



DoudouLinux

The computer they prefer!

User's manual, version 2.1

Visit us at <http://www.doudoulinux.org/>

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DoudouLinux, the computer they prefer!

March 2010 — last update 6 June



DoudouLinux offers a set of games both educational and easy to use in order to have fun while learning. At just 2 years old, any child can use DoudouLinux. Reading is not required, neither being a mouse expert, this is just the contrary. For older children, simple applications give the opportunity to write texts, to draw, to calculate or even to discover how to make music and movies or to learn programming. Moreover they can lend, copy and give DoudouLinux to their friends as they do in the school playground - all of this is totally legal!

A simple yet efficient environment

The DoudouLinux project considers that current mainstream consumer computing environments do not suit children because they offer too many functionalities and require too much technical knowledge that children don't have. For these reasons, DoudouLinux has built an environment specially for children:



- no ~~opening~~ dropping menu
- nothing that absolutely must be read
- nothing to be placed or (re)moved on desktop
- most of DoudouLinux applications do not require the notion of files and folders
- application windows do not suddenly collapse into a task bar (there is no task bar!)
- no gibberish notification text
- does not ask unexpected questions
- don't click start to stop!!! [\[1\]](#)



Also easy for Dad and Mum!

No need to install DoudouLinux to use it, it can then be carried anywhere, for example, by Granddad and Granny. DoudouLinux is provided full and ready to be used, nothing else to be downloaded, nothing else to be updated and nothing else to be administered. Moreover, there is no extension to pay for monthly and no ads is displayed to compensate for the null price. Since version 2010-11 it also natively ships real-time web content filtering to keep our children's eyes off

of “naughty” websites, and since version 2.0, annoying website practices like aggressive advertising and user tracking are blocked. So at most you will have to adjust your computer sound output and the mouse speed! Moreover, DoudouLinux runs on any PC computer and on Macintosh™ ones made after year 2006, a priori [2].

DoudouLinux is based on “[Live CD \[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Live_CD\]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Live_CD)” technology with which a full system can be started from a CD instead of installing and starting the system from the computer. In no way does DoudouLinux access local system data nor the Internet behind your back. You can then quietly let your children play with the computer. Moreover, DoudouLinux contains no malware such as viruses, worms, Trojan horses, spyware, adware or keyloggers. And when DoudouLinux runs from CD, it cannot be corrupted by malware nor fail due to hardware troubles or even blunders. To make a long story short, it is risk free!

And this is 100% legal!

DoudouLinux is built on free software, free as in freedom [3]. Free software licenses let anybody copy, distribute, analyze or even modify such software totally freely. You can then copy, lend, give DoudouLinux to who you want. We even encourage you to make tons of copies!

Footnotes

[1] The “Start” menu that some systems provide...

[2] Apple began installing Intel processors on its machines this year. And DoudouLinux only runs on AMD, Intel or Intel-compatible x86 processors.

[3] Technically DoudouLinux is based on the [Debian Linux \[http://www.debian.org/\]](http://www.debian.org/) system and uses a very large majority of packages picked from it.



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Privacy policy

12 June



DoudouLinux fully respects a user's privacy and we do our best to provide a good service while keeping private information from the eyes of others. We strongly believe electronic equipment and online services should absolutely never be used as a kind of Trojan horse to build detailed profiles of their users, especially, if this is done behind their backs. We believe human beings are worth much more than companies, even the largest ones. For this reason we have banned such practices from DoudouLinux and will always reject them. Similarly, we do our best to preserve user privacy of DoudouLinux users on the Internet.

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[Privacy on our website](#)

[Privacy in our computer system for children](#)

NB: As a start you can choose right now to not be tracked on our website although we do not use the collected data for any other purpose but knowing how DoudouLinux is popular and will never do other things with these data.

You may choose not to have a unique web analytics cookie identification number assigned to your computer to avoid the aggregation and analysis of data collected on this website.

To make that choice, please click below to receive an opt-out cookie.

You are currently opted in. Click here to opt out.

Privacy on our website

As any other website, the DoudouLinux website is recording information on its visitors. There are several tools that perform such recordings. Basic statistics, recorded by our web server provider, are totally anonymous and sufficiently global to not allow any user's tracking. Their goal is purely to give information on the website traffic. The tools, well known free softwares like *Awstats* and *Webalizer*, are designed with this goal in mind.

That said, we currently have two additional tools to collect more detailed information about our users. The first one is [Piwik \[http://piwik.org/\]](http://piwik.org/), another free software dedicated to web analytics. It can record all users actions individually. However we have set its privacy level to the recommended level, which means

our record logs do not contain enough information to build detailed profiles. Moreover you can decide to escape its tracking job thanks to the form on the top of this page.

Additionally, the world map of our visitors, in the column on the right side of every page, is provided by [ClustrMap \[http://www.clustrmaps.com/\]](http://www.clustrmaps.com/). Although they claim to not resell personal information about **our** visitors, they tell in their privacy page that they use them to make targeted advertising on their website. We currently have no better alternative to display this world map. If you want to escape ClustrMap, the only solution for you is to find a plugin for your web browser that would block ClustrMap calls. This is what the web browser of DoudouLinux is now doing with the release 2.0!

Privacy in our computer system for children

Our system does not contain any software that would send information about users, to us or any third party, behind their backs. As our project is fully open, anyone can check this point. DoudouLinux is designed by parents for parents and their children. We want only the best for our children and we do believe spying on our users is really not part of the best even if they would accept it. The only tool that can send information to us is the hardware issue reporting tool. With it we can know what hardware configuration you have and what language you are using – this is its purpose!

Concerning Internet, content filtering is not performed by a central server under our control, which would mean we could know everything about our users activity on the Internet. Instead filtering is performed locally, on each DoudouLinux computer individually, and thus remains entirely in parent's hands. Of course we provide defaults settings that block given websites and not other ones, but anyone can again check what we are doing. No log is sent to us and we cannot know what site has triggered blocking from DansGuardian [1]. Note that it is possible to make DansGuardian record (locally) the full address of every requested web page, but this has not been activated in DoudouLinux and would not allow us to spy on users anyway. We have thought that most parents would not be interested in spying this way on their children either. That said, parents could do if they really want to!

Finally note that, when running the DoudouLinux system on a computer you are not the owner of (LiveCD), even if the computer data are still accessible, we made special effort to keep them off of eyes for most users: data cannot be accessed simply from the file browser. The computer owner privacy is then quite well respected. However it is still possible to access local data using more

technical tools, for instance the command line. This is then not perfect and cannot be since we want to be able to access local storage devices at least to be able to setup data persistence or to install DoudouLinux onto disk.

Footnotes

[1] DansGuardian is the web filtering engine used in DoudouLinux, see [Parental controls](#).



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Why should I try DoudouLinux?

April 2011 — last update 27 June



You might be interested in trying DoudouLinux because it allows your children to use the computer with total serenity, but perhaps you are not convinced? Let's discover why you might prefer to have your children on DoudouLinux rather than on a gaming console or in front of the TV. This is a sensitive subject, but consider the DoudouLinux point of view. Our objective is not just to stick kids on the computer but instead to help them feel at ease with it in order to lead them to master this fantastic tool. Let's see how and why.

NB: We also invite you to read [The DoudouLinux manifesto](#) to learn more about all the objectives of our project.

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Your Concerns

I don't want them addicted to computers!

And neither do we! We did not create DoudouLinux to replace parents in the education of their children by putting them before a computer all day with the attendant physiological and psychological consequences. Parents still need to **set limits** in the use of computers even if they are crazy about DoudouLinux! Specialists recommend not letting children use or watch either TV, game console, or computer for more than one hour per week per year of age. For example, a 5 year old should view no more than 5 hours of TV+console+computer per week; a 7 year old, no more than 7 hours per week. DoudouLinux plans to include tools that will allow concerned parents to set time limits for the use of the computer with DoudouLinux; however, it will be good to talk with the children about these limits before activating it.

Won't computers isolate them?

Yes, but you could say the same about reading or crossword puzzles! Again, this is the role of parents to encourage their children to broaden their environment without obsession.

Aren't computers for older children?

This is true in the case of normal computers sold in shops without DoudouLinux. Normal computers are not fit for kids! But remember that **gaming consoles are computers too**, just miniaturized to be easier for kids. This shows that once adapted to its audience, computers are also fit for kids, even small kids. Computers can thus become a fantastic creative tool for children. This is the reasoning that brought DoudouLinux to life. We think computers have the potential to develop user skills much better than gaming consoles and TVs.

This is already complicated enough for me!

The goal of DoudouLinux is to approach the ease of use of a gaming console. Applications have been carefully chosen for their purpose. Many are being used in elementary schools around the world, such as Africa, USA, Cook Islands, Australia, England, Peru, Venezuela, China, Spain, India, Finland, Austria and others, just to name a few. DoudouLinux itself is being used in nursery schools, which shows that we succeeded in making it simple enough. The environment has been designed to remove everything not strictly required. DoudouLinux does not ask questions. We guarantee that **this is really simpler** to use than a standard computer system. Some children aged 3½ can already navigate effortlessly in the most advanced activities. If it is simple for them, it is even more simple for you. Try it yourself before giving it to your kids. It is free of charge, therefore, you don't have to buy before you can try!

TV, game machine, computers –all the same?

We think not. One common feature of gaming consoles and TV is passivity. The player of a console is the actor of the game but he usually can not change anything. His role is to consume games just like TV puts the watcher in the role of consuming programs and advertisement. But, even if computer users may be consuming installed software, the computer can become **a creation tool** which gives an active role to the user; such as, drawing, creating music, writing prose, poetry, or even pure computer creation [1]. The user role then, is totally different - –he is a producer. DoudouLinux aims to stimulate the spirit of discovery, initiative, curiousness and entrepreneurship!

Won't video games make them stupid?

We have not seen any study saying such things yet, but it is a question to ask when we give them a game console or leave them in front of the TV. Studies in the USA have shown that the most addicted ones also have the lower marks in school. We think the content proposed to children plays a role in the effect observed. DoudouLinux tries to select non violent games that require thinking or developing strategy. We expect DoudouLinux to have an inverse effect as long as it is taken in moderation!

Howcan I be sure that they will not alter my data?

DoudouLinux can function even if you completely remove the hard disk from your computer along with your data and operating system. Try it! It just does not need it at all [2], your data is under cover. **DoudouLinux is not fragile** and it cannot be altered by children [3]. DoudouLinux is openly published on the Internet, anyone with the skills can verify that this is so.

I am concerned about what they see on the Internet.

The only reliable solution is to remove the network cable; otherwise, know that DoudouLinux ships with built-in parental controls tuned with the strictest rules. It systematically filters the actual contents of websites using a keyword-based evaluation system [4]. Thus even the result of a search engine like Google can be rejected if its content is leading to sites inappropriate for children. This does not exempt you from assisting them a bit on the Internet, it is likely better to accompany them in the beginning and explain that DoudouLinux will lead them to appropriate material.

Don't viruses come from downloading things?

Yes, you are right: in the Windows® world the threat in this area is great (100,000 new malware per day as of start 2012) and the proposed defenses

are of doubtful efficiency. DoudouLinux does not use Windows® at all, even if already installed on your computer. DoudouLinux is running Linux for which, as far as we know, there are currently no circulating virus [5] because Linux is designed differently. DoudouLinux natively runs in a mode, the LiveCD, where even if some malware knew how to attack it, it could not get into DoudouLinux. Finally, remember that DoudouLinux does not spontaneously access your computer's data.

To prepare for their future, shouldn't children use Windows®?

No, although Windows® is a dominant operating system on personal computers; millions of others use Linux, Unix, and MacOS. Many use Linux on their modern desktops, and not many tablets and smartphones are using Windows®. Consider the following facts:

the Android system from Google for mobile phones runs Linux in its heart, and its market share is larger than iPhones

Google online services rely on hundreds of thousands of servers all running Linux, they even asked their employees [to remove Windows® from their office computers \[http://www.ft.com/cms/s/2/d2f3f04e-6ccf-11df-91c8-00144feab49a.html#axzz1He5ovxF5\]](http://www.ft.com/cms/s/2/d2f3f04e-6ccf-11df-91c8-00144feab49a.html#axzz1He5ovxF5)

ADSL boxes are running Linux

more than 90% of the [500 largest super-computers of the world \[http://www.top500.org/stats/list/36/osfam\]](http://www.top500.org/stats/list/36/osfam) are running Linux

the London stock exchange [has replaced its defective Windows® servers \[http://www.computerworlduk.com/in-depth/open-source/3260982/london-stock-exchange-the-road-to-linux/\]](http://www.computerworlduk.com/in-depth/open-source/3260982/london-stock-exchange-the-road-to-linux/) with Linux servers

the International Space Station [is switching from Windows to Linux \[http://www.itechpost.com/articles/9064/20130512/why-international-space-station-switching-windows-gnu-linux.htm\]](http://www.itechpost.com/articles/9064/20130512/why-international-space-station-switching-windows-gnu-linux.htm) too

As this information shows, on the contrary, Linux is synonymous with innovation and the future. Initiating your children to Linux is not a mistake but an investment in their future. Even if Linux was marginal, the important thing is that they will become able to master other computer tools, regardless of their form and not feel destabilized by seeing a new or different system or application. We wish to teach them the potential of computers instead of a particular software.

Isn't it old-fashioned; nowadays, software is online?

It is true that since the beginning of the 2000's, the editorial trend is to switch to online applications, in a Google fashion. Children's applications are also following this trend; nevertheless, do not be mistaken, that under cover of doing you a favor, this might be a trap as well... Indeed the lure of these solutions is to

solve the problems that personal computers pose in their usual presentation: they do not provide the software we need, when one is being installed, this may “break” something and when your friends have a new version, they cannot share with you anymore.

Being online, the software you use is not natively installed, but is totally controlled by them; this can be the same for the content you are using or browsing. This is also a good way to justify the need to be always connected to Internet, in order to get information about you behind your back, flood your computer with advertisement and adapt the content you are shown in order to change or control your minds. As a result some providers are even now becoming able to dictate to you what to buy and what to think. These practices of information gathering are very spread on the web and similar to what malwares called *Trojan horses* are doing, although this is supposed to be legal in the first case.

Moreover if you remove all the software from your computer to only use online versions, then your computer is of no use if you cannot access online services anymore [6]. And it is becoming quite frequent that your data are not even on your own computer. In short, you are putting yourself in a situation where the providers of your software have total control over what you can do and have done on your computer. Even if you perform frequent backups of your online data on your hard disk (can you always do this?), you are not sure to be able to use your backup elsewhere and thus, not to depend of a unique provider. Note that this unique provider is often a commercial company whose goals do not necessarily match people wishes because it is quite out of any democratic control.

We believe that this is not a desirable situation since it is totally lopsided against the user and it poses a threat to our liberty of choice and thinking. On the contrary Linux is natively providing a very large number of applications, these applications are put together in order to pose no problem either while installing or un-installing. They are designed to use standard file formats and to be easy to exchange. They can also be freely used so that displaying advertisement is not required to pay indirectly to use them. Therefore it seems to us that DoudouLinux is not old-fashioned at all but rather a more desirable future! Concentration of power always tends to lead to abuses.

The philosophy of free software

Buying or pirating are not the unique alternatives

Unlike what some powerful, politically influential industries would like us to believe, there is a third alternative to buying or pirating: **sharing**. How to teach children to live together in harmony if we do not teach them to share? And how to build a thriving society if its individuals do not wish to share? This is one of the foundations of the free software movement (free software means freedom software, not software free of charge such as freeware or shareware). Instead of preventing users from doing what they want with software that they are offered (for free or not), they are allowed to share them totally. Later you may have the opportunity to explain to children that the development of DoudouLinux is based on the values of sharing, since DoudouLinux is a 100% free software project.

Knowledge sharing: the engine of progress

Similarly to the scientific community which is regularly and openly sharing its work, free software is sharing the fruits of its labor with all computer specialists of the world. Moreover, one of the vectors which facilitated the emergence of a given civilization at a given time, is communication and knowledge sharing. To the contrary, powerful people have often taken actions all through history to make knowledge stay in the hands of a minority of people in order to preserve their power. Free software offers a vision in which computer science enriches the experience and **is benefiting to everyone** instead of only benefiting the minority who created and control them; thus, power is returning into the user's hands.

Building together instead of one against another

Free software is usually organized into communities of contributors from all over the world, who improve or evolve software together. There may exist competing free software projects, but because the projects are generally transparent and governed by free software licenses, these projects are not trying to prevent users from migrating their tools to other projects or uses –but rather to promote the re-use of software tools. In the traditional software world, the editors are generally doing everything possible to prevent users from easily changing to a competing program. For example, user's data are recorded in a secret format, difficult to read for competing products; or the software will only function with products of the same brand, or will even contain patents that legally limit the potential and use of competitor's products. A part of the editor activity is then dedicated to preventing others from doing given things.

Computers in our society

Computers: the inescapable tool

Nowadays, everything seems to be run by computers. It is almost impossible to not use a computer during one's daily life. Older generations are still managing to avoid computers, the younger generations face computers beginning in their home and school. Young people are moreover very fond of services offered on the Internet and make computers a communication tool. Furthermore, with no doubt they will very likely use computers in their professional activities. Needless to say, those who are really at ease with computers have a competitive advantage over those who are not. And more and more will be the advantage –this is what the business world is showing us every day.

Computers control our modern society

Just like water and electricity, the modern society cannot function without computers. Moreover, computers control information exchange all over the world; indeed, they control our whole society. Thus people who are controlling user's software can define what users are able to do or not with their tool and at what price. Some editors have even given themselves the ability to remotely control the software they have sold and also your data! (via the update process for example or thanks to the need of a permanent Internet connection) This is, of course, worse when you are only using an online service, and when your data are even not on your own computer.

Furthermore, the people controlling the Internet –and many people are fighting to take this control– are controlling what people are able to see or not to see, to know or not to know, to buy or not to buy. This Internet control can be achieved at the source by website hosting providers, during data transmission via access providers, or finally at home via the editors of your software. Here are some examples of the power that computers have gained:

the music that you are buying online can only be listened to on the products of a given brand; this was unthinkable in the old days of audio cassettes

updating a software or your system is installing software that you have never requested, like a search bar or a web navigator – what about software that are also installed, but are invisible (stealth)?

you can only install on your mobile phone, software or music distributed on the manufacturer's website

Cubans cannot communicate using MSN anymore because the editor has cut off access to it for the whole country

Hospital emergency rooms encountered 1 hour of freeze in Estonia after a general computer attack against the country

Undoubtedly, if we only teach our children to passively use computers, they will not be able to protect themselves against this kind of consequence. This is a

strategical issue that is concerning nations, as shown above. Computers have been designed to serve users but not to enslave them. Do not forget that our children are our future.

Read or watch more on this topic:

[Let's take back the Internet](#)

[\[http://www.ted.com/talks/rebecca_mackinnon_let_s_take_back_the_internet.html\]](http://www.ted.com/talks/rebecca_mackinnon_let_s_take_back_the_internet.html)

– Rebecca MacKinnon – conference held at a TED Talk.

[Code is Law \[http://harvardmagazine.com/2000/01/code-is-law-html\]](http://harvardmagazine.com/2000/01/code-is-law-html) –

Lawrence Lessig – article published on Harvard Magazine.

Schools are not really teaching computing.

NB: please adapt to your country!

Despite the fine words and speeches about computer use at schools, the American/British training is not teaching children how to run computers but just it's basic use. Young people are taught to click on nice translucent buttons but they are rarely taught how to create with computers. They are not taught how they function nor especially, how it can be modified; they are not taught how Internet and websites work either; therefore, our young people will be able to download software and eventually to buy them, but they will not be able to make computers do exactly what they want. Of course not all of them have to become computer scientists, but we need to attract some of them because of the reasons described above. And especially, all of them should become critical enough regarding to technological tools from the family of computers.

Showing that computers are versatile and programmable

Starting DoudouLinux on a computer containing another system demonstrates that very different things can be executed by the same computer –it is only a matter of programming [7]. Thus, around the adolescence age, children may have the curiosity to search and understand how all of this is possible. And with DoudouLinux everything can be analyzed and modified, provided that you can read English sufficiently. DoudouLinux is then more inclined to teach our children what computers actually are by allowing them to do any experimentation they want. DoudouLinux wants children to master their future.

Footnotes

[1] Such as system modifying or application programming.

[2] The only case where it would be needed is if you activated [data persistence](#) on the internal hard disk, you will not have access to your previously saved data.

[3] Its physical support, the CD or the USB key, can be on the other hand.

[4] The parental control has a list of keywords and their associated "harmfulness". This list is used to evaluate the appropriateness of the requested page to the filter strictness level. Keywords are translated into several languages.

[5] There are viruses but they are using Linux functionalities that have been corrected long ago. The engineers working on this system have fixed what was wrong.

[6] Because your provider has a technical issue, because he has closed shop and abandoned his service or because the service now has a monthly charge and has become too expensive!

[7] Consequently, if computers do not do what the user is expecting, this may be because the manufacturer decided that users should not be able to do that!



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Contact us

August 2010 — last update 6 June



You can contact us using our online project forums:

for technical issues while using DoudouLinux, please [post a request for assistance](http://team.doudoulinux.org/projects/doudoulinux-cd/issues/new?issue%5Btracker_id%5D=3) [http://team.doudoulinux.org/projects/doudoulinux-cd/issues/new?issue%5Btracker_id%5D=3]

to discuss about DoudouLinux usage and more, please participate into our [online web forums](http://forum.linuxcareer.com/forums/47-DoudouLinux) [<http://forum.linuxcareer.com/forums/47-DoudouLinux>], kindly hosted by [Linux Career](http://www.linuxcareer.com/) [<http://www.linuxcareer.com/>]

Our former user forum, hosted on a [mailing list](https://mail.gna.org/listinfo/doudoulinux-forum/) [<https://mail.gna.org/listinfo/doudoulinux-forum/>], is no longer in use.

To get involved into the project, please register on the DoudouLinux mailing lists per topic:

[Doudoulinux-announce](https://mail.gna.org/listinfo/doudoulinux-announce) [<https://mail.gna.org/listinfo/doudoulinux-announce>] is a low traffic list used to announce new versions and events

[Doudoulinux-dev](https://mail.gna.org/listinfo/doudoulinux-dev) [<https://mail.gna.org/listinfo/doudoulinux-dev>] is the main list to discuss about the project activities

[Doudoulinux-lang](https://mail.gna.org/listinfo/doudoulinux-lang) [<https://mail.gna.org/listinfo/doudoulinux-lang>] is dedicated to people involved in CDROM translation

[Doudoulinux-docs](https://mail.gna.org/listinfo/doudoulinux-docs) [<https://mail.gna.org/listinfo/doudoulinux-docs>] is dedicated to our online documentation (our website) and its translation

[Doudoulinux-graphics](https://mail.gna.org/listinfo/doudoulinux-graphics) [<https://mail.gna.org/listinfo/doudoulinux-graphics>] is dedicated to graphic design, CDROM and website

For all these reasons and many others, find us on IRC. The name of the channel is #doudoulinux (of course).

To join our channel, install an IRC client like [Xchat](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/XChat) [<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/XChat>] (free software and multi-platform) and enter the [freenode](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Freenode) [<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Freenode>] network: *irc.freenode.net*. If you don't want to install any software, use your browser only and [go to the online webchat](http://webchat.freenode.net/?randomnick=1&channels=doudoulinux) [<http://webchat.freenode.net/?randomnick=1&channels=doudoulinux>].

To connect to freenode IRC and join channel **#doudoulinux** click 'Connect'.

reCAPTCHA: 

Audio captcha:

You can also contact us by email:

[✉contribute@doudoulinux.org \[mailto:contribute@doudoulinux.org\]](mailto:contribute@doudoulinux.org) to send us your contributions or to ask to get more involved in the project on a more regular basis

[✉contact@doudoulinux.org \[mailto:contact@doudoulinux.org\]](mailto:contact@doudoulinux.org) for any other question

You can follow us:

on the open source social networking and micro-blogging *identi.ca*. Our login is [doudoulinux \[http://identi.ca/doudoulinux\]](http://identi.ca/doudoulinux).

on [Facebook \[http://fr-fr.facebook.com/pages/Doudoulinux/197219183647725\]](http://fr-fr.facebook.com/pages/Doudoulinux/197219183647725)

on [Google+ \[https://plus.google.com/106508146977262037538\]](https://plus.google.com/106508146977262037538)



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Credits

November 2012 — last update 28 November



DoudouLinux is based on the work of many other projects and is supported by several organizations. Although we cannot cite all the upstream projects because the list would be too long, we want to especially thank the Debian project, the projects that are not related to software and our supporting organizations. The main applications we are using are all listed in our [section dedicated to applications](#).

[Open ClipArt Library \[http://openclipart.org/\]](http://openclipart.org/), source of many of our illustrations, mainly used on our website.

[Mutopia \[http://www.mutopiaproject.org/\]](http://www.mutopiaproject.org/) provides many MIDI files that ship within DoudouLinux.

The [Internet Archive \[http://archive.org/\]](http://archive.org/), to which links a large part of the music and video library shipping within DoudouLinux.

[Debian \[http://www.debian.org/\]](http://www.debian.org/) is the Linux distribution on which DoudouLinux

is based and [Debian Live \[http://live.debian.net/\]](http://live.debian.net/) is the Debian project that makes DoudouLinux start from a CD or an USB key.

Our supporters:

The [Tomsk State Pedagogical University \[http://tspu.edu.ru/ipi\]](http://tspu.edu.ru/ipi) and the [Institute for International Education and Language Communication](http://iie.tpu.ru/en/1_about.php)

[\[http://iie.tpu.ru/en/1_about.php\]](http://iie.tpu.ru/en/1_about.php) from Tomsk Polytechnic University help translate and promote DoudouLinux in Russia.

[Genesi \[http://www.genesi-usa.com/\]](http://www.genesi-usa.com/) provides our developers with ARM™ computers.

[Écodair \[http://www.ordinateur-occasion.com/\]](http://www.ordinateur-occasion.com/) funds our non-profit organization thanks to refurbished DoudouLinux computers they sell.

[Linux Career \[https://jobs.linuxcareer.com/\]](https://jobs.linuxcareer.com/) hosts our online forums.

The [Open Invention Network \[http://www.openinventionnetwork.com/\]](http://www.openinventionnetwork.com/), also known as OIN, offers our project the umbrella of his patents portfolio.

[DuckDuckGo \[https://duckduckgo.com/\]](https://duckduckgo.com/), the web search engine, helps us provide children with a better web.

Promoter organizations:

[Manfredonia LUG \[manfredonialug.linux.it\]](http://manfredonialug.linux.it) (Italy) promoted our project during the past Linux Day event.

[Montpel'libre \[http://montpel-libre.fr/\]](http://montpel-libre.fr/) (France) promotes our project during install parties, during their workshops *AteLibres* and during their basic service at

Emmaüs.



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The DoudouLinux Manifesto

11 June — last update 19 November



Today, we live in a world invaded by technology. Due to miniaturization, technology is nearly everywhere, even in our pockets, and soon even in our fridges. While technology can provide human beings with comfort and better life conditions, it can also cause them to lose control over their possible choices and thus loss of freedom because they are not able to master the technology they rely on.

Our goal, then, is to enable children to get control of technology by understanding how it works, what they can do with it, what it can bring them in real life, and in the end, to use technology not just to be in fashion to do as others do; but only, because they have understood what they can get from it that brings them so much that could not be achieved differently and with as much efficiency, nothing more. We want them to think of technology as a powerful tool but not as an end in itself.

While modern information technology tends to invert the initial paradigm of robotics – people do more and more what their smartphone and ads banners are proposing them to do, and that’s just the beginning –we want technology to be entirely the robots of human beings, not the reverse! Also the project goals are centered around:

- ease of use, of course
- sharing and openness
- discovery and creativity
- thinking and doing by oneself
- self-confidence and sense of reality
- respect of children’s sensitivity
- putting technology in its place, ie., just a tool
- freedom, to do, read, watch, listen to, create, reuse, modify, etc.
- independence from companies, unlike the technology that gets into our pockets and our living rooms

While we want children be as autonomous as possible with computers, help, direction and advice from their parents are likely needed to reach these goals. Our project can only provide the best tools it can in the hope children will be as much interested as possible, but this may not be sufficient! Here are the main activities and directions of our project – you can find more details on our page [Where goes DoudouLinux?](#):

Provide tools to help
create and build artistic or technical works
learn skills and knowledge
learn foreign languages
transpose into real life what they make or see on their computer
extend their play in real life with technology (kind of robotics, home automation)
Provide access to free culture and free information, free of charge but also and
mainly free as in free speech
to discover and appreciate culture and cultures from other countries
to extend their knowledge and think further
to stimulate inspiration from other's works and understand that sharing makes
us go faster and further
all of that restricted to contents that is fit for their age (web content filtering)
Keep children away from various self-interested influences (commercial,
ideological, etc.) and preserve their freedom by
providing computer and web experiences free of advertisements and user
tracking tools [1]
using free software only, free as in free speech, developed by communities with
no commercial or ideological goals but users freedom
promoting initiatives that embrace the spirit of free software like Wikipedia,
OpenStreetMap, the Open Clipart Library or the movement of open devices and
fablabs
putting control of filtering tools in the parents hands only
doing our best to prevent addictions [2]

As you can see our objectives are quite ambitious, this is why anyone can help
the project with his/her own skills. We are a community of voluntary contributors,
any goodwill is welcome. There is a lot to do and we want cultures from
everywhere in the world to be represented, which means that lots of contributors
are required! And if you really cannot give time to our project, why not
[purchasing DoudouLinux products \[http://buy.doudoulinux.org/\]](http://buy.doudoulinux.org/) or [making a donation \[http://donate.doudoulinux.org/\]](http://donate.doudoulinux.org/) to support our project?

Footnotes

[1] Sadly technology is used today as a Trojan horse to spy on users behind their backs, on the web, on their smartphones, on their computers, on their TV, etc., in order to feed advertisement agencies, affiliates or even governments, or to adapt the content users browse online to change or control their minds.

[2] Sadly again, video game companies are known to hire neuro-psychiatrists experts in order to make their games as addictive as possible —but not to guarantee children fulfillment.



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The DoudouLinux origins

September 2010 — last update 12 June



“Doudou” is a French word that means *wubby*, the teddy bear or the cloth that children carry everywhere and hug very strongly in their arms before falling asleep. In China the word 豆豆 means the same and is pronounced the same too. Linux is a full computer system little known by the general public. It can make computers of all sorts run, from the smallest to the largest ones. Thus DoudouLinux aims at providing children “*the computer they prefer*”, the device that fits their needs so well that they want to take it with them everywhere! And because the DoudouLinux license of use is very permissive, they will actually be able to get it and take it everywhere.

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What drove the DoudouLinux development?

DoudouLinux design is driven by the idea that computer users, those who wish to use their computer but do not wish to administer it, just desire ease of access to what they need for their job:

start applications, which supposes that they are easy to find
tune the mouse, tune the sound volume, eventually set the keyboard layout [1],
set the language or change screen resolution
connect some external devices such as an USB key or a printer
access the previously saved work, of course
connect to a network, for example the Internet
switch on and off!

Any additional functionality is optional and, once some tunings are done, users should only work with their applications and data and eventually plug-in external devices. To achieve this, the system must be self-tuning as much as possible. DoudouLinux tries to build an environment that just does all of this. You may have noticed that gaming consoles are much easier to use than computers. The truth is gaming consoles are computers too, so why should computers be so much more complicated to use?

The name of the releases

The names of the DoudouLinux releases are Gondwana for the 1.x series and Hyperborea for the 2.x series. These names correspond to geographic places that may exist, have existed or not. Because DoudouLinux wants to show not only the diversity of activities with a computer but also the diversity of our world, we thought that using geographic places as release names was a good idea. For instance:

[Gondwana \[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gondwana\]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gondwana) is the name of *“the more southerly of two supercontinents (the other being Laurasia) which were part of the Pangaea supercontinent that existed from approximately 510 to 180 million years ago”*. This was then the very beginning of the Earth, and similarly DoudouLinux Gondwana was the very beginning of the project.

[Hyperborea \[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hyperborea\]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hyperborea) *“was an unspecified region in the northern lands that lay beyond the north wind”* in Greek mythology

The name of the next releases is not decided yet.

Project history

DoudouLinux comes from a series of trials and thoughts about the Linux system. In addition to being powerful and highly versatile [2], Linux natively provides an interesting number of applications that can be used by children or even dedicated to them. However, similarly to all other systems that are installed on the general public computers, the standard Linux interface is usually designed for people who already handle computers well. Since its beginning the DoudouLinux project goal has then been to make Linux and then computers easily accessible for children.

First trials happened in late 2006 with the project founder's children (aged 3 and 4 years at the time). It was immediately obvious that a standard computer interface cannot fit for a very simple reason: they could not read texts in menus! First trials with sessions based on icon panels were then conducted in standard environments [3]. Several applications could be launched with these icons and their popularity has been evaluated: *Gamine*, *Pysycache*, *TuxPaint*, *KTuberling*, *GCompris*, *Childsplay*.

Later environments developed for children on purpose were setup: sessions with a tab interface like the [EeePC \[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/EeePC\]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/EeePC) and sessions that just start a single application. There were two motivations. On the

one hand in standard environments we found ourselves trying to inhibit or hide most of functionalities (dropping menus, icons on the desktop, contextual menus, file manager, etc.). On the other hand very young children (2-3 years old) do not understand the role of the mouse and even less the keyboard role. Therefore it is not judicious to put them in an environment in which you have to choose what you want to do among 50 applications! So it was better to restart from a minimal environment and build upon it.

The last triggering event happened in late 2009 when the project founder realized that generating a custom LiveCD based on Linux Debian was really simple [4]. Before this, DoudouLinux was just a set of scripts plus tunings more or less manual to lead to an environment adapted to children. With the LiveCD, an environment ready to use, easy to spread, easy to test, easy to translate - at least we hope so - and easy to install was at last built.

Why using Linux?

Nowadays many people only know Windows® on desktop computers because the general public computing industry does not give them the opportunity to discover anything else [5]. Nevertheless Linux systems make run a huge number of computers in the world: from ADSL boxes to the largest calculators of the world, including portable phones or Internet servers, the list is constantly growing. We have chosen to use Linux for the following reasons:

Linux natively ships with a huge number of applications among which a portion of them are dedicated to children. Moreover the system really manages these applications, which guarantees that they live together in perfect harmony. Linux requires much less resources than its competitors Mac OS X® and Windows®. Where 10 to 20 GB are needed to just install these systems, we get a full and totally running working environment on the 1.1 GB of a small DVD... No need of a recent computer either, a computer from early 2000 is definitively enough to get DoudouLinux run.

Linux natively ships with all its validated drivers for a very wide hardware panel and he configures these drivers without any user action.

Linux is fully and really customizable, because it is an entirely open system where nothing is hidden from inquisitive eyes, everything can be modified to get the system that is really needed.

Linux is in no way threatened by the millions of viruses and other malware that are spreading on the Internet or on USB devices [6].

Linux is a stable, reliable and well-tested system. It does not degrade in time and particularly its performance does not decrease within weeks.

Powerful Linux tools have been written to be able to easily create autorun

systems on CD or USB key like DoudouLinux.

Linux is much more fun than its competitors for specialists! Of course long practice is required to make this obvious :).

Finally, last but not least, the Linux license allows anyone to use, copy and spread it as he wants regardless of his country of origin [7] whereas Linux competitors Mac OS X® and Windows® want just the opposite and try to prevent us from doing this.

The only two drawbacks are 1) the most recent hardware may not be correctly handled and 2) some people are reticent to use anything but what they already know. If you keep thinking that we should still have chosen Windows® arguing that this is the most distributed system on personal computers, we invite you to read the page [Why using DoudouLinux \[article\]](#) that tries to indirectly answer this objection.

Footnotes

[1] Keyboard layout is how letters are placed on keyboard.

[2] Linux makes your ADSL box run, your mobile phone but also 95% of the most powerful super-computers around the world...

[3] the Gnome environment in this case

[4] But its customization may be, on the contrary, not trivial.

[5] Of course there are Macintosh computers but they are higher priced.

[6] By the end of 2010, about 60 000 new malware are discovered each day...

[7] Licenses of American software say that they cannot be sold in a precise list of countries – for political reasons, thus totally ignoring their populations needs.



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Where goes DoudouLinux?

November 2010 — last update 28 November



DoudouLinux reached a satisfying development status by mid 2011, when the first stable released was published. Since then, version 2.0 Hyperborea brought many improvements to make DoudouLinux even more attractive. However, many improvements can still be brought, since many additional ideas have grown around the initial idea: the project is still growing and will be still growing during a long time. Read [our manifesto](#) and the page [Why should I try DoudouLinux?](#) to learn more about the project motivations and philosophy.

All these ideas do not necessarily match technical topics as you will see. Therefore, if you like the project and wish to contribute to it, we try to maintain in this page a list of ideas to develop so that you can have an idea of topics that may match your skills and wishes. A more exhaustive list of tasks can be viewed on [our project management portal \[http://team.doudoulinux.org/\]](http://team.doudoulinux.org/), using [the Gantt chart \[http://team.doudoulinux.org/projects/doudoulinux-cd/issues/gantt\]](http://team.doudoulinux.org/projects/doudoulinux-cd/issues/gantt).

Road map

The DoudouLinux team usually tries to publish a new development version every 3 months. They are named according to the year-month of release, for example, 2011-02, 2011-05, 2011-08, etc. However, the development cycle is currently a bit disturbed by the need to move to Debian Wheezy, which still hasn't started. For the stable releases, there is no predefined cycle, although we also bring stable release updates regularly, at least to provide improved translations. The first stable release, the 1.x series named Gondwana was published by end June 2011. The second stable release, the 2.x series named Hyperborea, was published by mid June 2013. We intend to publish the 3.x series in 2014, most probably by T4 2014. There is no fixed date for such releases because priorities may change with time and we have very limited resources – but you can contribute to extend our resources to make us go faster ;).

Some planned technical evolutions for upcoming releases are listed below. This does not mean that non-technical aspects will not change, on the contrary, we also wish to improve the graphical design going forward and much more! Again, note that because we are a pure community project of people working mainly on their free time, we do not have a fixed planning to implement these improvements. Here are the technical evolutions we would like to achieve:

move to Debian Wheezy, the latest stable Debian release
use the *armhf* port for ARM™ processors, use *Raspbian* for Raspberry PI's
provide a larger DVD with all the languages, for 32 bits or 64 bits Intel-like processors
provide a set of CD's with a reduced set of applications, for older processors starting from 486
a tool to limit computer use during certain times of day (hours, duration)
a tool to set web parental controls
a tool to display persistence activation in the panel (with a notification icon)
a tool to change the keyboard layout (and more) of a previously downloaded ISO image
replace the activity menu with a more flexible tool, better fitting the need
improve user interface for the Live USB media tool
improve user interface for the persistence activation tool
improve user interface for the hardware issue report tool
an easy to use graphical package manager, with applications fitting children or young teenagers only

More details for some of these tasks can be found on [our project management tool \[http://team.doudoulinux.org/\]](http://team.doudoulinux.org/).

How to improve DoudouLinux

Of course we are always interested in finding new contributors to translate both CD and website, so you can have a look at the section [Translation status](#) and help us achieve this huge task. Nevertheless our project can benefit from very different professionals: graphics designers, musicians, writers, specialist in communication, interface development, code development, system tool development, web services development, etc. Of course the main issue of cultural content is its copyright. We may need to redo artwork by ourselves to solve this issue.

As of this writing, hot topics that we wish to develop are the following:

children activities
collaborative activities
allow children use computers in their real plays (kind of robotics)
more graphics applications (a cartoon editor, 3D design in order to use 3D printers, etc.)
PDF documents with manual activities (folding, do it yourself, etc.)
PDF courses (drawing courses, music courses, etc.)
graphics design

creation of a graphical theme for the full environment
derive theme for website
communication supports (leaflet, poster)
music
provide children songs using Songwrite
provide traditional musics or songs
create modern music pieces (for children) → samba, jazz, blues, funk, etc.
writing
provide traditional poems and fables
provide novels and short stories
rewrite/find classical stories such as mythologies
communication
write articles for online magazines or community websites
make videos and tutorials
help users in one of the CD's languages
poster campaigns, organizing demonstration shows
development
a DoudouLinux server flavor for computer rooms
install DoudouLinux inside a Windows® system without repartitioning, à la
Ubuntu
have a DoudouLinux version for PowerPC processors, the old Macintosh
platform
web development, in order to generate a customized DoudouLinux version
let users change keyboard layout online
let users change language online
let users change time zone online
let users change the activity menu online
an audio translation portal

Please note that this list is not exhaustive, so if you think that we have overlooked something, do not hesitate to share with us!

Other orientations

We wish to favor sister initiatives, projects that have a similar philosophy as our project like Wikipedia, OpenStreetMap or Open Clipart Library. DoudouLinux should not only help children master computers, but also teach them the benefits of sharing at a large scale by offering them ways to achieve self-fulfillment freely. For this reason one of the team concerns is to make DoudouLinux a kind of portal to the movement of free software and well-known similar movements like free knowledge and free data (Wikipedia and others) or open devices (devices with open specifications, to let anyone the opportunity to make, test and improve

freely). We have already started to work on this topic by changing the DoudouLinux web browser homepage into kind of portal to digital freedom movements.

Another concern is to ensure the project durability. For this reason we have given the project a legal structure in order to welcome funding ([donation \[http://donate.doudoulinux.org/\]](http://donate.doudoulinux.org/), sponsorship and other allocations) and to sell [CD's or USB keys \[http://buy.doudoulinux.org/\]](http://buy.doudoulinux.org/): this is the DoudouLinux association [1]. This will help us rent a powerful computing infrastructure (servers) and finance promotion events such as participating in expositions and salons. If the budget is sufficient, we can even imagine to let people test DoudouLinux online on rented servers through remote control systems like VNC or a remote X server. We also plan to partly fund our most active contributors to let them allocate more time to the project.

Footnotes

[1] This is a typical French non-profit organization, called "Association loi 1901".



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Team and contributors

September 2010 — last update 22 August



DoudouLinux is a community project in which any motivated person as well as organizations can [contribute](#) in order to improve it, particularly concerning translations. It is not necessary to get involved for the long-term to contribute, you can just bring what you think to be able to bring. As we have many ideas to develop DoudouLinux, nearly anyone can bring something to our project, this is not restricted to translations. Of course if you feel motivated to participate for a long time, this is possible too!

More than a hundred people already took part to our project since the beginning, likely around 150 people, with various durations of involvement depending on people availability. We cannot list every people because the list is regularly evolving and we may forget some of them... Most of our contributors are translators because we already have 43 languages opened on [Transifex \[https://www.transifex.com/projects/p/doudoulinux/\]](https://www.transifex.com/projects/p/doudoulinux/), which requires a lot of people to do the job. However the core team involves a dozen regular contributors who are not especially involved into translations:

Project leader and founder: Jean-Michel Philippe

Main developers: Stéphane Aulery, Gérald Kerma, Jean-Michel Philippe

Main testers: Xavier Brusselaers, Richard Holt, Сергей Комков (Sergey Komkov), Denis Le Quellec

Main drawers and graphic designers: Elisa de Castro Guerra, Frédéric Van Muysen

Music composer/arranger: Jean-Michel Philippe

Main promoters: Xavier Brusselaers, Richard Holt, Gérald Kerma, Сергей Комков (Sergey Komkov), Denis Le Quellec, Erick Mascart, Jean-Michel Philippe

Websites: Xavier Brusselaers, Elisa de Castro Guerra, Frédéric Van Muysen, Jean-Michel Philippe

System administrators: Gérald Kerma, Ludovic L'Hoir, Jean-Michel Philippe

The project particularly thanks people who gave or are still giving a lot of time to make the project grow:

油蚂蚱 (Benheng Xu), Chinese translator

白清杰 (Born), Chinese translator

付林 (Drawing), Chinese translator

Ehtele, Norwegian translator

Hackson Wang, Chinese translator

Helijs, Latvian translator
Jay Alexander Fleming, Serbian translator
Joe Hansen, Danish translator
Kvisitor, Greek translator
Lars Viklund, Swedish translator
Marian Vasile, Romanian translator
Miguel Bouzada, Galician translator
NagiosFree, Chinese translator
Олег Коптев (Oleg Koptev), Russian translator and initiator of the contest that gave our project its toucan mascot
ప్రవీణ్ ఇళ్ళ (Praveen Illa), Telugu translator
Puretech, Malay translator
Salvatore Gagliano, Italian translator
Sithu Thwin, Burmese translator
Yago Nuchera, Spanish translator
people of the French National Education who promote our project in schools

We also want to thank two people who helped DoudouLinux look better:

Benoît Vallade, who created the CD drawings of the release 1.x series
Gondwana and a DoudouLinux poster involving Richard Stallman®
Gnokii, who drew the toucan mascot of the project

Finally two organizations already took part or are still taking part to the development of the project:

from the [Institute of Applied Informatics \[http://tspu.edu.ru/ipi\]](http://tspu.edu.ru/ipi) at [Tomsk State Pedagogical University \[http://ipi.tspu.ru/\]](http://ipi.tspu.ru/) in Russia

Сергей Комков (Sergey Komkov)
Иван Машковцев (Ivan Mashkovtsev)
Юлия Немчанинова (Julia Nemchaninova)
Наталья Семенова (Natalia Semenova)

from the [Institute for International Education and Language Communication \[http://iie.tpu.ru/\]](http://iie.tpu.ru/) at [Tomsk Polytechnical University \[http://tpu.ru/eng/\]](http://tpu.ru/eng/) in Russia

Ольга Халтурина (Olga Khalturina)
Аля Волкова (Alja Volkova)
Руслан Тригубец (Ruslan Trigubets)
Катерина Барсагаева (Katerina Barsagaeva)
Яна Демакова (Yana Demakova)

Come and help us make DoudouLinux even better or provide more languages more quickly!



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Quick tour

September 2010 — last update 28 November



This page gathers many screenshots and screencasts of DoudouLinux in action, in order to quickly give an idea of all its features. We have also added video and audio files that were created using the multimedia applications of DoudouLinux. Please note that additional screenshots are available in the [documentation pages](#). Additionally, there are also a few screenshots available on [Flickr \[http://www.flickr.com/search/?q=doudoulinux\]](http://www.flickr.com/search/?q=doudoulinux).

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[System and activities](#)

[Educational applications](#)

[Multimedia applications](#)

[Applications for work](#)

[Game applications](#)

Videos

Several videos of DoudouLinux in action are available on the web. Here we are showing the video that was kindly recorded by Riccardo from [Linuxaria \[http://www.linuxaria.com/\]](http://www.linuxaria.com/) with the previous stable version of DoudouLinux, Gondwana 1.2.



Overview of Doudoulinux
Screencast recorded from VirtualBox (noticeable delay between video and audio...)

Audio files

Here are several example files of digital content created on DoudouLinux using the multimedia applications. You can place the mouse above the file icon to show their name.

Additionally, you can listen to the DoudouLinux start-up music, which was recorded on [Rosegarden](http://www.rosegardenmusic.com/) [<http://www.rosegardenmusic.com/>] with real musical instruments:



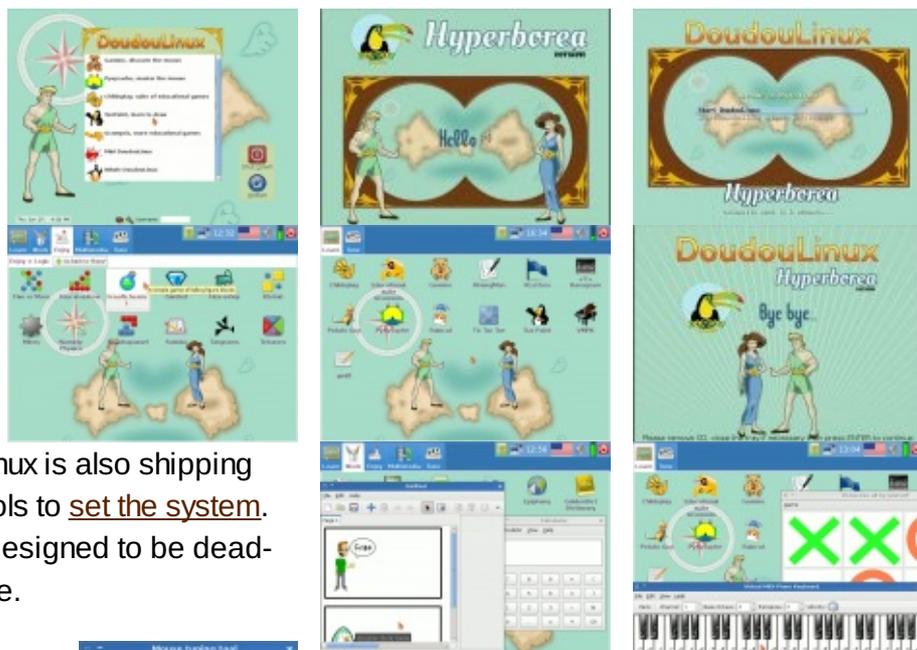
Gondwana start music

DoudouLinux
Gondwana music,
recorded with
Rosegarden

Screenshots

System and activities

Here are screenshots of the start-up and shutdown screens of DoudouLinux, plus views of the menu of activities and advanced activities.



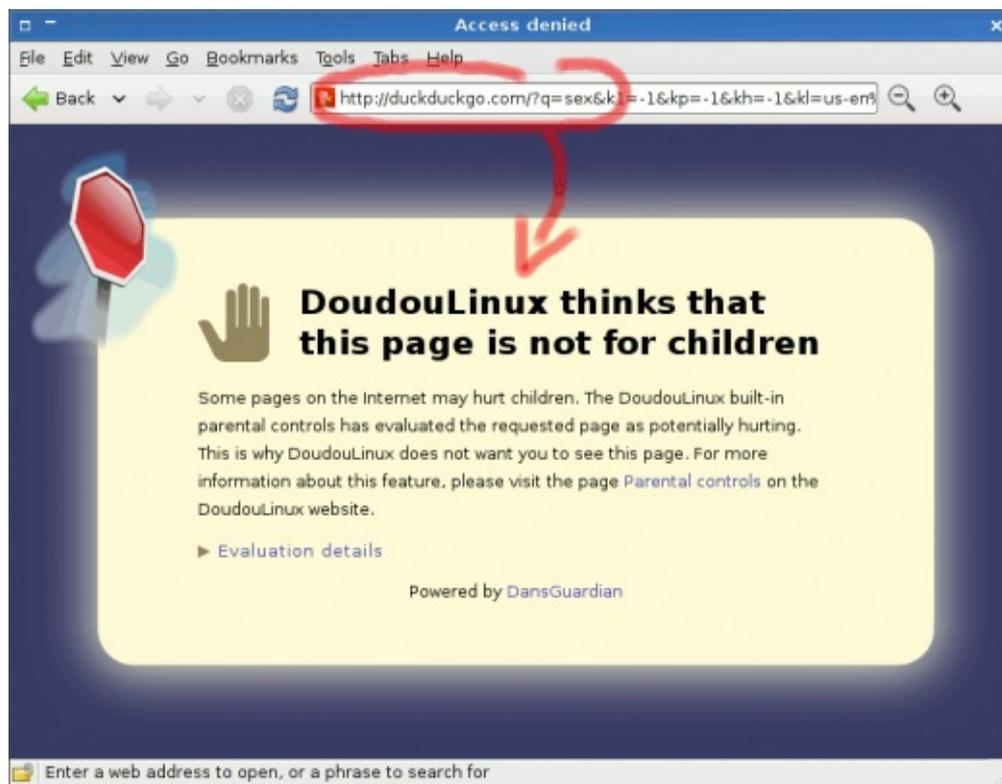
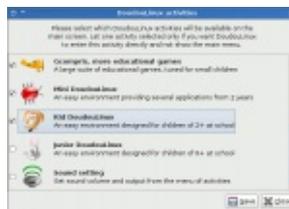
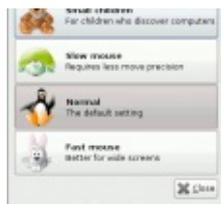
DoudouLinux is also shipping several tools to set the system. They are designed to be dead-easy to use.

There is also parental



controls that filters web pages on their contents and let parents monitor computer use.

Additionally, DoudouLinux takes care of user privacy on the Internet, to get the best web experience.



Educational applications

As DoudouLinux is targeting children, it contains the classical educational games Childsplay, Gcompris, TuxPaint and Pysycache, as well as less standard educational games such as Gamine, Khangman, Kanagram, Kgeography and Ktuberling. Several easy games are also offered in this category.

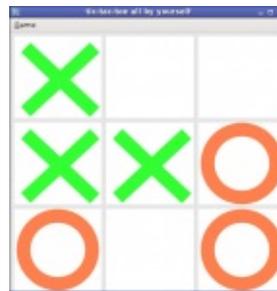
Multimedia applications



DoudouLinux
features several



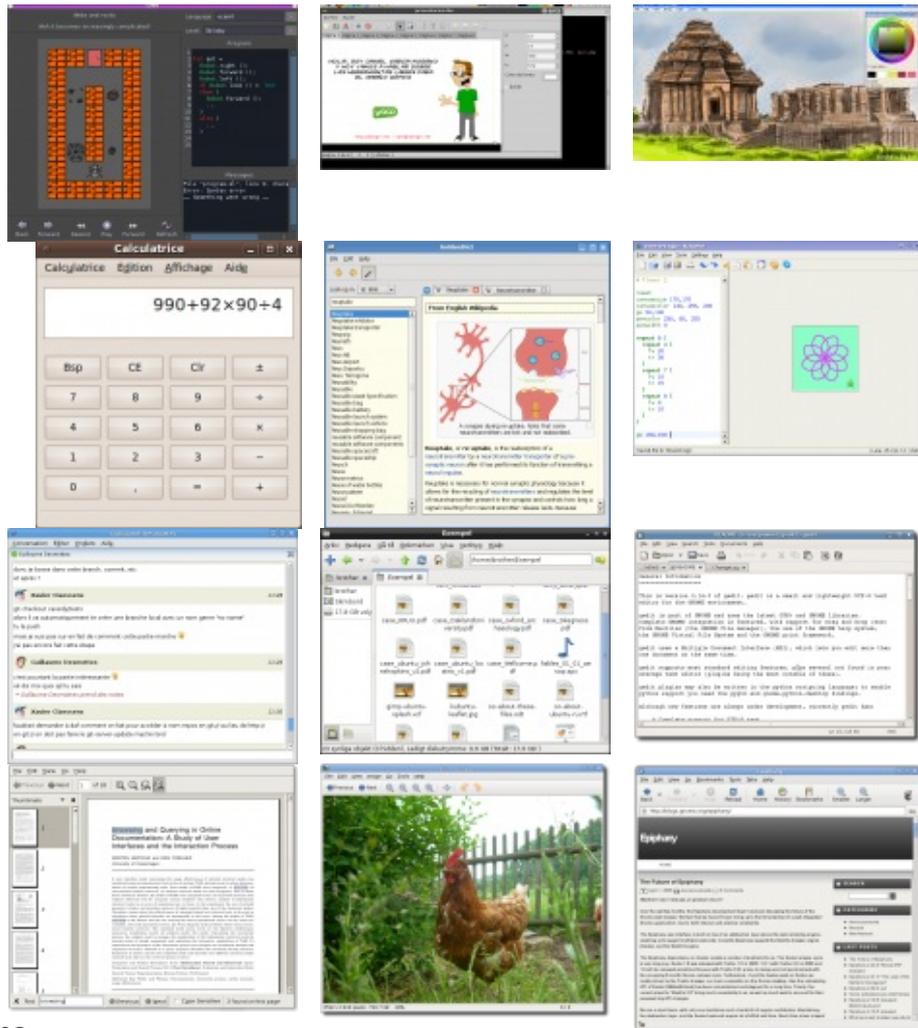
multimedia applications to make use of digital content, but also to begin to create your own digital contents. You will find a piano keyboard (VMPK), a drum machine (Hydrogen), a song editor (Songwrite), an audio composer (Jokosher), a piano learning software (Piano Booster), and an animation movie creator (Stopmotion).



Applications for work

Several work-oriented applications are available: a web browser, instant messaging for the local network, document and image viewers, calculator, dictionary, and text editor. We have also added in this category two graphics applications and two applications to teach computer programming: MyPaint to draw like you would do with real painting tools, TBO to make comics, Laby and Kturtle to learn programming.

Game



applications

Finally, children are known to like entertainment :). This is why DoudouLinux also features many other entertaining games, not all of which have been presented here in these screenshots. We have selected games that are non violent and generally stimulate thinking.





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Quick start

June 2010 — last update 13 June



DoudouLinux is a system which is designed to only run from the CDROM or the USB key. No matter which system is installed on your computer, DoudouLinux is not an application to be installed but an entire computer system [1]. Thus you have to insert the media as soon as the computer is switched on to avoid running the system already installed on computer, but instead start from the CDROM or USB key. Of course, if your computer is already running, you just need to insert the media, then restart: **DoudouLinux will not start inside an already running system.**

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[The menu of activities](#)

[The different types of activities](#)

[The more advanced activities](#)

[Additional activities](#)

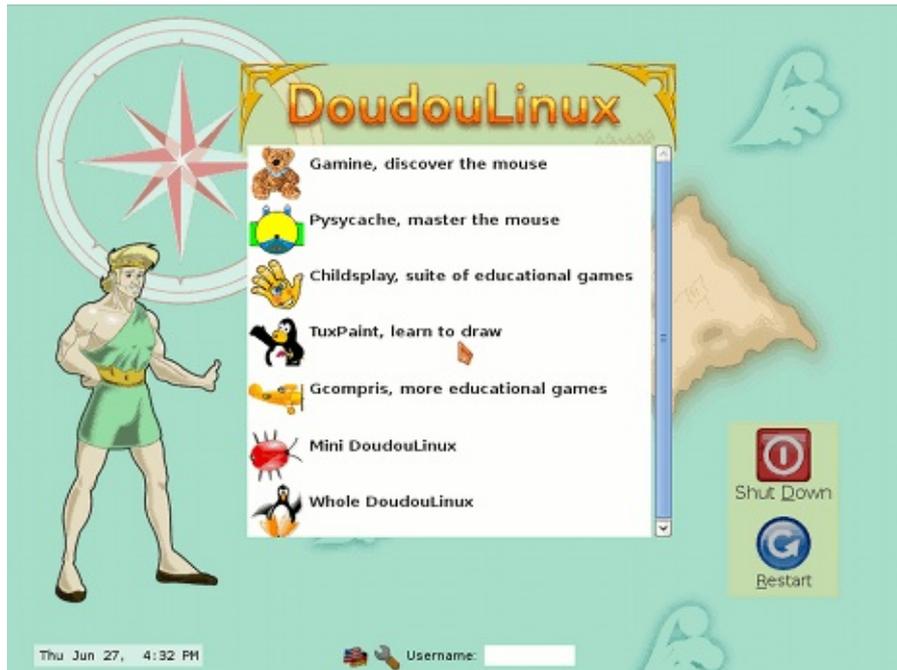
[Computer shutdown](#)

[USB key startup specificities](#)

The menu of activities

During the first seconds, a launch screen appears. You can skip it by pressing the “*Enter*” key or the “*Return*” key. Then after 30 seconds to two minutes of preparation with a nice screen and music, DoudouLinux will start. You will see the menu of activities (see below). Start speed depends on your CDROM speed (or your USB key) and on your computer speed: be patient!

The menu gives access to the different available activities. They are ordered by increasing difficulty: for the 2 year old child to discover the mouse on the top activity; while for older children who want to use any of the about 75 installed applications, click on the bottom item.



Leaving an activity brings one back to the menu of activities. There is no password!

The different types of activities

The first 5 activities just start a unique application, the name of which is indicated: *Gamine*, *Pysycache*, *Childsplay*, *TuxPaint* and *GCompris*. Their goal, in relation to computers, is to lead children toward discovering computers and to teach them about the mouse and the keyboard, while having fun! A short description of these applications is available on the page [Educational games](#). Closing the application leads you back to the menu of activities.

The last two activities, *Mini DoudouLinux* and *Whole DoudouLinux*, are more advanced activities. They look more like the interfaces that are usually available on computers: a panel is on the top of the screen with a shutdown button! Nevertheless, in order to not unnecessarily complicate the computer use, there is no drop down menu: application icons are drawn on the desktop and arranged into tabs. To start an application, you just need to **click once on its icon**, since double clicking is more difficult for a child to produce.

The more advanced activities

The “*Mini DoudouLinux*” activity displays all the applications previously available from the menu of activities in a “*Learn*” tab. Some additional and easy

to use applications are available too. The piano keyboard lets children play the music with the computer keyboard or the mouse, children can play with the keyboard letters inside the text editor, *KLettres* helps them learn the alphabet and *Potato guy* lets them disguise a potato or some other characters. The desktop contains a second tab to tune sound output and mouse:



Finally the “*Whole DoudouLinux*” activity gives access to all available applications. An exhaustive list can be found in the section [Applications](#). Applications are organized into 5 tabs as the following picture shows:



Some tabs group their applications by types in order to not fill the interface with icons. This is the case for the “*Play*” tab shown on the picture above. It contains application groups only. Clicking on an application group icon shows its contents. The location of the application group is then displayed below the tab titles and a button “*Go back...*” is added in order to get out of the group.

Additional activities

DoudouLinux is shipping more activities than shown by default on the activities menu. There are two additional advanced activities, kids and junior DoudouLinux, intended for use in schools; plus a special additional activity which just allows to set the sound volume when no advanced activity is shown on the menu. They are hidden to avoid confusing children with similar activities. You can [change the activities menu](#) thanks to a dedicated tool from the activity “Whole DoudouLinux”.

Activities kids and junior are similar to the “Mini DoudouLinux” activity but with a reduced set of applications:

Kids DoudouLinux → is intended for small children in nursery school

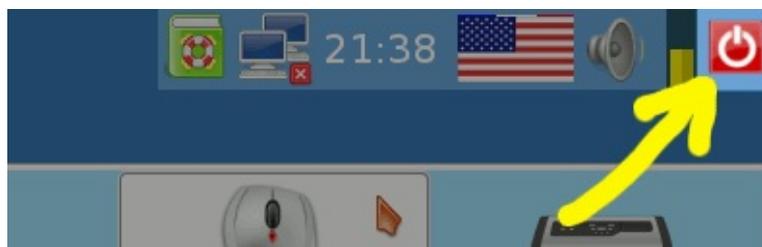
Junior DoudouLinux → is intended for older children in the first levels of primary schools

These activities were designed in collaboration with pedagogy specialists from

the Tomsk State Pedagogical University in Russia. Note that depending on countries, this classification may not match the children's skill with the mentioned levels.

Computer shutdown

The simplest way is also the most natural way: push the *on/off* computer switch! This is the recommended way for small children who do not use the most advanced activities yet. Shutdown is then triggered **without asking for confirmation** [2]. Obviously older children who use more advanced activities will be taught to use the "Quit" icon from the panel of these activities:



This action displays a small interface. You can then choose between shutting down, restarting or closing the session (the activity) to start another one:



The shutdown and reboot commands are also available from the menu of activities with large buttons on the right of the screen. A confirmation dialog box is displayed after pressing them.

During computer shutdown, DoudouLinux goes back to a screen similar to the start screen. Then just before shutting down the machine, the CD is ejected and you are asked to press the *Enter* key after you remove the CD. The computer then switches off. If you are using the USB key version, DoudouLinux does not tell you to remove the media nor do you need to press *Enter*.

USB key startup specificities

This works like the CDROM startup except that you don't need to switch the machine on quickly to be able to insert the USB key! However, only recent machines are able to start using a USB key (\geq about year 2004). Moreover, USB key startup is not so frequently activated even if the machine can do this. In this case you need to find at computer startup the key which displays the boot menu or to change the startup options in the [BIOS](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/BIOS) [<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/BIOS>].

Main USB key version advantages are the following:

easier to carry

silent

faster than CDROM [3]

modified data can be recorded on the media directly (see [persistence](#))

The drawback is that activating USB key startup in the computer may be a very technical operation. The USB key version is then targeted at people who feel comfortable enough with their computer. We plan to build, in the future, a CD that just starts the USB key for you so that no obscure tuning will be required anymore.

Footnotes

[1] DoudouLinux uses a technology called "[Live CD](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Live_CD) [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Live_CD]".

[2] This is risk free for your computer since the triggered shutdown is not a rude power cut and moreover DoudouLinux does not touch data on your computer.

[3] DoudouLinux can be started in 30 seconds on a fast USB key and a fast machine



Get DoudouLinux

June 2010 — last update 25 June



DoudouLinux is available for download in a version for CDROM that can also be used to make an USB key. DoudouLinux comes in a variety of languages depending on which language you wish to use. Thus you can also initiate your children to French or Spanish by just downloading the corresponding version [1]. We intend to setup later an online shop to let you order ready to use DoudouLinux CDROM and USB keys or even flash cards. This would avoid the required technical operations to people who would not feel skilled enough or who would simply like to financially [support the project](#).

Download the CD now

[Donate](#)

[DoudouLinux 2.0 Hyperborea English](#) (1 GB)

SHA1 checksum 89f8f6ad3112d2af1d53e109b2fe6f49c2ae04ff

[Torrent](#)

[Other language or other version](#)

Creating a CDROM

An ISO file must be downloaded and is to be written onto a CDROM using the function “*burn an ISO image*” of any CD burning application. **Warning:** do not just copy an ISO image like another file to be copied onto a data CD. You must use the special burning function previously mentioned otherwise the CDROM structure won't be correct for booting. Indeed the ISO image contains several files that will appear on CD as soon as it is written. If you use a data CD creation function, you will have one file only on your CD: the file you just downloaded...

Creating an USB key

Since DoudouLinux 2.0, USB keys can be created directly using the CDROM ISO file, you do not need to download another file. Turning the ISO file into an USB Live system requires to copy the file onto the USB device and to install on the device a small program that will make it bootable at computer startup. DoudouLinux CD's are shipping a tool called *LiveUSB write* that achieves these operations for you, see [Creating a DoudouLinux USB key](#). Note that this tool is

currently not available for Windows® nor Macintosh®. If you have no Linux system already installed, then you have to create USB keys from a running DoudouLinux or to find alternative software that we are not supporting.

The advantages of having DoudouLinux on an USB key are the following:

System is running faster without any rotation noises.

Data persistence on the USB key is automatically activated by our tool.

It is possible to change several system parameters in a text file on the USB device like the default language, the keyboard layout or the timezone. You can then adapt your system to your location (for example use British English and the London timezone with the English CD that is configured for the USA by default).

However starting a system from an USB key is less supported than from a CD on older machines (about 2005 and earlier) and is often less easy to activate whenever this is not set as default. On Macintosh®, machine boot is different from PC's boot and booting on an USB key is not trivial - or even not possible. Use DoudouLinux on an USB key only if you feel comfortable enough with your computer!

Creating a flash card, a hard disk

The procedure is exactly the same as for USB keys because all these devices are detected as storage devices whatever the technology involved. Please note however that if you would like to start DoudouLinux from within a flash card inserted in a card reader itself being integrated in your computer, success is not certain. Trials performed with two *netbooks* from different brands were not conclusive [2]. On the contrary trials on a more standard laptop computer did succeed.

Checking downloaded ISO files

Before writing a CD, we recommend to check the downloaded file integrity. You may then detect download errors, storage errors (wrong data on your disk) or even compromising of our servers [3]. The way to check file integrity consists in computing a [checksum](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/checksum) [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/checksum] using the **SHA1 algorithm**, not MD5:

```
$ sha1sum doudoulinux-2010-05-ar.img
ed4588f33e86cfaae5e75eb4200bd3d58c047248  doudoulinux-
2010-05-ar.img
```

This value is to be compared with the one on the download page. All possible errors but some deliberate ones [4] will then be highlighted. Note: you need to have the *sha1sum* tool installed in your system to do this, which is not the default case under Windows®...

Checking checksums

We also provide a file containing all checksums and which is signed with the DoudouLinux repository key using a [digital signature](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/digital_signature) process. The file is *checksum-sha1-all* and its signature is *checksum-sha1-all.gpg*. You can check this file using the following command:

```
$ sudo gpg --keyring /etc/apt/trusted.gpg --default-key D92ACBA0 --verify checksum-sha1-all.gpg checksum-sha1-all
```

You will need to have installed the package with the DoudouLinux repository key before hand, its name is *doudoulinux-keyring*. This supposes that you are running Debian Linux or any Debian derivative.

Reference: [How to manually check for package's integrity](http://wiki.debian.org/SecureApt#Howtomanuallycheckforpackage.27sintegrity)
[\[http://wiki.debian.org/SecureApt#Howtomanuallycheckforpackage.27sintegrity\]](http://wiki.debian.org/SecureApt#Howtomanuallycheckforpackage.27sintegrity)

Footnotes

[1] Of course you can use foreign language versions for yourself too!

[2] One of them didn't start the flash card, the other one started it but boot failed right in the middle...

[3] Files that would have been corrupted due to a technical problem or voluntarily after a computer pirate intrusion.

[4] that would have modified both the ISO image and the checksum in order to make them match



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What's new in the latest release?

June 2011 — last update 28 November



The current official, stable release of DoudouLinux version 2.1, was published in early December 2013. It is an update of version 2.0, named *DoudouLinux Hyperborea*. It is [available for download \[http://download.doudoulinux.org/?lang=en\]](http://download.doudoulinux.org/?lang=en) as a DVD image file ready to be burnt **as an ISO file** – not a data file. This ISO file can also be used to make a [live USB key](#) thanks to special tools to make a key able to start a computer. This release is officially supporting 44 languages [1]. So what's new in the 2.1 release? Few things compared to 2.0. :)

Note: in our documentation we may speak about a CD for the DoudouLinux media while it is indeed a DVD.

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[What was new in version 2.0](#)

[Reworked interface](#)

[A better Internet experience](#)

[Easier localization](#)

[New applications](#)

[New installer](#)

[Other improvements](#)

[User interface](#)

[Better Security](#)

[Hardware](#)

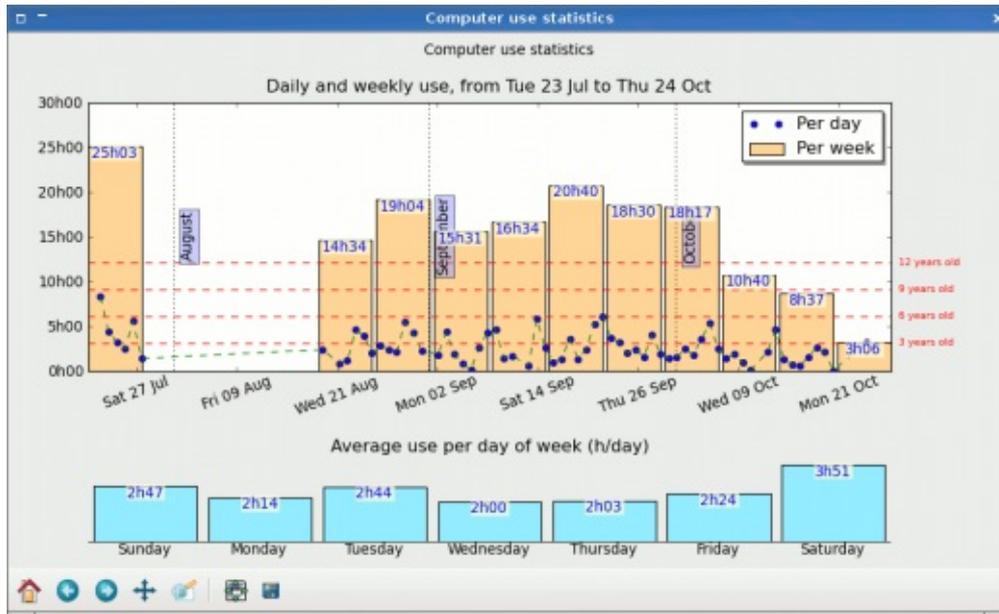
[Miscellaneous](#)

What's new in version 2.1

Version 2.1 brings mainly fixes and language updates – this is the purpose of minor versions. We also added two small applications as well as a few improvements. Finally a new language is officially supported: Punjabi. Let's see the details!

New applications

In order to help parents lead their children to a reasonable use of digital devices, we created a small application to monitor the computer use per day. This application currently only shows a graphical report of computer use during the past 12 weeks. It is useful for parents to limit computer usage but also for children to limit themselves spontaneously because you will have explained them why they should not spend too much time on screens :).



We also added a small application that displays links to special pages of our website: our manifesto and pages about contributing to or supporting our project. Of course this is not intended for children but rather for parents! Our project is growing fast and we need your support to be able to continue to grow, to continue to improve and to ensure a long life to our project. Contribute and support links have also been added to the web browser homepage, in a dynamic box titled "Support DoudouLinux!".



Improvements

Many translation updates and a new official language, Punjabi.

Support for [ad-hoc WiFi networks](#), aka hotspots, useful to allow children to play/work together on laptops using a local WiFi network (no Internet).

The latest printer drivers from [openprinting.org](#) to support the newest printers are now included. If you have a very recent printer (under 1 year old), please test it!

The application launcher notification is now able to show the icon of the application being launched.

Fixes

Fixed Pysycache showing squares instead of Chinese characters.

Fixed missing administration rights of activities in the *Live* environment and after definitive installation of DoudouLinux on disk.

Fixed Childsplay menu not customized per activity anymore.

Fixed missing flags in keyboard layout indicator.

Fixed input method on the Chinese DVD.

What was new in version 2.0

If you do not remember what was new in version 2.0 compared to version 1.2, you will find below a description of the changes that occurred few months ago for this new major release. As you will see there is now a large gap between version 2.1 and version 1.2.

Reworked interface

There are major changes in this new release: the graphical interface of the most advanced activities, “*Whole DoudouLinux*”, has been deeply reworked. As you can see in the screenshots below, there is now a background image and all the icons on the top of the screen have been much enlarged, while several application icons have been improved to provide a more attractive interface. NB: if you wonder what the role of the flag is in the upper right corner, this is the keyboard layout indicator.

We have also introduced a new tool called *unique-launch* whose role is to avoid that children start the same application 10 times because it takes few seconds to begin execution, instead of being an immediate startup! This tool also displays a nice notification text to show children that something is happening—they are not waiting for nothing! Moreover, most applications are launched fullscreen to focus the child’s attention on the current application, and avoid small children getting lost in a profusion of windows.



New interface, learn tab



New interface + calculator



Unique-launch in action

A better Internet experience

The former version of DoudouLinux, Gondwana, was shipped with parental controls to prevent children from getting undesirable contents from the Internet. This was a good start and even the bare minimum to provide for a computer system targeted at children, but this is not enough. Nowadays, digital equipment are used as Trojan horses to learn more about us, influence our choices and thoughts. To achieve this, digital equipment requires to be connected to the Internet permanently, for various reasons —that are more and more sounding like excuses (who really needs Internet on his fridge or toaster?).

The truth is —our computers are ours and not those of a third-party, so we want our computers to do exclusively what we want them to do. We do not want them to show uncontrolled advertisements, nor to change web page contents depending on who they think we or our children are, in order to change our minds or, on the contrary, to hide from us the diversity of our world (you can read more about these issues on the page [Preserving user privacy](#)). Although DoudouLinux does its best to provide educational and enriching activities without connecting to Internet, DoudouLinux can be connected to the Internet and children are very interested in it. Therefore, we include within DoudouLinux tools that preserve user privacy and prevent third-parties from influencing our children directly in our homes.

As a result, the new release Hyperborea is shipping with:

DuckDuckGo as the default search engine, instead of Google.
Ads and popup blocking activated by default in the web browser, Epiphany.
User tracking code blocking activated, *bugs*, also in the web browser.

Moreover, we have changed the default homepage of Epiphany. As shown below, it now displays a portal to ease access to online resources that have a philosophy [similar to our project](#), for example Wikipedia, OpenStreetMap and the Open Clip Art Gallery. These sites are not using aggressive advertisement as a business, and additionally provide contents that may be reused by our children without a second thought, due to the friendly license they use for their work. The full list of websites that we are promoting in this way is localized on the page [Epiphany home page and bookmarks](#).



DoudouLinux web browser homepage

Easier localization

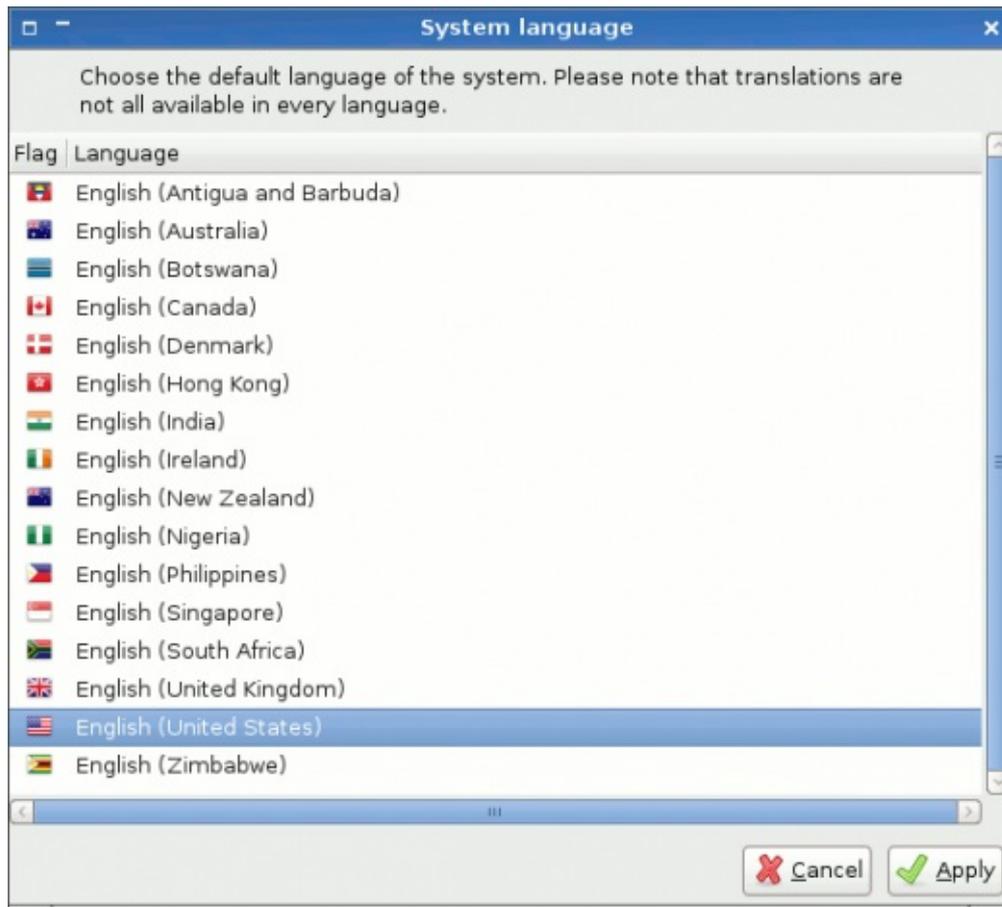
One of the main goals of DoudouLinux is to provide a computer system that is tuned for children and never asks any questions at boot-up. To better achieve this goal we have improved several things in DoudouLinux 2.0 concerning local settings:

Each CD now ships with a main language and its variants when available. For example the English CD ships with English American, Australian, British, Canadian, etc. It is then possible to change the system language to one of the language variants. This does not mean that the specific translations are available for each variant though.

There are currently two exceptions to the previous rule: Portuguese is still available separately for Brazil and for Portugal; as well as, Chinese for China and for Taiwan. The reason is that these two pairs of languages are significantly different so as to require a separate CD for each.

The keyboard layout can now be changed using a nice graphical tool. This has been a wanted feature for a while since keyboards are generally different from one country to another, even if they speak the same language. The default is to set the keyboard layout for the country corresponding to the default language of the CD (for example USA for the English CD).

The timezone tool has been totally redesigned to be easier to use.



System language setting

Notes:

You have to use DoudouLinux live from an USB device or installed onto hard disk in order to make the localization settings permanent.

US English is made available on each CD, whatever the default language. This feature has been requested by some of our users and will surely help children to learn English.

We have a Mexican Spanish translation team. Its translation work is made available on the Spanish CD and requires to switch to Mexican Spanish to be effective.

The Serbian CD now contains both Cyrillic and Latin Serbian, this was also a requested feature. The default is to use Cyrillic Serbian. Latin Serbian is indeed now generated by automatic transliteration from Cyrillic.

New applications

DoudouLinux Hyperborea is shipping with around 30 new applications, among which are several applications that have been updated to change system settings, to configure and install DoudouLinux. Applications targeting children are detailed in our section dedicated to applications; here is the list of the new ones:

Multimedia tools

Cheese, pictures and videos from a webcam with fancy graphical effects

Jokosher, a simple yet powerful audio multi-track studio

PianoBooster, a program designed to teach playing the piano

Vmpk, a virtual piano keyboard, replaces the obsolete *Vkeybd*

Work tools

TBO, an easy and fun program to draw comics

MyPaint, graphics application for digital painters that mimics the real painters tools

GoldenDict, a feature-rich dictionary lookup program, replaces the less efficient *OpenDict*

Laby, a small program to teach programming with ants and spider webs

Kturtle, an educational programming environment

Educational tools

Tanglet, word finding game based on Boggle®

Marble, a Virtual Globe and World Atlas

Raincat, guide the fuzzy cat safe and dry to the end of each level

Tictactoe-ng, a simple and very classical game in a 3x3 grid

Entertaining games

Kigo, the popular Go game

Gmchess, a Chinese chess game (Xiangqi)

Gtans, a Tangram game, a Chinese puzzle

Pixfrogger, cross the street and avoid becoming roadkill by cars and trucks

BurgerSpace, a hamburger-smashing video game

Monsterz, an arcade puzzle game with funny monsters

Free Alchemist, a variation of the classical Tetris game

Hex-a-hop, a hexagonal tile-based puzzle game

Numpty Physics, draw what you want on screen and gravity will do the job

Pixbros, get rid of your enemies to go to the next level

Lbreakout2, a brick breaking game

Magicor, a puzzle game whose goal is to extinguish fires using blocks of ice

Biniax2, original and entertaining puzzle-like game

Tworld, collect computer chips to get to the next level

Freecell, a famous card play for one player only

Tetravex, a difficult puzzle game

As you can see our project is moving toward digital content. We believe that children also need to be taught the use and creation of digital content, for which computers remain the best tool. This is why our efforts will continue in the future to provide more digital content and more digital creation applications for the older children. As a result, if you want our project to provide more digital content and faster, you can [come and help us](#) create song files, animation movies,

stories, etc. You will be welcomed! ;).

Newinstaller

This has been a much desired feature for a long time: [a real installer](#). The new installer is derived from the Linux Mint installer. It can perform a real installation of DoudouLinux onto disk, USB disks included; it can do re-partitioning and multi-boot. We have also added many improvements to make it the one our users have been waiting for! The installer lets you set the following parameters:

System language

Timezone

Keyboard layout and model

Main user, with sudo privileges

Selection of disk to install onto

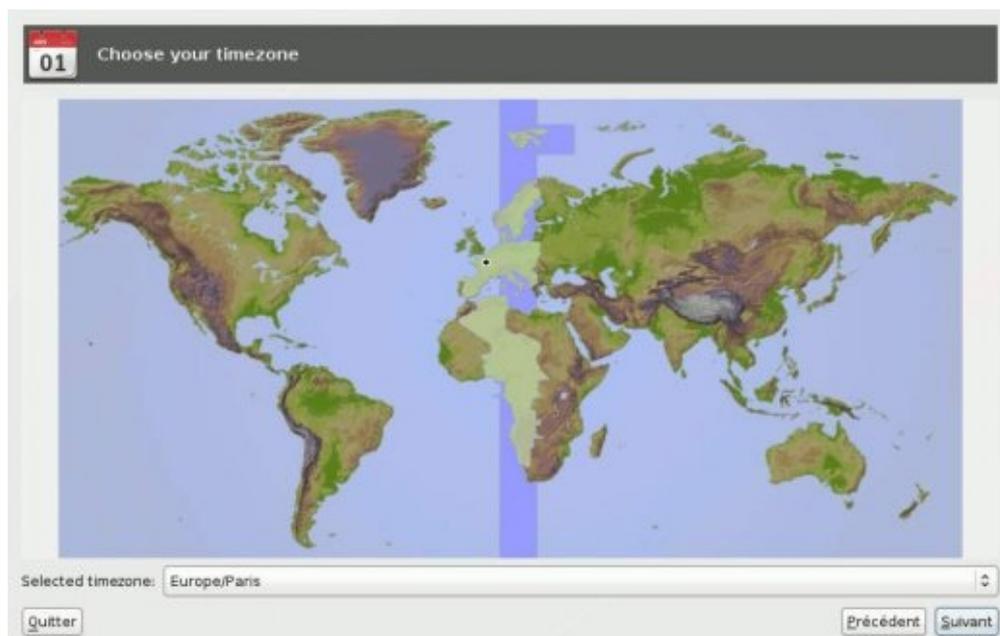
Selection of disk partitions or automatic partitioning

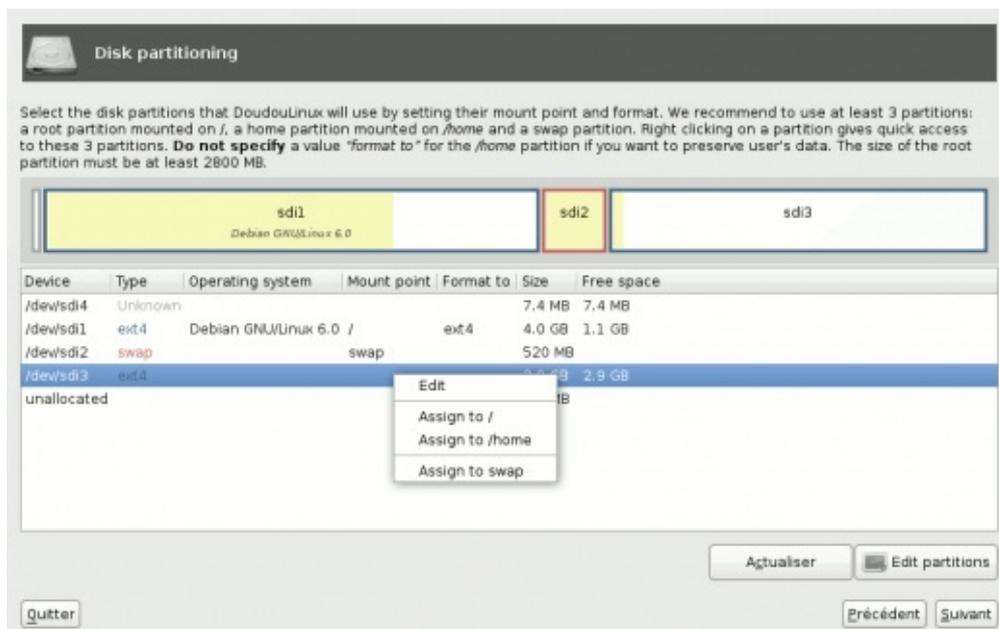
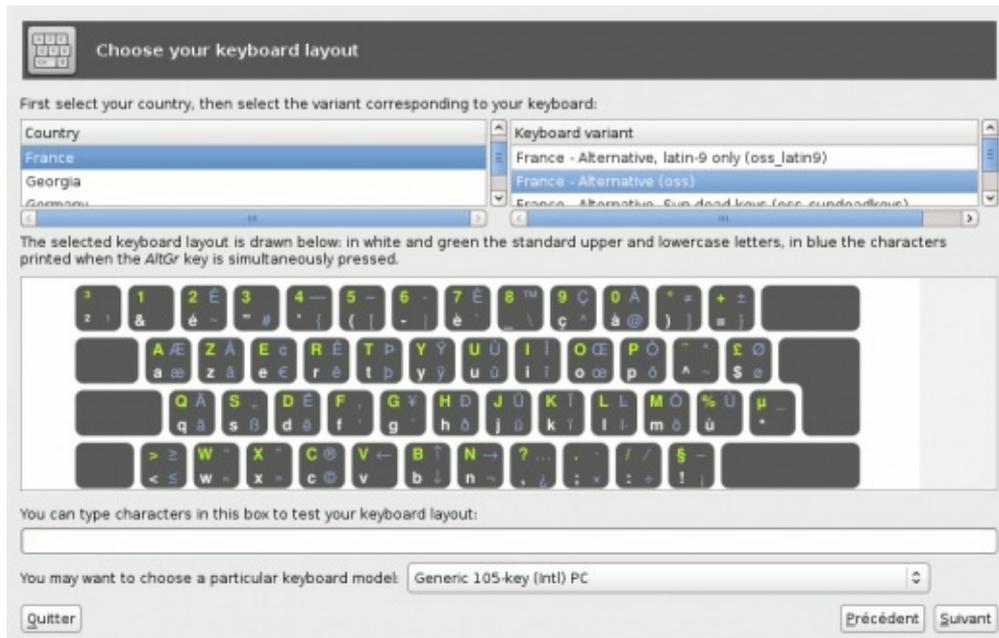
Manual re-partitioning, if needed

Hardware clock set to UTC or to Local time

Grub2 bootloader installation

All of this from within a nice graphical interface. One of the improvements we brought is a wizard mode for people who want to entirely wipe their disk but don't want to bother with partitions. In this case, once the disk is selected, it is automatically re-partitioned into 3 partitions: root, home and swap. Unlike many automatic partitioning tools (or mainstream OS'es :p), we want users to be able to reinstall their system without losing their data! To learn more about our new installer, read the page [Installing DoudouLinux definitively](#).





Other improvements

User interface

The panel now has a keyboard layout indicator and can be hidden under an application window.

The audio volume control in the panel now changes both *Master* and *Master Mono* volumes.

Position of the buttons on window title bars have changed a bit.

The icon size in advanced activities is now computed at boot to occupy around half the screen area.

The graphical layout is now adapted to LTR/RTL [2] languages at boot and

session start.

Autologin can be activated by selecting or checking only one activity in the activities menu.

Better Security

At boot, internal hard disks are mounted read-only in such a manner that prevents children from reading or writing to them normally, except by expert access to the command line.

When installed onto disk, only the DoudouLinux activities do not require a password to be started. If there are personal accounts on the system, you still need to type the corresponding password to enter these accounts.

Hardware

Support for screens smaller than 800x600, like those of low-end netbooks. Automatic management of hot-plugging for MIDI piano keyboards, external audio output devices, external monitor/screens and removable disks (the file manager is shown).

Better hardware support, especially network, webcams and video cards. HDMI audio outputs are now identified in the sound output selector tool.

Miscellaneous

Playlists have been added to play music and videos online using contents from archive.org (browse directories in *Whole DoudouLinux*)

Boot is about 30% faster, thanks to Debian Live improvements.

An installed DoudouLinux can now synchronize its clock with Internet time servers (NTP).

USB images are discontinued since we have added a patch that allows a DoudouLinux ISO file to be launched from within an USB key. :)

For a full list of changes, please browse [our project management software \[http://team.doudoulinux.org/projects/doudoulinux-cd/versions/15\]](http://team.doudoulinux.org/projects/doudoulinux-cd/versions/15) online.

Footnotes

[1] Arabic, Armenian, Bengali, Burmese, Chinese (China and Taiwan), Croatian, Czech, Danish, Dutch, English, Esperanto, Finnish, French, Galician, German, Greek, Hebrew, Hindi, Hungarian, Indonesian, Italian, Latvian, Lithuanian, Luxembourgish, Malay, Marathi, Norwegian (Bokmål and Nynorsk), Persian, Polish, Portuguese (Brazil and Portugal), Punjabi, Romanian, Russian, Scottish Gaelic, Serbian, Spanish, Swedish, Tajik, Telugu, Turkish and Ukrainian.

[2] Left to right, right to left, the direction of writing.



Educational games

June 2010 — last update 2 June



DoudouLinux contains 14 educational games for children from 2 years old. In the beginning, the goal of these games is just to teach children how to move the mouse. Then as they discover the keyboard they can learn to become more involved and then progress into more complex activities like learning the alphabet, counting, guessing series, finding words, etc. There are also to simple entertaining games to start training logic.

The educational games list with a link to their respective websites are as follows:

[Gamine](http://www.gnunix.info/dotclear/index.php?2007/11/25/236-raaaaahhhh-eleonie/) [<http://www.gnunix.info/dotclear/index.php?2007/11/25/236-raaaaahhhh-eleonie/>], from 2 years old or even less!
[Pysycache](http://www.pysycache.org/) [<http://www.pysycache.org/>], from 3 years old
[Tux Paint](http://www.tuxpaint.org/?lang=fr) [<http://www.tuxpaint.org/?lang=fr>], from 3 years old
[Childsplay](http://www.schoolsplay.org/) [<http://www.schoolsplay.org/>], from 4 years old
[Gcompris](http://gcompris.net/-fr-) [<http://gcompris.net/-fr->], from 2 years old but we rather recommend from 4 years old given the DoudouLinux configuration
[Tictactoe-ng](https://launchpad.net/tictactoe) [<https://launchpad.net/tictactoe>], from 4 years old
[Raincat](http://raincat.bysusanlin.com/) [<http://raincat.bysusanlin.com/>], from 4 years old
[Klettres](http://edu.kde.org/klettres/) [<http://edu.kde.org/klettres/>], from 4 years old
[Ktuberling](http://games.kde.org/game.php?game=ktuberling) [<http://games.kde.org/game.php?game=ktuberling>], from 3 years old
[Khangman](http://edu.kde.org/khangman/) [<http://edu.kde.org/khangman/>], rather around 7 years old
[Kanagram](http://edu.kde.org/kanagram/) [<http://edu.kde.org/kanagram/>], rather around 8 years old
[Tanglet](http://gottcode.org/tanglet/) [<http://gottcode.org/tanglet/>], rather around 8 years old
[Marble](http://edu.kde.org/marble/) [<http://edu.kde.org/marble/>], rather around 7 years old
[Kgeography](http://kgeography.berlios.de/) [<http://kgeography.berlios.de/>], rather around 7 years old

Explanatory texts from these applications websites are given below.

Gamine

Gamine targets very young children who will discover mouse moving. The basic idea is to reproduce a magic slate. All they can do is draw a line which follows the mouse cursor and inserting some shapes when they click the mouse buttons, in a pleasant audio background environment. Since it runs in full screen, this kind of application typically avoids children from involuntarily making disasters...



Gamine animation

Pysycache

Teach children to use the mouse! To do this Pysycache provides pleasant activities based on simple objects and numerous photos. Children learn to place the mouse on screen and then press its buttons. This is the next step after Gamine.



**Pysycache -
Youtube**

Note: this game is available in both most advanced activities “*Mini DoudouLinux*” and “*All DoudouLinux*” with a higher and higher difficulty level.

Tux Paint

Tux Paint is a drawing application for children from 3 to 12 years old. It has an easily accessible graphical interface. Funny sounds brighten the different tools up. Children draw on a white page using tools and stamps, or may load a template to be decorated with all the tools that are available. Artistic results guaranteed!



**Tuxpaint -
Youtube**

Childsplay

Childsplay is an educational game featuring a set of activities:

- activities to learn to use both keyboard and mouse
- memory with images and sounds
- learning letters and figures
- fun activities (puzzles, pacman, billiard, etc.)



**Childsplay -
Youtube**

Gcompris

Gcompris is educational software featuring various activities for children from 2 to 10 years old. Activities may be fun but they are always educational. Activities cover the following fields:

- discovering computer → keyboard, mouse, moving mouse
- mathematics → table revision, enumeration, double entry tables, mirror image,



**Gcompris -
Youtube**

...

sciences → electricity, the canal lock, the water cycle, the submarine, ...

geography → place countries on a map

games → chess, memory, connect 4, oware, sudoku ...

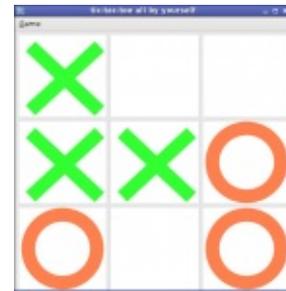
reading → reading practice

other → learn to tell time, puzzle of famous paintings, vector drawing, cartoon making, ...

In all, Gcompris offers at least 100 activities! Thus, to avoid that children of 2 or 3 years old have difficulty to reach the activity levels that suit them, we configure Gcompris in a more restricted mode at the top level; however, this software is proposed with more advanced levels in the activities “*Mini DoudouLinux*” and “*All DoudouLinux*” with higher and higher difficulty levels.

Tictactoe

Tictactoe is a simple and very classical game that can be played across the local network with a friend.



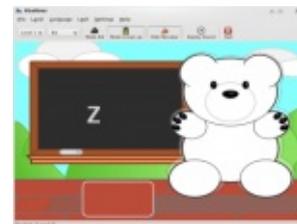
Raincat



Your goal is simple: guide the fuzzy cat safe and dry to the end of each level. Several accessories are available (or not!) to help the cat not to get wet. There are multiple ways to clear any given level; such flexible solutions hope to provide a more enjoyable game play experience.

Klettres

Learn the alphabet and... the location of keys on keyboard! The computer tells a letter and shows it, children have to press the correct key on keyboard. Upper difficulty levels remove letter displaying or/and replace letters by syllables. Please note that this may also be interesting software for adults to learning to say the alphabet in a foreign language.



Klettres

Ktuberling

The classical Mr Potato in digital version (Mr e-Potato!).



He can be disguised and a voice tells the noun of elements being dragged with the mouse. Again running it in a foreign language can be interesting for adults.



Ktuberling

Khangman

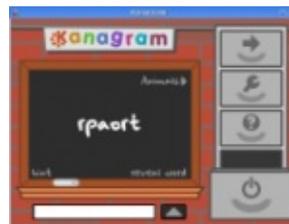
A hang man game that is not so easy for children... Fortunately clues are available.



Khangman

Kanagram

Children have to reorder the letters of a word. Again this is not so easy and clues are available whenever ideas are missing...



Kanagram

Tanglet

Tanglet is a single player word finding game based on Boggle®. The objective of the game is to list as many words as you can using a set of randomly chosen letters. You can join letters horizontally, vertically, or diagonally in any direction to make a word, as long as the letters are next to each other on the board. However, you can not reuse the same letter cells in a single word. Also, each word must be at least three letters long on a normal board, and four letters on a large board. The game can be timed or not; there are several timer modes that determine how much time you start with, and if you get extra time when you find a word. The game makes a list of the possible words and will show all the words you missed at the end of the game!



Tanglet

Marble

Marble is a Virtual Globe and World Atlas that you can use to learn more about Earth: you can pan and zoom around and you can look up places and roads. A mouse click on a place label will provide the respective Wikipedia article; Wikipedia photos can be overlaid on the map as well. Of



Marble

course it is also possible to measure distances between locations or watch the current cloud cover. Marble offers different thematic maps: a classroom-style topographic map, a satellite view, street map, earth at night and temperature or precipitation maps. All maps include a custom map key, so it can also be used as an educational tool for use in class-rooms. For educational purposes you can also change date and time and watch how the starry sky and the twilight zone on the map change. In opposite to other virtual globes Marble also features multiple projections: choose between a Flat Map ("Plate carré"), Mercator or the Globe.

NB: it is better to be connected to the Internet to use Marble although it is not strictly necessary.

Kgeography

An application to learn geography. It provides countries of the world and states of USA.



Kgeography



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Multimedia applications

July 2010 — last update 11 June



DoudouLinux offers several applications related to multimedia, which is an area of wide use of computers nowadays. In this topic it not easy to find applications that are accessible to children without important background knowledge. However, we selected several applications that let them record or remix sounds, watch some videos or listen to music, make animation movies, get initiated to piano, flute or percussions. A priori for children of 6 years old or more.

Multimedia applications are briefly described on this page. A listing of these applications as well as a list of links to their web sites are as follows:

[Vmpk \[http://vmpk.sourceforge.net/\]](http://vmpk.sourceforge.net/)

[Hydrogen \[http://www.hydrogen-music.org/\]](http://www.hydrogen-music.org/)

[Songwrite \[http://home.gna.org/oomadness/en/songwrite/index.html\]](http://home.gna.org/oomadness/en/songwrite/index.html)

[Jokosher \[http://www.jokosher.org/\]](http://www.jokosher.org/)

[Piano Booster \[http://pianobooster.sourceforge.net/\]](http://pianobooster.sourceforge.net/)

[Cheese \[http://projects.gnome.org/cheese/\]](http://projects.gnome.org/cheese/)

[Stopmotion \[http://stopmotion.bjoernen.com/\]](http://stopmotion.bjoernen.com/)

[Gnome sound recorder \[http://library.gnome.org/users/gnome-sound-recorder/2.24/gnome-sound-recorder.html\]](http://library.gnome.org/users/gnome-sound-recorder/2.24/gnome-sound-recorder.html)

[Gnome volume control \[http://library.gnome.org/users/gnome-volume-control/stable/gnome-volume-control-intro.html.fr\]](http://library.gnome.org/users/gnome-volume-control/stable/gnome-volume-control-intro.html.fr)

[Totem \[http://projects.gnome.org/totem/\]](http://projects.gnome.org/totem/)

Jukebox

We also provide a launcher icon named *Jukebox*. Its role is to start the media player *Totem* with a play list made of the music files that are in the Music directory.

Vmpk

Virtual MIDI Piano Keyboard, *VMPK*, is a virtual piano keyboard of DoudouLinux. It does not produce any sound by itself, but is connected to an audio software synthesizer that is shipping within DoudouLinux. You can use the computer keyboard to play music notes as well as the mouse. You can use *VMPK* to display the notes played from another instrument or MIDI file player (the DoudouLinux media player for instance). To do so, connect the other



Virtual MIDI Piano Keyboard (VMPK)

MIDI port to the input port of VMPK. If you plug in an external, real USB piano keyboard, VMPK will be automatically launched and connected to the real keyboard output.



Petit Papa Noël
« Petit Papa Noël
», piano *Vkeybd-
timidity*

Hydrogen

Hydrogen is a digital rhythm box application. Drum or percussion parts can be created in a graphical environment. Demonstration songs should help you understand how it works and especially its abilities. This application is admittedly a bit complex and rather targets older children (around 8-10 years). Their compositions may not be suitable for a Grammy Award (one never knows...) but they will undoubtedly initiate them to one of the major artistic uses of computers: computer aided music.



Hydrogen

Notes:

The Vkeybd piano can be played while Hydrogen is running.

It is also possible to connect the Vkeyb keyboard to Hydrogen in order to play the drums in real time with the computer keyboard or mouse but the operation is not yet described in this manual.

Songs can be exported as audio files in Wav format, in order to let people easily discover your creations without requiring Hydrogen.



**Hard-electro-
rock démo**
« Hard-electro-
rock » démo
*Hydrogen + synthé
Vkeybd-timidity.*

Songwrite

Songwrite is a simple, yet powerful song editor and player. It is intended for people who do not know music theory. This is why it does not use the standard music notation but fingerings and tabs instead, which are simply representing the place where you put your fingers on the musical instrument! The rhythm is then represented by the space between notes. Of course you can switch to the official music notation but this is not the default application behavior.



Songwrite

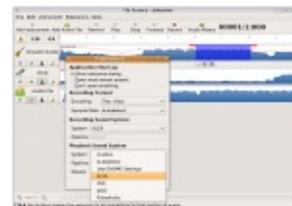
Moreover, lyrics can be easily added to the music score to sing the songs. Using the printing feature, this makes it possible to print song booklets for children. We believe this is a good way to start learning music and learning an instrument. Especially because Songwrite can handle flute fingering and percussion instruments: flutes are quite cheap instruments and percussions are easiest ones to learn.



La mère Michèle
La mère Michèle
(French children
song)

Jokosher

Jokosher is a simple yet powerful multi-track studio: various sounds, music pieces, audio performances can be recorded and mixed into a single audio file. With it you can create and record music, podcasts and more.

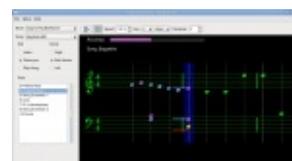


Jokosher

Jokosher provides a complete application for recording, editing, mixing and exporting audio; and has been specifically designed with usability in mind. The developers behind Jokosher have re-thought audio production at every level, and created something devilishly simple to use. No need to know the music theory: just record and mix!

Piano Booster

PianoBooster is a program designed to teach playing the piano. It plays a music from standard MIDI Files



Piano Booster

while showing on screen the notes you have to play on your piano keyboard on a scrolling music staff. You can change the speed of playback, transpose the music, etc. The music can be a complete musical arrangement with several parts. In this case, you can choose which part you want to play.

Cheese

Cheese is an application for taking pictures and videos from a webcam. It includes fancy graphical effects to make funnier photos and videos :). This is a very simple application in which the user only has to choose effects and click start.



Cheese

Stopmotion

Stopmotion is an animation movie creator. It can create a movie file from a series of photos captured with a webcam for example. The typical use is to make a scene with small characters then take photos after slightly moving these characters step by step. Using the audio recording application of DoudouLinux, you should even be able to add voices, sounds or music to movies. Children will finally discover how cinema is functioning. This is also a great opportunity for them to start thinking about scenarios, characters, scenes, landscapes, etc.



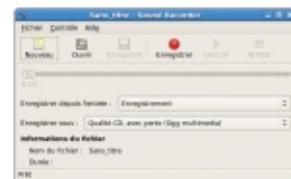
Stopmotion



SOS turtle :)

Gnome sound recorder

This is a sound recorder. External sounds using a microphone as well as internal computer sounds, such as those that the Vkeybd-timidity and Hydrogen applications produce [1], can be recorded. For external sound, you need to connect your computer to a microphone or a source called *Line* then tune the sound volumes. You can then record in mono or stereo sounds in Ogg or Wav format. Unfortunately for the microphone DoudouLinux

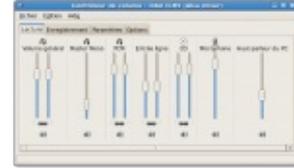


Gnome sound recorder

cannot adjust recording levels for you at startup because input names vary a lot from one computer to another. Adult help is thus required at the beginning to find the correct buttons in the volume control tool described below...

Gnome volume control

This is simply an application to tune sound volumes. Generally you will change “*Main volume*” or “*Master mono*” to change the overall sound volume. You may also tune “*PCM*” to change the volume of software produced sounds. On the other hand this volume has no effect on microphone volume if you have connected one. For the microphone you will have to search how to adjust the input sound [2].



Gnome volume control

Totem

Totem is an audio and video player that is able to read a large number of video formats. It is also able to search for videos directly on *Youtube*. However the main purpose of this application is to play the music files that are shipping with DoudouLinux and to play the video files produced by *Stopmotion*. In the future we may also give access to online contents for children, either on friendly websites [3] or on our own website. For sure our intention is not to put children on *Youtube* all day long! Especially because of the non-friendly license of this service.



Totem

Jukebox

This is not really an application but a special launcher that starts the media player *Totem* with a list of files to be played. The files are all the MIDI, OGG and WAV files found in the directory *Music* of the activity *Whole DoudouLinux*. They are played in a random order and, to entertain children, the player is launched fullscreen showing its nice curves flowing across the whole screen.

Currently, the set of music shipping with DoudouLinux is not that large, but we wish to continue to add many songs in many different languages. We may put them partly on the Internet to reduce the size of the CD. Note that some MIDI file scores are available in a Songwrite format as well as in a PDF format in the directory *Music*.

Footnotes

[1] To record these applications, you just have to switch the record source to *Mix*.

[2] Generally changing the microphone volume is not enough, you may also have to find the gain switch and probably the source switch too. The later one defines which source is to be recorded.

[3] Which means that they offer their content with a license similar to the DoudouLinux applications licenses: you are free to use, copy, share and modify.



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Fun games

June 2010 — last update 17 June



DoudouLinux offers about 40 fun-oriented games. They have been chosen for being simple, funny or for their ability to develop dexterity, logic and/or thinking skills. These games target children from 4 years old and generally do not require being able to read.

Fun games are briefly described on this page as well as a list of links to their web sites in the following:

6 board games

[Mahjongg](http://live.gnome.org/Mahjongg) [<http://live.gnome.org/Mahjongg>]

[lagno](http://live.gnome.org/lagno) [<http://live.gnome.org/lagno>]

[Gnome Mastermind](http://www.autistici.org/gnome-mastermind/) [<http://www.autistici.org/gnome-mastermind/>]

[Kigo](http://www.kde.org/applications/games/kigo/) [<http://www.kde.org/applications/games/kigo/>]

[Glchess](https://live.gnome.org/Chess) [<https://live.gnome.org/Chess>]

[Gmchess](http://code.google.com/p/gmchess/) [<http://code.google.com/p/gmchess/>]

3 card plays

[Aisleriot](http://live.gnome.org/Aisleriot) [<http://live.gnome.org/Aisleriot>]

[Freecell](https://help.gnome.org/users/aisleriot/stable/Freecell.html.en) [<https://help.gnome.org/users/aisleriot/stable/Freecell.html.en>]

[Tali](http://live.gnome.org/Tali) [<http://live.gnome.org/Tali>]

12 logic games

[Five or more](http://live.gnome.org/Five%20or%20more) [<http://live.gnome.org/Five%20or%20more>]

[Gweled](http://sebdelestaing.free.fr/gweled/) [<http://sebdelestaing.free.fr/gweled/>]

[Free Alchemist](http://www.pygame.org/project/797/) [<http://www.pygame.org/project/797/>]

[Hex-a-hop](http://hexahop.sourceforge.net/) [<http://hexahop.sourceforge.net/>]

[Numpty Physics](http://numptyphysics.garage.maemo.org/) [<http://numptyphysics.garage.maemo.org/>]

[Klotski](http://live.gnome.org/Klotski) [<http://live.gnome.org/Klotski>]

[Mines](http://live.gnome.org/Mines) [<http://live.gnome.org/Mines>]

[Four in line](http://live.gnome.org/Four-in-a-row) [<http://live.gnome.org/Four-in-a-row>]

[Sudoku](http://live.gnome.org/GnomeSudoku) [<http://live.gnome.org/GnomeSudoku>]

[Gtans](http://gtans.sourceforge.net/) [<http://gtans.sourceforge.net/>]

[Tetravex](http://live.gnome.org/Tetravex) [<http://live.gnome.org/Tetravex>]

[Quadrappel](https://live.gnome.org/Quadrappel) [<https://live.gnome.org/Quadrappel>]

5 adventure games

[Abe's amazing adventure](http://abe.sourceforge.net/) [<http://abe.sourceforge.net/>]

[Pingus](http://pingus.seul.org/) [<http://pingus.seul.org/>]

[Super Tux](http://supertux.lethargik.org/) [<http://supertux.lethargik.org/>]

[Tile world](http://www.muppetlabs.com/~breadbox/software/tworld/) [<http://www.muppetlabs.com/~breadbox/software/tworld/>]

[Tower toppler](http://toppler.sourceforge.net/) [<http://toppler.sourceforge.net/>]

14 arcade games

[Help Hannah's horse](http://sourceforge.net/projects/hannah/) [<http://sourceforge.net/projects/hannah/>]
[Biniax2](http://biniax.com/) [<http://biniax.com/>]
[BurgerSpace](http://perso.b2b2c.ca/sarrazip/dev/burgerspace.html) [<http://perso.b2b2c.ca/sarrazip/dev/burgerspace.html>]
[Ceferino](http://www.losersjuegos.com.ar/juegos/ceferino) [<http://www.losersjuegos.com.ar/juegos/ceferino>]
[Circuslinux](http://www.newbreedsoftware.com/circus-linux/) [<http://www.newbreedsoftware.com/circus-linux/>]
[Frozen Bubble](http://www.frozen-bubble.org/) [<http://www.frozen-bubble.org/>]
[Lbreakout2](http://lgames.sourceforge.net/index.php?project=LBreakout2) [<http://lgames.sourceforge.net/index.php?project=LBreakout2>]
[Magicor](http://magicor.sourceforge.net/) [<http://magicor.sourceforge.net/>]
[Monsterz](http://sam.zoy.org/monsterz/) [<http://sam.zoy.org/monsterz/>]
[Nibbles](http://live.gnome.org/Nibbles) [<http://live.gnome.org/Nibbles>]
[Nikwi Deluxe](http://badsector.github.io/nikwi/Nikwi_Deluxe/Welcome.html) [http://badsector.github.io/nikwi/Nikwi_Deluxe/Welcome.html]
[Pixbros](http://www.pixjuegos.com/) [<http://www.pixjuegos.com/>]
[Pixfrogger](http://www.pixjuegos.com/) [<http://www.pixjuegos.com/>]
[Robots](http://live.gnome.org/Robots) [<http://live.gnome.org/Robots>]
3 sports games
[Foobillard](http://foobillard.sourceforge.net/) [<http://foobillard.sourceforge.net/>]
[Super Tux Kart](http://supertuxkart.sourceforge.net/) [<http://supertuxkart.sourceforge.net/>]
[Kolf](http://games.kde.org/game.php?game=kolf) [<http://games.kde.org/game.php?game=kolf>]

NB: Foobillard and Super Tux Kart require a computer relatively recent (≥ 2002) with a video chip from the Intel or ATI brand [[1](#)].

Board games

Mahjongg

A tile-based solitaire game with an oriental flavor. Remove tiles in matching pairs to dismantle elaborately designed stacks. Beware: only external tiles can be moved away...



Mahjongg

lagno

lagno is a computer version of the game Reversi, more popularly called Othello. The object of lagno is to flip as many of your opponent's tiles to your color as possible without your opponent flipping your tiles. This is done by trapping your opponent's tiles between two tiles of your own color.



lagno

Gnome Mastermind

Gnome Mastermind

Mastermind is a little Mastermind™ game. The goal is to break a hidden color code following the hints that the game gives us. Several trials are allowed. For each trial, the computer indicates whether some colors are correct and if their position is correct too.



**Gnome
Mastermind**

Kigo

Kigo is the popular Go game, a strategic board game for two players. It is also known as igo (Japanese), weiqi or wei ch'i (Chinese) or baduk (Korean). Go is noted for being rich in strategic complexity despite its simple rules.



Kigo

The game is played by two players who alternately place black and white stones (playing pieces, now usually made of glass or plastic) on the vacant intersections of a grid of 19x19 lines (9x9 or 13x13 for easier games).

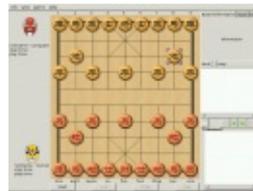
Glchess

Glchess is a chess game, where games can be played between a combination of human and computer players..



Gmchess

Gmchess is a Chinese chess game (Xiangqi) against a human opponent or the computer.



Gmchess

Card plays

Aisleriot

A compilation of over eighty different solitaire card games. Everything from favorites like Freecell and Klondike through to the hopelessly, pointless Clock Patience. You can spend here, many solitaire hours!



Aisleriot

Freecell

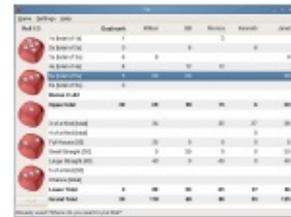
FreeCell

FreeCell is a solitaire-based card game played with a 52-card standard deck. It is fundamentally different from most solitaire games in that very few hands are unsolvable.



Tali

Tali is a sort of poker with dice and less money. You roll five dice three times and try to create the best hand. Your two rerolls may include any or all of your dice. Tali also supports playing Kismet.



Tali

Logic games

Five or more

The game's objective is to align as often as possible five or more objects of the same color and shape causing them to disappear. Unfortunately new objects appear regularly... Thus you need to both make lines and free some space to be able to move objects.



Cinq ou plus

Gweled

Gweled is a new version of a popular game called "Bejeweled" or "Diamond Mine". The aim of the game is to make an alignment of 3 or more gems, both vertically or horizontally by swapping adjacent gems. The more gems collapse at the same time, the higher the score you make. The game ends when there are no possible moves left.



Gweled -
Youtube

Free Alchemist

This game is a variation of the classical Tetris game. Objects appear on the top of the screen and then fall down to the bottom. The difference is that objects are recombined on the ground instead of disappearing. For example, if three bottles of the same color are close to each other, they will be replaced with another bottle of upper level and so on.



Hex-a-hop

Hex-a-Hop is a hexagonal tile-based puzzle game with one simple goal: destroy all green tiles! There are infinite un-dos and no time limits – you just have to find a way to destroy all the green tiles and step on a safe tile at the end.



Numpty Physics

Harness gravity with your crayon and set about creating blocks, ramps, levers, pulleys and whatever else you fancy to get the little red thing to the little yellow thing. :) Just make the red ball touch the yellow star using... anything that comes to your minds since you can draw what you want on screen and gravity will do the job! Numpty Physics includes a built-in editor so that you may build (and submit) your own levels.



Klotski

The objective is to move the patterned block to the area bordered by green markers with as few moves as possible. To do this you need to move other blocks one by one with your mouse to clear out a path for it to move through.



Klotski

Mines

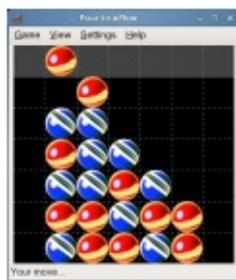
The popular logic puzzle minesweeper. Find mines on a grid using hints from squares you have already cleared.



Mines

Four in line

The objective of Four-in-a-row is to build a line of four of your marbles while trying to stop your opponent (human or computer) building a line of his or her own. A line can be horizontal, vertical or diagonal.

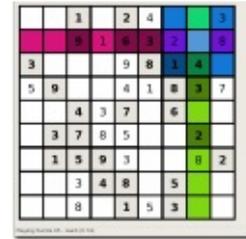


Quatre en ligne

Sudoku



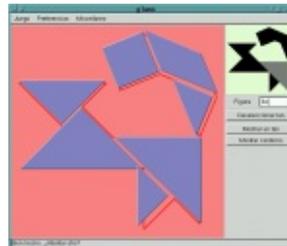
Sudoku is a logic game with a Japanese name that has recently exploded in popularity. You have to fill 9 boxes with figures, letters or numbers from 1 to 9 so that no line, column nor 3×3 box would have any duplicates of any item, more than one time.



Sudoku

Gtans

Gtans is a Tangram game, a Chinese puzzle. The objective is to put seven geometric shapes together to form a given shape.



Gtans

Shapes are animals, objects, people, etc. The set of possible shapes is incredibly rich and split into increasing difficulty order. All the pieces must be used and laid next to one another. The pieces are five triangles, a square and a parallelogram. Sometimes there is more than one solution.

Tetravex

Tetravex is a simple puzzle where pieces must be positioned so that the same numbers are touching each other. But pieces do not have just two sides... Your game is timed, these times are stored in a system-wide scoreboard.



Tétravex

Quadrapassel

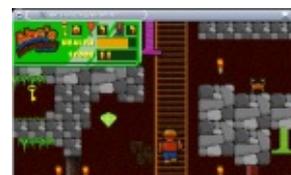
The classic Russian falling-block game, Tetris. The goal of the game is to create complete horizontal lines of blocks, which will disappear. The blocks come in seven different shapes made from four blocks each: one straight, two L-shaped, one square, and two S-shaped. You score by dropping blocks fast and completing lines. As your score gets higher, you level up and the blocks fall faster.



Adventure games

Abe's amazing adventure

A game where the guy you are driving has to collect keys and open doors to free his friend. Of course, he is exploring a hostile world but he has some tricks to



escape...

Pingus

Pingus is a classic Lemmings™-like game. The player takes command in the game of a bunch of small animals and has to guide them around in levels. Since the animals walk on their own, the player can only influence them by giving them commands, like build a bridge, dig a hole or redirect all animals in the other direction. The goal of each level is to reach the exit, for fix multiple combination of commands are necessary.



Pingus - Youtube



Abe's amazing adventure

Super Tux

SuperTux is a classic 2D jump'n run sidescroller game in a style similar to the original Super Mario® games. Your hero is a penguin on an ice field who has to collect coins and pass obstacles to get onto the next level. Bonuses make him grow and then able to shoot his enemies.



Super Tux - Youtube

Tworld

The player controls the hero Chip, navigating him through his challenges. The goal of each level of the game is to find and reach the exit tile, which takes you to the next level. The exit is frequently (but not always) guarded by a chip socket. To move past the chip socket, Chip must collect a certain number of computer chips. The number of computer chips needed is different in each level. Besides chip sockets, there are also four different kinds of doors. The doors require keys in order to be opened. The doors and keys are color-coded so that you can see which keys will open which doors.



Tower toppler

A clone of the Nebulus game. You have to help a cute little green animal switch off some kind of "evil" mechanism. The "power off switch" is hidden somewhere in high towers. On your way to the target you need to avoid a lot of strange robots that guard the tower.



Tower toppler - Youtube

Arcade games

Help Hannah's horse

An arcade game best described as a cross between pacman and fastfood. Collect the pills and carrots while avoiding the ghosts! Cute and colourful! Beware: it is really fast and you shouldn't get a special item which reverses left and right keys roles...



Hannah's horse - Youtube

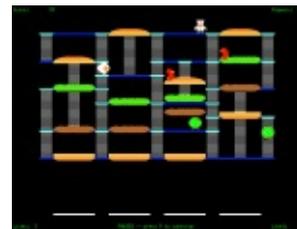
Biniax2

Biniax2 is original and entertaining game. You move a pair of colors that are changed depending on the other color pairs you are crossing. Your pair is changed only if one color is common with the crossed pair otherwise you cannot pass. You have to choose the good color pair to cross to keep going forward.



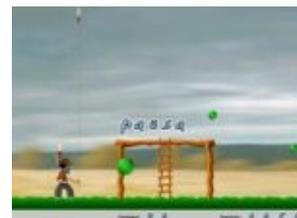
BurgerSpace

BurgerSpace is a hamburger-smashing video game. The goal is to assemble hamburgers by making the hamburger layers fall from floor to floor. Use the arrow keys to move, the Ctrl key to throw pepper, and P to pause the game and resume it. The Escape key quits the game.



Ceferino

A clone of the game Pang. The guy you are driving has to burst bouncing balloons while avoiding them. Each burst balloon splits into two smaller ones... Some trap doors in floors and large balloons contain extras that make you more powerful.



Ceferino

Circuslinux

The objective is to move a teeter-totter back and forth across the screen to bounce clowns up into the air. When they reach the top, they pop rows of balloons and then fall back down. It is played with the mouse and is also fast...



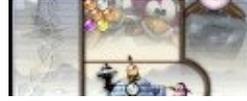
Circus Linux - Youtube

Frozen Bubble

The game mainly consists of firing



randomly chosen bubbles across the board. If the shoot ends up having a clump of at least 3 bubbles of the same color, they all pop. If some bubbles were stuck only on the popping clump, they fall. In 1-player mode, the goal is to pop all the bubbles on the board as quickly as possible. In 2-players or network mode, you have to get your opponent to "die" before you; in other words, be the last one alive.



Frozen bubble -
Youtube

LBreakout2

This is yet another brick breaking game. LBreakout2 offers a challenge in more than 50 levels with lots of bonuses (gold shower, joker, explosive balls, bonus magnet ...), penalties (chaos, darkness, weak balls, penalty magnet ...) and special bricks (growing bricks, explosive bricks, regenerative bricks ...). If you are hungry for more you can create your own level sets with the integrated level editor. There is also an experimental two player mode available on a local network.



Magikor

Magikor is a puzzle game whose goal is to extinguish fires using blocks of ice. Your character can only make ice blocks at the ground level. Ice blocks are fixed onto walls but not on the ceiling nor on the floor. Removing from an ice bar the block on the wall will make the remaining ice of the bar fall down. Levels may have one or more solutions, but thinking ahead is the key to victory in Magikor.



Monsterz

Monsterz is a little arcade puzzle game. The goal is to create rows of similar monsters, either horizontally or vertically. The only allowed move is swapping two adjacent monsters, but only if this creates a row of three or more. When alignments are cleared, pieces are falling from the top of the screen to fill the board again. Chain reactions give you even more points.



Nibbles

Nibbles is a game where the user controls a snake. The snake moves around the board, eating diamonds while



avoiding the walls placed around it. Nibbles also features network multiplayer, and up to six evil computer-controlled worms!



Nibbles

Nikwi

Catch candies and get some ice-cream! And its the same at each level... In the beginning this is quite easy, but difficulty rapidly increase with these creatures that always fight when you go past them!



**Nikwi Deluxe -
Youtube**

Pixbros

Pixbros is an arcade game quite classical, inspired by several old arcade games. You have to get rid of your enemies to go to the next level. Depending on the hero you've chosen, you'll make them disappear using bubbles, snow balls or a spray. Eating fruits would give you extra abilities.



Pixfrogger

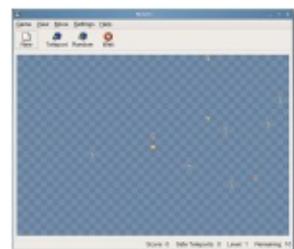
Pixfrogger is a simple game in which one or several user(s) control a frog. The objective is to cross the street and avoid becoming roadkill by cars and trucks. The frog starts at the bottom of the screen and can only go vertically to top. The game allows 4 players playing simultaneously with the keyboard. A fun game to teach children to be careful while crossing the street!



Pixfrogger

Robots

The classic robots game where you have to avoid a hoard of robots who are trying to kill you. Each step you take brings them closer toward you. Fortunately they aren't very smart and you also have a helpful teleportation gadget.



Robots

Sports games

Foobillard

Footnotes

A 3D billiard game. You can play different billiard games (8 ball, snooker, etc.). The hardest is to respect rules... This game will only run on machines with an Intel or ATI video chip since it relies on 3D features.



**Foobillard -
Youtube**

Super Tux Kart

A Super Mario Kart® inspired game. Competitors can catch items in cubes lying on the road in order to set them traps. This game will only run on machines with an Intel or ATI video chip since it relies on 3D features.



**Super Tux Kart -
Youtube**

Kolf

Kolf is a miniature golf game that can be played alone, against computer or with other players. Up to 10 people can play at once in competition. Kolf comes equipped with a variety of playgrounds and tutorial courses. The mouse controls both direction and ball hit force.



Kolf

Footnotes

[1] This feature is not due to any contract we would have passed with this brand(!), but is due to the fact that Linux just embeds a 3D graphics driver natively for Intel and ATI but not for nVidia which requires a separate, proprietary driver.



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Applications for work

June 2010 — last update 24 June



Yes, we also have to work a bit and for sure computers can help us with the tasks.... To help children understand this other role of computers, about a dozen relatively simple applications are available. Some of them may only be useful to Dad and Mum to help out. You will see that the proposed work is not so hard indeed! We have even included two graphics applications because we do not want to open a graphics category for two applications only.

Work applications are briefly described on this page. A list of these applications as well as a list of links to their web sites are as follows:

[MyPaint](http://mypaint.intilinux.com/) [<http://mypaint.intilinux.com/>]

[TBO](http://live.gnome.org/TBO) [<http://live.gnome.org/TBO>]

[Laby](http://www.pps.jussieu.fr/~gimenez/laby/) [<http://www.pps.jussieu.fr/~gimenez/laby/>]

[KTurtle](http://edu.kde.org/kturtle/) [<http://edu.kde.org/kturtle/>]

[GoldenDict](http://goldendict.org/) [<http://goldendict.org/>]

[gcalctool](http://live.gnome.org/Gcalctool) [<http://live.gnome.org/Gcalctool>]

[gedit](http://projects.gnome.org/gedit/) [<http://projects.gnome.org/gedit/>]

[empathy](http://live.gnome.org/Empathy) [<http://live.gnome.org/Empathy>]

[epiphany-browser](http://projects.gnome.org/epiphany/) [<http://projects.gnome.org/epiphany/>]

[pcmanfm](http://wiki.lxde.org/en/PCManFM) [<http://wiki.lxde.org/en/PCManFM>]

[eog](http://projects.gnome.org/eog/) [<http://projects.gnome.org/eog/>]

[evince](http://projects.gnome.org/evince/) [<http://projects.gnome.org/evince/>]

[xarchiver](http://xarchive.sourceforge.net/) [<http://xarchive.sourceforge.net/>]

MyPaint



MyPaint is a fast and easy graphics application for digital painters that mimics the real painters tools. It comes with a large brush collection including charcoal and ink to emulate real media, but the highly configurable brush engine allows you to experiment with your own brushes and with not-quite-natural painting. MyPaint lets you focus on the art instead of the program. You work on your canvas with minimum distractions, bringing up the interface only when you need it.

TBO



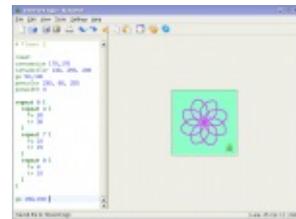
TBO is a comic creator, an easy, fun-to-use program to draw comics or make your presentations funnier. Users create pages and drawing frames in their pages. TBO provides a library of vector drawings [1] to be used in comic frames. Background images can also be imported.

**TBO**

TBO has two function modes: “page view” and “frame view”. Once your page has frames, you can enter the mode “frame view” by double clicking with the selector tool in the frame to be edited. In the frame view you can draw doodles, bubbles, texts in bubbles, move and resize objects, rotate and clone objects. To return to the page view, press the escape key.

KTurtle

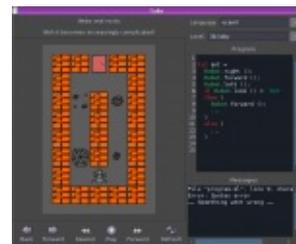
KTurtle is an educational programming environment that aims to make programming as easy and teachable as possible; therefore, it can be used to teach kids the basics of math, geometry and... programming.

**KTurtle**

The programming language used in KTurtle is loosely based on Logo. KTurtle allows, just like some implementations of Logo, to translate the programming language (the commands, documentation and error messages) into the native language of the programmer. This is one of the many ways KTurtle tries to make learning programming simpler. Other features to help to achieve this goal are: intuitive syntax highlighting, simple error messages, integrated canvas to make drawings on, integrated help function, slow-motion or step execution, and more.

Laby

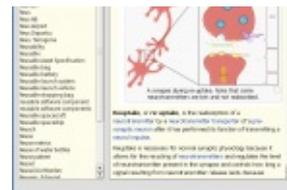
Laby is a small program to learn how to program with ants and spider webs. You have to move an ant robot out of a labyrinth, avoid spider webs, move rocks, etc. First levels are tricky... but easy. You will soon need the help of *while* loops, of function definitions, and also to acquire good skills at *if* conditionals. There is no labyrinth from which you cannot escape. The programming language is set to Python in DoudouLinux, programming instructions names can be translated into the child language.

**Laby**

GoldenDict



GoldenDict is a feature-rich dictionary lookup program. It can lookup definitions as well as translations from various translation dictionaries, locally or on the Internet. The program is able to display texts, images and web links (as well as web pages). It supports multiple dictionary file formats: Babylon, StarDict, Dictd, Lingvo. It also supports online resources such as Wikipedia, Wiktionary, Vikidia or any other MediaWiki-based sites. It can dictate words using pronunciations from forvo.com [<http://forvo.com/>], propose corrected spelling and works when users cannot enter special characters such as “ç” or “ß”.



GoldenDict

Gcalctool

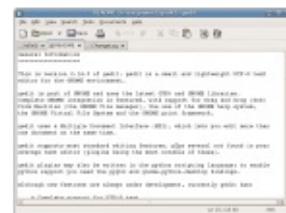
This is simply a calculator. It is configured to display its easiest mode which just shows the 4 basic operations. Nevertheless advanced modes can be activated in its “Display” menu to get access to more advanced or very advanced functions.



Gcalctool

Gedit

Gedit is a small text editor. Instead of providing full-featured text processing software, we believe that children can be content with a simple text editor to start typing their own texts. Generally the layout is not their priority (let’s help them match punctuation and upper case rules first!), and anyway they would only need a tiny part of all the features of text processing software.



Gedit

Empathy

Empathy is instant messaging software. It can obviously discuss with Google Talk, MSN or even Facebook, but it is configured in DoudouLinux just to be able to talk with machines from the local network. Just plug the network on your DoudouLinux computers and this should work! This way children can be initiated to this type of Internet communication without the need to create them an account and without the risk for them to get in touch with anybody on the Internet...

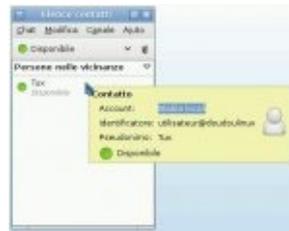


Empathy
Empathy + chat theme
2

When Empathy is started, a small DoudouLinux-specific tool is showed to let the user set his (her) nickname on the network (see below). You can click the check box if you do not want to be asked your nickname next time; the nickname tool itself is also available from the tab *Settings* if needed. Then Empathy is started, which just adds a green light in the top panel. You have to click on it to show the list of your neighbors on the local network.



Empathy nickname dialog



Neighbors on the local network

Epiphany Browser

This is a web browser based on Mozilla Firefox technologies. It features ad-blocking and popup blocking for a better web browsing experience. On the other hand it is not compatible with the Firefox plugins system. However it is lighter, simpler to configure and faster than Firefox, this is why DoudouLinux integrated it in place of Firefox.



Epiphany browser

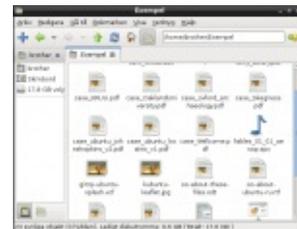
Note that we have changed the default homepage of Epiphany. As shown below, it now displays a portal to ease access to online resources that have a philosophy [similar to our project](#), for example Wikipedia, OpenStreetMap and the Open Clip Art Gallery. These sites are not using aggressive advertisement as a business, and additionally provide contents that can be reused by our children without a second thought because of the friendly license they are using for their work. The full list of websites that we are promoting this way is localized on the page [Epiphany home page and bookmarks](#).



DoudouLinux web browser homepage

PCManFm

PCManFM is a file manager. Again it was chosen in place of more advanced file managers because of its lightness and its quickness. As a result it provides only partial file previewing in their icons. Don't forget that DoudouLinux thinks that children will learn to manage their files later...



PCManFm

Eog

Eog is an image file viewer that can display various image or photo formats. It is not some kind of photo editing software, which should a priori be of no interest for children. At most you will be able to rotate photos right or left when they are not taken horizontally.



Eye of GNOME (eog)

Evince

This is a PDF file viewer. The interest for children is obviously relatively small except that documents in PDF



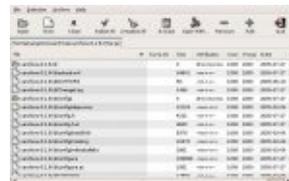
format are quite often encountered. For instance the user documentation accompanying DoudouLinux is in PDF format!



Evince

Xarchiver

This is an archive file manager which handles several formats like zip, tar, rar and 7zip. Even if this application may not be really useful, we provide it in case some compressed files would be downloaded from the Internet. It may be removed from further DoudouLinux versions.



Xarchiver

Footnotes

[1] Unlike bitmap drawings, vector drawings can be resized without any loss of quality.



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Mouse setting

September 2010 — last update June 2011



Children who discover the mouse use do not have at the beginning gestures precise enough to get the cursor at the right place. For this reason DoudouLinux changes the mouse speed depending on activities. This way the computer gets adapted to children instead of the contrary. Mouse is slow in the menu of activities and in activities targeting small children, less slow in intermediary activities and normal in more advanced activities.

Also in the most advanced activities, mouse speed can be tuned in the case it would not fit. Of course the tool is in the tab “*Tune*”. Unlike what general public systems often propose, mouse setting in DoudouLinux requires choosing among 4 possible modes only:

kids

slow

normal

fast



This has immediate effect and it is saved in activity preferences. However if the [data persistence](#) as not been activated, settings are lost at reboot.



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Sound settings

September 2010 — last update 22 May

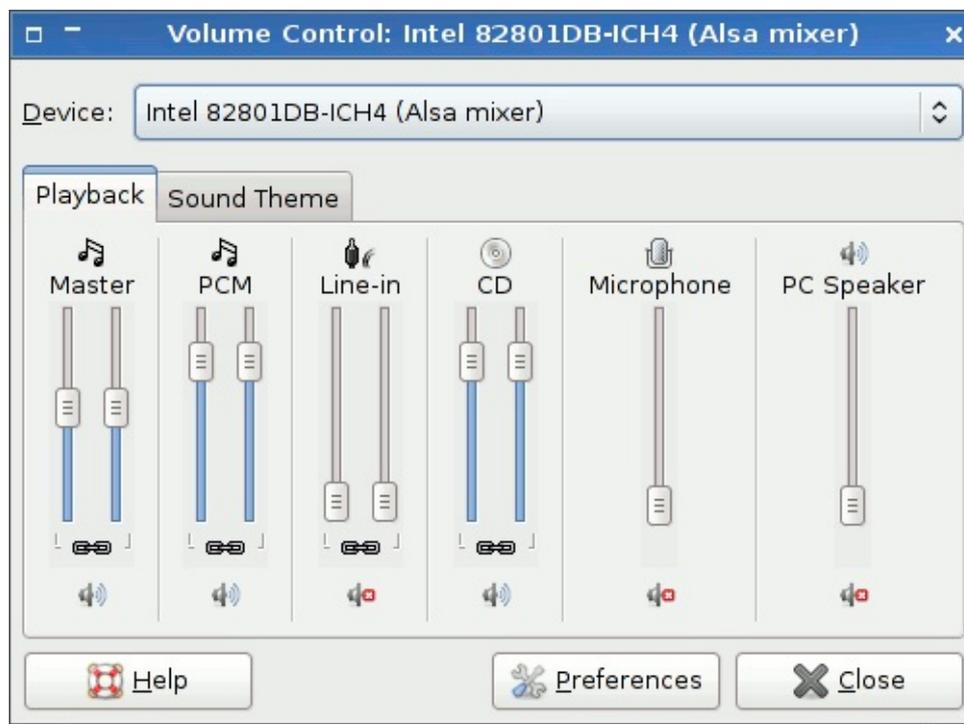


In addition to the sound control icon in the panel on the screen, top right (see the screenshot below), DoudouLinux features a classical sound volume tuning tool and a tool to choose the sound output to be used. As usual the panel icon provides quick access to the main volume while the volume tuning tool lets you set more advanced parameters, such as recording levels.



Sound volume icon in the panel.

The main difference compared to other general public systems is that Linux does not know the commercial name of your audio equipment nor its internal audio connection routing [1]. So your audio card will be referenced using the name of the electronic chip it contains [2], below it is *HDA Intel*, and its audio outputs will have generic names like *Master* or *PCM*.



Sound volume tuning

Notes :

Sound tuning tools are of course only available in the advanced activities.

Sound tuning is in the *Tune* section while the tool to choose sound output is in the sub-section *System* of the *Tune* section.

Special keys on the keyboard dedicated to sound tuning and particularly those of laptop computers may not work. It depends on hardware design [3].

Tuning sound volume

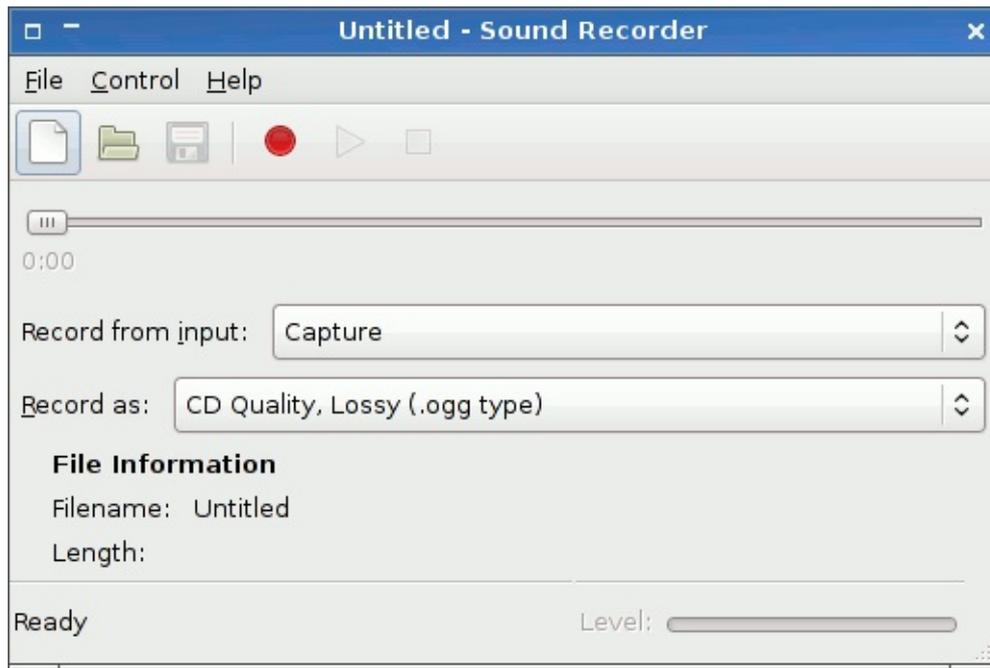
Most probably the *Master* knob controls the main sound volume and *PCM* controls the sound level of applications such as the piano keyboard or the rhythm box. On desktop computers shipped with an internal loudspeaker in the computer (not in the screen), it may happen that *Master Mono* controls the main volume instead. To deal with this issue, DoudouLinux changes both *Master* and *Master Mono* when using the sound control icon in the panel.

If you think that some settings are missing, for example to tune recording levels and source for the microphone or even *Master Mono*, you have to know that all settings are not displayed by default in the interface for simplicity reasons. To make them be displayed, go to the "*Edition* → *Preferences*" menu. You will then get a list of boxes to check in order to activate the settings that you want to see.

Note: if you did not activate [data persistence](#), all settings will be lost at next DoudouLinux boot.

Recording applications

Applications that produce sounds like *VMPK* and *Hydrogen* (see [multimedia applications](#)) can be recorded. To do this you just need to open the sound recorder and select the *Mix* input in the dropping list "*Record from input*". This input matches the sound that is sent to loudspeakers. The default is to record sound in *Ogg* format. If you want to share your recordings, you can alternatively choose the *Wav* format that is more widely used.

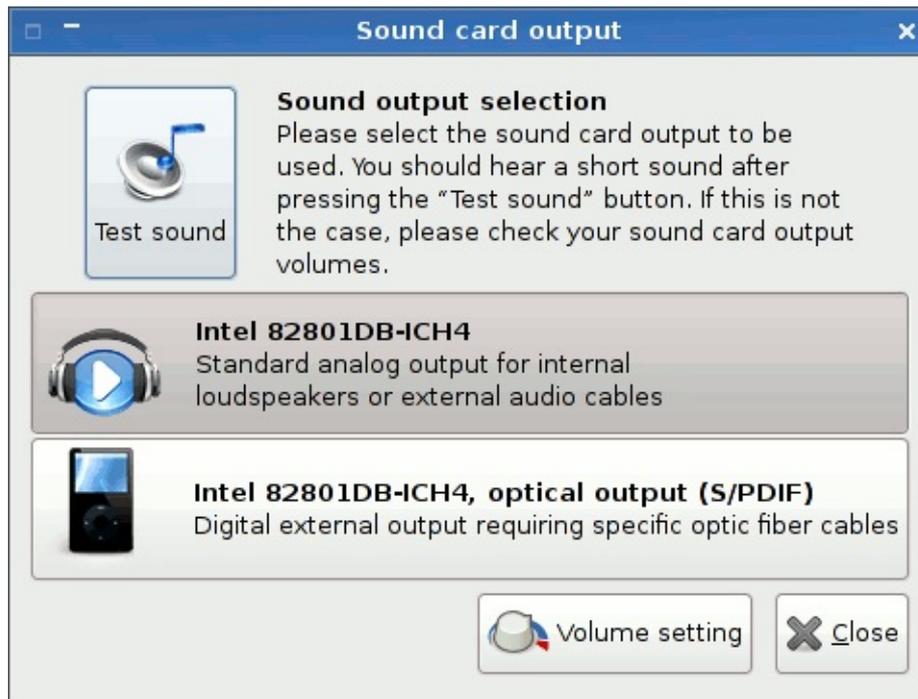


Application recording in OGG format

Important notice: the *Mix* input may not be available on your computer. Hardware designers may have chosen to not use this input, which results in the unavailability of an application sound channel. In this case, the only way to directly record applications is to use an external audio cable and plug the *line* or *headphone* output into the *line* or the *mic* input. To avoid the Larsen effect (loud, high-pitched continuous sound), you have to disable *line* or *mic* input sound monitoring in the sound tuning tool. Also disable *mic gain* when using the *mic* input to not distort the sound whose level is high enough to not require additional gain.

Choosing sound output

Some hardware configurations feature several sound outputs, because the sound card has several outputs or because the configuration has several sound cards. In this case DoudouLinux cannot know again which one is actually connected to the loudspeakers. Thus with a second tool you can choose the sound output that you wish to use. This tool is of course only useful when you notice that no sound is heard while sound volumes all seem correctly tuned. For example, none of the educational applications produces sound. If in spite of this you still can not figure out how to get sound, please also check your sound wire connections!



In the sample above is shown an audio card with 2 outputs:

« *Intel 82801DB-ICH4* » is the standard audio output, said *analog*
« *Intel 82801DB-ICH4, optical output (S/PDIF)* » is the optical fiber output, said *digital*

All outputs displayed in the interface may not actually be **cabled** in your computer. So do not be surprised to discover an optical output while having no optical connector on your computer: your hardware provider just did not think it useful to give you a digital output!

Finally you should know that, in the volume control tool, you can choose the sound card to tune. This may be useful if you have several sound cards. Selection is possible in the *Edition* menu.

Footnotes

[1] This is probably due to the fact that audio device providers do not take part to Linux development.

[2] Despite the important number of sound cards, all of them work with a quite reduced number of electronic chips.

[3] This is still due to the fact that Linux does not have the required information from hardware providers plus the lack of standardization in this area.



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Screen settings

February 2011 — last update 26 May



DoudouLinux is featuring a tool to change the screen resolution and set which screen is on or off when 2 screens are plugged.

Its interface varies depending on the number of connected screens. Usually on a desktop computer, there is only one connected screen and you will just be offered to set the screen resolution and refresh rate [1]. On a laptop you may want to have both the laptop screen and an external screen connected. In this case the interface is a little more complicated since you will be able to set each screen resolution and refresh rate independently, as well as which screen is active or not.

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[Case of a single screen](#)

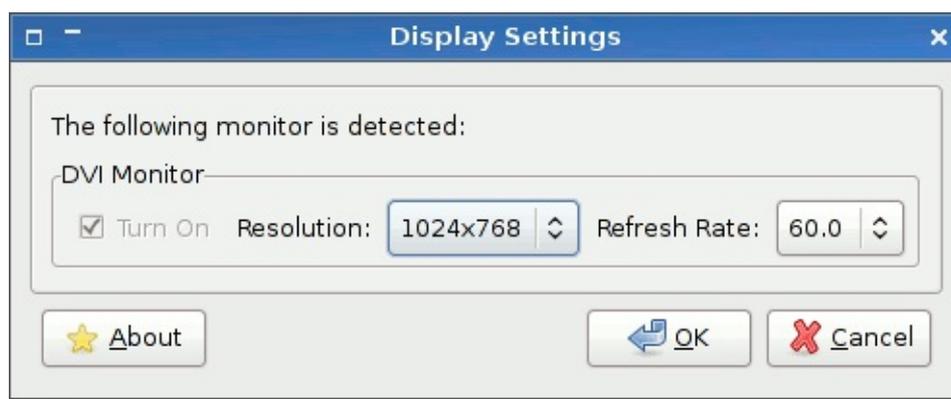
[Case of two screens](#)

[Manual tuning](#)

[Changing the video driver](#)

Case of a single screen

The tool to set the screen is located in the group “System” of the “Tune” tab. DoudouLinux is supposed to set a correct resolution at boot, this is why this tool is not directly placed in the “Tune” tab. The tool in case of a single video output is very simple:



Screen settings with a single display

Changes can be applied on the fly. The only drawback is that **they are not saved** when you leave the activity even with persistence activated, this is a known issue.

Note: there are no more screen resolution limits as there were in DoudouLinux 1.0 to 1.2 (*Gondwana*). We now have tweaked the advanced activities so that icons on the desktop grow in size with the screen resolution. This was the only purpose of these limits.

Case of two screens

If you start DoudouLinux with one screen plugged then plug the second one later, you will have to manually activate it with the screen settings tool, unless you close the current activity [2]. If you start DoudouLinux with two screens plugged, DoudouLinux should automatically detect them and set a resolution fitting well on the external one (supposing that you are using a laptop). The screens will show or try to show the same thing if their resolution cannot be identical. Especially, it may happen that the laptop screen only shows the top left part of the external screen.

Entering the activity “Whole DoudouLinux” you will be able to start the screen setting tool. This time the interface is a little more complicated. You are given the following options:

switch on or off a screen, in the first tab

set a different resolution on each screen, in the second tab

If you choose one screen only, the best resolution for that screen will be automatically chosen. If you choose both, as said above, the resolution is adapted to the external screen. If you have chosen the external screen only and want to unplug it, you may need to first reactivate the laptop screen if you do not want to end with no screen at all! Please note again that **settings will not survive** after activity exit, even with persistence activated.



Screen settings with 2 displays: which one is on/off



Screen settings with 2 displays: screen parameters

Manual tuning

If you have Linux skills, you can change the screen configuration file named `/etc/X11/xorg.conf` in order to match your needs. This file is no longer existing by default because the system is performing a complete automatic

detection at boot. You then need to create it first. Moreover changes in this file are **saved only if you have activated** full [data persistence](#) and the hardware signature feature that was available in DoudouLinux 1.0 to 1.2 is no longer available either. This was allowing to always use the same configuration file for a given computer, even if you are regularly using DoudouLinux on computers with different hardware configurations. Since DoudouLinux 2.0, any file `/etc/X11/xorg.conf` will apply to every screen and graphic card.

Changing the video driver

Sometimes the video driver is not correctly detected, especially on recent machines. In such case you can force the video driver in the configuration file `/etc/X11/xorg.conf`. You have to create this file with the following text:

```
Section "Device"
    Identifier      "Configured Video Device"
    Driver          "intel"
EndSection
```

Of course you need to know the name of the Linux driver you will use, here it is *intel*.

Footnotes

[1] The refresh rate determines how many times the screen is drawn per second. A rate too low leads to screen blinking, which in turn tires the eyes and may even cause troubles, such as head aches. To avoid this, it is recommended to set a refresh rate higher than 70Hz, which DoudouLinux does natively whenever possible.

[2] Screen detection and automatic setting is performed when the menu of activities is started.



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Keyboard layout

21 June — last update 26 October



Since version 2.0 of DoudouLinux, there is a graphical tool to change the keyboard layout. If you notice that your keyboard does not output the correct characters or if you are living in a country that is not the default country of the DoudouLinux LiveCD, you may need to change the keyboard layout. Unfortunately this setting is not yet persistent when using the LiveCD but you can [make a LiveCD boot from an USB device](#) with a different keyboard layout. Of course when installing DoudouLinux onto disk, the keyboard layout can be permanently set.

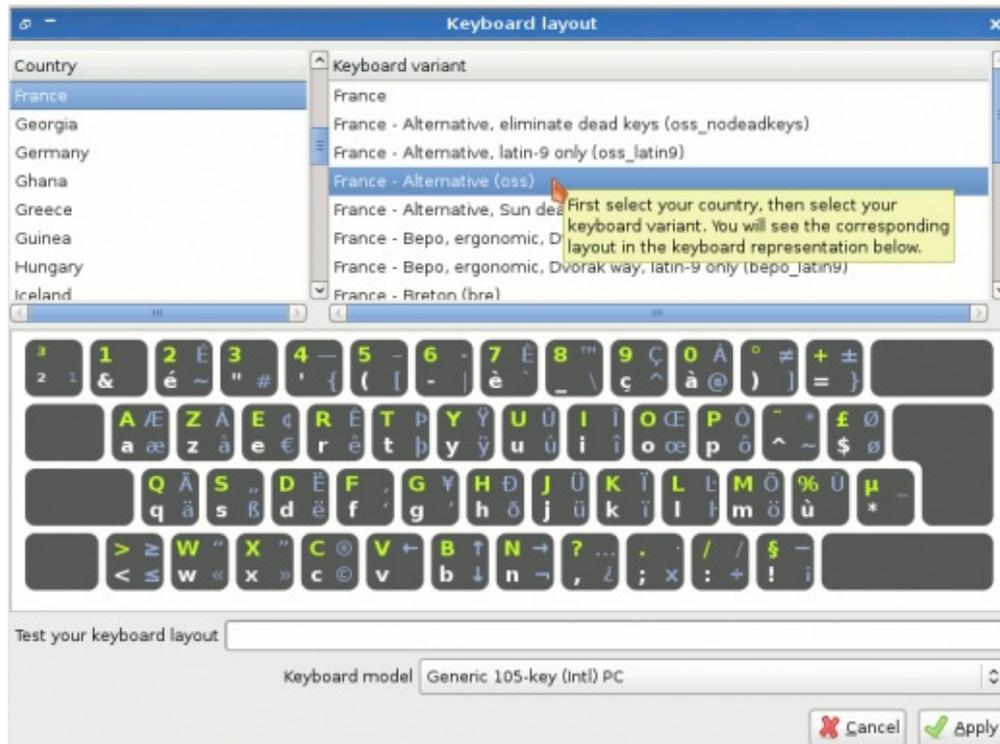
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[Selecting a keyboard layout](#)

[Multiple keyboard layouts](#)

Selecting a keyboard layout

The tool to change the keyboard layout is located in the tab “*Tune*” of the activity “*Whole DoudouLinux*”. It is composed of an upper part in which you can choose the keyboard layout, a middle part that is graphically representing the chosen keyboard, and a lower part that lets you test your keyboard or select a particular keyboard model.



Keyboard layouts are sorted by country, you then have to select the country first then a particular keyboard layout for that country. In the graphical representation of the keyboard, the standard keys of the keyboard are drawn in white and green for the lowercase and uppercase letters respectively. The “marginal” key combinations with the *AltGr* key pressed are shown in blue. There are often several layouts that only differ on few marginal key combinations only, for example characters obtained while pressing the *AltGr* key: just choose the one you are more comfortable with.

If you are unsure about whether the keyboard representation matches your actual keyboard, you can also type text in the *Test* entry field. Note that leaving the keyboard model to the default *Generic 10x key PC* usually works like a charm. You need to select a particular model if you really want to access specific keys of your keyboard, like the multimedia keys. This should not be really relevant within DoudouLinux though.

Multiple keyboard layouts

You may have noticed that it is possible to change the keyboard layout using the flag icon in the top right corner of the screen (advanced activities only), or by pressing the left *Shift* key and the left *Alt* key simultaneously (all activities). This is particularly useful for languages not using the Latin alphabet because if you have to type code or commands in the console, you probably need a Latin

alphabet.

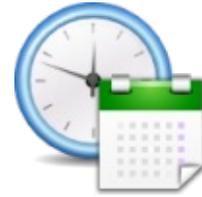
Currently the keyboard layout tool will not let you select several keyboard layouts. However, it preserves the current alternative layouts even if you change the default one. As a result, languages that are not using a Latin alphabet can still switch to a Latin one if needed.



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Date/time and time zone

21 June — last update 26 October



Since version 2.0, DoudouLinux provides two independent tools to set either date/time or time zone. Both tools are located in the sub-category “*System*” of the tab named “*Tune*” in the activity “*Whole DoudouLinux*”. If you are using a DoudouLinux LiveCD and have activated persistence, the settings should be persistent and retrieved at boot. Of course this is also true if you have installed DoudouLinux permanently! Moreover, in the later case, if your machine can access the Internet, date and time can be automatically set thanks to reference time servers on the Internet.

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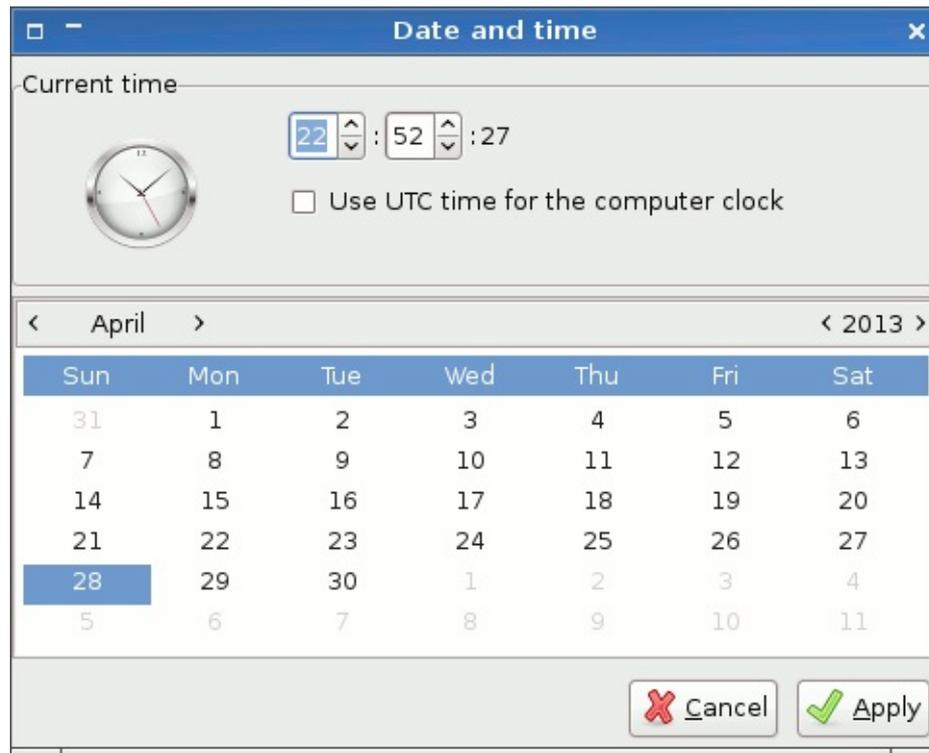
[Date/time](#)

[Time zone](#)

[Automatic time setting \(NTP\)](#)

Date/time

The date and time setting tool is quite simple: you can change the hours, the minutes and the date of the day. Changes are not recorded until you press the button *Apply*. Note that there is also another parameter, the UTC check box, that requires some technical explanations. Computers save date and time in a hardware clock that keeps running after the computer is switched off thanks to batteries, just like your watch. The time in this clock can be saved as the local time (the time you are using in everyday life) or as the universal time UTC that never changes whatever your location on earth is. Depending on this setting, to compute the local time, DoudouLinux has to shift the time zone difference from the hardware time. Thus, if your clock is off by several hours, first try to change this parameter to see if this is not the issue.



Date and time

Usually Windows® computers use local time for the hardware clock while Unix systems, including Linux, use the UTC time. If you are using the LiveCD on a Windows® machine or if you have installed DoudouLinux as an alternative system on a Windows® machine (*"dual boot"*), you may need to use the local time for the hardware clock to get the correct time. The advantage of the UTC time is that it never requires changes as long as the hardware clock has not drifted significantly. On the contrary using the local time requires to change the hardware clock with daylight saving time changes and when you are traveling across time zones.

Time zone

If you need to change the time zone or if the time is shifted by several hours, whatever the state of the UTC button in the date and time setting tool, you can change of time zone with the small tool simply named *"Time zone"*. It is quite easy to use: either you click on the map or you select your time zone in the list. Time zones are sorted by continent in the list and named using the name of large towns. For small countries, you may have difficulties to click on the town in the map because the map size is currently fixed and fitting small screens.



Timezone selection

Automatic time setting (NTP)

When DoudouLinux is installed onto disk, a special feature is activated: date and time can be retrieved from Internet servers delivering reference time (also known as *NTP servers*). You do not need to do anything, as soon as the network is functioning, DoudouLinux tries to contact a time server on the Internet. Of course if the Internet is unreachable, nothing happens. But if the Internet is reachable, the time is corrected using the time provided by the reference servers without any notification nor question.

Note that this feature is not activated on LiveCD's because if the DoudouLinux time zone or its UTC setting is wrong, this may lead to changes to the hardware clock value because the hardware clock is changed when date or time is changed. As a result, any other computer system running on this computer could display an erroneous time afterwards.



The Activities Menu

February 2011 — last update 23 October



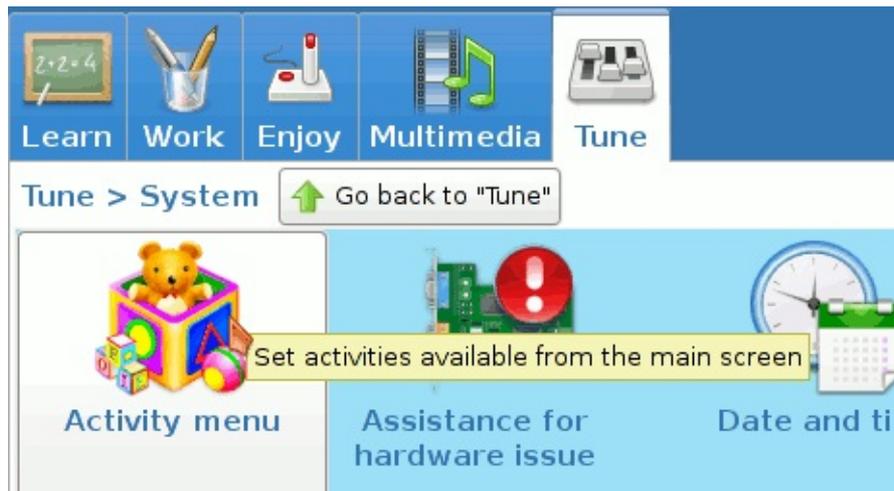
The first screen shown to users when DoudouLinux has started is called the Activities Menu (see the screenshot below). From this menu, children can choose among the activities of various complexity depending on their skills; from simple educational games to learn the mouse to a graphical environment featuring all of the available applications. This menu can be set to a default using the setting tool simply called “Activities Menu”. You can then adapt DoudouLinux to the children if you do not want to show them all the activities or you want them to use one of the activities that was not proposed by default.



Modified menu of activities

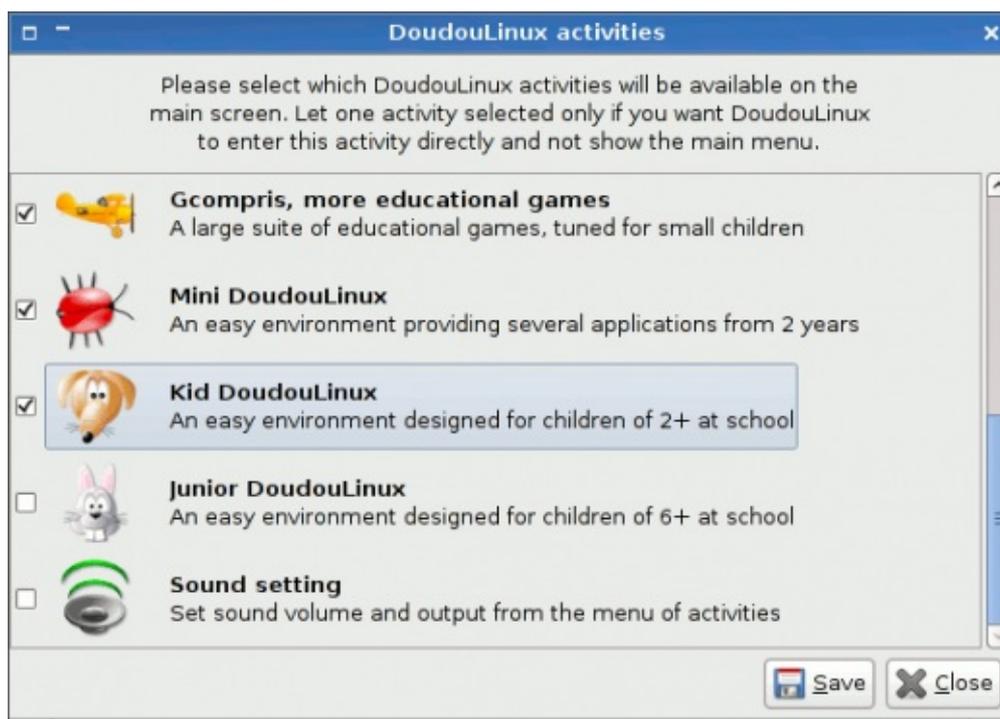
Setting the menu of activities

The menu setting tool is only available in the most advanced activity “Whole DoudouLinux”. Its icon is in the “System” group of the tab “Tune”. Clicking on it shows the list of all the available activities.



Tool to set the menu of activities

Only activities whose box is checked are shown. There are more activities than displayed in the default configuration because it is better to not show too many similar activities. If you wish to see more information about each activity, please refer to the page [Quick start](#).



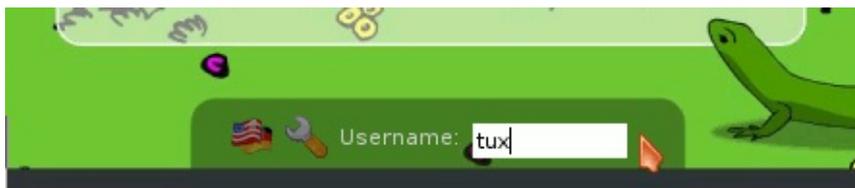
Once you have selected or unselected activities, just click the button “Save” and quit. If you have selected one activity only, the menu will not be shown when booting DoudouLinux and this activity will be directly entered. Moreover, when quitting the activity, the menu with this sole activity will be displayed during few seconds before automatically entering it again. This lets you the time to enter the activity “Whole DoudouLinux” in case it has been removed from the menu,

as explained below.

Important notice: as of writing, changing the activities menu is not really persistent on a Live system. The menu configuration is actually persistent but an issue due to the way a Live system boots makes it be ignored. Therefore on a Live system you have to restore the activities menu every time you restart the computer: launch the activities menu tool and validate the configuration to make the activities menu regenerated. As a result, letting one activity only in the menu should only be interesting on an installed DoudouLinux system.

Retrieving the activity *Whole DoudouLinux*

If you decide to hide the activity “Whole DoudouLinux”, do not worry, you will still able to start this activity and modify the Activities Menu again. To do this, type the name “tux” in the identification box on the bottom of the Activities Menu, then press *Return*. This will bring up the activity “Whole DoudouLinux”.



Type “tux” to enter the activity “Whole DoudouLinux”



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Using a USB key or a USB hard disk

October 2010 — last update 23 October



If you want to export/import data from/into DoudouLinux, you can use standard USB devices: a USB key, a USB disk or even camera cards such as SD, CF, XD cards, etc. This type of USB device is automatically detected and shows spontaneously in the system. You only need to deactivate them from the file manager when you want to unplug them.

Note: if you wish to preserve data that you modified during a DoudouLinux session, you should rather activate [data persistence](#) on an USB key. Backup of your work will then be automated.

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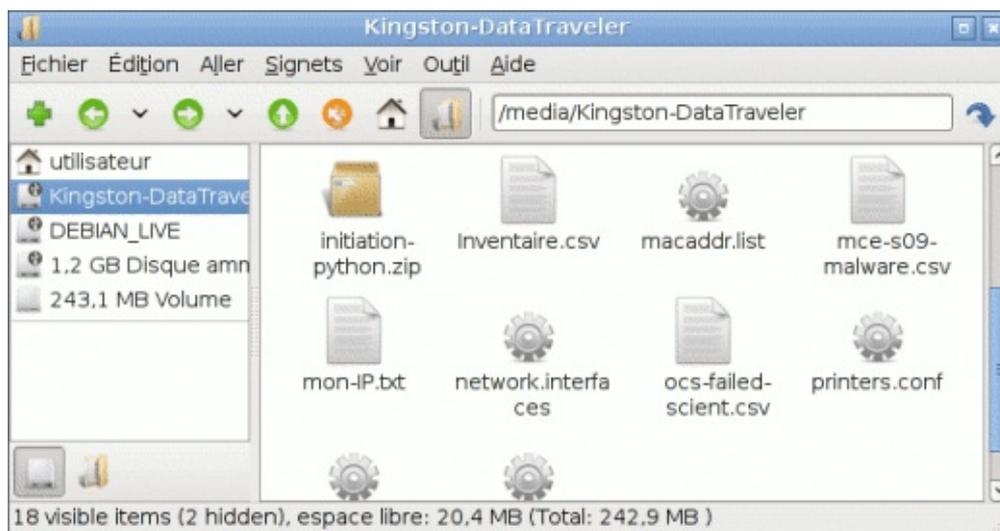
[Mounting removable devices](#)

[Opening the file manager](#)

[Unmounting removable devices](#)

Mounting removable devices

The technical term that means activating a new storage device in the system is “*mounting a device*”. Since DoudouLinux 2.0, the device can be immediately used because DoudouLinux is “*mounting*” it for you. This is why the file manager automatically shows up few seconds after having plugged the device. Its file and directory list is shown on the right side and the device can be browsed as usual:



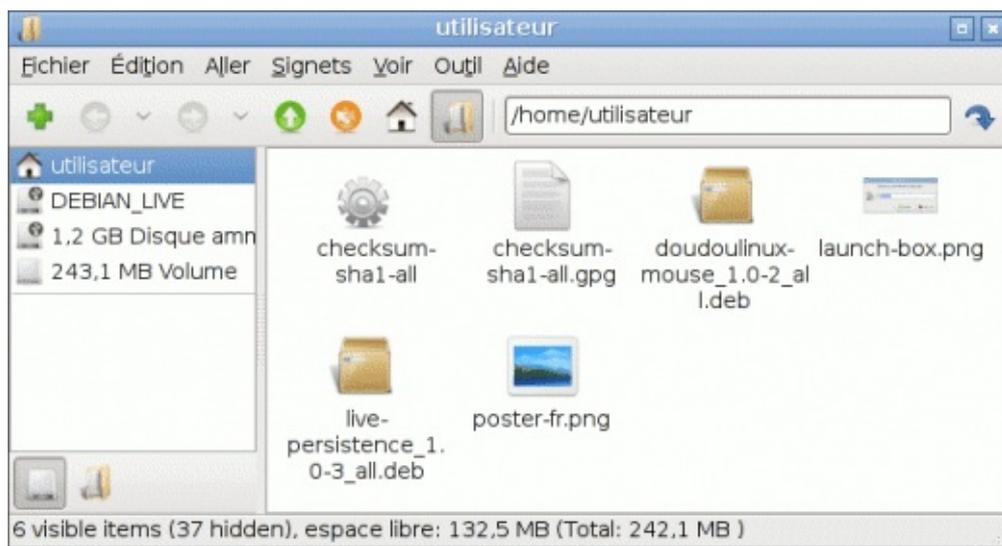
Note: the path to your device in the system is shown in the file manager toolbar

on the top, here it is `/media/Kingston-DataTraveler`. All removable devices have a path starting with `/media` followed by the device name whenever it is known [1]. Here it is simply an USB key of brand *Kingston*, model *DataTraveler*.

Opening the file manager

If you have inadvertently closed the file manager and cannot manage your USB device data anymore, you have to reopen the file manager. File manager is available in all the advanced activities; however, only the *Whole DoudouLinux* activity provides a launch icon, in the group *Accessories* of the tab *Work*, named *PCMan file manager*. Another possible way to launch it is to press simultaneously both keys: *Logo* and *E* [2]. This method is available in all the advanced activities.

File manager interface is split into two parts. The right one shows files in the current directory while the left one shows the list of available storage devices:

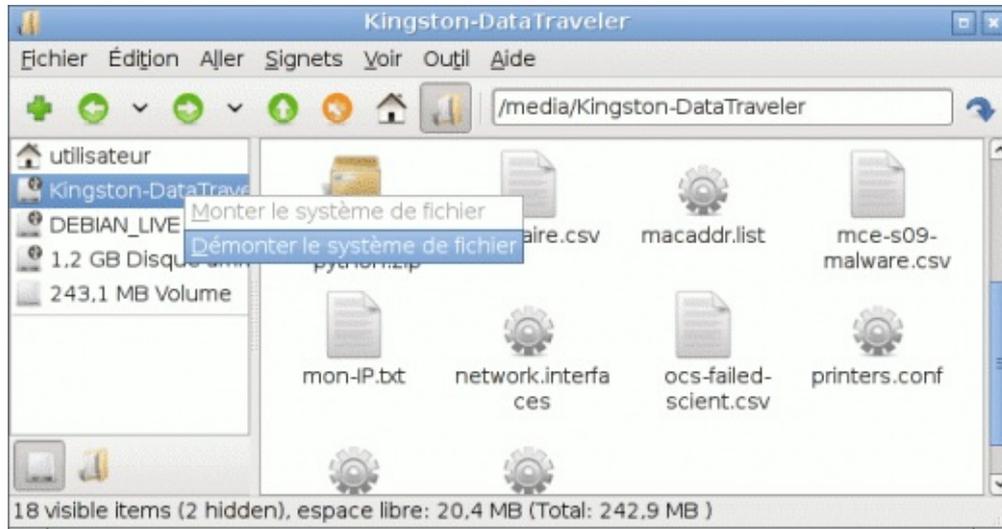


You should only see the removable devices in the storage device list since DoudouLinux tries to prevent easy access to the internal disks of the computer, for safety reasons. Of course this may be annoying if you need to access your own data on the computer, but remember that DoudouLinux is primarily designed for children ;).

Unmounting removable devices

You probably know that USB keys need to be deactivated in the system before

unplugging them from computer. This operation called *unmounting* guarantees that data that you may have copied or modified in your key have really been written. To “*unmount*” a storage device, you have to click on the device with the right mouse button in order to make the contextual menu appear:



Clicking on the “*unmount*” option will deactivate the device after the system has checked that data have actually been written. If the directory currently shown at this moment in the file manager is hosted on the device being unmounted, then the file manager will empty the file and directory list on the right since it is no longer accessible. This is a good way to know when the device is unmounted because **there is no information notification** to indicate it.

Footnotes

[1] Only Windows® systems show devices with a path starting with a letter and a colon (C:, D:, etc.) without mentioning the actual removable device name.

[2] The *Logo* key is the key on the lower left part of the keyboard between the *Ctrl* and *Alt* keys. Depending on the keyboard it can be the Windows® key, the *Apple* key or a key with a home.



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Using a printer

October 2010 — last update 23 October



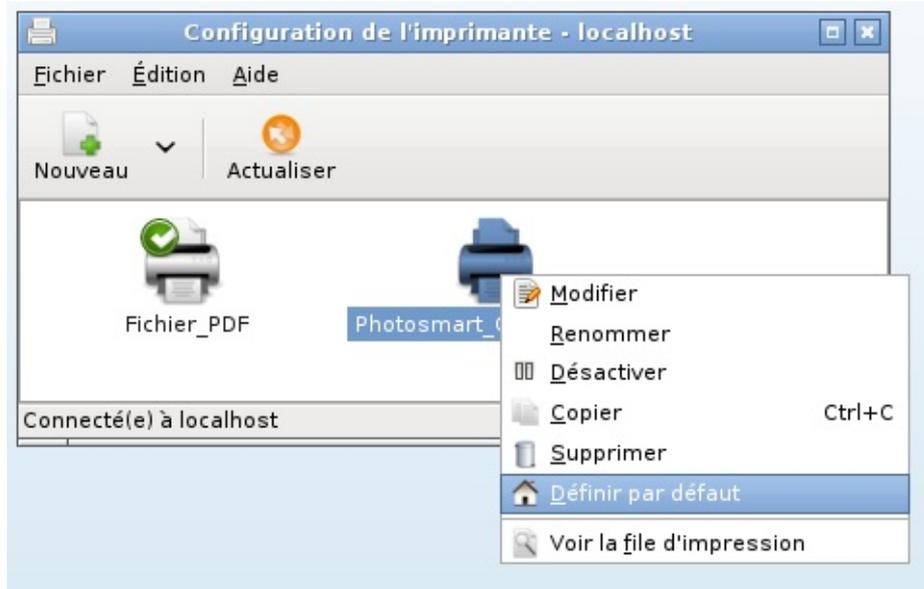
Printers can be used from within DoudouLinux without any complicated operation: DoudouLinux, as any other Linux, can detect and configure automatically more than a thousand printers [1]. You just have to plug the printer into the computer, switch it on and wait for the detection to take effect! Then you will have to declare it as the default printer instead of the printer natively provided, the PDF printer. This printer can create PDF files instead of printing on a real printer.

Installing a printer

So to install a printer with DoudouLinux you just need to plug it. To check if your printer is detected, you then have to start the activity “*Whole DoudouLinux*”. A “*Printer*” icon is in the “*Tune*” tab. It shows the printer configuration interface. When no printer is detected, this interface displays one printer only, the PDF printer (described below). When a printer is plugged, the interface, after several seconds of automatic system configuration, shows an additional printer:



Please note that the small green sign indicates that the default printer is still the PDF one. In order to print on your new printer, it is better to define it as the default one [2]. To do this you have to click on the right button on its icon then choose “*Define as default*” in the menu that is shown:



You can also first select the printer by a standard one click (left button) then choose the entry “*Define as default*” in the “*Edition*” menu on the top of the configuration tool. The green sign has now changed to the printer:



Nothing appears

If your printer does not appear after several tens of seconds, this most likely means that it is not detected. After having checked connections and condition of your printer, if this still does not work, the reason is probably that it does not work correctly with DoudouLinux. It is possible to [check this information](http://www.openprinting.org/printers/) in databases on the Internet but it is written in English only. If you do not feel comfortable with English, you have to know that its interface is quite simple: you choose the provider then the model, the printer sheet is then shown. If it is written « *works perfectly* », this means that your printer should perfectly work with Linux and thus DoudouLinux. In the opposite

case there are little alternatives because hardware providers do not generally provide drivers for Linux despite the huge potential of this system.

NB: for this reason some relatively old printers should automatically be managed by DoudouLinux while some very recent printers might not.

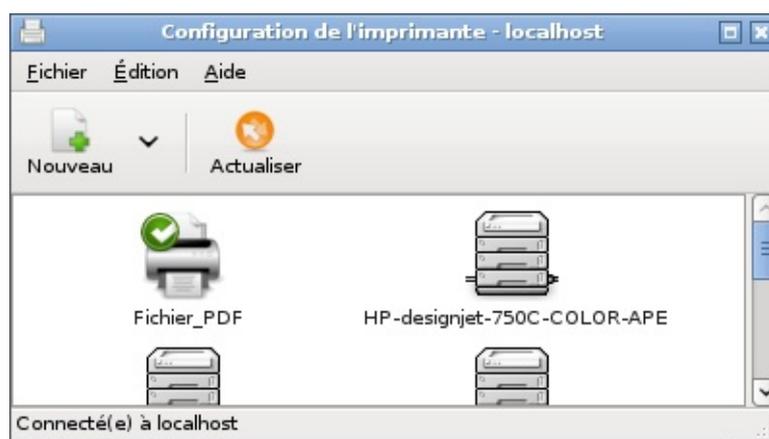
The PDF printer

Any application able to print can generate PDF files with the PDF printer. Instead of being printed, the document to be printed is saved into a PDF document in order to be easily read later on any other computer. This feature can be used for example to backup your children's work on an USB key, or even to send their art work to their grand parents by email. This printer is shipped with DoudouLinux so that you don't have to do anything to use it [3].

Generated PDF files are saved in the sub-directory named *PDF* in the user's directory. To access it, open the file manager in the "*Whole DoudouLinux*" mode. It can then be found in the tab *Work*, group *Utilities*, with the name *File manager*. Please note that the name of the created file is often not very explicit ...

Network printers

DoudouLinux can manage network printers too. If you are using printers directly connected to the network, they should automatically appear in the printer management interface as the following screenshot shows:



If this is a printer connected to a computer which shares the printer on the network, it may not be displayed automatically. In this case you will have to manually add the printer using the tool "*Add*" in the interface. Printers shared by

Windows® systems have to be registered using the tool “*Windows printer via samba*” in the interface to add a printer.

Footnotes

[1] In Linux printers are managed by [CUPS \[http://www.cups.org/\]](http://www.cups.org/) software, which is also used in recent Macintosh for this task.

[2] Because some applications do not let the user choose to not disturb children...

[3] Unless you have plugged in a real printer and then have defined it as the default printer.



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Language setting

21 June — last update 23 October



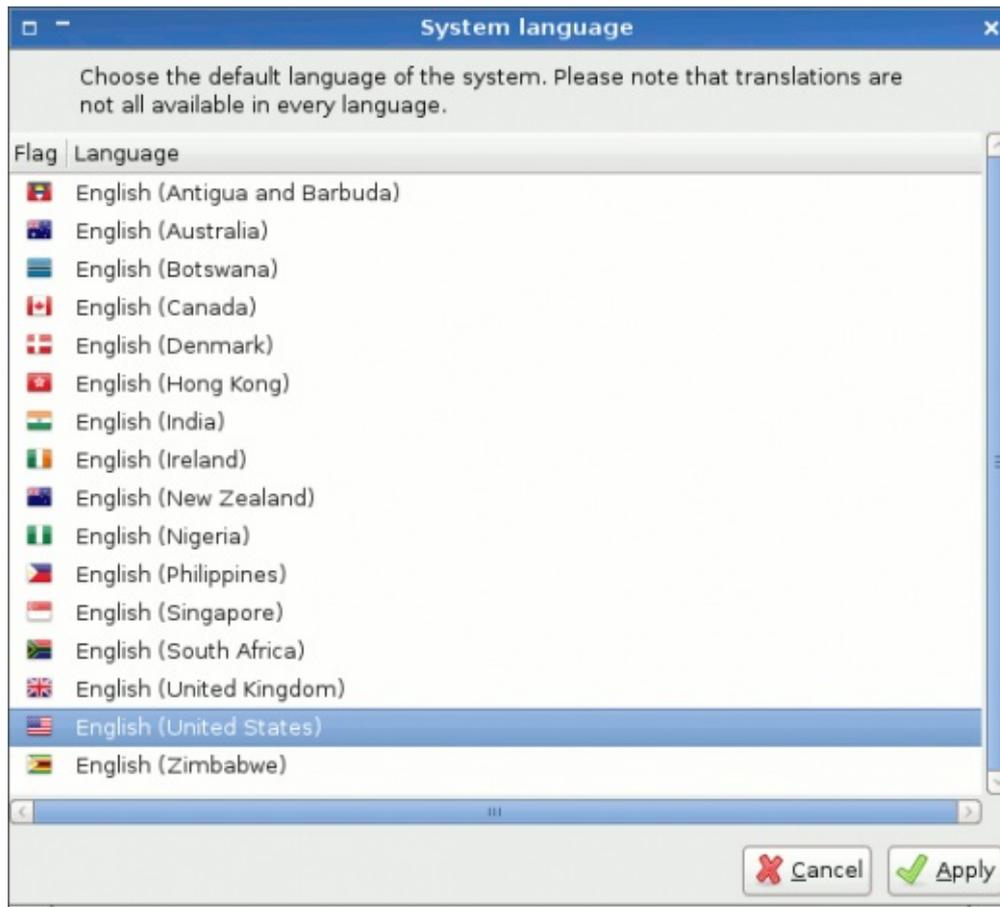
This is a new feature of DoudouLinux 2.0, the language can now be modified in a limited way:

The system language is not persistent when using the LiveCD. Only variants of the CD language are proposed because translations for other languages are all removed from the CD except American English (USA). The later remains true when DoudouLinux has been installed.

However, it is possible to permanently change the system language when using the LiveCD from an USB device and obviously when installing DoudouLinux onto disk.

System language

The system language is the default language used in each DoudouLinux activity. In the sub-category “*System*” of the tab “*Tune*” in the activity “*Whole DoudouLinux*”, the tool *Language* can be used to change the system default language. It shows the list of available languages and you select the desired one. As indicated above, only the variants of the CD language are proposed, as well as American English. Although more than 240 languages and their variants could be proposed, we have chosen to show only those for which translations are kept on the CD. Indeed, to reduce the size of the DoudouLinux CD, translations for other languages are all removed. Here is the language list on the English CD:



While the selected language actually becomes the system language when pressing the button “*Apply*”, activities are still all using the previous system language as a default until the system is rebooted. This is a known issue. If you cannot reboot, for example on a LiveCD, you have to manually change the language of the activities you want to use as explained below.

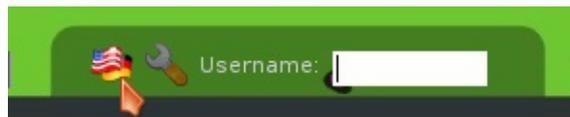
Note that if you really want to switch to a language that is not listed by the tool, you can launch the tool from the command line with an option that tells to not filter the languages:

```
$ sudo lang-config --all-locales
```

However, you should expect to get the original English messages instead of their translation into the selected language, since the translations for these language should have all been removed. There is currently no simple way to get these translations back because they are distributed among tens of software packages. As a result, if you are interested in seeing how DoudouLinux is translated into a language that we are not providing yet, you either have to ask us a CD for that language or need to install DoudouLinux from scratch, starting from a Debian system [\[1\]](#).

Testing a language

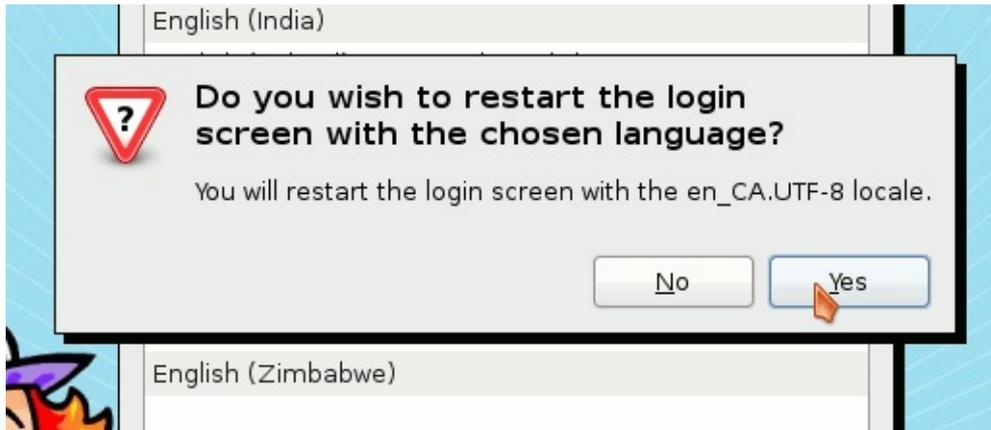
If you just want to test another language that is in the list of the language setting tool without changing the system-wide language, you can just change the language of an activity before starting it. This is also useful if you have changed the system language as explained above but cannot reboot the computer. To do so, click on the language icon at the bottom of the activity menu screen:



This will open a dialog showing the possible languages:

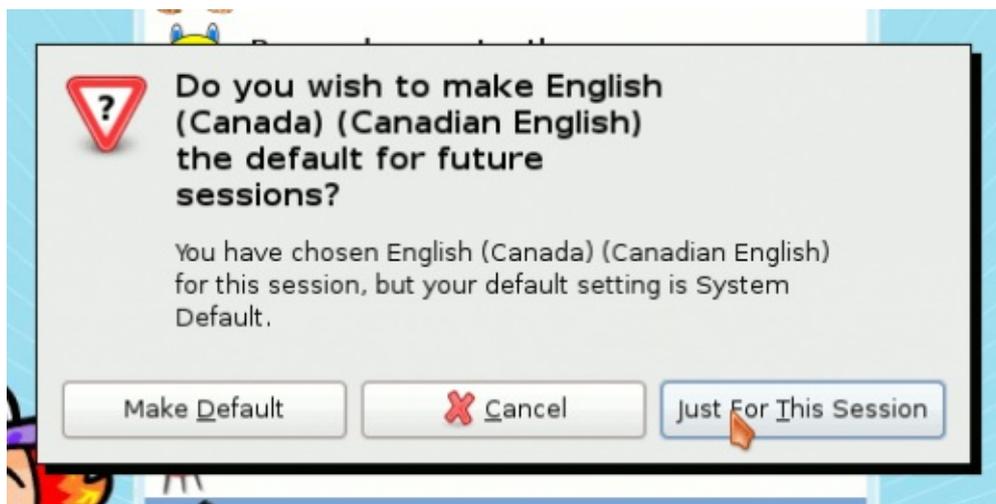


Once you have selected the language, clicking *ok* will show you another dialog asking whether you would like to reload the menu translations or not:



As long as you are switching to another variant of the same language, this should not change anything. Anyway the activity descriptions are not updated either when you accept reloading translations, only few minor messages are. This is then of little interest: you can answer *no* without any consequence.

Finally, you can now click the activity you want to start, the system will then ask you if you want to make this language the default language for future sessions (activities):



You probably want to say *Just for this session* since this is just for testing. If this setting is what you need, you will then have to change the system language as seen at the top of this page. Note that changing the language of an activity should be a persistent setting unlike the system language.

Footnotes

[1] See our blog post [Using Debian to install DoudouLinux](http://blog.doudoulinux.org/post/2012/02/28/Using-Debian-to-install-DoudouLinux) [<http://blog.doudoulinux.org/post/2012/02/28/Using-Debian-to-install-DoudouLinux>].



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Using networking

June 2011 — last update 3 November



DoudouLinux can handle both wired and wireless networks. As usual, it will ask as few questions as possible. If you are using a wired network, it will configure the network automatically, without asking anything. If you are trying to connect to a wireless network, it may ask you for a password to access the network and a key manager password to store the network password on the machine [1]. You should then be able to surf the web. That's all!

Notes:

Plugging-in a network cable is sufficient to make networking available. No password is required. If you do not want to let children access the Internet as they want, you have to hide network cables!

The most advanced activities have all the rights to connect to a wireless network using the network tool in the panel. If you do not want children to be able to connect to the Internet without your consent, please set a wireless network access password and do not record this password on the machine in the key manager. Only the most advanced activity "*Whole DoudouLinux*" can store network passwords due to a known issue [2]. Wireless networks are disconnected as soon as the activity is closed.

We recall that DoudouLinux is always accessing the Internet through an internal web filtering software, whatever the activity. Children can then be safely allowed on the Internet without much assistance. Please refer to the page [Parental controls](#) for more information.

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The network manager tool

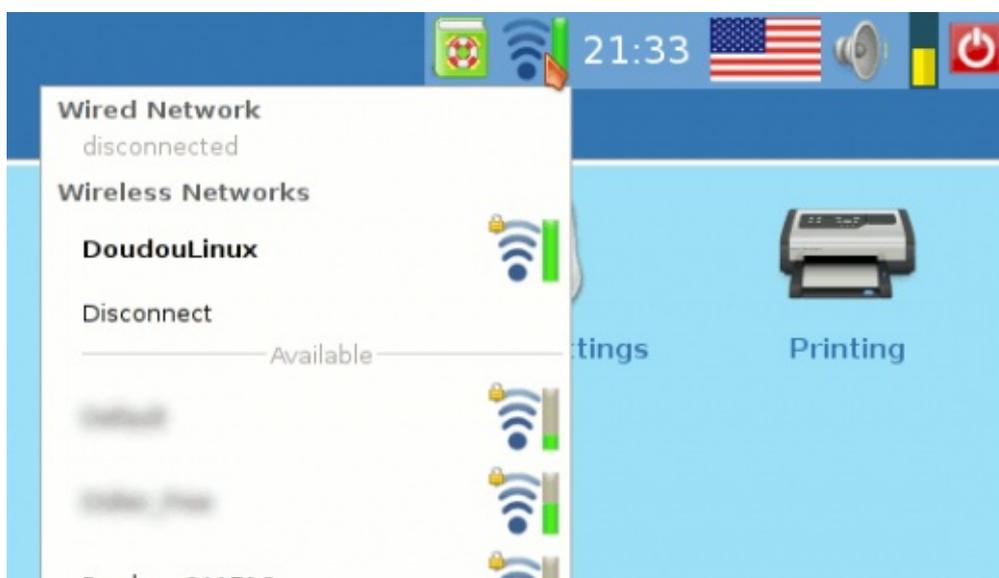
The network manager tool is displayed in the top right panel, between the help

icon and the clock. Its icon indicates the status of the network connection:

- not connected
- wired connection, local
- wired connection, Internet
- Wifi connection

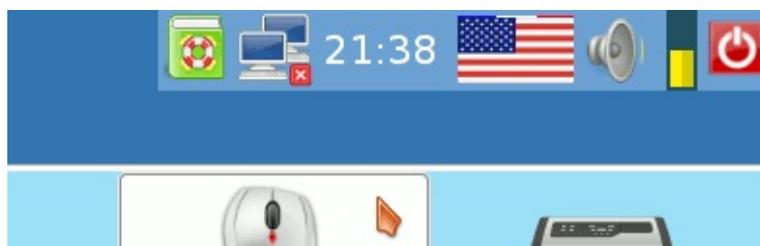
If you click with the left mouse button on the icon, the network manager will display a list of the available networks:

At the top of the list is the wired network, gray if not plugged-in. Next, the list of Wifi access points, if DoudouLinux can use your Wifi equipment.

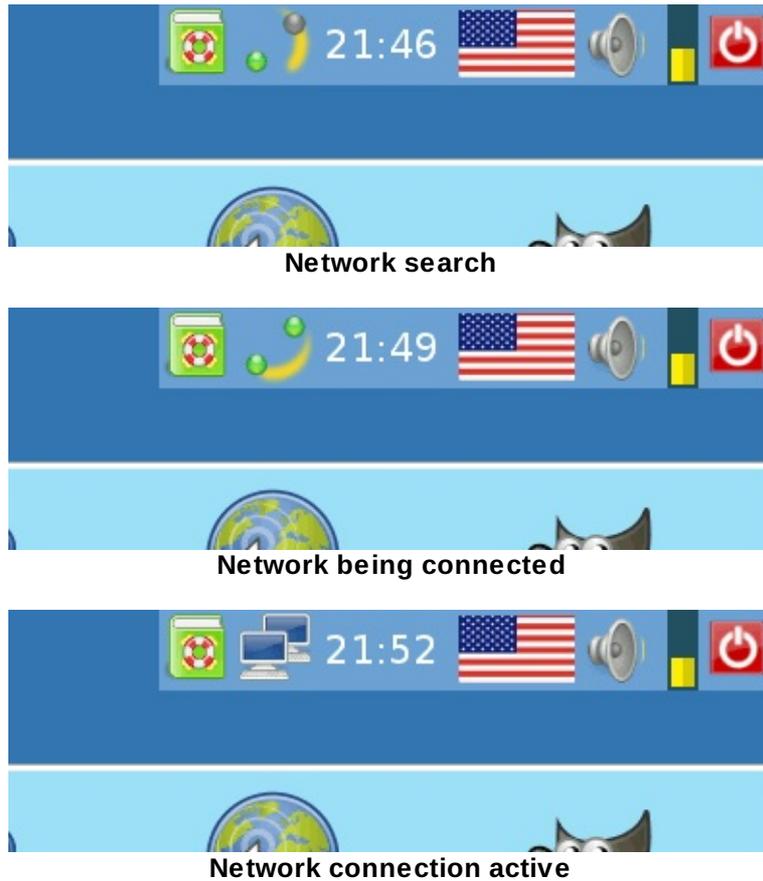


List of available networks

Once connected to a network – wired or not, you can change the connection point by simply clicking another network in the list. The network manager indicates the connection status in the panel:



Network not connected



Wired networks

Just plug-in the network cable and you will see two green lights blinking in the top right panel. When networking is ready, the lights disappear and the panel icon shows the network status. Depending on your network, you will be able or not to reach the Internet:

If your network is providing full automatic configuration, DoudouLinux will access both your local network and the Internet. This is the case of ADSL boxes and network routers.

If your network is only providing IP addresses automatically, DoudouLinux will access your local network but not the Internet. This is usually the case of professional local networks, also known as Intranet.

If your network is fully manually set, DoudouLinux will find a compliant configuration, which does not mean that you will access other devices of the network. All we can say is that several DoudouLinux computers will be able to discuss together, using the instant messaging software *Empathy* for example. If your network is just a wire between two computers, DoudouLinux will also find a compliant configuration. Two DoudouLinux computers are then able to communicate with each other.

Wireless networks

If DoudouLinux is handling your wireless equipment, you should see the list of available wireless networks in your neighborhood as shown above. If you have already recorded your wireless network password, the green lights are displayed in the top right panel as soon as you enter the most advanced activity *Whole DoudouLinux*. When the Wifi has been connected, the lights are transformed into a small green bar graph indicating the connection signal strength. Depending on the Wifi configuration, you may be asked to enter a password. Note that some public Wifi allow anonymous connections but then require to enter a password on a web portal: you will need to open the DoudouLinux web browser *Epiphany* to activate the Internet connection.



Wifi active, showing signal strength

The first time you are connecting to a given Wifi network with authenticated access, the network manager will ask you for the password. Detection of authentication mode is automatic (ie., mostly WEP or WPA [3]).



Entering the WEP/WPA key

The password can be recorded in the key manager for your convenience, otherwise you will need to re-enter it every time. Once the network password

has been entered, the key manager password is asked in case you want to record the network password. If you click the button *Discard*, the WEP/WPA key is not recorded in DoudouLinux. But each time you try to connect to a wireless network, the key manager will ask you what to do.

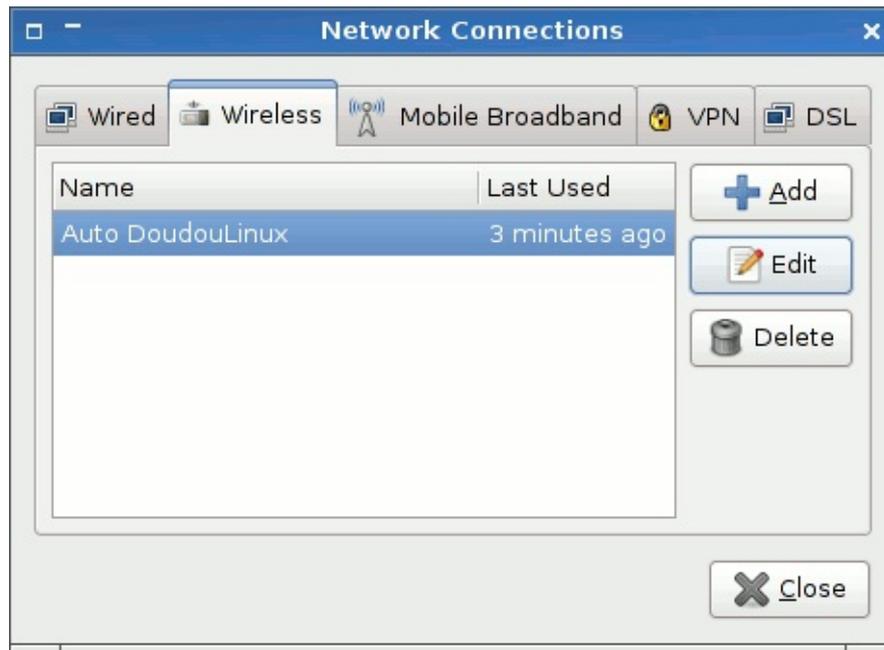
Important notice: due to a known issue with the key manager, **the key manager password cannot be easily changed and is preset to *live***, as in *LiveCD* but lowercase. If your language is not using a Latin alphabet, you have to change of keyboard layout by simultaneously pressing both keys left *Alt* and left *Shift*.



Entering the key manager password “live”

Supposing that you accepted the password manager to manage your WEP/WPA keys, each time you are trying to connect a previously registered Wifi, everything will happen automatically, without any question. And when you will try to reach a new Wifi, you will just have to enter the new password for this network.

Finally, you can manage your Wifi networks. To do this, click the right mouse button on the network icon in the top right panel, then chose “*Edit networks*”. An interface will raise and show the list of all the recorded networks:



Editing the registered Wifi connections

Getting your IP address

Computers are talking together over the network using IP addresses. This address is a unique number used to find a given computer on the network. You may need to know the exact IP address of a computer in order to make a client software find the corresponding server software over the network. Usually computers are given a name and you can use this name to reach the computer through the network. However this may fail in case of ad-hoc networks or if several computers have the same name (this is the case if you are running the Live version of DoudouLinux on several computers).

NB: if you just want to use the chat software Empathy, you do not need your IP address since Empathy is able to find other computers without the need of a server software.

To get the computer IP address, click with the right mouse button on the network icon in the top right panel. In the small menu that is shown, choose the entry "*Connection information*". An information window will be shown, displaying several network parameters among which the IP address:



Troubleshooting

I plugged the wire and nothing is happening

Please first check that lights are blinking on your network computer plug. If yes, your wired computer equipment is likely not handled by DoudouLinux. Either the driver is missing for your equipment, or the firmware, the small software that makes the Wifi equipment run. Firmware are not always available depending on the provider policy relative to Linux. This should not happen if your equipment is not so recent (≥ 2 years).

Wifi is not proposed in the list

This means that your Wifi equipment cannot be used by DoudouLinux. This is, sadly, not so rare with very recent hardware. Either the driver is missing for your equipment, or the firmware, the small software that makes the Wifi equipment run. Firmware are not always available depending on the provider policy relative to Linux.

Can I use a lowbandwidth RTC modem?

Linux is able to use a low bandwidth RTC modem to connect to the Internet but probably not with the network manager we installed. Unfortunately, we haven't made any test to use this kind of connection and cannot tell more about this.

He says I'm using a self-assigned address

This is happening when automatic wired network configuration failed. As indicated above, this will not prevent two DoudouLinux computers to communicate together, but you may not be able to reach other devices depending on their own network configurations. You will surely not be able to reach the Internet without manual configuring, which is a very technical operation and is not described in this documentation.

Footnotes

[1] This is useful if you want your children be able to connect to the wireless network by themselves without giving them the network password.

[2] Anyway, only this activity is offering network applications.

[3] Please note that WEP is highly deprecated since it is a very low protection against computer pirates.



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Creating a WiFi hotspot

29 October



DoudouLinux is able to easily setup an ad-hoc network, also called a [WiFi hotspot](#)

[\[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hotspot_%28Wi-Fi%29\]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hotspot_%28Wi-Fi%29). If you want children to be able to use networking features like chatting or network games but do not want to or cannot connect them to an existing network, this is a simple alternative. You just need to use one of your computers to create the WiFi hotspot then to connect the other computers to the newly created network. The process is explained in detail on this page.

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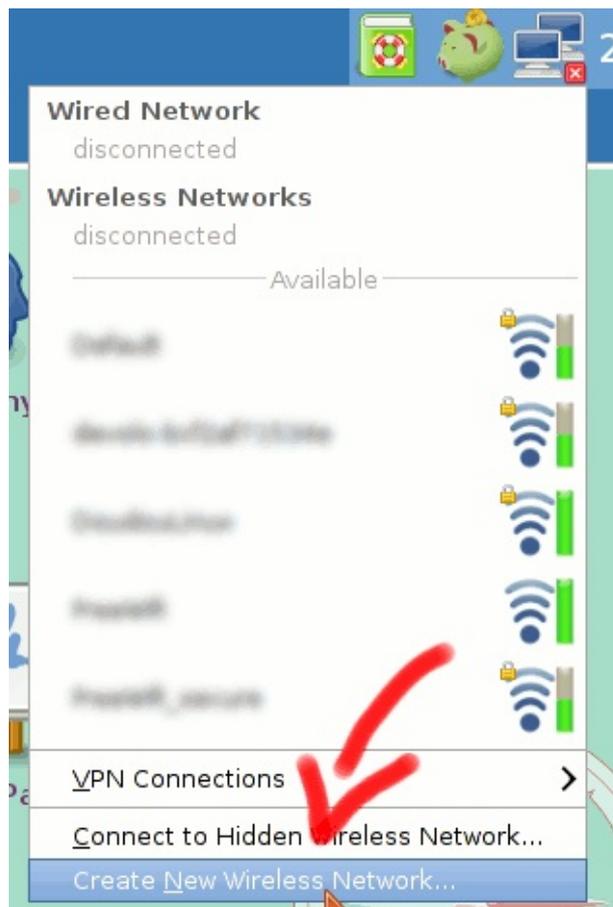
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[Connecting other DoudouLinux computers](#)

Creating an ad-hoc network

To create a WiFi hotspot, click on the network icon on the top right panel of advanced activities. A menu will be shown and on its very bottom, you will find an entry "*Create NewWireless Network...*":



Clicking on this entry will show a small dialog:



Enter a name for your network, here it is “*Doudou hotspot*”. You can choose to activate a passphrase to connect to your network, especially if you are in a public area, but this is not mandatory. In this example we created an open network without passphrase. It can be changed afterwards anyway.

When you are done, just click the button “*Create*”. You will then see the lights on the network icon that show it is running. When the network is active, clicking on

the network icon will show you that the current connection is a special connection: the antenna symbol on the left of the WiFi signal symbol indicates that this is an ad-hoc network (see the screenshot below).



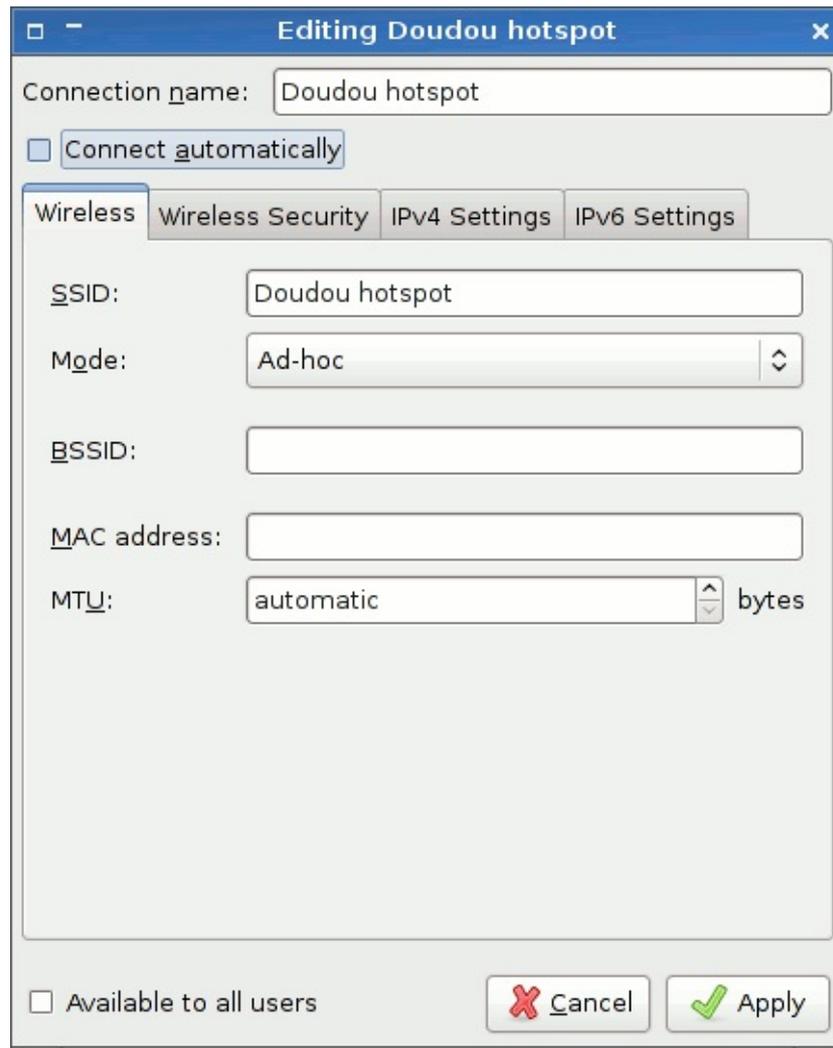
If you want to change some parameters of your network afterwards, you can use the network profile editor. You have to click with the right mouse button on the network icon of the panel. A small menu is shown in which you have to select “*Edit Connections...*”:



In the dialog window that is shown, choose the tab “*Wireless*” to find your ad-hoc network profile:



Select your network then choose *"Edit"*. Another dialog is shown in which you can change parameters of your connection, for example network access control for other computers (*"Wireless Security"*). You may also be interested in not activating automatic connection, to avoid that a WiFi hotspot is started as soon as no standard network connection is available (cable or wireless). In this case, uncheck the box *"Connect automatically"* on the top of the window.



Retrieving a previously created ad-hoc network

If you have already created a WiFi hotspot on your computer, no need to create another one every time you need it. Although this type of network is never listed in the list of the available wireless networks that you get when you click on the network icon of the panel, a previously created network can be retrieved using the entry "*Connect to Hidden Wireless Network...*" of this menu (see the first screenshot of this page). In the dialog that is shown (see below), just select the name of your ad-hoc network and click "*Connect*".



Connecting other DoudouLinux computers

Once the ad-hoc network is running, all the computers around should be able to connect to it. Note that this may take one or two minutes for the network management software to refresh its list of available networks, the new network may then not be available to other computers immediately after its activation.

The ad-hoc network is a bit different from any other wireless network. It is then shown in the list of available networks using the antenna symbol along with the wireless network symbol:



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Tips and tricks

August 2010 — last update 19 June



Few tiny tricks may make you feel more comfortable with DoudouLinux if you plan to use it regularly in its most advanced modes. Some of these tricks should compensate for the lack of many functionalities that are often delivered by main stream computing environments.

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Toggling windows to full screen

Applications are started with their window maximized whenever it is possible, in order to focus children attention on the application they have just started. This is not real full screen however since there are still the window borders. If you want to toggle to real full screen, you first need to switch the window to its normal size by double clicking on its bar on the window top or clicking the small squares at the top left of each window. Then, to toggle full screen, most of the time you just need to press the *F11* key at the top of your keyboard. Pressing this key again gets you back to normal displaying.

Hiding windows

There is no area for window icons so that they cannot be “*minimized*”, ie. you cannot make them disappear from screen. On the other hand they can be “*wound*” using the mouse wheel when its cursor is above the window title bar. You can also use the small button on the left of the window title bar [1]. When a window is wound, its title bar is visible only. It is possible to move the title bar without unwinding the window.

Toggling from one window to another

As for most environments, it is possible to change the active window by pressing simultaneously the keys *Alt* and *Tabulation*. If you keep the *Alt* key pressed and press several times on *Tabulation*, you will browse all the windows one by one. The window that is about to be activated is then surrounded with a thick black border. You just have to release the *Alt* key when the window of interest is selected. Note: if the window is wound, it will be automatically unwound.

Toggleing keyboard layout or alphabet with Alt+Shift

If your language uses a non-Latin alphabet, you may sometimes want to toggle from your alphabet to the Latin one [2]. If your keyboard is Qwerty and you are trying the French CD, you will need to switch from the default Azerty layout to the Qwerty one. To do this, you just have to press both left *Alt* and left *Shift* keys. Note: if this is still not your exact keyboard layout, you then need to use [the keyboard setting tool](#).

On all DoudouLinux CD's you can switch at least between Azerty, Qwerty and Qwertz layouts by pressing both left *Alt* and left *Shift* keys. The order depends on the CD default layout. For example on the French CD Azerty is the default because in France this is the official layout. Pressing *Alt+Shift* changes to Qwerty that is used in Belgium and in Quebec. Pressing *Alt+Shift* again leads to Qwertz that is used in Switzerland.

Concerning languages written with non Latin characters, the default is to use the alphabet of your language: it's easier for children! For example in the Russian DoudouLinux version, your keyboard will type Cyrillic characters. Pressing *Alt+Shift* will make you type Latin characters [3], with a Qwerty layout. Pressing *Alt+Shift* again will switch to another Latin layout, Azerty, then Qwertz. Finally a forth *Alt+Shift* will get you back to Cyrillic. Note that if your language is written from right to left (eg. Arabic), switching to Latin alphabet should make characters appear from left to right and vice-versa.

Keyboard shortcuts

Some key combinations can start applications. Often they use the key called *Logo*, which is at the left bottom of keyboard between *Ctrl* and *Alt*. Depending on keyboards, it may represent a Windows® logo, an apple or any other sign (a home for example).

Logo + E : launches the file manager

Logo + D : launches the dictionary

Logo + T : starts terminal [4]

Logo + W : launches the web browser

Note that the command launcher [5] that was available in DoudouLinux 1.0 to 1.2 is no more working due to an unresolved issue.

Using the Alt key with mouse

The *Alt* key at the left bottom of keyboard provides convenient functionalities when it is pressed while the mouse is being moved:

Alt + left button kept pressed anywhere in the application window lets you move the window without having to aim the title bar with the cursor

Alt + middle button kept pressed anywhere in the application window lets you resize the window without having to aim the window borders with the cursor (and they are quite thin and difficult to catch).

Window resizing is then performed in a direction that depends on the window area onto which you clicked. If you rather clicked at the right top, the window gets larger to the top and to the right. If you rather clicked at left bottom, the window gets larger to the bottom and to the left, etc.

Quitting a frozen application

If you can still access its title bar, quickly click several times on its cross at the bar right. The system should detect that the application is not responding any more and should propose to close it (unsaved data are lost). If it has no effect or if you cannot access the cross, try the key combination *Ctrl + Alt + Backspace* . This should close your activity immediately and take you back to the menu of activities. Finally if none of these worked, press the power button to trigger the standard shutdown process. If it still has no effect, keep this button pressed several seconds to switch the power off directly...

Quitting a frozen activity

The principle is the same as for frozen applications: first try *Ctrl + Alt + Backspace* then, if it does not do anything, the power button.

Footnotes

- [1] It may be on the right for languages that are written from right to left
- [2] For example if you have to type commands in the console or to enter website addresses.
- [3] Note that their position on keyboard do not match the corresponding Cyrillic ones.
- [4] Terminal let you enter system commands and is targeting advanced users.
- [5] The command launcher was able to start applications by their name. You just need to start entering their name in lower case then the launcher fills or proposes application names given what has already been typed. For example to start *Mahjongg*, you just need to type *mah* then the *Enter* key.



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Frequently asked questions

November 2010 — last update 27 November



On this page you will find a list of questions that users might ask themselves. Please do not hesitate to contribute and expand this list, for example, by [contacting us](#). Note: questions regarding the use of DoudouLinux are included, but not philosophical questions about the DoudouLinux project! For those types of questions, please refer to section [About](#).

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General questions

Can I copy DoudouLinux?

Yes. The license of DoudouLinux permits an infinite number of copies; moreover, unlike many editors or manufacturers, we encourage each of you to make as many copies as possible! In fact we believe that software should be part of the technical and scientific patrimony of humanity, just as any other intellectual creation. Please refer to section [About](#) of this site if you are interested in this topic.

Can I give, distribute or lend DoudouLinux?

Again, yes. Unlike licenses of many other computer softwares this is fully allowed, even encouraged, to give, distribute or lend DoudouLinux as you wish, without any limitation in regards to the manner of doing this [1]. However, you must preserve and keep visible the name DoudouLinux as indicated in our license agreement. This is a good way to help the project and advertise for it, of

course.

Can I modify DoudouLinux?

Again, yes. Unlike licenses of most computer software, you can also modify DoudouLinux in order to adapt it to your specific needs. In this case you have to make the DoudouLinux name apparent enough, as the origin of the project, but as stated in the DoudouLinux license you must also make clear that it is a modified version. On the other hand, we also ask you to not use the name DoudouLinux for any new, derived project, in order to avoid unnecessary and unwanted confusions. Finally, you must know that you are not allowed to change the DoudouLinux license, even if you modified it.

Why do you sell DoudouLinux, it is not free of charge?

DoudouLinux is a project that grows fast and requires always more resources, more contributors and more involvement. Selling media and goodies is a way for our project to solve this impossible equation: do always more with quite the same limited resources. If you like our project, if you feel concerned by its evolution and its future, but cannot get involved for any reason, please consider [donating \[http://donate.doudoulinux.org/\]](http://donate.doudoulinux.org/) or [buying our products \[http://buy.doudoulinux.org/\]](http://buy.doudoulinux.org/). This is another way to help our project. The money will be collected by our non-profit organization, the Association DoudouLinux, a French association "loi 1901".

So, yes, DoudouLinux can be freely downloaded and will always be, but you are also free to pay for it the amount you value our project. If you have no time and no money then just enjoy: DoudouLinux wants to be available for everyone without any discrimination. If you have time, then get involved. If you have some money, then you can donate or purchase our products. Shortly speaking: support us!

Is DoudouLinux a newLinux, a new« distribution », jargon speaking?

Not really. DoudouLinux is based as much as possible on [Debian Linux \[http://debian.org/\]](http://debian.org/) so that the project maintenance effort is considerably reduced. Therefore, DoudouLinux is not really a new distribution, but closer to another Debian Linux more suited to children. Some applications are developed specifically for DoudouLinux, but each application targeting children comes from Debian. This way we can concentrate our effort on adapting the interface to children's needs and capabilities, and on maintenance of the website.

Why choose and use Linux?

The answer to this question will be more fully developed in the *About* section. Briefly, the reasons are the following:

Linux natively comes with many applications, an important number of which are dedicated to children

Linux installs with a very large base of drivers developed for almost all hardware available in the marketplace

Linux requires less system resources than its competitors, OS X® and Windows®

well designed tools do exist in order to create Linux systems on CD or on USB sticks as is DoudouLinux

Linux is highly customizable

Linux is more fun :-p

and last but not least, the license allows users to use and duplicate Linux infinitely, while its competitors OS X® and Windows®, want just the opposite...

When will ... ?

We do not know! DoudouLinux is a young community project. Setting up a plan supposes that we can rely on stable resources, either financial or human; but, unfortunately, we still have neither of them!

Name of the project, for US speakers

If you think that the name of our project is weird for US speakers, please read our page [Known issues](#).

Contents of DoudouLinux

Why some translations are not completed or contain mistakes?

Depending on the language, it is true that some applications and the DoudouLinux interface may not be totally translated or may contain mistakes. Of course, you can inform us of any mistakes you find; but if you wish, you can download the [Translation files](#) or visit [our translation portal on TransiFex](#) [<http://www.transifex.net/projects/p/doudoulinux/>] as well and help us improve translations. As you may know, DoudouLinux is planned to be translated into more than 60 languages! And after 3 years of existence, there are already 40 language teams on TransiFex, we are on the good way :).

NB: as there are very few languages that reached a 100% translated status, we cannot wait for a language to be fully translated before proposing the CD for download. Our policy is then to propose a language as soon as someone has started to work on translations on TransiFex.

Howto get a new language?

If the languages available for download do not match your language, you can [contact us](#) to build and upload on our servers a version for your language. Please note that, although DoudouLinux can support more than 60 different languages, the version built at your request will be a “raw” version not fully translated. Thereafter, if the workload does not frighten you, you can help us [improve the translation](#) and send us new texts by email for example. If you are motivated, you can translate our key web pages too, especially the user documentation.

Howcan DoudouLinux be contained in such a small DVD or USB?

There are two main explanations for DoudouLinux to contain a full system (including drivers for hardware) and almost eighty applications on a small 1.1 GB DVD. On the one hand, DoudouLinux is built upon a Linux system, not a Mac OS X® system nor a Windows® system. Nowadays, Linux runs on 95% of the world's supercomputers and on the majority of ADSL boxes used by Internet Service Providers. Truly, Linux is a very powerful and efficient system that does not need the latest hardware available on the market to run. On the other hand, DoudouLinux uses a technology to compress data onto the CDROM (or onto a USB stick). Without this, DoudouLinux would need from 2.5 to 2.8 GB of disk space. However, this is still much lower than the 20 GB required by some systems which themselves pretend to be at top of technological innovation...

Why DoudouLinux is not fitting a single CD anymore?

Compared to DoudouLinux 1.0 to 1.2, we have added new applications and some of the applications that were already in previous releases have significantly grown in size. Unfortunately we have not found the time to work on reducing the DVD size, it is then not fitting a single CD anymore (it fills approximately 1.1 GB instead of 700 MB for a single CD). In the future, we are planning to provide a single multilingual DVD that will be even larger, while CD's for one language would be available with a reduced set of applications in order to fit a single CD. This work will only be possible once we have provided a tool to easily change the default language of the DVD after having downloaded it.

Howhave DoudouLinux applications been chosen?

Nearly all of the applications included are from the Debian Linux program repositories, and have been chosen for their accessibility, their ease of use, the low space required on disk and, of course, for their educational or entertaining value. Generally, you will not find some of the more commonly installed

applications because they are often overloaded with functionalities and waste disk space. This is also a good way to help them discover another manner to do computing and then to open their minds.

Why is there no office suite?

Why should there be one? Is it really an indispensable tool for children who will not be asked to write reports nor to make tables of figures? The truth is office suites are often not very useful at home for parents. Moreover, these tools require a lot of disk space just for a tool that would see little use... So, we preferred ignoring office suites all the more since we see in professional life that these tools are often used incorrectly because people try to make these tools fit all their needs. To us it seems then, even more judicious to show them other programs and habits. These tools are available in many other Linux distributions.

Why is there so few modern music in DoudouLinux (pop, rock, etc.)?

Because of worldwide restrictive laws about copyright and authorship. To distribute a piece of music, you need to comply with its licensing terms as owned by its authors: composers, singers, musicians. Any composition can be freely interpreted 50 years after the composer's death, 75 or 90 years in some countries like France or USA. Any recording can be freely distributed following the same rules. For this reason, it is not possible to distribute DoudouLinux with songs that were played on the radio. We would need a special agreement from composers, singers and musicians, who generally give their rights to records companies!

Why is there no Flash player?

There are several reasons why no Flash player is embedded into DoudouLinux:

Flash players are greedy in computer resources

they are greedy in disk space

they often crash

Adobe's player cannot be distributed without signing a commercial agreement (we would have to pay them :(), the free version does not handle the full Adobe format

Flash contents cannot be analyzed by the parental controls

there are known ways to spy on the user activity on its own computer using Flash tricks

Flash contents is specific to web while we have built DoudouLinux to make children use the computer, not services on the Internet!

Prerequisites

What is the minimum configuration required?

Please read the paragraph [Recommended configuration](#) from the [Download](#) page.

Which version of Windows® is required for DoudouLinux to run?

It is totally indifferent: DoudouLinux does not use the system installed on your computer at all. You may have Windows®, BSD, FreeDOS, or anything else installed, it does not matter and it does not change anything, so long as you use a CD, DVD or USB.

Which version of Mac OS X® is required for DoudouLinux to run?

As said before concerning Windows®, this is totally indifferent, except that DoudouLinux does not run on Macintosh systems from before 2006. Consequently, it will run on systems shipped with OS X versions from that time or later.

Is it possible to remove the CD or the USB stick while running DoudouLinux?

In no way you should do this while DoudouLinux is running!

DoudouLinux data are stored on the CD or USB key and these data are loaded whenever needed according to the user's actions. If you remove the CD or USB key while running, you will most likely cause a "crash", soon! However, your computer will be not damaged nor the CD, but eventually the USB key might be. On the contrary, just before computer shutdown, DoudouLinux will ask you to remove the medium because it is not needed anymore.

Can DoudouLinux run on older processors like Pentium® I?

Yes it can. While our official CD set is targeting newer processors (Pentium® II or newer, or equivalent), we can also build CD's on demand for older processors. The resulting ISO images have an additional 486 in their name and can be downloaded from our [dailybuild section](#) [<http://download.doudoulinux.org/dailybuild/>].

Can DoudouLinux run on ARM™ processors?

Again yes. Since DoudouLinux 2.0, an ARM™ port is available from our [dailybuild section](#) [<http://download.doudoulinux.org/dailybuild/>]. ARM™ disk images are build for [Genesi Efika MX](#) [<http://www.genesi-tech.com/products/smartbook/>] and [Raspberry Pi](#)

[\[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Raspberry_Pi\]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Raspberry_Pi) especially, you have to adapt them to your hardware if needed. Note that we are still using the slow port *armel* because DoudouLinux 2.0 is based on Debian Squeeze. Performances on ARM™ hardware are then not yet impressive, under the oldest low-end netbook computers that appeared years ago. You need to wait our move to Debian Wheezy to be able to test the faster port *armhf* with improved performances.

Daily use

Can DoudouLinux be abruptly stopped?

The answer is yes. If you press briefly the computer power button, the standard shutdown process will be started. If you press longer the same button, or if you experience a breakdown in the main power supply and there are no battery (laptops) or no UPS, your computer and your DoudouLinux system will not be damaged! At most will you loose data created in this activity, even if you have activated the [data persistence](#).

Howto preserve data?

As DoudouLinux does not record modified data, there is no risk to damage your computer or its data. But unfortunately you lose your work too at computer shutdown... You have three solutions to backup your work:

you can manually save your work onto USB memory devices (please read the page about [using an USB key or an USB hard disk](#))

you can activate [data persistence](#) to make the system automatically save any modified data onto an external device

you can [install DoudouLinux definitively](#) on the computer, alone or along with another computer system

Howcan I minimize (or hide) an application window?

There is no area to host application icons (window list or task bar). If you have opened more than one application, you can do one of the following:

press simultaneously the keys *Alt + Tab* to browse running applications

use the mouse wheel while the mouse pointer is above the window title in order to “*shade*” the window, which then collapses

use the small button on the left of the window title bar to “*shade*” the window

Where can I find the generated PDF files?

If you print a file using the PDF printer, the PDF file will be saved in the folder simply named *PDF*. It can be found in your home (personal) folder. Please note

that we are talking about the folders hosted in DoudouLinux, not the folders hosted in the system installed on your computer... You can access PDF files using the file manager. We invite you to read the page about USB key or USB hard disk use in order to get information on finding and moving PDF files onto an USB key for example.

Howto read or export drawings from other activities?

Since release 2011-02 it is possible to access the Tuxpaint drawings of other activities from any activity featuring a file manager. Please refer to article [Using a USB key or a USB hard disk](#) to learn how to open the file manager and save files to an USB key. Once the file manager is showing, just go to the directory "Pictures". You will find sub-directories that contain the Tuxpaint drawings from other activities. These sub-directories are created when entering an activity and only if Tuxpaint has ever been launched in another activity. For example when you enter "Whole DoudouLinux", DoudouLinux scans other activities and creates a sub-directory in "Whole DoudouLinux" only if it finds a Tuxpaint directory in these activities.

Why using OGG video files?

When you export movies from Stopmotion, we have chosen to force the video file format to OGG. This format has open specifications that allow anyone to use it for any purpose. This is rather exceptional concerning video file formats since most of them are covered by patents or copyright and then restricted to the use with fee payment, which we cannot do. Not all countries tolerate this kind of limitations but we must comply with the strictest ones. For this reason, OGG seems to us the best choice.

To play your OGG files outside DoudouLinux, you can install one of the many [video players that can read OGG files](#) [<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Theora#Playback>]. If you want to share your OGG video files with people without asking them to install such player, you can similarly find a video converter that can read OGG files. Note nevertheless that finding a video file format that plays well on every computer without additional software is kind of impossible mission. Due to competition between computer system editors, system designers manage to avoid including video file formats that other systems can easily read!

Security

Are parental controls available for Internet browsing?

Yes, since version 2010-11 we provide true web content filtering, see the page [Parental controls](#). It has shown good results for English, French and Russian but it is known as alpha version for Galician, Greek, Romanian, Serbian and Ukrainian. We also plan to add controls for restricting hours of use, this is not related to Internet browsing of course!

As for instant messaging?

The instant messaging software provided, Empathy, is installed with just a local communication protocol. It is not able to join other users on the Internet. The objective is to teach children messaging communication tools on a local network, without the need to open accounts and above all while perfectly knowing to whom they are talking! For this you just need to connect at least two DoudouLinux with a network cable, via a networking box (*hub* or *switch*) or via a wireless network.

Why safe websites can be blocked?

Content filtering is a difficult problem that would ideally require computers to understand the content of pages, which is not the case yet. As a result, no content blocking is perfect and you have the choice between using less restrictive settings to let safe sites be all displayed (but let some non-safe ones be too), or use more restrictive settings that may occasionally block safe sites. We chose the second alternative.

Are you sure to block all the non-safe sites?

No, we cannot be sure. People telling you that their filtering system is perfect are just lying, see above. As a result there may be some non-safe sites that are shown, especially if they mainly contain images, videos or animations and very few text. However, we believe our filtering system is enough for children that won't search for non-safe websites intentionally.

Why web pages are not displayed like they are on my computer?

There may be parts of web pages that are removed by DoudouLinux. This is not due to censorship nor content filtering but most likely to the tools that we added to [preserve user privacy](#). These tools mainly remove advertisement from web pages and block user tracking codes that many pages are trying to run behind your back. The web we are proposing to children should then be much more quiet than what you get on your own computer if you have never installed such tools.

Is it possible to access local disks?

No, at least, this is not child's play. Internal disks are not displayed in the file manager since version Gondwana 1.2 of July 2012. They are "mounted" read-only at boot, which means that even if someone would be able to find the path to the internal disks, he wouldn't be able to change or delete anything. Moreover, if your computer runs Mac OS X®, access to internal disks is not possible at all because the necessary tools are not installed in DoudouLinux. Please note that we do not recommend using local data because one of the main purpose of DoudouLinux is to let the computer and its data remain untouched –just for you to keep relaxed and worry free!

DoudouLinux installation

Can I install definitively DoudouLinux onto my computer?

Yes, please read the page named [Install DoudouLinux definitively](#).

Why is the installation tool so difficult to find in DoudouLinux ?

The main reason is one of the objective of DoudouLinux: avoid damaging your computer data by mistake. This is why the installation tool in DoudouLinux is not easily accessible. This tool does not show in menus and cannot be accessed using the mouse only.

Can I install DoudouLinux definitively using the CDROM only?

Yes, since version 2.0 DoudouLinux is able to get installed using the live media only. Once you have started DoudouLinux using the CD or an USB media, you can launch the installer that will not ask you the location of the DoudouLinux media.

Can I install additional applications in DoudouLinux ?

Yes, DoudouLinux is just a special version of Debian Linux, so you can install any software package from among the nearly 25 000 packages available for this system! But to achieve this, the first time you will need to perform some manual and technical operations that are explained on the page [Installing DoudouLinux definitively](#). If you really want to do this, you must have a working ADSL Internet connection [2]. Moreover, if you did not activate the **system** data persistence nor performed a real installation of DoudouLinux, your installation will be lost at computer shutdown. Please note that if you set this type of persistence, you will loose one of the DoudouLinux strengths: the impossibility to record altered data in the case of a system failure (due to hardware issue, due to a mistaken command or very unlikely due to a malware computer

program [3]).

Can I update softwares in an installed DoudouLinux ?

Yes. This is described on the page [Installing DoudouLinux definitively](#).

Howto upgrade from a previous version of DoudouLinux?

The upgrade process is not officially supported yet. Managing the upgrade process would require that we spend much time in writing and testing update scripts. We currently have no task force to achieve this. As a result the recommended way for upgrading is to backup user data and reinstall the new version. Note however that, if you are using a real installation of DoudouLinux, you may want to perform a standard Debian package upgrade from within an administrative account, but this may sounds a bit complicated to many people and this is not described in this documentation.

Other questions

Why Google is not the default search engine?

We have replaced Google with DuckDuckGo because Google search results are mixing results and advertisement too closely and because Google is using the history of your queries to build a detailed profile of who they believe you are. This profile is then used to impose targeted ads on you in many websites or to filter search results in a way that users cannot control. We believe people should instead expect to get objective results from search engines. We also believe advertisement should not have a place in our computers because they are **ours** and not theirs, and because we do not want our children to be influenced by third parties without our explicit consent. Please read our page [Preserving user privacy](#) to learn more about these issues.

Is it true that DoudouLinux signed an agreement with DuckDuckGo?

Yes, we have signed an agreement with DuckDuckGo to make it the default search engine in the DoudouLinux web browser. We have accepted this agreement because DuckDuckGo is one of the rare search engines to respect enough user privacy while we were looking for a replacement for Google because of this issue. The agreement we signed is planning revenues to our project according to the monthly visits coming from DoudouLinux. However, as we have set DuckDuckGo with ads and affiliates removed and told them we would do, we will get an amount very close to zero!

Can I read persistent data from within another system?

Yes in principle, but depending on your system this job can be very simple or nearly impossible... Saved data are indeed stored in a file that represents a hard disk image. This partition is created using a file system natively used by Linux, named *ext2*. To be able to read this partition, your system has to know how to mount a file as a storage device and, on the other hand, it has to know how to read the Linux file system. Obviously, neither Windows® or Mac OS X® natively knows how to read this file system. Finally concerning partition mounting, we do not know the answer for your system neither! [4]

Where are the LiveUSB image files?

Since version 2.0, there is only one image file for DoudouLinux per language: the CDROM ISO file. To make a live USB media, you have to turn your USB media into a bootable device and configure it to start the ISO file that you have copied onto the USB device. DoudouLinux is shipping a dedicated tool to easily achieve this. Please read the page [Creating a DoudouLinux USB key](#) to learn more.

How can I easily build an USB key without installing additional software?

If you do not know what to install, you still have one alternative: use the DoudouLinux CDROM in order to create an USB key. You must restart your computer with the DoudouLinux CDROM, then connect the USB key that you want to be written and start the USB key build tool. Since DoudouLinux 2.0, you do not need to provide the ISO file anymore, the tool shipped within DoudouLinux is able to use the running CD to make the USB key. This operation is described on the page [Creating a DoudouLinux USB key](#).

Where is the source code?

DoudouLinux is a free software project, which means anyone must be able to get the source code of DoudouLinux. However, as we are a Linux distribution and not just a piece of software, there are several places in which you may find the source code you are looking for:

If you are curious about how DoudouLinux is made, or if you want to get the code of the DoudouLinux specific applications and tools, visit [our source code repository \[http://svn.gna.org/viewcvs/doudoulinux/\]](#) on Gna.

If you are looking for the source code of packages that we have modified to fit our needs, visit [our package repository \[http://debian.doudoulinux.org/pool/main/\]](#), it contains Debian source packages for each of our custom packages.

If you are looking for the source code of other packages, you have to use the

[Debian package search tool \[http://www.debian.org/distrib/packages\]](http://www.debian.org/distrib/packages) since our distribution tries to use unmodified Debian packages whenever possible.

Footnotes

[1] DoudouLinux is not associated to a specific user or a specific computer that is running this software, unlike pre-installed software provided with most of machines.

[2] DoudouLinux cannot easily manage networks that are not similar to ADSL boxes.

[3] The probability to download a malware computer program in Linux is incredibly lower than in Windows®, but you have to consider this risk.

[4] Of course, Linux knows to do it in standard configuration...



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Known issues

March 2011 — last update 27 November



The most frequent issues you may encounter with DoudouLinux are listed on this page. This does not at all mean that they happen often –DoudouLinux is generally working well– but rather that they are the most well-known! Please note that you can use our tool to [report a hardware issue](#) if your problem is networking, display or sound.

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System issues

DoudouLinux is not starting...

A very large majority of computers can start a system on CD spontaneously; however, depending on the way yours is set up, it may happen that you cannot launch DoudouLinux. The reasons may be the following.

You were not quick enough at inserting the CD and the installed computer system started instead. You should only need to restart the computer while leaving the CD inside the CD drive [1].

If the computer system is starting again, even after rebooting, then it is likely that your computer is not spontaneously starting on the CD, either because the CDROM does not have priority over the hard disk, or because booting from a CD is not activated.

If you are using a version on a USB key, please note that starting a system on a USB key is less supported on older computers (prior to 2005 approximately). This feature is also often more difficult to activate when it is not done by default on your computer. This version, then, targets people who are sufficiently at ease with their computer!

For the second case, we can give the following helpful clues:

The device start order can often be modified by pressing specific keyboard keys just after the computer power-up (usually one of the keys F9 to F12 or Supr, Ins, Esc), you then need to choose the CD drive from the list of devices shown.

On Macintosh you may need to keep the key "C" pressed as soon as the computer is powered up and until DoudouLinux is starting.

It is possible to tell the computer to always boot the CDROM first, this can be set up in the [BIOS?], please read your computer manual to do this.

If your computer really cannot start a CDROM, it is possible to do this using a special floppy disk, but we do not have such disk available yet...

Black screen after booting

You've heard the boot music but you end with a black screen and kind of console prompt? This means that the video driver has not been correctly detected or does not correctly handle your hardware. Please refer to the section [Manual tuning](#) of the page [Screen settings](#) to find information to solve your issue. If you find a more recent version of DoudouLinux that works (for example the development version), you can [send us a hardware issue report](#) to let us diagnose your problem.

The boot music is truncated

Usually this is due to the fact that sound data are not loaded quickly enough during the computer boot. Most likely this will happen on old equipment running DoudouLinux from CD. Try to install DoudouLinux on it!

Bootling is looping on messages « Buffer I/O error »

This kind of message means that the system cannot read the DVD. Depending on the DVD area on which these messages are happening, the system can be blocked or can succeed in starting though; however, the DVD is not being correctly read and going on this way is not recommended. The reasons can be the following:

- the DVD burner did not correctly burn (try to clean it)
- the DVD is of poor quality (try another DVD)
- the burning software did not burn the DVD correctly (try another software)
- the DVD drive cannot correctly read the DVD burnt

Unfortunately, we cannot offer you much more help, than to try again. You may also need to set the slowest burning speed to prevent as much as possible reading errors to occur.

System is crashing unexpectedly

This is usually due to a DVD media that cannot be perfectly read. The system starts, is running a bit, then for an unpredictable reason, it crashes when opening an application, which requires disk data transfer. Read the previous issue that is similar.

Hardware issues

The screen resolution is not correct

If you believe that the resolution of your screen is not the expected one, try to press *Ctrl + Alt + Backspace* [2]. This will restart the DoudouLinux video system and will lead you back to the menu of activities. It may also happen that DoudouLinux is not correctly detecting the screen or the video card at the first attempt. If nothing has improved and your computer is recent, your video chip is probably not correctly detected. It may also happen that your screen is not correctly detected; however, there is no simple method to improve resolution in this case.

Network or Wifi is not functioning

DoudouLinux is tuned to automatically configure networking using the first network card found. Therefore there are several possible explanations in case of no network connection:

Your network is not supplying automatic setup, this should normally not be the case at home with ADSL boxes.

You have several network cards. Unfortunately the order the cards are detected

cannot be predicted and this order may change from one boot to another. Your networking hardware is not correctly handled by DoudouLinux, which may be the case of recent hardware.

If you are in the later case, you will have to wait for a newer release of DoudouLinux that would ship fresher drivers for networking hardware.

Sound is not functioning

Similarly to network cards, DoudouLinux is tuned to automatically setup sound using the first audio card found. In case sound is not functioning, there are three possible explanations:

Your sound card has not been correctly detected. In this case only very technical operations could give more information.

Your card needs non-standard options (frequent on laptops) and, again, only technical operations can fix the issue...

You have several sound cards. Unfortunately the order the cards are detected at each boot cannot be predicted. Please use the tool to select the sound output and try to have sound. If you do not want to repeat this operation after each boot, you need to activate [data persistence](#).

In any case, please, **first try to change sound volumes and the sound output** before complaining about sound not working!

My webcam is not functioning

DoudouLinux native support for webcams is good but not perfect! Most webcams should work as soon as plugged without any action, but a few of them, generally the most recent ones, may not function. You may, in this case, have to wait for a newer release of DoudouLinux that would ship fresher drivers for webcams.

My computer is recent and everything is not working, what to do?

When released, Linux is natively shipped with almost all of the existing hardware drivers for Linux [3]. The older the release date, the more likely that recent hardware may not be perfectly handled. The problem is that hardware providers often do not provide Linux drivers on their website (and adding an external driver is generally a technical operation anyway). This why we rather recommend to wait for a newer version of DoudouLinux instead...

Software issues

The top right panel has moved

Sometimes, when an application running full screen is closed, the top right panel has changed of place to adapt to the full screen resolution. It should go back to its normal place after few seconds.

A full screen application modified the screen resolution

It may happen that an application started full screen does not set the screen back to its previous settings after closing it. To go back to the standard settings, you have two solutions:

the quick and dirty method is to simultaneously press the keys *Ctrl + Alt + Backspace* to go back to the menu of activities

a more standard way consists in using the tool to set the screen resolution called *lxrandr*

For the second method, if you are in the activity "Whole DoudouLinux", you need to click on the tab "Tune" then on "System". If you are not in this activity or cannot see this tab, press the keys *Alt + F2* to show the command launcher. You can then type *lxrandr* in the text area then *Enter* to start *lxrandr*.

Foobillard and Super TuxKart do not function

Both these applications require 3D graphics functionalities, which in turn requires a 3D graphics card. As of writing, DoudouLinux is only able to activate these functionalities for 3D graphics chipset from the brands Intel and ATI [4]. If you have an nVidia card, it will not be natively handled for 3D but for 2D only graphics; however, installing 3D specific drivers makes it possible to have these cards run 3D graphics. Some technical operations are nonetheless required if you want to have your 3D driver back at each DoudouLinux start. These operations have unfortunately neither been written nor tested.

I cannot get a MOV, MPG or AVI movie with Stopmotion

Stopmotion currently only handles the free and open video standard OGG in DoudouLinux. This is not a limitation of *Stopmotion* but a design choice of DoudouLinux. There are several reasons which lead us make this choice:

most of video formats have patent restrictions that may require us to pay for shipping them in some countries

adding video formats to DoudouLinux would increase the CD size of about 10 MB

children cannot know which video format to choose!

there is no common video format that is natively available on both Apple and

Microsoft platforms, choice is then difficult to make for you [5]

As a result *Stopmotion* in DoudouLinux is always using a file extension *ogv* (OGG video), even if you put a *mov* or *mpg*. If you want to convert this file into another format, please install the required conversion software on another computer or on an installed DoudouLinux. You can have a look at *VLC*, *Mplayer* or *Ffmpeg*.

Stop button does not work in Songwrite

There is a known issue with the stop button in Songwrite: it doesn't stop the music anymore. You can try to use the space bar or the menu entry "stop" instead. Pressing the play button after the stop button may also stop the music!

Some applications are not working

Since DoudouLinux 2.0, this may not be due to video system detection or limitations anymore [6]. Most likely, this should rather be due to your computer RAM memory size: if it is too small, some applications can crash because they require more memory than what is available. Because the LiveCD does not use the available disks to write its own data [7], the system is not able to get additional memory space using *swap*. If you are in this case, you probably have interest of installing DoudouLinux definitively since our installer activates *swap*.

Miscellaneous

The key manager is asking me a password

When you have entered your wireless network key, the key manager asks you the a password to store the network key on the machine. This password **cannot be changed** due to an unresolved issue. It is set to *live* as in LiveCD, but all lowercase. This password is simple enough to be used by children if you decide to give them autonomy to connect to the Internet. Note however that if your language is using a non-Latin alphabet, you first need to switch to a Latin alphabet using both left *Alt* and left *Shift* keys.

The name of the project, for US speakers

Please consider that this is not really an issue :). Concerning the name, yes we are already aware of a possible confusion in the USA. However please note that not only the orthography is not identical, but the pronunciation too for Americans. Of course you could try to pronounce it like the French or the Chinese word but, for sure, if you tell your kid to go *doodoo* Linux on the computer, you may have really bad surprises as a result! ;) You may know that having a short word, easy

to pronounce that sounds good in every language on the earth is really a huge task if not impossible...

The installer is asking me a password

First of all, this should not happen if you are using the official DVD or an USB key made using our official USB write tool. We have never encountered this issue using our own tools so we believe this can only happen when using an USB key made with third-party tools. If you are facing this issue, which is the installer is asking you a password and you cannot find any working password, we have no solution to offer. This may be due to incorrect boot options, that the third-party tool would have written onto the key. You should retry using the tools that are shipping within DoudouLinux.

Footnotes

[1] If your computer is starting too quickly and you wish to frequently use DoudouLinux, please note that it is usually possible to slow down the startup by activating a test in the machine [BIOS?].

[2] The large key with an arrow going to the left

[3] Insofar as providers are providing a driver directly to the Linux project, which is not the case of nVidia, for example.

[4] This is not due to commercial agreements(!) but due to the fact that Intel and ATI are actively taking part in the Linux development, unlike nVidia. Things may change in the coming years though.

[5] If you are using Linux, almost all the existing video formats are available :).

[6] Some applications like *Pysycache* and *Childsplay* crash if the resolution is smaller that 800×600. For this reason DoudouLinux can now use a feature called *screen panning* to use a resolution 800×600 in a smaller screen. Note however that some applications do not crash but cannot be entirely displayed with a resolution 800×600 either.

[7] Except for persistence when it has been activated.



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Reporting a hardware issue

February 2011 — last update June 2011



If you cannot make the network or sound function, if your screen is not correctly set, then you can use the DoudouLinux tool to report a hardware issue. This tool generates a compressed text file containing a lot of information about your hardware configuration. We can then use this information to diagnose your problem remotely. Of course, we cannot guarantee success, but this is better than starting from zero!

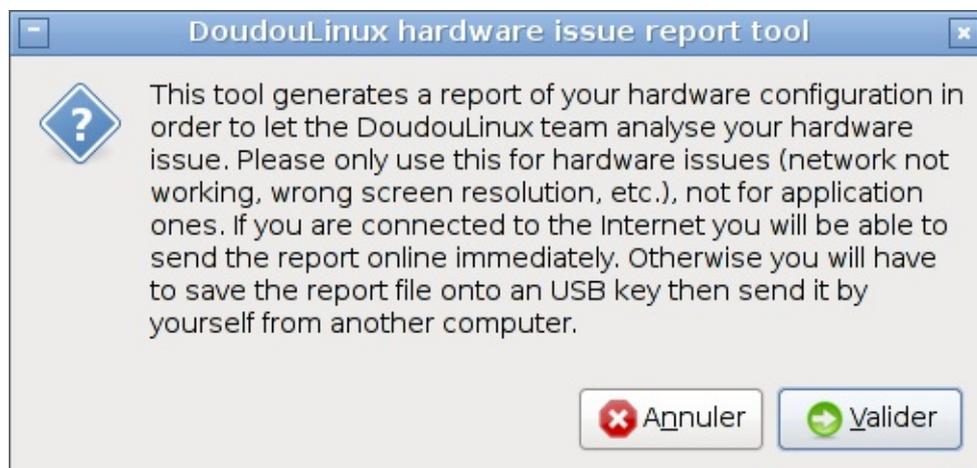
Notes:

Please read the documentation pages corresponding to your problem before contacting us!

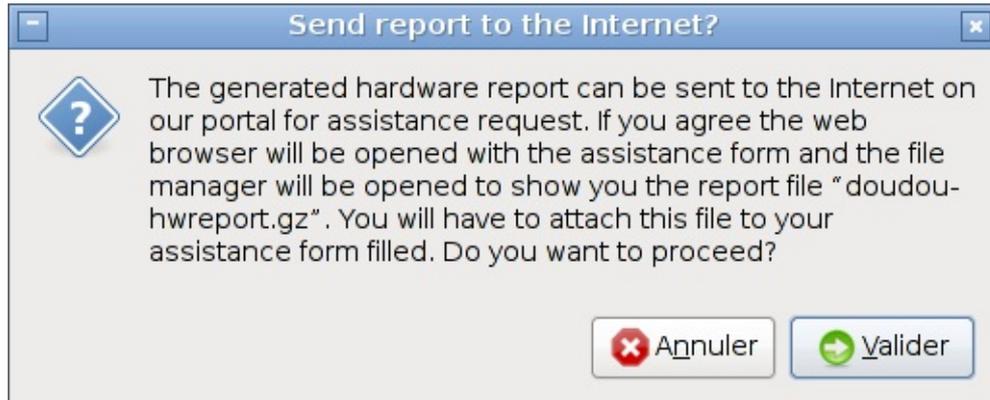
We cannot offer much help if your problem is related to printers. There are printers that are not correctly handled by DoudouLinux and we cannot tell you which ones. We do not have much experience with printers on Linux either...

The hardware issue tool

The tool to send a Hardware Issue report is located in the group “System” of the tab “Tune” from the activity “Whole DoudouLinux”. This is a very simple application which generates a report then proposes to send it to our [support request portal \[http://team.doudoulinux.org/projects/doudoulinux-cd/issues/new?issue%5Btracker_id%5D=3\]](http://team.doudoulinux.org/projects/doudoulinux-cd/issues/new?issue%5Btracker_id%5D=3) if you are connected to the Internet. If you are not connected, you will have to plug a removable storage device (eg. a USB key), copy the report file then send it via email from another computer. The report file name is “doudou-hwreport.gz” and should be in the home directory.



Launching the hardware issue report tool



The hardware issue tool is able to reach the Internet

Please note that the tool is currently not able to send the report automatically. You need to [fill the form \[http://team.doudoulinux.org/projects/doudoulinux-cd/issues/new?issue%5Btracker_id%5D=3\]](http://team.doudoulinux.org/projects/doudoulinux-cd/issues/new?issue%5Btracker_id%5D=3) and **attach the report file** before sending the form. This is why the tool will open the file manager and the web navigator in order to show you where the report file is and what form is to be filled. If the web navigator window is hiding the file manager one, you can toggle windows by pressing the *Tab* key while the *Alt* key is being pressed.

Of course, if the Internet is not available, the tool will end without showing the web navigator but file manager will still be shown in order to let you copy the report file.



Send the report by yourself if the Internet is unreachable...



Release notes

August 2010 — last update 27 November



You will find on this page a list of the main modifications achieved between the different DoudouLinux versions. If you need more information on all changes, particularly those that cannot be seen because of, or concerning DoudouLinux build tools, you may consider visiting [the DoudouLinux project \[http://team.doudoulinux.org/\]](http://team.doudoulinux.org/). You may be particularly interested in the [global view of our activities \[http://team.doudoulinux.org/projects/doudoulinux-cd/issues/gantt\]](http://team.doudoulinux.org/projects/doudoulinux-cd/issues/gantt) (Gantt chart).

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Official releases

DoudouLinux Hyperborea update 1

Published in early December 2013, this is the release 2.1. Here is the list of changes:

- official support for Punjabi
- translations have been updated
- embedded PDF documentation has been updated
- new application to monitor the computer use
- new application to show links to our website and support our project (manifest, contribute,donate, buy)
- addition of links in the web browser homepage to support our project (contribute,donate, buy)
- administration rights have been fixed in the Live system as well as the installed one
- support for ad-hoc WiFi networks, aka hotspots
- the latest printer drivers from openprinting.org are now included to support the

- newest printers
- the application launcher notification is now able to show the icon of the application being launched
- fixed Pysycache showing squares instead of Chinese characters
- fixed Childsplay menu not customized per activity anymore
- fixed missing flags in keyboard layout indicator
- fixed missing zip packages to open/create Zip archives
- fixed missing Gvfs packages to handle audio CDROM's
- fixed Chinese input software

The complete list of changes can be found in our [roadmap for Hyperborea 2.1](http://team.doudoulinux.org/projects/doudoulinux-cd/versions/18) [<http://team.doudoulinux.org/projects/doudoulinux-cd/versions/18>].

DoudouLinux Hyperborea

Published in early June 2013, the release 2.0 — DoudouLinux Hyperborea, is a major evolution of DoudouLinux Gondwana, and is now based on Debian Squeeze. The interface of the more advanced activities has been deeply redesigned. We also have included new tools to aid administrators to make DoudouLinux better fit their needs: language variants, keyboard layout, adjust date and time, etc. Moreover, DoudouLinux is now shipping with a completely new installer, that is able to make a real installation onto a hard disk, as long as you have at least 4 GB of disk space, while at the same time fine tuning the localization parameters.

In short, the most visible, principal changes are the following:

- more than 30 new applications for a total around 80 applications
- official support for 43 languages (instead of 28 previously)
- new tools for system localization and fine tuning
- the most advanced activities have been deeply redesigned
- improved look & feel, nearly independent of screen resolution
- double (or more) launches of applications are now inhibited
- a notification box is now displayed while an application is being launched
- most applications are launched with their window maximized
- the default homepage of Epiphany, the web browser, now shows a portal to access websites with a philosophy similar to those of the project DoudouLinux (Wikipedia, Open Clipart Library, OpenStreetMap, etc.)
- improved user privacy on the web
- DuckDuckGo is now the default search engine
- ads and popup windows are blocked by default
- user tracking code is blocked
- internal hard disks are **all**, now mounted read-only at boot, which really prevents

children from writing on them, and even from reading them using the file explorer *PCManfm*

new playlists for music and video online using contents from archive.org [<http://archive.org/>] (browse directories in *Whole DoudouLinux*)

automatic management of hot-plugging for MIDI piano keyboards, external audio output devices, external monitor/screens, removable disks (the file manager is shown)

autologin can be activated by selecting only one activity in the activities menu
a real installer, that does not need an additional media anymore, the running live system is sufficient

an installed DoudouLinux can now synchronize its clock with Internet time servers (NTP)

USB disk images are abandoned since we have added a patch that allows a DoudouLinux ISO file to be launched from a USB key. :)

The complete list of changes can be found in our [roadmap for Hyperborea 2.0](http://team.doudoulinux.org/projects/doudoulinux-cd/versions/15) [<http://team.doudoulinux.org/projects/doudoulinux-cd/versions/15>].

DoudouLinux Gondwana update 2

Published in early July 2012, it is also known as the release 1.2. This was the last release based on Debian Lenny, the release after are not based on Debian Lenny anymore. Here is the list of changes:

official support for Finnish, Galician, Norwegian (Nynorsk)

the size of launcher icons in advanced activities is now computed using screen resolution (see [LxLauncher: automatic icon size for a nicer interface](http://blog.doudoulinux.org/post/2012/01/15/LxLauncher%3A-automatic-icon-size-for-a-nicer-interface) [<http://blog.doudoulinux.org/post/2012/01/15/LxLauncher%3A-automatic-icon-size-for-a-nicer-interface>])

internal disks partitions of the computer are now mounted read-only at boot, to avoid children curiosity and... mistakes!

translations have been updated

embedded PDF documentation has been updated

The complete list of changes can be found in our [roadmap for Gondwana update 2](http://team.doudoulinux.org/projects/doudoulinux-cd/versions/9) [<http://team.doudoulinux.org/projects/doudoulinux-cd/versions/9>].

DoudouLinux Gondwana update 1

Published in late September 2011, it is also known as the release 1.1. Here is the list of changes:

official support for Czech, Danish, German, Hungarian, Latvian, Malay, Norwegian (Bokmål), Portuguese (Brazil), Portuguese (Portugal) and Telugu

new small tool to change the user's name on the local network
Songwrite is now in its latest version to solve language issues
translation issues with Stopmotion and Vkeybd (the piano keyboard) have been solved
missing translation messages on Transifex have been provided for several applications
translation of boot and shutdown texts in splash images have also been solved
a basic video driver is forced on recent *Poulsbo* hardware to avoid a black screen
annoying print dialogs for all the advanced activities have been discarded
embedded PDF documentation has been updated
fixed Russian PDF documentation
added the Russian version of the song *Brother John*.

The complete list of changes can be found in our [roadmap for Gondwana update 1](http://team.doudoulinux.org/projects/doudoulinux-cd/versions/7) [<http://team.doudoulinux.org/projects/doudoulinux-cd/versions/7>].

DoudouLinux Gondwana

Published by the beginning of June 2011, it is also known as the release 2011-05. Here is the list of changes:

official support for Greek and Persian
new application, Songwrite, a simple application to write and play songs
new application, Stopmotion, another simple application to make animation movies from series of photos
new launcher, Jukebox, to play the music now shipping with DoudouLinux
included several MIDI files to play music, accompanied with their Songwrite and PDF scores (Classical music and French children's songs right now)
graphical **and** musical boot and shutdown
first audio messages (for low battery and to remove the CD at shutdown)
redesigned the menu of activities, which now handles languages written from right to left
better hardware support (network, wifi, webcams, tablets, touchscreens)
replaced the network manager tool to easily handle Wifi authentication
audio output selection is now a system wide setting
added a shortcut Alt+F5 to restart the panel when it is not correctly drawn
added adblock and popup blocking to the web browser Epiphany
fixed minor issues with DansGuardian

The complete list of changes can be found in our [roadmap for version 2011-05](http://team.doudoulinux.org/projects/doudoulinux-cd/versions/1) [<http://team.doudoulinux.org/projects/doudoulinux-cd/versions/1>].

Version being developed

Current release

The current release is the second official stable release named *DoudouLinux Hyperborea* – see above. No work has started yet for the next release in development. However we can already tell that it will be based on Debian Wheezy instead of Debian Squeeze, which will probably imply small changes in the DoudouLinux application set. On the other hand, we are not considering introducing major changes to the interface because we want to publish the successor of Hyperborea in a quite near future. This way we will provide better hardware support and high-performance DoudouLinux ARM™ ports.

Previous releases

Version 2011-08 (out in late August 2011!)

this is the very first version build on top of Debian Squeeze instead of Debian Lenny

only supported for English, French, Russian and Spanish

refer to the special section [Development version](#) to know more about this release

Version 2011-02 (out in late February 2011!)

official support for Chinese, Dutch, Italian, Polish and Swedish

new CD's in the *incubator* section: Indonesian and Greek

new tool to set the activities available from the main screen (see [The menu of activities](#))

two new activities for schools, that are not shown by default, use the tool to set the menu of activities!

a special activity is available to set the sound volume when no advanced activity is available, not shown by default either

switched Gamine to its latest version thanks to his author Gnunux, this solves the translation issue of this application (see <https://gna.org/bugs/?16895>

[\[https://gna.org/bugs/?16895\]](https://gna.org/bugs/?16895)) and brings new features (screenshots and keyboard character output)

KDE applications are being translated

the virtual piano is now translatable

files from other activities are now accessible from any activity, especially the

directory “Pictures” now contains the TuxPaint draws of all activities

users can now always switch keyboard layout to Azerty, Qwerty or Qwertz using Shift+Alt

DoudouLinux is now able to use a previous video configuration when hardware is identical

video driver is now forced to “intel” or “nv” (nVidia) when it make sense!

minor fixes and improvements...

Version 2010-11 (out in late November 2010, hum...)

official support for Romanian, Russian, Serbian and Ukrainian

many applications have been better translated

new CD's in the *incubator* section: Dutch, Italian, Polish, Turkish...

added web filtering for parental controls with [DansGuardian](#)

[\[http://dansguardian.org/\]](http://dansguardian.org/), this is alpha version for Arabic, Romanian, Serbian and Ukrainian

graphical interface improvement for the mouse setting tool and the sound output setting tool

replaced window menu button with a *windowshade* button

suppressed boot hanging on DHCP messages when network cable is not plugged

fixed boot crash when a Linux system is installed on an *ext4* partition

fixed bugs in tools *liveusb-write* and *doudou-installer*

under the hood: project is now registered on the [online translation platform](#)

[TransiFex \[http://www.transifex.net/projects/p/doudoulinux/\]](http://www.transifex.net/projects/p/doudoulinux/), many translation

files have been ported to PO files to ease the translation process and translation

files have been separated from source code

translation for a new language can now start as soon as you have an account on TransiFex

Version 2010-08 (out in late august 2010!)

added a tool to install DoudouLinux

added documentation in PDF format

added German, Portuguese, Romanian and Russian versions in *the incubator*

added a download page for [language file packs](#)

USB Live: no more waiting for pressing the Enter key before computer shutdown

Arabic version: keyboard now defaults to Arabic alphabet, Alt+Shift toggles to Latin, and panel is now left aligned in mini/all DoudouLinux activities

Version 2010-05 (out in late may 2010 !)

first version released to launch the project



Preserving user privacy

11 June — last update 23 October



DoudouLinux believes user privacy is essential to aspire to freedom, reduce discrimination and to keep doing what seems best for you, but not necessarily for some companies or groups of people with different motivations. Because we love our children, we do not want them to be controlled in any way by people who would know too much about them and would then be tempted to influence their desires and thoughts for their own self-interest. DoudouLinux is designed by parents who have understood that it is better to keep our children away from third-parties influence and we are convinced that you will agree with this important concern. With the generalized invasion of technology in our lives, the truth is that today many third-parties can gain this influence to serve their own interests, instead of enriching our children thanks to the incredible potential of information technology.

That said, as DoudouLinux can reach the Internet, selecting the best software for DoudouLinux, meticulously taking care of contents is not enough because we do not control what children will get from the Internet. Internet is a kind of fully opened door for people that you do not know and cannot know: you can get the best as you can get the worst. We then have to provide tools to prevent children getting undesirable things from the Internet. This is why DoudouLinux is shipped with built-in [Parental controls](#). Indeed since version 2.0, DoudouLinux does more than just filtering web pages based on their content, DoudouLinux also does its best to preserve user privacy on the Internet. Because we do not want third-parties to know who our children are, what they like, what they are doing, what they read, what they watch, etc., then adapt the content they show our children on the Internet to take advantage of them.

Unfortunately, nowadays, even if you do not have any account on any website, online privacy is not guaranteed [1]. Using a search engine like Google, Yahoo, Bing, Yandex or Baidu is just starting to give them information about you – because they know what you are interested in. Moreover many websites are including in their pages tracking code also called *bugs* that allow the website or its affiliates to know everything you are doing on their site. They can even know where you are clicking on the page. If the affiliate is a very large company like Google or Facebook, they can nearly follow you everywhere on the web because most of large audience sites are using their services [2]. So, imagine if your phone, your TV, your car, your fridge, etc., are also tracked by these companies... This is going to occur in a very near future!

What DoudouLinux does for user privacy

So to us, user privacy is worth much more than advertisement because people are worth much more than companies. Of course our children are worth even more in the eyes of their parents. This is why we have included tools to preserve user privacy as much as we can. First of all, we have changed the default search engine for the web browser Epiphany and selected [DuckDuckGo](http://www.duckduckgo.com/) [<http://www.duckduckgo.com/>] as a replacement for Google, which was the default search engine of Epiphany. We have also activated in DoudouLinux three kinds of tools to keep children as far as possible from third-party influence:

A popup blocker prevents the automatic appearance of advertisement windows. It works by detecting that a window is being opened by the page instead of the user.

An advertisement blocker (*AdBlock*) removes ads in web pages. It works using blacklists of well-known advertisement sources.

A tracking code blocker disables code in web pages that is sending information to third-parties about what the user is currently doing or has recently done. It also works using blacklists of well-known tracking code providers.

The two first tools, by removing useless information and entertainment, should also help children better focus on what they initially wanted to read or see. One of the issues with Internet for children is that they can easily spend hours because every page is giving the desire to visit another page, endlessly; just like the cartoon TV channels.

So now let's see the details.

Why DuckDuckGo

DuckDuckGo is not a well known search engine yet, but it has [a better policy](https://duckduckgo.com/about) [<https://duckduckgo.com/about>] than the most popular search engines:

They do not record the history of what people are searching for.

They do not send that to third-parties either.

They allow the user to refuse advertisement in search results, what we have activated in DoudouLinux [3].

They do not customize search results people by people, which is also known as [the filtering bubble](http://dontbubble.us/) [<http://dontbubble.us/>] [4].

We believe advertisement is not what people should expect from a search engine, this is why we were looking for a search engine in which ads can be removed and whose search results are not influenced by secret commercial

contracts. We want the most relevant information, not the offer from the companies that can pay more than their competitors. We also believe the most relevant information does not depend on who the people requesting are. For these reasons, we do not want either a search engine that collects information about people then resells it in any form to any organization without our explicit consent and without explaining what they really do with it. We want a search engine that just gives the same information whoever the people asking.

Notes:

If you wonder where is the search box in Epiphany, the DoudouLinux web browser, well, it is simply the address bar. Instead of typing the full address of a website, just type your query!

DuckDuckGo is currently earning money thanks to affiliates and we must confess we have signed an agreement with them to set DuckDuckGo as the default search engine. Although this agreement is planning incomes for our project according to the monthly visit number, as we have disabled DuckDuckGo advertisements and told them we would do, the income rate should be very near zero for our project!

Our blocking tools

In DoudouLinux, the web browser Epiphany is set by default with its own popup blocker and its own *AdBlock* extension both activated. Although *AdBlock* comes with a default blacklist, we feed it too with blacklists designed for the well-known Firefox extension *AdBlock Plus* and that are even customized for various languages [5]. If a web page is trying to load advertisement, *AdBlock* prevents the operation and replaces the result with empty content. The page is displayed, but without ads. Goodbye blinking images, children will focus on the real web page content and will not be tempted to loose their time on websites of affiliates.

Additionally, to block tracking code, as Epiphany has no dedicated extension, we decided to operate at the system level. Our web content filtering tool, DansGuardian, can use blacklists of websites spreading tracking code and block access to them, just like it would block access to well-known unsavory websites. We have then added a special blacklist to DansGuardian that contains references of tracking code providers only. When a web page is trying to download and execute such code, DansGuardian is instead returning an error message to the page so that it cannot execute anything. As a result, even if you use another web browser, these codes will still be inhibited! Our blacklist comes from another well-known Firefox extension, *Ghostery*.

How to tune user privacy

If for any reason you do not feel happy with our choices, you can bypass or modify our settings in a more or less easy way:

To allow popup windows, you need to edit Epiphany preferences. Click on the entry *Preferences* in the menu *Edition* and select the tab *Privacy*. Toggle the check box *Allowpopup windows*.

To disable ads blocking, you need to edit Epiphany preferences too. Click on the entry *Extensions* in the menu *Tools*. This opens a window in which you can select or unselect extensions. Just unselect the extension *AdBlock*.

To allow or block given images or animations in a web page, you need to edit Epiphany preferences again. Click on the entry *AdBlock editor* in the menu *Tools*. This opens a window in which you can add or remove entries for the white and the black list separately. It consists of search patterns (*regular expressions*) to determine whether the path of an image or animation is probably advertisement or not.

To change of default search engine, you need to edit the file [/usr/share/gconf/defaults/10_epiphany-browser-data](#) and change the value of */apps/epiphany/general/url_search*. Administrative rights are required.

To allow or block tracking code in a web page, you need to edit the files in [/etc/dansguardian/lists/blacklists/nospying/](#) then restart DansGuardian. Administrative rights are required.

To disable tracking code blocking, you need to edit the file [/etc/dansguardian/lists/bannedurllist](#), comment the lines containing [/etc/dansguardian/lists/blacklists/nospying/](#) then restart DansGuardian. Administrative rights are required.

How blacklists are updated

Static blacklists may be efficient enough during weeks or months, but not years because the web is moving fast. Our lists are contained in two separate packages called *dansguardian-nospying* and *epiphany-adblock-lists*. These packages are updated several times per year. You can then update them to get newer versions of our lists. Alternatively, it is possible to manually update the lists using the update script that each package is providing. These scripts fetch the lists of interest from the Internet then turn them into our blacklists.

Footnotes

[1] You may think you are not identifiable as long as you have not authenticated on any website, but this is incorrect. Computers have a unique address on the Internet, the IP address, that is often always the same: some people know exactly who is behind which address. Moreover your web browser has [a very particular fingerprint \[http://panopticlick.eff.org/\]](http://panopticlick.eff.org/) that can be used to precisely identify you.

[2] Google is using its website tool *Google Analytics* and its advertisement selling service *Google AdSense* to spread tracking code on the web while Facebook is using its button *Like*.

[3] We believe ads in search results are not enough highlighted as being such (if not discreetly mixed with results), in order to fool users. Obviously children have even less chance to understand the trick.

[4] The filtering bubble is a technique used at least by Google to present users search results that are said to be better corresponding to the people that Google think you are. This tends to show users what they like and agree with, instead of showing them the diversity – which means search results are not objective. This is also an issue if people are not what Google think they are or if several people share the same Internet access equipment.

[5] Our blacklists are downloaded from <http://easylist.adblockplus.org/> then converted into Epiphany Adblock rules.



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Parental controls

November 2010 — last update 23 October



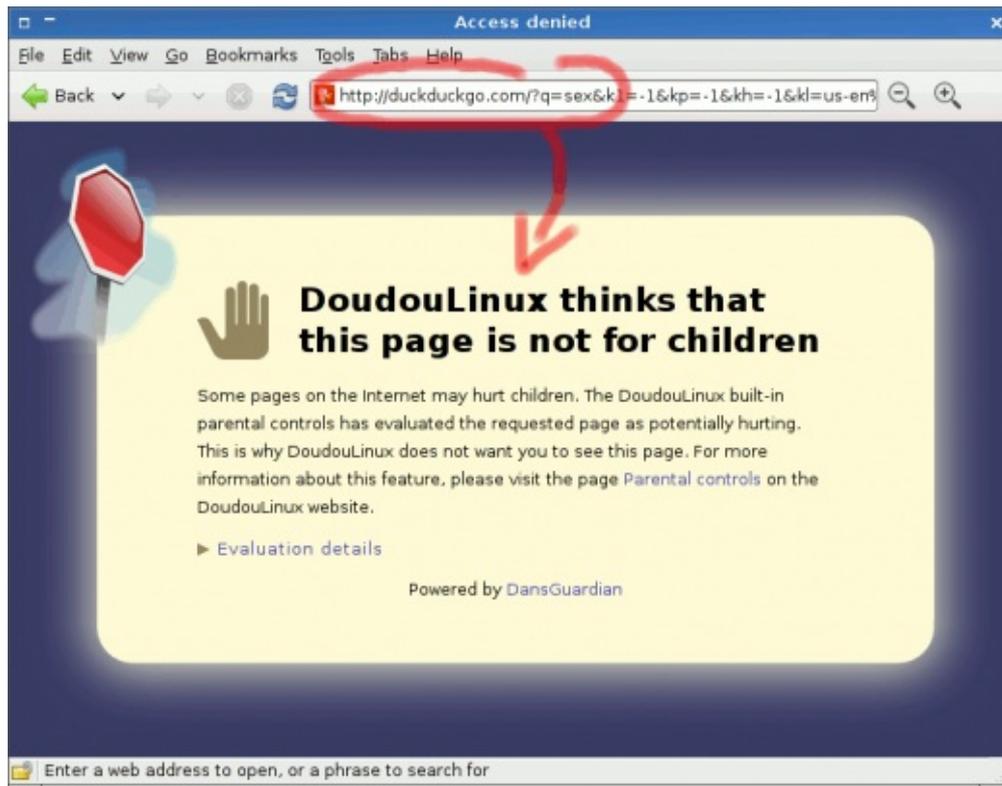
Since version 2010-11, DoudouLinux provides a tool for parental controls whose role is to provide more security to parents. Right now it is made of a smart web page access filter. We believe that for an environment dedicated to children, this is the minimum to provide; thereafter, we plan to implement optional tools in order to limit daily hours of use of DoudouLinux or even the daily use duration. This would then ease conformation to a reasonable computer use, if this topic is one of your preoccupations [\[1\]](#).

Note: we do not pretend that our web page filtering tool is perfect and anyway we cannot guaranty that no “naughty” site will ever be displayed. Thus, this does not replace a minimum of vigilance by parents or a framing discussion with children about the few Internet dangers. The goal is more to not have to watch your children all the time, than to produce a totally cleaned Internet, a task which is impossible to achieve, whatever some people may say! Recall that one of the DoudouLinux goals is to have children feel comfortable with computers, which may quickly become a failure if parents have to watch their actions all the time.

Web page filtering

Warning: web page filtering is known to be reliable for English, French and Russian, and known as alpha version for Galician, Greek, Romanian, Serbian, Ukrainian, and probably some other languages, eg. Persian.

Web page filtering is based on [DansGuardian \[http://dansguardian.org/\]](http://dansguardian.org/). This software includes both a system of list of sites known to be safe or on the opposite targeting a public awareness, and a system of real-time page content analysis. Site lists can allow or reject pages coming from sites whose reputation is largely known as good or as bad. Content analysis consists in searching some words or expressions known to be “naughty”. A global page naughtiness is evaluated using a score associated to each word or expression. This way a page can be rejected before being shown to children.



The screen capture above shows that a Google search with the word sex leads to a rejected page thanks to a systematic analysis of the actual content of the requested page. We let you check that this request leads to a list of pornographic sites, and that DoudouLinux does not block most Google requests.

Therefore, we have decided to concentrate on page content analysis for DoudouLinux rather than providing good and bad web site lists. The reasons for this choice are that the Internet is incredibly wide, making the creation and maintenance of lists an enormous work, but also because we have studied some black lists of sites said to be "naughty". This study showed that black lists essentially contain sites that are no longer accessible or whose content has become safe again. It seems indeed that black lists contain essentially sites that were pirated one day but have then been restored or deleted. This makes us think that the only good solution is **true content filtering** as advertised by DansGuardian, ie. filtering that really analyzes the page contents and is not limited to looking at the page origin on the Internet.

Questions about web page filtering

Can web filtering be bypassed?

The DoudouLinux system design does not allow to access web pages without passing through page content filtering. Of course specialists may know how to restore a system without filtering but this requires changing the system network routing table from the console: this should give you immediate trust!

Can peer-to-peer and instant messaging be filtered too?

No, content filtering only analyzes web pages. If your child would be doing peer-to-peer downloading or instant messaging (*chat*), DansGuardian would not be able to do anything because these services do not rely upon web pages. However, in DoudouLinux it is not possible to do anything else but web on the Internet because the other tools are not installed [2]. Although an instant messaging client, *Empathy*, is available in DoudouLinux, it is configured to be only able to discuss on a local network, not on the Internet. This makes us believe that DoudouLinux is secured for the whole Internet and not only web pages.

Are downloaded files scanned for viruses?

No. This feature is disabled because this would require that DoudouLinux embed an antivirus software and its tools for upgrading signatures. As DoudouLinux is not targeted by malware and is basically a read-only system, we have decided that such feature is not necessary.

What kind of content is rejected?

Right now only filtering on pornographic terms is activated. We still need to translate terms of other categories in order to increase the web filtering operating field.

How can you imagine that children go to pornographic sites?

Just because of mistakes! Suppose they are having fun with friends and type “funny” words to be searched on the Internet. They could then get into pornographic sites... We really do not want that DoudouLinux may put them in such situation.

How to know what caused a page to be rejected?

You just need to click on the text “*showdetails*” in the page that informs you that the request was rejected. You will find information about the category and the language that triggered rejection as well as the list of words that modified the page score. You have to know that the score weights the page naughtiness and that, in the current DoudouLinux configuration, it should remain below 50 to not cause page rejection.

Are websites on non standard ports filtered too?

No, websites that are not configured as the standard says [3] are not filtered at all. We do not believe that this may be required for the moment because search engines are normally indexing only sites that are using the standard configuration. So this should not be possible to get into one of these sites by mistake, even after a search engine request.

Footnotes

[1] Which is generally impossible to setup on gaming consoles or TV sets.

[2] Unless required software get installed, but this requires actions in the system console, which should not be for children neither!

[3] This means that they are using a port different from port 80 to provide their pages.



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Controlling computer use

29 October

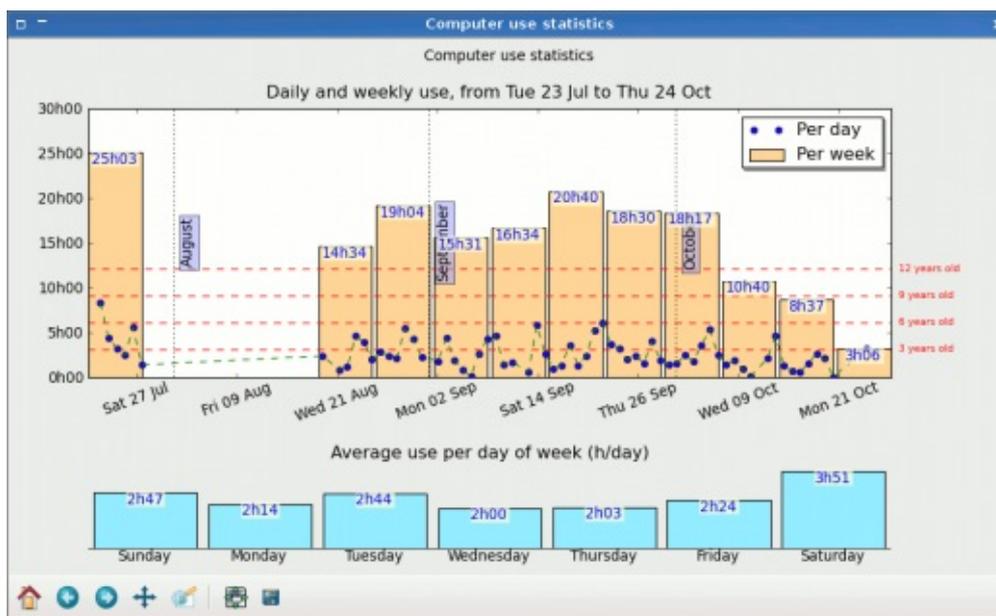


DoudouLinux cares about childrens fulfillment and well-being. Studies show that spending too much time on screens is not good for children. Some psychiatrists recommend to not let a child on a screen for more than one hour per week per year of age (so 3 hours per week at 3 years old, 6 hours at 6 years old and so). We also know that it is not good for their health, because they do not move about while in front of the screen. For these reasons, parents should care about the time that children spend on screens. Unlike competitors such as TV, consoles, tablets, etc., DoudouLinux ships with a tool to monitor computer use over weeks. Parents can then control how children use the computer, and children can in turn limit themselves spontaneously.

NB: we also plan to add in the future a tool to set hours of use for the computer. This tool would disallow the use of the computer during given time slots, for example during the night – because we know that some children can wake up at night to play their gaming console... The tool may also be able to limit the total number of hours of use per day.

The computer use graphics

The computer use tool is located in the tab “Settings” of the activity “Whole DoudouLinux”. It is a very simple application that just shows two graphics. The first one shows the total number of hours of use per day (dots) and per week (bars) during the past weeks. The second one shows the average hours of use per day of the week, for the same period. This is useful to know if children are not using computers too much during schooldays or, on the contrary, during week-ends. On the first graphics are drawn the recommended limits for 3, 6, 9 and 12 years. Note that this is one of the classical psychologist recommendations for all the screens at home, not only computers. Your children should then be enough under the limit if they also watch TV and play gaming consoles or tablets.



If you want to keep a history of computer use, you can save the figure into a PNG or SVG image file. The DoudouLinux system is set to keep records of user activity during 12 weeks. If you are using a Live DVD and have **not set [data persistence](#)**, all such information is lost at shutdown and you will not be able to monitor computer use at all.

How it works

To compute the computer use, session information are read in system logs. From session starts and ends, session durations then hours of use per day and per week are computed. This is not infallible but should be enough in most cases, at least to warn children about their computer use (the objective is not to spy on children behind their back!). If you want to change the recording period, you currently have to edit the file `/etc/logrotate.d/authlog`. Note that if you reduce the period length, the oldest records outside the new period should be definitively lost at most within the next 24 hours (or maybe 5 minutes!). Similarly, increasing the period length will not make older records reappear, it will just change the rule to allow recording a longer period in the future.



Data persistence

October 2010 — last update 23 October



The main drawback of a system on “CD-ROM” like DoudouLinux is that modified data are lost at computer shutdown. This is true for both user and system data. Aware of these limitations, developers of these systems called “[Live CD](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Live_CD)” set up tools to ensure data persistence from one system boot to another. Of course, a USB device such as USB keys can be used to store your DoudouLinux data. This is recommended if you sometimes wish to change computers.

Note: the DoudouLinux version on USB key has the same drawback as the CD, so long as data persistence has not been activated; however, the tool to [make Live USB keys](#) that is shipped within DoudouLinux automatically activates persistence. The advantage compared to the CD version is that you can have DoudouLinux and your own data on the same device (in addition to the fact that the USB key is faster and less noisy than the CD).

1- How does persistence work?

When DoudouLinux starts, it starts the system using the CD or USB key contents in read-only mode. Data involved can thus not be modified. However, during the boot process, a small program is searching in your hardware configuration for storage devices that may contain persistent data coming from a prior use of DoudouLinux. If one of these devices contains what is needed, then the corresponding data are made available read/write in DoudouLinux. Moreover, if you create new data, it will be written onto the storage device to be able to get it back at next DoudouLinux boot.

Note: a consequence is that the media hosting persistent data has to be correctly connected at DoudouLinux boot, it cannot be connected while running. This is of course always the case when you are using a Live USB key with persistence activated on it.

Technically, DoudouLinux creates a file named `home-rw-doudoulinux` or `live-rw-doudoulinux` on your device. When such a file exists on your computer, DoudouLinux knows that former persistence data are to be used. If you delete it or alter it, you will lose all your persistent data....

2- Activating persistence

The DoudouLinux system starts by default in a mode which takes persistence into account. This does not mean that it is active but that the system could use it if a configured media was found. The choice of this mode is done in the first few boot seconds. You can choose between the modes: with or without persistence (see screenshot below). The mode without persistence is needed when you wish to deactivate persistence (see below [Deactivating persistence](#)).

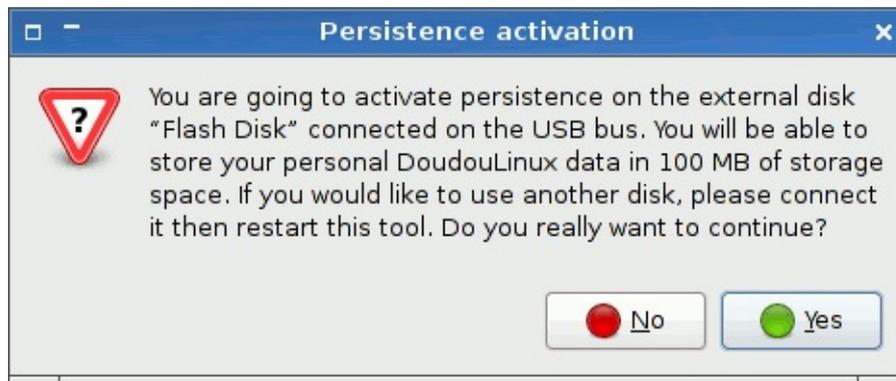


Activation ou non de la persistance au début du démarrage

Once DoudouLinux is started and ready for use, persistence activation can be done with the tool "*Data persistence*" in the software section "*Tune → System*" (*Whole DoudouLinux activity*). The default running mode of this tool is called "*wizard*". Its "*expert*" mode is briefly detailed later in this page and should interest only a small group of users.

The "*wizard*" mode starts by detecting external disks (USB) and internal disks. If one or more external disk(s) is detected, the tool will propose to activate data persistence on these external disks or internal disks via a list. If only one internal disk is found, the tool will ask you whether you do not prefer using an external disk instead, like an USB key. If no, the wizard will propose to use this internal disk. After the last confirmation (see the screenshot below), the tool will create the persistence file onto the selected device for you. Its size, not tunable in "*wizard*" mode, defaults to 100 MB and is adjusted regarding to available disk

space so that no more than 50% of free space will be used.



Validating persistence activation

Once the operation is achieved, DoudouLinux should be restarted because it can only setup persistence during system booting.

3- Expert mode

The expert mode cannot be accessed with mouse clicks. You need to launch the tool in the console [1] using the following command:

```
sudo persistence-gui --expert
```

Starting this tool will lead to a series of questions (see screenshots below):

if you have several disks, it will ask on which disk should DoudouLinux data be recorded?

if the selected disk has several [partitions](#)

[\[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Disk_partitioning\]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Disk_partitioning), on which partition should DoudouLinux data be recorded?

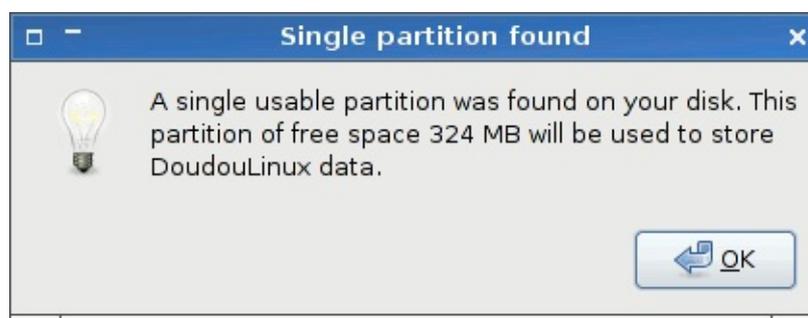
which persistence type do you want? (see [the 4 persistence types](#))

what is the persistence file size?

Once all of these are answered, DoudouLinux will be able to prepare the selected disk so that it can host the modified data.



Selection of the disk to be used



Selection of the partition to be used

4- The 4 persistence types

Data persistence can handle either user data only or both user data and system data. With this second option the system can be modified and chosen applications can be added, but this needs of course more free space. Moreover, this option does not guarantee anymore that your DoudouLinux system is perfectly safe. It should then only be used in very specific cases.

Furthermore, modified data can be stored in a unique file or archive, as well as in directories at the root of a disk partition. Data can be easily read from within another system using the second method, but this may generate directories that overlap directories of the system already installed on computer, particularly if a Unix-like system is installed (Linux, BSD, Mac OS X, etc.). Anyway, it is not implemented in DoudouLinux yet for technical reasons.

Combining these two pairs of options gives 4 persistence types:

Persistence mode		
Mode	Data	Storage
1	user	single file
2	user + system	single file

3	user	directories
4	user + system	directories

5- Deactivating persistence

This feature is not available in a DoudouLinux tool yet; however, you can achieve this manually if you have the required Linux skills, or you can use another system to access the persistence file without running DoudouLinux. For this you need to start in the mode without persistence then:

in the case of a persistence stored onto a single file, remount the partition containing it read/write if needed, then remove or rename this file
in the case of a persistence stored onto directories, change the partition label and eventually mount it read/write then remove directories that DoudouLinux had added.

Note that partitions of internal disks are mounted read only at DoudouLinux boot for safety reasons, this is why you may need to remount them read/write. Of course, if you remove the persistence file or the directories, you will loose all your modified DoudouLinux data!

6- How it works?

The way persistence works depends on the storage method used. In the case of a single file, this file has a special name and is always recorded at the root of the selected partition. When DoudouLinux starts in persistence mode and detects such a file, then "*mounts*" it in order to access its contents. Technically, the file represents a virtual partition formatted with the standard Linux file system called *ext3*.

In the case of persistence stored into directories, the disk partition containing these directories has a special name. As for single file storing, when DoudouLinux starts in persistence mode and finds such a partition name, the partition gets "*mounted*". The technical limit that DoudouLinux has with this method is the reduced length of this name, which is incompatible with the persistence file name of the former case.

For people who would like to know even more about the internal functioning of persistence: it is based on the intrinsic working of "Live CD's". Such a system embeds a compressed [File system \[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File_system\]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File_system) that is obviously read-only since it is burnt onto a CD. But the system needs to

be able to modify or create files at computer run-time for many reasons. The read-only file system is then combined with a file system on to which DoudouLinux can write.

The default is to store the writable file system in the computer RAM memory. *This is why DoudouLinux is so harmless!* But this is also why everything is lost when the computer is switched off. When persistence is activated, this whole file system or only a part is copied into a single real file or into directories of a real partition. This is why modifications can be restored after rebooting, provided that these data are “*mounted*” in the system at startup.

Footnotes

[1] You can launch the console using the keyboard shortcut *Logo key + T*.



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Creating a DoudouLinux USB key

November 2010 — last update 23 October



As indicated on the page [Get DoudouLinux](#), once you have downloaded the DoudouLinux ISO file, you can turn it into a bootable USB key. However simply copying this file onto an USB key will not give you a working DoudouLinux USB key. You must also install a small program that will allow a computer to boot the USB key at startup. This operation must be achieved once only and does not require to destroy any data on your USB key as long as there is enough space for both the ISO file and the boot program. If you later need to update the ISO file on your USB key, you can just replace the ISO file and change the boot program configuration to make it boot the new ISO file.

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1- Creation process

The process of turning an USB key into a bootable DoudouLinux key is described in detail [in a post on our blog](#) [<http://blog.doudoulinux.org/post/2013/02/17/Booting-a-DoudouLinux-ISO-from-an-USB-key>]. As it is quite technical, you can instead use a tool that we specially developed to make the creation of a DoudouLinux USB key as simple as possible. This tool, named “*liveusb-write*”, is shipped within DoudouLinux so that you do not need to install additional software. All you have to do is to burn a DoudouLinux CD in order to start the system. Since DoudouLinux 2.0, it can even use the running DoudouLinux to make the USB key, you do not need to provide the ISO file anymore.

Notes:

We are speaking on this page of USB keys only but the target media could be a flash card or a USB hard disk —no difference.

Unlike the version of “*liveusb-write*” that was shipped within DoudouLinux 1.0 to 1.2 (*Gondwana*), the version shipped within DoudouLinux version 2 will not reformat your USB key. No data will be lost and you will be able to keep using your USB key as a standard storage device, of course with less free space. You can also use “*liveusb-write*” on any Linux computer [1] by downloading [the Debian package](#) [<http://debian.doudoulinux.org/pool/main/l/liveusb-write/>] and its dependencies [2] or by downloading [the Python script](#) [<http://svn.gna.org/viewcvs/doudoulinux/packages/trunk/apps/liveusb-write/src/>] directly from our source code repository. On the other hand, it is not currently designed to run on Windows® or Macintosh®.

2- Creating the key using liveusb-write

To use the tool shipped within DoudouLinux, you have to start it from *The Whole DoudouLinux* activity, in the application section *Settings* → *System*. If you are using another Linux system and installed the Debian package, you can find the

executable in the *Administration* menu. Finally, if you downloaded the Python script, you have to run it from a console. This tool operates in two modes:

the *wizard* mode, with a minimum number of questions

the *expert* mode, which allows the user to choose everything that can be chosen

Operating in *wizard* mode, the tool automatically detects the USB keys and proposes to create a DoudouLinux key using one of the USB keys found. Because the size of most USB keys is larger than the size needed to write those 1 GB of DoudouLinux, the tool will also create for you a file that will make possible the activation of [data persistence](#) for users. If you wish to activate user data persistence as well as system data persistence, you have to use the expert mode or to manually rename the file `home-rw-doudoulinux` created at the USB key root into `live-rw-doudoulinux`.

2.1- Wizard mode

The *wizard* mode progress is the following (see the pictures below):

The user chooses the ISO file that is to be written onto the USB key.

The running DoudouLinux CD or USB key can be used as well [3].

If DoudouLinux is running from a CD, the first ISO file found in the user home directory is proposed. If no ISO file is found, the running CD media is proposed.

If DoudouLinux is running from an USB key, the first DoudouLinux ISO file found on it is proposed. Likely it should be the ISO file of the running DoudouLinux, unless you have several ISO files on your USB key.

The user chooses the target USB device:

If only one USB key is detected, it is proposed as the destination.

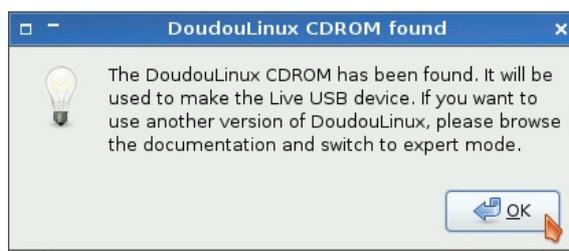
If several USB keys are detected, a list is displayed to let the user choose.

If no USB key is detected, a message is displayed inviting the user to connect an USB storage device and restart the tool.

A confirmation window summarizes all the operations that are about to be achieved.

Data are written. The process is typically lasting 5 to 10 minutes, a series of progress windows will be displayed to inform the user about the progress.

Once the operations are finished, a new window indicates that the job is completed. The USB device is immediately available, you just have to *unmount* it (see [Using a USB key or a USB hard disk](#)).



The running DoudouLinux CD can be used



A single USB disk has been detected



Confirmation dialog before creating the Live USB media

2.2- Expert mode

To run the tool in expert mode, you have to use the console and type the following command:

```
sudo liveusb-write --expert
```

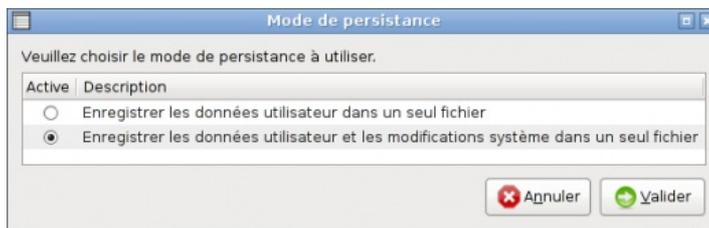
The operation also begins by choosing the ISO file that is to be written. The full list of storage devices is presented, showing external devices as well as internal hard disks.

Warning: if you choose an internal disk and do not know how to configure the boot program, **you will not be able to boot the system previously installed** into your computer anymore. Do this only if you perfectly know what you are doing.

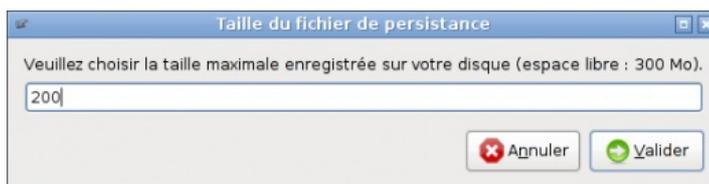
The next step is to choose the kind of data persistence you wish to use (user data with or without system data) and the size of the persistence file. The size must be specified **in megabytes but without unit**. Finally, the installation operation will start after you agree in a confirmation window.



Sélection du disque dans le mode expert



Sélection du type de persistance dans le mode expert



Sélection de la taille de persistance dans le mode expert

3- Updating the USB key

The DoudouLinux USB key can now be easily updated without any specific tool. The two necessary operations are the following:

Replace the ISO file on the USB key. It is located in the directory `boot/` at the USB key root.

Update the boot program configuration by changing the name of the ISO file in it. We provide a script `liveusb-update-grub` that does it for you. It is also located in the directory `boot/` at the USB key root. You can alternatively manually edit the file `boot/grub/grub.cfg` after having done a backup of this file preferably!

Of course, if you find the update process too technical, you can decide to just rerun `liveusb-write` after having removed the ISO file on the USB key to make room. Indeed `liveusb-write` is using our update script to configure the boot program. Note that `liveusb-write` does not overwrite the persistence file on the USB key. If you need to regenerate it, you have to remove it manually. The persistence file is placed at the USB key root, its name is `home-rw-doudoulinux` or `live-rw-doudoulinux`.

If you prefer use our update script manually, it currently only runs from within a Linux console. You have to provide the absolute path of the USB device, here `/media/usbdisk/`:

```
sudo sh /media/usbdisk/boot/liveusb-update-grub
/media/usbdisk/
```

When it is launched, the script makes a backup copy of the boot program configuration file. If you prefer edit the configuration file `boot/grub/grub.cfg` manually, you need to change the ISO file name in each occurrence of the following line in the file:

```
set isofile=doudoulinux-hyperborea-2.0-fr.iso
```

This line occurs at least two times in the end the file. Note that depending on the DoudouLinux version you previously copied onto your USB key, the file name may not be strictly identical to the example above.

4- Changing system parameters

Several system parameters are accessible in the boot program configuration file `boot/grub/grub.cfg` on the USB key. The most interesting parameters are probably the following:

System language. You can choose between several alternatives of the main CD language (if there are any), plus American English for non English CD's. For example on the English CD, you can choose between Australian English, British English, Canadian English, etc.

Keyboard layout. You can change the keyboard layout, model and variant to match your actual keyboard. DoudouLinux is configured to use a default keyboard that is matching the country of the CD default language. If it does not match yours, you probably need to change of layout.

Timezone. Similarly to keyboard layout, DoudouLinux is configured to use a default timezone that is matching the country of the CD default language. If it does not match yours, you probably need to change of timezone. You may also need to change the UTC option of the hardware clock.

These parameters are now quite easy to change because they are located in a text file on your USB key which is still functioning as a standard storage device. However the difficulty is lying in the need of retrieving the configuration values that are not always trivial. In the future we will provide a graphical tool to achieve

these tunings but currently you have to do that manually.

To set these parameters, the line to edit in `boot/grub/grub.cfg` is looking like this long one (bold added for the parameters of interest):

```
linux (loop)/live/vmlinuz findiso=boot/$isofile
boot=live config locales=fr_FR.UTF-8 keyboard-
layouts=fr,us,de keyboard-variant=oss,, keyboard-
options=grp:alt_shift_toggle,lv3:ralt_switch,compose:menu,terminate:ctrl_alt_bksp
utc=no timezone=Europe/Paris nox11autologin splash
nomodeset video=uvesafb:mode_option=640x480-
16,mtrr=3,scroll=ywrap live-media=removable
username=tux hostname=doudoulinux quiet
```

Yes, this is quite a long line! In this line, a parameter name is immediately followed by an equality sign then the parameter value without any space character. So now let's look at each parameter in detail.

NB: these parameters can be changed in a DoudouLinux CD too but this requires to disassemble then reassemble the CD ISO file before burning it, as explained in the post [DoudouLinux ISO relocalization](http://blog.doudoulinux.org/post/2013/01/19/DoudouLinux-ISO-relocalization) [<http://blog.doudoulinux.org/post/2013/01/19/DoudouLinux-ISO-relocalization>] on our blog. This is a very technical operation that requires dedicated tools to be installed. These tools are standard Linux tools though.

4.1- Changing of system language

The parameter to change is `locales` [4]. The convention is to provide a comma separated list of languages, the first one being the default one. There is no obligation to provide a list: if you want to use a single language only, just specify this language without any comma. Languages are of the form `en_US.UTF-8` where `en` is the language and `US` is the country. Read the page [Language setting](#) to know how to list the available languages. You can find the current language of the system by typing the following command in the console:

```
echo $LANG
```

If you have changed the system language as indicated on the page [Language setting](#), you need to close the current DoudouLinux activity first then reenter it for the `LANG` value to be up to date. Alternatively, you can run the language setting tool from the command line to get the code of the language you are selecting in the tool. Every time you click on a language of the list, its code is displayed in the console (text output is indented):

```
lang-config
  Selected language: en_US
  Selected language: en_GB
```

4.2- Changing of keyboard layout

The parameters to change are `keyboard-layouts` and `keyboard-variant`. The convention is to provide a comma separated list of layouts and one of variants, you can then provide several layouts and their variants, the first one being the default one. If there is no variant name for a given layout, the comma must be specified but with an empty string (for example `legacy,,` for three variants, the last two being empty). There is no obligation to provide a list: if you want to use a single keyboard layout only, just specify this layout and its variant without any comma. When several layouts are specified, to switch of layout, you can use either the flag icon on the top the screen in advanced activities, or simultaneously press the left *Shift* key and the left *Alt* key in any activity.

The easiest way to find the value for the layout(s) and the variant(s) is to run the keyboard setting tool from the command line. Read the page [Keyboard layout](#) to

know more about this tool. Every time you click on a layout or variant in the lists, their code is displayed in the console (text output is indented):

```
keyboard-config
  ,us,de , ,
  Selected layout(s): fr,us,de
  Selected variant(s): oss,,
```

4.3- Changing of timezone

The parameter to change is *timezone*. If you need to change the UTC option too, the parameter is simply *utc*. The timezone is of the form *Europe/Paris*. You can retrieve your timezone code by running the *timezone* tool from the command line. Every time you click on a timezone of the list or on the world map, the timezone code is displayed in the console (text output is indented):

```
timezone-config
  Selected timezone: America/Montreal
```

Read the page [Date, time and timezone](#) to know more about the *timezone* tool and the role of the UTC option. The value of this option must be either *yes* or *no* depending on whether the hardware clock is using the UTC time or not ("*no*" means it is using the local time).

Footnotes

[1] We have never tested, but the script does not call any software specific to a given Linux distribution. However you need to install the tools that the script requires: *zenity*, *parted*, *squashfs-tools*, *time*, *grub2*.

[2] It should work on all Linux systems derived from Debian, e.g. Ubuntu.

[3] The tool "*liveusb-write*" can now generate an ISO file from the running DoudouLinux CD or copy the ISO file of the USB key when DoudouLinux is running from an USB device.

[4] Locales are more than just the language used, they also specify the way to write date and time, the decimal separator for numbers, etc.



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They talk about it...

September 2010 — last update 10 June



DoudouLinux is a quite young project and we encourage you to promote it, either by copying the CD or key to infinity [1], by putting posters up (to come) or by writing articles here and there. Here is the work of those who decided to write about it, the press review in short! Вы говорите по-русски? [2]

Note: We would like to thank people with whom we are in touch to publish articles about our project, currently Aka and Bouthaina from [Framasoft](http://www.framasoft.net/) [<http://www.framasoft.net/>], Riccardo from [Linuxaria](http://linuxaria.com/) [<http://linuxaria.com/>], Andrew from [WebUpd8](http://www.webupd8.org/) [<http://www.webupd8.org/>], Arkadiusz Bednarczyk from linux.pl [<http://linux.pl>] and Sebastian Zuchmanski from planetadebiana.pl [<http://planetadebiana.pl>], Tolga Balci and Trevor.

Interview of the project founder

A short web TV presentation of DoudouLinux held on May, the 29th 2013 at [Solutions Linux](http://www.solutionslinux.fr/) [<http://www.solutionslinux.fr/>] in Paris, in French. The video has been produced by [Intell'In TV](http://www.intelli-n.tv/) [<http://www.intelli-n.tv/>] and can be watched on [Youtube](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zkWsfD8OFvQ) [<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zkWsfD8OFvQ>].

[Linuxaria](http://www.linuxaria.com/) [<http://www.linuxaria.com/>], an often visited Linux blog edited by Riccardo from Italy, published in December 2010 an interview of the DoudouLinux project founder, Jean-Michel. It is currently available in 3 languages:

[in English](http://www.linuxaria.com/article/doudoulinux-child?lang=en) [<http://www.linuxaria.com/article/doudoulinux-child?lang=en>] on Linuxaria

[in Italian](http://www.linuxaria.com/article/doudoulinux-child?lang=it) [<http://www.linuxaria.com/article/doudoulinux-child?lang=it>] on Linuxaria
[in French](http://philipjm.free.fr/blog/index.php?2010/12/16/162-doudoulinux-interview-sur-linuxaria) [<http://philipjm.free.fr/blog/index.php?2010/12/16/162-doudoulinux-interview-sur-linuxaria>] on Jean-Michel's blog

Paper magazines

Open Source Magazine (France) published in November 2010 a short article to present DoudouLinux.

Linux Pratique Essentiel (France) published in March 2012 a two pages article about DoudouLinux written by our contributors.

Radio and TV reports

A TV report was made in October 2010 on *TV Tomsk* (Russian) about DoudouLinux. A subtitled version of this 2 minute report is available on a [dedicated page](#).

Xavier Brussaelers talked about DoudouLinux on ...

In the French-speaking world

We give here a non-exhaustive list of French-speaking sites that talked about us.

[01net – Télécharger.com](http://www.01net.com)

[\[http://www.01net.com/telecharger/linux/Kids/fiches/110380.htm\]](http://www.01net.com/telecharger/linux/Kids/fiches/110380.htm), the download section of the nbr. 1 French-speaking site on information technologies

[Framasoft \[http://www.framasoft.net/article5010.htm\]](http://www.framasoft.net/article5010.htm), the famous French-speaking directory of free (freedom) software

[Linux Live CD \[http://www.linux-live-cd.org/DoudouLinux\]](http://www.linux-live-cd.org/DoudouLinux), the French-speaking directory of Linux autorun CD's

[LinuxFr \[http://linuxfr.org/2010/09/05/27337.htm\]](http://linuxfr.org/2010/09/05/27337.htm), the article which officially launched the project in the French Linux community

[The National Education Inspection of Passy \[http://ienpassy.edres74.ac-grenoble.fr/spip.php?article681\]](http://ienpassy.edres74.ac-grenoble.fr/spip.php?article681) in Haute-Savoie, which lead to an identical article on the site [TICE 74 \[http://tice.edres74.ac-grenoble.fr/spip.php?article486\]](http://tice.edres74.ac-grenoble.fr/spip.php?article486) [3]

on the site of [the multimedia library of Limoges \[http://atelier-multimedia.bm-limoges.fr/?tag=linux-pour-les-enfants\]](http://atelier-multimedia.bm-limoges.fr/?tag=linux-pour-les-enfants), on [Bons plan du web \[http://bonsplansduweb.over-blog.net/article-doudou-linux-54911631.html\]](http://bonsplansduweb.over-blog.net/article-doudou-linux-54911631.html)

on [LinuxCore \[http://www.linuxcore.fr/2013/04/doudoulinux/\]](http://www.linuxcore.fr/2013/04/doudoulinux/)

in the famous blog of [Korben \[http://korben.info/os-pour-enfant.html\]](http://korben.info/os-pour-enfant.html) !

Elsewhere in the world

And here is a list of non-French speaking sites, still not exhaustive...

our page on [DistroWatch \[http://distrowatch.com/doudou\]](http://distrowatch.com/doudou)

our page on [SoftPedia \[http://linux.softpedia.com/developer/DoudouLinux-org-team-37914.html\]](http://linux.softpedia.com/developer/DoudouLinux-org-team-37914.html)

on the famous [LinuxToday](http://www.linuxtoday.com)

[\[http://www.linuxtoday.com/infrastructure/2010122200235INDTSW\]](http://www.linuxtoday.com/infrastructure/2010122200235INDTSW), on

[BrightHub \[http://www.brighthub.com/hubfolio/tolga-balci/reviews/100698.aspx\]](http://www.brighthub.com/hubfolio/tolga-balci/reviews/100698.aspx),

on [Web Upd8 \[http://www.webupd8.org/2011/01/doudoulinux-linux-distribution.html\]](http://www.webupd8.org/2011/01/doudoulinux-linux-distribution.html)

in China on [CSDN.net](http://www.csdn.net)

[\[http://blog.csdn.net/yuanmeng001/archive/2011/01/08/6123820.aspx\]](http://blog.csdn.net/yuanmeng001/archive/2011/01/08/6123820.aspx) the site

nbr. 1 on information technologies, [oschina.net](http://www.oschina.net)

[\[http://www.oschina.net/p/doudoulinux\]](http://www.oschina.net/p/doudoulinux), fosschef.com

[\[http://fosschef.com/2010/12/doudoulinux-your-kids-christmas-gift/\]](http://fosschef.com/2010/12/doudoulinux-your-kids-christmas-gift/)

in Italy on [italianbloggers.it \[http://www.italianbloggers.it/42937/doudoulinux-il-computer-che-preferiscono/\]](http://www.italianbloggers.it/42937/doudoulinux-il-computer-che-preferiscono/), [michinlab.com](http://www.michinlab.com)

[\[http://www.michinlab.com/2010/12/doudoulinux.html\]](http://www.michinlab.com/2010/12/doudoulinux.html)

in Taiwan on ossacc.moe.edu.tw

[\[http://ossacc.moe.edu.tw/modules/tadnews/index.php?](http://ossacc.moe.edu.tw/modules/tadnews/index.php?com_mode=flat&com_order=0&nsn=1427)

[com_mode=flat&com_order=0&nsn=1427\]](http://ossacc.moe.edu.tw/modules/tadnews/index.php?com_mode=flat&com_order=0&nsn=1427)

in Singapore (in English) on [MakeTechEasier](http://maketecheasier.com)

[\[http://maketecheasier.com/doudoulinux-a-fun-linux-distro-for-kids/2010/11/26\]](http://maketecheasier.com/doudoulinux-a-fun-linux-distro-for-kids/2010/11/26)

in Vietnam on [dailyinfo.vn \[http://dailyinfo.vn/8-0-355644-doudou-ban-linux-danh-rieng-cho-tre-em.html\]](http://dailyinfo.vn/8-0-355644-doudou-ban-linux-danh-rieng-cho-tre-em.html) and many other info sites

in Indonesia on [sumberterbuka.net \[http://sumberterbuka.net/sistem-operasi/doudoulinux-satu-lagi-distro-linux-pembelajaran/\]](http://sumberterbuka.net/http://sumberterbuka.net/sistem-operasi/doudoulinux-satu-lagi-distro-linux-pembelajaran/)

in Russia on [Interfax \[http://www.interfax-russia.ru/kaleidoscope.asp?id=186012\]](http://www.interfax-russia.ru/kaleidoscope.asp?id=186012),

[Cnews \[http://open.cnews.ru/news/line/index.shtml?2010/09/06/407583\]](http://open.cnews.ru/news/line/index.shtml?2010/09/06/407583),

[OSjournal \[http://osjournal.ru/2010/09/doudoulinux/\]](http://osjournal.ru/2010/09/doudoulinux/), [edu.ru](http://www.edu.ru/index.php?page_id=5&topic_id=20&sid=13182)

[\[http://www.edu.ru/index.php?page_id=5&topic_id=20&sid=13182\]](http://www.edu.ru/index.php?page_id=5&topic_id=20&sid=13182),

[RosInvest.com \[http://www.rosinvest.com/news/723071/\]](http://www.rosinvest.com/news/723071/), adindex.ru

[\[http://adindex.ru/news/offtop/2010/09/6/53202.phtml?&d=31&m=07&y=2010\]](http://adindex.ru/news/offtop/2010/09/6/53202.phtml?&d=31&m=07&y=2010),

[compodrom.ru \[http://compodrom.ru/modules/news/article.php?storyid=2530\]](http://compodrom.ru/modules/news/article.php?storyid=2530),
[edumandriva.ru \[http://edumandriva.ru/edu_soft/2010/09/13/doudoulinux---linux-s-detskogo-sada.html\]](http://edumandriva.ru/edu_soft/2010/09/13/doudoulinux---linux-s-detskogo-sada.html), [hi-tach.ru \[http://hi-tach.ru/post134501881/\]](http://hi-tach.ru/post134501881/), [karta-smi.ru \[http://www.karta-smi.ru/pr/83810\]](http://www.karta-smi.ru/pr/83810), through the [Russian community of Boston \[http://www.russianboston.com/common/arc/Radio.php?view=337\]](http://www.russianboston.com/common/arc/Radio.php?view=337)
in Serbia on [itmarket.rs \[http://www.itmarket.rs/news.php?article_id=934\]](http://www.itmarket.rs/news.php?article_id=934)
in Croatia on [bug.hr \[http://www.bug.hr/vijesti/linux-djecu/105216.aspx\]](http://www.bug.hr/vijesti/linux-djecu/105216.aspx)
in Bosnia and Herzegovina [fontele.ba \[http://www.fontele.ba/tehnologija/986-linux-za-djecu\]](http://www.fontele.ba/tehnologija/986-linux-za-djecu)
in Belarus on [it.tut.by \[http://it.tut.by/news/88490.html\]](http://it.tut.by/news/88490.html)
in Ukraine on [Domain Times \[http://domaintimes.net/%D0%BD%D0%BE%D0%B2%D0%B8%D0%BD%D0%BA%D0%B0-doudoulinux-%D0%B4%D0%B8%D1%81%D1%82%D1%80%D0%B8%D0%B1%D1%83%D1%82%D0%B8%D0%B2-linux-%D0%B4%D0%BB%D1%8F-%D0%B4%D0%B5%D1%82%D0%B5%D0%B9-%D0%BE%D1%82-2/\]](http://domaintimes.net/%D0%BD%D0%BE%D0%B2%D0%B8%D0%BD%D0%BA%D0%B0-doudoulinux-%D0%B4%D0%B8%D1%81%D1%82%D1%80%D0%B8%D0%B1%D1%83%D1%82%D0%B8%D0%B2-linux-%D0%B4%D0%BB%D1%8F-%D0%B4%D0%B5%D1%82%D0%B5%D0%B9-%D0%BE%D1%82-2/)
in Romania in the blogs [blog.ro-design.net \[http://blog.ro-design.net/index.php/2010/11/27/doudoulinux-a-fun-linux-distro-for-kids.html\]](http://blog.ro-design.net),
[creationn.wordpress.com \[http://creationn.wordpress.com/2010/08/22/doudoulinux-linux-pentru-copii/\]](http://creationn.wordpress.com),
[Arnautu Alexandru \[http://alexarnautu.co.cc/index.php?title=DouDouLinux%20-%20sistemul%20pentru%20copii\]](http://alexarnautu.co.cc/index.php?title=DouDouLinux%20-%20sistemul%20pentru%20copii)
in Morocco via the [ALIS Association \[http://alis.etiznit.ma/index.php/component/content/article/17/91-doudoulinux-\]](http://alis.etiznit.ma/index.php/component/content/article/17/91-doudoulinux-)
in the Arabic world on [LinuxAC \[http://www.linuxac.org/forum/content.php?868-%C7%E1%CA%E6%D2%ED%DA%C9-%C7%E1%C7%E4%D3%C8-%E1%C8%D1%C7%DA%E3%E4%C7-%E3%C7%DD%E6%DE-%C7%E1%D3%E4%CA%ED%E4-%E3%E4-%C7%E1%DA%E3%D1-%E1%C7-%CA%CD%CA%C7%CC-%E1%CA%E4%D5%ED%C8-%CA%DA%E3%E1-%E3%E4-cd-%C7%E6-usb\]](http://www.linuxac.org/forum/content.php?868-%C7%E1%CA%E6%D2%ED%DA%C9-%C7%E1%C7%E4%D3%C8-%E1%C8%D1%C7%DA%E3%E4%C7-%E3%C7%DD%E6%DE-%C7%E1%D3%E4%CA%ED%E4-%E3%E4-%C7%E1%DA%E3%D1-%E1%C7-%CA%CD%CA%C7%CC-%E1%CA%E4%D5%ED%C8-%CA%DA%E3%E1-%E3%E4-cd-%C7%E6-usb)

Footnotes

- [1] We saw *torrents* spontaneously start, bravo go on!
- [2] (*translation*) Do you speak Russian?
- [3] TICE = Information and Communication Technologies for Education



DoudouLinux Promotion Template

December 2010 — last update 28 November



Here is a proposed template for preparing an article for our readers willing to promote the DoudouLinux project. You can either directly publish this article or one of its existing translations on websites of your country, or first translate it into another language that you speak fluently, and then publish it. You can also use only parts, at your convenience. Once you are done, kindly inform us so that we can maintain a list of promoters who have helped us spreading DoudouLinux all around the entire planet! Thanks a lot for your precious help ;).

NB: Please feel free to adapt the text to the audience and remove some hyperlinks if you think there are too many.

DoudouLinux, the computer they prefer!

[DoudouLinux \[http://www.doudoulinux.org/\]](http://www.doudoulinux.org/) is a computer environment designed for children that is [as simple to use \[http://www.doudoulinux.org/web/english/about/article/doudoulinux-the-computer-they\]](#) as a gaming console. DoudouLinux is [freely downloadable \[http://download.doudoulinux.org/\]](#) and contains [about 75 applications \[http://www.doudoulinux.org/web/english/documentation-7/applications-13/\]](#) that were selected to be easily accessible for children or dedicated to children. The selection provides educational games, art oriented applications (drawing, comics, music, animation movies), work oriented applications (dictionary, calculator, communication, computer programming) and fun games. Reading is not required for use and DoudouLinux is so simple that children can use it from 2 years old and quickly become autonomous. As a result children may think that they are only playing while they are also learning many skills.

But DoudouLinux is also easy for Dad and Mum. Shipped with a detailed [user documentation \[http://www.doudoulinux.org/web/english/documentation-7/\]](#), DoudouLinux embeds a full system and does not use any computer data at any moment. It does not access the Internet spontaneously and provides parental controls with a smart and efficient web content filter. It also preserves user privacy on the Internet, removes ads in web pages and blocks bugs, to get the best web experience. Thus parents can let children use the computer by themselves, learn and have fun, without worrying about damaging important data, altering the system, visiting “naughty” sites nor being too influenced by third-parties. Moreover DoudouLinux does not need installing, updating,

administrating nor scanning for malware – just as a gaming console.

DoudouLinux is currently available in 44 officially supported languages [[1](#)] and is designed to be [easily translated](#) [<http://www.doudoulinux.org/web/english/contribute/translate-doudoulinux/>] into even more languages. This way nearly each child on the earth could be able to have it in its own language when he starts reading. If you want to help having DoudouLinux in your language or for more artistic or technical tasks, you can [join the team](#) [<http://www.doudoulinux.org/web/english/contribute/>] and you will be welcome! DoudouLinux is still a young community project developed by parents. The [DoudouLinux team](#) [<http://www.doudoulinux.org/web/english/about/more-about/article/team-and-contributors>] involves benevolent people as well as institutions, for instance the [Tomsk State Pedagogical University](#) [<http://tspu.edu.ru/ipi>] in Russia.

To conclude, DoudouLinux is made with free software –free as in freedom. This means that you can use, copy, distribute, lend or even modify DoudouLinux as you want, freely and without hidden fees, without embedding advertisement, without hidden intentions. Therefore, children can have it everywhere on any computer, and they can give it to any of their friends just as they do on the school playground. With DoudouLinux, absolutely no trouble!

So what about giving it a try, [supporting](#) [<http://buy.doudoulinux.org/>] or [helping](#) [<http://contribute.doudoulinux.org/>] the project?

Footnotes

[1] Arabic, Armenian, Bengali, Burmese, Chinese (China and Taiwan), Croatian, Czech, Danish, Dutch, English, Esperanto, Finnish, French, Galician, German, Greek, Hebrew, Hindi, Hungarian, Indonesian, Italian, Latvian, Lithuanian, Luxembourgian, Malay, Marathi, Norwegian (Bokmål and Nynorsk), Persian, Polish, Portuguese (Brazil and Portugal), Punjabi, Romanian, Russian, Scottish Gaelic, Serbian, Spanish, Swedish, Tajik, Telugu, Turkish and Ukrainian.



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Contribute

Latest addition : 1 September 2012.



DoudouLinux is a community project, itself based on numerous other community projects. This is the principle of free [\[1\]](#) software development. Thus anyone feeling motivated can take part in the project:

- write about it and post links to our web site pages
- promote DoudouLinux
- translate CD texts, communication supports or web site
- create graphics for CD, communication supports or web site
- test newly developed CDs
- correct bugs
- adapt software
- develop new tools
- ...

We invite you to read the page [Where does DoudouLinux goes?](#) in order to see the direction we wish to give to this project. No need to get involved regularly, you can simply send us a piece of text, a file or a suggestion for a task you could perform. You just need to email the DoudouLinux team at [✉contribute@doudoulinux.org](mailto:contribute@doudoulinux.org) [<mailto:contribute@doudoulinux.org>]. We are pleased to welcome new, interesting stuff and initiatives!

Footnotes

[\[1\]](#) free as in freedom, not free of charge - even if this is free of charge!

Read also

[Translate DoudouLinux](#)



As you may guess, our team is not large enough to translate DoudouLinux into the more than 60 languages desired as (...) [Read more...](#)

[Writers](#)



This section targets article authors of the DoudouLinux website. It will explain how pages are managed and how to (...) [Read more...](#)

[Developers](#)



This section is intended for DoudouLinux system developers. Artists and communication support writers are also (...) [Read more...](#)

[Using SVN](#)



Our source code repository uses Subversion, a source code management tool usually called SVN. After several weeks (...) [Read more...](#)



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The translation job

September 2010 — last update February 2012



DoudouLinux is a system running from CDROM or USB key but it also has a website full of information. Of course we have been writing here and there that children should have it in their language. But it is also better for our visitors to read web pages in their native language, especially because web pages are used to produce the user's manual included inside the system. Thus translating DoudouLinux means both translating the system and the website.

Important note: we ask you to use in your translations a less technical vocabulary in so far as possible. The target audience of DoudouLinux is the standard family and are not really computer-aware.

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[2- Translating the CD](#)

[2.1- Translating applications](#)

[2.2- Gettext translation](#)

[2.3- Where to get PO/TS files?](#)

[2.4- Testing a PO file by yourself](#)

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[3- Translating the website](#)

[4- Getting an account, or not](#)

1- Translation planning

Translating everything may really be time-consuming depending on [the current translation level \[https://www.transifex.net/projects/p/doudoulinux/r/all-resources/\]](https://www.transifex.net/projects/p/doudoulinux/r/all-resources/) for your language. If you want to provide users with perceptible changes and attract them, we propose the following translation planning:

translate the DoudouLinux environment (1-2 weeks), this way we will be able to quickly upload a new, more attractive CD version

translate some key web pages (1-2 weeks), you will then drive people to the CD using your language!

identify applications that still need translation

alternate between translating 2-3 applications and translating several web pages

Key web pages are the home page, the download page, the quick start page and the get DoudouLinux page.

2- Translating the CD

Translation texts are written in text files of several formats. Most of translation files are PO files, which use a widely used translation system called *gettext*. We also have TS files, using *QtLinguist*, as well as few plain text files and audio files. PO files and TS files can be accessed from the [translation portal TransiFex \[http://www.transifex.net/projects/p/doudoulinux/\]](#), but not plain text or audio files. All the translation files are available for download from the page [Translation files](#) in compressed archives. However we now recommend to use TransiFex for PO/TS files since their translation status is clearly shown and the portal requires no special knowledge of the underlying translation tools: it is much simpler for translators.

2.1- Translating applications

Many applications use *gettext* to handle translations of messages and DoudouLinux developers try to use it whenever possible. The principle is quite simple. Developers write English messages in their application and *gettext* translates texts at runtime provided that it finds the target language file. Translators have then just to produce those files. Note that translation files using *QtLinguist* function in a similar way.

However, a few applications use simple text files or audio files, and some other ones do not use a translation system at all, this is often the case of fun games. Depending on the difficulty of the task, we may decide not to translate these applications to avoid re-writing them. Instructions about plain text and audio files can be found in the section [Translating applications](#).

The next paragraph details how to translate applications with PO files because a special effort is made to use these files in DoudouLinux every time this is possible. **You do not need to read it** if you intend to use [Transifex \[http://www.transifex.net/projects/p/doudoulinux/\]](#) for translation, since it hides all the translation internals behind a nice and easy to use web interface.

2.2- Gettext translation

gettext works with PO and POT files. POT files are just template PO files, which means a PO file with empty translations. One PO file should be produced for one language and one application. PO files are text files containing a series of pairs of English texts and their translation. PO files can be advantageously

edited using a dedicated editor such as *PoEdit* or *KBabel*. These applications can import a POT file and produce a language-specific PO file. They may also be able to update a PO file with a modified POT file, when developers change application texts. This is the case of *PoEdit*.

Finally note that applications do not use PO files at runtime but a compiled version instead, the MO files. We need the PO (text) file to include your work in DoudouLinux. MO (binary) files can usually be produced from within PO file editors and will be automatically produced while building the CD. No need to bother with them!

2.3- Where to get PO/TS files?

The old way is to refer to the page [Translation files](#). We now recommend you to visit our [translation portal on TransiFex](#) [<http://www.transifex.net/projects/p/doudoulinux/>]. You will find in our project page the list of “resources” which indeed are just the applications used in DoudouLinux. Each resource page lists all the available translation files and shows their [translation status](#). Translation files can be edited or downloaded from the portal. We then have dedicated scripts to fetch your work and include it into the CD. Of course to modify translation files you need [an account on TransiFex](#) [<http://www.transifex.net/accounts/register/>] and to ask for joining a [translation team](#) [<http://www.transifex.net/projects/p/doudoulinux/teams/>].

Finally if the application you want to translate has never been translated by our team before, you may not find any PO/TS file on our servers – but they will be on TransiFex if your language team exists. Whatever the way you proceed, **we highly recommend** to search the Internet for fresher PO/TS files before starting to translate them.

2.4- Testing a PO file by yourself

Of course you may not want to recompile the entire application to test your work. An option for PO files is to place or replace the **MO** file in the correct system directory. A way to find it is to search for other translation files for the application. For example if you want to add a Romanian translation for *lxlauncher*, simply issue the following command:

```
$ dpkg -L lxlauncher | grep '.mo$'  
/usr/share/locale/af/LC_MESSAGES/lxlauncher.mo  
/usr/share/locale/ar/LC_MESSAGES/lxlauncher.mo  
/usr/share/locale/cs/LC_MESSAGES/lxlauncher.mo  
/usr/share/locale/da/LC_MESSAGES/lxlauncher.mo  
[...]
```

So you just have to place the compiled MO file into `/usr/share/locale/xx/LC_MESSAGES/` (where `xx` is your 2-letters language code) and name it `lxlauncher.mo`. Please note that this is the usual place for such files so that you can first try to put your MO files here without wondering. Indeed we put these MO files in this directory during the CD build process.

2.5- Other kind of translations

In a given application, there may be other texts to be translated that are not managed by *gettext* or *QtLinguist*, even if one of them is used for the application interface. This may be a file containing a list of translated words (for example in *khangman*) or even sound files for words or letters (for example in *childsplay*). Instructions for each application can be found in the section [Translating applications](#) but, to avoid doing a job that the application developers may have done after the application is released, **again we recommend** to visit their website to look for newer files first.

3- Translating the website

Of course page contents is to be translated! You will find details on how to edit pages on the page [Translating the website into another language](#). We consider that translating a page typically takes 2 hours. There are also a couple of messages here and there on the website that are to be translated too but are not accessible from web-site editor.

These texts can be found in the page skeleton, for example the message “*Download for free*”, or in the tables of downloadable files. These messages require Php files to be modified, files that are stored on our web server and cannot be accessed by translators! However to ease their translation, we have moved their texts into PO files that can be accessed from TransiFex through the resources *website-skeleton* and *website-download*. Note that our web-site platform *Spip* handles its own skeleton messages that may not be translated too. Just ask us for appropriate Php file in this case.

Recommendation: do not forget to post regularly on our website news about your translation work in your language to tell visitors what’s going on...

4- Getting an account, or not

The process to participate to translations is the following:

you can start by [contacting us](#)
create [an account on TransiFex \[https://www.transifex.net/plans/signup/free/\]](https://www.transifex.net/plans/signup/free/) if
you want to translate the CD
subscribe [the lang mailing list \[https://mail.gna.org/listinfo/doudoulinux-lang/\]](https://mail.gna.org/listinfo/doudoulinux-lang/) to
be aware of changes and updates about CD translations
ask us for an account on our website if you want to translate web pages
subscribe [the docs mailing list \[https://mail.gna.org/listinfo/doudoulinux-docs/\]](https://mail.gna.org/listinfo/doudoulinux-docs/) to
be aware of changes and updates about our website pages

Concerning web pages, you cannot create an account by yourself! Concerning
CD translation you need to create [an account on TransiFex](http://www.transifex.net/accounts/register/)
[\[http://www.transifex.net/accounts/register/\]](http://www.transifex.net/accounts/register/) and to ask for joining a [translation](http://www.transifex.net/projects/p/doudoulinux/teams/)
[team \[http://www.transifex.net/projects/p/doudoulinux/teams/\]](http://www.transifex.net/projects/p/doudoulinux/teams/).

We also ask you to subscribe our mailing lists. On these lists you will be able to
share difficulties or tricks with other contributors. Note that we want to maintain
an exhaustive [list of all our contributors](#). Please tell us if you want your name or
nickname be displayed!

To conclude, if you feel really involved in the project, you can ask to gain write
access to our source code repository. Doing so we expect you to participate
into the system development, not only translations. You will need [an account on](https://gna.org/account/register.php)
[Gna \[https://gna.org/account/register.php\]](https://gna.org/account/register.php) to do so.



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Translation status

Latest addition : 5 July 2012.



You may wonder how well translated the CDROM of your language is or could be. Alternatively, translators or future translators often wonder about the workload they should expect in order to get the perfect DoudouLinux for their language.

You can browse on Transifex the [global translation status](https://www.transifex.net/projects/p/doudoulinux/r/all-resources/) [<https://www.transifex.net/projects/p/doudoulinux/r/all-resources/>] of each language for the CD or directly [the page of your language](http://www.transifex.net/projects/p/doudoulinux/teams/) [<http://www.transifex.net/projects/p/doudoulinux/teams/>] which shows the translation status of each resource. As there are many components, we also provide summary pages on this website for each category of application (see the page list at the bottom). Note however, that they may not be up to date.

Below, you will also find an estimation of the translation quality of our website. This way you can quickly know whether help is needed for website translation. Of course if your language is not in the table, this means that no website translation work has started.

Website translation achievement

<i>Language</i>	<i>Main pages</i>	<i>Documentation</i>
Arabic	beginning	not started
Chinese	beginning	not started
English	OK	OK
French	OK	OK
German	OK	average good
Italian	OK	nearly OK
Malay	OK	good
Portuguese BR	beginning	not started
Portuguese PT	beginning	not started
Romanian	OK	OK
Russian	OK	OK
Serbian	beginning	not started
Spanish	OK	average good



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Translator's FAQ

September 2010 — last update October 2012



We have collected questions that frequently arose while translating DoudouLinux. We do not pretend to know every question that our translators may ask themselves, so do not hesitate to ask us if something is not clear or wrong!

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[There are still foreign texts in the page layout](#)

[I can't figure out how to change the title of the table of contents](#)

[The table of contents is the table of the reference article, not mine](#)

[The download link still redirects to the English page](#)

[Articles all have a logo but mine](#)

[How tables of downloadable files are created?](#)

[What about screenshots?](#)

[My article still doesn't appear in my language menu](#)
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[How can I know that articles need updating?](#)
[Why is my article not linked to other translations?](#)
[Why my work is still not online?](#)

General

Do you need my help for a language already being translated?

Probably yes. DoudouLinux is a young project. Even if you can see some web pages in your language, the more people who participate, the quicker the job is done! The CD may also need work which is less visible than the website. You can take a look at [CD translation status](#) [<https://www.transifex.net/projects/p/doudoulinux/r/all-resources/>] on our translation portal on TransiFex. Finally, even if everything looks 100% translated, proofreading may be welcomed and web pages may not be up to date.

How can I help translating?

Just contact us at [✉contribute@doudoulinux.org](mailto:contribute@doudoulinux.org) [<mailto:contribute@doudoulinux.org>] or [register to TransiFex](#) [<http://www.transifex.net/accounts/register/>] and [join the team of your language](#) [<http://www.transifex.net/projects/p/doudoulinux/teams/>]. If the team already has contributors for your language, you will join them and learn what work is pending. If you are the first one, well, you may organize your work with our help. In any case, you will be welcome!

Why should I help translating?

Well... Because you think that DoudouLinux is great and you speak a language in which it is not yet translated or only partially. Translating DoudouLinux is a way to give your time to potentially all the children of your country and more. Expect to have to spend tens of evenings if you are alone to translate both the CD and the website, but try to imagine the finished work. "Begin with the end in mind." This is also a good way to spread the Software Libre movement [[1](#)] and its philosophy.

Where can I discuss any eventual problems?

We have two mailing lists dedicated to translators: one for [CD translation](#) [<https://mail.gna.org/listinfo/doudoulinux-lang/>] and one for [website translation](#)

[\[https://mail.gna.org/listinfo/doudoulinux-docs/\]](https://mail.gna.org/listinfo/doudoulinux-docs/). This way problems and issues can be easily shared between all team members. Additionally, once you have an account on DoudouLinux.org to translate web pages, you can send *Spip* internal messages to other contributors and comment articles internally. The only drawback is that this is internal: contributors who do not get connected do not know about these messages...

What skills are required?

You need to speak fluently one of the source languages; that is, one that is already translated, such as, English, French, Russian or other. And of course you need to speak fluently the language you are translating into. This is better if you also have a computing background because some parts may be a little bit technical, even if we try to avoid this. For text edition, all is text but this is again better if you have ever used a content management system (online blog software, wiki, etc.). But do not worry, we try to keep it simple for DoudouLinux internals too!

How technical should be my translated texts?

Low! Of course the CD targets children, so you must take care to remove any technical language from it. You should also take care to avoid references to computer history, such as “*a clone of stuff*”. Concerning web pages, our target is the standard family, not computer science graduated people! So please take care to use technical language only when strictly necessary. For example, try to speak of “*autorun CDRom*” instead of “*LiveCD*”, of “*computer environment*” or “*computer system*” instead of “*operating system*”. We should not suppose that our visitors have ever heard of LiveCD’s and even less of Linux. Yes, sadly, this is the truth :(

Finally, on the home page you are invited to use correct language but close to spoken speech (and without any technical words!). For example, you may use pet names such as “*compy*” for “*computer*” or “*Dad, Mum*” for “*Daddy, Mummy*” whenever available in your language.

What software can I use to translate, especially under Windows?

Well you need a good web browser, a good text editor which supports UTF-8 encoding [2], plus optionally a PO file editor. As Windows has none of these ;-), we recommend using Notepad++, PoEdit and Mozilla Firefox which has built-in spellchecker for online forms. Be sure to have set the UTF-8 encoding as the default in Notepad++. Moreover, if you still do not feel comfortable while editing long web pages, you may be interested in using the Firefox extension *It's all text*. You will then be able to edit pages from within any standard text editor.

Finally please contact Jean-Michel Philippe if you dream of Spip syntax highlighting in Kwrite and Kate editors ;).

Will I have my name in the list of contributors?

Yes. The DoudouLinux project does not wish for any contributor to work under the hood, anonymously. So as soon as your contribution is significant (= more than typo corrections), you will have your name in our [list of contributors](#). You may also mention your company/organization if this makes sense, or you may also use a nickname instead of your real name. This is just as you want! NB: do not hesitate to complain if we have forgotten to add your name in our list.

Does it matter if I do not write English correctly?

Mmmm, maybe you write French, Russian or Spanish fluently? As you may guess, each of us do not speak many languages fluently. So you have to know that we discuss mostly in English in order to be sure everyone can understand. However, you can exchange private mails with our contributors who speak your language to be sure to be understood.

Should I keep local copies of my work?

We recommend that you keep local copies of your work for a few days even for web pages. Concerning web pages we have a backup system which runs every two days only.

How should I tell to pronounce DoudouLinux?

In French and Chinese it is pronounced "doodoolinux". However as the word "doodoo" has a weird meaning in slang American English, we recommend English-speakers to say it as if it was an English word, the way they prefer to say it. We also ask to not write "doodoolinux" at all to avoid any confusion (except here!). Of course if pronouncing the word the French way has no awful meaning in your language, please tell to use this pronunciation.

Should I explain free as freedom and free as free of charge?

In English there is a possible confusion between two different meanings of the word *free*. While in our project DoudouLinux we are mainly speaking of "free" as in free speech or freedom of speech; there are, however, many people who are more accustomed to think of free of charge, especially when it comes to computers, internet and software. This is why it is often important **in English** to clearly distinguish between the two meanings. However **in your language**, such differentiation may be totally irrelevant because there are two different words for both meanings. In this case you have to **adapt your translation** and

remove explanations about the possible confusion in English – people most likely don't care. We believe many languages should indeed replace any reference to free of charge and free as in free speech.

System Translation

Do I need an account to translate the system?

You can begin with just sending us the modified files but we prefer that you [register to TransiFex](http://www.transifex.net/accounts/register/) and [join the team of your language](http://www.transifex.net/projects/p/doudoulinux/teams/) since this is the central place for many of our translation files. It is easy and not intrusive. If you want to post tickets via our [project managing tool](http://team.doudoulinux.org/) for bugs or requests concerning your language, it is also recommended to have an [account on our project manager](http://team.doudoulinux.org/account/register/).

I have never translated any program, is it easy?

Well basically yes: just use the [online translation](https://www.transifex.net/projects/p/doudoulinux/) interface on TransiFex! You can fully translate online or decide to download translation files for offline edition, at your convenience.

How can I know which application is not fully translated?

Just have a look at the online [Translation status](https://www.transifex.net/projects/p/doudoulinux/r/all-resources/) on TransiFex for a global translation status. [Language pages](http://www.transifex.net/projects/p/doudoulinux/teams/) provide the detailed status, resource per resource.

How can I know that some translation files need updating?

The easiest way is to subscribe to [lang mailing list](https://mail.gna.org/listinfo/doudoulinux-lang/) on which we will make announcements about files to be updated. Alternatively, you can regularly visit TransiFex or try to use its feeds.

I cannot find a file to translate a given application

If you have asked us to create your [language team](https://www.transifex.net/projects/p/doudoulinux/teams/) on Transifex or if it was already existing, this should not happen! However we may have missed an

application, in this case ask us on the [lang list](#) [<https://mail.gna.org/listinfo/doudoulinux-lang/>].

I cannot see my language file in some translation charts

Pages in the section [Translation status](#) show charts of translation progress per application. However for unknown technical reasons, these charts may be vertically truncated. If your language file is not translated enough, or if there are too many 100% translated languages, your language may not be displayed.

When will I see a CD with my translations?

As soon as you have completed enough translations :). We recommend to start translating the resources on TransiFex marked with a red flag. You can also ask us to make a new build but depending on our workload, we may not be able to answer you quickly...

Website Translation

Do I need an account to translate the website?

Yes, if you intend to translate several pages it is better to obtain an account on our website. On the other hand you do not need an account neither on our [project manager](http://team.doudoulinux.org/) [<http://team.doudoulinux.org/>], our [source code host Gna](https://gna.org/projects/doudoulinux/) [<https://gna.org/projects/doudoulinux/>] nor on TransiFex. Such account is useful if you work on the CD, not the website.

How can I see messages sent by other writers?

There are two kinds of messaging tools inside the website edition tool: personal messaging and internal messaging. Personal messaging is accessed using the mail icon on the toolbox on the top of the interface. It can be used to send messages directly to other writers. When they connect, writers are informed of new messages on the top of their interface.

Internal messaging is accessed using the forum icon on the toolbox on the top of the interface. Internal messages are comments that authors write on an article or a section. This is the only way to check for new comments but you can use its RSS link if you do not want to visit regularly this page. Of course you can also send a message to the author to tell him about the comment!

What should I not translate in a page?

Pages may contain special codes that tell Spip, the publishing engine, to do

something. Most of these codes are just *tags* such `<table_des_matieres87>` or `<img53|left>`. There are also links to internal pages/sections. **You should not translate the word “article” or “rubrique”** in these links. So in a link like this:

[see this page->article 45]

you should only change the text **before the arrow** “->”, for example:

[leer esta pagina->article 45]

Most probably you will have to change the article number of the link (here 45) since Spip cannot know the number of the target article translated into your language. It may even not exist yet!

There are still foreign texts in the page layout

The page edition interface does not give you access to the page layout. Therefore we maintain a couple of Php scripts on the web server that translate the page layout for each language. However the Php texts to be translated are available as PO files in resources [website-download](#) [<http://www.transifex.net/projects/p/doudoulinux/c/website-download/>] and [website-squelettes](#) [<http://www.transifex.net/projects/p/doudoulinux/c/website-squelettes/>] on TransiFex. Thus you just have to submit your PO files on TransiFex.

Note that Spip embeds its own skeleton messages. If you still see foreign texts while both resources cited above are 100% translated, just contact us!

I can't figure out howto change the title of the table of contents

The table of contents of an article is automatically created using the *tag* `<table_des_matieresXX>` where XX is the **number of the article** (usually the current one). You cannot change anything directly. The text “*table of contents*” is defined in a Php script on the web server using a PO file in resource [website-squelettes](#) [<http://www.transifex.net/projects/p/doudoulinux/c/website-squelettes/>] on TransiFex. Just fill your translations on TransiFex and ask us update the file. If after updating the Php file you still have an English “*table of contents*” please check the article number in the *tag*.

The table of contents is the table of the reference article, not mine

You certainly forgot to change the article number in the table of contents *tag*. See previous paragraph.

The download link still redirects to the English page

Once you have translated the download page, the web server administrator has to modify a Php script in order to register your download page. The reason is that the sub-domain download.doudoulinux.org is always used for the download page, whatever the language. Thus there is a redirection process that reads the visitor browser language and then moves to the corresponding website article. This defaults to English if the visitor language is not handled by our translation team.

Note that the Torrents page, the Debian repository page and the Dailybuild page also function this way.

Articles all have a logo but mine

Logos have to be manually uploaded. Moreover creating a new article translation does not copy the logo from the source article to the translated one. You can [download a tarball](#) [<http://download.doudoulinux.org/website/icons.tar.bz2>] of most of our article icons. If you do not want to bother with downloading the logo then uploading it to your article, just inform us that there are missing logos! We can easily upload them for you.

How tables of downloadable files are created?

A Php script does the job, this avoids us the boring work of changing all tables each time we upload a new file. In your page you just have to preserve tags like `<downloadlist |dirname=livedcd>`. This calls the Php script with the name of the directory from which the table of downloadable files will be generated. Another Php script on the web server contains translations for the table texts. They can be modified using PO files in the resource [website-download](#) [<http://www.transifex.net/projects/p/doudoulinux/c/website-download/>] on TransiFex.

What about screenshots?

It would be nice to include in your pages screenshots that are in the same language as the web page. However we know that this can be time consuming so we set a low priority on this task. Moreover this may not be as easy as expected because in DoudouLinux you do not have any tool to do this. Therefore you have two possibilities: either run DoudouLinux in a virtual machine such as VirtualBox, or run DoudouLinux on your computer with full persistence activated. This way you will be able to permanently install software like the Gimp to create your screenshots. You can install the Gimp in a running

DoudouLinux (and while connected to the Internet) with the following commands:

```
sudo apt-get update
sudo apt-get install gimp
```

My article still doesn't appear in my language menu

The usual explanation is that you forgot to **change the section of your article**. Thus your article appears in the reference article section instead of yours. However, if you did not create a translation of the reference **section** in which to place your article, you will not be able to move your article into your language section.

Should I publish directly or propose for evaluation first?

First of all if you do not have administration rights on your language section, you will not be able to publish directly. So if you have them, this is often better to propose for evaluation first. This way other contributors can look at your work, check links, add icons, etc. If they understand your language or have a good online translator, they can give you advice too.

Why my article is still for evaluation?

If you see other articles proposed for evaluation going into published state but not yours, this may be because other contributors found in your articles parts to improve. Please check the (internal) comments of your articles to know what they think about your work. And do not worry: none of us is perfect! ;)

How can I know that articles need updating?

Once you have translated an article, it may happen and it probably will happen one day, that the reference article was modified. Please register our dedicated list [website translation \[https://mail.gna.org/listinfo/doudoulinux-docs/\]](https://mail.gna.org/listinfo/doudoulinux-docs/) to keep in touch with us concerning website contents. Later we will setup a tool to visualize pages obsolescence.

Why is my article not linked to other translations?

If your article is not linked to other translations of the same article, this is likely because you did not follow the standard Spip process to start a new translation of an existing article. Please refer to [Translating pages](#).

Why my work is still not online?

See [Official website and work copy](#). When you publish or change an article in our editing software *Spip*, your work is not officially online yet. It will be online

only when a nightly static copy of *Spip* is manually converted into our official website. Just send a mail on our mailing list dedicated to [website translation](mailto:website.translation@https://mail.gna.org/listinfo/doudoulinux-docs/) [\[https://mail.gna.org/listinfo/doudoulinux-docs/\]](https://mail.gna.org/listinfo/doudoulinux-docs/) if nobody is moving your work to the official website!

Footnotes

[1] Libre software is free software, free meaning freedom not free of charge.

[2] In computers characters are coded with numbers since computers are not able to handle anything else. Character encoding defines which number in the computer is used to display each character of a given language. UTF-8 is an encoding which handles many different languages so that you can write messages in various languages in the same file.



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