Linux Mint 18.2 etc.

Deleting Files:

"Why can I only (usually) delete files to the rubbish bin if they appear on the desktop. If they are almost anywhere else in the file system they have to be permanently deleted. What is it that decides which can happen."

This appears to be a 'feature' of Nemo, the Linux Mint Cinnamon file manager. Selecting a file and pressing the Delete key, or right-click/Delete will permanently delete the selected file. However, grabbing the file (left-click and hold down) and sliding the file name over 'Rubbish' in the left column will move the file to the Rubbish folder, from which it can be recovered. (Open Rubbish folder, select file and click the 'Restore Selected Items' button.)

Lack of Hard Drive Space

"Filesystem root has only 700MB ... move or remove some files". But I don't have access to the computer's root directory. And I'd probably not know which files to move where. What should I do?"
It depends (!)

- This message most frequently arises on systems in which the hard drive has been partitioned into several areas – most commonly '/' and '/home'. [It could also arise if the whole hard drive was nearly full.] '/' is small and contains the system files. Problem is that each new version needs more space in '/' as Linux expands. Also installation of updated kernels takes more space. A particular problem when some people were advocating using a separate, very small, 'boot' partition.

- Check the status of the system by accessing the GRUB menu (hold 'shift' while starting). Alternatively, use gParted to examine the partitions and Nemo to see what each contains.

- You have read access to the root directory. It's '/'. In order to make changes in the root directory on a LM Cinnamon system open a Terminal window and type: `sudo nemo`. **WARNING**: You can easily trash your LM installation by using the privileges you have granted yourself.

Upgrade Linux Mint to Version 18.2

Firstly - *'Should I upgrade?'*

This page shows that the existing systems will be supported for some time to come:

https://linuxmint.com/download_all.php

So you don't have to. AFAICT Security updates will be available on all supported systems. However, not upgrading will mean losing out on new features in some applications. If there's

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something that doesn't work properly on your machine which gets a mention as fixed in the release notes for the new version, then it makes sense to upgrade. Me, I'm so indoctrinated by the Microsoft 'It will work in the next release – promise' mindset, that I upgrade and update as soon as I can.

Instructions for upgrading from 18 or 18.1 are here:

http://blog.linuxmint.com/?p=3306

"Which version do I have?"

Open a Terminal and type: `lsb_release –a`

Alternatively using the GUI, Menu/Preferences/System Info works with Cinnamon systems. Systems using Mate are slightly different. You may even be able to detect the version by hovering the mouse pointer over the 'Menu' button (At least, I can on my wife's LMDE system!). Otherwise Mate has System Info as a tab in Menu/Administration/System Monitor – I think.

32 bits or 64?

Open a Terminal and type: `uname –a`

If the machine returns 'i686' it is 32-bit. If it returns 'x86_64' it's 64-bit.

Preparations:

It makes sense to have separate / and /home directories. Less likelihood of losing data. I take backups of some key configuration files and key data files eg .thunderbird. In fact, for the 18.1 to 18.2 upgrade none of the stuff I backed up was touched. However, an upgrade from a version 17 would definitely suffer without the backups. BTW – I have yet to find a backup tool installed with a distribution that works when used for upgrade preparation. Copy onto external media using File Manager in Administrator mode. In fact upgrading from 17 to 18 is best done by a re-install.

As well as data, I save:

> /etc/cups (for printer settings)

> /etc/fstab

> /etc/exports (for shared directories)

Otherwise – follow the instructions. Note that you will need an active network connection.

Afterwards

Here are some pages suggesting things to do after 18.2 is up and running;

https://sites.google.com/site/easylinuxtipsproject/mint-mate-first

https://sites.google.com/site/easylinuxtipsproject/3

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LM 18.2 uses LightDM as the log-on page; upgrading from 18.1 installs LightDM but doesn't activate it. Here are a couple of 'how-to'. The second author didn't like the LightDM screen and went back to MDM.

https://sites.google.com/site/easylinuxtipsproject/bugs#TOC-Make-your-login-window-LightDM-show-a-nice-background-instead-of-eternal-night

https://linuxnorth.wordpress.com/2017/07/04/installing-and-uninstalling-lightdm-in-linux-mint-18-2/

Slideshow on log-on page has disappeared:

https://forums.linuxmint.com/viewtopic.php?t=249890

This happened to me on my 64-bit desktop, but not on this 32-bit laptop.

Oh – you may find that Flash content on sites like the BBC has stopped working. Installing

```
libhal1-flash
```

fixed this for me on a LMDE2 installation.

Things That Have Changed

Important The level descriptions in the update window still read 1-5, but their meaning has changed significantly.

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