

THE COMPUTER CORNER

No. 311: Upgrading Linux

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On 12Jan2024, Linux Mint Cinnamon 21.3 was released. One can download the .iso file (just under 3 TB in size) and use it to burn a bootable DVD disk to install a new version of the OS. Or, if you already have 21.1 ("VERA") or 21.2 ("VICTORIA"), you can simply upgrade your copy to the new 21.3 ("VIRGINIA"). Upgrading takes less time and fewer resources, and should go well if you follow the directions in this article. If anything goes wrong, you can always prepare and use a bootable DVD to install a fresh copy over the aborted attempt. Nothing lost, provided you back up your personal files first.

1. So, as always, back up your personal creations. Letters, pictures and so on. The safest way is to copy them to DVDs and store them on the shelf. Another ploy is to use Timeshift, a very good backup program present on 21.1 and subsequent versions to make a snapshot copy of your files currently on the disk. You should employ that program anyway, even if all goes well, to make backup copies of your stuff in the future. The backups are all automated so you don't even have to think about them once you set them up to your liking!
2. Next, use your current Update Manager to be absolutely sure that all files are up to date. That is the little shield icon in the tray that says "Your system is up to date." when you roll the pointer over it, or tells you that updates are available. Make sure that all updates, especially including the latest Backup Manager itself, have been installed. Then, reboot your machine to make sure all is well and installed.
3. Next, launch the Update Manager by clicking that shield icon in the tray. Click the **Edit** option among the **File Edit View Help** list at the top of the screen, and select "**Upgrade to LM 21.3 Virginia**". This will start the ball rolling. The next couple of screens are informational, so select (click) the Next button in each case. On the Requirements screen click the "**I understand the risk.**" box to continue. Then, the Update Manager will want your password. Enter it and click **authenticate** to continue.
4. Now be patient, and don't become a patient! Packages of files will be downloaded and installed. It may take awhile; maybe even up to an hour or more, depending on your machine's speed, memory installed and so on. Keep an eye on things, but don't interfere. The Update Manager will notify you when the upgrade has succeeded and it will ask you to reboot to complete the process. That is all there is to it! Happy Computing!