Linux (/ˈliːnʊks/ (🔊listen) *LEE-nuuks* or /ˈlɪnʊks/ *LIN-uuks*)[11] is a family of [open-source](#) [Unix-like](#) [operating systems](#) based on the [Linux kernel](#),[12] an [operating system kernel](#) first released on September 17, 1991, by [Linus Torvalds](#).[13][14][15] Linux is typically [packaged](#) as a [Linux distribution](#), which includes the kernel and supporting [system software](#) and [libraries](#), many of which are provided by the [GNU Project](#). Many Linux distributions use the word "Linux" in their name, but the [Free Software Foundation](#) uses the name "**GNU/Linux**" to emphasize the importance of [GNU](#) software, [causing some controversy](#).[16][17]