SimplyMEPIS

User Guide

MEPIS LLC

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http://www.mepis.com

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Preface

Legal Notice

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Acknowledgements

Our special thanks to the following people:

The Debian Project

KDE.org

The other developers who make Linux possible

The MEPIS community

Primary Authors

Warren Woodford

Matt Melbert

David Solomon

Welcome to the MEPIS community!

Relax, you're among friends. The MEPIS community includes hundreds of thousands of people like you who were tired of blue screens, viruses, and spyware. Tired of paying hundreds or thousands of dollars for software, and then having to pay again every few years. You'll find lots of helpful people at the MEPIS forum sites forum.mepis.org and www.mepislovers.com.

SimplyMEPIS is intended to be easy to try, easy to install, and easy to use. This guide is meant to be your roadmap for getting started with SimplyMEPIS. We show you how to boot from CD, how to test drive SimplyMEPIS, how to install on your hard drive, and how to start using SimplyMEPIS as a complete replacement for MS-Windows.

Good luck and have fun!

Warren

1. System Requirements

Minimum

SimplyMEPIS can run on most hardware but does requires some minimum requirements. At the very least the following hardware is required:

- Intel Pentium or equivalent including newer Celeron, Xeon, AMD or AMD64 processor
- A bootable CDROM drive
- 2GB hard drive
- 64MB RAM

Please note, that if your system only meets the minimum requirements, performance may be poor and it may be necessary to manually adjust the installation configuration.

Recommended

In order to better enjoy your MEPIS experience the following hardware is recommended:

- Intel Pentium III or newer Celeron, Xeon, AMD Athlon or AMD64 processor or better
- A bootable CDROM drive
- 4GB hard drive
- 256MB RAM

This hardware recommendation should allow you to fully appreciate all of the features of MEPIS.

Note About Winmodems

Some internal/built-in modems, called Winmodems, don't work with MEPIS out-of-the-box. They are designed to work only with a special driver written for MSWindows. The easiest solution is to get a regular internal modem or an external serial modem. These are generally inexpensive to purchase.

Note About Hardware in General

MEPIS supports a lot of hardware out-of-the-box. There is no need to download or install extra drivers. Most hardware will just work. Unfortunately even though most hardware will work not all hardware will work. This tends to be the case for old hardware, over three or four years old, and very new hardware, less then six months old. The old hardware may never be supported. However, within the Linux community more and more new hardware is being supported every day. Make sure to check the MEPIS website for hardware support updates.

2. Booting MEPIS

Booting From CD

Place the SimplyMEPIS CD in your CD-ROM drive and reboot your computer. In many cases, the computer will automatically boot the CD. When the CD starts to boot, the CD-ROM will spin and a graphical CD boot screen will appear.

In other cases, you will have to tell the computer to boot from CD. How this is done, varies from computer to computer but your computer's initial boot screen should contain a message that tells you how to do this.

If you having trouble booting from your CD you may want to read the next section on *Booting from Floppy*.

Booting from Floppy

In some rare cases, you may be unable to boot from the CD. In this case, the system will ignore the CD or it will freeze before the boot screen appears.

If you have a floppy drive, you can create a set of Boot Floppies and use them to boot the MEPIS CD. The floppies can be made using either Windows or Linux. The floppy images are on the SimplyMEPIS CD in the *floppies* directory. You will need 3 blank floppy disks. In Windows, go to the *floppies* folder on the CD and click on mkflop.bat. Insert the floppies when prompted. In Linux, as *root*, run mkflop.sh.

To boot from floppy, insert Boot Floppy #1 and the CD, then reboot your system. From the floppy's menu, select to boot from CD for the version of MEPIS you are booting, and follow the instructions.

If you having trouble booting from the SimplyMEPIS CD or the boot floppies please see the *Appendix on Getting Help*.

3. Boot Screen Selections

Preparing to Boot

Once the SimplyCD starts to boot the first screen that is presented contains several options. The following describes the options.

```
F1 Help  F2 English  F3 1024 x 768
```

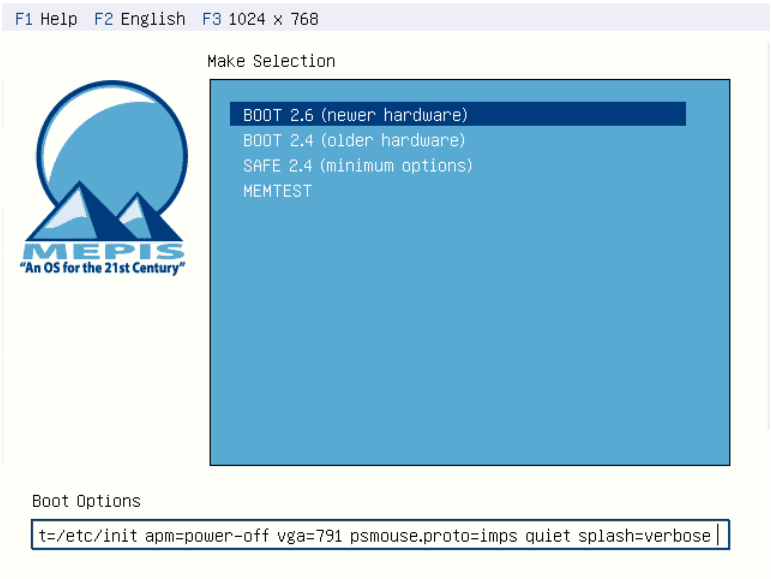
To read the boot help files, press *F1* at the CD boot screen.

To change your language, press *F2* and select from the pull down list. The SimplyMEPIS CD provides, at least, partial support for the languages listed. Full additional language support can be installed only on hard drive. If you do not see your preferred language then select English, then press *F1* to read further instructions.

To change the screen resolution, press *F3* and select the resolution you would prefer, from the pulldown list. By default, the CD will boot into a 1024x768 display, which is the most common size.

If you have a small display, this will probably be fine. If you have an older display you may need to select 800x600 and if you have a larger display you may want to select a larger resolution.

The screen resolution that you select here, is the resolution that your computer will use when running MEPIS.



Kernel Selection

After you have read the help, selected your appropriate language, and choose your proper screen resolution you are now ready to select a kernel and begin booting SimplyMEPIS. You select the desired kernel by using the up or down arrows on your keyboard.

Selecting the *BOOT 2.6 (newer hardware)* option should work for most hardware. If you experiencing trouble when using this option try using the *BOOT 2.4 (older hardware)*. As a last resort try using *SAFE 2.4 (minimum options)*. If you still can't boot MEPIS, see the Getting Help appendix.

Usually, the 2.6 kernel is preferred because it supports more hardware and it is more reliable with pluggable devices like USB keys and iPods.

Sometimes the 2.4 kernel works with older hardware that is no longer supported.

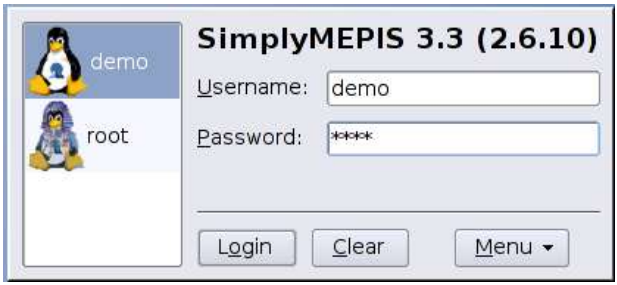
4. Taking MEPIS For a Test Drive

The Login Screen

After MEPIS finishes booting you will be presented with a login screen. You will have the option to login as either the regular *demo user* or as the *root administrator user*. It is suggested that you login as *demo*.

Both the *root* password and *demo* password are the same as the user name. That means the password for *root* is *root* and the password for *demo* is *demo*.

To login, click on *demo* on the left hand side and then type in *demo* into password field. Next click on the *Login* button that is located under the password field.



Exploring

After a few moments KDE will start. Now you can test MEPIS to make sure that everything is working properly. Feel free to explore MEPIS before installing it. Everything that you see will be loaded onto your system when you install MEPIS. What You See Is What You Install. You can access most programs by clicking on the *K Start Menu* in the lower left hand corner.

Things may seem to run a slowly while running from the CD. After installing MEPIS to your hard drive everything will run much more quickly.

Some applications will not run correctly from CD because the amount of writable storage space is very limited.

You should now be ready to install MEPIS to your hard drive.

Please refer to the *Installing MEPIS* section of this guide for information on installing MEPIS.

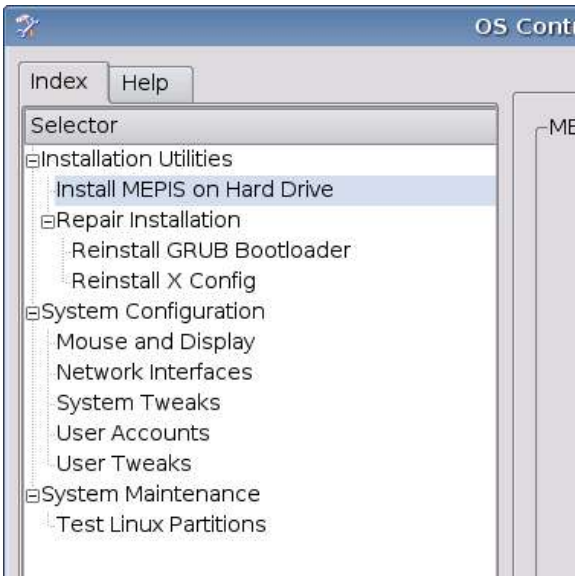
NOTE: If an error message appears that say “/dev/dsp does not exist” please refer to the Getting Help appendix.

5. Installing MEPIS

Starting the Install

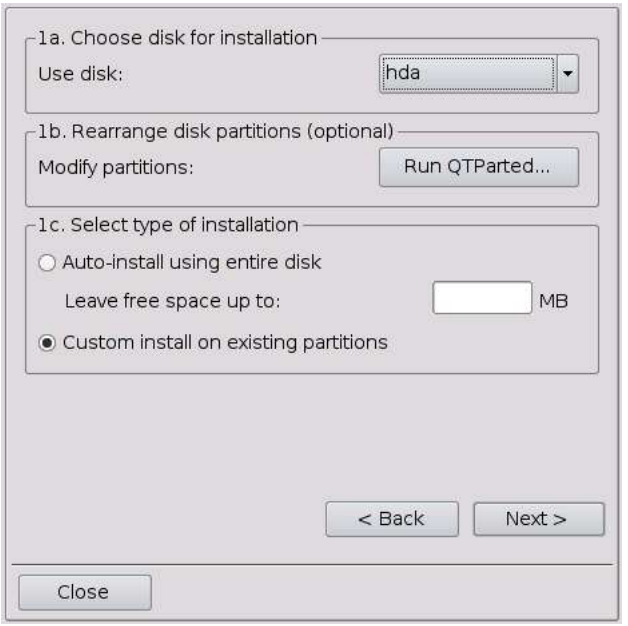
Once you are booted and logged into MEPIS, click on the *INSTALL ME* icon located on the desktop. This will prompt you for the *root* password if you logged in as the *demo* user. Remember the *root* password is *root*.

After you type in the *root* password a new window will open that contains the MEPIS installer. It should look something like this:



Click on *Install MEPIS on Hard Drive* to begin the installation.

Choose Disk for Installation



First you will need to choose on what disk you are going to install MEPIS.

Box *1a. Choose disk for Installation* defaults to the first hard drive that it finds. This is usually *hda*. This option will work for most people. If you have a second drive, usually *hdb*, that you want to install MEPIS on you will need to select that here.

Rearrange Disk Partitions

Box *1b. Rearrange disk partitions* is an optional selection. If you are installing MEPIS on an existing partition or using your entire hard drive you can skip this section. If you are need to create new partition for MEPIS, click on *Run QTParted*. This will launch QTParted. QTParted also allows you to resize a Microsoft Windows partition so that you can have both MEPIS and Microsoft Window on your computer. More can be found about partitioning in the Partitioning Your Hard Drive appendix.

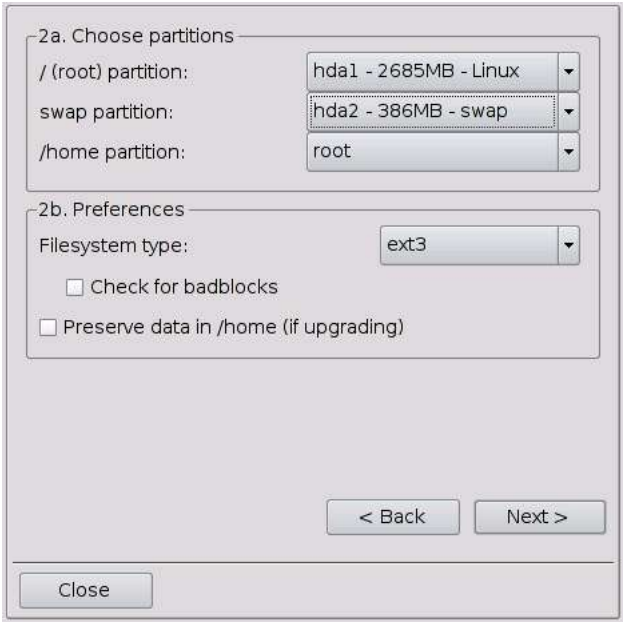
Select Type of Installation

If you are installing MEPIS to the entire hard drive, then select the *Auto-Install using entire disk* option in Box *1c.*

If you are installing MEPIS in a specific partition, then select the *Custom Install on Existing partitions* option.

Verify the options that you have selected and click on the *Next >* button.

Choose Partitions



If you have selected the *Auto-Install using entire disk* option in the previous step, then skip this section.

By selecting the *Custom Install on Existing partitions* option in the previous step you are now prompted to select the partitions that you would like use to install MEPIS. Here in step *2a. Choose partitions* you need to choose the partition that will be used for the */ (root) partition*, or base directory. This partition is mandatory. If you have a swap partition, select it next.

Finally if you have a separate partition for your */home partition* select it here.

TIP: If you have not considered using a seperate /home partition before you may want to consider it. A /home partition allows you to save all of your settings in a separate partition from where all of the MEPIS system files are kept. That way you can reinstall MEPIS and not lose your documents, e-mail, addresses, bookmarks, or other important data that you may have. It also allows you to easily upgrade MEPIS at a future date.

Preferences

In Box *2b. Preferences* you need to select the filesystem type you would like to use. You can select from ext2, ext3, or reiserfs. By default ext3 is selected and is the most commonly used option. You should not need to change this option.

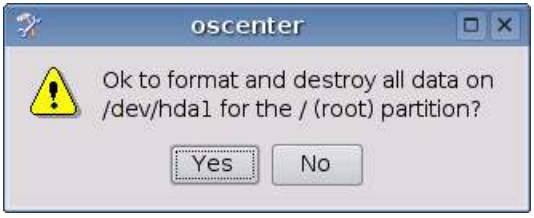
Also in Box *2b. Preferences* you can select the box to *Check for badblocks*. By selecting this option you are telling the installer to verify the integrity of your hard drive partitions. Selecting this option can take a very long time to perform this check and is generally not needed. This option is not available if you have selected reiserfs as your filesystem.

The last option in Box *2b. Preferences* is *Preserve data in /home (if upgrading)*. If you have selected a separate partition for your home directory and it has data in it make sure to check this box. If you are installing a /home partition for the first time do not select the box.

Verify the options that you have selected and click on the *Next >* button.

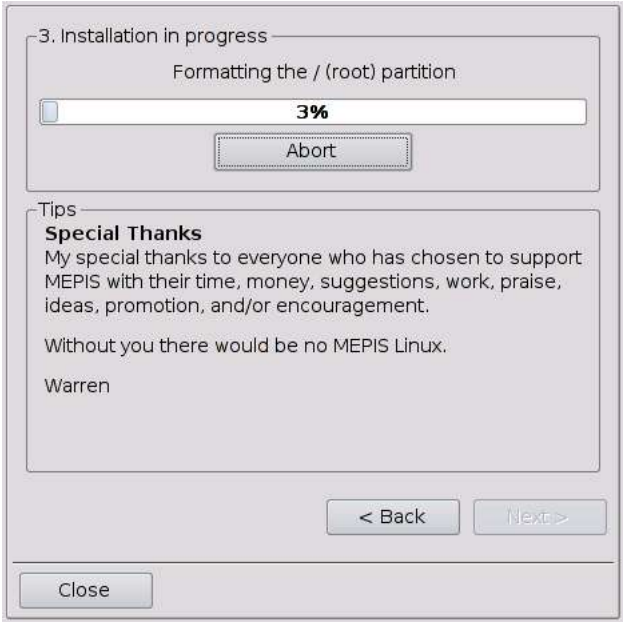
NOTE: If your installation fails part way though Step 3, you may have bad sectors on your hard drive. In this case, you need to select the Check for Badblocks option and try again.

Installation in Progress



You will now be prompted before erasing all the data for the partitions that have been chosen using the *Custom Install on Existing partitions* or if you had chose the *Auto-Install using entire disk*. Select *Yes* to erase the data and continue the install.

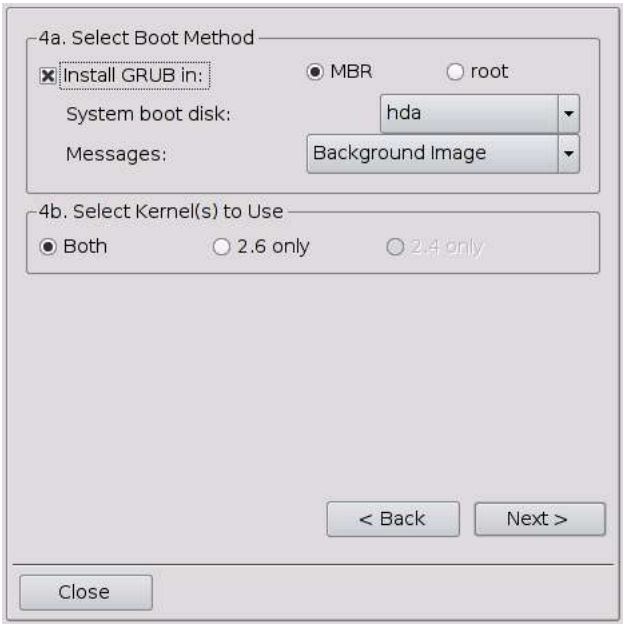
If you had selected *Preserve data in /home (if upgrading)* you will be notified that it will use the /home partition and not erase it. Select *Yes* to continue the install.



You can now sit back and relax while MEPIS installs. It will give

you a progress bar to tell you how far along it is in the installation phase. Depending on the speed of your computer, this process can take from 5 to 30 minutes.

Select Boot Method



After MEPIS completes installing, you will need to install the GRUB boot loader. The GRUB boot loader allows you to boot MEPIS as well as other operating systems like Microsoft Windows. MEPIS will attempt to automatically find any Microsoft Windows installations when it installs GRUB and add them to its menu. The default options in Box *4a*.should not need any modification.

Select Kernel(s) to Use

In Box *4b. Select Kernel(s) to Use* the default option is to install *Both*. If you have a very small hard drive, you should select to install only one kernel.

Verify the options that you have selected and click on the *Next >*

button.

After you click *Next* > you will again be prompted to verify the installation of GRUB. Click *Yes* to continue.

Once GRUB has installed successfully you will need to click *OK* to continue.

User Account

In Box *5a,* you will be able to enter your own *User login name*. A good user login name is just to use your first name. Next you will have to choose a password and enter it twice. Once in the *User password* field, and once in the *Confirm user password* field.

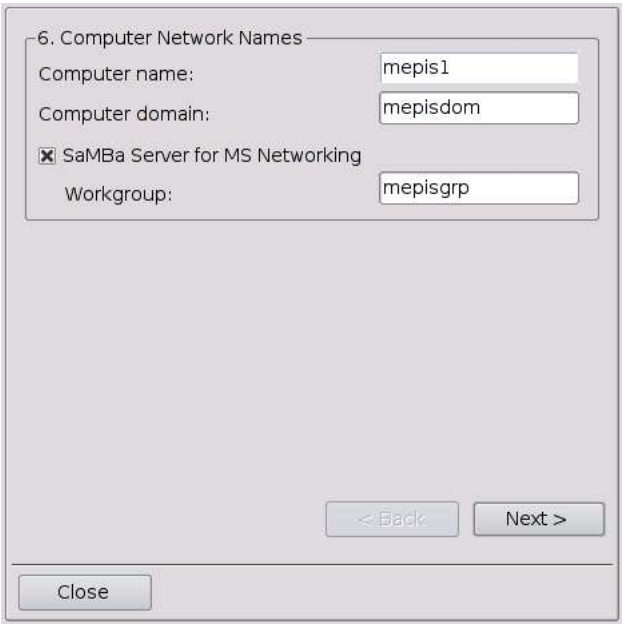
Root (administrator) Account

Next in Box *5b,*you will need to enter a password for the root account. You do not want to forget this password since it is very important. Enter the root password in the *Root password* field and in the *Confirm root password* field.

To help remember your root password you may to write it down in a secure place.

Verify the options that you have selected and click on the *Next* > button.

Computer Network Names



This section helps to identify your computer on the network using the information in Box *6*. The *Computer Name* field can be set to any name you like but it can not contain spaces. This is the name that it will show up as in a Microsoft Windows Networking environment.

Computer Domain does not need to be changed by default. If you are a part of a network you may need to ask your system administrator what you should set this to.

If you would like to be part of a Microsoft Windows Networking environment make sure to check the *SaMBa Server for MS Networking* option. Also make sure to fill out the *Workgroup* field with the appropriate Workgroup name. If you do not know your Workgroup name, the default value should be fine.

Verify the options that you have selected and click on the *Next >* button.

Services to Start

The items in Box *7a* are services that help run your devices on your computer. By default the *Guarddog firewall service* is enable and we recommend that you leave this enabled. This service protects your computer from attackers on the Internet.

If you use dialup, adsl directly connected to your computer, or pptp networking you need to have the *PPP service* enabled for proper communication. If you do not use a dialup modem or any of the others this service is safe to turn off.

If you connect to the Internet by using a directly connected ISDN line you need the *ISDN service* enabled. This applies mostly to European users.

If your computer has a bluetooth device or is bluetooth enabled you will need to have the *bluez bluetooth service* enabled.

If you have a HP Office Jet printer connected to your computer you will want the *HP Office Jet printer service* enabled.

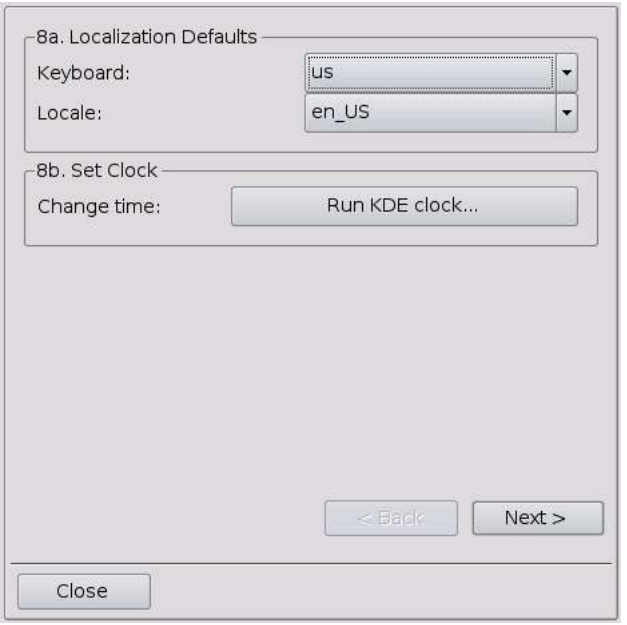
Select Display Driver

If you have either a nVIDIA or ATI graphics card installed, then Box *7b* should allow you to select the option to use the official driver from nVIDIA or ATI. If a nVIDIA or ATI card is not detected the only option is to use the default driver.

Verify the options that you have selected and click on the *Next* > button.

WARNING: The ATI driver only works with Radeon 8500 cards or better. Do not enable it if you have an older ATI card!

Localization Defaults



Box *8a* contains the setting for your *Keyboard* type and for your *Locale*. Confirm that these settings match your keyboard and the area in which you are living.

Set Clock

Set Clock allows you adjust your system clock so that it matches

your current time zone. Click the *Run KDE clock* button to launch the application to adjust your system clock.

Verify the options that you have selected and click on the *Next >* button.

Reminders

You have successfully installed MEPIS onto your hard drive. Click the *Finish* button to complete the MEPIS installation. You will be prompted if you would like to reboot your computer. Click the *Yes* Button to reboot. Do not forget to eject the CD when the computer is rebooting otherwise it may try to boot from the CD again.

6. Using the Internet

Connection

If you have an internet connection via a local network, a cable modem or an aDSL modem/router, usually it will work automatically. If it does not work, read the Network Interfaces portion of the OS Center chapter.

If you have an ISDN connection, configuration utilities can be found in *K* > *Internet* > *ISDN*

If you have an old style DSL modem, you may have to configure it with *K* > *Internet* > *Connection* > *ppoeconfig*

If you have a dialup connection via a modem, you can configure and start an connection with *K* > *Internet* > *Connection* > *Kppp*

Dialup with Kppp

To configure a connection, click on Configure... and then edit your account to include your dialup phone number. Otherwise, in most cases the default configuration will be correct.

If your modem doesn't work automatically, go to the Getting Help appendix to find out how to get help.

Browse the Web

MEPIS includes the Firefox web browser. It should not require

configuration. Information about Firefox is at www.mozilla.org.

MEPIS also includes the Konqueror browser that is integrated with the KDE desktop. Firefox works better with multimedia.

If your favorite browser doesn't work well with a particular web site, try the other.

Get and Send Email

SimplyMEPIS includes the Kmail email client. This application is integrated with spamassassin to filter spam emails. It also is integrated with ClamAV, a powerful anti-virus software. While Linux doesn't catch MS-Viruses, ClamAV will help to insure that you don't pass on viruses to people who are trapped in the Microsoft environment.

Kmail can be run alone or by starting the Kontact PIM which integrates email, address book, calendar, notes, journal, and news aggregator.

To use Kmail, you will have to set up your account. In the Kmail menu select Settings > Configure Kmail... Then fill in your account information.

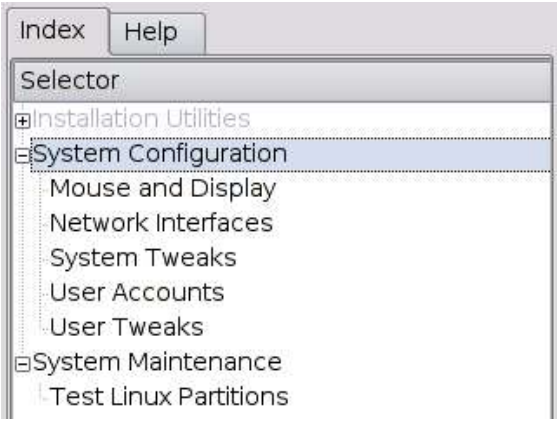
Other Applications

SimplyMEPIS also includes Pan an Usenet News Reader, Gaim a general purpose instant messaging client, Xchat an IRC client, gFTP a ftp client, Azureus a bittorrent client, Skype for internet phone, and more.

7. The OS Center

Introduction

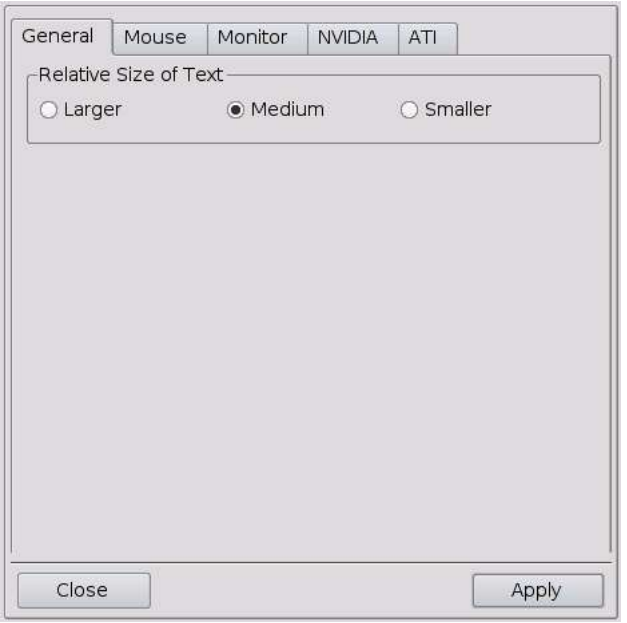
The OS Control Center allows you to modify the settings for your mouse, keyboard, network, video and system/user management.



After you have installed MEPIS on your hard drive, the left side of the MEPUS OS Center will look like the above screen shot. You will notice that the *Installation Utilities* are now disabled. You can access the MEPIS OS Center by clicking on the *K Start Menu > MEPIS OS Center*. You may be prompted for the root password when launching the application.

NOTE: When you make a change in any of the tabs you need to click the *Apply* button at the bottom of the screen before changing tabs. If you change tabs before you click *Apply* you will lose the changes that you have made in your current tab.

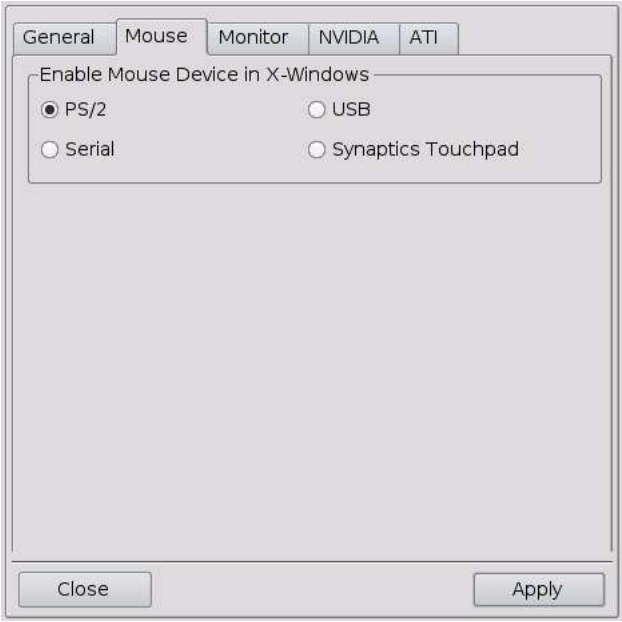
Mouse and Display



Clicking on *Mouse and Display* will present you with 5 tabs: *General*, *Mouse*, *Monitor*, *NVIDIA*, and *ATI*.

The *General* tab allows for adjustments to your display fonts. By default, these are set to *Medium*. If you find that your desktop fonts are too large or small, adjust accordingly.

After making changes remember to *Apply* your changes.



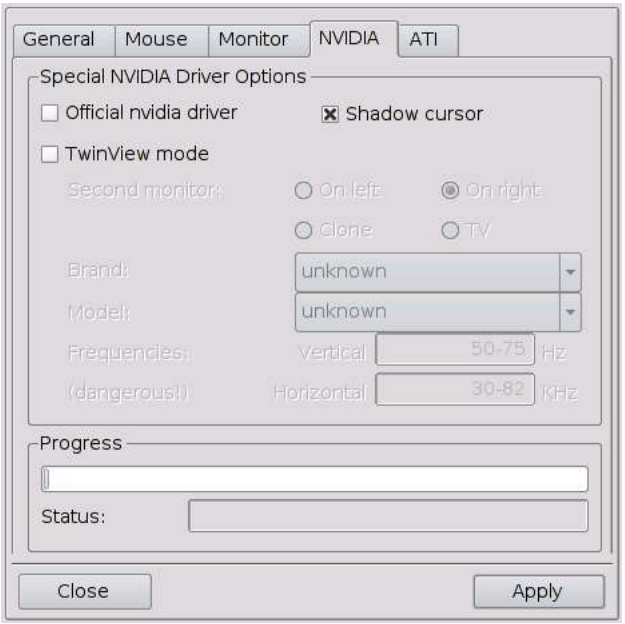
The *Mouse* tab allows you to select the type of mouse that is attached to your machine. The default selction is determined automatically. If you believe a different selection may work better, then change it accordingly.

If you find that you are having trouble with your *PS/2* mouse while using the 2.6 kernel, the *USB* setting may work better.

MEPIS also includes support for the *Synaptics Touchpad*. Enable this if you have a laptop and have a Synaptics Touchpad. You can further configure your Synaptics Touchpad by selecting Touchpad in the Peripherals section of the KDE Control Center.

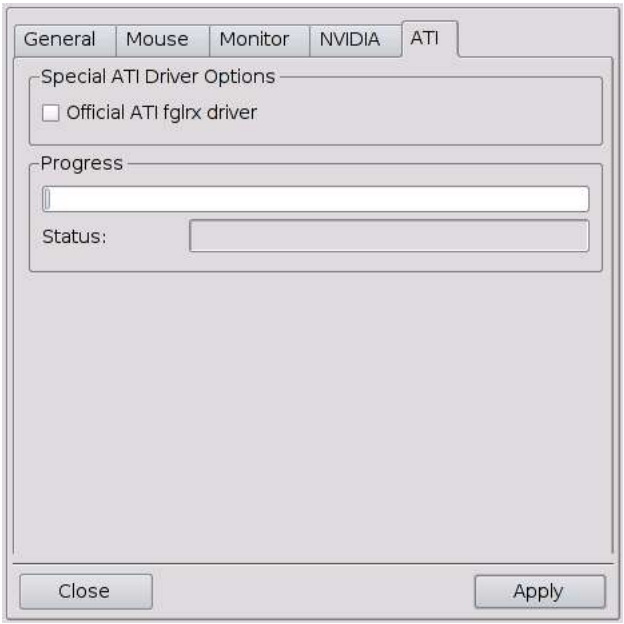
WARNING: Some Synaptic Touchpads do not work well with the Synaptics driver. If your mouse stops working, you can reinstall your mouse and display configuration by booting from CD and selecting the Reinstall X Config function in the MEPIS OS Center.

BY default MEPIS uses safe monitor settings. Your monitor may be capable of better performance. The Monitor tab allows you to specify your monitor in MEPIS. This is done by selecting your *Brand* and *Model* in the respective pull down menus. If you are unaware of your brand and model, they can usually be found on the front or back of the monitor. If your monitor is not listed in the menus, you can refer to your monitor's manual to set the frequencies or leave this section unmodified.



The NVIDIA tab allows for download and installation of the official NVIDIA driver for Linux. The official NVIDIA driver yields greater performance over the default driver and MEPIS makes it very easy to install. Selecting the *Official NVIDIA driver* option and selecting apply will automatically download the latest driver and setup your system. On your next reboot, the official driver will be used. The progress bar will show the progress of the download.

The *TwinView* option allows for two monitors or a monitor and a TV to be used simultaneously. If you have two monitors connected to your NVIDIA video card or a single monitor and a TV, you will want to select this option and adjust accordingly. Please note that you should visit http://www.mepis.org for more information on using these options.



The ATI tab allows for automatic download of the official ATI fglrx driver. If you have a newer ATI card this driver may provide greater performance than the default driver.

This driver is for ATI 8500 video cards or higher. If you do not have a 8500 or 9xxx series ATI video card, this driver should not be used.

On your next reboot, the official driver will be used. The progress bar will show the progress of the download.

Network Interfaces

Clicking on *Network Interfaces* will present you with 7 tabs: *Status*, *Misc*, *eth0*, *eth1*, *Wireless*, *ath0* and *wlan0*.

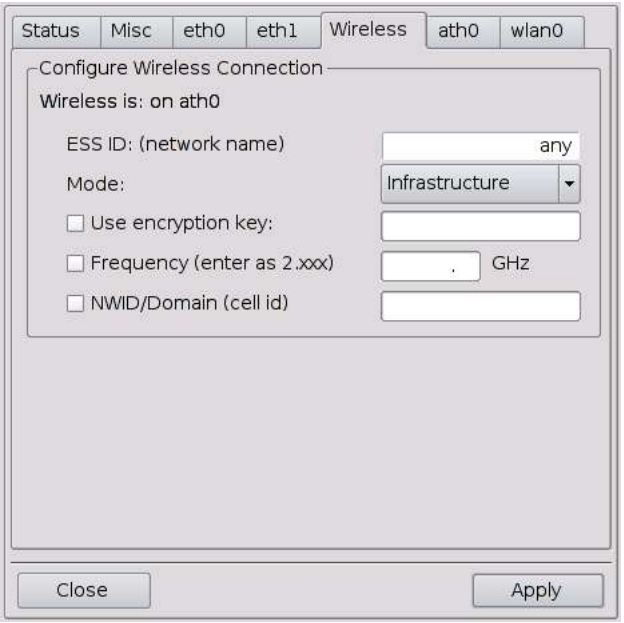
The *Status* tab allows not only for active status on your network interfaces, but also allows for quick stopping and starting of configured devices. For each network device, you will have the ability to adjust the status. If the device is grayed out, then the device is not set up. For many broadband subscribers and those using a router, nothing needs to be done. For those with multiple network interfaces, some DSL networks, and wireless networks, you will need to adjust these settings according to your network configuration. Please see your Network Administrator for these settings. As always, more information on these settings can be found at the http://www.mepis.org web site.

The *Misc* tab allows the configuration of settings that do not fall into the other tab categories. Most of these do not need to be adjusted unless you have a specific need to do so. A quick rundown of these settings follows:

Configure lo (loopback): Configures the loopback device and is needed on most systems.

Configure DNS: Required only if static settings are used. DHCP is correct for most systems. If you need to enter your DNS information statically, click on *Use static DNS* and then fill in your information in the *Primary DNS Server* and *Secondary DNS Server* fields.

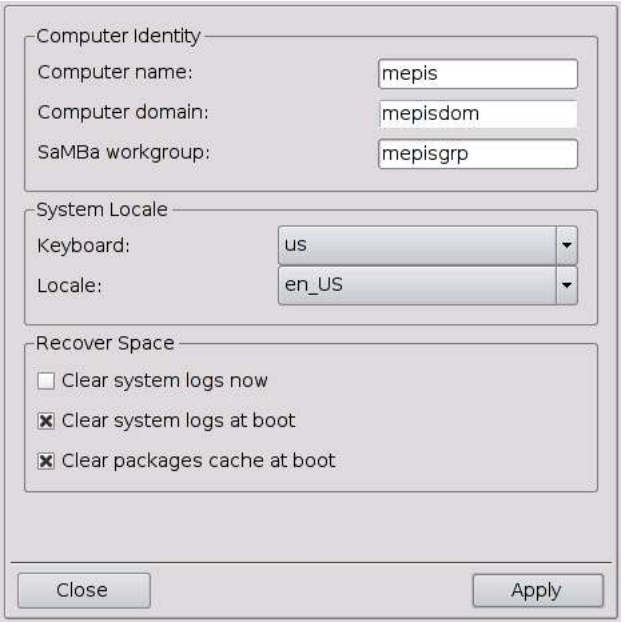
eth0, *eth1*, *ath0* and *wlan0* have the same configuration tab options in common. These devices are not started at system boot unless detected and configured by the MEPIS hardware detection tools. If you have multiple interfaces or specific settings, you will need to adjust these options. These settings can be found by contacting your Network Administrator. If you need more information on configuring these options, please visit http://www.mepis.org.



The *Wireless* tab allows for setting the specific wireless settings for your network. If you are using a wireless network, you will need to know the wireless interface settings. With many home networking solutions, only the *ESS ID* field is required. If your network has been secured, then an encryption key is required. Currently only WEP encryption is supported. These settings can be found by contacting your network administrator or by looking at the settings in your router or wireless access point.

NOTE: If you use an encryption key you may need to input your key with a s: in front of your encryption key. For example: s:encryptionkey. This tends to only be necessary if you use an ASCII encryption key. If you use a hexadecimal key you will not need the s:.

System Tweaks



The *System Tweaks* section allows for adjustments to your *Computer Identity*, *System Locale*, and *Recover Space* settings.

Computer Identity allows you to change your computer name on your local network. These settings allow the MEPIS system to attach to a Windows network. These settings should have been set during the install and should only be changed if your Windows Network settings have changed.

System Locale allows adjustments to keyboard layout and language accents. If you are using a non-US system or keyboard, this is where the appropriate adjustments are made. These settings have be set during the install as well and should not need any mondification.

Recover Space allows for the clearing of system logs. System logs are important as they are used for tracking system issues, but over time these logs can use much of a systems hard disk space. By default, MEPIS clears these logs at boot time. If you are in need of collecting these

logs or find that they need to be cleaned prior to your next reboot, here is where you make those adjustments.

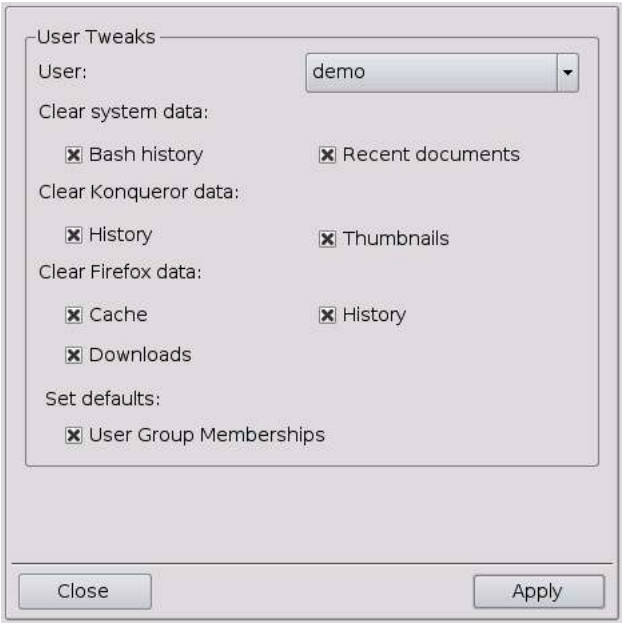
User Accounts

MEPIS has created a way to easily create and delete user accounts. Clicking on *User Accounts* will present you with 2 tabs: *Add User* and *Delete User*.

The *Add User* tab allows you to add new users to the system. Fill in the *User login name* field with the user name of the new user and then type in their password in the *User password* field. Verify the password by typing it in again in the *Confirm user password* field. Once logged out the new user should appear at the login screen. You will be prompted when the account is successfully created.

The *Delete User* tab allows you to easily remove an account from the system. Just select the *User to delete* from the drop down menu and check the *Delete user home directory* if you would like their files removed when removing their account. You will be prompted to confirm your actions before the account is actually removed.

User Tweaks



The *User Tweaks* section allows additional user information to be cleared from the system and for reseting group membership.

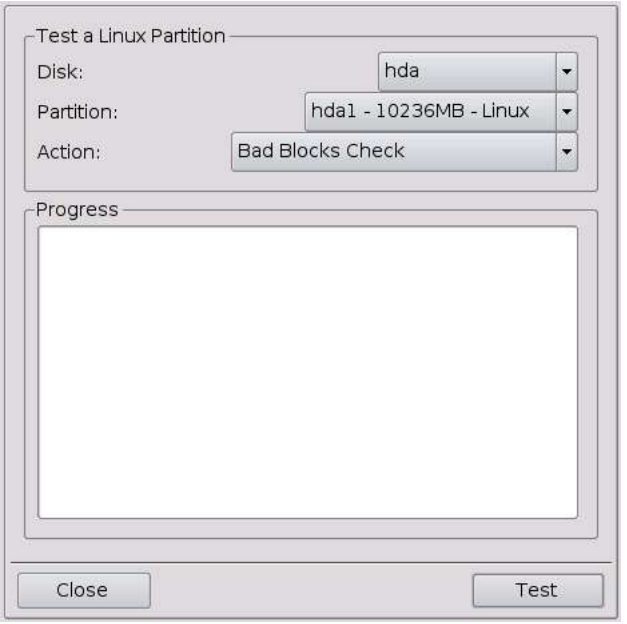
Clear System Data allows clearing of information entered in a terminal window or recent documents opened on the desktop.

Clear Konqueror Data allows for clearing information from default file manager used in MEPIS.

Clear Firefox Data allows for clearing information from the default web browser used in MEPIS.

Set Defaults allows the selected user to inherit the default group memberships in MEPIS. This option should be used if you created a user in MEPIS and are having issues with that users permissions.

Test Linux Partitions

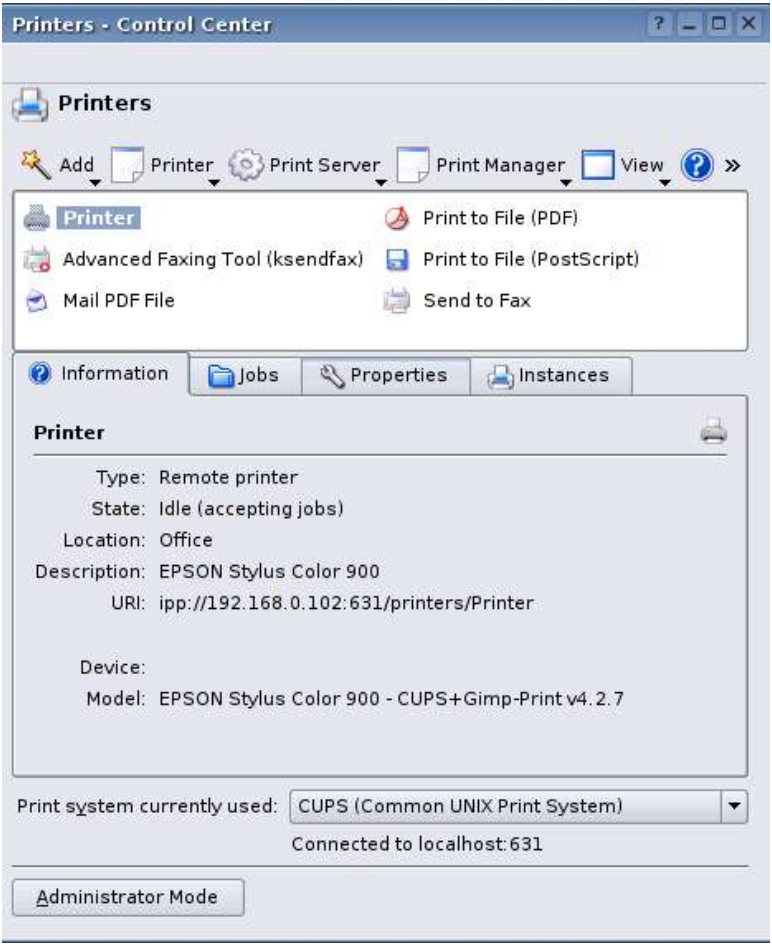


The *Test Linux Partitions* section is used for testing and fixing your Linux partitions. Please use with caution. Just select the drive from the *Disk* drop down menu and the partition from the *Partition* drop down menu that you would like to test or fix. Selecting *Bad Blocks Check* from the *Action* drop down menu will scan the selected partition for bad blocks. Selecting *File System Repair* from the *Action* drop down menu will attempt to repair any corrupted blocks on the selected partition.

NOTE: These actions should only be run on unmounted disk partitions. To be completely safe it is best to run these utilities from the MEPIS CD.

8. Printer Configuration

Plug your printer into the appropriate port in the back of your computer and make sure that the printer is powered on.



Click on *K* > *Control Center* to start the Printing Manager. The Control Center will open. Click on *Peripherals*. Now click on *Printers*. This will load the printing manager. To add your printer click on *Add* and choose *Add Printer/Class...*. The Add Printer Wizard will appear. Click the *Next* > button to continue.

In the *Backend Selection* choose *Local printer (parallel, serial, USB)* and then click the *Next* > button. This will bring up the

Local Port Selection. If your printer is connected through your parallel port you should be able to select *Parallel Port #1* under the Parallel section. If you have a USB printer scroll down to the USB section and you should see your printer listed here. Select your printer. If your printer is USB and it is not listed you may have to try turning your printer off and back on on and restarting the Printer Configuration.

Next a window will come up where you need to select the *Manufacturer* and *Model* of your printer. Scroll through the lists selecting your printers manufacturer first and then the model. If you do not see your printer listed here your printer may not be supported. Click the *Next* > button to continue.

Now you need to choose the driver for your printer. Usually the driver with the [recommended] behind it will work. Click *Next* > to continue.

Now you can test to see if everything is going to work before finishing the install. Click on the *Test* button to print a test page. You may be prompted for the root password. After the test page has finished printing click on *Next* > to continue.

NOTE: If the test failed, you may need to go < Back and try a different driver. If you can't resolve the problem, check the Getting Help appendix.

The next screen is the *Banner Selection* screen. The default *No Banner* is the most common option. This prevents a page from being printed before and after your actual printout. After clicking the *Next* > button you will see the *Printer Quota Settings* screen. Again the defaults should be find and you just need to click the *Next* > button.

The *User Access Settings* screen allows you to control who is allowed use the printer. For most home installations leaving this empty is the proper setting. Click the *Next* > button.

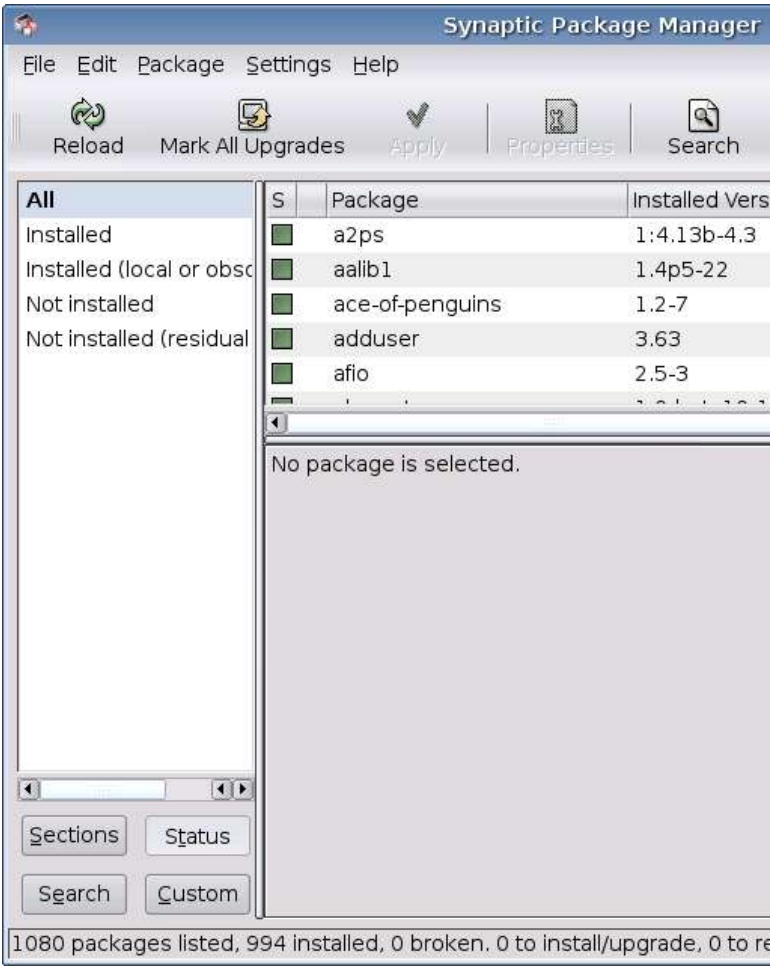
The General Information screen does require some input. Fill in a name for your printer in the *Name* field. Also you may put in a generic location in the *Location* field. Something like “office” is a good description. Click the *Next* > button to continue.

The *Confirmation* screen is there to confirm all of the information before setting up the printer. Click on the Finish button to finish setting up your printer. If you have not already been prompted for the root password you will be now.

NOTE: If you have more then one computer running MEPIS on your local network you only have to setup the one computer that is connected to the printer. After that computer is setup to print to that printer any other computers on your local network running MEPIS will automatically find and be able to print to that printer. Just make sure to leave the computer that is hooked to the printer turned on.

9. Update and Install with Synaptic

The Synaptic Package Manager is a versatile tool that allows you to easily update MEPIS, add programs, and remove programs. It also allows you to download and install programs from one place instead of having to download individual programs from all over the Internet. You can access the Synaptic Package Manager by using *K* > *System* > *Synaptic Package Manager*.



Updating MEPIS

Open Synaptic by using the above path. You may be prompted that your package list is out of date and Synaptic will ask if you would like to update them. Allow Synaptic to update your package lists. If it does not prompt you to update your package list click on the *Reload* icon in the upper left hand corner. Once your package lists have been updated click on the *Mark All Upgrades* icon. Next you are prompted for the type of upgrade you would like to do. We suggest doing the *Smart Upgrade*. This will select the packages that are available to be upgraded. Click the *Apply* icon to begin updating your system.

Using the MEPIS Extras CDs

If you have purchased a bundle that includes the MEPIS Extras CDs follow these instructions to install software from those CDs.

After Synaptic has started click on *Settings* > *Repositories*. This will bring up a new window. Disable all of the repositories by clicking on the boxes with the "X". After you disable all of the repositories click on the *OK* button.

Next you will next get a box informing you that your repositories have changed. Click the *Close* button to continue.

Now we can start to add the MEPIS Extras CDs to your repository list. Click on *Edit* > *Add CDROM...*. You will now be prompted to insert a CD into your CD drive.

Place one of the MEPIS Extra CDs into your CDROM Drive and click the *OK* button. The CD will be breifly read and ask to confirm the name of the CD. Click the *OK* button again.

After Synaptic reads the package information from the CD you will be prompted to either quit or add a new CD.

You can click the *Add* button to add the other MEPIS Extras CD's. Once you have finished adding all of the MEPIS Extra CDs you can click on the *No* button.

In the main Synaptic window click on the *Reload* button update your package lists.

Now you can use Synaptic to search for installable software or you can browse the available software by clicking on the *Status* button in the lower left hand corner of the window and then clicking on the *Not Installed* item above on the left hand side. Select the packages you would like to install and click the *Apply* icon.

NOTE: Keep your CDs handy while installing this way. Synaptic will ask for them as you install new packages. You may also need to reboot after installing the packages.

Removing Programs

To remove packages using Synaptic click on the *Status* button in the lower left hand corner of the window. Next click on the *Installed* item above on the left hand side. Select the packages you would like to remove from the right hand window by clicking on the small box to the left of the package name and click on *Mark for Removal*. After you have finished selecting packages to be removed click the *Apply* icon. Synaptic will verify the packages that are to be removed before removing them.

Adding Other Programs

Synaptic makes installing other programs very easy. Instead of going to website after website trying to find the program you want Synaptic puts all of those programs in one convenient location.

By default MEPIS has disabled the location of some of the programs since there is a potential for breaking your system. For the most part it is safe to add new programs but do this with caution. You should first try seeing if the package that you are looking for is already included in our Extras CD collection and

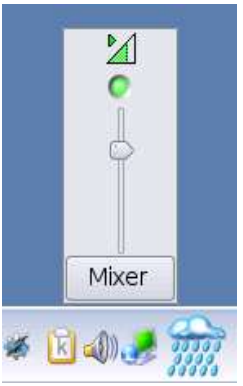
install from their first.

To enable the extra package lists click on *Settings* > *Repositories* from within Synaptic. Click on the boxes in front of the extra repositories and then click on *OK*. Next you will be prompted that your repositories have changed. Click the *Close* button to confirm this warning. Since your package lists have changed you will now need to click on the *Reload* icon to update your lists. After updating your lists you should be able to click on the *Status* button in the lower left hand corner and click on *Not Installed*. This will list all of the packages that are available for you to download and install. You may want to use the *Search* icon to find the program that you are looking for since there are so many. After selecting the packages that you want to install click the *Apply* icon to start installing them.

10. Using Multimedia Applications

Set Your Sound Levels with Kmix

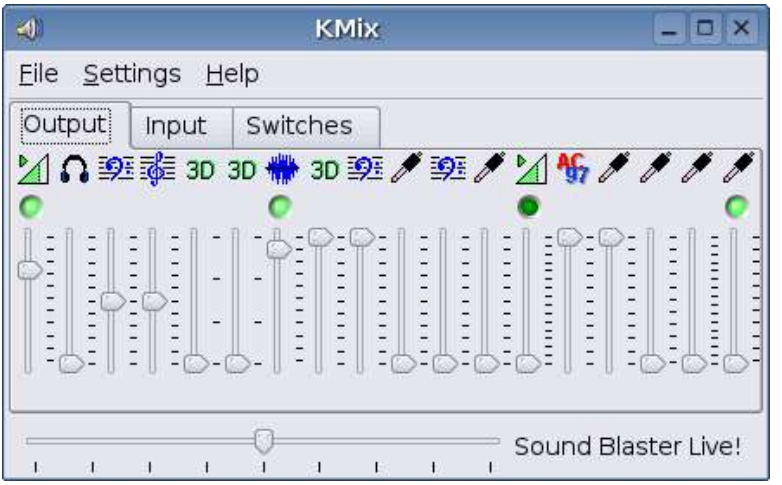
The sound settings are preconfigured when you install MEPIS but you can change the settings with Kmix.



To set the volume, click on the Kmix applet in the System Tray at the bottom right of the desktop, then move the volume slider up and down.

If you have a mouse wheel, you can also set the volume by hovering the mouse over the Kmix icon and moving the wheel.

To set other levels, click on the Mixer button, then adjust the individual sliders, mute buttons, and other switches. If you hover the mouse over a control, a tooltip will popup to describe the control.



Be careful when using the mixer, it's complicated and some controls interact with each other.

Play Music Files and Streams with Xmms

Most music files can be played with Xmms. If you click on a compatible file on your desktop or in a file browser, Xmms will be launched automatically.

Mp3 streams from internet radio stations are listed at Shoutcast and other web sites. To listen to a station, click on the link in the web page, for example the Tune In button, then Xmms will be launch and play the station.

NOTE: If the link is "poorly formed," a warning message may be displayed before you can play the stream.

Sometimes links are out-of-date and will not play.

Other times, there may be too many users trying to play the stream at once.

Play Movies and Music with RealPlayer

Ra and ram files will be played automatically by RealPlayer. Before using RealPlayer for the first time you must accept the Real EULA.

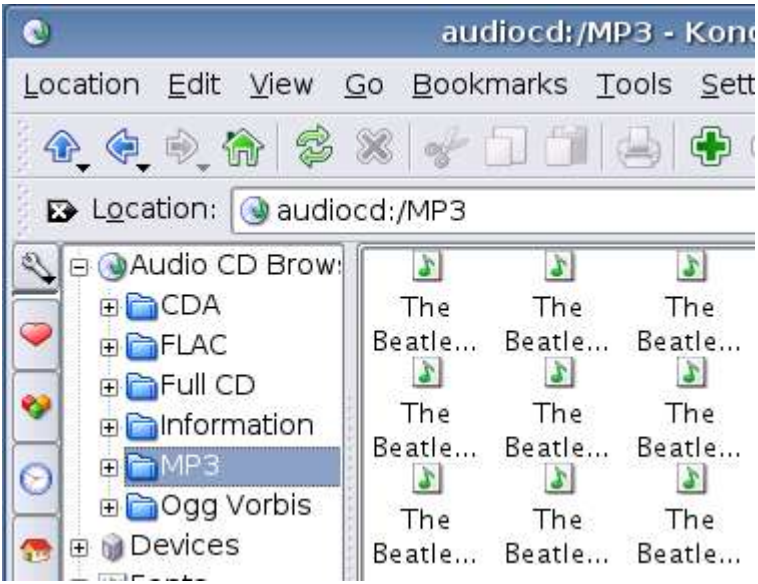
NOTE: Some web sites play Real streams in the web page and others open the RealPlayer application. In some cases a Real stream will not play because the web site is designed to only be compatible with Internet Explorer.

Play Audio CDs with KsCD

Audio CDs are played with *K* > *Multimedia* > *KsCD,* not with Xmms.

Copy from Audio CDs with Konqueror

The Audio CD Browser in Konqueror can be used to copy songs to your hard drive as mp3 or ogg files.



Place a CD in the CD drive, then open the Home file browser and click on Audio CD Browser on the left.

Manage Your iPod with Gtkpod

If you are careful to follow these instructions, you can manage the contents of Mac and PC iPods, and play and share music within MEPIS. At this time, you can't download music from the Apple Store or play AAC encrypted music files.

The 2.6 kernel is recommended if you will be using an iPod with MEPIS. If you are running the 2.4 kernel, your iPod may not be detected.

First, plugin the iPod to a USB or SCSI port. A USB port may give more reliable results. After a few seconds your iPod display should read “Do not disconnect.” This indicates that the system is trying to talk to the iPod.

After a few more seconds an icon for [/mnt/ipod] should appear on your desktop. This indicates that the system is successfully talking to the iPod.

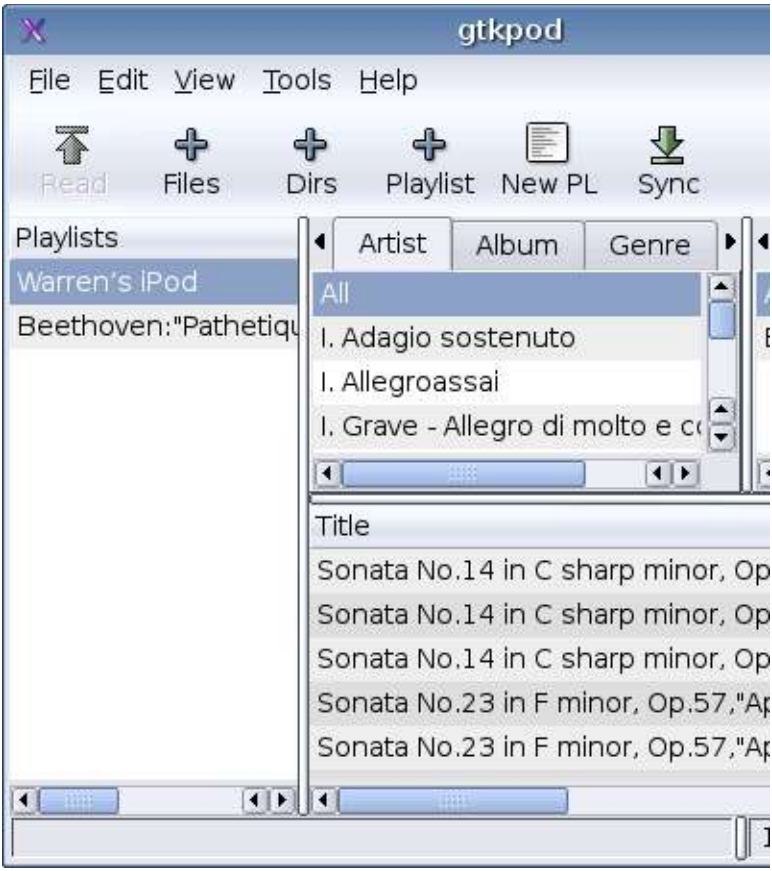
NOTE: At this point, you could click on the icon to mount the disk, open a file browser, and use the spare storage space on the iPod like a regular hard drive.

To use the iPod to play music, etc, do NOT mount the disk. If you have mounted the disk, unmount it before continuing.

K > Multimedia> Gtkpod is used to manage your iPod. After you open the application you will be able to copy your contact, calendar, playlist and music to and from the iPod. You can play music on your computer, directly from the iPod.

NOTE: Sometimes Gtkpod displays a warning message that it can't read the extended info. This message can be ignored.

But, if the message says “Could not open iTunesDB.ext” that means the system is not communicating properly with the iPod.



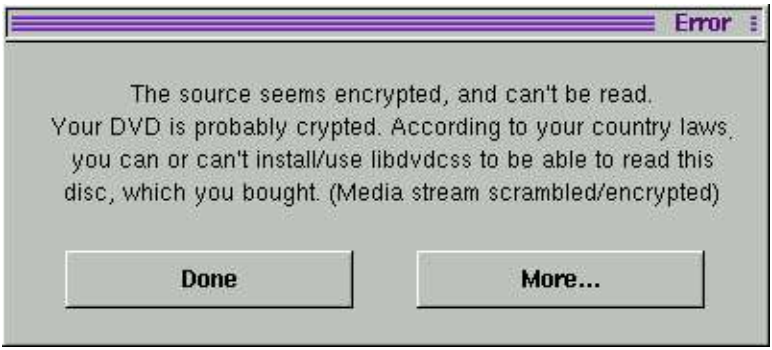
When you are finished, Quit the Gtkpod application, then wait a few seconds before you unplug the iPod from your computer.

Watch DVDs and Movie Files with Xine

You can play DVDs with *K* > *Multimedia* > *Xine*.

By default, the DVD player is expected to be the first CD/DVD device. If your DVD drive is not the first drive, you will have to change the configuration settings.

To play encrypted DVDs, you must install libdvdcss2. This package can be installed with Synaptic if the ftp.nerim.net repository is enabled.



NOTE: The use of libdvdcss2 may be illegal in some jurisdictions. MEPIS does not endorse illegal activities.

Xine can be used to watch mpeg, avi and quicktime movies. Newer Windows Media Player 9 movies can not be watched with Xine, because it is illegal to ship the Microsoft codecs with MEPIS.

Watch Streams in Firefox

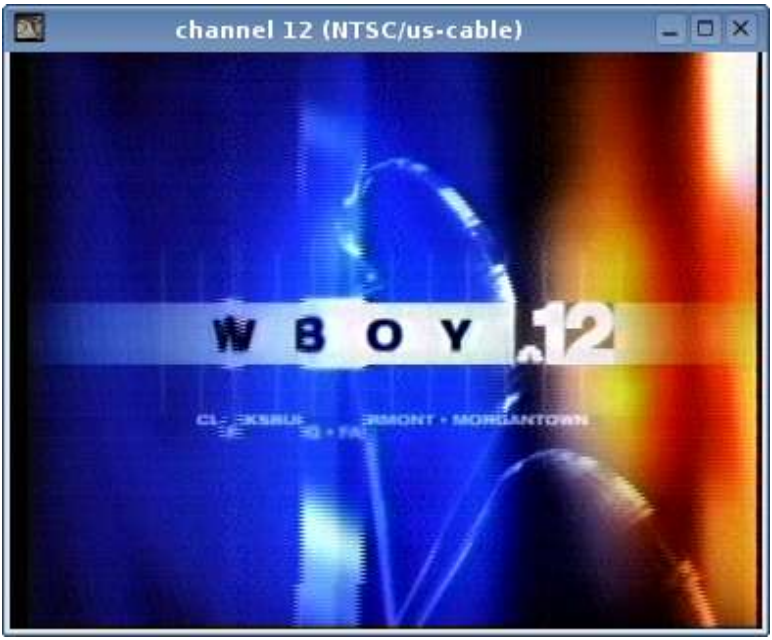
You can watch most Quicktime streaming movies from within Firefox, for example from the Apple Movie Trailers site.

WARNING: Some Quicktime streams are difficult to display. After playing a stream, your browser may have to be closed before continuing.

You can also watch Shockwave and Flash movies and presentations from sites like atomfilms.com.

Watch TV with XawTV

If your computer has a simple TV card, for example a Hauppauge WinTV-Go, you can watch TV with *K* > *Multimedia* > *More Applications* > *XawTV*

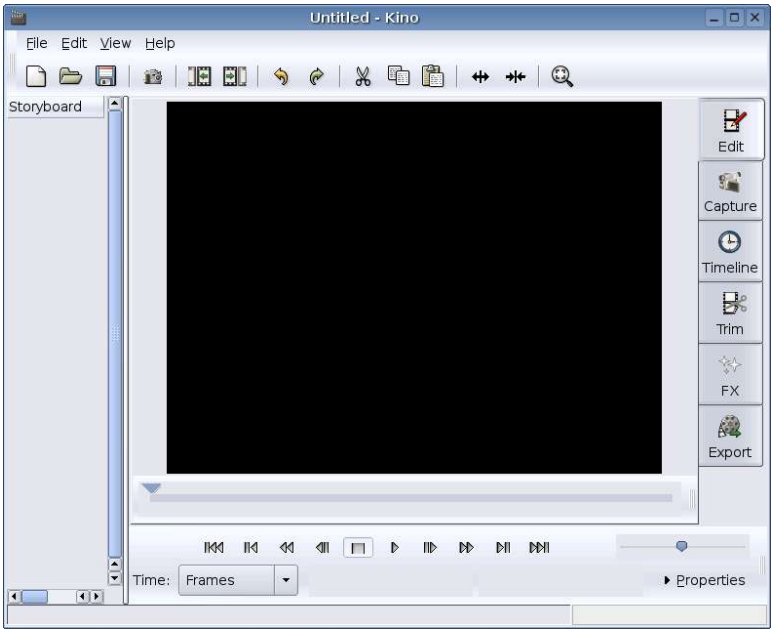


By default XawTV is configured for US Cable frequencies. If you have an antenna, or if you are not in the US, you will need to change the settings.

NOTE: XawTV is NOT compatible with ATI All In Wonder TV cards.

Edit Movies in Your DV Camera with Kino

K > *Multimedia* > *More Applications* > *Kino* is compatible with most DV cameras. With it you can edit movies in your camera and capture them to the hard drive on your computer.



Kino is a complex program. Detailed information is available at http://kino.schirmacher.de/

A. Windows Programs - MEPIS Apps

To use these tables, find the category you are interested in, look for the MS program on the left, then you will see the equivalent MEPIS application listed on the right.

Graphics

ACDC	KuickShow
PhotoShop	gimp
Scanning, Fax	kooka

Internet

Azureus	Azureus
AIM, Yahoo IM, MSN Messanger, ICQ	Gaim
BlackIce, Zone Alarm	Guarddog
Internet Explorer/Firefox	Firefox
mIRC	Xchat
Outlook Express Mail	Kmail
Outlook Express News	Pan
Outlook	Kontact
Remote Desktop,VNC, PC Anywhere	Remote Desktop Client
Skype	Skype

Multimedia

Digital Camera	Digikam
Digital Video	Kino Video Editor
WinAMP	XMMS
iPod	Gtkpod
Nero/Roxio	K3B
Realplayer	Realplayer

Office/Publishing

Acrobat Distiller	OpenOffice.org
Acrobat Reader	Acrobat Reader
Microsoft Money/Quicken	Checkbook Tracker
Word	Openoffice.org Write
Excel	OpenOffice.org Calc
Powerpoint	OpenOffice.org Impress
FrontPage	OpenOffice.org Write/Web
Quark Express/ PageMaker	Scribus

User Folders

My Computer	Home (Personal Files)
My Documents	Documents
My Music	Music

My Pictures	Pictures

System Tools

WinZip	Ark
Volume	Kmix
Wordpad	Kwrite
Notepad	Kedit
Microsoft Paint	Kpaint
Clipboard	Klipper
Network Neighborhood	Smb4K
Control Panel	Control Center
Calculator	Kcalc
System Information/Device Manager	Info Center
Add Remove Programs	Synaptic
Task Manager	KDE System Guard
Command Prompt	Konsole

B. The K Menus

Most user applications installed in MEPIS can be started from the K menu which is the equivalent to the Start Menu in MS-Windows.

The K menus are divided into logical sections. As you become familiar with the sections it will be easier to find the application you need.

In most cases, if you don't know how an application works, you can start it and give it a try, or you can go to the Getting Help section and find places where other MEPIS users will be happy to help you.

All Applications

This section is a catch-all. If you install an application and MEPIS isn't sure where to put the menu item for the app, it will be put in Applications. If an application doesn't have a regular menu definition, it may still be found in *All Applications* > *Browse*

Development

In SimplyMEPIS, the Development section will be visible only if you install some software development tools.

Editors

The most commonly used text editors are in this section.

Games

SimplyMEPIS comes with a few preinstalled games but there are many more games available for download with Synaptic.

Graphics

This section contains applications for viewing and editing images.

Internet

The internet section contains applications for connecting to the internet as well as using the internet.

Multimedia

This section contains applications for video, audio, and CDs.

Office

The SimplyMEPIS office applications are similar to their Windows counterparts.

System

The System section contains a wide range of applications for configuring your system.

Utilities

This section contains a hodge-podge of applications for connecting to handheld devices, backing up data, performing simpe tasks, etc.

C. Partitioning Your Hard Drive

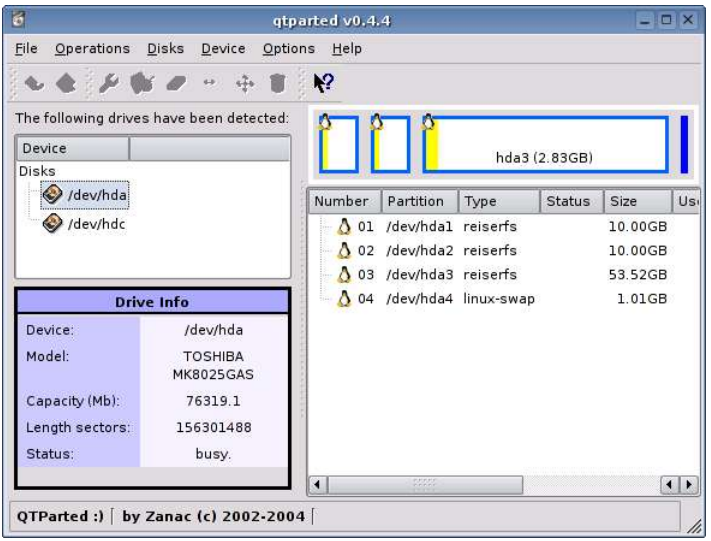
What is a Partition?

A partition is essentially a section of your hard drive that can store information. In Microsoft Windows your hard drive is usually set be one partition that is the whole size of the hard drive. You can actually break this single partition down into several smaller partitions. For example on a 60GB hard drive you can have one 60GB partition, two 30GB partitions, or three 20GB partitions and so on.

Partitions are separate from each other in that you can install multiple operating systems to a single hard drive as long as it has multiple partitions. You can have only one operating system per partition. It is not even necessary to have an operating system on a partition. You can use a partition for whatever you want. A partition is just a section of you hard drive where you can store information.

MEPIS suggests using at least two partitions. One partition is for the MEPIS system files, and one partition is for swap space. You may also want to consider creating a partition for the home directory to keep your files separate and safe.

Using QTParted



Before using any software that attempts to modify the hard disk partition table make a backup of any data that you would like saved. Modifying the partition table can destroy any data that is on a disk. Make sure to either another hard drive, DVD, or CD. Your backup disk should not be the disk that your are going to modify the partition table.

QTParted is a tool allows you to resize and format your hard disks. It is very useful if you are wanting to be able to dual boot both MEPIS and another operating system like Microsoft Windows. QTParted can be called from the MEPIS Installer or it can be called at any time by clicking on *K > System > Filesystem > QTParted.*

Once QTParted has started you will want to click on the disk on the left hand side that you want to work with. Usually the disk is /dev/hda. Once you click on the drive it will load the partition information into the screen on the right.

Making new Partition Table (Removing Windows)

Should you wish to delete all existing data on your hard disk at this time right click on the disk in the devices table and goto *&Make a new partition table.* You will see the partition table has only one line now and under the *Type* column it says *free*. This is free space that we will format. If you do this skip ahead to the Creating New Partitions section.

Resizing a Windows Partition (Dual Booting)

At the top of your partition table there will be an entry for your windows partition, it will be number 01 and will have a windows logo next to it. Before you do anything, restart your computer, remove the CD, and boot into Microsoft Windows. In Windows there will be a tool to defragment your disk, usually in the properties of the disk. Execute that program and let it complete, then reboot into MEPIS and restart the installation process. Again select the disk you intend to resize and the partition table will fill up with data again. Write down the size of your windows partition (number 01) that is listed under the size column. Right click on the windows partition and goto *&resize*. In the *New Size* area type in the size of your current partition minus the size you

need for MEPIS. See the partition sizing guide at the end of this section for some suggestions on how you might configure it.

Creating New Partitions

Right clicking on a *free* entry in your partition table and clicking on *&create* will bring up the *Create Partition* dialog. In this we will make a new partition for our system. First decide the Partition Type to use, for anything other than a swap partition ext3 or reiserfs are the recommended types. For a swap partition use the type Linux-swap. Give it an appropriate label such as: root, home, swap, Linux, etc... and set the size you want for that partition (see Partition Sizing Guide for suggestions). Don't worry about the other options in this dialog, they are not necessary. Make a note of the new entry in the partition table, writing down its Number and Label. Once you have created all your partitions hit the disk shaped icon in the bar, this will commit all changes and will prepare your disk for an installation. Close this window and return to the MEPIS control center where we are installing from.

Partition Sizing Guide

This is a series of suggestions that you may use for your partitioning.

	/ (root)	/swap
Minimum Requirement ● Useful if using MEPIS on older hardware. ● Web browsing, Email system.	3 GB	256 MB
Recommended ● Average use system. ● More modern hardware.	10 GB	512MB
Expert/Power User ● Multimedia creation. ● Development system.	20+ GB	1-2GB

D. Getting Help

TaFusion Registered Users

If you purchased a copy of MEPIS distributed by TaFusion, upon registration, you are entitled to initial support from TaFusion. Check the original box for details. TaFusion's web sites are at www.tafusion.com and www.tafusion.org.

MEPIS Community

If you are having trouble installing or using MEPIS, you can get help from other members of the MEPIS community at forum.mepis.org and www.mepislovers.com. Additional documentation and troubleshooting information is at www.mepis.org.

Visit www.mepis.com or www.mepis.org for more up-to-date community and free support information.

Applications

The applications included with MEPIS are developed by many people. Usually there will be an About item in a Help menu of the application telling you how to find the web site for the application. Remember, some of these developers are volunteers. They will respond best if you are courteous and appreciative of their efforts. If a particular open source application is very valuable to you, consider making a donation to the project or authors.

The Internet

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Version 2, June 1991

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