

Release Notes – ALViC

- Accessible Linux for Visually Challenged - 0.1.2

1. ALViC is a GNU/Linux distribution created specially for visually challenged users. It is based on Ubuntu 10.04; and uses Orca 3.2.0 xdesktop screen reader. Visually challenged users can use it out of the box because accessibility settings required by them are already enabled. Details of main features are given in the README file.

2. System requirements: At least 512 MB RAM, 8-10 GB free space on the hard disk, and an audio device like headphone or speaker.

3. Installation: You can test ALViC from the DVD, without installing anything to your computer. This is called live DVD mode. Or, you can install it to your computer, in addition to the operating systems you already have. Please read the Installation Manual carefully before you start the installation process. To read the manual press Ctrl+Alt+i.

4. Known issues: The distro has following issues which we hope to sort out in the next release:

- a. The default window manager is Compiz, not Metacity. To switch to Metacity, press Ctrl+Alt+2 after log in.
- b. Sometimes Orca crashes and the speech stops. If this happens, press Ctrl+Alt+O. This will restart both Orca and Speech-dispatcher.
- c. In the enhanced Nautilus (compiled from source) the options Format, Compress and Extract are missing from the context menu. A script Compress...ExtractHere is added to context menu to handle compress and extract functions. When a folder <fldr> on Desktop is compressed using the script, the compressed file is always saved as home and contains the hierarchy home/<username>/Desktop/<fldr>. This difficulty doesn't arise when a folder at some other location is archived.

5. Acknowledgements:

Many features of this distro are quite similar to those of Vinux, the Linux distro widely used by visually impaired users. We sincerely thank the Vinux team for the following -

- Scripts for the bright and the dark themes.
- The idea of providing a text file listing all keybindings.
- The script to restore speech.
- The script to set up volume_keys.
- Use of Vinux repository to download the audiobook converter package.
- Keyboard shortcuts for
 - Launching frequently used applications
 - Changing Desktop themes
 - Compiz magnifier

We would like to thank rehabilitation centres working for Visually Challenged community like XRCVC(Mumbai), NAB(Mumbai), Kamala Mehta Dadar School for Blind (Mumbai) and other centres who have given their valuable time for requirement gathering, feedbacks, suggestions and testing the product. We would also like to thank Mr. Sagar Patil for his sincere efforts to make this product suitable for end users.

6. Contact details: If you have any feedback about this distro, please email it to ossd@cdac.in, or mail it to

OSSD,
C-DAC, Kharghar (Formerly NCST)

Raintree Marg, Near Bharati Vidyapeeth,
Opp. Kharghar Railway Station,
Sector 7, CBD Belapur,
Navi Mumbai 400614, India.
Phone: +91-22-27565303 Telefax: +91-22-27560004
Email: ossd@cdac.in URL: www.cdacmumbai.in/accessibility

7. Contributors: Following CDAC team members have contributed to this distro-
Sasikumar M
Sagun B
Leena C
Dattatray B
Sambaiah R
Shivnath K

Copyright 2012-13 CDAC, Mumbai, India