

State of the Art

:: Desktop Wallpapers

William Jon McCann

2008-05-29

About this Series

Each article in this series will observe an aspect of design in contemporary graphical operating system products. The intention is for these observations to serve as a baseline for discussion and facilitate consideration of the relationships between products. It is specifically not the aim of this series to provide analysis or make recommendations for action directly.

About this Article

In this article we will observe the desktop wallpapers (backgrounds) that are included by default in a selection of well known products.

Microsoft® Windows

Windows® XP – October 2001

Wallpapers



Ascent



Autumn



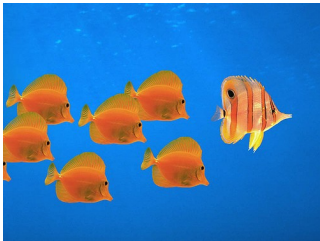
Azul



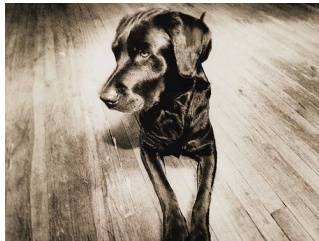
Bliss



Crystal



Follow



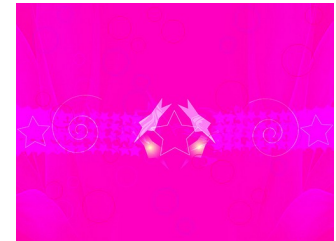
Friend



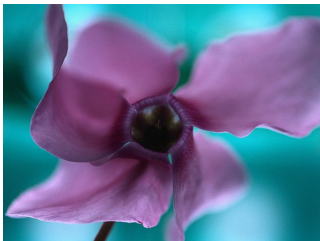
Home



Moon Flower



Power



Purple Flower



Radiance



Red moon desert



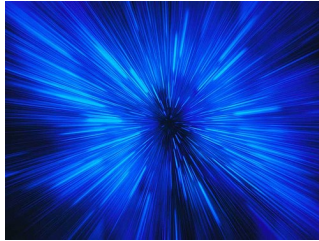
Ripple



Stonehenge



Tulips



Vortec Space



Wind



Windows XP

Notes:

Location	C:\WINDOWS\Web\Wallpaper
Format	JPEG, BMP
Dimensions	800 × 600
License	Proprietary

Sources and Methods

- <http://www.vanityfair.com/ontheweb/features/2007/02/autumn200702?printable=true¤tPage=all>
- [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bliss_\(image\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bliss_(image))

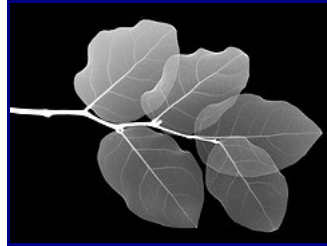
Windows Vista® – January 2007

Windows Wallpapers

Black and White



img1
©Peter deLory
The Image Bank
Getty Images



img2
©Nicholas Veasey
Photographer's Choice
Getty Images

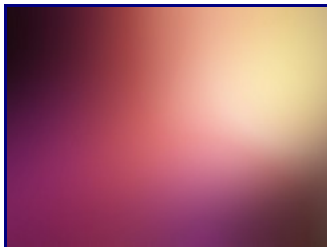


img3
©Jean-Francois Gate
Stone
Getty Images

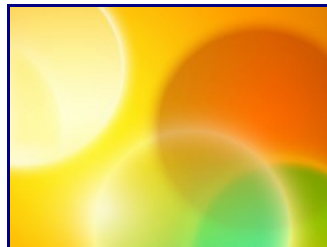


img4
©Alan Kearney
Taxi
Getty Images

Light Auras



img25
©Microsoft 2006



img26
©Microsoft 2006



img27
©Microsoft 2006

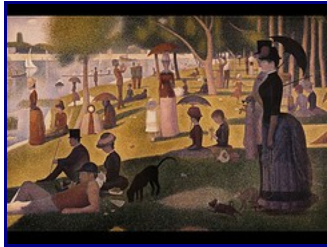


img28
©Microsoft 2006



img29
©Microsoft 2006

Paintings



img12
©Corbis



img13
©Corbis



img14
©Corbis



img15
©Corbis

Textures



img5
©Microsoft Corp



img6
©Microsoft Corp



img7
©Darrell Gulin/Corbis



img8
©Microsoft 2006



img9
©Chuck Kuhn Photography
The Image Bank
Getty Images



img10
©Rosemary Calvert
Stone
Getty Images



img11
©Dana Menussi
Stone+
Getty Images

Vistas



mg16
©Walter Bibikow
Taxi
Getty Images



mg17
©Dr. Robert Muntefering
The Image Bank
Getty Images



img18
©Microsoft Corp 2006



img19
©Mark Lewis
Stone
Getty Images



img20
©Microsoft Corp 2006



img21
©Microsoft Corp 2006



img22
©Microsoft Corp 2006



img23
©George Lepp
The Image Bank
Getty Images



img24
©Microsoft Corp 2006

Sample Pictures



Autumn Leaves



Creek
©Altrendo Nature
Altrendo
Getty Images



Desert Landscape



Dock



Forest
©Darrell Gulin
Photodisc Red
Getty Images



Forest Flowers



Frangipani Flowers
©Kevin Forest
Photodisc Green
Getty Images



Garden



Green Sea Turtle



Humpback Whale



Oryx Antelope



Toco Toucan



Tree



Waterfall



Winter Leaves

Notes:

Location	C:\WINDOWS\Web\Wallpaper
Format	JPEG
Dimensions	1920×1440, 1920×1200 (widescreen)
Total size	46,022,656 bytes
License	Proprietary

Sources and Methods

- <http://www.istartedsomething.com/20070126/finding-vista-wallpapers/>
- <http://www.istartedsomething.com/20070203/interview-hamad-darwish/>
- <http://channel9.msdn.com/Showpost.aspx?postid=161254>
- <http://blogs.msdn.com/oldnewthing/archive/2007/01/25/1529570.aspx>
- <http://www.microsoft.com/design/Culture/Master.aspx>

Apple® Mac OS®

OS X Leopard® – October 2007

Apple Images



Aqua Blue



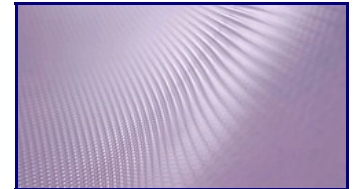
Aqua Graphite



Classic Aqua Blue



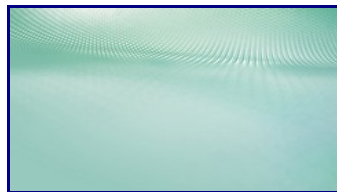
Classic Aqua Graphite



Flow 1



Flow 2



Flow 3



Jaguar Aqua Blue



Jaguar Aqua Graphite



Lines Blue



Lines Graphite



Lines Moss



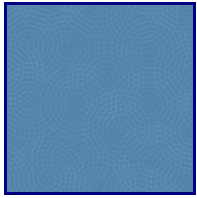
Lines Plum



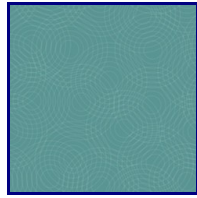
Panther Aqua Blue



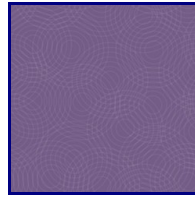
Panther Aqua Graphite



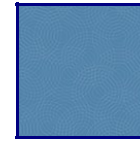
Ripples Blue



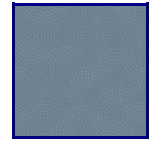
Ripples Moss



Ripples Purple



Small Ripples



Small Ripples graphite



Tiles Blue



Tiles Pine



Tiles Grey

Nature



Aurora



Clown Fish



Dew Drop



Earth



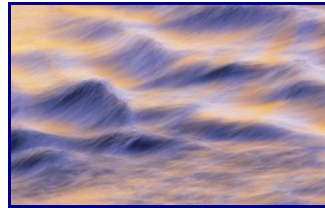
Earth Horizon



Evening Reflections



Flowing Rock



Gentle Rapids



Golden Palace



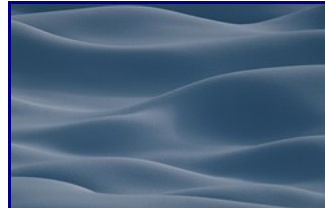
Ladybug



Rock Garden



Rocks



Snowy Hills



Stones



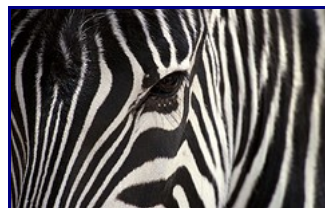
Sweeping Current



Tranquil Surface



Water



Zebra



Zen Garden

Plants



Agave



Bamboo Grove



Daisies



Dandelion



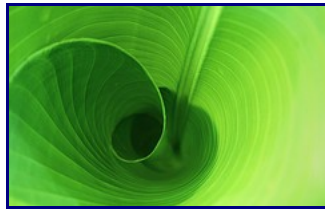
Dandelion Seeds



Grass Blades



Lavender



Leaf Curl



Leaves



Lotus



Maple



Peony



Petals



Purple Frond

Black and White



Lightning



Mojave



Peir

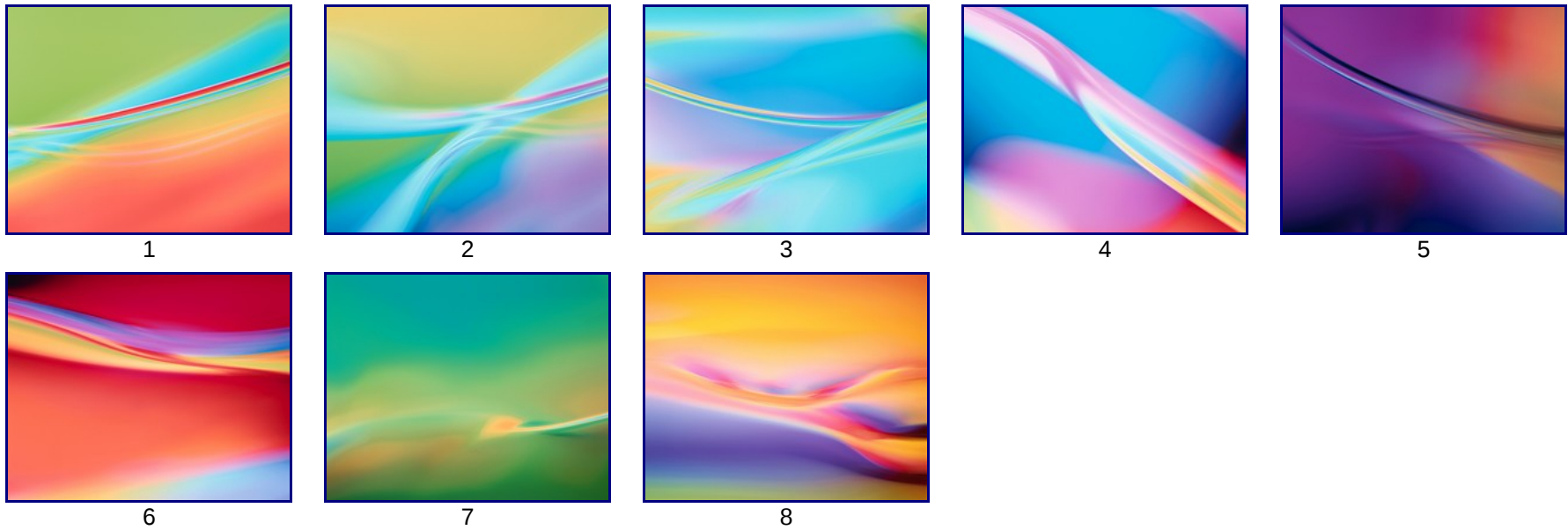


Sea Mist



Wave

Abstract



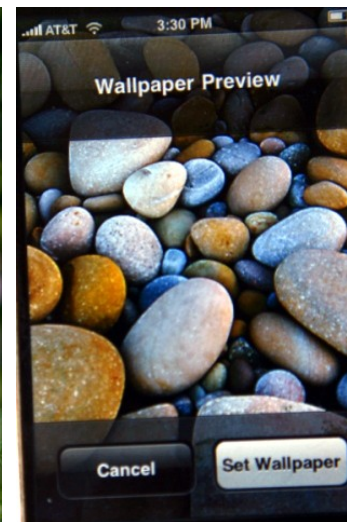
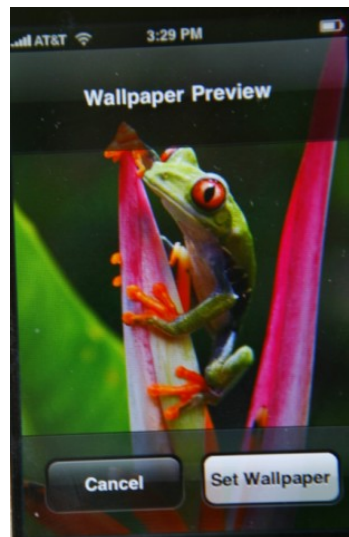
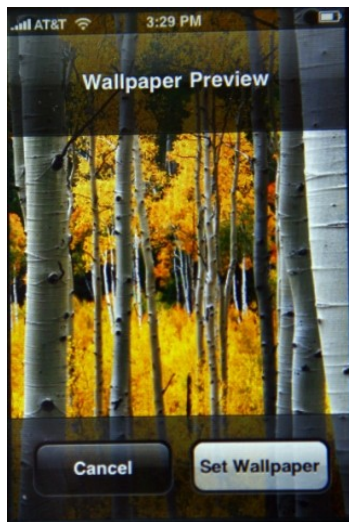
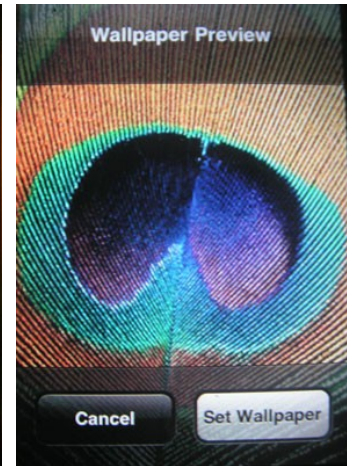
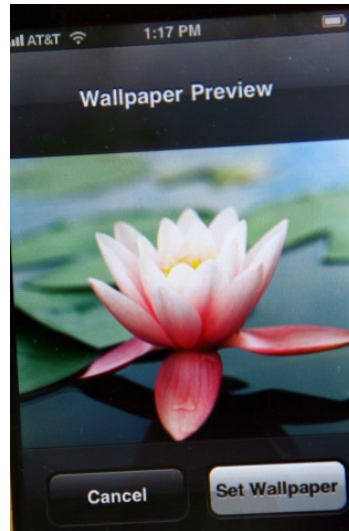
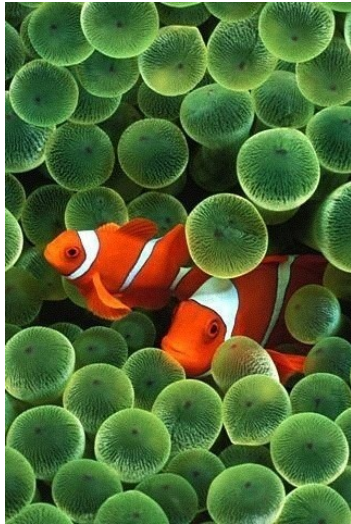
Notes:

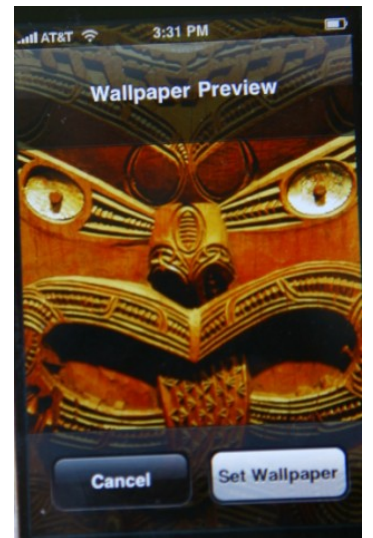
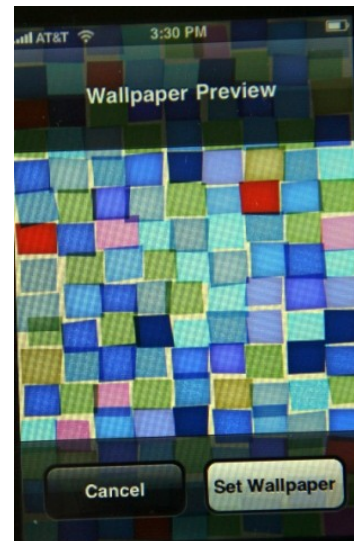
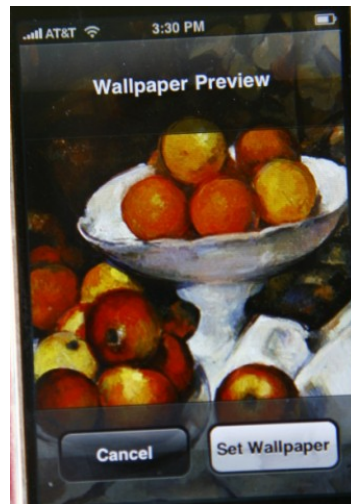
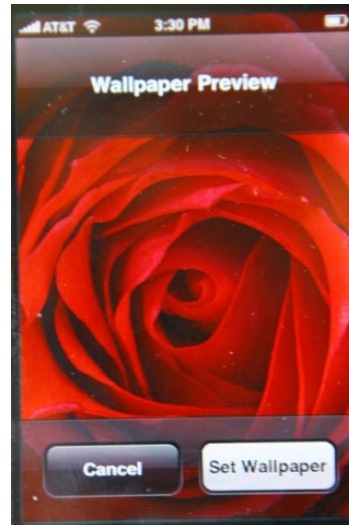
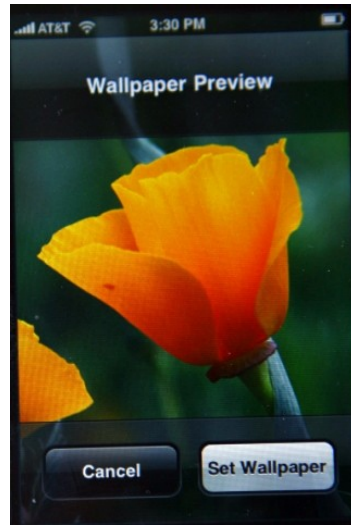
Location	/Library/Desktop Pictures
Format	JPEG
Dimensions	2560×1600, 1600×1200, 1024×768
Total size	34,490,027 bytes
License	Proprietary

Sources and Methods

- http://visibleearth.nasa.gov/view_rec.php?id=2429

iPhone™ – June 2007





Notes:

Location	/Library/Desktop Pictures
Format	JPEG
Dimensions	320×480
Total size	
License	Proprietary

Sources and Methods

- http://visibleearth.nasa.gov/view_rec.php?id=2429
- http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mona_lisa
- http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Starry_night
- http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sunday_Afternoon_on_the_Island_of_La_Grande_Jatte

Nokia® Internet Tablet / maemo™ Platform

Internet Tablet OS 2008 ([maemo™](#) 4.0, codename Chinook) – November 2007



Echo



Glasser

openSUSE®

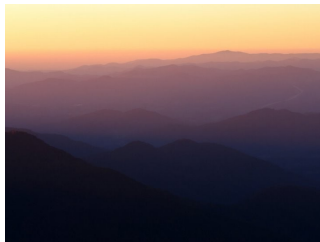
SUSE® Linux 10.1 – May 2006



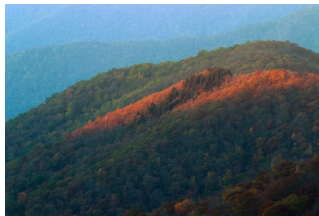
10.1 Default



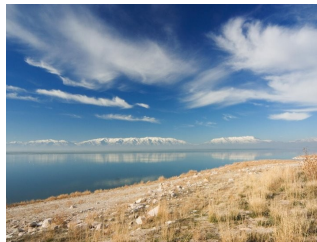
Haze



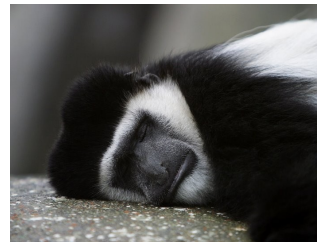
Hillside



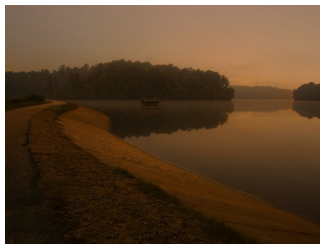
Mountains



Naptime



Relax



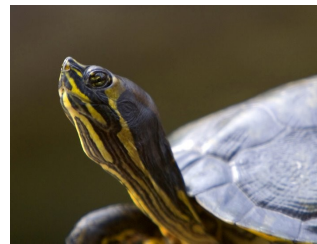
Silence



Soaring



Spring Flowers



Turtle



Wolf



Bear



Boulders



Green

Notes:

Location	/usr/share/wallpapers/
Format	JPEG
Dimensions	1600×1200, 1920×1200
Total size	9,012,195 bytes
License	GPL

Sources and Methods

- <http://en.opensuse.org/Artwork:Guidelines>

SUSE® Linux 10.2 – December 2006

(In addition to wallpapers included in 10.1)



10.2 Default



Notes:

Location	/usr/share/wallpapers/
Format	JPEG
Dimensions	1600×1200, 1920×1200
Total size	
License	GPL

SUSE® Linux 10.3 – October 2007

(In addition to wallpapers included in 10.1)



10.3 Default



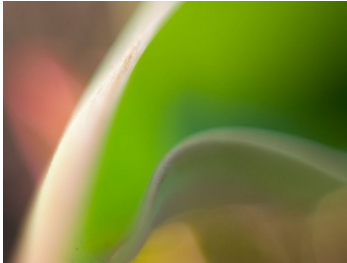
Notes:

Location	/usr/share/wallpapers/
Format	JPEG
Dimensions	1600×1200, 1920×1200
Total size	
License	GPL

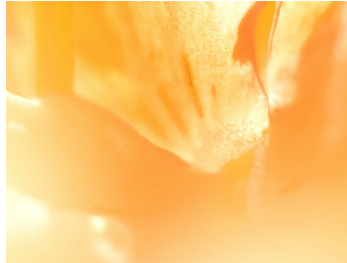
Novell®

SUSE® Linux Enterprise Desktop 10 – August 2006

(In addition to wallpapers included in openSUSE SUSE Linux 10.1)



Swirled Leaf



Electric Flower



Tendrils



Crabapple



Rain Drops



Evening Dew



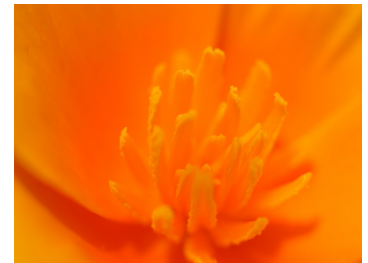
Green Leaf



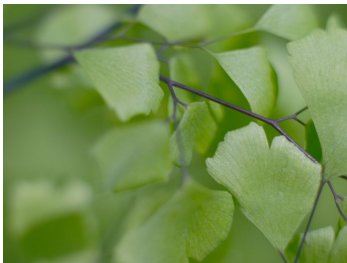
Parallel Veins



Yellow Flower



Orange Flower



Phantom Leaves



Brown Eyed Susans



Florida Sunset



Baby Duck



Bunny



Falling Leaves



Fyre Sheets



Radiate



Scraggled

Notes:

Location	/usr/share/pixmaps/backgrounds/novell/photos
Format	JPEG
Dimensions	1024×768 (12), 1600×1200 (1)
Total size	1,758,506 bytes
License	GPL

Fedora™

Fedora Core 1 - November 2003



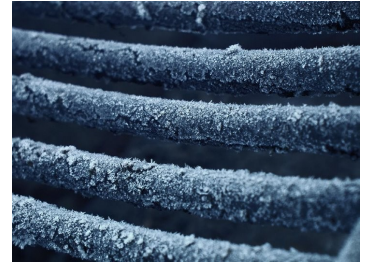
Dewdrop Leaf



Dragonfly



Flower Garden



Frosty Pipes



In Flight



Ladybugs



Leafdrops



Leaf Veins



Lightrays



Lightrays 2



Lightrays Transparent



Raingutter



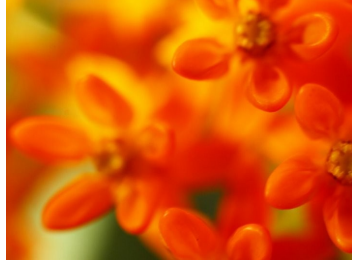
Riverstreet Rail



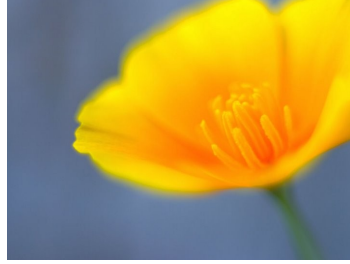
Sneaking Branch



Stone Bird

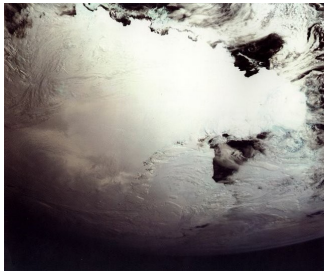
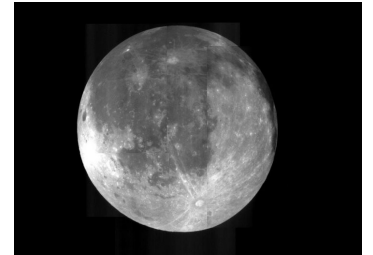


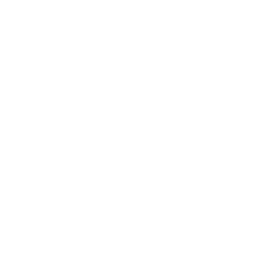
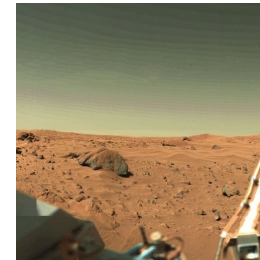
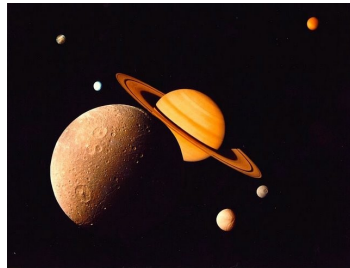
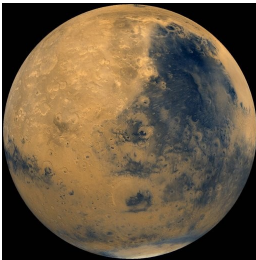
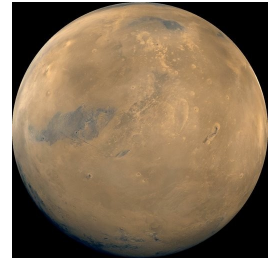
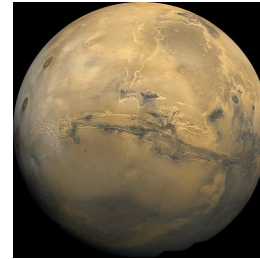
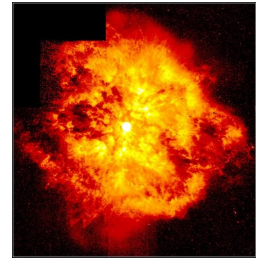
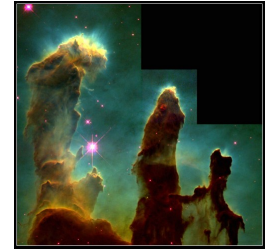
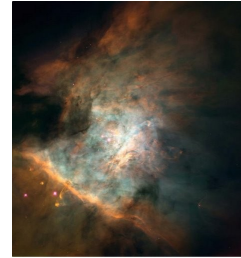
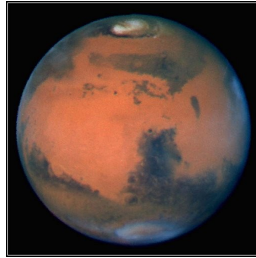
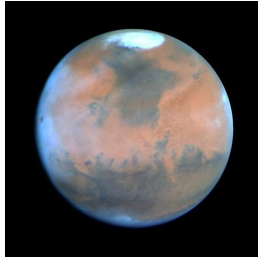
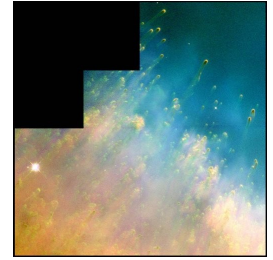
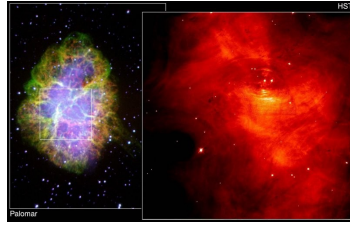
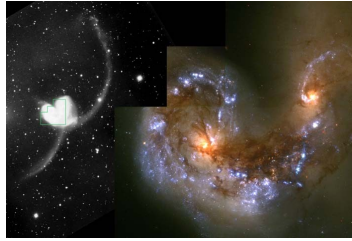
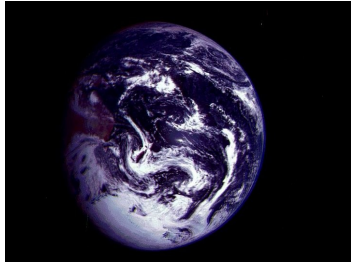
Tiny Blast of Red



Yellow Flower

Space





Notes:

Location	
Format	JPEG
Dimensions	
Total size	
License	GPL

Fedora Core 2 - May 2004



Dewdrop Leaf



Dragonfly



Flower Garden



Frosty Pipes



In Flight



Ladybugs



Leafdrops



Leaf Veins



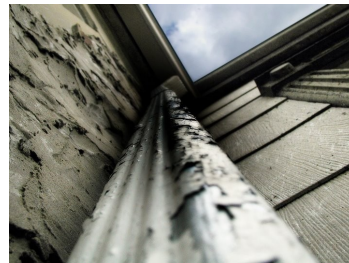
Lightrays



Lightrays 2



Lightrays Transparent



Raingutter



Riverstreet Rail



Sneaking Branch



Stone Bird



Tiny Blast of Red



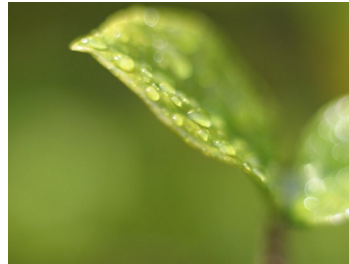
Yellow Flower

(Also included the same Space images from Fedora 1)

Notes:

Location	
Format	JPEG
Dimensions	
Total size	
License	GPL

Fedora Core 3 - November 2004



Dewdrop Leaf



Dragonfly



Flower Garden



Frosty Pipes



In Flight



Ladybugs



Leafdrops



Leaf Veins



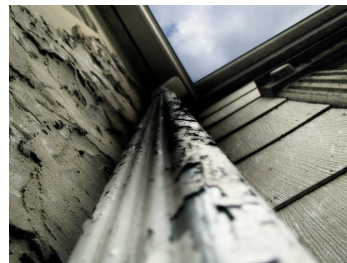
Lightrays



Lightrays 2



Lightrays Transparent



Raingutter



Riverstreet Rail



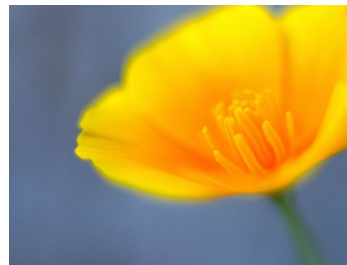
Sneaking Branch



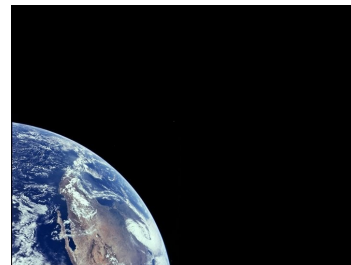
Stone Bird



Tiny Blast of Red



Yellow Flower

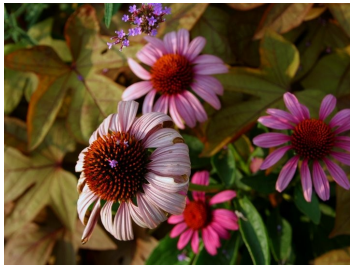
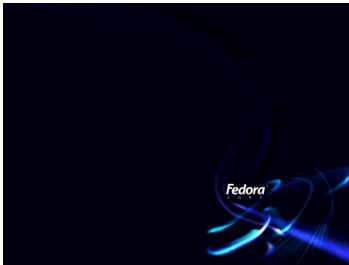


Earth from Space

Notes:

Location	
Format	JPEG
Dimensions	
Total size	
License	GPL

Fedora Core 4 - June 2005



Flower Garden



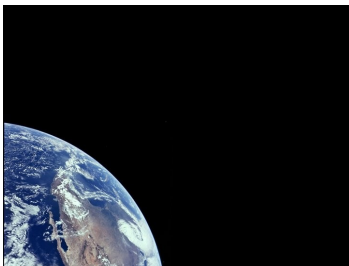
Ladybugs



Stone Bird



Tiny Blast of Red



Earth from Space

Notes:

Location	
Format	JPEG
Dimensions	
Total size	
License	GPL

Fedora Core 5 - March 2006



Flower Garden



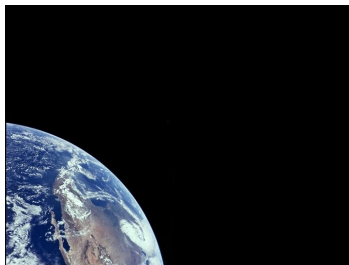
Ladybugs



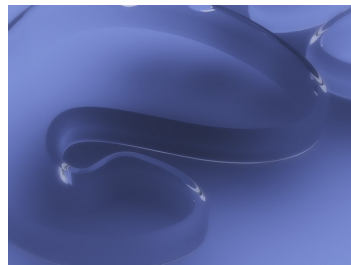
Stone Bird



Tiny Blast of Red



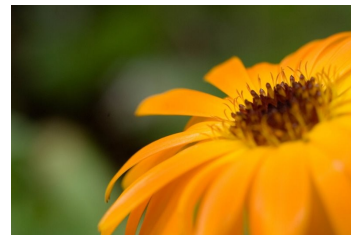
Earth from Space



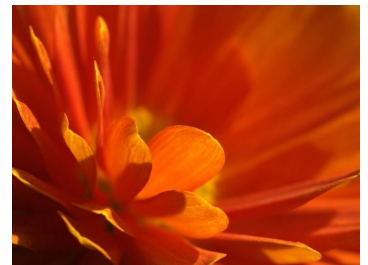
GNOME Curves



Green Meadow



Open Flower



Fresh Flower



Ellipses



Tentacles

Notes:

Location	
Format	JPEG
Dimensions	
Total size	
License	GPL

Sources and Methods

- <http://svn.gnome.org/viewvc/gnome-backgrounds/trunk/AUTHORS?revision=218&view=markup>
- <http://people.redhat.com/dfong/fc5graphics/>

Fedora Core 6 - October 2006



Flower Garden



Ladybugs



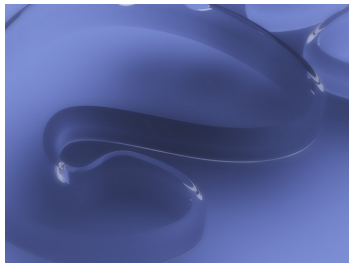
Stone Bird



Tiny Blast of Red



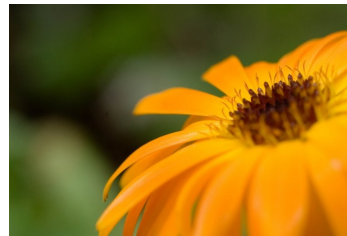
Earth from Space



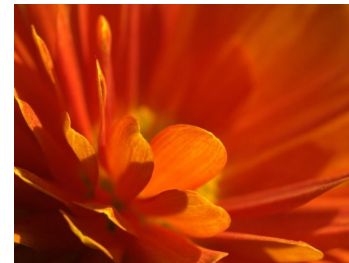
GNOME Curves



Green Meadow



Open Flower



Fresh Flower



Ellipses



Tentacles

Notes:

Location	
Format	JPEG
Dimensions	
Total size	
License	GPL

Sources and Methods

- <http://svn.gnome.org/viewvc/gnome-backgrounds/trunk/AUTHORS?revision=218&view=markup>
- <http://people.redhat.com/dfong/fc6graphics/>

Fedora 7 - May 2007



Flower Garden



Ladybugs



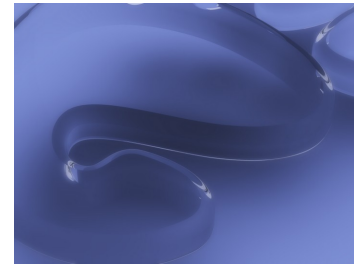
Stone Bird



Tiny Blast of Red



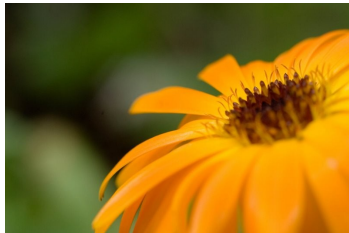
Earth from Space



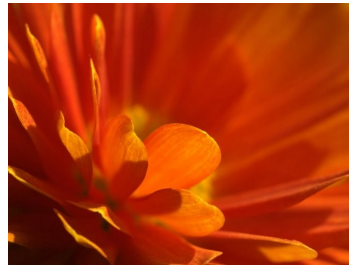
GNOME Curves



Green Meadow



Open Flower



Fresh Flower



Ellipses



Tentacles

Notes:

Location	
Format	JPEG
Dimensions	
Total size	
License	GPL

Sources and Methods

- <http://people.redhat.com/dfong/fc7graphics/http://people.redhat.com/dfong/fc7graphics/>
- <http://www.isity.net/blog/?p=54>
- <http://www.isity.net/blog/?p=55>
- <http://www.isity.net/blog/?p=57>
- <http://www.isity.net/blog/?p=58>
- <http://www.isity.net/blog/?p=60>
- <http://www.isity.net/blog/?p=62>

Fedora 8 - November 2007



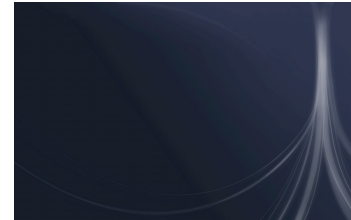
Infinity (Morning)



Infinity (Noon)



Infinity (Evening)



Infinity (Night)



Flower Garden



Ladybugs



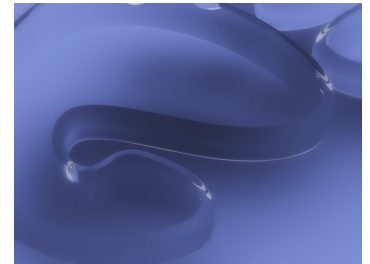
Stone Bird



Tiny Blast of Red



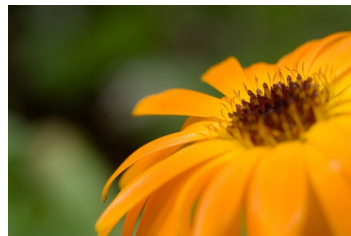
Earth from Space



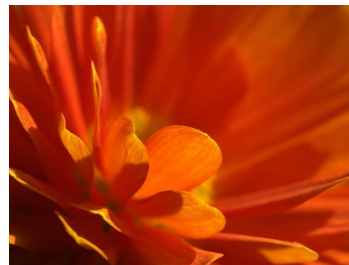
GNOME Curves



Green Meadow



Open Flower



Fresh Flower



Ellipses



Tentacles

Notes:

Location	
Format	JPEG
Dimensions	
Total size	
License	GPL

Sources and Methods

- <http://fedoraproject.org/wiki/Artwork/F8Themes/Infinity>

Fedora 9 – May 2008



Waves (Morning)



Waves (Noon)



Waves (Evening)



Waves (Night)



Flower Garden



Ladybugs



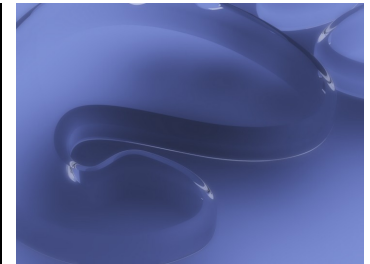
Stone Bird



Tiny Blast of Red



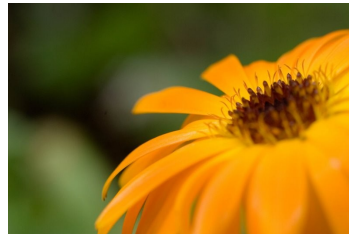
Earth from Space



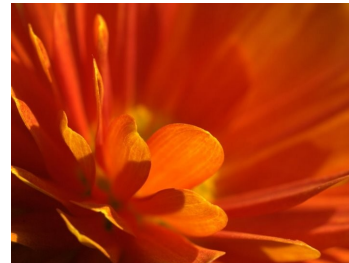
GNOME Curves



Green Meadow



Open Flower



Fresh Flower



Ellipses



Tentacles

Notes:

Location	
Format	JPEG
Dimensions	
Total size	
License	GPL

Sources and Methods

- <https://fedoraproject.org/wiki/Artwork/F9Themes/Waves>

Canonical® Ubuntu®

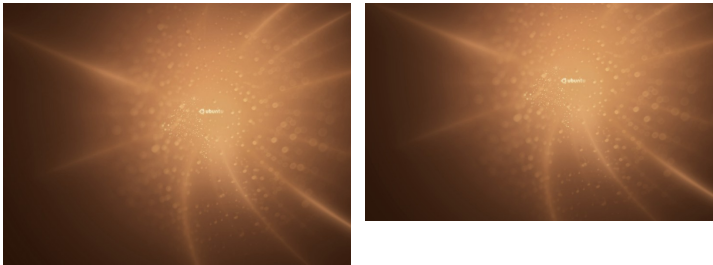
Warty Warthog (4.10) – October 2004



Notes:

Location	
Format	JPEG
Dimensions	1600×1200, 1600×900
Total size	
License	Creative Common Attribution ShareAlike 2.5

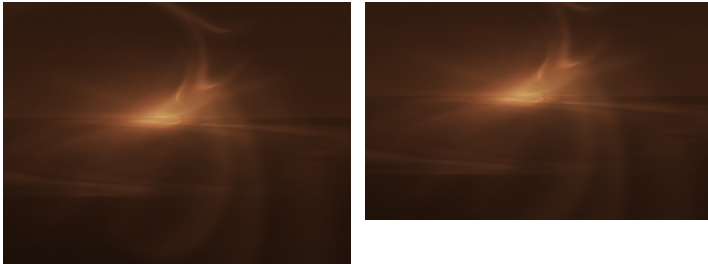
Hoary Hedgehog (5.04) – April 2005



Notes:

Location	
Format	JPEG
Dimensions	1600×1200, 1600×1000
Total size	
License	Creative Common Attribution ShareAlike 2.5

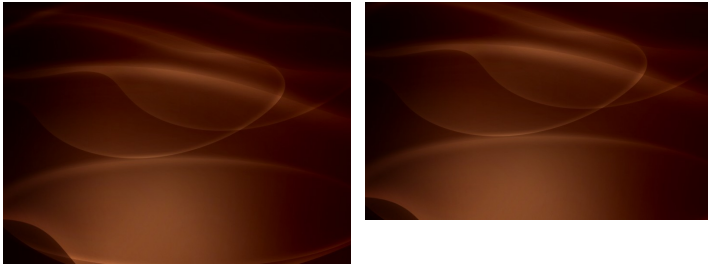
Breezy Badger (5.10) – October 2005



Notes:

Location	
Format	JPEG
Dimensions	1600×1200, 1600×1000
Total size	
License	Creative Common Attribution ShareAlike 2.5

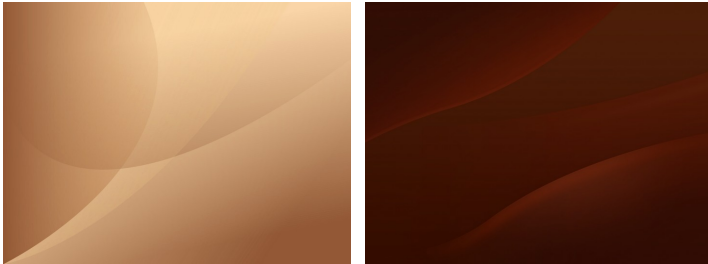
Dapper Drake (6.06 LTS) – June 2006



Notes:

Location	
Format	JPEG
Dimensions	1600×1200, 1600×1000
Total size	
License	Creative Common Attribution ShareAlike 2.5

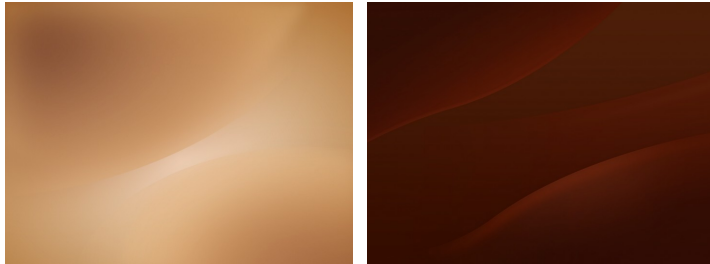
Edgy Eft (6.10) – October 2006



Notes:

Location	
Format	JPEG
Dimensions	1920×1440, 2048×1536
Total size	
License	Creative Common Attribution ShareAlike 2.5

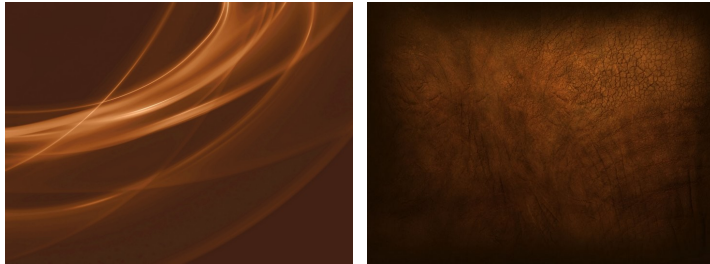
Feisty Fawn (7.04) – April 2007



Notes:

Location	
Format	JPEG
Dimensions	1920×1440, 2048×1536
Total size	
License	Creative Common Attribution ShareAlike 2.5

Gutsy Gibbon (7.10) – October 2007



Notes:

Location	
Format	JPEG
Dimensions	1920×1440, 2048×1536
Total size	
License	Creative Common Attribution ShareAlike 2.5

Hardy Heron (8.04 LTS) – April 2008



Notes:

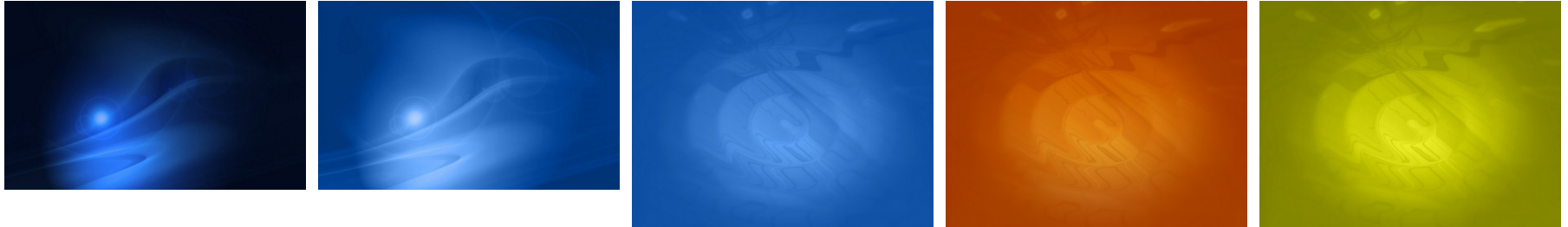
Location	
Format	JPEG
Dimensions	1600×1200, 2048×1536
Total size	
License	Creative Common Attribution ShareAlike 2.5

Sources and Methods

- <https://wiki.ubuntu.com/Artwork/Official>

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2008.05 – May 2008



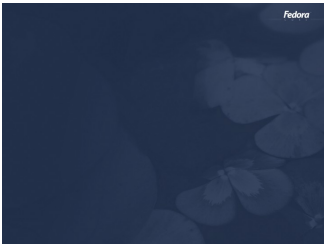


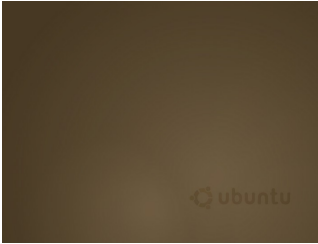


Notes:

Location	
Format	JPEG, PNG
Dimensions	1920×1200, 1400×1050
Total size	
License	GPL

Default Wallpaper Timeline

	Windows	Mac OS X	Red Hat Linux / Fedora	SUSE	Ubuntu
Q1/2 2001		 OS X 10.0	Red Hat Linux 7.1		
Q3/4 2001	 Windows XP	 OS X 10.1	Red Hat Linux 7.2		
Q1/2 2002			Red Hat Linux 7.3		
Q3/4 2002		 OS X 10.2	 Red Hat Linux 8		

Q1/2 2003			 <p>Red Hat Linux 9</p>		
Q3/4 2003		 <p>OS X 10.3</p>	 <p>Fedora Core 1</p>		
Q1/2 2004			 <p>Fedora Core 2</p>		
Q3/4 2004			 <p>Fedora Core 3</p>		 <p>Warty Warthog</p>

Q1/2 2005		 <p>OS X 10.4</p>	 <p>Fedora Core 4</p>		 <p>Hoary Hedgehog</p>
Q3/4 2005					 <p>Breezy Badger</p>
Q1/2 2006			 <p>Fedora Core 5</p>	 <p>10.1</p>	 <p>Dapper Drake</p>
Q3/4 2006			 <p>Fedora Core 6</p>	 <p>10.2</p>	 <p>Edgy Eft</p>

Q1/2 2007	 <p>Windows Vista</p>		 <p>Fedora 7</p>		 <p>Feisty Fawn</p>
Q3/4 2007		 <p>OS X 10.5</p>	 <p>Fedora 8</p>	 <p>10.3</p>	 <p>Gutsy Gibbon</p>
Q1/2 2008			 <p>Fedora 9</p>		 <p>Hardy Heron</p>

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