

**Linux** (/ˈliːnɔːks/ listen<sup>ⓘ</sup>) *LEE-nuuks* or /ˈlɪnɔːks/ *LIN-uuks*)<sup>[11]</sup> is a family of [open-source Unix-like operating systems](#) based on the [Linux kernel](#),<sup>[12]</sup> an [operating system kernel](#) first released on September 17, 1991, by [Linus Torvalds](#).<sup>[13][14][15]</sup> 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](#).<sup>[16][17]</sup>