

# DISTROHOPPER

We've tapped GCHQ's communications to find out what's going on in distro land.

## Emmabuntüs

Linux for humanitarians.

**D**ifferent situations need different distros. For many users it's important to having a solid base system that's around 700MB, making it easy to download. This is usually backed up by a great set of repositories that combine to give you access to almost all the software you need. Other times, it's really important to have everything you need installed from the start. Perhaps it's going to be installed somewhere without a good internet connection, or perhaps the users won't want to install software themselves. Emmabuntüs fits into this second category.

### For recycled hardware

It's designed for older computers for use by children. It has bucket loads of software in its 3.3GB download. Much of it will be familiar to most Linux users, but there's also a few unusual choices such as OOo4kids. This, you probably won't be surprised to learn, is a version of OpenOffice designed for children (<http://wiki.ooo4kids.org>).



There's so much choice in Emmabuntüs, it can take some time just to get to know the applications.

Basically, it just has a simplified interface to make it a bit more friendly.

Xfce is a good choice for a desktop given the intended audience, and we like that it asks the user if they want a dock at the bottom, and if they want to install non-free

software (Flash, etc). If you're looking at a distro for older computers to use in a school or community group, Emmabuntüs is definitely worth a look. Even if you decide to go with something else, it's sure to help you find a useful bit of software or two.

## Picore

Possibly the fastest Linux distro on the Raspberry Pi.

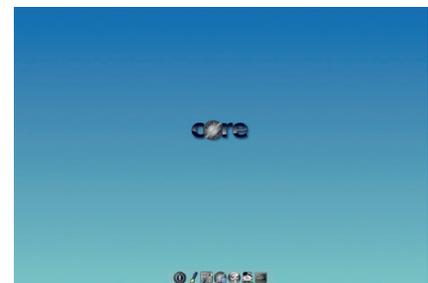
**T**inyCore Linux is a technical marvel. It's a full Linux distro, including a graphical desktop, and it's only about 15MB. However, it's not the size of your distro that matters, it's what you do with it.

The small size of TinyCore allows it to boot in a slightly unusual way. Instead of loading files from disk each time something is needed, the entire system loads itself into RAM when the system boots. This results in an OS that's startlingly fast even on modest hardware. Modest hardware like, for example, the Raspberry Pi, and the TinyCore

team have now released a build for the Pi called PiCore.

Compared to any of the other Linuxes for the Raspberry Pi, PiCore is startlingly quick. There's almost no lag when opening applications even on a non-overclocked Pi. It's a refreshing change from Raspbian, which can leave the user waiting at times.

It's hard to recommend PiCore to people new to Linux because its architecture does add a little complexity, and the RAM storage makes it a little too easy to lose all your files when you reboot if you're not careful.



There's not much software included by default in Picore, but plenty more can be downloaded from the internet.

However, experienced Linuxers looking for a little more snap on their (low-powered machine) should seriously consider it. After all, it's only 24MB to download and try.