

Re: The Final Frontier. Upgrading Sarge to Etch

Source: <http://linux.derkeiler.com/Mailing-Lists/Debian/2007-02/msg00562.html>

- *From:* hendrik@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx
 - *Date:* Sat, 3 Feb 2007 22:06:08 -0500
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On Sat, Feb 03, 2007 at 09:22:04AM -0800, tony mollica wrote:

Just upgraded mine. I've been fearing that upgrade as the report for the upgrade showed hundreds of packages to be removed. What I did was copy the current installation to another disk, made it bootable so I have the original disk intact.

Ran the update and dist-upgrade many times, including installing the new kernel 2.6.18 to get the udev stuff. After a while I finally reached the point where no packages were being removed, added updated, etc and the installation works fine. I have a post labeled 'Debian testing, alsa and cups' in here somewhere that is a request for help to find a couple of relatively minor problems (but annoying).

The test was what would happen if I just ran the upgrade and see if a bootable system resulted, and it worked. Unfortunately I don't keep good records so I can't give a step by step. I did follow a procedure I found somewhere in the documentation that recommended some updates prior to the upgrade. The Aptitude was one of them. Also, one of the responders to my post mentioned above had a link to a procedure that also may help.

Have fun.

By the way, you're top-posting.

It was not the xfree->xorg transition that killed my upgrades; I weathered that one fairly well. My system died in the transition from xorg 6.9 to xorg 7.0. The installer daily build I installed on Jan 2,

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2007 seems to have done a decent job of getting X up (on a fresh install, mind you, I didn't try an upgrade) but I suffered severe file-system damage with that one. It may have been hard disk problems; it may also have been that I was one of the few hit by a race condition in the Debian 2.6.18-3 kernel. I posted a bug report; it's probably been fixed in 2.6.18-4, and I'm eagerly awaiting the arrival on 2.6.18-4 into etch and its installer. The hard disk problem is such that I don't *think* it caused the particular symptoms I had, but it's hard to know for sure. Instead of investigating the install failure further, I've been replacing the hard disk.

I do expect that the upgrade path will become smooth by the time etch is stable, and that once that happens, you won't need to reinstall.

-- hendrik

Dave Sherohman wrote:

On Sat, Feb 03, 2007 at 07:43:31AM -0500, hendrik@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx wrote:

Backup is essential. I've tried to do an upgrade from sarge to etch several times over the past year, and have yet to do one that resulted in a working system. I found a new install works better, but even there I have problems.

Funny, I thought one of the big advantages of Debian over most other distros is that you *don't* need to reinstall when a new version comes out. What's the deal with etch, then? Debian's not jumping on the 'reinstall for every upgrade' bandwagon, is it?

(And I ask this from a system which has been through slink, potato, woody, and is currently on sarge, all without needing a reinstall.)

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tony
tjm3@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

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