

Distributions

A Linux distribution 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.

Popular distributions are:

RedHat Fedora
<http://fedora.redhat.com>

Debian GNU/Linux
<http://www.debian.org>

Ubuntu Linux (1)
<http://www.ubuntu.com>

Open SuSE Linux
<http://en.opensuse.org>

Yellow Dog Linux (PPC)
<http://www.yellowdoglinux.com>

Smoothwall -- Internet firewall/router
<http://www.smoothwall.org>

1. This one is actively used by many Cowlug members and is well supported locally.

Complete distribution lists can be found at:

<http://www.distrowatch.com>
<http://www.lwn.net/Distributions>

Resources

Below are some of the key resources to help you with your Linux questions.

Cowichan Valley Linux Users Group
<http://www.cowlug.org>

Loads of Linux Links
<http://loll.sourceforge.net/linux/links>

Freshmeat -- Linux Applications
<http://www.freshmeat.net>

Linux Documentation Project
<http://www.tldp.org>

Linux Online -- Linux Information
<http://www.linux.org>

YoLinux Information Portal
<http://www.yolinux.com>

Linux Brochure Project
<http://lbproject.sourceforge.net>

News Links

Footnotes -- Gnome news
<http://www.gnomedesktop.org>

Linux Weekly News
<http://www.lwn.net>

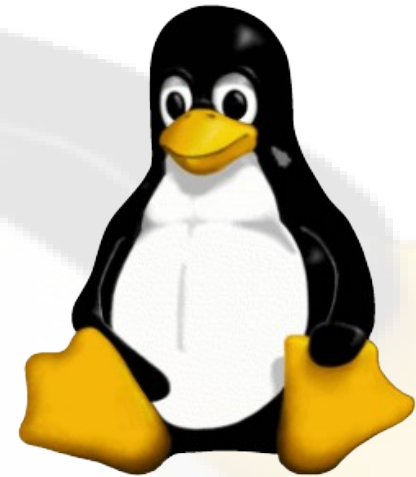
Linux Today
<http://www.linuxtoday.com>

Linux Journal
<http://www.linuxjournal.com>

Linux Gazette
<http://www.linuxgazette.net>

Free Your Computer

An introduction to Linux;
a secure, powerful, and free
operating system for
computers of all types.



Linux In Cowichan

Brought to you by the
Cowichan Valley Linux Users Group

www.cowlug.org

We'll even help you install it, free of charge

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. 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, flexible and secure operating systems available.

What Systems Run Linux?

Desktops

Linux desktops such as GNOME, XFCE and KDE replace Mac and Windows on the desktop for most users' needs. Many applications are now available, including complete office suites such as OpenOffice and graphics programs like Inkscape.

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, Hollywood animation studios, mainframes, and supercomputer clusters.

Applications

Linux applications focus on doing one job well with necessary communications between applications implemented using limited and 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 Darwinian 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 suite, GIMP image manipulation program, Rhythmbox audio player, Totem video player and PySol package of 200+ solitaire games to name a few.

The following sites will help you find additional applications you might need.

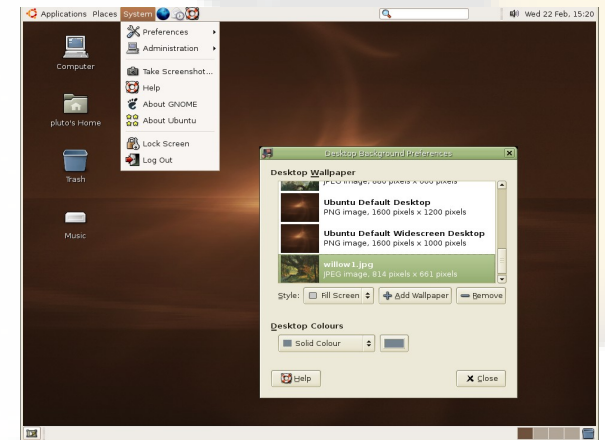
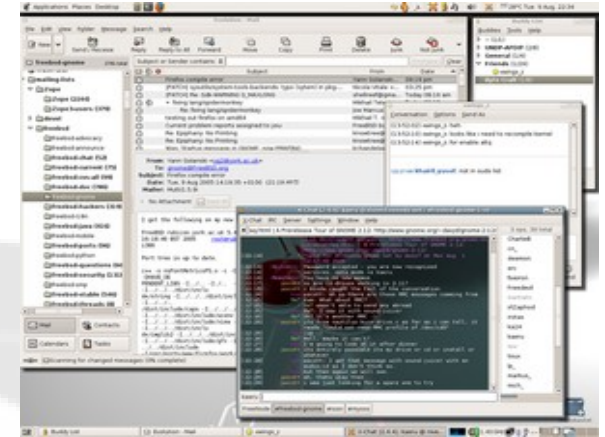
<http://www.gnomefiles.org>

<http://www.freshmeat.net>

<http://www.icewalkers.com>

What does it look like?

Linux desktops are completely themeable with changeable colours and look. Here are a few shots of a typical desktop.



Linux is an operating system 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.