

No. 275: A New Linux and A New Source

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Great news! Majorgeeks (www.majorgeeks.com) (in my opinion the best and safest source for Windows programs), has recognized the spread of Linux throughout the world as an upcoming alternative for Microsoft Windows/Windows programs. They have added many Linux distros (distributions) to their already wonderful Windows offerings.

Go to the majorgeeks site (usually ctrl-click the highlighted hyperlink above), look at the **Files** panel on the left for a new entry: **Linux Distros**. You'll find any flavor of Linux your heart desires among the over three dozen files listed, including my favorite, Linux Mint, version 20.1. You'll even find a Raspberry Pi Imager that will help you create a micro-SD card with Linux on board, for use with your Raspberry Pi. There is also other software there to help you create bootable CD, DVDs or thumbdrives stuffed with many different flavors of Linux or any bootable OS (operating system). A great new asset provided by a reputable, well known resource of mainly free software and some shareware.

And, that leads us to the latest and greatest version of Linux Mint Cinnamon, 20.1, nickname ULYSSA. When you install it, you'll be forewarned by the installer that new systems like 20.1 will give you new capabilities, but they also come with the danger that a new system may bring with it things like the need for new hardware drivers or new, previously unidentified bugs and the like. But don't let that deter you. My experience is that the new stuff in a new OS (operating system) far outweighs the other adjustments you may need to make. And mine is the voice of experience: I have successfully installed 20.1 over 20 in five machines; three desktops and one laptop. Of course bugs and need for a new driver here and there may yet pop up, but I have confidence it will be fixable. Linux writers have a real desire to get it right and make it work well. So, have at it.

A great article on how to upgrade from 20.0 to 20.1 can be found in an article entitled: *Linux Mint 20.1 "Ulyssa" Officially Released [How to Upgrade]*. You can find it here:

<https://ubuntuhandbook.org/index.php/2021/01/linux-mint-20-1-ulyssa-officially-released/>

It will tell you what you need to know and how to proceed. In a nutshell, you need at least 1GB of RAM (2 recommended), 15GB disk space (20 recommended) and 1024 x 768 screen resolution. And don't try to put 20.1 (or even 20.0) on a 32-bit machine; you need at least 64-bits. But that is not hard in this day and age. (If you are not sure what you have, try it and it will complain if it is not 64-bit.) There are not that many 32-bit machines that are still working. (Ouch! I felt that slap in the back of the head from you folks with happily working 32-bit machines!)

This release (20.1) will be supported long-term, until at least 2025. So make use of that old desktop or laptop (or buy one next time Stan advertises one on the ORC Remailer for use with the new OS). And, get this. To proceed, you will need to download the .iso

file and use it to burn a bootable live OS DVD that will let you play with it, and if you like, it will install version 20.1. If you don't know how to do this and don't really want to learn, I will do it for you, free (if you are a dues-paid ORC member). Simply email me or call me that you want one, and pick it up at my QTH when it is ready. I have six on the shelf now, and can burn more as needed. It is hard to beat that offer! Have fun! And, Happy computing!