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Linux Download

Posted by [Vivek Gite](#) <vivek@nixcraft.com>

Q. Can you tell me website name to download Linux ISO images to install on my Desktop / Laptop / Server? I want complete free and functional operating system.

A. The most common method of installing Linux is by booting from a CD-ROM or DVD that contains the installation program and installable software. GNU/Linux is available as free download from various websites. You need to download Linux CD / DVD ISO files using any one of the following method:



[1]

[a] **Bittorrent** - a peer-to-peer file sharing (P2P) communications protocol. You need BitTorrent client program that downloads files using the BitTorrent protocol such as BitTorrent, Azureus, BitComet, Deluge, µTorrent etc.

[b] **FTP / HTTP download** - Regular browser can download Linux files.

Burn ISO Images

Once downloaded you need to burn ISO images on CD or DVD using various programs.

Linux Download

Visit following sites to download ISO images as per your requirements.

Linux Server Distributions

Most popular Linux distribution for server usage such as web or email server:

- [CentOS Linux](#) [2]
- [Debian Linux](#) [3]
- [Slackware Linux](#) [4]
- [Gentoo Linux](#) [5]

Linux Desktop Distributions

Cutting edge software along with latest kernel, suitable for desktop usage:

- [Debian Linux](#) [3]
- [Ubuntu Linux](#) [6]
- [OpenSuse Linux](#) [7]
- [Fedora Linux](#) [8]

Linux Router or Firewall Distributions

Following specifically designed to be used as the operating system of a machine acting as a router and/or a firewall.

- [IPCop](#) [9]
- [SmoothWall](#) [10]

Embedded Linux Distributions

An embedded Linux computer system can be installed on mobile phones, personal digital assistants, media players and other consumer electronics devices. Linux is also used in other embedded applications such as networking equipment, routers, machine control, industrial automation, navigation equipment and medical instruments.

- [uclinux](#) ^[11]
- [openwrt](#) ^[12]
- [freewrt](#) ^[13]
- [HP \(formerly Compaq\) handhelds](#) ^[14]
- [MontaVista](#) ^[15] (commercial)

Enterprise Linux Server / Desktop operating system with support

Following distribution requires some sort of subscription to download ISO images and patches:

- [SUSE Linux Enterprise Server and desktop edition](#) ^[16]
- [Redhat Enterprise Linux Server and Workstation edition](#) ^[17]

Other options

- Purchased a low price Linux CD
- Get Linux CDs free by request
- A magazine cover disk

See also:

- [DistroWatch.com](#) ^[18] - Compares all significant Linux distributions in detail.
- [List of Linux distributions](#) ^[19]

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[1] Image: <http://www.cyberciti.biz/faq/faq/category/linux/>

[2] CentOS Linux: <http://centos.org/>

[3] Debian Linux: <http://debian.org/>

[4] Slackware Linux: <http://www.slackware.com/>

[5] Gentoo Linux: <http://gentoo.org/>

[6] Ubuntu Linux: <http://ubuntu.com/>

[7] OpenSuse Linux: <http://opensuse.org/>

[8] Fedora Linux: <http://fedoraproject.org/>

[9] IPCop: <http://ipcop.org/>

[10] SmoothWall: <http://www.smoothwall.org/>

[11] uclinux: <http://uclinux.org/>

[12] openwrt: <http://openwrt.org/>

[13] freewrt: <http://www.freewrt.org/>

[14] HP (formerly Compaq) handhelds: <http://www.handhelds.org/platforms.html>

[15] MontaVista: <http://www.mvista.com/>

[16] SUSE Linux Enterprise Server and desktop edition: <http://www.novell.com/linux/>

[17] Redhat Enterprise Linux Server and Workstation edition: <http://redhat.com/>

[18] DistroWatch.com: <http://distrowatch.com/>

[19] List of Linux distributions: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Linux_distributions

