



MX Linux FAQs

Frequently Asked Questions

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General

Is there a Manual we can consult about MX?

Yes, the thorough [Users Manual](#) is available from the Menu or by pressing Alt+F1. Use the Table of Contents in the side panel or search with Ctrl+F to look for something specific.

MX Linux Fluxbox has a separate [Manual](#) that is launched on that platform with Ctrl+F1.

Is MX Linux a rolling distro?

No. A rolling distro's base is constantly being upgraded, such as new versions of Qt, GTK+, libc6, GCC, and so on.

A Debian release's version is set in stone, only getting security updates. The MX backports, as well as Debian's, are built against this stable bedrock. The same goes for our own native MX packages.

The MX repos 'Enabled Repos' and 'MX Test Repo' contain some apps that are much more up-to-date than their Debian Stable counterparts.

The 'Enabled Repos' include the MX Main repo and the standard Debian repos, plus if you have ahs and/or ahs-staging enabled, plus all the third party repos that MXPI can enable for you, such as Brave's.

These two MX repos also have apps that aren't in Debian. Just a few of these packages include: QMPlay2, fooyin, Pale Moon, Ungogled Chromium, and Nexis.

User Installed Packages

There is a handy app “[User Installed Packages](#)” that makes it easy to restore packages (if the packages are still available) you had installed and retained after your original installation. Launch it on your current installation to create the package list, then launch it again on the new installation to restore the packages.

Preserving settings

Settings are important as well. If possible, the easiest method is to reuse the Home directory during the new installation. Select the ‘Replace Existing Installation’ option during installation. Note that this is an **experimental** option. For more details see [MX User Manual](#) section 2.5.3.

Otherwise, you should make a separate backup of the Home directory and manually transfer any settings you want to keep (e.g. browser or email) to the new installation.

What’s the MX release cycle?

Major version change happens once Debian releases a new “Stable” (roughly every 2 years). A number of MX “point releases” in between them will come through the standard update channels for existing users. MX releases these point releases typically the week after Debian's point releases.

What’s the best way to upgrade from one version of MX to another?

Instructions for migration of different MX versions can be found on the Migration page of the MX Linux website: <https://mxlinux.org/migration/>

How long will a version of MX be supported?

A chart is located here: <https://mxlinux.org/previous-releases/>. A detailed look can be found in the Users Manual, Section 1.4.

Does MX Linux release other official versions?

Four options exist: Xfce, Xfce ahs, KDE and Fluxbox. There are also many Community respins available; see the list on the Forum: <https://tinyurl.com/tb5hud5z>

Can I use AppImages, Flatpaks, and Snaps?

Stand-alone packages are different in that they are essentially independent from any particular OS and do not need to be installed in the usual sense. For details, consult these MX Wiki pages:

For [AppImage](#) apps see: <https://mxlinux.org/wiki/applications/appimages/>

For Flatpaks and Snaps see <https://mxlinux.org/wiki/help-files/help-mx-package-installer/>

Note: a prerequisite of installing Snaps is the PC must be booted in systemd init mode.

Does MX have any social media presence?

MX has very active communities: <https://mxlinux.org/wiki/other/mx-linux-social-media/> Many have a MX Developer presence.

Obtaining and Installing an ISO (disk image)

Can I buy hardware with MX Linux already installed?

There is a list of known sources here: <https://mxlinux.org/hardware/>

Why does my installation stop at 94%?

The MX Installer program is waiting for you to fill in the information being requested on the right side of the screen. Press “Next” to go through all information gathering screens.

Can I install MX Linux on a PC that has Windows?

If the machine already has Windows 8 or later installed, then special steps must be taken to deal with the presence of (U)EFI (<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/UEFI>) and its best-known feature: Secure Boot.

If you have problems, check the links to videos and documents in the MX Users Manual, Section 2.4.1; or seek advice on the [MX Forum](#).

There is no install icon on the desktop, so what do I do?

That happens sometimes, especially with personal snapshots. Press F4 to open a terminal, and enter:

```
minstall-launcher
```

Configuration and customization

I hate the panel on the side of the Xfce version! How can I move it somewhere where I want it?

The [MX Tweak](#) tool can easily move it to your preferred position.

I don't like Xfce. Can I install a different desktop?

Consider first starting instead with the carefully curated MX Linux KDE or Fluxbox version.

A number of desktops in basic default format are available in the MX Package Installer under Popular Applications in the category “Desktop Environments” that can be installed easily.

Simpler default Window Manager environments are in the category "Window Managers".

Can I use apps from another desktop on Xfce?

Applications from Window Managers other than those in the default repos can be installed. Note that very often they will bring in other applications and libraries that are dependencies of the application.

In some cases full functionality of the installed app *may* not be achieved. This will possibly require some research on how to enable that functionality. Also, its appearance *may* not be consistent with the default theme.

The window borders are too thin and I can't easily resize windows. Is there a way to do that?

Use Alt+F8 or Alt+right-click to grab the lower-right window corner and drag to the size you want.

Alternatively, select a theme in MX Tweak, Theme tab with a ‘thick-border’ suffix.

How can I add a button to the Xfce Panel for one-click logout / shutdown / restart?

Right-click the green Action Buttons icon on the panel > Properties and un-check everything except what you want to see. You can leave “confirmation” unchecked for even faster functionality.

System

Is MX secure? How can I check my system?

MX Linux is based upon Debian Stable, and automatically receives its security updates. You can check the status of the kernel by examining the output of Menu > Quick System Info under “CPU.” Security updates can also be found in the MX Package Installer > Manage Popular packages under “Kernels.”

Can I use Ubuntu Personal Package Archives (PPAs)?

Ubuntu is not Debian, so installing PPAs will likely cause problems. See this article for details: <https://mxlinux.org/wiki/system/add-ppa-repository/>

Solution: On the Forum > Development > MX Repositories, go to the “Package Requests / Status” sub-forum for your MX version (MX-23, MX-25, etc.) and ask our Packaging Devs if the PPA can be be ported or updated for our own repository.

Which Package Manager should I use?

There are three graphical Package Managers:

MX Package Installer (MXPI) for one-click installation/removal of popular apps, as well as apps in the Debian Stable, MX Test Repo, Debian Backports and the Flatpaks repo.

Synaptic Package Manager a tool for a whole range of actions with Debian packages.

Discover - in KDE (Plasma) this is used in lieu of Synaptic Package Manager (not installed).

For details about these as well as command-line utilities, consult the MX [Users Manual](#), Section 5.

How will I know when updates are available?

The update icon in the System Tray notification area will change color; click on it to see the new packages. In a terminal, you can enter:

```
apt update
```

There will be a summary at the end of the output indicating the number of updates available.

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