

# 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

- Some versions work with old hardware
- Performs well with less RAM
- Choice for innovative development

### Challenges

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



## 7. Installation

### Advantages

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

### Challenges

- Most users have never installed an OS
- Burning an ISO disc is not just copying
- Sometimes hard to install
- Large number of choices
- Unpolished installs give poor impression



## 8. Applications

### Advantages

- Multitude of choices
- Extensive file format support
- Constant improvements and bug fixes
- Licensing allows updates via repositories

### Challenges

- Alternatives are not exact replacements
- Legal restrictions on codecs
- Locating solutions takes time
- No standard of quality



## 9. Community

### Advantages

- Can be very helpful
- Developers are accessible
- 80% of kernel developers are now paid

### Challenges

- Culture differences and terminology
- Too much commonly mean, offensive, rude or surly behavior on Internet
- Remain friendly to newcomers

# Why Use Linux?



## GNU/Linux for Beginners

Brought to you by the

**Newcomer Linux Users Group**

<https://newlug.sluug.org/>

<https://www.newlinux.org/>

A Special Interest Group of the

**St. Louis Unix Users Group (SLUUG)**

<https://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.