

Awesome Apps



What is Linux?

Linux is an independent Unix-like operating system that can be freely modified and redistributed. It works on all major 32-bit and 64-bit computer hardware platforms and is an implementation of the POSIX specification with which all true versions of Unix comply. Linux uses no code from proprietary Unix sources, and much of the software available for Linux is developed by the Free Software Foundation's GNU project. The result of efforts by thousands of programmers coordinating via the Internet, Linux is now recognized as one of the most stable and flexible operating systems available at any price.

What Systems Run Linux?

Desktops

Linux desktops such as GNOME or KDE replace Mac OS and Windows on the desktop for most users' needs. Many applications are now available, including complete office suites such as OpenOffice.org, web browsers like Firefox, and email programs like Evolution.

Servers

Linux is an important part of the computer server market. It runs the large majority of the Web through the Apache server and provides email, FTP, SSH, News, file, printer, and proxy servers with efficient and scalable solutions. Linux also supports many different databases (e.g. MySQL, PostgreSQL, and Oracle) which are the engines of enterprise-level servers.

Development Systems

Linux provides a powerful software development platform, with all standard languages being freely available. Since the source code to the OS, development tools, and most applications can be freely modified and redistributed, Linux is the perfect environment for developers.

Other Systems

An eclectic mix of systems all run on Linux including wristwatches, consumer electronics, point-of-sale terminals, Google.com, Amazon.com, Hollywood animation studios, mainframes, and supercomputer clusters.

Linux applications focus on doing one job well with communications between applications implemented using well-defined public protocols and file formats.

This modular design has a number of advantages, including flexibility, simplicity, and stability. A particular application can be replaced by any equivalent which follows the same rules.

The resulting freedom of choice leads to friendly competition between different development teams, and often results in Linux applications that are best-of-breed through natural selection

What Applications Run on Linux?

The short answer is *lots!* Your distribution of choice will generally have many thousands of popular Linux applications which you can optionally install, including the Firefox web browser, Apache web server, OpenOffice.org suite, GIMP image editor, XMMS audio player, xine video player, FooBillard suite of 5 different pool games, and PySol package of 200+ solitaire games! The following sites will help you find additional apps you might need:

General apps: www.freshmeat.net/

General apps: www.usinglinux.org/

General apps: www.icewalkers.com/

Free development site: www.sourceforge.net/

Linux-Windows equivalents or alternatives:

<http://alternatives.rzero.com/>

<http://www.osalt.com/>

Compatibility mode for Windows apps:

www.winehq.com/

KDE apps: kde-apps.org/

GNOME apps: gnomefiles.org/

Games: www.linuxgames.com/

Quotes from Linus Torvalds:

1991: on the start of it all

"I'm doing a (free) operating system (just a hobby, won't be big and professional like ...) ... This has been brewing since April, and is starting to get ready."

1991: on copyrights

"Most of the tools used with linux are GNU software and are under the GNU copyleft."

1996: on the Linux logo

"Ok, so we should be thinking of a lovable, cuddly, stuffed penguin sitting down after having gorged itself on herring. Still with me?"

1998: on world domination

"The 'World Domination' thing is obviously always a bit tongue-in-cheek, but I think that yes, a five-year timeframe [in 2003] for the free software movement and Linux to make a major noticeable impact is not at all unrealistic."

2003: on the Linux development process

"All of these people make their modifications, and not all of them are accepted. I see it as a kind of ecosystem. You have survival of the fittest."

Many Distros



A GNU/Linux distribution (distro) consists of the Linux kernel and a combination of other software to make a complete Unix-like environment. Most distributions are available for free download via the Internet or can be purchased in supported form as a boxed set of CD-ROMs with printed documentation.

Some of the more popular distributions:

Debian GNU/Linux

www.debian.org/

Fedora [Core] (was Red Hat)

fedoraproject.org/

* KNOPPIX - Live/recovery

www.knoppix.com/

* Linux Mint - from freedom came elegance

www.linuxmint.com/

Mandriva (was Mandrake)

www.mandriva.com/

* MEPIS - Live/installation/recovery

www.mepis.org/

* PCLinuxOS - Live/installation

www.pclinuxos.com/

* Puppy - installs anywhere - extremely friendly

puppylinux.org/

openSUSE (formerly SuSE, purchased by Novell)

www.opensuse.org/

* Ubuntu - Complete Desktop

www.ubuntulinux.org/

Slackware - Simplicity and stability

www.slackware.com/

Yellow Dog Linux - for MacIntosh

www.yellowdoglinux.com

Listings of Linux distributions:

www.distrowatch.com/

www.livecdlist.com/

www.lwn.net/Distributions/

iso.linuxquestions.org

Other Resources:

The GNU Operating System - Free as in Freedom

www.gnu.org/

Loads of Linux Links

loll.sourceforge.net/linux/links/

The Linux Documentation Project

www.tldp.org/

Wiki Books - Linux Compendium

<http://en.wikibooks.org/wiki/Linux-Compendium/>

Linux Brochure Project (LBP)

lbproject.sourceforge.net/

News Websites:

Linux Weekly News (with daily updates)

www.lwn.net/

Linux Today

www.linuxtoday.com/

Slashdot: News for Nerds, Stuff That Matters

www.slashdot.org/

The Free Software Foundation ...of liberty not price

www.fsf.org/

Groklaw - ...when you want to know more

www.groklaw.com/

Online Magazines:

Linux Journal - since 1994

www.linuxjournal.com/

Linux Gazette - ...making Linux just a little more fun

linuxgazette.net/

Linux Magazine: Open Source, Open Standards

www.linux-mag.com/

Linux Productivity Magazine

www.troubleshooters.com/lpm/

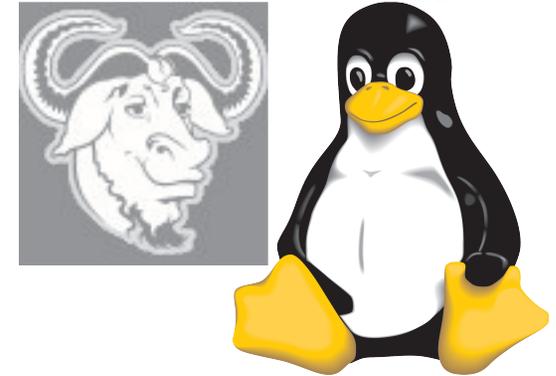
Tux Magazine - ...For the New Linux User

www.tuxmagazine.com/

An introduction to GNU/Linux:

a secure, powerful, & free
operating system

for computers of all types.



GNU/Linux for Beginners

Brought to you by the

Hazelwood Linux Users Group
hzwlug.slug.org

A Special Interest Group of the

St. Louis Unix Users Group (SLUUG)
www.sluug.org

Linux is the kernel initially created in 1991 as a hobby project by a young student, Linus Torvalds, at the University of Helsinki in Finland, and then released to the Internet as an Open Source project. Since then thousands of people have contributed to make Linux (combined with GNU software) one of the most stable and full-featured operating systems available.

Tux, the penguin shown above, is the official Linux mascot. Linux® is copyright by Linus Torvalds. Made with GNU/Linux and Scribus (www.scribus.net)

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