

Kali Linux 1.0 review

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Kali Linux is the latest incarnation of BackTrack Linux, an Ubuntu-based distribution for penetration testing. It is developed and maintained by Offensive Security, an outfit that provides security training and certification courses for IT professionals.

It has been described by its developers as the "the most advanced and versatile penetration testing distribution ever created." Whether you agree with that statement or not, this article gives you an idea of what types of applications and features are available on this first edition of Kali Linux.

Where BackTrack was based on Ubuntu and used a GNOME 2 desktop environment, Kali Linux 1.0 is based on Debian and uses a customized GNOME Shell. The customized GNOME Shell comes with a menu called kali-menu that is fashioned to look like a GNOME 2-type menu. Fans of desktop environments other than GNOME 3 should take comfort in the fact that Kali's build system makes it relatively easy to rolling their own using KDE, LXDE, Xfce, E17 or MATE.

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