
About Frugalware

Table of Contents

Short	1
Long	1

Seeing this feast of wonderful code spread in front of me as a working system was a much more powerful experience than merely knowing, intellectually, that all the bits were probably out there. It was as though for years I'd been sorting through piles of disconnected car parts - only to be suddenly confronted with those same parts assembled into a gleaming red Ferrari, door open, keys swinging from the lock and engine gently purring with a promise of power...

— Eric S. Raymond

The aim of creating Frugalware was to help you doing your work faster and simpler. We hope you will like it. In this introduction, we would like to answer a few questions which were asked in several interview with VMiklos, the founder of the project. You can reach the full list of articles that have been posted about Frugalware here [<http://frugalware.org/media>].

Short

Frugalware is a general purpose linux distribution, designed for intermediate users (who are not afraid of text mode).

Long

What branches does Frugalware have?

“We have a -current and a -stable branch. The -current branch is updated daily, and we provide security support for our -stable branch till the next release, for approximately 6 months.”

What is "The Frugalware Philosophy" about?

“Briefly: simplicity, multimedia, design. We try to make Frugalware as simple as possible while not forgetting to keep it comfortable for the user. We try to ship fresh and stable software, as close to the original source as possible, because in our opinion most software is the best as is, and doesn't need patching.”

What is the license of Frugalware?

“The license of Frugalware itself stands for the license of the buildscripts used for building Frugalware. That source is available under the GPL license here [<http://darcs.frugalware.org>]. Frugalware originally init scripts written by Patrick J. Volkerding, creator of the Slackware Linux distribution. We GPL our additions, but Patrick J. Volkerding's code is still under the BSD license. Frugalware also has a few side projects, like our pacman-g2 package manager, the Frugalware installer an so on. They are available under the GPL license, too. For more info about the license of the packages included in Frugalware, refer

to the `/usr/share/doc/*/COPYING` files.”

What package manager does Frugalware use?

“We have our own package manager, called `pacman-g2`. It stands for the second generation of the `pacman` package manager, as it was originally based on Judd Vinet's great work. The packages are simple `.tar.bz2` files, `pacman-g2` is written in C, unlike Slackware's shellscrip-based package manager (which may be rather slow sometimes).”

How does Frugalware manage updating obsolete packages?

“We don't have any standalone program for updating packages as `pacman-g2` manages this task too. To update your package database, use `pacman-g2 -Sy`, and to update your packages according the just synchronized package database, you use `pacman-g2 -Su`. To install package `foo` with the necessary dependencies directly from one of our ftp servers, you should issue `pacman-g2 -S foo`. For more information, refer to the `pacman-g2` man page.”

Is there any community support available for Frugalware?

“We have mailing lists, irc channels and forums that can be used to communicate with us or with other users and to get help. You can reac ha list of mailing lists available here [<http://frugalware.org/mailman/listinfo>]. The irc channels are on the Freenode network (server: `irc.freenode.net`), the discussion forums are available here [<http://forums.frugalware.org>].”

Is there any commercial support available for Frugalware?

“No, there isn't for now, and currently it isn't planned, either.”

For whom is Frugalware recommended to use?

“Frugalware is designed for intermediate users. Installing Frugalware is not a magic, of course, but you should read some documentation if you don't know what a partition, an MBR (Master Boot Record), etc. is.”

How to become a developer?

“Get involved! :) Download the FST (Frugalware Source Tree) using the `repoman upd` command, which is available in the `pacman-tools` package. Then start to play with the FrugalBuild scripts, for a skeleton, refer to the `/docs/skel` directory. Try to improve them, or write a new one for a currently unsupported program. Then open feature requests in the Bug Tracking System [<http://bugs.frugalware.org>] and attach your patches. From this point everything will come naturally to you :)”

What do developers do?

“In short, what they want to, if they play a square game. They may maintain packages: building them if a newer version is available and update the FrugalBuild scripts to work correctly against a newer version. They can contribute a new build script to a previously non-existent package. They write documentation, fix bugs, provides supports, or anything else in connection with the Frugalware community. If you only want to help us, but you don't want to hack, you may help in translating Frugalware to your or other language. And, of course, we happily accept donations :)”

Who develops Frugalware?

“An amazing group of volunteers, who are motivated by the users to do so. They also do it as a hobby, and they are always working on having up to date knowledge to make Frugalware even better for you.”

Is Frugalware specialized in a certain purpose?

“No, it's a general purpose distribution, for desktops, mobile computers and servers.”

Do you plan to release a live cd?

“Yes, you can build your own, if you fetch the experimental code of the `fwlive` repo. We'll provide binary ISO images once the code is stable enough.”

Does Frugalware support languages other than English?

“Yes, it supports all languages supported by the packages. If the init scripts, the setup or the documentation is not available in your language, then it simply means it haven't translated yet.”

What about Asian languages?

“Frugalware roughly supports Asian languages, but don't expect too much - using UTF8 is not the default where it is possible.”

What architectures does Frugalware support?

“Currently we support x86 (Pentium Pro or higher) and x86_64 (k8, aka. amd64) platforms.”