that you can share your knowledge and improve this book written by this complete idiot.

1.3 What is inside this book?

Inside this book you will find:

- What does it mean to customize your system

- How to customize your system

- What every piece is and what does it do

- How I archieved my *super cool RICE*

- A whole lot of yapping on unrelated topics (this may be removed in the future)

Chapter 2

Let's get started

Here I will illustrate the basics of a RICE. What it means and what are the various components, as well as what they do and why they are there

2.1 Before we begin

I consider part of the customization not just the aesthetic, but also the functionality of the system, so here there will be more than just theme customization, but some light scripting as well.

2.2 What makes a system

You need a lot of parts to make the system actually work. I will be assuming that you have the vanilla Linux Kernel with default parameters, systemd as your init, and GRUB as your bootloader. After that, you will need :

- An Operating System
- A Display Server
- A Window Manager or a Desktop Enviroment
- A panel or a bar
- An application launcher
- A terminal emulator
- A shell
- A file manager
- A notification Daemon
- A compositor, or something to display visual effects
- A wallpaper
- A color scheme

- Some fonts

- An audio system

- A music player

- A system monitor

- A lock screen

- A Power menu

- Screenshots capabilities

- Clipboard manager

- A text editor

- Dotfile management

- Miscellaneous cool stuff

- A web browser

- Themes for every application

- Automation for basic system functionalities

- Session management

Remember that all that you need to use a Linux based OS is electricity, and even that is optional, so if you feel like any of these components are not needed, feel free to non include them in your RICE. With all of that said, let's actually start on something.

2.2.1   The Operating System

Whatever distro you chose to customize, it all boils down to the package manager of choice. As such I will be making every step with Arch Linux in mind, but it's easy to check if the thing I'm talking about is compatible with your distro, and if it is, install it with your package manager(or build from source), and follow the guide like nothing happened.

If you have yet to choose a distro, do not be afraid, for I shall give you guidance. It's actually really easy. If you care about stability above all, go with something Debian based, like Ubuntu or Mint. If you want maximum customization capabilities and bleeding edge updates, go with Arch or any derivative distro. If you still want stability but you do not want to get packages 4 years later than everybody else, go with Fedora. I say Fedora and not any other RedHat distro because I do not enjoy the RedHat logo.

2.2.2 The display server