Mandriva 2009/KDE 4.1 Revisited

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As Mandriva prepares for its 2009 release, I've been updating Mandriva 2009 daily from their "cooker" (development) repository ever since I installed a beta version a few weeks ago. Last night's update was massive, with an update of over 350 packages.

With last night's cooker updates came a new release of the developing OpenOffice.org suite of programs, a version labelled 3.0svn13581. Bear in mind, there are known problems with panel and desktop corruption when using the combination of NVidia's proprietary drivers, KDE 4.1, and OpenOffice.org. The bug that causes this is NVidia's, as it doesn't happen with different cards/drivers.

So I fire up this OOo Writer update (I am a very heavy user of OOo Writer), type in a couple lines of text. Then I decide to customize OOo Writer. When I click the "Tools" menu, OOo Writer dies instantly. I fire it up again, and it wants to recover the "Untitled 1" document. I let it, then I click a different menu item. Bang, OOo is gone. You've never seen a window disappear so fast. I try again, this time without document recovery--same result.

I seldom use a distro's build of OpenOffice.org anyway--instead I typically install Pavel Janik's latest OOo development builds [2].

So, I do that, and the Janik OOo build works well (with the usual NVidia driver problems associated with running OpenOffice.org under KDE4--i.e. panel and desktop corruptions).

Other things are progressing well. I'm playing some music oggs I converted from my (legally owned) music CD's. Amarok is playing Smokey Robinson's "Tears of a Clown" as I type this. Sounds great. Mandriva's pulseaudio based sound is progressing well under KDE4.

Over the weeks, as I've updated and played with the developing Mandriva 2009 Fall release from the KDE4 standpoint, I've experienced both despair and elation. It probably will be a *little* rocky when released because of all the bleeding edge software Mandriva is placing in this release. I can tell the Mandriva devs are working very hard on it, though, and overall, I'm encouraged. While many KDE 4 cutting edge desktop users are installing Kubuntu or SuSE, I encourage them to give Mandriva 2009 a try.

As of latest update:
KDE: 4.1.2
Kernel: 2.6.27-desktop-0.rc7.1.1mnb #1 SMP i686
Amarok: amarok-1.90-0.864324.1mdv2009.0.i586.rpm

Source URL: http://www.tuxmachines.org/node/30844

Links:
[1] http://www.tuxmachines.org/taxonomy/term/123
[2] ftp://ftp.linux.cz/pub/localization/OpenOffice.org/devel/