



Linux: A Free Computer Operating System



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What Is Linux?

A computer *operating system* that is distributed *freely*, under an *Open Source license*.

What is an Operating System?

The software that loads when you first turn on a computer. It manages the other programs you run.

What is Open Source Software?

Software that is (1) free, (2) redistributable, (3) comes with *source code* (the "recipe"), (4) can be changed and re-released, (5) can be used as the basis of new software.

Why is Open Source Good?

It's flexible, customizable, inexpensive (free), more secure, less buggy, and can't be owned by any particular company or person (freedom).

Why is Linux Good?

It runs on a wide range of computers (big and small, fast and slow), doesn't get viruses, has lots of support (especially freely-available on the Internet), and is Open Source.

What is Linux Used For?

Web serving, networks, databases, scientific computing, graphics, desktop computing, "embedded-systems" (tiny computers).

Who Uses Linux?

Industrial Light and Magic, Dreamworks, Amazon.com, Google, IBM, Hewlett Packard, Oracle...

Where Can I Get Linux?

Distributions like RedHat, Mandrake, TurboLinux, Debian, Slackware, etc., are often available at computer and bookstores, as well as online for download.

Where Can I Learn Linux?

On the Internet (web, Usenet newsgroups, chat rooms), in books, at Linux User Groups, in school.

Online Slides:

<http://www.lugod.org/presentations/ca4h/>

