

# Salix 15.0

Salix OS is a willowy Slackware derivative that's easy to use and comes with a well-themed Xfce desktop. Just what **David Rutland's** looking for...

## IN BRIEF

Salix isn't lying when it calls itself, "Linux for lazy Slackers." The installation process comes with zero drama, and once it's installed you can start using it straight away without additional configuration. It's obvious where everything is, what everything does, and the software defaults are both sensible and useful. While it would be nice to have the choice of multiple desktop environments, Salix's use of Xfce is practically perfect.

## SPECS

**Build:** x86\_64, i586/i686

**S**alix – also known as The Bonsai OS and Linux for the Lazy Slacker – is a Slackware-based distribution, with a focus on lightness, ease of use and simple good looks. Salix 15.0 is only available with the Xfce desktop environment, making it a perfect choice for older machines, and means you have one less decision to make.

The standard installation media is a solid 1.7GB. It'll fit comfortably on a DVD, with versions available for both 32- and 64-bit machines.

Slam the disc (*what?—Ed*) into your drive and after choosing your language, you'll be prompted to type the word **setup** to start the text-based setup. There's the usual drive partitioning step that's handled with efficient and undramatic aplomb by *cdisk*, choosing a file system and installation media, after which you'll be offered the option of a Full, Minimal or Core (console only) install.

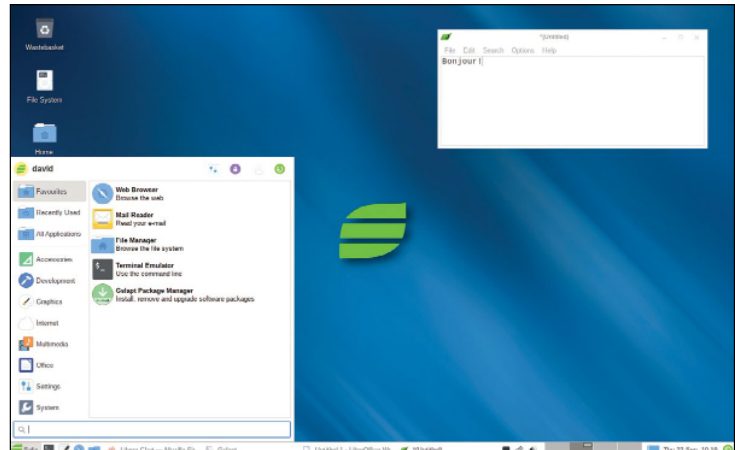
Naturally, we wanted to see everything Salix had to offer, so chose Full. Salix uses the *LILO* bootloader, and you can choose to have it installed automatically. If this doesn't work for you, there's the option of setting up *LILO* using a config file, or skipping it altogether. The remainder of the installation is fast and smooth. As is sensible, the root account is disabled by default, and your first user will be a member of the wheel group with *sudo* powers.

## Visually pleasing

After installation is complete, you can reboot into your shiny new Salix XFCE environment. The desktop environment is fairly close to stock Xfce with some nice customisations. There are Salix-themed wallpapers adorned with the stylised willow leaf, and others that depict a windswept bonsai silhouetted against the sky. There's further unintrusive branding on the start menu. It looks good and doesn't get in the way. Aesthetically, Salix is a nice place to be, with a coherent icon set and flat material style them. Nothing feels out of place.

On the desktop, there's a shortcut that takes you to the SalixOS homepage, where you can find links to useful documentation. Even better, there's a shortcut to Salix IRC support on *Libera Chat*. Clicking it will open a browser-based IRC client that will take you straight to the channel. When we visited, there were seven people in the room along with instructions to ask for help. It's good to know that devs and community are there to support you when you need it most.

The full install of Salix comes with a complete set of



Lovely wallpapers and unobtrusive stylised leaf branding on an otherwise stock Xfce desktop is an excellent choice in our opinion.

applications including the usual *LibreOffice*, *GIMP*, *Firefox* and *Transmission*. The default is *L3afPad* – a fork of *Leafpad*, which we suspect was chosen over Xfce's own *Mousepad* for the way its icon and logo thematically match the rest of the Salix aesthetic. For more serious editing, there's *Geany*. You'll also find an assortment of useful software including *Asunder* to rip CDs and *Xfburn* for burning them, *Exaile* for listening to audio, and *Parole* for video playback.

Salix documentation recommends "installing extra software is also possible through flatpaks and Flathub", by pressing the install button on a webpage. However, you can also use both the terminal and the *Gslapt* package manager, which provides a *Synaptic*-like interface. Salix is fully compatible with all Slackware repositories, as well as boasting its own.

From a system resources point of view, Salix is very spartan. Even with a few *Firefox* tabs open, along with *Gslapt*, and *LibreOffice*, it used only a small percentage of available CPU and RAM. **LXF**

## VERDICT

**DEVELOPER:** Salix OS team

**WEB:** salixos.org

**LICENCE:** Various

**FEATURES** 9/10

**PERFORMANCE** 9/10

**EASE OF USE** 10/10

**DOCUMENTATION** 7/10

If you want a distro that's fast and super-easy, which you can deploy on old hardware, then Salix OS is one of the best.

» **Rating 8/10**