

**Subject :**

**Operating System**

**Submitted to:**

**Sir M. Jabbar**

**Submitted by:**

**Mubashir Ali**

**Mubashir Husnain**

**Roll Number:**

**13014198-175**

**13014198-051**

**Section:**

**BS-SE-(BC)**

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**Q#2 Difference between open source and paid source OS?**

**Paid Source**

A commercial CMS fundamentally is the same as an open source CMS, except that company owns the software and you do not have the access to the code. A couple of examples include expression engine and share point. Since there is one company managing the software, you have just one contact point and access to a dedicated support team. the system itself usually goals through an extensively quality assurance process as a guaranty and is generally more stable.

However, without the Sport of the community customization cost extra and system functionality updates are done at the discretion of the company. Features request are usually not allowed and bug can take a while to fix, depending on the support team in place at that company

**Open Source**

In general, open source refers to any program whose source code is made available for use or modification as users or other developers see fit. Open source software is usually developed as a public collaboration and made freely available**.**

Open Source is a certification mark owned by the Open Source Initiative (OSI). Developers of software that is intended to be freely shared and possibly improved and redistributed by others can use the Open Source trademark if their distribution terms conform to the OSI's Open Source Definition.

**Why haven't free operating systems like Linux overtaken paid OS like Windows to become the most used OS?**

Well, there's many reasons for it. Let's go into some detail about Linux as well as Microsoft for a brief historical examination of the scenario.  
  
**Microsoft**  
Founded by Bill Gates and Paul Allen in 1975, Microsoft built its reputation upon the awesome MS-DOS operating system. The OS was far ahead of everything in that time by virtue of being distributed by default with the IBM PC. The available software for that platform also outnumbered the software available for competing platforms. In particular, AT&T's monopoly over Unix lead to stagnation, and a rapidly developing OS like MS-DOS managed to take over the OS market for microcomputers.  
  
It was in the shadow of this deal that MS released Windows. Windows 95 was the breakthrough they needed, and after utterly crushing the competition (OS/2 at that time), Windows went on to become the dominant platform in the personal computer world. Despite the popularity of the Mac and the rise of Apple, the situation hasn't yet changed a lot. Windows dominates the world of Personal Computers, and this doesn't seem to be changing any time soon.  
  
**Linux**  
Linux is a kernel written by Linus Torvalds, which was supposed to be used together wish the MINIX toolkit. Later, the MINIX components were replaced by their GNU counterparts. This led to the creation of a complete OS which could be used in the same way MS-DOS was, that is through the use of the command line. Today, Linux is used in more than 480 of the world's 500 greatest supercomputers. This anecdotally tells us about the power of Linux.  
  
The GUI was based on the X server, the XFree86 implementation of which was released in 1991. The mainstream GUIs, i.e. Gnome and KDE, were released in 1999 and 1998 respectively. These GUIs have persisted till today, and remain two among many available types of GUIs (Desktop Environments, if you want to be technical) for Linux.  
  
**Advantages of Windows over Linux**  
Diving straight into the deep end of the pool, let's talk about the advantages Windows holds over Linux:

* *The presence of generations of software* - Windows had software being developed for it long before Linus Torvalds dreamed of Linux. This is probably the greatest advantage Windows had over its competitors.
* *Microsoft Office -*Microsoft's Office Suite blew all others out of the water and became the de-facto office suite on the desktop, replacing competitors like Lotus and WordPerfect*.*Linux cannot run MS Office natively.
* *A unified and recognizable GUI -*One of the greatest strengths of Linux has been the choice it offers.
* *No worrying about the innards -*Linux geeks love messing with the innards of their operating systems, swapping croon implementations, shells, etc. They love modifying config files and going through the details of their rc.conf.
* *Linux is rarely officially supported -*This holds true everywhere outside the CSE departments of universities and certain government departments in Germany.
* *Familiarity of the local support staff -*If you ask your local support center to help get your laptop back in tip-top shape, they'll be able to help you if you have Windows. If you have Linux installed, good luck.
* *Better battery life -*In general, Windows gives better battery life than does Linux
* *High-fidelity audio* - If you want to do any audio work on Linux, you'll have to install JACK2, fiddle with your Asuncion, work with Pulse audio, etc. and after 5 hours, you'll wish you'd installed Windows and used Cubase. This remains the case with all sorts of professional applications.
* *Games -*Despite Steam on Linux, Windows remains your best bet for gaming. 'Neff said.
* *Comes installed by default* - Must I say anything here?

**Advantages Linux holds over Windows**  
Going the other way now...

* *Free software* - The software you have there is open sourced as well as free, for the most part.
* *Modularity -*Linux is modular, and you can switch out parts you don't like for others. However, for most people, it's not about switching out parts.
* *DIY -*Linux is an experience you can make yourself. You can customize the GUI to your liking, build your own text editor in vim and emacs, etc.

In conclusion, I'd simply say that the very strengths of Linux for techies are its weaknesses for most people. Android is a classic example of Linux striving to correct its weaknesses. It leverages the strengths of Linux's open development without falling into any of its pitfalls. The OS is in Google's hands, and hence a very standard set of core tools are available to everyone. The GUI is reasonably similar throughout android, the UX is developed by professionals and it has many of the advantages I have put in favor of Windows.