

Away from Ubuntu

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Introduction

We encountered many issues with Ubuntu 12.04 not being stable enough and having bugs unfixed, or ubuntu dependencies not being as good as the Debian one.

All of our clients are using Ubuntu 12.04 32 bits and we decided to find an alternative to replace Ubuntu before the LTS expires.

Which alternative?

We decided to choose Debian for the following reason:

- More stable than Ubuntu as doesn't have the extra layers of the latest
- Not loaded with all the extra software
- Doesn't have any commercial direction
- Supports LTSP
- Our team is used to Debian's way
- Our server run Debian

32 bits vs 64

Our servers run 64 bit version of Debian but we need to see if all software are compatible.

Stable, Testing or Unstable

- For Services, Community: **Testing and Stable (When testing becomes Stable)**
- For BlueLight team: **Testing and Unstable (for anticipating the development made for Testing)**

We choose Testing as it is in any case more stable than Ubuntu and has it allows us to use the latest 'close to stable' version.

Using **Testing** will allow us to work on the coming version of Debian and therefore foresee the possible problems. It will allow us to test in advance the stable to come and be prepared at the time the release come.

To move from stable to testing replace in sources.list stable by testing then do:

```
apt-get update
apt-get upgrade
apt-get dist-upgrade
reboot
```

We might need to use backport for the kernel when the hardware is not detected by the default kernel.

Migrating from Ubuntu to Debian

Problems

1. People are now used to have the close, minimize, maximize buttons on the left
2. People are used to the launcher
3. People are used to firefox, thunderbird and chrome

Solutions

1. Use tweaks to make the system look like unity, get the users used to the left buttons even if not handy
2. Gnome 3 has a similar launcher
3. icedwisel, icedove and chromium just have different icons than their homologous

For thunderbird install, use the mint deb if necessary: <http://packages.linuxmint.com/pool/import/t/>

Find out the fastest mirrors

Trying to get Testing installed I realized it would take me hours as it depends on the connection to the mirror.

In order to select the best mirror do the following from a Debian machine (A source list will be copied to your home directory):

```
su -
apt-get install netselect-apt
netselect-apt
mv /etc/apt/sources.list{,.bak}
cp ~/sources.list /etc/apt/sources.list
apt-get update
```

Here is the result from 2014/01/04 in BlueLight:

```
# Debian packages for stable
deb http://debian.mirror.net.in/debian/ stable main contrib
# Uncomment the deb-src line if you want 'apt-get source'
# to work with most packages.
# deb-src http://debian.mirror.net.in/debian/ stable main contrib

# Security updates for stable
deb http://security.debian.org/ stable/updates main contrib
```

IN order to avoid surprises 😊 we will use the distribution name instead of stable

```
# Debian packages for stable
deb http://debian.mirror.net.in/debian/ wheezy main contrib
# Uncomment the deb-src line if you want 'apt-get source'
# to work with most packages.
# deb-src http://debian.mirror.net.in/debian/ wheezy main contrib

# Security updates for stable
deb http://security.debian.org/ wheezy/updates main contrib
```

Alternative

Use deb <http://http.debian.net/debian/> wheezy main contrib

From Thunderbird to Icedove

for each user

```
mv ~/.icedove{,-org}  
mv ~/.thunderbird ~/.icedove
```

Extra packages

```
apt-get install sudo rsync vlc audacious emacs23-nox ssh icedove chromium gnome-tweak-tool flashplugin-nonfree  
python-software-properties file-roller gedit telepathy-gabble
```

Remove packages

```
apt-get remove imagemagick  
apt-get autoremove
```

Changing the appearance

Adding the Ubuntu 12.04 icons and cursors

```
rsync -av root@192.168.10.2:/usr/share/icons/ubuntu-mono-dark /usr/share/icons/  
rsync -av root@192.168.10.2:/usr/share/icons/DMZ-White /usr/share/icons/
```

Delete in Nautilus

edit ~/.config/nautilus/accels, search for the line:

```
; (gtk_accel_path "<Actions>/DirViewActions/Trash" "<Primary>Delete")
```

uncomment and change to:

```
(gtk_accel_path "<Actions>/DirViewActions/Trash" "Delete")
```

Desktop Environment comparaisn

We decided to offer choices to users in order for the choose the most convenient desktop.

<http://www.renewablepcs.com/about-linux/kde-gnome-or-xfce>

Install Enlightenment

```
aptitude install e17 e17-modules
```

Desktop sharing

Debian Jessie comes with a Desktop sharing embeded.

To activate it go to **Settings > Sharing > Screen Sharing**

On the client side use vinagre.

Future of GNOME

Here you will find apps developed for Gnome that will make it even more comfortable to use: <https://wiki.gnome.org/Design/Apps/>

Alternatives to Software Center

[deepin software-center](#)

wesnoth

Software Manager

```
sudo add-apt-repository ppa:appgrid/stable sudo apt-get update sudo apt-get install appgrid
```