



Metalink tools project

Introducing Metalinks
and the Metalink tools project

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The metalink

```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-  
8"?>  
<metalink ...>  
</metalink>
```



The metalink

```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8"?>
<metalink ...>
  <files>
    <file name="ubuntu.iso">
      <resources>
        <url location="be" type="http">
          http://ubuntu.mirrors.skynet.be/ubuntu.iso
        </url>
      </resources>
    </file>
```

...

metalinks.sourceforge.net



The metalink

```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8"?>
<metalink ...>
<files>
<file name="ubuntu.iso">
<verification>
  <hash type="md5">...</hash>
  <hash type="sha1"> ... </hash>
</verification>
<resources> ... </resources>
</file>
```

...



The metalink

```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8"?>
<metalink ...>
<files>
<file name="ubuntu.iso">
<verification>
  <signature file="ubuntu.iso.sign"/>
</verification>
<resources> ... </resources>
</file>
<file name="ubuntu.iso.sign">
<resources> ... </resources>
</file>
...
```



Overview of features

- ⇒ Readable and extensible
- ⇒ More fault tolerant than redirects
- ⇒ More error resistant (verification)
- ⇒ No special services needed
- ⇒ Better client side automation (choose a mirror? Ubuntu has about 123)
- ⇒ Automatically protect against bad mirrors (single source of verification information)
- ⇒ Only one link is needed for all mirrors



Server side support

- ⇒ Simba mirroring system has RoPkg::Metalink.

The metalink tools project provides:

- ⇒ The metalink command line tool
- ⇒ Metamirrors.nl automatic metalink generation service
- ⇒ Code for Bouncer (not supported by the Bouncer project yet)



Client side support

- ⇒ Aria2
- ⇒ wxDownload Fast
- ⇒ DownloadThemAll Firefox plugin
- ⇒ Phex (P2P) planned for 3.0.4
- ⇒ Commercial clients include: GetRight, SmartFTP, Orbit, Speed download.

The metalink tools project provides:

- ⇒ A Java SAX Parser handler
- ⇒ A Firefox plug-in for metamirrors.nl



Publishers

- ➔ OpenOffice.org, Ubuntu Christian Edition, openSUSE, Puppy Linux, TrueBSD, Berry Linux, DesktopBSD, Arch Linux, redWall Firewall, PC-BSD, GoboLinux, blag Linux, StartCom Linux, Eiffel Software ...
- ➔ Anybody hosting hash files (via metamirrors.nl) and the Kernel.org files via the Metalinks tools project.



Contact information

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