

YaST (Yet another SUSE 10.1 RC2 Trial), Part 1

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Even though I swore I'd keep Fedora Core around for a while, it only took 3 months before I replaced it with Suse (again). It's all Xgl's fault. The [Kororaa Live CD](#) [2] is very cool. Since Xgl was created by a Novell engineer, and there are Xgl binaries for Suse, and since Suse is coming out with a new version, and (fintally!) since Xgl hasn't made it into Debian Sid yet, it made sense to install Suse to use as an Xgl testbed.

I downloaded the Suse 10.1 RC1 ISOs via bittorrent using my favorite version of Linux, [Kanotix](#) [3] (it's a live CD that installs Debian Sid, with some great enhancements). Then I grabbed the RC1 > RC2 deltas, figuring I'd try applying them with `xdelta` in Debian, and if that didn't work... That didn't work. Next thing to try was downloading the `deltarpm` rpm, using `alien` to convert it to a deb package, install it, and try again. It installed fine, but the `applydeltaiso` command ended up giving me a CRC error at the end of the conversion process (even though the MD5 sums of the ISOs and deltas were fine).

There's more than one way to skin a cat, and more than one way to install Suse. I grabbed the diminutive (35 MB) 'net install CD, followed the [directions](#) [4], and, in about an hour, was looking at a familiar green lizard. (The installer even recognized the native 1280x1024 resolution of my LCD monitor!)

The only glitches were as follows:

During installation, you come to a spot where it asks you if you want to go online to look for updates, and it complains it can't get online -- odd, since it just finished downloading 4 GB of packages. Then again, that part didn't work the last two times I installed Suse, either.

The second, more serious glitch came post-installation. I told it to put GRUB on the partition I installed Suse to (`hda2`), not my MBR, because I still boot Windows (OK, so I only *waddle the waddle sometimes...*) and I use a version of GRUB that runs after Windows' NTLDR runs. After rebooting, I got a "missing operating system" error, which was easily fixed by booting using a Smart Boot Manager floppy and running `chkdsk` in Windows. Suse, why'd you mess with my MBR when I specifically told you not to?

And the two most annoying glitches I've encountered in Suse proper are: 1) YaST won't seem to let me set my hostname manually. I want to leave the domain name blank, but it won't let me; then, when I put in a domain name, it complains about my search domain, which I'm not changing -- so I'm going to have to find out which files to edit manually. For now, I'm stuck with the annoying "`dhcpc1`". 2) I can't seem to add any repos without getting error messages about `/etc/init.d/novell-zmd` not starting. Then it tells me the server isn't accessible.

I really like the new openSuse Wiki. It makes doing things like [installing nVidia drivers](#) [5] much easier when the instructions are easy to find.

In Part 2: On to Xgl.

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Source URL: <http://www.tuxmachines.org/node/6482>

Links:

- [1] <http://www.tuxmachines.org/taxonomy/term/57>
- [2] <http://kororaa.org/static.php?page=static060318-181203>
- [3] <http://www.kanotix.com>
- [4] http://en.opensuse.org/Development_Version#Internet_Installation
- [5] <http://en.opensuse.org/NVIDIA>