Comparing Operating Systems for Pen Testing

linux

CKjones EVILCORP -CEO   **Sep '22**

Hello everyone, today we will overview some pen testing operating systems and try to find which one is best.

#1 Kali Linux
It is one of the top hacking operating systems and comes with more than 600 preconfigured penetration-testing programs. Both Windows and Mac OS support this OS. It is available in both x64 and x32 bits and supports USB booting as well as Virtualbox.

#2 Parrot OS
Parrot OS is a hacking platform. A user-friendly editor is available for program development. You can browse the web safely and discreetly with this platform. Parrot OS can be used by hackers for a variety of tasks, including vulnerability analysis, penetration testing, computer forensics, and more. It also uses tor nodes for added security as well as being extremely lightweight.

#3 Black Arch
BlackArch is a free Linux-based platform that includes a large selection of tools for networking, automation, and other areas. It is an operating system that is open-source and was made specifically for security analysts and penetration testers. I use this distro because of its large selection of tools that rival that of Kali Linux.

#4 CAINE Linux
A distro called CAINE, which runs out of Ubuntu, offers a full forensic environment with a graphical user interface. This operating system can be added as a module to already installed software applications. One of the better-operating systems for digital forensics is this one since it automatically pulls a timeline out of RAM. Another cool thing is that it has a variety of advanced tools, but also has a friendly UI.

This is my list of the best security distros. If you are in the process of choosing a pen testing os or looking to get a new one I hope this helps.

-CKjones

Richie Richard   **Sep '22**

I liked Kali 'till 2019.3. After that it had many issues.
Parrot I like because it's very stable.
I love Arch!!! But the big selection of tools can be confusing. So I build my own just with the tools I like. 😉
But you can also check out Cyborg Linux **CYBORG HAWK LINUX - Linux.com** Based on Ubuntu.
or CSI Linux **CSI Linux: Linux-Based Operating System - HackerSploit Forum - A Community Of Hackers & Security Professionals**

darkzer0   **Sep '22**

black arch is best. i hate kali linux

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hatecomputers

Sep '22

Genuine question: Do you all actually enjoy getting pre setup OSs for hacking?
Asking because I used to go for Kali (out of lazyness, not necessarily because I could pinpoint any benefits) but sort of drop it eventually as I gained more knowledge in favour of setting up things the day I wanted. Also realised most of the time I pretty much just needed a proxy / curl lol

happy to hear your thoughts

CKjones EVILCORP -CEO   Sep '22

Personally, I do enjoy it a lot. I cannot say the same for other people though.

-CKjones

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yingzuiii 应 醉   Oct '22

windows forever!!!

Sea First 100   Nov '22

I use Ubuntu and install whatever I need. 600 tools means nothing for a new user if they don't know what tool to use.

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b0b1073 Bob   Nov '22

First I used kali linux, then parrot and then when I understood the basic working of linux i switched to Arch Linux. I enjoyed a lot the instalation and configuration process, I use Qtile and it's pretty efficient in terms of workflow. Takes so time to adapt, but personally i find it very cool! Also pacman feels pretty easy to use, u can update all in one command.

_m0r0n Not_A_Moron   Nov '22

Anyone used **Demon Distribution** before?

CKjones EVILCORP -CEO   Nov '22

I cannot say I have. What is it used for?

F4RADAY   Nov '22

Thank you pal. Saved me a lot of time.

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theslycat   Nov '22

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BLACKARCH! Well, I'm not talking about the official ISO, the desktop environment doesn't satisfy everyone
and the tool set is so large. Under Arch Linux, you can easily add the blackarch repo info pacman config file,
than install whatever you NEED without any dependency issues. It is flexible and fast.

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jakeofark Jacob Gentry   **Nov '22**

Just build your own!

https://0x00sec.org/t/custom-live-os-for-optimal-opsec

GoNe_Fast James   **Nov '22**

BSD = the grandaddy 👴 nothing else… If I need Linux only tool I just do a jail/bhyve/vmmd, check the ports
or use the linux compatibility build in most of them. 🤫 best of both worlds.

Pacharch   **Dec '22**

Do you guys have heard of PopOS ?
JK I use Arch btw and made the pentesting lab that really suits me.
(Yes I daily use the word 'bloat', how did you guess ?)

PossumKing Possum   **Jan 28**

I use kali and parrot for class and hack the box. Kali seems better for most things and overall pretty good, but
every now and then there are some tasks i find parrot is just better for.

Often times tho if i find i do a specific thing frequently, or am working on something relatively long term ill just
make a dedicated ubuntu vm for it.

Careyb86 Currry   **Jan 28**

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kmd   **30d**

I can recommend **SecBSD** , which is a community driven and security focused os based on OpenBSD.