



Putting magic back into computing.

What's Mageia?

Mageia is a Linux distribution. That is an operating system and a software suite ready to make a computer fully functional, and much more!

It can completely replace Windows, or live on the same computer.

What can we do with it?

An easy answer would be: everything! But that would be too easy. Let's try to give you an insight:

At home	Internet	✓	Web, e-mail, videos, communication, audio, webcam... With very low malware risks.
	Multimedia	✓	Photos, music, videos...
	Video games	✓	Lots of free games, Steam for linux...
At work (or at home)	Office	✓	Documents, presentations, spreadsheets....
	Creativity	✓	Photos, music, video, drawing, 3D...
	Development	✓	Compilers, editors, IDEs, etc.
On a server	Personal server Professional server	✓	Web servers, application servers, databases, cloud software, game servers, mail server, etc.

Is that all?

No! A list of the thousands of applications available can be seen at <http://mageia.madb.org>.

This Mageia thing, it's for experts, isn't it?

Not at all! Using it is similar to what you might be used to in proprietary systems, especially if you already use some pieces of free software (Firefox, VLC, LibreOffice...). We're doing all we can to make it simple to use.

Oh, then it's only for beginners...

Nice try. **Mageia** is easy to learn, but also extremely powerful. The simplicity doesn't prevent expert users making the best of it. Geeks will not be forgotten.

What's the price for all of this?

Nothing, unless you want to contribute back with a donation or some of your time.

How to install it?

Download the latest release from <http://www.mageia.org>, or take part in an install party. Follow the guide! <http://www.mageia.org/doc/>

But, what are Mageia's specific aspects?

To begin with, it has the qualities of a good generalist Linux distribution.

- **Stable, secure, feature-rich**, with a large range of hardware support (new or old).
- **No licence fees or hidden costs** after installing it (such as preinstalled trials for costly software, paying services, advertising, spyware...).
- Mostly made of **free open source software** (some free proprietary pieces of software are also available, though).

But it also has a personality of its own:

- Made in a collaborative way, **only by benevolent** contributors from all around the world. This is **rare**, even for a linux distribution.
- Managed by a French **non-profit organization** (1901 law).
- A history starting in 1998, when MandrakeLinux (its predecessor) was created.
- Easy to use yet very powerful.
- Mageia comes with a friendly control panel, giving you easy and simple access to control many aspects of your computer. Install new software, configure users, hardware, set up printers, and much more at the click of a button.

This sounds great, but how come I've never heard of it before?

We don't have a marketing budget, and in front of us there are giants: Microsoft, Apple... Everything depends on communication made by happy users (like the one who made this flyer). And meanwhile, vendors continue to sell costly proprietary software, which you can't copy or share, or even know how they work and whether they're spying on you or not, when trustworthy free equivalents exist in the free software movement.

There are probably issues, it can't be that perfect!

Indeed. There are bugs, as in every piece of software, paying or not. But if you get stuck, you can always find help from other users, and sometimes professional support. You can also take part in bug resolution, directly or indirectly.

We can get help?

Of course! In user forums (<http://forum.mageia.org>), local linux user groups, mailing lists (<https://ml.mageia.org//lists/users>), IRC channels (#mageia at irc.freenode.net), or during install parties in your area.

And can we help in return?

Yes! **Mageia** is organized in various teams (translators, developers, packagers, testers [QA], artwork, documentation, communication, support, etc.). They are **easy to join** thanks to a mentoring program where new contributors are in direct touch with an experienced contributor who helps progressing step by step.

But also, simply using Mageia on your computer, talking about it to people around you, reporting bugs if you find any, donating to the project, are useful ways to contribute.

We find useful skills in everyone, given the variety of our needs. Many users enjoy contributing because it makes them part of an **engaging worldwide community** and develop new skills. Here's the starting point: <http://www.mageia.org/contribute/>

Welcome into the Mageia community.