

## THE COMPUTER CORNER

### **No. 297: LINUX: INSTALLING LINUX MINT CINNAMON v. 21, 64-BIT, “VANESSA”**

de Stan Kaplan, WB9RQR, 715 N. Dries Street, Saukville, WI 53080-1664  
[wb9rqr@gmail.com](mailto:wb9rqr@gmail.com)

We will assume you got a copy of the *iso* file and burned a bootable installation disk, or you got a copy of the installation disk from me (see the last paragraph of last month's article, always available on the ORC website).

Put the installation disk into your DVD drive and turn off the machine. After a few seconds, turn it back on. Your DVD drive light (little green or red LED on the front of the drive) should light and blink repeatedly, indicating that your system recognizes the disk and is booting from it. After some seconds, a Linux logo should appear in the center of the screen. Sit tight and let the boot disk continue to do its thing. Realize that it must load a complete, working operating system (OS) and boot the machine with it.

After the system boots from the installation disk, you should eventually be presented with a new desktop<sup>1</sup>. Your machine now has a working copy of Vanessa up and running. You can play with it as much as you like, but leave the disk in the drive. For example, press the Linux logo in the system tray (where the start button is in Windows – in the leftmost position of the system tray) and type in Desktop (or select Desktop from the list of All Applications). In the resulting window, you can select which icons you would like to show on the desktop (if Vanessa was to be permanently installed). Explore like this all you want, for as long as you want. When you are finished exploring, remove the disk and shut down. Your machine has just been restored to the condition it was in before you booted with the installation disk; no changes have been made permanent. You have experienced the use of a live OS disk.

But, our goal is to install Linux permanently, rather than to just play with it. So reboot with the installation disk and be sure to leave it in the drive. You will note an icon on the desktop labeled Install Linux Mint. Click that, and you are off and running with the actual installation process. Be aware, you will need the password of your home wireless network or a cable connection (looks just like a phone connection, but wider with more wires in it). If you have a cable, best to plug it in before booting with the installation disk. If you have a choice, use the cable – it is usually faster than wireless.

OK, you clicked Install Linux Mint by the CD icon. Select English as your language and click continue, then US for the keyboard layout and click continue. Then check the box by Install Multimedia Codecs and click continue. Note that at this point you need the cable or wireless connected so the software can go out and retrieve codecs and drivers as needed.

The next screen will give you several choices, depending upon what the installation disk software found on the hard drive. Your goal is to check ERASE DISK AND INSTALL LINUX MINT. When you have done that, click Install Now. A caution screen will appear next, allowing you to go back before an impending format of the drive. Select continue. Choose Chicago as your nearest location, then continue.

Now comes the main identification screen, Who Are You? Use care with providing this information. I suggest the following. For your name, type your first and last name with caps for the first letter. My entry: Stanley Kaplan. It will then suggest a name for the computer, the name it uses when it talks to other computers. Edit this and shorten as you wish. I used: MSI-Lorosh (my computer has an MSI motherboard and Lorosh is its nickname). Now decide on a password. This is critical. You will need to type it often, so use care in your design. I have used the 4-digit house number of a childhood home followed by my initials in lower case (no spaces anywhere). Devise your own and make it really hard for anyone to guess. Note this bug when typing in the password: if you click the eye so that it has a line through it, it WILL show what you typed. If you leave it with no line through the eye, it will NOT show what you typed. Retype your password a second time in the space provided to confirm it. Be sure to check **Require my password to log in**, unless you intend to never have your machine connected to the Internet or to another computer that is connected to the Internet. With all that done, click continue.

Now watch the screen for a number of minutes. You will be entertained for awhile with slides showing neat options and available software, while the installation program copies files to the hard drive, retrieves language packs, Libre Office and other files, configures software, removes unused and backup files, and generally packs Vanessa into your hard drive space. When all done, your choice is to Continue Testing or Restart Now. Choose Restart Now. After a black screen and Linux logo, the message "Please remove installation medium" will appear and the CD door should open. Remove and put the disk away, and shut the CD door. Press enter. If nothing happens, shut off power to the computer (turn it off). Wait a few seconds and turn it back on. Vanessa should appear when the machine boots up. But, you are not done yet!

There will be a Getting Started box in the middle of the screen with a number of entries. Immediately click First Steps. Some of these categories can wait until later, but some really can not wait. Here are those that I consider critical and must have your attention right now for safety, security and to really complete the installation process. They are listed in order of importance.

1. UPDATE MANAGER. Select this first, and install a new version if one is available. When done with updating the Update Manager, it will present you with a series of new updates. **Install all of them, now**. Yes, it will take some time, maybe even up to half an hour or more, depending on how many there are. It is important to do these installations. Furthermore, you may be asked to reboot the computer when finished. Do it.

2. FIREWALL. Click the status box to turn it on. That is all you need do. The default settings are fine, but it is important to have this watchdog on to keep you safe.

3. DRIVER MANAGER. Activate this, and it will go out and find drivers for your hardware devices. Probably it won't find any since some were installed during the early part of the install

process. But do it just in case. Are drivers important? Your printer will not work without one, just as an example.

4. SYSTEM SNAPSHOTS. Open and activate this. I suggest that a monththly snapshot is in order, at least. Make it weekly if you like, or even daily if you are working on critical projects. Set it up as you wish. Use care not to make multiple, overlapping snapshots unless you intend to.

These 4 are the critical items. The others are up to you. Under SOFTWARE MANAGER, you can see some of the many thousands of programs available to you. Don't overload yourself at first unless one or another lets you tackle a project you need to do. On the other hand, I do recommend VLC since it will let you view screens with graphics while you are surfing the web or looking for info on a topic.

Finally, when you exit the important ones noted above, look for any notifications in the system tray. There may be some language packs that you will need ... if there are, install them. It will not take much time. You have now installed Vanessa!!! Next time we will see how to use it.

-----  
<sup>1</sup>*If the new disk fails to boot the machine, remove it from the disk tray, restart and (for Dell machines) repeatedly press F2 during the very start of the reboot to get into the BIOS. In the BIOS, under BOOT, move the CD/DVD/CD-RW Drive entry to first in the priority list so the machine will attempt to boot from CD/DVDs when a disk is present in the drive. Then Save and Exit and try to boot from the CD again. To get into the BIOS of other machines, consult your user manual, try F2, ESC, or email me with details and I will try to help you out.*