Why Use Linux?

For Recovering Microsoft victims

Reasons

1. Free or very low cost
2. Liberty
3. Learning
4. Interface
5. Security
6. Hardware
7. Installation
8. Applications
9. Community

1. Free or very low cost

Advantages

a. Free is always good
b. Lots of free open source applications
c. No limit on number of installations

Challenges

a. Still takes time and effort
b. Wary disbelief that free software is good
c. It is hard to sell free software
d. Cost is the least important reason

2. Liberty

Advantages

a. MS Windows or Apple OS-X alternative
b. Avoid upgrade treadmill lock-in
c. Dump proprietary restrictions
d. GPL and other Open Source Licenses
e. Local control of change

Challenges

a. Freedom is not necessarily an advantage
b. Large number of choices

3. Learning

Advantages

a. Puts the fun back into computing
b. Interoperability between machines
c. Learn real IT Open Standards

Challenges

a. Unfamiliar environment
b. Constant changes
c. Always more to learn

4. Interface (shell)

Advantages

a. X Window System open standards
b. Graphical User Interface (GUI) mature
c. GUI style choices (Gnome, KDE, etc.)
d. New designs for tablets and phones
e. Traditional drop-down menus available
f. Command Line Interface (CLI) for power
g. GUI ability very good, CLI not required

Challenges

a. GUI capability not common knowledge
b. Large number of choices

5. Security

Security is a process, not a product. - Bruce Schneier

Advantages

a. No Microsoft viruses
b. Difficult target for malware
c. Good out of the box default configuration
d. Stability (uptime measured in years)

Challenges

a. Nothing is perfect
b. Other malware issues besides viruses
c. Different environment
d. Open source does not guarantee secure

6. Hardware

Advantages

a. Some versions work with old hardware
b. Performs well with less RAM
c. Choice for innovative development

Challenges

a. Rarely pre-installed on new hardware
b. Newest hardware not yet supported
c. BIOS, GPT partitioning and UEFI issues

7. Installation

Advantages

a. Mostly easy to install
b. Easily down-loadable ISO packages
c. Boot live tests without hard drive change

Challenges

a. Most users have never installed an OS
b. Burning an ISO disc is not just copying
c. Sometimes hard to install
d. Large number of choices
e. Unpolished installs give poor impression

8. Applications

Advantages

a. Multitude of choices
b. Extensive file format support
c. Constant improvements and bug fixes
d. Licensing allows updates via repositories

Challenges

a. Alternatives are not exact replacements
b. Locating solutions takes time
c. No standard of quality
d. Legal restrictions on codecs

9. Community

Advantages

a. Can be very helpful
b. Developers are accessible
c. 80% of kernel developers are now paid

Challenges

a. Culture differences
b. Terminology
c. Remain friendly to newcomers
d. Mean, offensive, rude or surly behavior

Why Use Linux?

GNU/Linux for Beginners

Brought to you by the

Hazelwood Linux Users Group

http://hzwlug.sluug.org/

A Special Interest Group of the

St. Louis Unix Users Group (SLUUG)

www.sluug.org

This pamphlet is available as .ODT and .PDF on above site.

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 onto 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.