

Gentoo 2004.2 Released, available for x86, AMD64, HPPA, and SPARC. The biggest change: X.org-X11 is now the default XServer

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Gentoo is an excellent Linux distribution for servers and desktops aimed at experienced users. The new version still requires some skill to install.

The biggest advantage of using Gentoo Linux is that you can upgrade to the latest versions with two simple commands:

1. `emerge sync`
2. `emerge -u world`

Then wait what will seem like a long time while the system is updating itself. `emerge sync` will give you the latest version of the portage tree.

Current software versions: KDE 3.2.2 (builds available for 3.3 beta2 and cvs), Gnome 2.6 and Xfce4 4.0.5.

The packages CDs will not be available on ftp, they will only be distributed using BitTorrent. <http://torrents.gentoo.org/> is not yet operational, but will soon have torrents available.

Excellent new features include:

- SATA device detection
- Improved Live-CD support for Dell servers
- Improved support for x86 SMP

Find out more at the official Gentoo website:

- [2004.2 Information Guide](#)
- [x86 Release Notes for Gentoo Linux 2004.2](#)

How to upgrade to Gentoo 2004.2 from your current Gentoo system

Your Gentoo version is dictated by the file `/etc/make.profile`. It should be a symlink pointing to `/usr/portage/profiles/default-<arch>-<version>/`.

```
ls -ld /etc/make.profile will show you something like
lrwxrwxrwx 1 root root 41 mai 14 16:57
/etc/make.profile ->
/usr/portage/profiles/default-x86-2004.0/.
```

To use the latest profile:

1. `su -`
2. `emerge sync`
3. `rm /etc/make.profile`
4. `ln -s /usr/portage/profiles/default-x86-2004.2/ /etc/make.profile`

Default X server is the only real difference between the profiles, 2004.2 uses X.org instead of XFree.

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