

Re: A very simple question...

Source: <http://linux.derkeiler.com/Newsgroups/alt.os.linux.suse/2005-01/4215.html>

From: ac (aecnews_at_candt.demon.co.uk)

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LinuxNovice wrote:

> *Okay, I will be the first to say that I am very new to Linux. I am
> beginning to work with it because I am (like so many of us) sick of M\$.*

Welcome. Me too, although I am some months in now, and feeling a bit more relaxed.

> *My question is this. How do you install applications such as a DVD
> player, Mozilla, etc?*

For suse (for example version 9.2) you will find a **lot** of other applications on the CDs, or available for download. I know that 9.1 included say, Firefox (version 0.8-44) on the CDs, which I installed via yast very easily, and later when wanting the version 1.0, uninstalled 0.8 just as easily via yast. Happy dreamland as far as I am concerned – a long time windoze user and wanting a good distro to use seriously at the same time as learning basics in slower time.

I first uninstalled the old firefox, no point in a complicated life for me just yet.

Since firefox 1.0 (for example) had to be downloaded, I went to find a suse-specific file to download (in this case) is:

<ftp://ftp.suse.com/pub/projects/mozilla/firefox/1.0/>

(note the machine is suse.com in this case)

and the file I was interested in was seen listed as

<ftp://ftp.suse.com/pub/projects/mozilla/firefox/1.0/MozillaFirefox-1.0-2.1.src.rpm>

(note – the .src part of the filename suggests to my inexperienced eyes 'source' which I would normally steer well away from at present, but konq knows what it is doing more than I do.....)

:–)

Using (suse linux) web browser Konqueror, I clicked on the file in the listing. It automatically downloaded (note 38Mb). It downloaded into a

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konqueror defined tmp (temporary?) area, in fact into
file:/tmp/kde-user1/konqueror1zSGYb.0-2.1.src.rpm
(later automatically deleted)

Then, when downloaded, the konq screen indicates three tabs –
description, change log, and long files list. Presumably of the
effective contents.

However, at the top of the konq screen there is a button named
'install package with YAST'

I click it.....

I am asked to enter the root password and do so.

yast starts up. Indicates installing firefox 1.0 with no action from me.

yast completes by re-writing the system configuration, then closes.

With no further action by me, firefox now starts when I click the name etc.

I have not counted the clicks to find and install this, but it astounds
me that it is so easy. And jam/jelly on it – no re-boot.

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An alternative, less purist approach is to obtain the straight rpm file
for your suse version, I believe it is a file such as
MozillaFirefox-1.0-2.1.i586.rpm (it is 8Mb only)
and save it to your (home) directory, then using konq, guess what –
click on the file.

Again, choose to install using the yast button. Similar consequent
activities.

:–)

I do know that the executable in Linux is .run

don't know about that, talk to me next year when I know more.

> *but if I download an application it typically is compressed into a .gz
> file.*

may be or maybe not

Well, after I download this file what do I do with it? Do I

> *have to put it into a specific directory?*

it is usual to run linux as a user (*not* root), so you have access to
saving stuff in your home/user/ areas.

I ask because I have

> *discovered that Linux (or at least Suse) will not allow me to simply
> try to conduct an installation as I would in Windows.*

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:~)

I can understand

- > *why Linux would have a different installation procedure since it makes*
- > *the OS more secure.*

mmm.

However when it comes to doing this simple task I

- > *cannot find suitable documentation.*

My sympathies. This group is very good. As a previous 'doze user I know it can be hard to even ask the right questions.

However, with hindsight :~) searching in google web for the string
download install using konqueror suse
gave a pretty good answer on the first page, fifth listing.

Have fun, enjoy

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AlanC