

GNUstep on Mandrake

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Chapter 1. Introduction

Why do I test GNUstep ?

When there are already KDE, Gnome, and so many others things [<http://www.plig.org/xwinman/>] to try out ... Basically :

- It isn't another copy of MS-Windows, like so many does. For example, WindowMaker is the preferred window manager.
- I was intrigued by the Christopher Brown [<http://cbbrowne.com/info/>]'s pages (some are outdated) :
 - GNUstep could be a replacement for the Big/Bloated/Obsolete X [<http://cbbrowne.com/info/xbloat.html>].
 - GNUstep could succeed [<http://cbbrowne.com/info/gnustep.html>] to be a "higher level" and "network-enable" X protocol. Since I often work on distant PC, I don't like all the superfluous features of KDE or Gnome that slow down the interface.
- It is based on interesting Object concept like the design patern.
- It smells good, like an Apple

Chapter 2. Installation

The install has been done on a Mandrake 9.2rc2.

Sources and documentation

- FTP : <ftp://ftp.gnustep.org/pub/gnustep/rpms/srpms>
- How to install :
 - Very clear and complete : <http://documents.made-it.com/GNUstep/Build/>
 - Very up to date : <http://gnustep.org/ressources/documentation/>
 - The README and HOWTO files in the sources are the best source of information !

Step by Step (including errors)

- There are some Mandrake RPM for GNUstep (maybe only for Club Members ?) : but they are not up to date.
- I download the GNUstep's SRPM from <ftp://ftp.gnustep.org/pub/gnustep/rpms/srpms>
- I check up my system as described in "GNUstep Build Guide for Unix Systems" (Mr. Dennis Leeuw) :
 - GNU make 3.80 : OK.
 - binutil : ld 2.14.90.0.5 : OK
 - iconv 2.3.2 : OK
 - gcc 3.3.1 : OK
 - Foreign Function Interfaces (ffcal) : not in Mandrake, but downloaded from GNUstep FTP.
 - tiff : RPM mdk : OK
 - GMP : No. The Mandrake's SRPMS seems to have a problem : "Warning: this package does not export valid resources lists". I doubt if it is really useful ?
- The most important parts are OK. Some documentations doesn't mention all those requirements. It depends on which applications you need to run.
- I try to install the SRPM. I don't think that there is a graphical way to install a local RPM file on Mandrake : quite strange for a "easy to use" distribution.

- Install the sources RPM : I use the command line : **rpm -isrc.rpm** It creates 2 files :
 - the sources as tar.gz in `/usr/src/RPM/SOURCES/`
 - the spec, in `/usr/src/RPM/SPECS/`
- Create the "binary" RPM. **rpm -bb ../spec-file** generates the RPM in `/usr/src/RPM/RPMS/i586/...rpm` depending on your CPU : i386, k6 ...
- Install the RPM : **rpm -i /usr/src/RPM/RPMS/i586/....rpm**
- This worked fine for ffc. But I get a problem with gnustep-make : the "home_user" binary program couldn't be executed when launching the post-install GNUstep.sh program. Maybe some library aren't registered ? (There are lines about libraries commented out in the source RPM spec file.)
- At least, I learned some stuff about RPM and installed ffc.
- Install from the sources. (It would have been easier to start here ...)
 - I untar the file in `/usr/src/` : **cd /usr/src ; tar -xzf ...tar.gz** (eXtract gZipped File)
 - Then, I go in the folder and do **./configure, make** and **make install**. Check that there are no error on each step !
 - Launch the **GNUstep.sh** script after installing gnustep-make and don't forget to launch it again as root if you reboot before finishing to install all the basic packages ...
 - All worked fine for gnustep-make, gnustep-base and gnustep-gui.
 - for gnustep-back, I run a **./configure --enable-graphics=art** to use the libart library (supposed to be better.)
- Download some fonts :
 - Just follow <http://www.GNUstep.de/Fonts/>
- Configure an user :
 - I create a new user : "gsbruno" and choose WindowMaker as his window manager (using the drakfirsttime mandrake tools.)
 - I put the script **GNUstep.sh** in the user's `~/ .bash_profile`.
- Install new applications : GWorkspace [<http://www.gnustep.it/enrico/gworkspace/>] 0.5.3
 - I did the same as "Install from sources" : FTP download, untar in `/usr/src` and read the README.

- Install was OK. I could launch / **usr/GNUstep/System/Applications/gworkspace.app/gworkspace** or better : **openapp GWorkspace**, but didn't find how to install the application in the menu or in the dock panel. (Building the font_cacher takes a while !)
- Install new applications : Preferences [<http://prefsapp.sourceforge.net/>] 1.2.0
 - compilaton failed !!
 - I take the CVS version. Installation is OK, but I didn't find that the application itself isn't usefull !

Current state

- Core install (07-10-2003) :
 - ffcac : 1.8d-2
 - gnustep-make 1.8.0
 - gnustep-back : 0.9.0 (with libart)
 - gnustep-base : 1.8.0
 - gnustep-gui : 0.9.0
 - Fonts : Fixed.nfont.tar.gz ; FreeFonts.nfont.tar.gz from
- Applications :
 - GWorkspace [<http://www.gnustep.it/enrico/gworkspace/>] 0.5.3
 - Fonts from <http://www.GNUstep.de/Fonts/>
 - Preferences [<http://prefsapp.sourceforge.net/>] CVS version 08-10-2003.
- User's configuration :
 - `~/.bash_profile` with the command to load GNUstep environnement : `. /usr/GNUstep/System/Makefiles/GNUstep.sh`
 - In order to start WindowMaker even without XDM (or kdm or gdm), I created a `~/.desktop` with the line **DESKTOP=WindowMaker** (Be careful, it seems to be case sensitive !) Then I can use `/usr/X11/xinit/xinitrc` to launch the whole thing from a distant X server (like Cygwin/XFree86 [<http://xfree86.cygwin.com/>].) Just one problem : when I exit : Windowmaker doesn't close the clock and mail application from the dock panel.

- Set standart GNUstep configuration look at "GNUstep Build Guide for Unix Systems" :
 - **defaults write NSGlobalDomain "Local Time Zone" Europe/Paris**
 - **defaults write NSGlobalDomain NSLanguages "(French,English)"**

Todo

I admit that I am a little disapointed. I didn't find it usefull nor fast.

- Learn how to install applications in WindowMaker environnement
- Install more application
- Try to run WindowMaker localy and launch distant applications.