

# Gentoo Linux: The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly

... But mostly Good

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# Gentoo Linux: The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly

## History

- Daniel Robbins created Gentoo Linux
- First release in March of 2001
- Source based distro
- Package manager called Portage
- Supports a wide range of CPUs/architectures
- Currently number 8 on the major Linux distro list (from DistroWatch), number 1 source based distro
- IP is officially owned by the Gentoo Foundation

# Gentoo Linux: The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly

## My Linux Experience

- Started playing around with Linux about 6 years ago
- Tried Red Hat
- Used Mandrake though version 10
- Got hooked on Gentoo around 2005
- Use it exclusively at home now

# Gentoo Linux: The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly

## Good, Bad, and Ugly

- Many very good things about Gentoo
- Some bad things, and also some ugly things
- These items are in no particular order

# Gentoo Linux: The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly



# Gentoo Linux: The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly

- Good – Fairly large and active user community
- Good – Great forum site, very helpful
- Good – [gentoo-wiki.com](http://gentoo-wiki.com) has many well-written HowTos
- Good – Main [www.gentoo.org](http://www.gentoo.org) site has a lot of documentation, including detailed installation guide

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- Good – Portage = fabulous
- Good – Gentoo is highly customizable
- Bad – Sometimes takes awhile for new stable versions of software to show up in Portage
- Good/Bad – Large number of choices for building packages (USE flags)

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- Bad – Full Portage tree + downloaded packages = large (Can share, though)
- Bad – Slow to install packages on slow machines (Distcc can be useful)
- Good – New Live CD/DVD
- Good – New graphical installer

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- Good – No need to perform Stage 1 installs anymore (Stage 1 = bootstrap + base system, Stage 2 = base system, Stage 3 = no precompiles, configure then install what you want)
- Good/Bad – Geek oriented
- Bad – Not really for beginning Linux users
- Bad/Ugly – Some things done “The Gentoo way”

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# Gentoo Linux: The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly

- Good – Quite stable
- Bad – It can be a challenge to have a fully working system with X-windows in one day
- Bad – Updates can be somewhat tedious
- Good – Weekly newsletters

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- Good – GLSA announcements
- Ugly – Rumors of organizational infighting
- Good – Maintainers have compatibility for many different architectures
- Good – Very large number of packages available with many ebuild updates daily

# Gentoo Linux: The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly

- Bad/Ugly – There is often a need to manually manipulate config files, very few GUI configuration managers
- Good/Bad/Ugly – Everything is compiled from source (Actually some binary packages are available, e.g. OpenOffice)
- Good/Bad – Ebuilds and dependency management (revdep-rebuild, modules-rebuild)
- Bad – Emerge process and syncing Portage tree can be rather slow

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## References

<http://distrowatch.com/dwres.php?resource=major>

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gentoo\\_Linux](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gentoo_Linux)

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<http://www.gentoo.org>

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<http://forums.gentoo.org/>

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