

Question: What is Linux?

Answer: Linux is an operating system that was initially created as a hobby by a young student, Linus Torvalds, at the University of Helsinki in Finland. Linus had an interest in Minix, a small UNIX system, and decided to develop a system that exceeded the Minix standards. He began his work in 1991 when he released version 0.02 and worked steadily until 1994 when version 1.0 of the Linux Kernel was released. The kernel, at the heart of all Linux systems, is developed and released under the GNU General Public License and its source code is freely available to everyone. It is this kernel that forms the base around which a Linux operating system is developed. There are now literally hundreds of companies and organizations and an equal number of individuals that have released their own versions of operating systems based on the Linux kernel.

Linux Migration: To the left of this page you can see many different flavors (distributions) that are available to you. You can click on the icons and our website will explain more information about each distribution. Each distribution has its specific strengths, each distribution is great in its own way. We support just about every version of Linux and can help you build it into your business or home. The best part about Linux is that out of box Linux has better hardware support than Windows. This did not use to be true, but now thanks to the thousands of developers across the internet the support for Linux is becoming a very strong reality.

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The best part about Linux of course is that it's free, but it's free in more ways than one. It's free in price, free to distribute, free to manipulate.

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When you migrate to Linux, you never have to pay for another license ever again. Some of the latest versions of Linux will run great on systems that are 5+ years old. Plus most versions of linux have desktop updates just like microsoft products do.

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To use free software is to make a political and ethical choice asserting the right to learn,

and share what we learn with others. Free software has become the foundation of a learning society where we share our knowledge in a way that others can build upon and enjoy. Currently, many people use proprietary software that denies users these freedoms and benefits. If we make a copy and give it to a friend, if we try to figure out how the program works, if we put a copy on more than one of our own computers in our own home, we could be caught and fined or put in jail. That's what's in the fine print of the license agreement you accept when using proprietary software. The corporations behind proprietary software will often spy on your activities and restrict you from sharing with others. And because our computers control much of our personal information and daily activities, proprietary software represents an unacceptable danger to a free society.

What is free software and why is it so important for society?

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