

How to do stuff in FatDog64

Introduction

This tutorial is intended for first time or prospective users of Puppy Linux FatDog 611. Rather than explain all of the technical jargon, the intent of this tutorial is to explain how to use FatDog to achieve everyday tasks. FatDog64 is only for 64 bit computers.

I will focus on what I consider to be the main reasons I use a computer in some sort of priority. I will not provide too much detail on common applications such as browsers & email, rather the unknown tasks that people would like to know or are not aware of.

I will assume you know how to burn the ISO to a bootable DVD/CD.

You can download the ISO from here: <http://ftp.nluug.nl/ftp/pub/os/Linux/distr/fatdog/iso/>

Once you boot from the DVD you will see the following desktop:

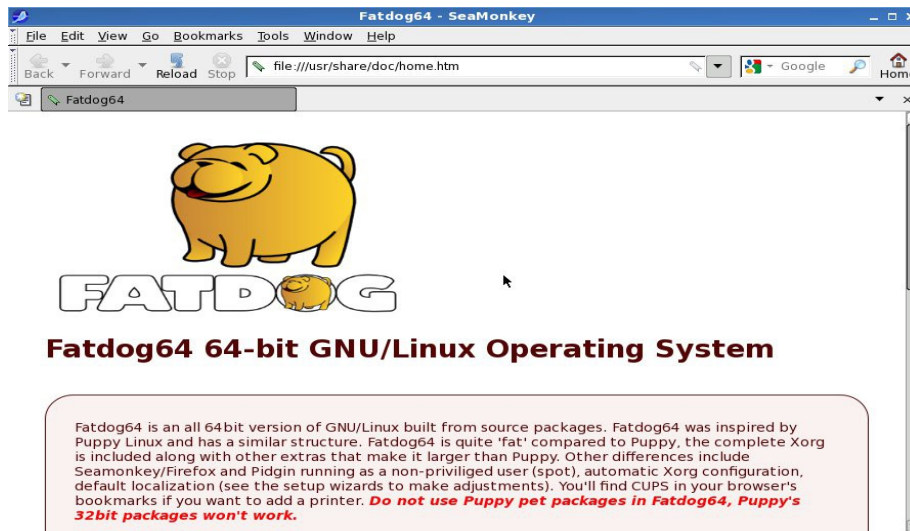


Browsing

One of the most popular uses for a computer these days is to browse the internet. FatDog comes in two distributions, one with Firefox and the other with Seamonkey. I will focus on Seamonkey because it comes with a suite of applications which consists of:

- Browser
- Email Client
- Address Book
- HTML Editor

The Seamonkey browser looks like this without any customisation:



Seamonkey is a very configurable browser and is easy to use. It comes with Shockwave Flash 11.2r202 pre-installed.

Email

The email client is quite similar to outlook and many other look-a-likes. When you first run the email client by single clicking on the above icon you will be presented with the email setup wizard.

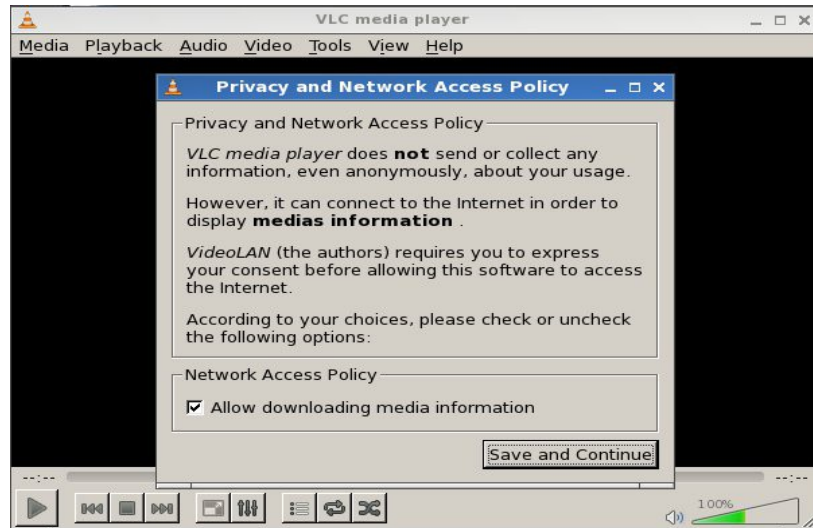


Click on next and follow the instructions.

Videos

The default media player in FatDog is VLC. This is a great choice as it can play a great variety of video and audio formats. It allows you to live stream videos and music, and you can also record those streams. The quality is brilliant and in my opinion it's the best media player available. You don't often find VLC in Puppy distributions, as the default media player, because it is larger than many other packages. I believe functionality is more important than size.

This is what VLC looks like when you first run it:



I'm not going to explain all the features on how to use VLC here as there is an abundance of help on the VideoLAN website. Click Help on the toolbar then follow the link. I will give you enough information just to get you started. People often ask how is it possible to record with VLC. Click on View and select Advanced Controls and another menu will be displayed. Move your mouse over the icons to see what they do.

Hint: To play a DVD, pop a DVD into your DVD drive, click on the VLC icon on the desktop, select Media from the toolbar, click on Open Disk, then click on Play.

An easier method is to pop the DVD into the drive. When the optical disk icon appears on the desktop, right mouse click on the icon then left click on **Open with Media Player**.

If you have videos in formats such as MOV, WMV, and MP4, simply click on the file and the video will begin to play. This is the same for any of your audio files such as MP3 and OGG.

Remember, just press the record button to record whatever you're watching or listening to.

Audio

Pop an audio CD into your drive, click on the VLC icon on the desktop, select Media from the toolbar, select audio CD then click Play. A list of songs on the CD will be displayed and the CD will start to play from track one. An easier method is to pop the CD into the drive. When the optical disk icon appears on the desktop, right mouse click on the icon then left click on **Open with Media Player**.

Now you could record the track or album by pressing the record button. A better way is to use Ripper X which can be found in **Menu>Multimedia**.

Internet Radio

There are thousands of internet radio stations, one of my favourites is <http://shoutcast.com>

Choose your preferred music on the website then right mouse click and copy the link location. Open VLC, choose Media, Open Network Stream, paste the link and press Play.

Hint: Copy and Pasting in Linux is so much easier than windows especially if your mouse has a scroll wheel. To copy, simply mark/highlight the text (left mouse click drag over text). To paste press the scroll wheel.

To save music link so you can use it in the future, simply drag the link from the playlist and drop it

on the Media Library. You can add almost anything you like, files on your hard drive, streaming movies on the net and even your webcam. It's limited by your imagination.

Bit Torrents

If you like to download movies using P2P technology with a bit torrent client then you are in luck as FatDog comes with **Transmission**. It may not be the most popular, but amongst the linux community, it is a highly respected piece of software and it works great. [Link to torrents](#)

Word Processing

To take care of your word processing requirements AbiWord is included. It's a full featured word processor that will take care of most peoples requirements. If you require more functionality then I recommend LibreOffice. LibreOffice provides similar functionality to MS Office and all of the files for Word, Excel and PowerPoint are all compatible.

Spreadsheet

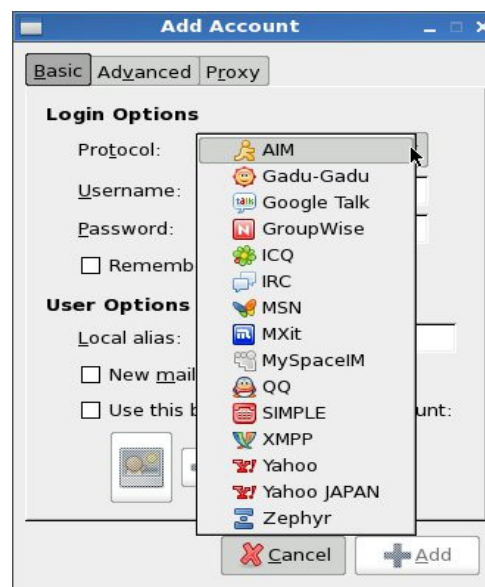
Gnumeric is included for your accounting requirements. Gnumeric is a very full featured application which is also compatible with MS Excel files.

File Manager

All Operating Systems need a good file manager. FatDog, like many Linux distributions, uses ROX which is excellent, although it may seem a little challenging at first, it will soon become familiar. It's fast and powerful and will soon become your favourite.

Chat Client

There are many good chat clients available and Pidgin is one of the best. It accommodates many protocols as displayed in the image below.



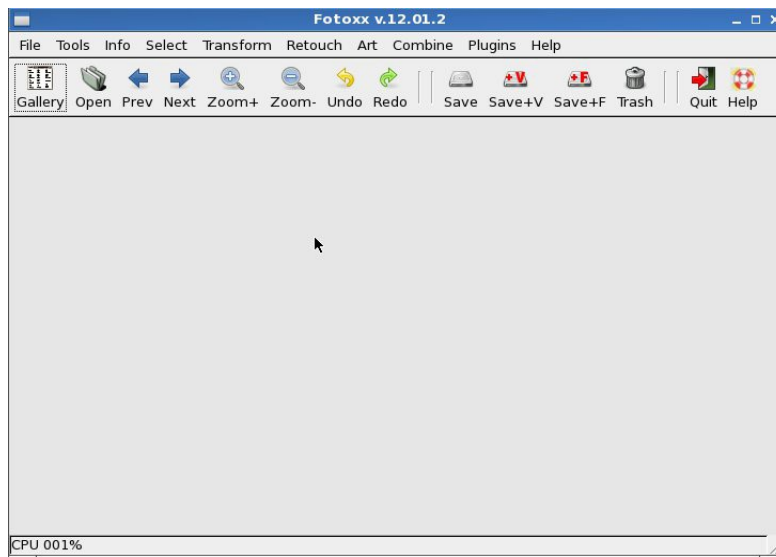
If you close Pidgin with the little x on the title bar, it will not actually kill the application. You need to right click and quit the application from the panel which is located on the bottom right of your screen. The icon that looks like a purple pigeon.

Photo Editing

There are two graphics editors in FatDog, mtPaint and GIMP. MtPaint is quite simple although very functional and will meet the average users needs. For the power user, GIMP will meet their demands. It is a brilliant package which has an amazing amount of features. Most people I know prefer it to PhotoShop, a popular Windows application.

Image Viewing

The bundled image viewer is Fotoxx which is compact, fast and functional. It will take care of most of your viewing needs. There are many others to choose from in the repositories such as geeqie and viewnior.

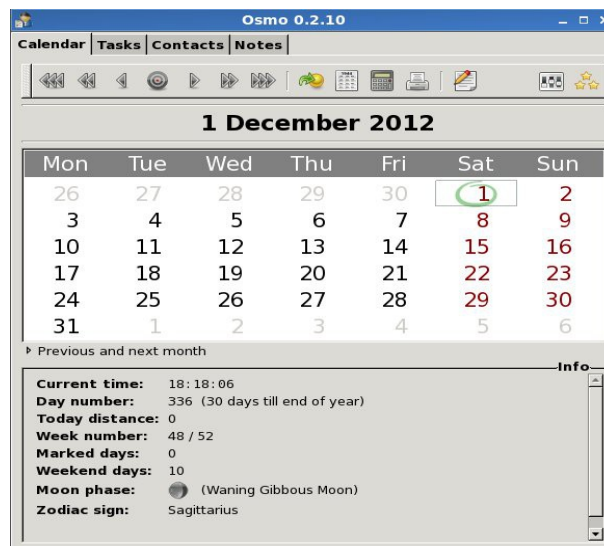


HTML Editor

If you like to develop or maintain web sites you will need a good HTML Editor. Composer is included in the Seamonkey suite and should take care of the majority of your requirements.

Personal Information Manager

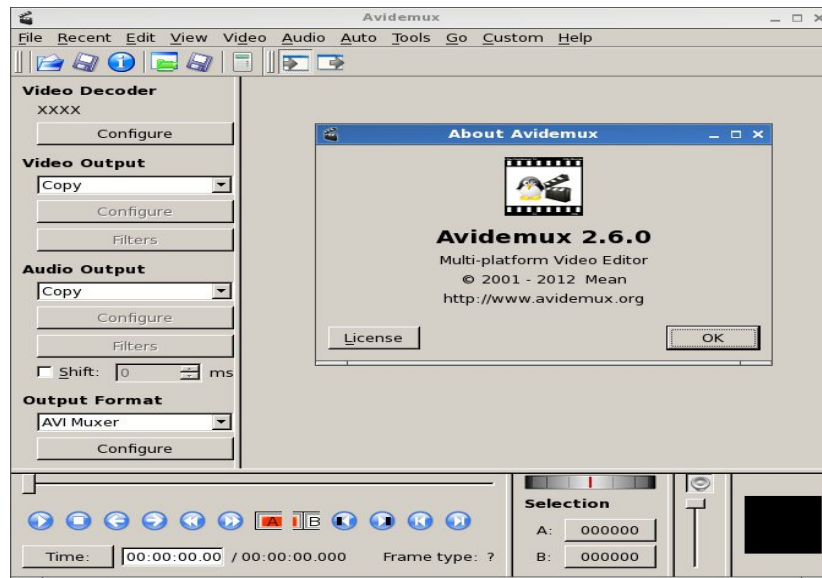
Osmo is a nice little personal information manager. It includes a Calendar, Tasks, Contacts & Notes.



Video Editing



FatDog includes a very respectable video editing application called Avidemux. This will allow you to edit a large range of different video formats.



Burn DVD/CD

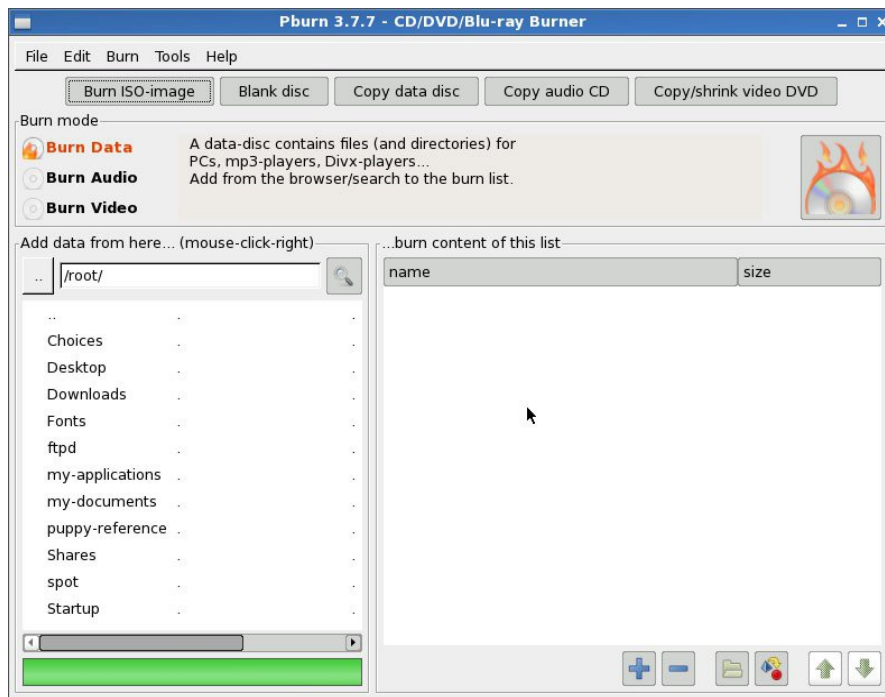


Burniso is a simple application that will burn an ISO file to a DVD or CD.

DVD/CD Writer



Pburn is the default software to write to DVD's and CD's. This is very useful for backing up documents, audio and video files. It can also Copy and Shrink DVD Movies.

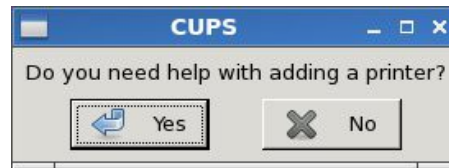


Right mouse click to add files to the burn list.

Printing



Printing is managed by CUPS (Common Unix Printing System) which can be accessed in the Control Panel on the System tab. When you double click on the Cups icon you will be presented with this message:



Select No, then when the web page loads, click on [Adding Printers and Classes](#) , then Add Printer.

It's a good idea to have your printer connected and turned on so CUPS can detect it.

Select your printer, if displayed, then click on Select. Click on Continue. Your model should be selected so click on Add Printer. Under General Setup Heading choose your default options and click the Set Default Option button.

Your printer should now be configured. You can click on the Maintenance drop down menu and Print a Test Page.

FatDog has many more applications not explained here. Take your time to explore the system and you will soon discover many other benefits.

Internet



When connected to the internet your user name will change from **root** to **spot**. This will give you added protection from nasties.

Networking



Networking is connecting two or more computers together. You may not realise it but you do it regularly, probably without knowing. Have you ever surfed the net or retrieved emails? If so you have networked. People these days talk about cloud computing. Well here is a surprise, you're not connected to a cloud, you're actually connected to another computer, configured as a server.

Lets jump back to basics for a moment. Before you can connect to another computer you need to have some method of achieving this. You normally need a router or a modem-router. Now that we have identified the hardware we still need some software that allows us to use the hardware.

The good thing about Fatdog, if you have a live ethernet (cable) connection, Fatdog will connect automatically. You simply click on the Browser icon and start surfing.

WiFi



WiFi is a little bit more complicated but Fatdog comes with some good tools to help you out.

Right Click on the WiFi icon on the task bar at the bottom right of the screen.

Click on Scan_Results – this will find available networks

Double-Click on the network you wish to connect to.

Enter PSK/Password

Click Add.

Close the GUI – you should now be connected.

Samba

Samba is software that will allow you to setup a Local Area Network (LAN). Samba lets you share resources between your computers. Lets assume you have a desktop computer and for this exercise we will call it the server. You also have a laptop which we will call the client. You have many files on your server that you would like to copy to your laptop.

To setup your desktop as the server click on **Menu**, then **Control Panel**.

Now click on the **System** tab.

Click on **Manage Servers and Services**.

Click on the **samba** entry in the left panel and then click **Start** in the right panel.

Congratulations you have created your file server. You can continue to use your computer as you normally would. The server will chug along in the background. Stop it when not required.

On your laptop, which also needs to be connected to your router, click on **Menu**, then **Network**.

Click on **YASSM Samba share search** on your laptop – this will find the defined shares on your server.

Click on the drop down, select the share, then when the login GUI appears, Click **Mount**. A Rox window should open displaying your files. Job done.

Important. Samba in Fatdog is setup with user spot. This means you will be able to read and copy files from the server but not write or delete files on the server. The default share in Fatdog is set to /root/spot/Downloads.

Adding more shares. Lets create a share that points to /mnt/home

Open the file /etc/samba/smb.conf

Include the following text in the file after the **[global]** information.

```
[home]
comment = Home
path = /mnt/home
writable = yes
guest ok = yes
```

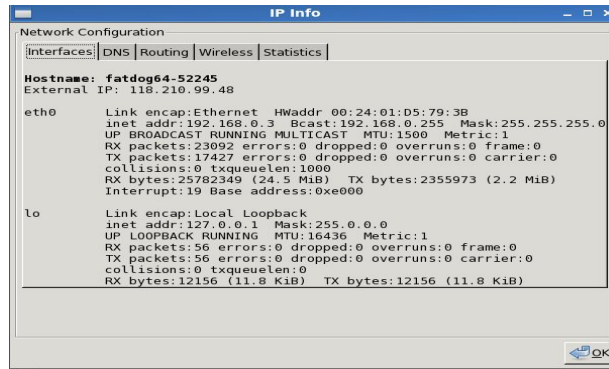
Save the file and Click on **YASSM Samba share search** from **Menu>Network**. Your new share should be found. To make your share writeable, change the line **force user = spot** in /etc/samba/smb.conf to **force user = root**

FTP Client

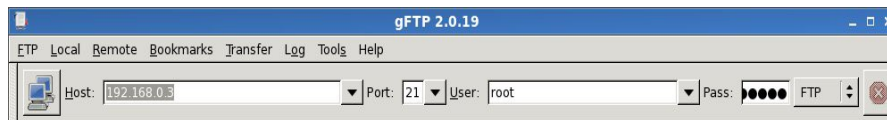
gFTP is included to meet your File Transfer Protocol needs. It is used to transfer files across networks or upload files to a server or the web. It can also be used to transfer files to and from your other devices such as iPads.

Hint: Lets assume you wish to transfer files between two computers. One computer needs to be established as the server and the other the client. To setup the server run **Menu>Control Panel**, select **System** tab, then click on **Manage Servers and services**, select **ftpd** and click on start. On the other computer you run gFTP which can be found on **Menu>Network**. The FTP client, gFTP, requires some information to connect to the server. First the IP address of the server. If you don't know what it is, open a terminal window on the server and type **ipinfo** to get your IP address.

ipinfo will display the following dialog:



As you can see above my connection type is eth0 and my address is 192.168.0.3



This is the top part of gFTP dialog

The password is woofwoof. The left panel displays the local computer and right is the remote.

Login Password

Now that everyone knows the default login password is woofwoof, you might want to change it.

In the **Control Panel**, select the **System** tab, double click on **Fatdog64 User Manager**, highlight root, click on **Set Password** and enter a new password. Write it down, don't forget it.

The default login is set to autologin. This means you don't have to type a Username or Password, but what if you want to protect your system and keep those nosey parkers out.

To make it mandatory to login, Open the **Control Panel**, select the **System** tab, double click on **Fatdog64 Login Manager** and select either Graphical login or Console login.

The next time you start your system you will have to provide a Username and a Password.

Mongoose

Using Fatdog spoils you a little because it comes with a good range of software. Not all operating systems are so generous. Lets assume you have a friend who has a laptop but does not know how to use an FTP client and wants to get a copy of some of your photos.

Using Mongoose is another way to transfer files from the server to the laptop. Many people are not comfortable setting up a LAN or using an FTP client, although after reading this tutorial it should be easy for you.

I'm going to stick my neck out here. Most people these days that have a computer know how to use a browser. Mongoose is actually a HTTP server. This means you set your computer up as a HTTP server rather than an FTP or Samba server. This allows the remote computer to surf your computer, which is pretty cool.

To setup Mongoose you need to edit the /etc/mongoose.conf file. The default directory is set to:

/user/share/doc which is ok but it doesn't point to where your photos are located. Lets also assume you have your photos stored at **/mnt/home/photos**. In the /etc/mongoose.conf file you need to change the line **/user/share/doc** to **/mnt/home/photos**. Now click on **Menu>Control Panel>System>Manage Servers and Services**, highlight the **mongoose** line and click **Start**.

All your friend needs to do now is start browser on the laptop, type in the address 192.168.0.3 and press enter, or whatever your local address is.

Remember how to get your local server IP address which was explained on the previous page.

Hint: ipinfo.

Mongoose reads the mongoose.conf when it is started so if you make any changes to the file you will need to stop and start mongoose. It's good security practice only to have servers running when you need to use them, otherwise, disable them.

Help

Fatdog comes with an abundance of help that will provide guidance on numerous configuration options which I won't repeat here. Instead, I will provide some useful links.

A good place to start: </usr/share/doc/home.htm>

Frequently Ask Questions: </usr/share/doc/faqs/faq.html>

Boot options: </usr/share/doc/faqs/boot-options.html>

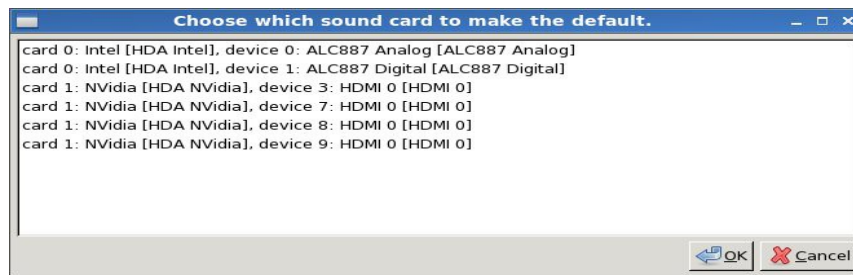
Sound Issues: </usr/share/doc/faqs/sound.html>

The [Fatdog64-611 Final](#) forums

Troubleshooting

Video – If you boot to a blank screen try pressing the Ctrl+Alt+Backspace keys at the same time. This will drop you to a terminal window. Then type xorwizard and press enter. This will allow you to manually select your video driver and resolution.

Sound – Computers these days often come with more than one sound card. Sometimes the automatic detection tools gets it wrong and select the wrong sound card. In cases like this, simply go to **Menu>Control Panel>Sound** tab and double click on **Multiple Sound Card Wizard**.



This is what I see when I run the Wizard. My best choice is always the first option but it may be different for you. If one doesn't work, try another. If you can't work it out by yourself, ask a question in the Fatdog forums. Please provide as much information as you can to make it easy for others to help you. Be patient and and show some gratitude. Remember, no one is being paid.

If you experience problems when creating a savefile, please read **Advanced Parameters** in the **Boot Options** link above.

Conclusion

As I said at the beginning of this document, this is a simple guide just to get you started. For comprehensive and technical help please read the help documentation under the Help Menu Item. Another really good resource is the Wellminded Puppy Search Tool. It will restrict it searches to the Murga Puppy Linux forums. <http://wellminded.com/puppy/pupsearch.html>