DesktopBSD

A step towards BSD on the desktop

I already have FreeBSD, how can I take advantage of DesktopBSD?

That's very easy: There's a Port and Package available from FreeBSD which helps you easily upgrade, configure and maintain your system:

http://www.freshports.org/sysutils/desktopbsd-tools

You need KDE as Desktop Environment to make use of the advantages. Detailed instructions can be found here:

http://desktopbsd.net/wiki/doku.php?id=doc:desktopbsd_tools_in_freebsd

What's in the next version?

You want to know what's coming in the next version? - Take a look here

http://svn.desktopbsd.net/index.oho?id=81

Some examples:

- switch to FreeBSD 6.2 as base system
- improved hardware support with more drivers
- improved package manager and mounter
- graphical boot manager using GRUB
- Portsnap for quick application updates
- Boot Splash Manager
- more translations
- mixed Live- and Installations-DVD
- improved installer
- improved dislay recognition
- power management configuration
- Ad-hoc wireless configuration

How does DesktopBSD look?

Take a look at the screenshots. The should be able to show how easy and simple an installation is:

http://www.desktopbsd.net/index.php?id=42

Which applications are available?

You can use any of the currently 16'000 applications available in the Ports (http://www.freshports.org) of FreeBSD and install them with the graphical package manager of DesktopBSD with a mouse click.

Is DesktopBSD secure?

DesktopBSD is based on FreeBSD, an operating system known for its security. Please also refer to:

http://www.allbsd.de/src/Flyer/FreeBSD/PDF/flyer-de-fbsd-security.pdf.

Which Languages are availbale?

DesktopBSD is currently available in 19 languages, wholly or partially translated. More translators arealways welcome, of course. An overview of all translations is available here:

http://desktopbsd.net/wiki/doku.php?id=tr:languagessupported

Further Information

http://www.DesktopBSD.net/

http://DesktopBSD.net/forums/

http://www.FreeBSD.org/

http://www.freebsd.org/doc/en/books/handbook/

http://lists.FreeBSD.org/mailman/listinfo

http://www.bsdforums.org/forums/

What is DesktopBSD?

DesktopBSD is a project, started in Linz in 2004, with the goal of simplifying installation, configuration and maintenance of FreeBSD. The average user should be able make full use of the power of FreeBSD without extensive knowledge of computers and operating systems.

DesktopBSD uses KDE as standard graphical user interface. This alone makes the system much more user friendly. The tools we developed do the installation, configuration and maintenance of the system.

In short, DesktopBSD is about being user friendly. DesktopBSD will prove that BSD is not as hard to user as it's made out to be.

FreeBSD

FreeBSD is a free professionally developed operating system with a focus on stability, performance and security. FreeBSD looks back on a heritage of 30 years. It was developed at the University of Berkeley and has evolved to the project FreeBSD, started in 1993.

FreeBSD, like DesktopBSD, is available under the BSD-license which allows the user near total freedom. Except of the obligation to name the provenance of the code, everyone is free to do with it as he or she wishes.

KDE

KDE is a desktop environment developed under the GPL. KDE is available on a multitude of systems (Linux, Mac, BSD, Solaris, ...). KDE is not just a Window Manager like Fluxbox, Enlightenment etc.

KDE is much more. KDE is a full desktop environment with file browser and can be configured in many ways. The user can choose her own Icons, Window Styles, Themes etc. There are practically no limits.

What is DesktopBSD not?

DesktopBSD is not a fork of FreeBSD. It's a custom installation of FreeBSD with many tools to ease the user's life.

DesktopBSD has the advantage that its custom installation handles most of the configuration work normally necessary with FreeBSD. Directly after the installation a graphical user interface is available and the DesktopBSD tools make using the Command Line Interface a thing of the past.

The tools are also available in the FreeBSD Ports collection, so Non-DesktopBSD users can install them too, even on platforms like SPARC 64 and others where no desktopBSD release is available.

DesktopBSD tries to be always up to date but often shorter release cycles result in less stability ans security. DesktopBSD is not intended for the distrohopper wanting to have the latest versions of software X. We focus on stability!

If you think you need the latest versions of software X please use the package manager in the KDE control center.

How can I test DesktopBSD?

On our homepage there are multiple versions available. The easiest way is of course to come by our stand and get a CD or DVD. .

What kind of a distribution is this?

DesktopBSD is not a distribution, DesktopBSD is not Linux. With BSD the Kernel and the Userland are developed in sync, making BSDs complete systems, not assemblies of software like with Linux.

For further information regarding the distinction between BSD and Linux, please refer to:

http://www.allbsd.de/src/Flyer/FreeBSD/PDF/flyer-en-bsd-linux.pdf

Why KDE and not Gnome?

Gnome is full desktop environment like KDE. We decided for KDE because we prefer it and because we consider it more user friendly. Of course you may install Gnome with the package manager.

Which platforms are supported by DesktopBSD

We currently focus our efforts on the most wide-spread:

- i386 (nearly every PC)
- AMD Athlon 64 Bit or Intel 64
- The computer should have 8 GB of harddisk space available for imnstallation and a minimum of 256 MB of RAM for good performance. The more the better as always.