

Gentoo 12 review ? the product of an established community

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Say ?Gentoo? and most people think of a source code based DIY distro. However, this is a pre-built desktop system that comes as 3.4GB disk image. Michael Reed takes it for a spin?

Pros: Good community behind it. Lots of desktops and applications. A good way of demonstrating desktop Linux.

Cons: Beyond using it as a demonstration appliance, you'd have to be a Gentoo expert. A bit unwieldy for every day use.

First released in 2002 and based around source code rather than pre-compiled binary packages, Gentoo has become famous for the flexibility it offers. However, the Gentoo live DVD is a different beast altogether, leveraging existing Gentoo technology to provide a ready-made desktop that boots from removable media such as a DVD or a USB flash drive.

[rest here](#) [2]

[Gentoo](#)

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[2] <http://www.linuxuser.co.uk/reviews/gentoo-12-review-the-product-of-an-established-community/>