Linux Lite 2.0

David Hayward explores a fresh distro that's as light as a feather.

In brief...

» A delightful, tasteful distro that makes Linux feel like a breath of fresh air.

Linux Lite is a distro that finds favour wherever it's installed, but for some odd reason is often left to one side, or forgotten completely when the talk turns to fresh, lightweight and manageable desktops. We've no idea why, but suffice to say that the new version 2.0 of the distro is an exceptionally good example of what can be achieved when the right combinations of desktop, tools, programs and ideas come together.

If the emphasis – or rather the selling point – of a Linux distro these days is its user friendliness and gentle learning curve, then Linux Lite should by all rights be top of the shopping list. Based on Ubuntu 14.04 LTS, this Xfce-installed distro is loaded with everything you could want from a modern PC.

Gimp, *Firefox*, *Thunderbird*, *Mumble* (a high quality voice chat program), and *VLC* are the standard fare. *LibreOffice* is included too, but there's more to this distro than the inherent programs.

There are pre-built and configured tools to help install extra software – or even remove it – via the Lite Software feature, which runs via a set of well-designed scripts. There's also a pre-made user manager in the form of *Linux Lite User Manager*, which makes account management a little easier to understand for newcomers to Linux.

The more common tools and administrative programs are readily accessible, and for the hardened user there's always the terminal, which has a rather natty and retro looking green text
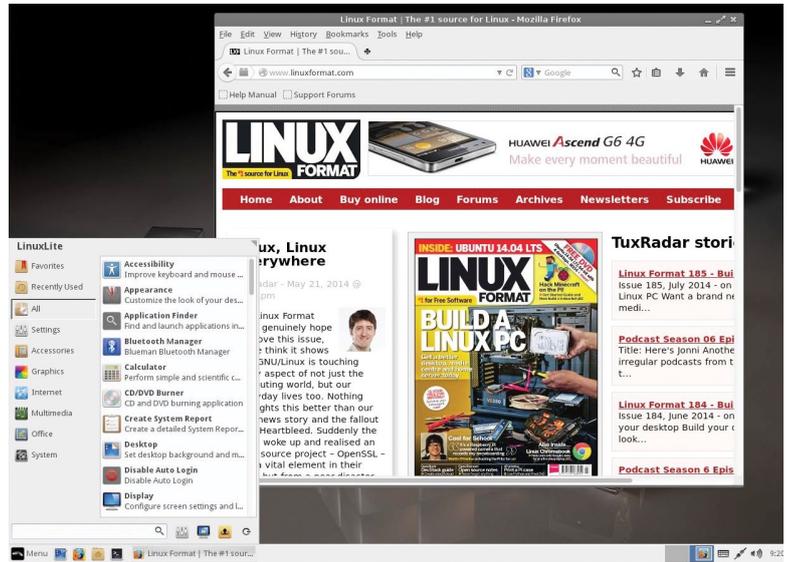
❯ **Linux Lite presents a clear and uncluttered entry point to the world of Linux.**

on a black background theme going, so despite the emphasis on new users, a regular distro junkies will appreciate Linux Lite just as well.

The menu layout is clean and uncluttered, as are the desktop and interface, which helps improve the already minimalist nature of Linux Lite. Everything has been carefully planned – from the wording of the programs and tools in the menu, to the well-documented support and help manual.

Former Windows XP user will have no trouble getting to grips with Linux Lite, but it's not exclusively dedicated to bringing new Linux members into the community. The right-click context menu, for example, houses such additions as Create Launcher, Task Manager and even a screenshot option. These combine to form a great entry point to Linux, but a few tweaks here and there can turn Linux Lite into a desktop powerhouse, and one that will appease the more advanced user.

Looks aside, the clever combination of Xfce and the minimalist approach of the overall system make Linux Lite an exceptionally sprightly desktop. It boots in seconds, is quick to open programs, can switch between workspaces rapidly, and adds a sense of style to what is effectively yet another lightweight distro. It's also very stable and didn't

crash when we treated it to an intense Steam session or a spot of video editing. In fact, it remained lively throughout the entire time we tested it, which is a testament indeed to its quality construction and development.

It's not often we come across a distro that takes our breath away, but Linux Lite has done so through its ease of use and stylish approach.

To conclude, we're very impressed with the work that has been done to deliver Linux Lite 2.0. It's a great desktop and addition to our collection of worthy installations, and for this we applaud the development team and Linux Lite community. **LXF**

Features at a glance

Monitor resources
The Resource Usage Monitor is especially good. The usual suspects, such as *Firefox*, are all present.
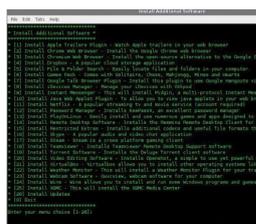
Install software
The Install Additional Software scripts are easy to read and understand. They're a nice touch.

LINUX FORMAT Verdict

Linux Lite 2.0

Developer: Linux Lite dev team
Web: www.linuxliteos.com
Licence: GPLv 2

Features	9/10
Performance	9/10
Ease of use	9/10
Documentation	9/10

» *One of the best Linux distros we've tested and used in a very long time. Highly recommended.*

Rating 9/10