SLUUG April 2022
Introduction to NomadBSD.

Introduction to NomadBSD
SLUUG; Ken Johnson (contact-point@pobox.com)

Thank you for coming to the April meeting on the second Wednesday.

About Me

I work as an independent consultant performing system and small network administration, and writing specialized technical documentation.

I have done a little work with OpenBSD for a customer some years back. I once installed NetBSD on a Macintosh SE30 for fun. I have configured *pfsense* systems for customers.

I have lots of experience making things work, but I cannot be called any kind of BSD expert.

Introduction to NomadBSD

Limited time tonight, so:

What is it

Why did I use it, why might you

How to get started successfully

I have another obligation, and Wendell is waiting in the wings.

Please ask questions in the written chat as we go along.

I may postpone answers until the end.

What is NomadBSD?

From the project: NomadBSD is a persistent live system for USB flash drives, based on FreeBSD®. Together with automatic hardware detection and setup, it is configured to be used as a desktop system that works out of the box...

What is NomadBSD?

From me: NomadBSD is a curated
FreeBSD system with an Open-Box based
desktop. It can be used as a persistent live
system from a USB drive, or *easily installed
as the default boot O/S on a system*.

Pkg -vv output

NomadBSD:

"pkg+http://pkg.FreeBSD.org/FreeBSD:13..."

Netgate pfsense box:

"pkg+https://firmware.netgate.com/pkg/...",

Why do I called it 'curated FreeBSD'? NomadBSD updates from the FreeBSD repositories.

Pfsense, another FreeBSD-related system, has its own repositories.

Bunsenlabs analogy.

Why use NomadBSD?

Test FreeBSD hardware compatibility

Quick FreeBSD system for reference

An easy way to explore FreeBSD

'distro-hopping' – FreeBSD handbook is great; there is a NomadBSD 'handbooklet'.

I wanted a FreeBSD system for reference, as I set up a *pfsense* system for a customer.

It turns out that is not as useful as you might expect. *Pfsense* really wants you to do things the *pfsense* way, which may not be the FreeBSD way.

Wendell will probably discuss.

How to get NomadBSD

https://nomadbsd.org – follow the instructions, including the Errata section!

Download and unpack the image

Burn a USB drive or convert to Virtualbox disk image.

You need the Errata if you apply pkg updates.

NomadBSD for Virtualbox

Download and unpack the image

Convert to Virtualbox disk image (VDI).

Setup

Restart

NomadBSD for Virtualbox - Setup

Language/Locale

Keyboard

Timezone

'root' and 'nomad' password

Encryption option

Shell / Editor / GUI Editor / File Manager

NomadBSD for Virtualbox - Login

Create own user

Display Manager settings –
  Autologin, default user, login screen theme

Settings | ArandR | Outputs | Default
  | Resolution

My virtualbox and NomadBSD experience is so-so.

Here is the super-short demo.

NomadBSD on Hardware

Download and burn image to USB drive

Boot from USB drive

Setup as before

Restart, login as root

Run NomadBSD Installer

NomadBSD on Hardware

My Hardware:

Thinkpad X100e, 4GB, SSD

Works nicely

Introduced 2010. Worked for everything I wanted to do with it.

Questions about NomadBSD?

What is it?

Why do you want it?

How do you get it set up?

Another chance to ask questions, with a reminder of where we have been.

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