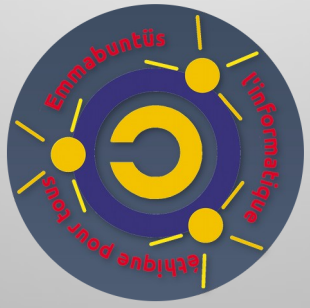
First steps with Emmabuntüs Debian Edition 3



Elaborated by Emmabuntüs Collective

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Debian 10 Buster

Updated : April 3, 2020

First steps on Emmabuntüs Debian Edition 3

First release : 20-03-2020, updated : 20-03-2020

Main author : Collectif Emmabuntüs

The purpose of this document is to give to the new Emmabuntüs users the basic elements which will allow them to have a good start.

1 - The Emmabuntüs distributions

The distributions GNU/Linux Emmabuntüs were designed to ease the refurbishing of old computers given to various humanitarian organizations, and in particular to the Emmaüs community (where the name of the distribution is clearly coming from). In addition it helps the beginners to discover the GNU/Linux world. The third objective is to extend the electronic hardware lifetime and, by doing such, to limit the waste of resources induced by the over-consumption of raw materials.

The Emmabuntüs Debian Edition 3 is based on Debian 10 XFCE, which makes possible to install it on relatively old computers (the kind of computyers running first Windows XP, Vista or Seven), featuring low performance hardware. This distribution includes also the complementary LXDE desktop environment, to extend the refurbishing capability of these machines.

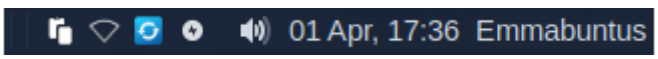
- Home page
- Wikipedia
- Reviews
- Forum

2 - Hardware Section

2.1 - Ethernet cable (wired connection)

Plug your Ethernet cable in the computer : the connection will be set automatically and you should see the activation status on the connection icon (2 opposed vertical arrows) in the notification zone (top right) of your screen.

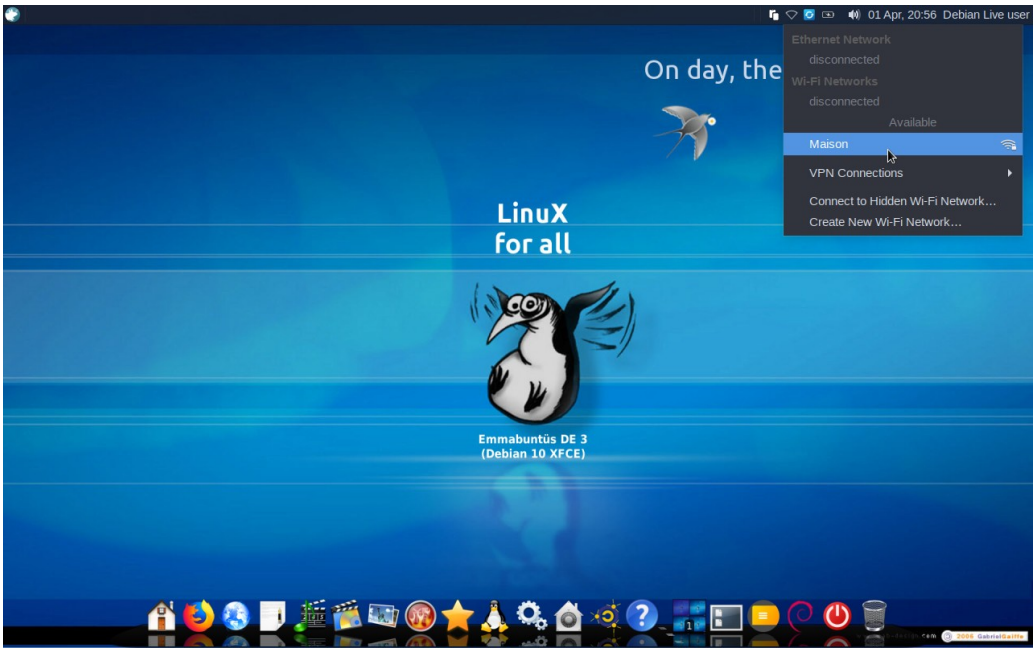
Connection not activated



Active connection

2.2 - Built-in Wi-Fi (wireless connection)

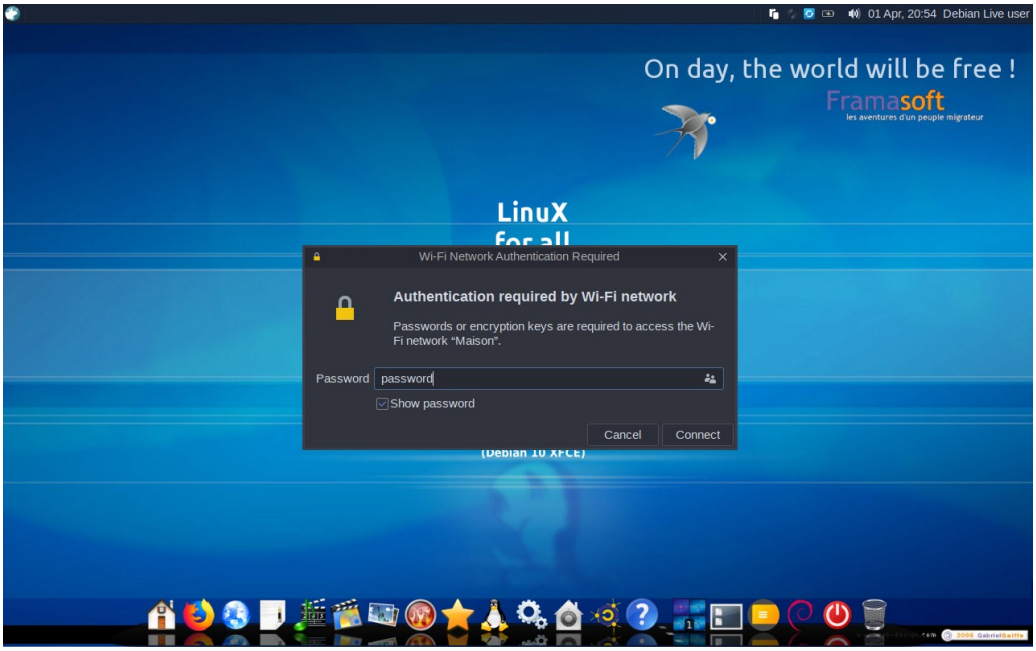
Click on the connection icon (2 opposed vertical arrows). See above the image of the notification zone (top right) of your screen.



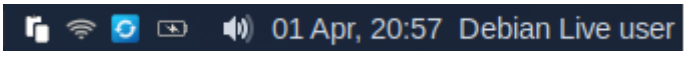
Then select the your Wi-Fi network in the list.

If not there, click on “More networks”

Enter the password for your Wi-Fi network, and to make sure you are not making any typo, click first on the “Show password” box.



When the connection is established, the Wi-Fi icon appears in the notification area :



2.3 - Wi-Fi USB Adapter automatically recognized

If your computer has no builtin Wi-Fi capability, we recommend you to use the 150Mbps High Gain Wireless USB Adapter TL-WN722N from TP-LINK.

We strongly suggest you pick a USB Wi-Fi stick with an antenna, or a bug size one, which has a better communication quality than the small Wi-Fi stick like this one :

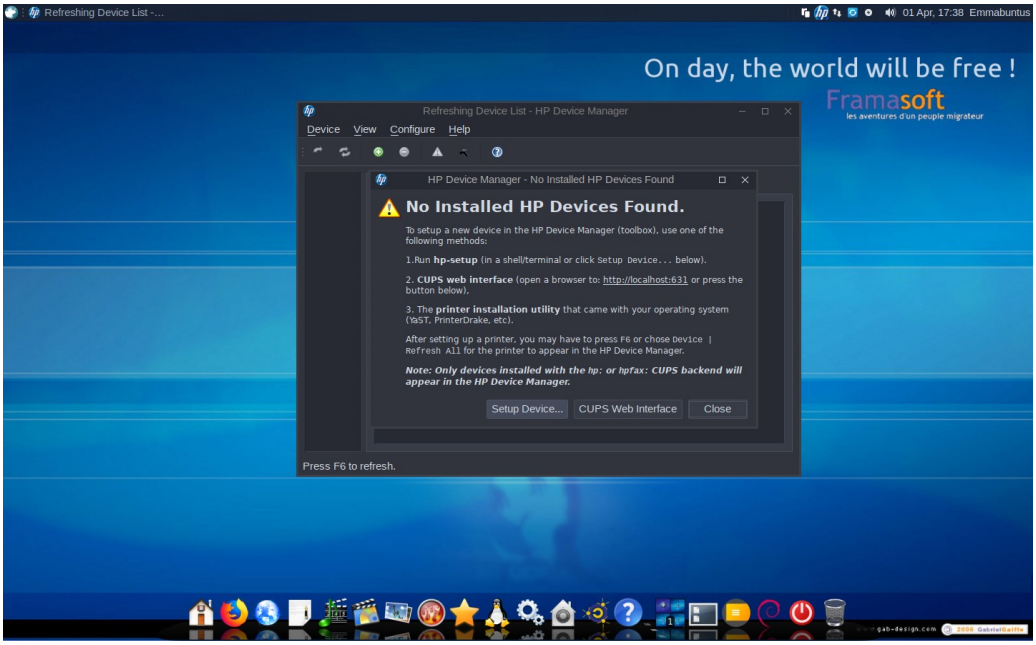
You must remember that the antenna inside a laptop goes all the way around the screen, which allows good Wi-Fi communication.

However it is also very possible to establish Wi-Fi connections with adapters which are not automatically recognized by the system.

2.4 - Adding a printer

Not all printer models are compatible with Linux, and you may need to install additional proprietary drivers (Epson for example). The procedure consists in connecting first the printer to the computer and then let the system detect it and propose the best suitable driver.

If the printer is not automatically detected and the manufacturer is HP, then launch the HPLip utility which is included in Emmabuntüs under the Utilities section. Click on the “HPLip Toolbox”, then on “Setup Device”, and fill the different fields of this form



If the printer is from another vendor, please look at the Emmabuntüs printers/scanners tutorial : tutos.emmabuntus.org.

2.5 - Adding a scanner

Plug the scanner to your computer and launch the SimpleScan tool with the Photo menu. Start the scanning operation and save the document under the format you wish (choice of the format is located at the bottom-left of the recording form). In general .pdf is used for documents and .jpg for pictures.

If you are facing some problems with the scanner, we recommend you read this Emmabuntüs tutorial dedicated to scanners : tutos.emmabuntus.org.

2.6 - Adding a 3G key

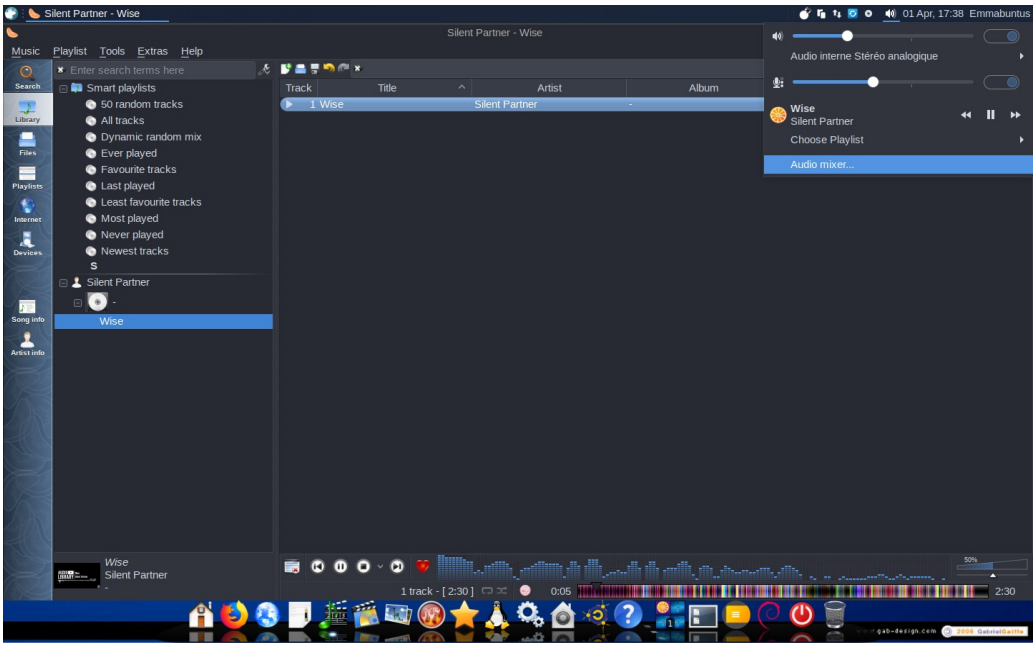
Configuring a 3G USB Key is a rather complex operation, and you should read first this Debian Wiki on 3G Keys page or the dedicated 3G pages on the site of your key provider.

A workaround to this problem is to use your 3G mobile phone as a modem/router by connecting it with your computer either with an USB cable or by establishing an ad-hoc Wi-Fi connection. For more information on how to connect your mobile phone to your computer, or to make a bridge on your phone, launch a search on Internet with the following keywords : Tethering Android and your phone model. You can also start looking at this wikiHow page.

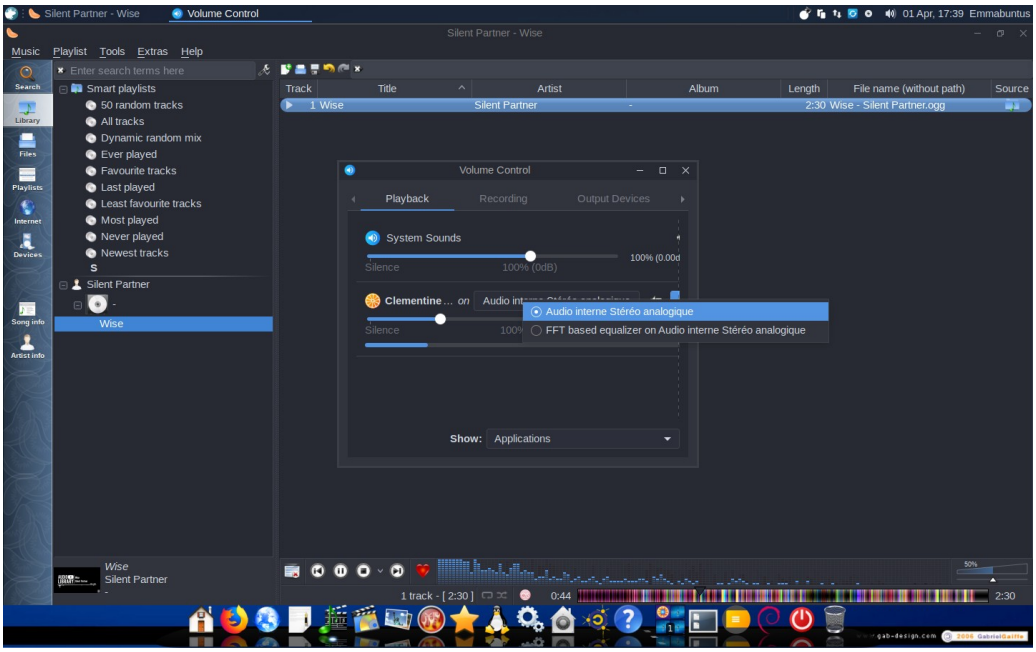
2.7 - Audio Settings

The Clementine and Quod Libet players include few music samples so you can perform directly some audio tests on the computer.

For example you can launch the Clementine player. To do so, click on the Audio category, then on Clementine. At that point you can double click on a piece of music. If you do not hear the music playing, click on the speaker icon (top-right of the screen) and then on “sound settings”.



Then within the “Volume Control” window, pick the “Output device” tab, and try using the different output ports displayed by the drop box.



2.8 - Webcam testing

Launch the Guvcview tool in order to verify if the webcam is fully functioning. To do so, click on the “Video” category, then on « guvcview », and you should then see the image produced by the webcam (usually your own face !). If this is not working, please see the Debian Wiki on webcam : wiki.debian.org/Webcam

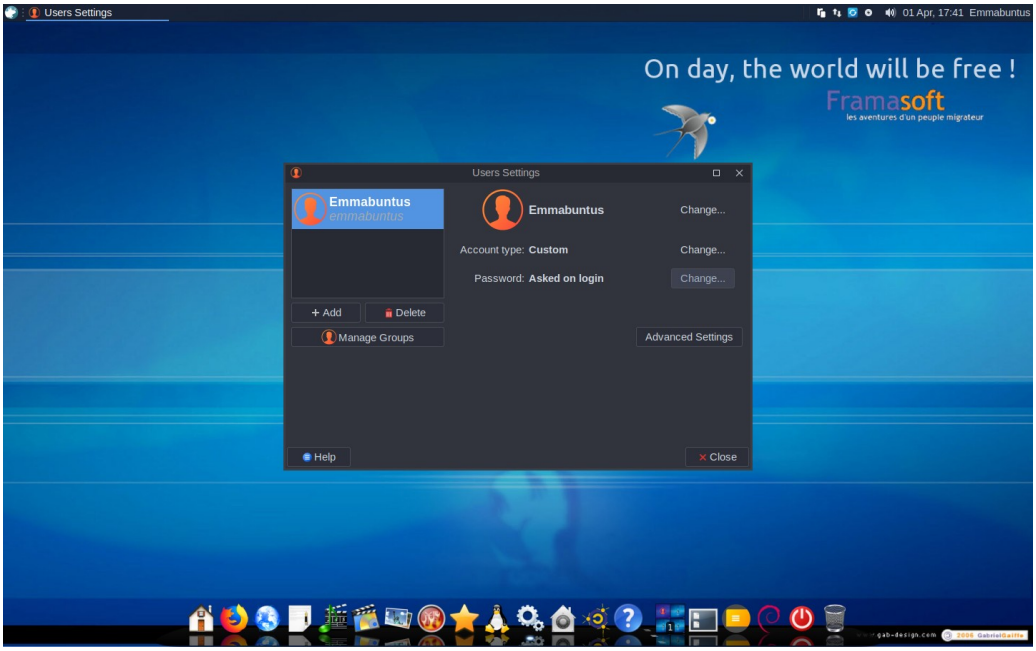
3 - Software Section

3.1 - Password

This password will be needed to manage the software updates or to install new applications on your machine, and more generally to perform all administrative tasks.

3.2 - Changing the password

Click on the “Utilities” category, then on the “Users and Groups” icon. In this new window, click on the “Change ...” button on the password line and then enter the old password and twice the new password.



3.3 - Resetting the password

Resetting the password is necessary when you have forgotten it. To do so, dsuring the boot phase, keep pressing on the **shift key at the right end side of the keyboard**, until you see the Grub launcher menu like below :

Now, select the first line of the menu and type “e” in order to edit the launcher command line :

Then add the following ionstruction at the end of the “linux boot/vmlinux” line

```
init=/bin/bash
```

press the F10 function key to launch the system, and a black background console window will open on the screen.

Type the following command :

```
mount -o remount /
```

followed by the command :

```
passwd <your login ID>
```

Please check that your keyboard is correctly mapped to an English one

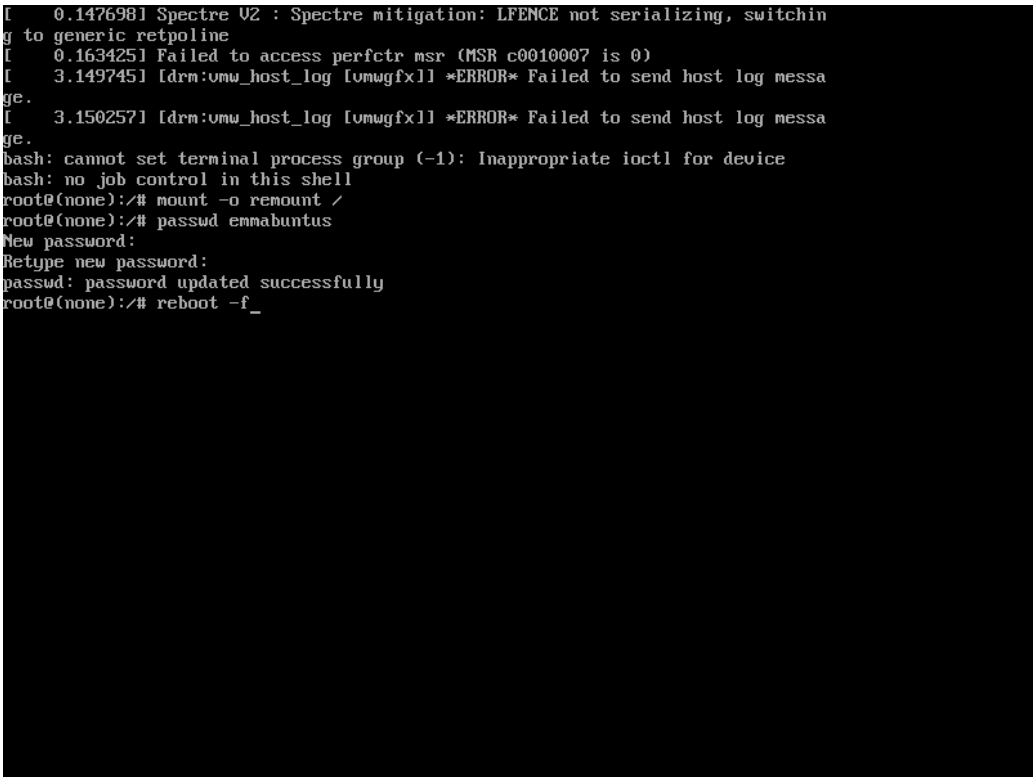
Next you should type twice the new password and Enter. Finally, and if everything went OK , you should see the following message :

```
Passwd: password updated successfully
```

Then type the following command to restart the computer :

```
reboot -f
```

Here after the output for all these commands :



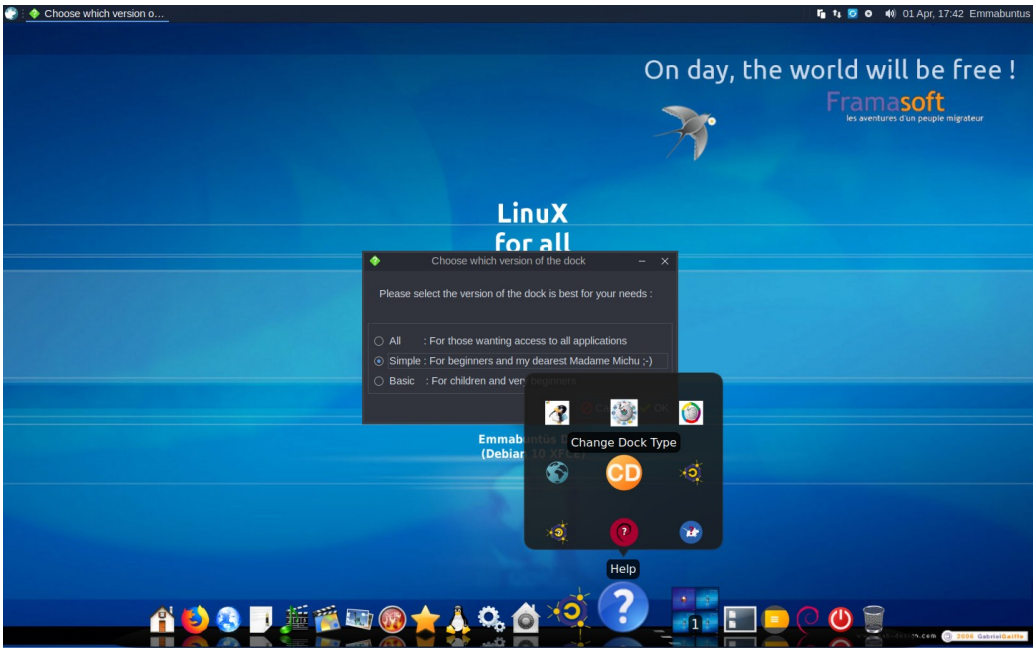
3.4 - The Dock

The Dock or Application Launcher is the key stone of the Emmabuntüs system.

It makes this distribution independent and creative compared to the other members of the Ubuntu or Debian families. This is Cairo-Dock, which is used since the very first released version of Emmabuntüs.

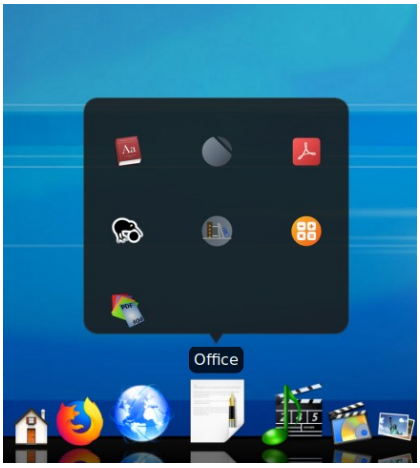
Its usage evolved between the very first release of Emmabuntüs 10.04 and the current Debian Edition 3 : it supports now several languages, 3 user levels, and depending on the screen format it can be hidden or not. In addition, for the Debian Edition version we included the initial Dock restoration and protection functionalities, see the screen capture below :

Dock type selection :

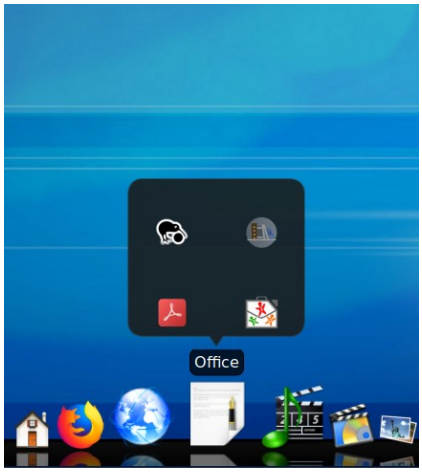


Three user levels are available in the Dock: All, Simple, Kids. It can be auto-hidden, or not, depending on the screen size. Below an example showing the different tools available in the Office category, for the each of the three Dock levels :

Level : All



Level : Simple



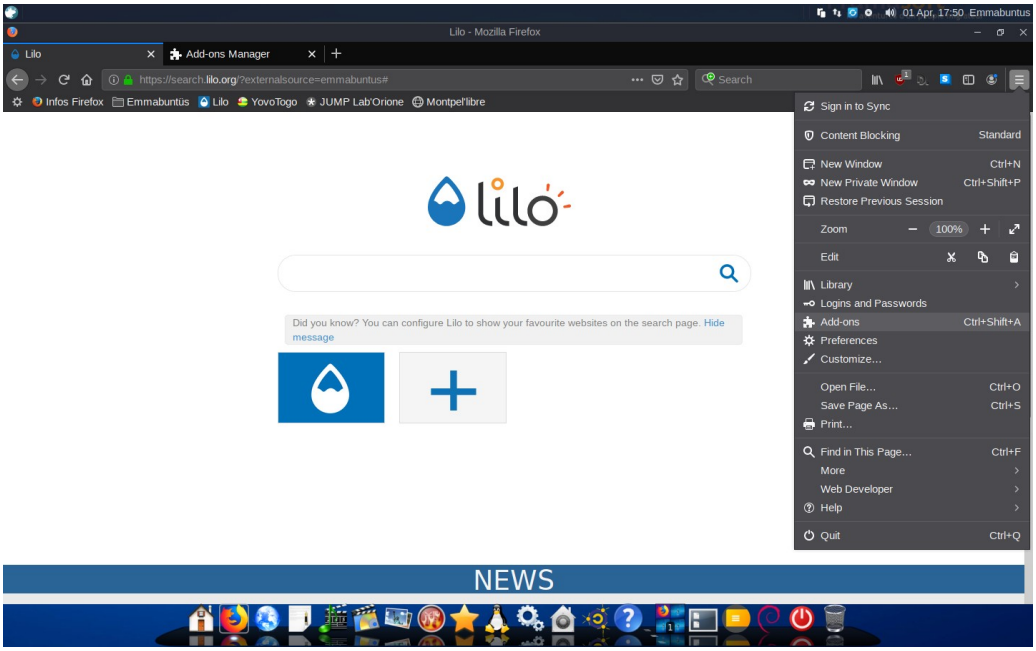
Level : Kids

3.5 - Blocking some Internet sites

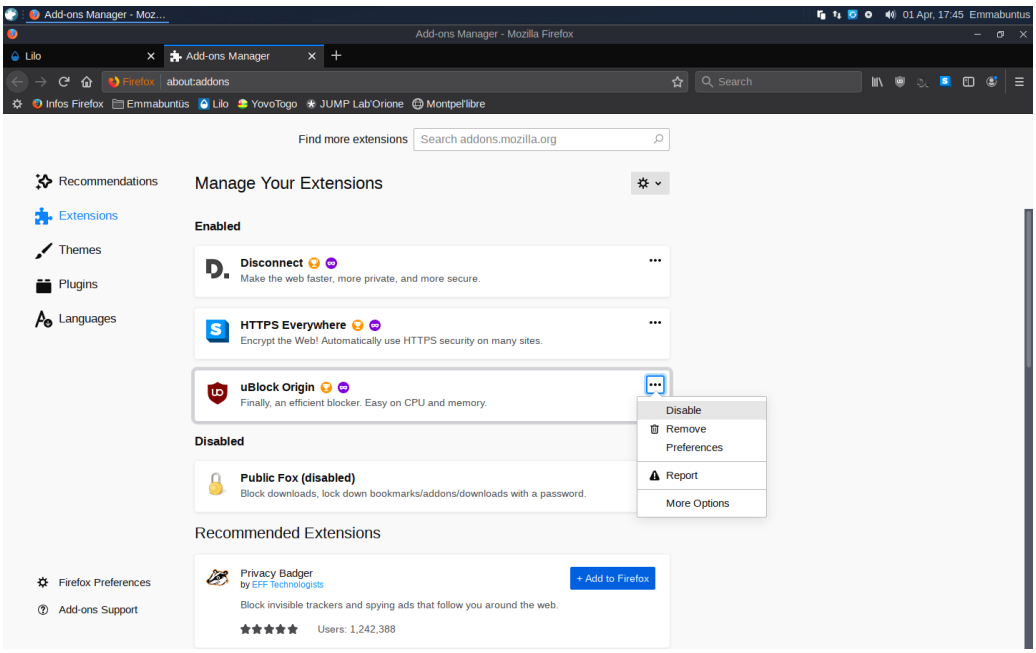
Emmabuntüs contains the Firefox web browser (the previous versions of Emmabuntüs, before EmmaDE3, contained also the Chromium web browser) which includes two extensions to block Advertising and Phishing (or Fishing).

While protecting your privacy, these extensions may bock the access to some sites. In that case, it is possible to temporary disable this extension for this given site, or to disable it permanently.

In the Firefox browser : open the main “burger” menu (top right), and select the Add-ons sub-menu



Then select the “Extensions” category, and click on the 3 dots icon at the right of the desired extension, and then on “Disable”.

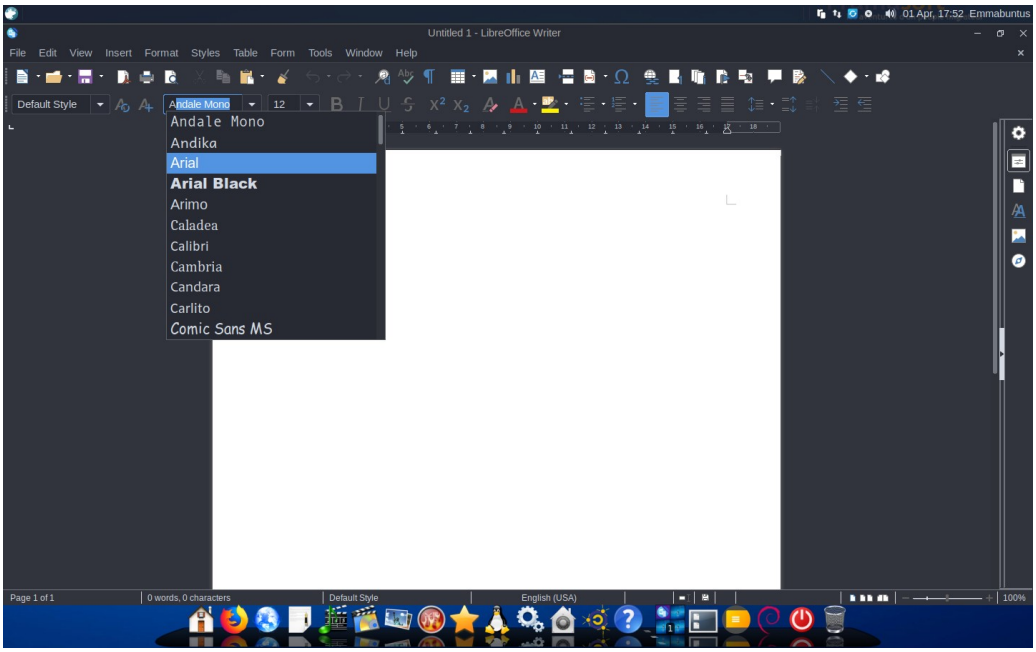


3.6 - Compatibility with Microsoft Office

The Office category received a lot of attention in order to provide several tool suites, fine tuned for three different types of situation : LibreOffice for advanced users, AbiWord/Gnumeric for beginners or when the computer is too resources limited, and

LibreOffice for schools (OOo4Kids in the previous Emmabuntüs versions, before EmmaDE3) for the kids [French links only, sorry] .

Emmabuntüs is designed to easily install the proprietary fonts of the Arial family (Microsoft Office 2003) and the Calibri family (Microsoft Office 2007/2010). In order to check that these fonts were correctly installed on your computer, open the LibreOffice Writer application and, within the drop down font list, type the A character and verify that the Arial font is in there. Similarly re-open the drop down font list, type the C character and verify that the Calibri font is in there too.



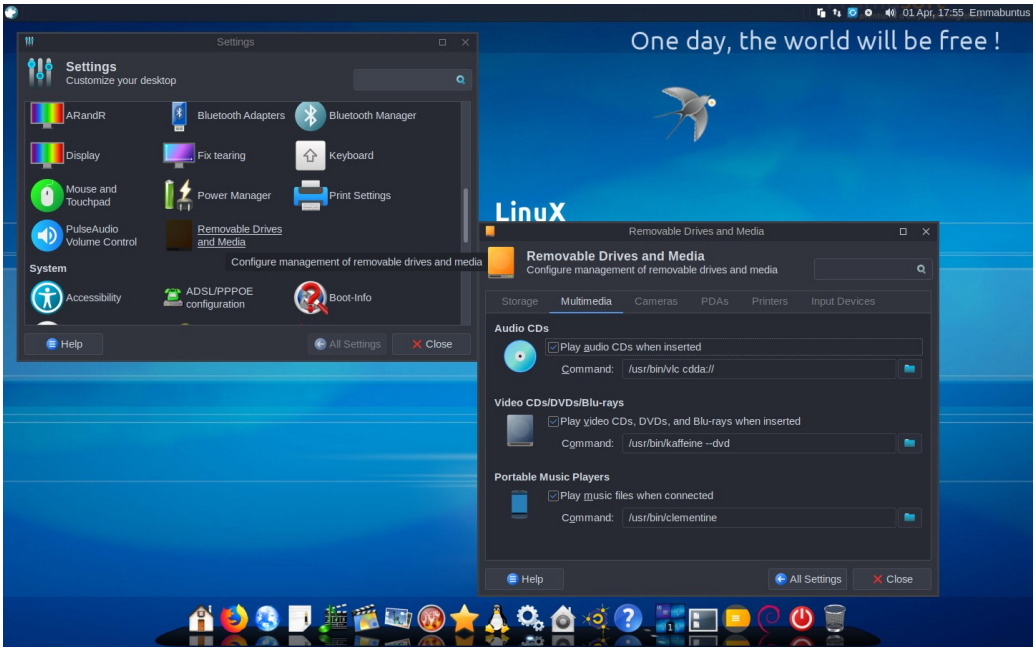
By default, LibreOffice saves the documents using an open format called ODT (Open Document Text). This format cannot be read by default by the old versions of Microsoft Office and it is wise to also save the original document into the .doc format for the versions 97/2000/XP/2003 of Microsoft Word, in order to send it to persons who are not using LibreOffice. It is also a good idea to join the PDF version as well.

If one or the other font is not present, click on “Maintenance”, then on “Proprietary Software” and pick one of the icons containing the font character to install the missing font on your computer. Fill in the password when you are asked for.

Depending on the Emmabuntüs versions, to be able to install these fonts, your computer must be connected to Internet.

3.7 - CD/DVD Player

Simply put a CD or a DVD in the reader and after few seconds the VLC player will open for the CDs, or the Kaffeine player for the DVDs.



Emmabuntüs is configured by default with the media players mentioned above. If, for example, you prefer to use VLC instead of Kaffeine to play DVDs, you should execute the following steps :

Click on the “Utilities” icon of the Dock, then on “Settings manager” and within the Settings window scroll down to “Removable Drives and Media” and click on it. In the new open form select the “Multimedia” tab and in the Video field replace the Kaffeine command by :

```
/usr/bin/vlc --playlist-autostart dvd://
```

3.8 - Watching Internet Videos

In order to watch videos on Internet, by connecting to some Video on demand sites for example, we were obliged to install the Adobe Flash player, a non-free software (which rises privacy issues) receiving a lot of criticisms. Its format is not fully open and documented which makes difficult to work on a alternative free software implementation which will fully respect the user privacy.

3.9 - Internet videoconferencing

To have an easy access to Internet videoconferencing, we were obliged to include the Skype application, which is a non-free software (which also rises privacy issues). Other free solutions exist within Emmabuntüs like Jitsi or Framatalk, but you will be forced to create another account, and friends will also be obliged to use a compatible application different from Skype. Since this Skype software is not free, it is not possible to develop a free application compatible with it.

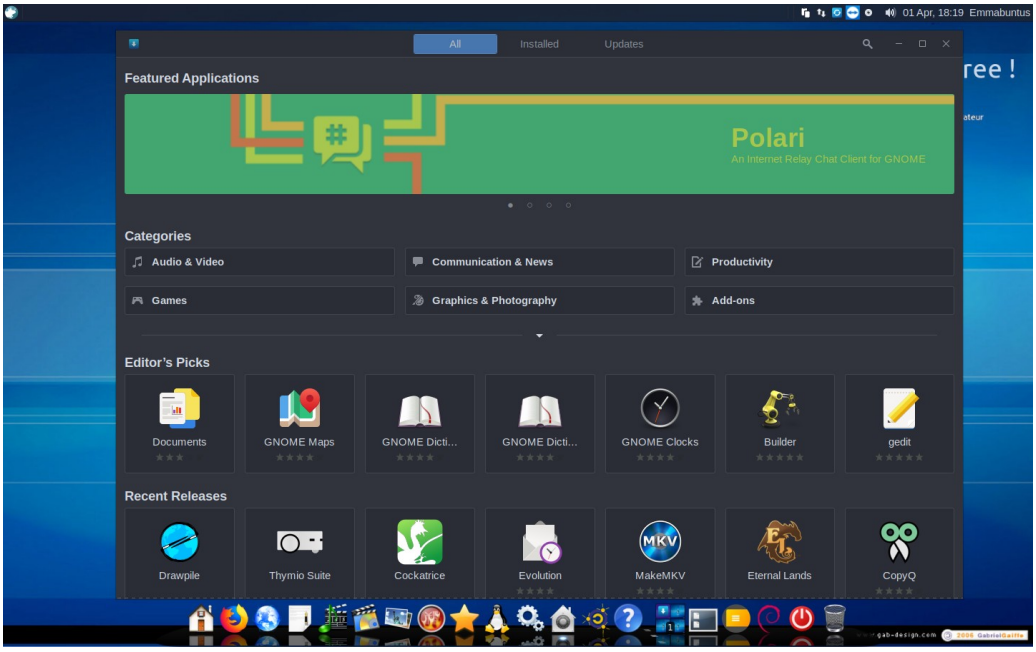
3.10 - Adding software running on Linux

The Emmabuntüs system, like all Linux systems, uses “packages” to install new applications. A package encapsulates all the files necessary to make an application fully functional. You can use different methods to install a package :

- The Software Center (for beginners)
- Synaptic, the graphical interface of the packagemanager (for advanced users)
- apt, the Advanced Packaging Tool at the command line level (for expert users).

For beginners, the new software installation has been greatly simplified, thanks to the Software Center included in the system. To use it, click on the Dock “Maintenance” category, then on “Software Center”.

Then you can search the program name or navigate through the various categories.



If the application you are looking for is not in there, you can launch a search on Internet with “the name of your software” associated with the word Debian.

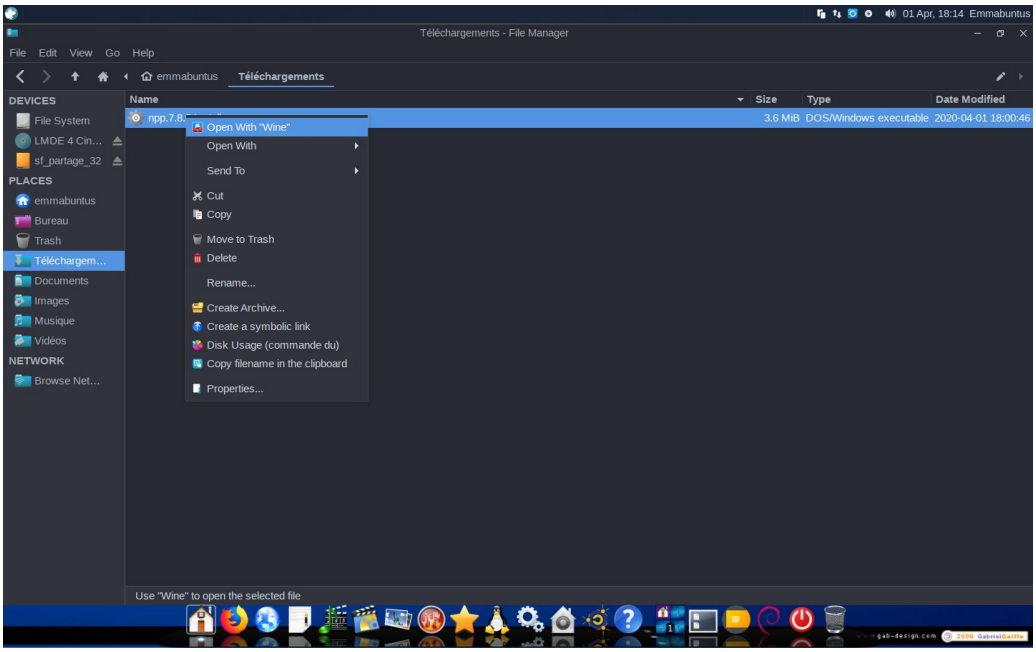
3.11 - Adding programs running on Windows

To insure a greater compatibility with programs running only on the Windows platform, WINE is integrated by default in Emmabuntüs. This compatibility layer allows you to run, for example, the excellent Notepad++ text editor.

All the Windows programs cannot run under Ubuntu, even when using Wine. Please look at the Wine Application compatibility database.

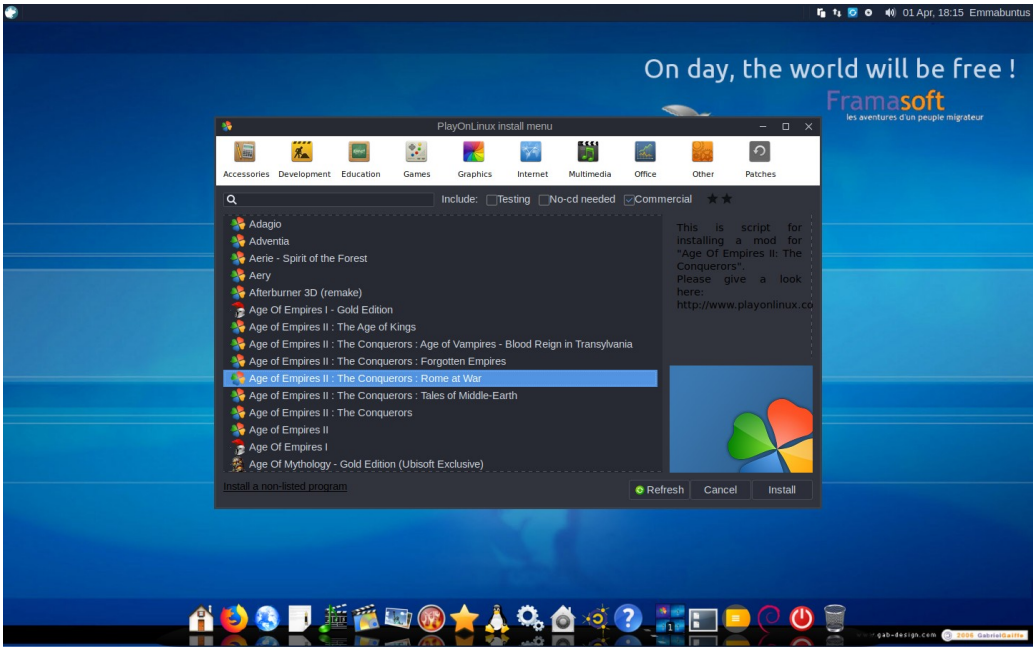
We would rather invite you to look for a free GNU/Linux software allowing you to obtain equivalent results. And may be also give back your improvements to the original authors of this piece of software.

To install a Windows application, download the executable (.exe), then right click this executable file and chose “Open With ...” and select “Open With : Wine Windows Program Loader” :



Emmabuntüs also includes PlayOnLinux. This application let you run some software developed for the Windows platform, notably in the video games field, but in order to use these software you must first own the original CD or DVD of the games.

To start this application, click on the Dock “Applications Menu”, then on the “Games” category and finally select PlayOnLinux :



Remember that some games require computers more powerful than the one you own. Please look first at the prerequisites of the game you want to run.

To ease, once again, the transition between Windows and Linux, it is also possible to install VirtualBox on your computer to run your old Windows system under Emmabuntüs, and by doing such, continue to use applications which are not functioning under Linux and have no complete equivalence in the free software world.

Please look at this table of Linux software equivalent to Windows Linux.

To install VirtualBox, go to the Software Center, and search for VirtualBox.

VirtualBox is a virtual machine and under no circumstances can replace your previous system in all what concerns the physical interfaces, which in fact are interfaces simulated by the virtual machine. In other words, it is very unlikely that you will be able to run your old printer or scanner through VirtualBox.

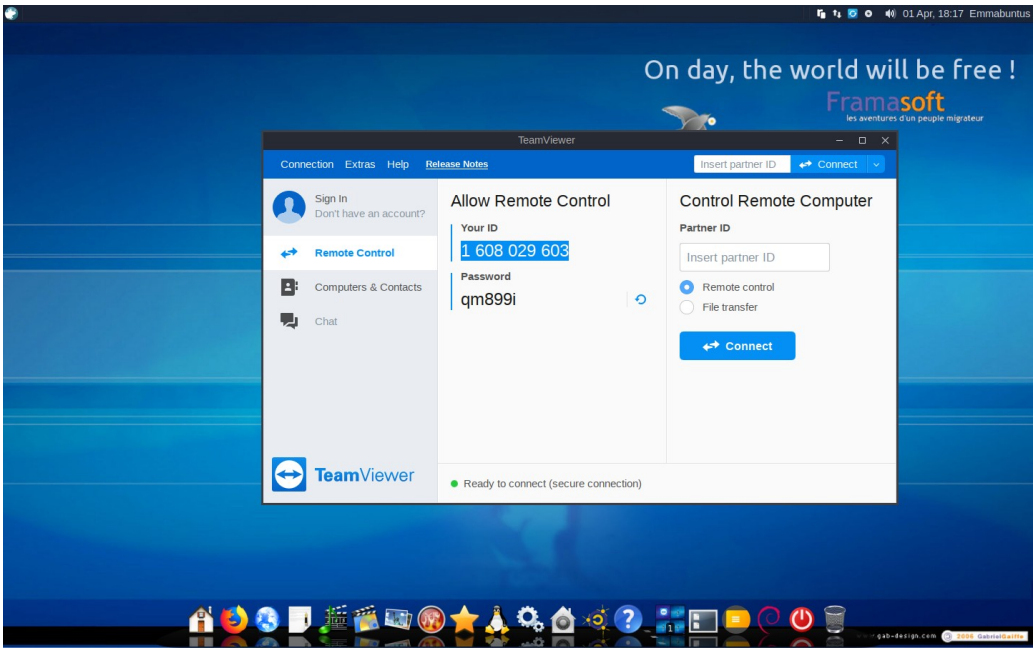
To successfully run VirtualBox you need some solid computer knowledge as well as the installation CD or DVD for the other client operating systems, as well as their license keys.

3.12 - Remote support

TeamViewer is a proprietary free-ware allowing the remote control of a computer by another one in order to help and train new users. This functionality is not possible within a commercial context.

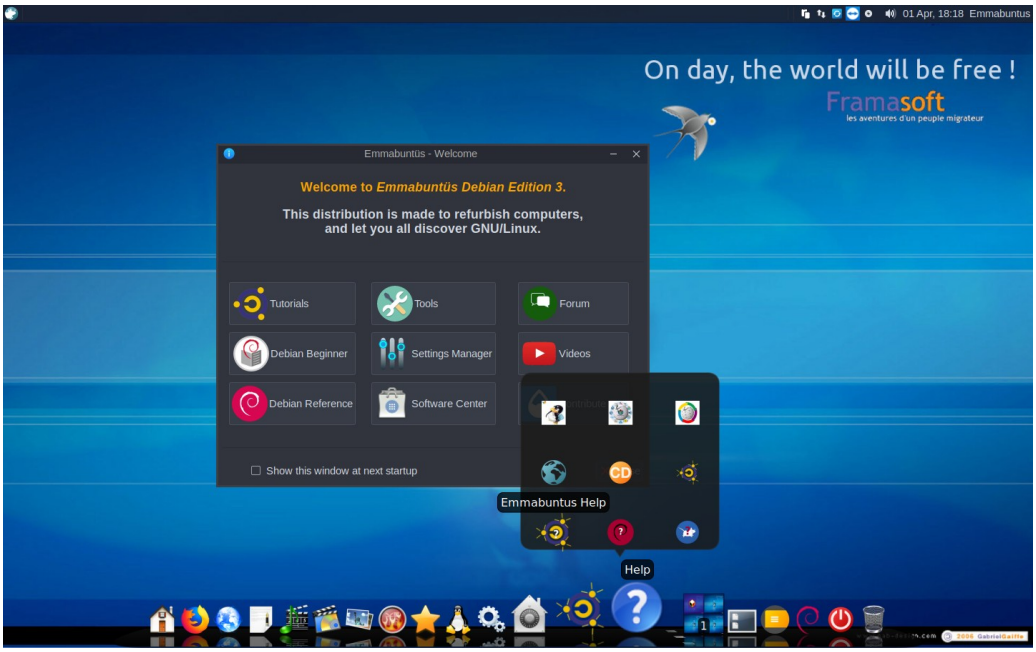
To launch TeamViewer click on the Dock “Maintenance” icon, then on the TeamViewer Icon (the two ways blue arrow).

This operation must be done on the two machines you want to connect together, with the same version of the application. The person who wants to take the control of the distant computer asks to his/her partner to provide the “ID Code” (the nine digit numeric key in the top left part of the connection interface) and enter it in the right part of the interface. If this code is recognized, TeamViewer asks then for the partner password which is a 6 digit alphanumeric code located under the “ID Code” of the partner. Then the connection begins between the master and the partner machines.


01 Apr, 18:17 Emmabuntus
On day, the world will be free !
Framasoft
les aventures d'un peuple migrateur
TeamViewer
Connection Extras Help Release Notes
Insert partner ID
Connect
Sign In
Don't have an account?
Remote Control
Computers & Contacts
Chat
TeamViewer
Allow Remote Control
Your ID
1 608 029 603
Password
qm899i
Control Remote Computer
Partner ID
Insert partner ID
Remote control
File transfer
Connect
Ready to connect (secure connection)

4 - Help

Emmabuntüs contains an off-line help directly accessible from the Dock (the Emmabuntüs Help icon is at the bottom left of the category).



And if you don't find a solution to your problem, please have a look at Forum.

5 - Acknowledgements

Thanks to you for having read this First Steps Tutorial. Don't forget that the whole Emmabuntüs community is available on the emmabuntus.org site.

Have a nice journey on the path of the free software ...

Thanks to Vincent Viale, to the various editors, and to ideefixe for the improvement of this tutorial and his help when we published the Emmabuntüs 2 initial version, based on Xubuntu 12.04, on the Developpez.com site.

6 - Table of contents

1 - The Emmabuntüs distributions....3

2 - Hardware Section....3

2.1 - Ethernet cable (wired connection)....3

2.2 - Built-in Wi-Fi (wireless connection)....4

2.3 - Wi-Fi USB Adapter automatically recognized....5

2.4 - Adding a printer....6

2.5 - Adding a scanner....6

2.6 - Adding a 3G key....7

2.7 - Audio Settings....7

2.8 - Webcam testing....8

3 - Software Section....9

3.1 - Password....9

3.2 - Changing the password....9

3.3 - Resetting the password....9

3.4 - The Dock....12

3.5 - Blocking some Internet sites....13

3.6 - Compatibility with Microsoft Office....14

3.7 - CD/DVD Player....16

3.8 - Watching Internet Videos....17

3.9 - Internet videoconferencing....17

3.10 - Adding software running on Linux....17

3.11 - Adding programs running on Windows....18

3.12 - Remote support....20

4 - Help....22

5 - Acknowledgements....22

6 - Table of contents.....23