



The Best Linux Distributions for Beginners in 2023

James Kiarie | Last Updated: April 5, 2023 | Read Time: 12 mins | [Linux Distros](#) | [48 Comments](#)

Traditionally, [Linux](#) was a reserve for developers, system administrators, and Enterprise users for [hosting websites and other applications](#). There was a time when Linux posed a great deal of complexity to beginners and simply discouraged them from embracing it.

Over time, the vibrant Open source community has made enormous efforts in bringing Linux closer to ordinary Windows and Mac users by making it more user-friendly and easy to use.

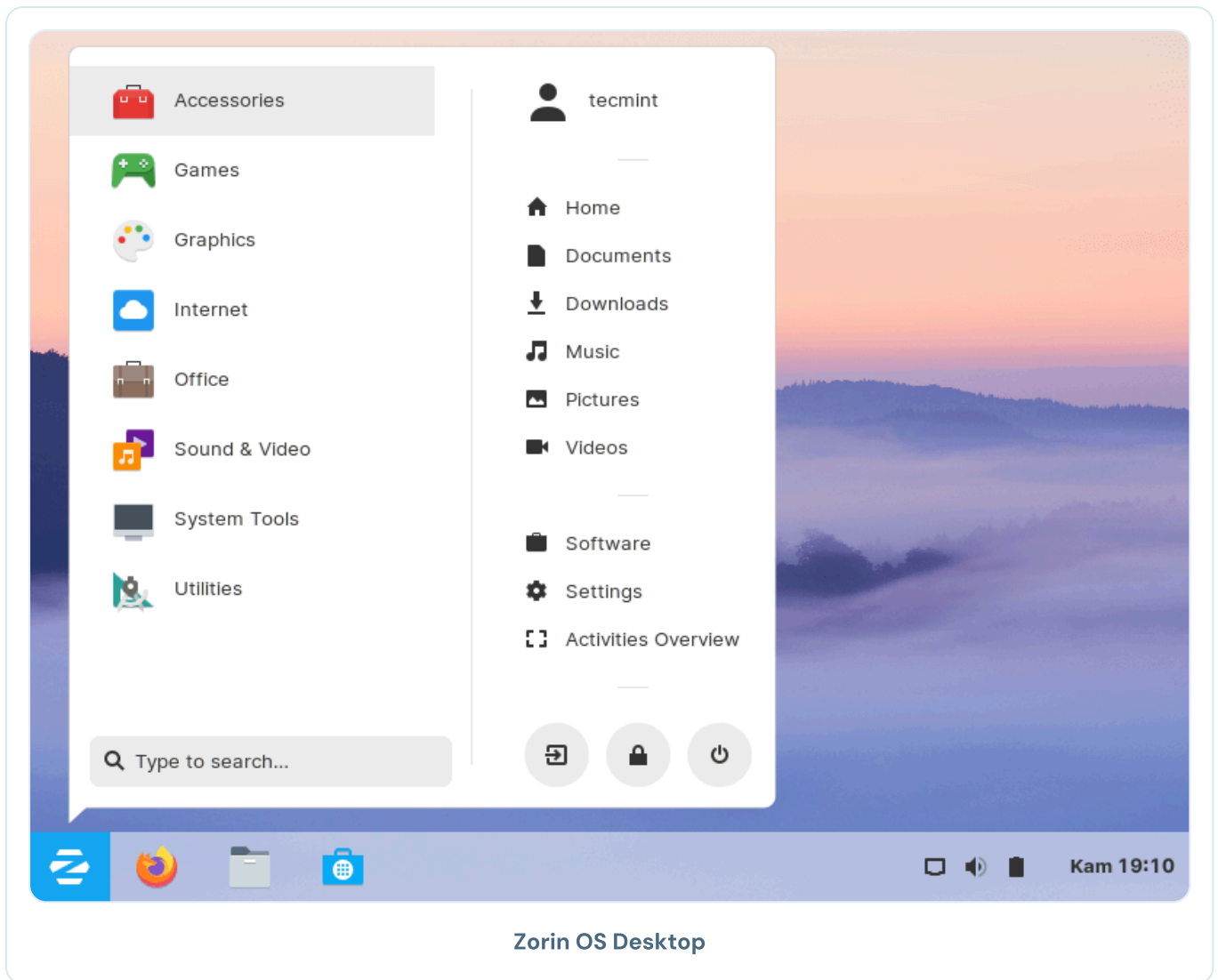
[You might also like: [Top 10 Linux Distributions To Look Forward](#)]

This guide covers the best Linux distributions for beginners in 2023.

1. Zorin OS

Based on Ubuntu and Developed by the Zorin group, [Zorin](#) is a powerful and user-friendly Linux distribution that was developed with new Linux users in mind.

This is notably clear from its neat, simple, and intuitive UI whose look and feel closely resembles Windows 7 and Windows 10. For Windows or macOS users who are trying their hand out at Linux, this distribution comes highly recommended.



Zorin OS Desktop

Zorin has been around since 2009, with the latest release being [Zorin OS 16.2](#) which is available in 4 editions namely: Pro, Core, Lite, and Education.

The Core, Lite, and Education editions are free for download with the Pro Edition going for only \$39. Education and Ultimate editions ship with both GNOME and XFCE desktop environments.

The core edition is only available in GNOME while Lite comes with the XFCE environment.

All editions come packed with office productivity software such as LibreOffice alongside useful utilities and applications to get you started. Zorin is also secure with periodic security patches and feature updates to address any security flaws and improve the performance of the system.

Zorin also comes highly recommended for old PCs or systems with low CPU and RAM specifications.

Zorin OS Requirements

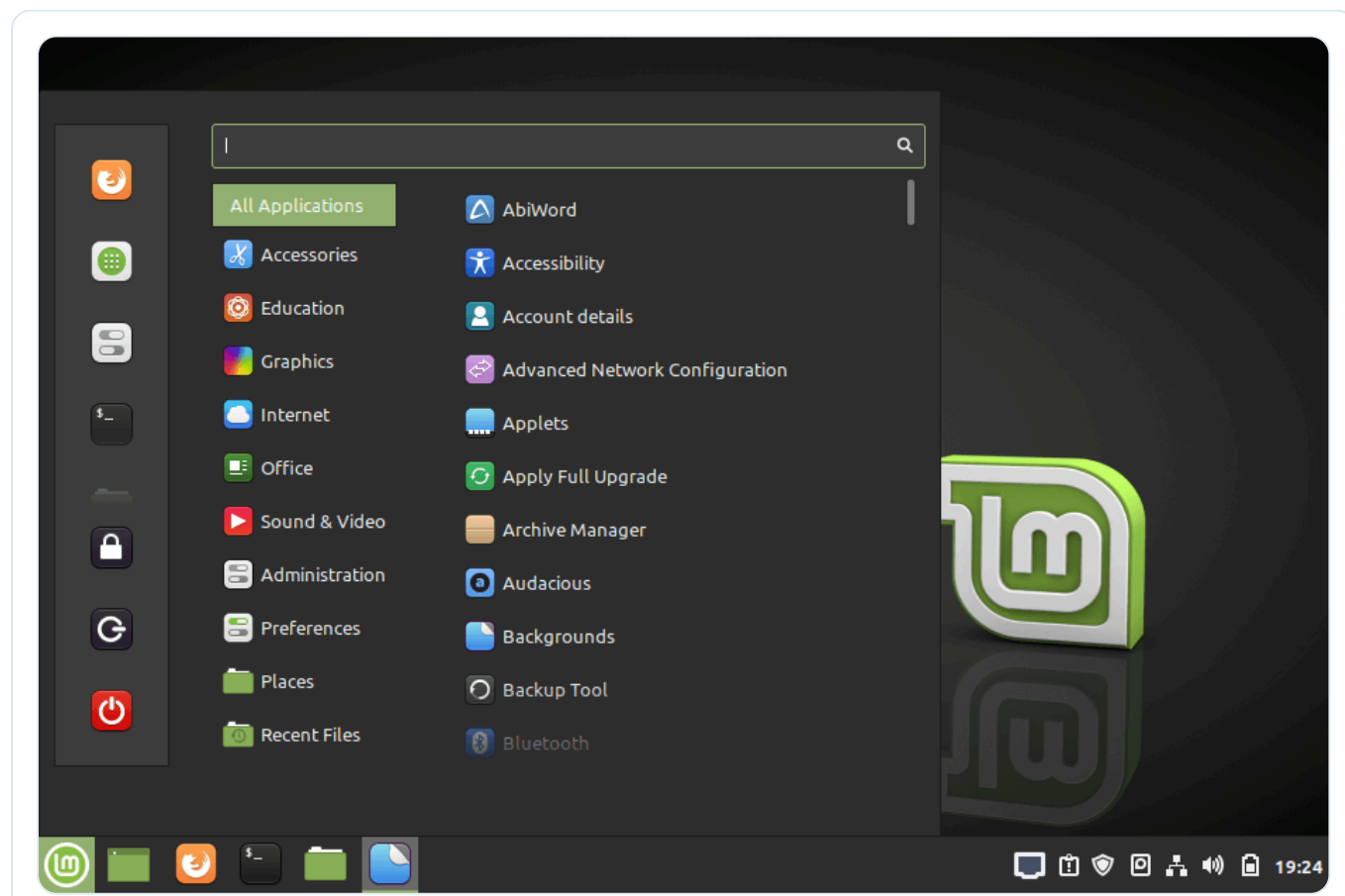
Minimum system requirements include:

- 1Ghz dual-core CPU
- 2GB RAM (512Mb for Lite edition)
- 10GB hard disk space (20GB for Ultimate Edition)
- Minimum resolution of 800 x 600 (640 x 480 for Lite edition)

If you are a newcomer to Linux, [consider giving Zorin a test run](#) and enjoy the sleek UI, stability, and wonderful system performance.

2. Linux Mint

[Linux Mint](#) is free and open-source that was built with a focus on desktop users. Linux Mint is [based on Ubuntu distribution](#) and enjoys a vibrant community of developers who work round the clock to deliver a stable, fully-featured, customizable, and secure system.



Linux Mint Desktop

Right from the start, Mint provides an elegant and sleek interface that is easy to interact with. A simple click of the **Start** button at the bottom left corner reveals a rich menu replete with your favorite applications, storage locations, and various settings that you can use to tweak your system to your desired preference.

On the taskbar, be sure to find status icons such as the Network status icon, Update manager, volume, battery usage, and date icons as you would find on a Windows 7 or 10 system.

With Linux Mint, everything works out-of-the-box with full multimedia support, managed system updates using the **Update Manager** tool, and a software manager repository where you can install your favorite applications such as Skype, Discord, and VLC media player.

Mint is a long-term support (LTS) operating system implying that it receives support for extended periods of time of up to 5 years.

The latest release of Mint is [Linux Mint 20.1 codenamed "Vera"](#), which was released on March 20, 2022, and is based on Ubuntu 22.04 LTS.

It's available for download in 3 desktop environments: Cinnamon, MATE, and XFCE. However, unlike its predecessors such as Mint 19.3 and earlier, it is only available for download in 64-bit architecture.

It's highly customizable with a rich set of desktop backgrounds, improved monitor support with fractional scaling, accent colors, and other system improvements.

Unlike Zorin, Mint has a fairly large footprint and requires a robust system with higher specifications for installation for it to run smoothly.

To [install Linux Mint](#), your PC needs to meet the following minimum requirements:

Linux Mint Requirements

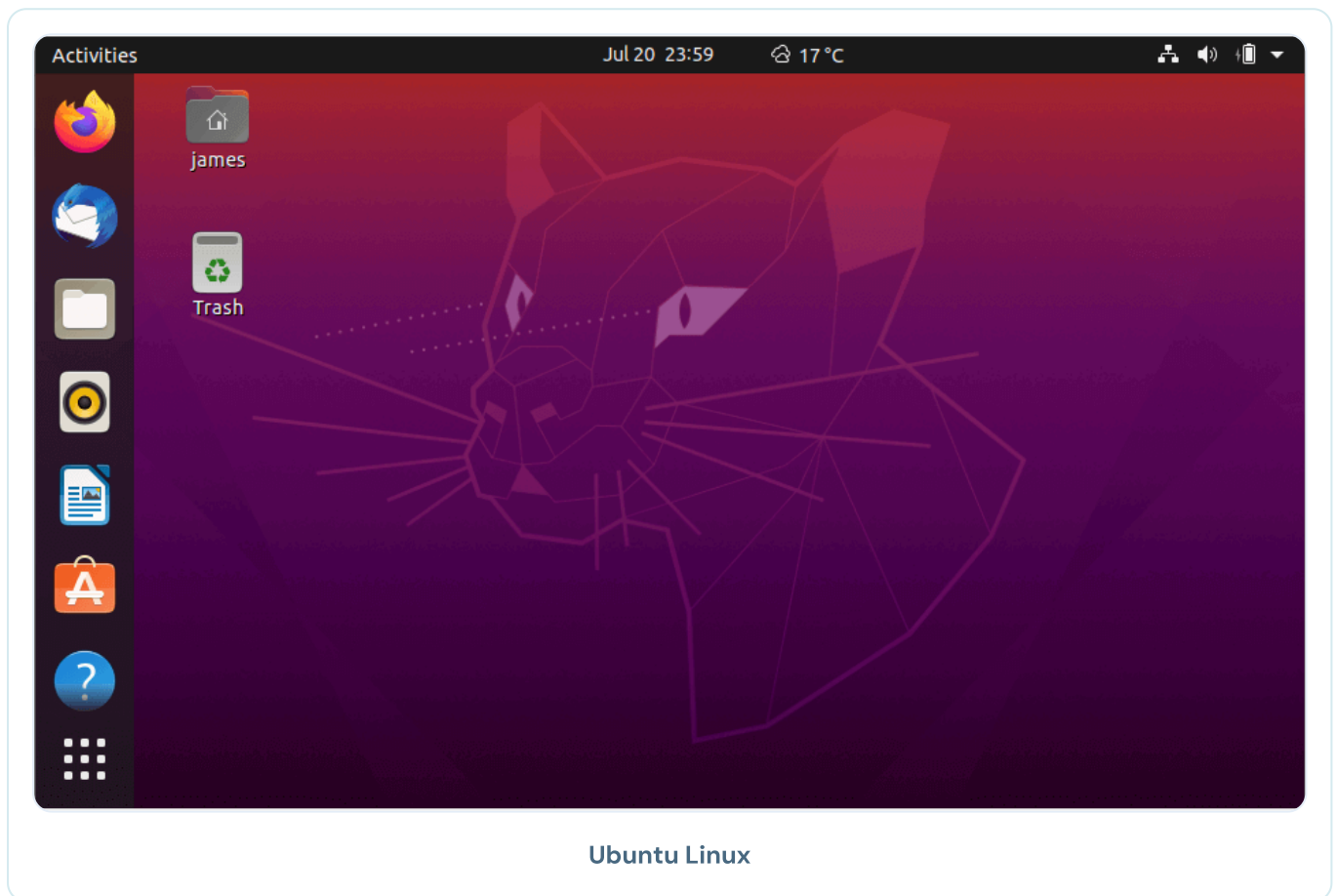
- 2GB RAM
- 20GB hard disk space

- A resolution of 1024 x 768

3. Ubuntu

Developed by Canonical, [Ubuntu](#) remains to be one of the [most popular mainstream Linux distros](#) of all time, with several other distros derived from it.

Ubuntu is open source, and absolutely free for download. It ships with a GNOME desktop environment with polished icons and a rich set of desktop backgrounds.



It works out of the box with full multimedia support and basic applications to get you started out such as LibreOffice suite, and Rhythmbox media player. Firefox browser and Thunderbird email client.

Ubuntu's massive popularity stems from the availability of over 50,000+ software packages from its four main repositories; Main, Restricted, Universe, and Multiverse.

This simplifies the installation of almost any software package using the [APT package manager](#) on the command line.

Ubuntu also comes with a rich **Software Center** which is a graphical front-end that allows users to easily install and remove software packages from the system without having to run commands on the terminal.

Ubuntu is quite easy to use and highly customizable supporting up to 10 desktop environments. The latest release is **Ubuntu 22.04** dubbed **Jammy Jellyfish** which is a Long Term release with support going all the way up till 2032.

It ships with polished icons, enhanced monitor support with fractional scaling, additional theme variants, ZFS file support, and more emphasis on [Snaps](#).

Over time, Ubuntu has evolved and now includes Enterprise support for cloud technologies such as Openstack, and Kubernetes Clusters and even extended to support IoT devices

Older versions of Ubuntu ran quite smoothly on older PC, but Ubuntu 20.04 and later require a PC with the following requirements to run smoothly:

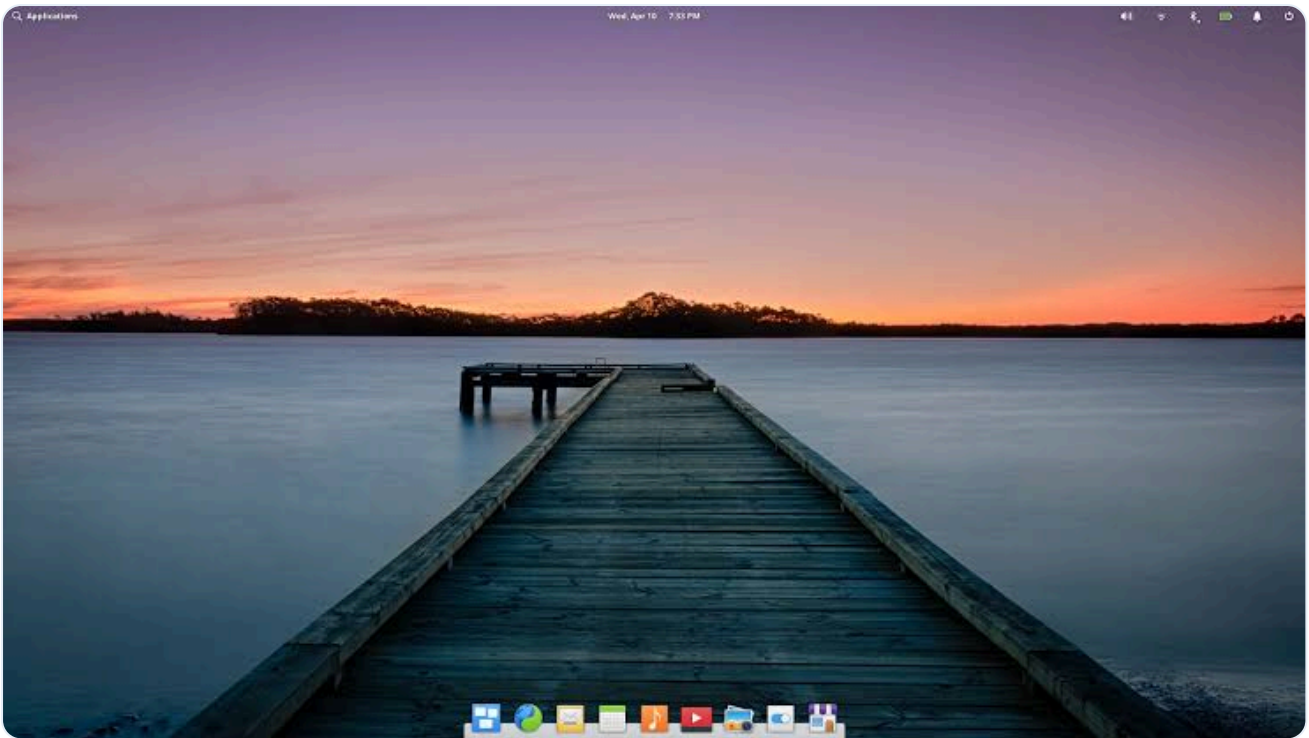
Ubuntu Requirements

To [install Ubuntu Linux](#) on your PC need to meet the following minimum requirements:

- 2 GHz dual-core processor
- 4 GB RAM
- 25 GB of hard disk space

4. Elementary OS

[Elementary OS](#) has been around for close to 10 years now with its maiden release in March 2011. It comes with a stunning and crisp Pantheon desktop environment, and at first glance, you may be forgiven to think that you are looking at another macOS release given the design cues inspired by mac such as the distinctive centered dock at the bottom of the screen.



Elementary OS Desktop

Honestly speaking the Pantheon desktop is one of the most aesthetically appealing desktop environments and offers an easy to navigate to your applications and files.

By default, Elementary OS is quite minimalistic and takes pride in its App Center where you can install your favorite applications such as Spotify. LibreOffice doesn't come pre-installed as you would expect but worry not as it's just a simple click away in the AppCenter.

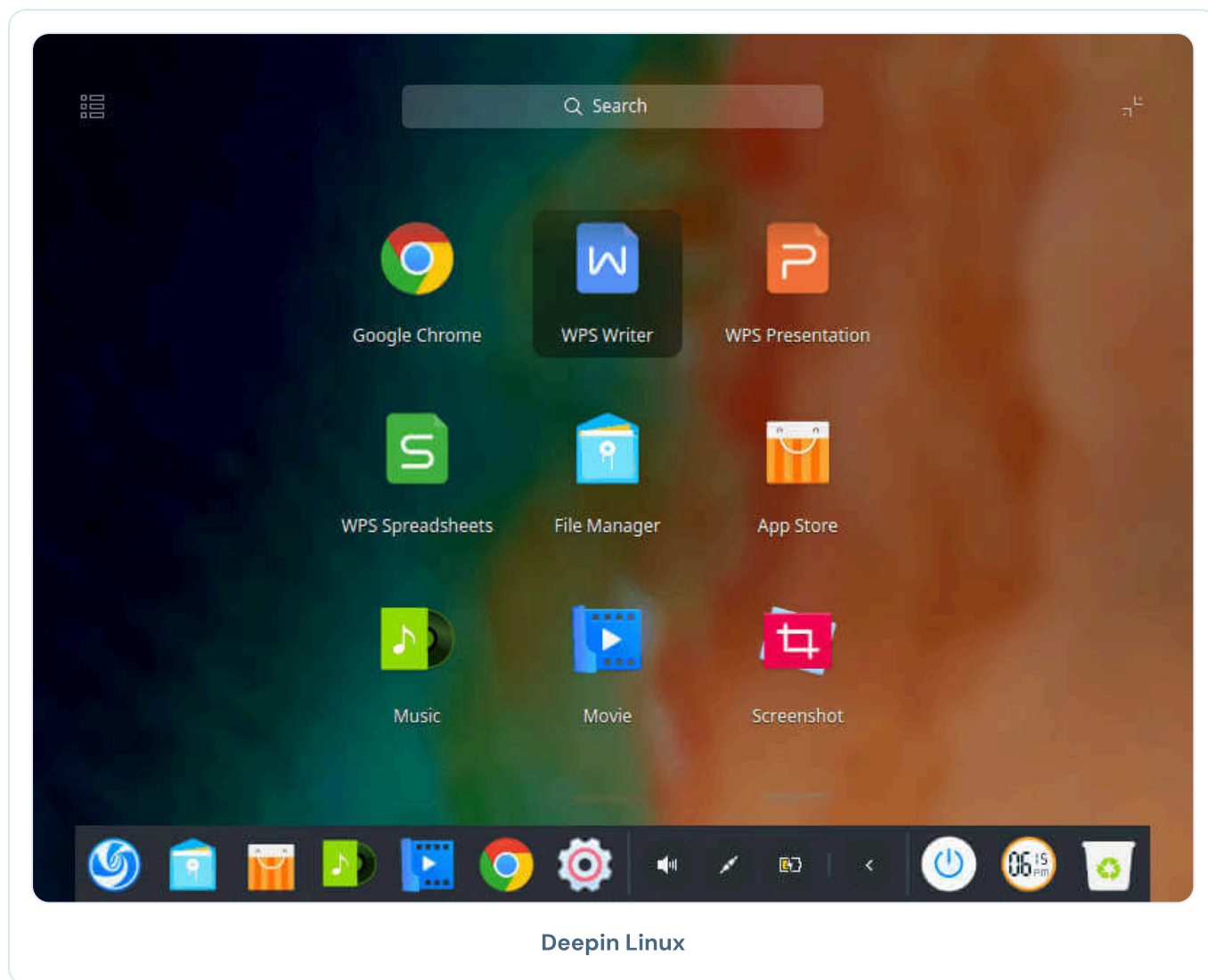
Elementary OS packs with a wealth of Open Source applications such as [email clients](#), [web browsers](#), [photo viewers](#), and [music players](#). Calendars and so on. These include GIMP image editor, Midori web browser, Photo viewer, Geary, etc.

Elementary OS is also based on Ubuntu and is stable and fast even on old and low-spec PCs. The latest release is elementary OS 7 Horus which packs major improvements such as a new-look login screen, improved system settings, and new desktop tweaks.

5. Deepin Linux

[Deepin](#), formerly known as Hiweed Linux or Linux Deepin is a free and open-source distribution tailored to provide a unique and interactive user experience using its beautifully designed Deepin Desktop environment that features multiple layouts and

polished icons, animation, and sound effects on mouse-clicks and windows with rounded corners. The Desktop environment is based on Qt.



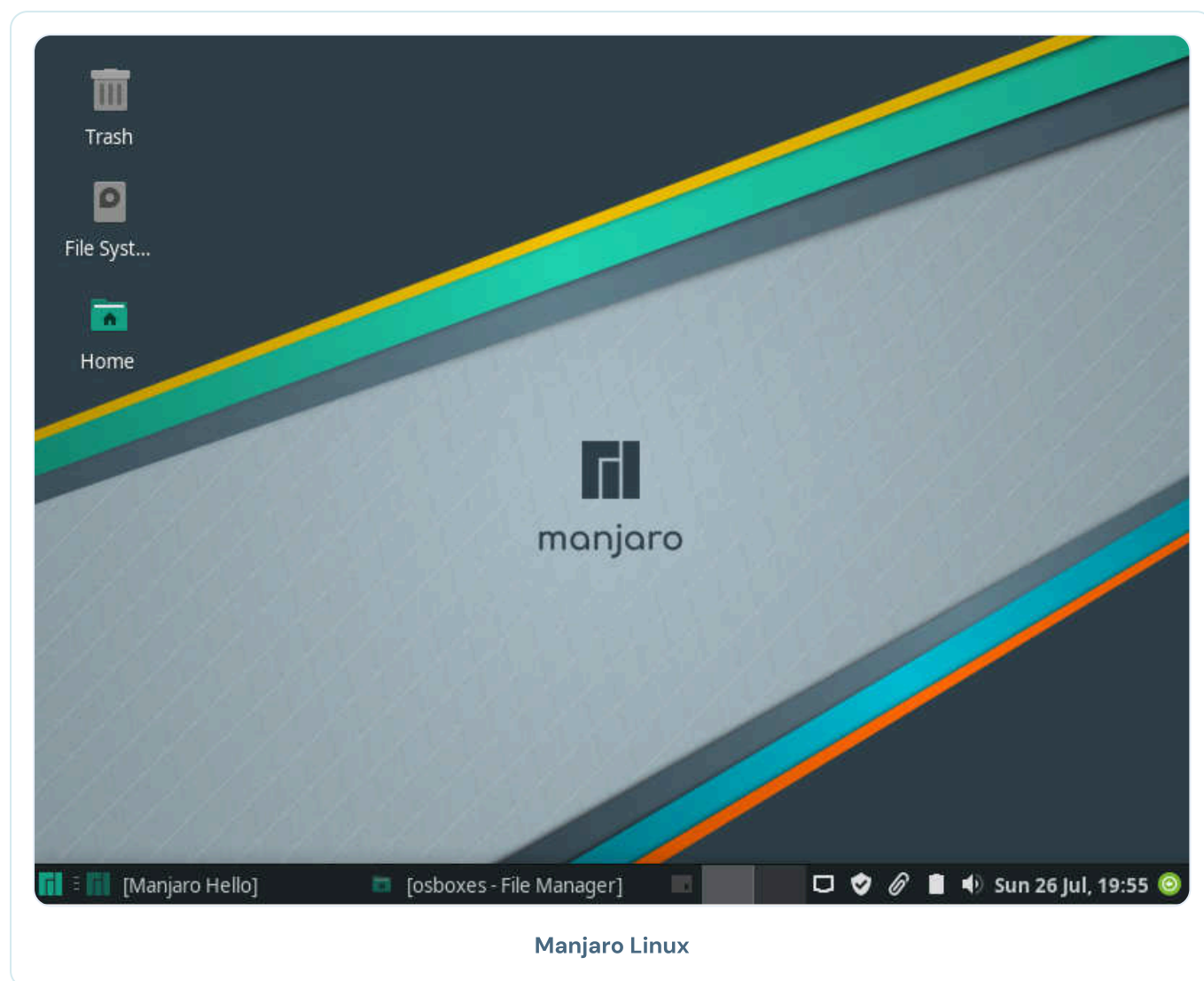
Deepin is easy to install, quite stable, and easily customizable to fit your style and taste. It comes with its own Windows manager called dde-kwin that features aesthetically appealing icons and panels.

Deepin is [based on the Debian distribution](#) and packs a collection of both open-source and proprietary applications. Out of the box, you will find applications such as WPS Office, Google Chrome browser, Thunderbird mail client, Deepin Movie, Deepin Music, and Deepin store to mention a few.

6. Manjaro Linux

[Manjaro](#) is yet another open-source beginner-friendly Linux distribution that is [based on Arch Linux distribution](#). While lightweight, stable, and exceptionally fast, Arch Linux is

traditionally tailored for advanced users with deeper technical know-how in Linux. As such Arch is considered beyond the scope of many beginners.



And that's where Manjaro comes in. Manjaro ships with all the benefits of Arch Linux coupled with an elegant look, user-friendliness, and accessibility. Manjaro is available in both 32-bit and 64-bit versions, however, the latest versions are only available in 64-bit.

Manjaro is easy to install and comes in 3 desktop environments XFCE, KDE Plasma, and GNOME. It's quite versatile and can be tweaked to suit your own style and taste. It's a rolling release, meaning that the core system can be updated and upgraded without the need to reinstall a newer system.

Out of the box, Manjaro packs essential applications that you would need on the go such as Firefox browser, Thunderbird email client, and LibreOffice suite, and also allows you to download many more applications from Arch repositories. Upon installation, Manjaro auto-

detects all hardware components of your system including graphic drivers, and auto-installs the necessary applications.

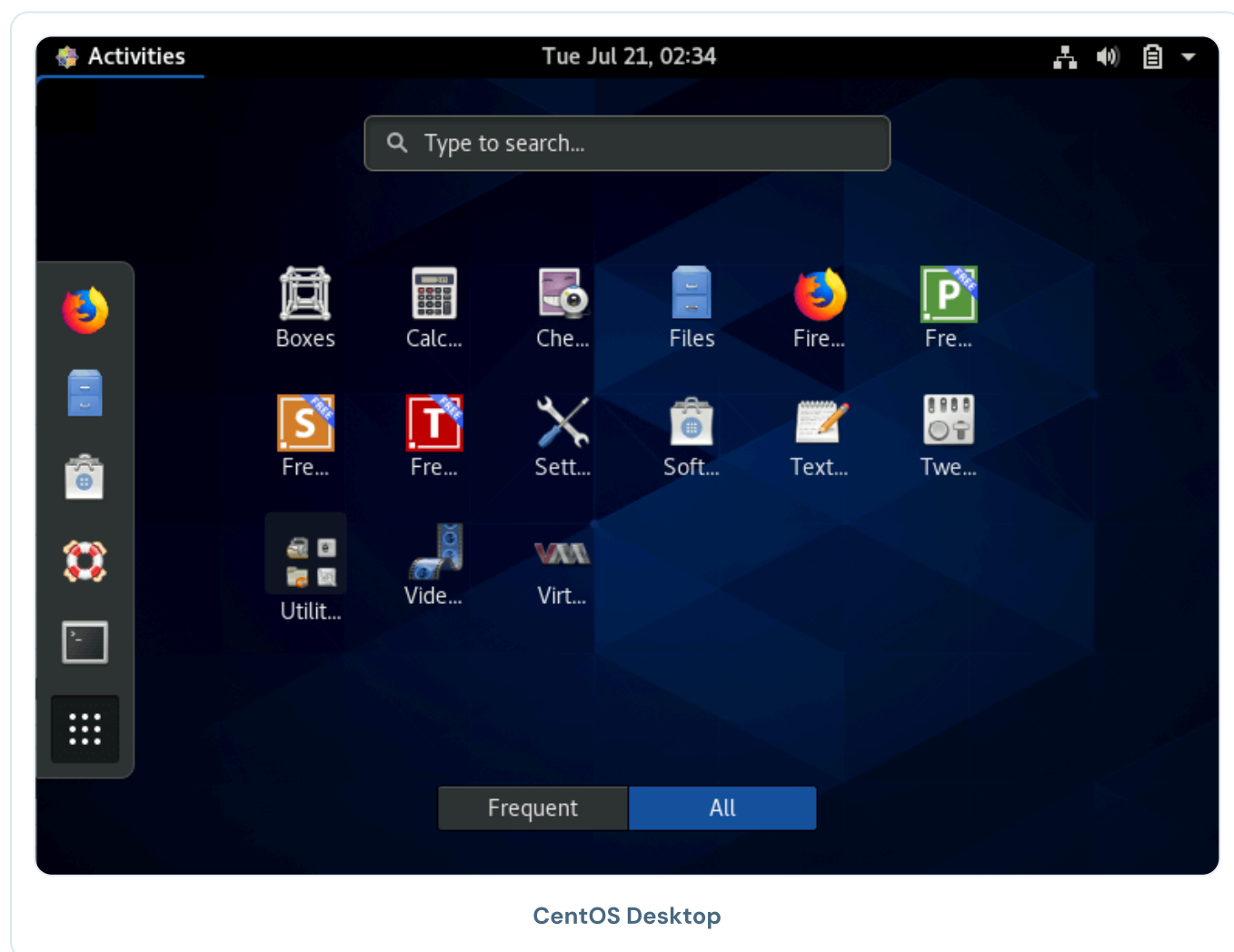
Manjaro Linux Requirements

To [install Manjaro Linux](#) on your PC need to meet the following minimum requirements:

- 4GB of memory
- 30GB of hard disk space
- 1 gigahertz (GHz) processor
- A high-definition (HD) graphics card and monitor

7. CentOS

[CentOS](#) is an open-source community-driven operating system that is [based on RHEL](#) (Red Hat Enterprise Linux). It offers beginners a gateway to try out an RPM-based Linux distribution at absolutely no cost, unlike Red Hat which is subscription-based.



Unlike the earlier-mentioned distributions, CentOS is more geared towards stability and performance than visual appeal and customizations. In fact, due to its stability, it comes recommended for server environments and for beginners seeking to venture into System Administration and development.

CentOS 8 is the latest release and ships with GNOME as the default desktop environment. Software packages are provided through 2 main repositories: AppStream and BaseOS.

Though very commendable on stability and performance, CentOS 8 doesn't have much to offer in the way of desktop customization. If you are looking for an exciting desktop experience, you are better off with the other distributions mentioned.

[You might also like: [Installation of "CentOS 8.0" with Screenshots](#)]

On 31st December 2021, the CentOS project shifted its focus towards [CentOS Stream](#), which is a [rolling release Linux distro](#) (continuous-delivery) that will serve as the upstream version for future releases of Red Hat Enterprise Linux (RHEL) and Fedora. Sadly, CentOS 8, which was to enjoy support until 2029, will come to an abrupt and premature end.

[You might also like: [Installation of "CentOS Stream 9" with Screenshots](#)]

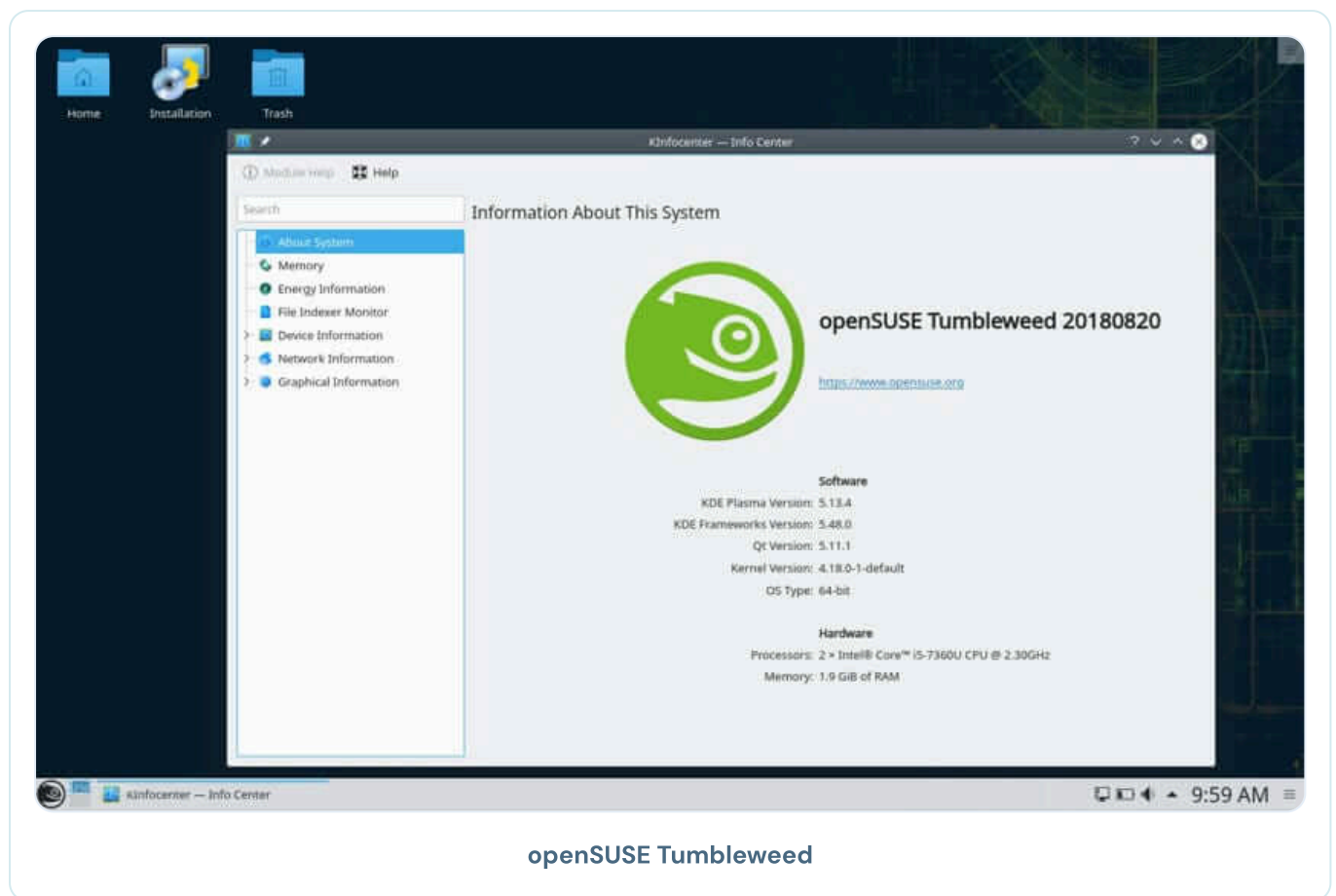
With a huge and vibrant community of open-source developers, beginners can always rest assured that help will be in their way in case they get stuck.

8. OpenSUSE Tumbleweed

[OpenSUSE Tumbleweed](#) is a leading-edge, stable, safe, and simple-to-use Linux desktop and server operating system, which is a powerful OS that offers renowned openSUSE-based technologies such as the Btrfs file system, the YaST installation and configuration tool (a.k.a 'control panel'), and the snapper command-line utility.

Tumbleweed uses the ZYpp package manager, and [zypper](#) is a CLI interface for it, used to install, update, remove packages, and more. It is safe and secure because it is built from latest the kernel releases, compiled with the latest Spectre/Meltdown mitigation patches.

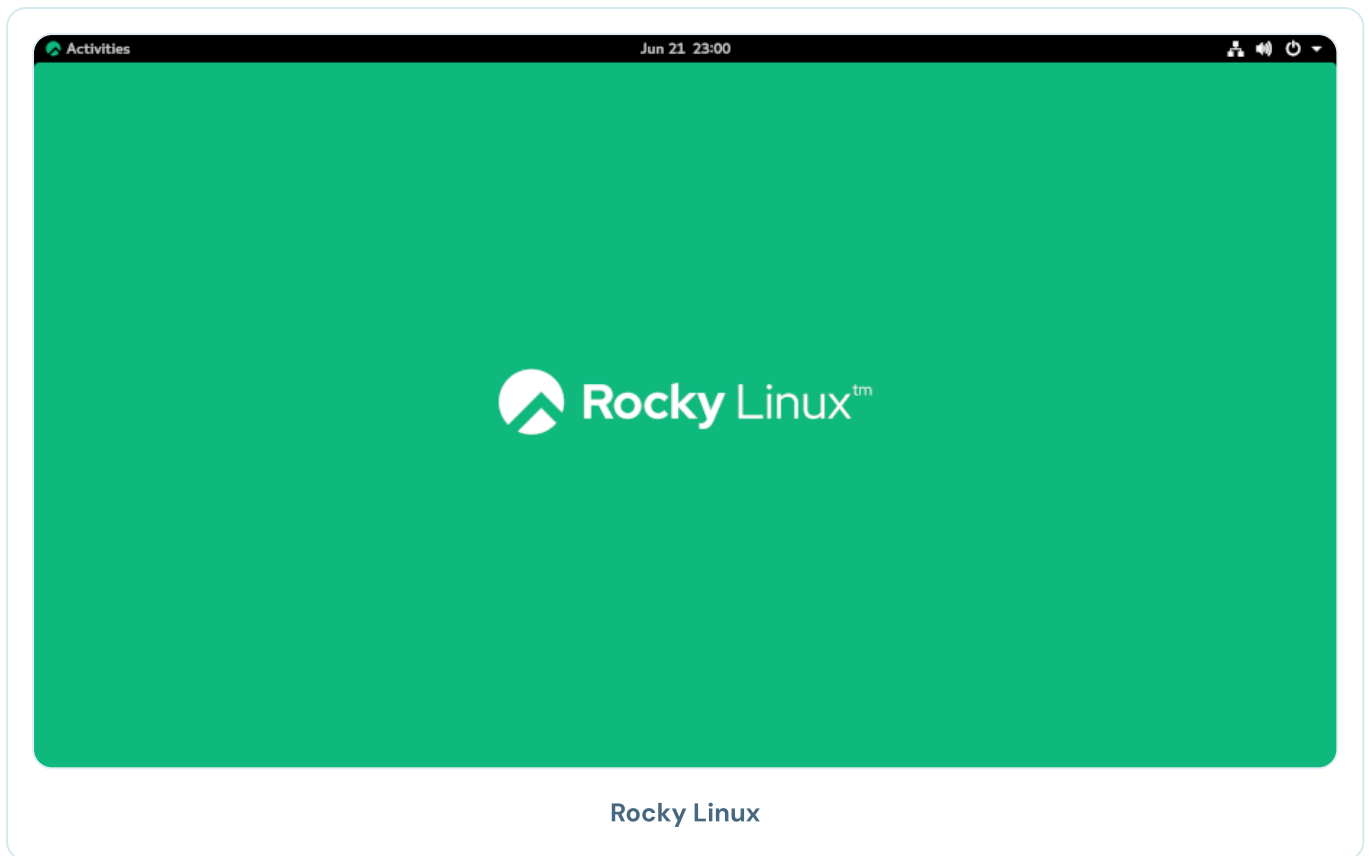
Tumbleweed also comes with a firewall and strong security policies enabled by default thus covering your system security out of the box.



Besides, Tumbleweed is also continuously updated, each update is thoroughly tested against industry-grade quality standards. To ensure that the system is internally consistent, for each package, not only is each new version individually tested, but different clusters of versions are tested against each other.

9. Rocky Linux

[Rocky Linux](https://rockylinux.org/) is a replacement for CentOS Linux. The development of CentOS was discontinued by Red Hat. Rocky Linux was born after an announcement by Gregory Kurtzer, the co-founder of the CentOS project announced that he would again start a project to achieve the original goals of CentOS.

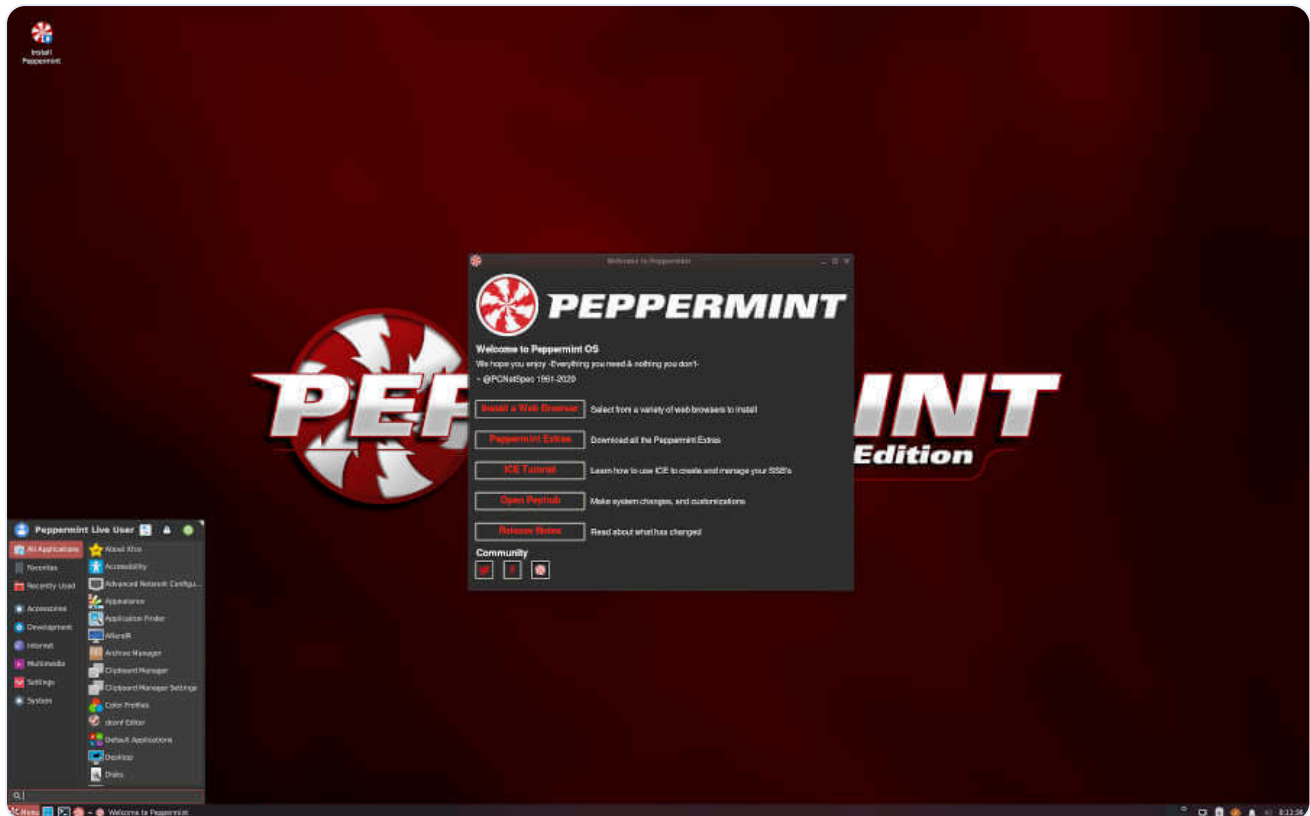


Rocky Linux is a free, enterprise-grade, production-ready Linux distribution designed to be 100% compatible with RHEL: It rebuilds sources directly from RHEL. It offers an easy-to-use migration script, free of charge to migrate from other enterprise Linux distributions. Furthermore, it also provides solid stability with regular updates and a 10-year support lifecycle, all for free.

10. [Peppermint_OS](#)

Designed to offer a minimalist desktop, giving the individual the choice of what they want to install, [Peppermint_OS](#) is a community distro built for all age groups and abilities. It is a bare-bones OS: simply install what you wish to use. Thus it comes with no firewall, browser, office, or media player.

It ships with two file managers, Nemo the community-preferred choice and set as the default, and Thunar, the Xfce desktop environment's default. However, users have the liberty to alternate between [different file managers](#). To install software not supported, a user can enable it from the [flatpak](#), [snaps](#), and appimages repositories.



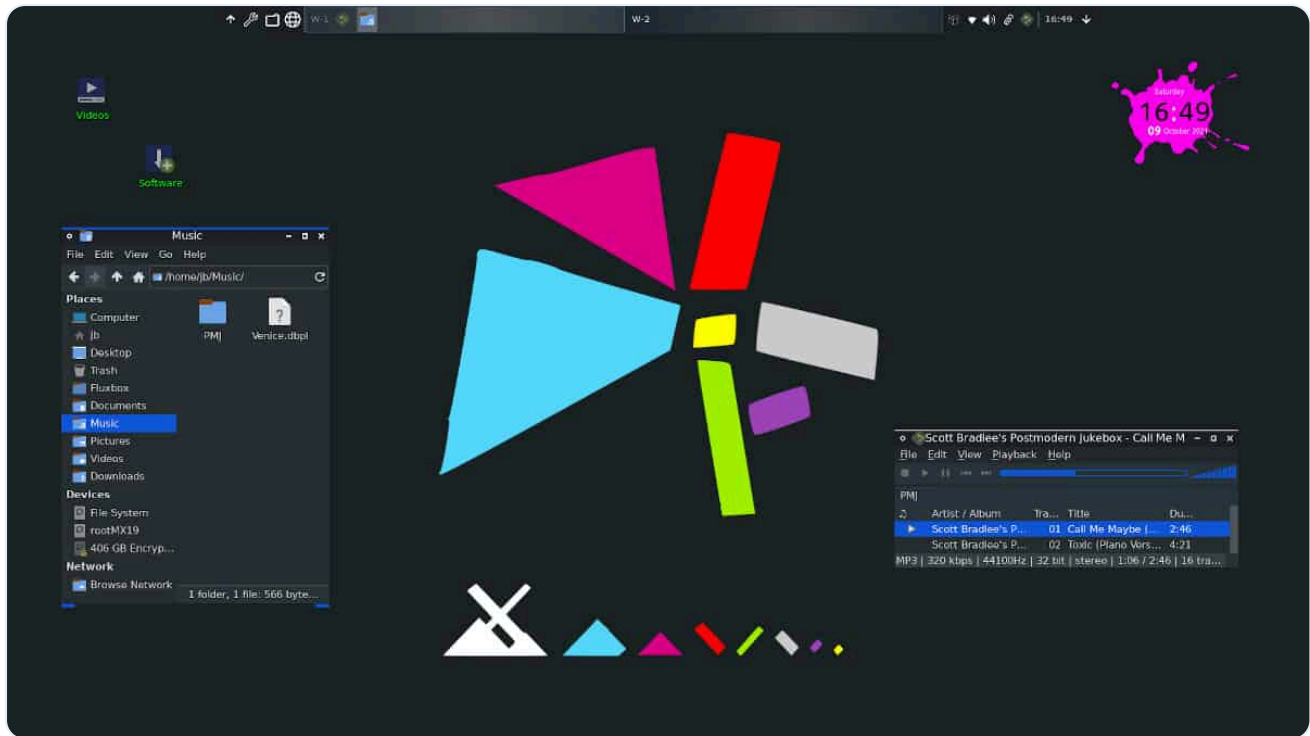
Peppermint OS

PepperMint_OS's GUI tools are built using tkinter, and PyQt to help users set up their computer and install the extra wallpapers, themes, and icon sets to improve their desktop's look and feel. Importantly, the developers of PepperMint_OS have integrated Debian into the Peppermint desktop vision and are ultimately customizing it to meet their needs.

11. MX Linux

Built by developers from the MEPIS Linux community and antiX Linux community, [MX Linux](#) is a [Debian-based distro](#), easy-to-use, and customizable. MX uses core antiX Linux components, with extra software created or packaged by the MX community.

MX doesn't use the systemd system and service manager but employs systemd-shim init, which emulates the systemd functions that are required to run the helpers without using the init service.



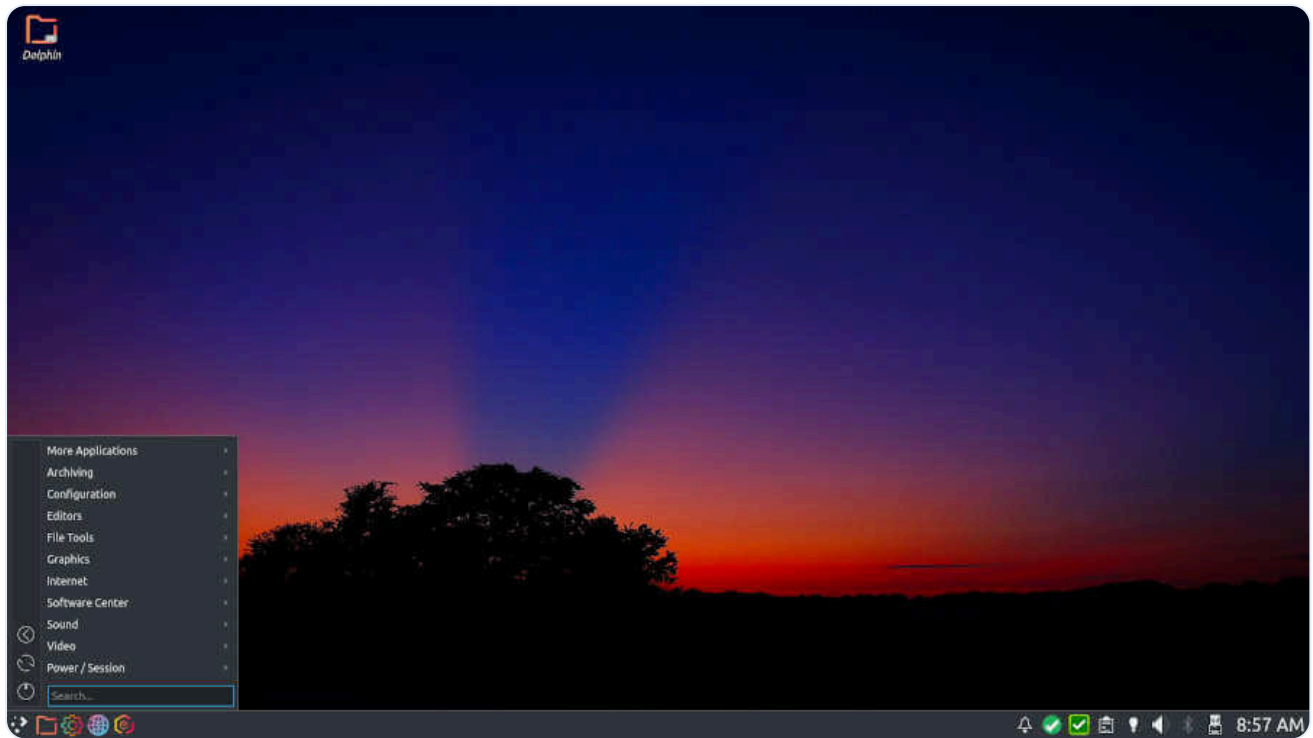
MX Linux

Additionally, MX Linux's graphical tools offer an easy way to perform a wide range of tasks. Also, the Live USB and snapshot tools inherited from antiX Linux add remarkable portability and remastering capabilities. It also ships with a certain amount of non-free software.

12. PCLinuxOS

[PCLinuxOS](#) is a free, easy-to-use Linux distribution for x86_64 desktops or laptops, which is distributed as a LiveCD/DVD/USB ISO image that you can run with making any changes on your computer or you can install on your hard drive. Its simple Addlocale interface offers additional support for over 85 languages.

PCLinuxOS uses the Advanced Packaging Tool (or [APT](#)) package management system, together with Synaptic, a GUI frontend to APT for easy software installation. It has over 12,000 rpm software packages available from the official software repository.



PCLinuxOS

Furthermore, it ships with a known as mylivecd, which allows a user to take a 'snapshot' of their current hard drive installation with all settings, applications, documents, and more, then it compresses it into an ISO CD/DVD/USB image. This way, you can easily create a backup of your data or create your custom liveCD/DVD/USB.

Conclusion

While there are still many other distros that are user-friendly for beginners, we covered what we felt are the most popular and recommended Linux flavors for newcomers. If you are a beginner, we hope that this guide will help you make an informed decision as you embark on your [journey of learning Linux](#).

linux distros

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How to Install Angular CLI on Linux



James Kiarie

This is James, a certified Linux administrator and a tech enthusiast who loves keeping in touch with emerging trends in the tech world. When I'm not running commands on the terminal, I'm taking listening to some cool music. taking a casual stroll or watching a nice movie.

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Related Posts

```

ravi@tecmint: ~
File Edit View Search Terminal Help
ravi@tecmint:~$ neofetch
...-:::-...
.-MMMMMMMMMMMMMMMM-
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ravi@tecmint
-----
OS: Linux Mint 22 x86_64
Host: KVM/QEMU (Standard PC (Q35 + I
Kernel: 6.8.0-39-generic
Uptime: 21 mins
Packages: 2351 (dpkg)
Shell: bash 5.2.21
Resolution: 1024x768
DE: Cinnamon 6.2.7
WM: Mutt (Muffin)
WM Theme: Mint-Y-Dark-Aqua (Mint-Y)
Theme: Mint-Y-Aqua [GTK2/3]
Icons: Mint-Y-Sand [GTK2/3]
Terminal: gnome-terminal
CPU: Intel i9-9900K (4) @ 3.600GHz
GPU: 00:01.0 Red Hat, Inc. Virtio 1.
Memory: 729MiB / 5877MiB

```

How to Upgrade Linux Mint 21.3 to Linux Mint 22

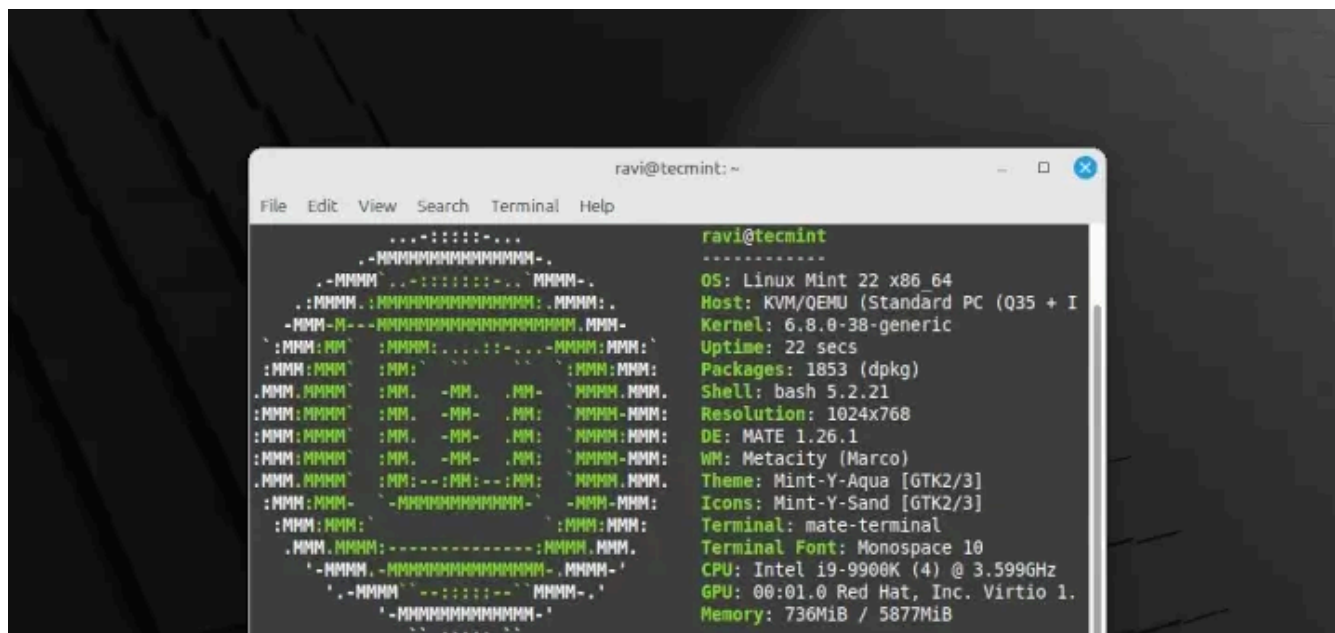
```

Jul 29 12:21 PM
Type to search

ravi@TecMint: ~
trying to export neofetch
ravi@apx-vso-pico:~$ neofetch
##### ravi@TecMint
##### -----
##00## OS: Vanilla OS 2.0 x86_64
##### Host: KVM/QEMU (Standard PC (Q35 + ICH9, 2009)
##### Kernel: 6.9.8-amd64
##### Uptime: 17 mins
##### Packages: 391 (dpkg), 34 (flatpak)
##### Shell: bash 5.2.21
##### Resolution: 1024x768
##### DE: GNOME
##### Terminal: BlackBox
##### CPU: Intel i9-9900K (2) @ 3.599GHz
##### Memory: 1547MiB / 3902MiB

```

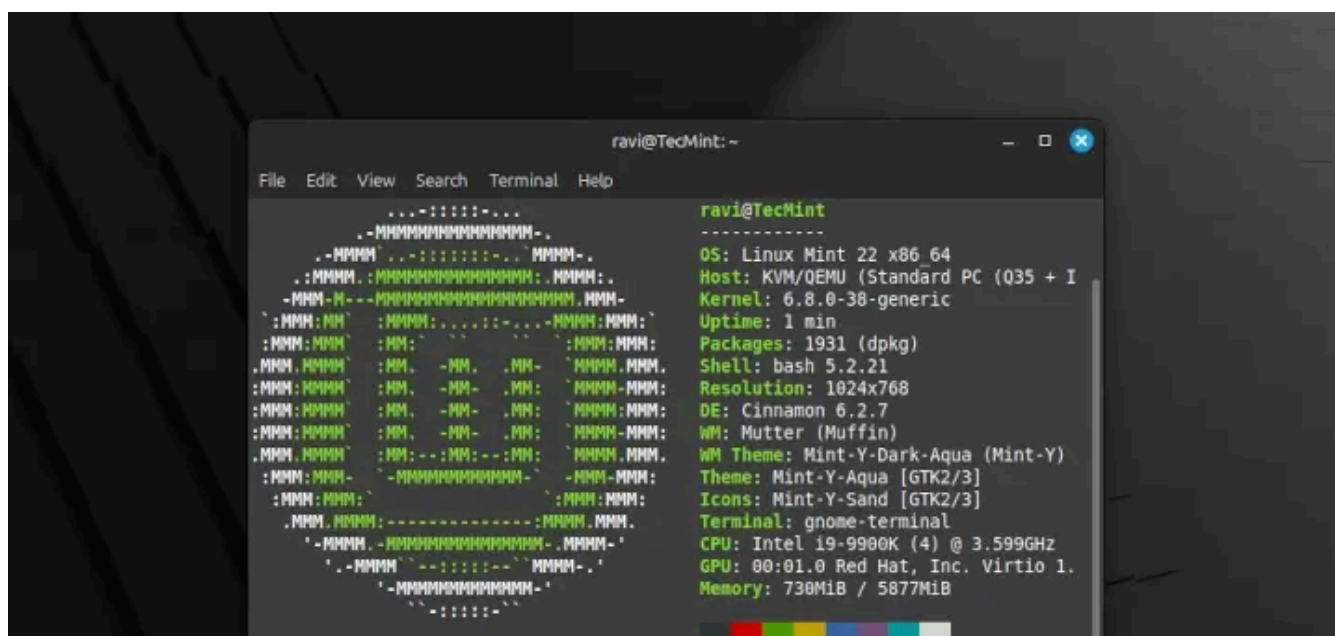
Vanilla OS: The Next Generation Secure Linux Distro



A screenshot of a terminal window titled 'ravi@tecmint: ~'. The window displays system information for Linux Mint 22. On the left, there is a large ASCII art logo of a cat. On the right, the system details are listed in a green monospace font.

```
OS: Linux Mint 22 x86_64
Host: KVM/QEMU (Standard PC (Q35 + I
Kernel: 6.8.0-38-generic
Uptime: 22 secs
Packages: 1853 (dpkg)
Shell: bash 5.2.21
Resolution: 1024x768
DE: MATE 1.26.1
WM: Metacity (Marco)
Theme: Mint-Y-Aqua [GTK2/3]
Icons: Mint-Y-Sand [GTK2/3]
Terminal: mate-terminal
Terminal Font: Monospace 10
CPU: Intel i9-9900K (4) @ 3.599GHz
GPU: 00:01.0 Red Hat, Inc. Virtio 1.
Memory: 736MiB / 5877MiB
```

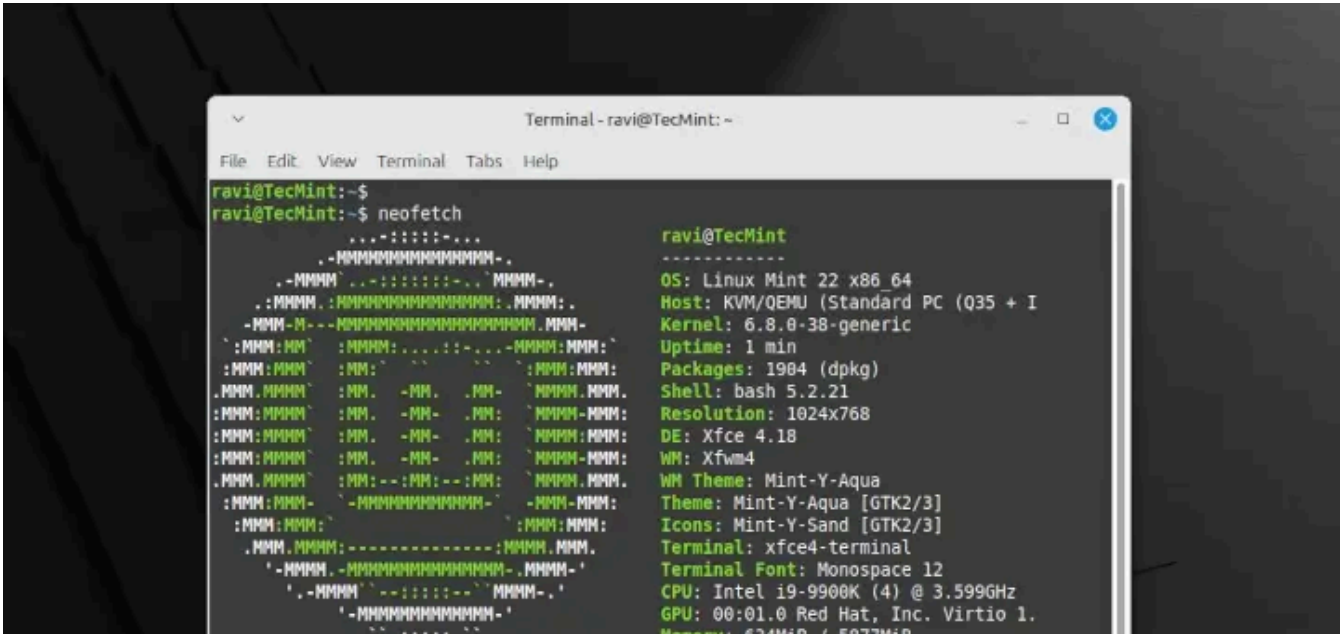
Installation of Linux Mint 22 [Mate Edition] Desktop



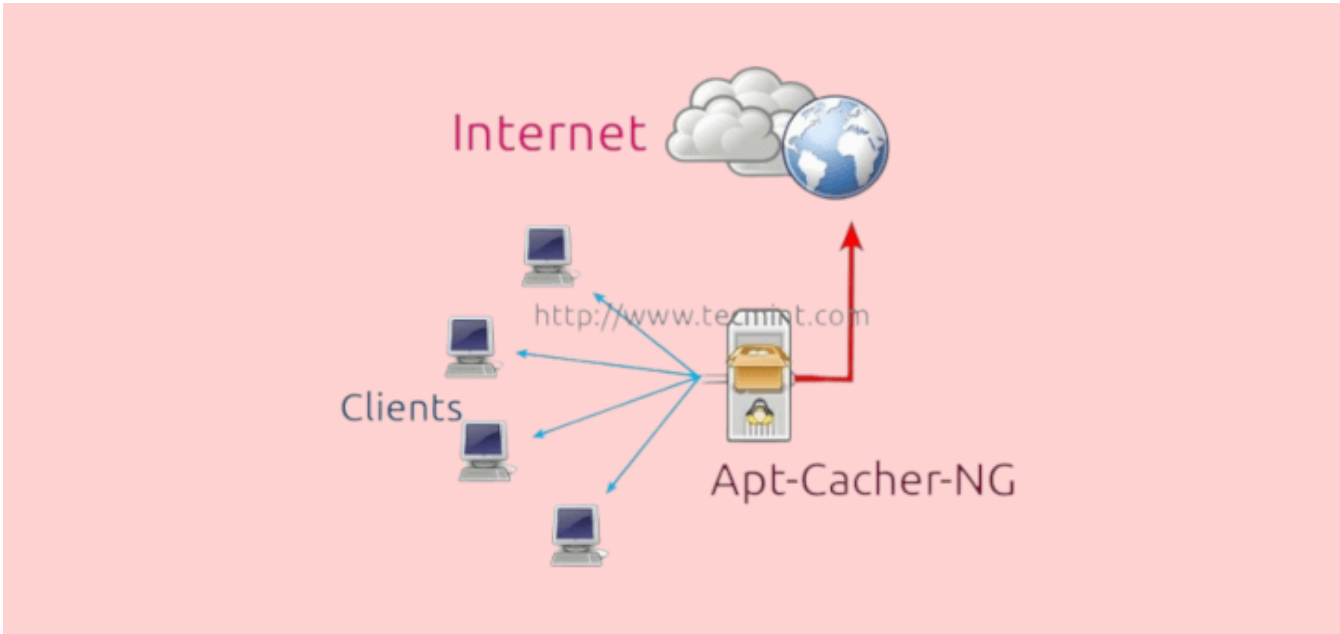
A screenshot of a terminal window titled 'ravi@TecMint: ~'. The window displays system information for Linux Mint 22. On the left, there is a large ASCII art logo of a cat. On the right, the system details are listed in a green monospace font.

```
OS: Linux Mint 22 x86_64
Host: KVM/QEMU (Standard PC (Q35 + I
Kernel: 6.8.0-38-generic
Uptime: 1 min
Packages: 1931 (dpkg)
Shell: bash 5.2.21
Resolution: 1024x768
DE: Cinnamon 6.2.7
WM: Mutter (Muffin)
WM Theme: Mint-Y-Dark-Aqua (Mint-Y)
Theme: Mint-Y-Aqua [GTK2/3]
Icons: Mint-Y-Sand [GTK2/3]
Terminal: gnome-terminal
CPU: Intel i9-9900K (4) @ 3.599GHz
GPU: 00:01.0 Red Hat, Inc. Virtio 1.
Memory: 730MiB / 5877MiB
```

Installation of Linux Mint 22 [Cinnamon Edition] Desktop



Linux Mint 22 XFCE Edition New Features and Installation



How to Create a Local Ubuntu Package Cache with Apt-Cacher-NG

48 Comments

Leave a Reply

Jack
March 25, 2023 at 4:07 am

Ubuntu Budgie is a great option for beginners, which has a Mac OS standard desktop and excellent Community Support.

[Reply](#)

dragonmouth

March 21, 2023 at 12:56 am

In all the Tecmint "Best Linux distros" articles over the years, PCLinuxOS has NEVER been mentioned. It is as easy to use as any of the *buntus. It is much more configurable. Its default install is not a monoblock from which no package can be uninstalled.

The user community support is as good, if not better than the *buntus and it has its own monthly magazine. PCLOS does not have information-sharing agreements with any other large company (ex. Amazon).

And that's just for starters!

[Reply](#)

Admin



Ravi Saive

March 21, 2023 at 10:46 am

@Dragon,

Thanks for your input, we will include the PCLinuxOS in the article...

[Reply](#)

**Ravi Saive**

March 24, 2023 at 10:02 am

@Dragonmouth,

We've mentioned PCLinuxOS in the list as per your suggestion...

[Reply](#)**nikman**

March 20, 2023 at 6:33 pm

Hint: OpenSUSE Tumbleweed is the next distro that is friendly to beginners.

[Reply](#)**Unknown**

June 18, 2021 at 6:55 am

What about PepperMint_OS? that looks like a Windows design but just close looks.

[Reply](#)**com**

April 19, 2021 at 5:14 pm

Try Ubuntu Cinnamont Remix

[Reply](#)

Mad About Modicia

November 10, 2020 at 9:50 pm

Why is Modicia OS not mentioned? it is an Italian-based version of Xubuntu—a fine distro which is largely ignored !!!

[Reply](#)

R.Smith

September 12, 2020 at 1:02 pm

Why have you missed MXlinux? It's performance equals or is better than any of those mentioned, and it is also no. 1 on the 'distrowatch' chart of popular OS's. It is a doddle to install and has all the 'apps' you could possibly for an every day user.

[Reply](#)

dragonmouth

September 14, 2020 at 4:38 pm

All "BEST" lists are subject to the rater's biases.

[Reply](#)**Charu**

August 20, 2020 at 7:35 pm

Perfect list, after trying so many distributions I perfectly agree with you.

[Reply](#)**James Kiarie**

August 24, 2020 at 5:31 pm

Thanks, Charu for your feedback. I highly appreciate it.

[Reply](#)**Rudi**

August 11, 2020 at 11:59 am

Where is MXLinux, the top distro on Distrowatch?

[Reply](#)**Tony Rawlings**

August 2, 2020 at 4:26 pm

How can you recommend Manjaro when it's a real pain to get printers installed. Even Arch is easier. I keep trying Manjaro, but gave up. Mint and MXlinux install them in the installation process.

[Reply](#)

James

July 25, 2020 at 2:03 pm

Any "Best" list is just a collection of the opinions of the author. Best is what works for you. Now I can agree with listing some distros that should NOT be used by newbies! I wouldn't recommend Linux From Scratch or Slackware to a newbie.

[Reply](#)



Richard Steven Hack

July 25, 2020 at 8:17 am

CentOS is a **server** distro, for Christ's sakes. It's **not** a "beginner" Linux. No one would recommend Red Hat as a "beginner" distro, yet here we have Centos being recommended. Seriously?

And as usual, openSUSE doesn't get a mention, given the Ubuntu fanbois, even though it's probably one of the most straight-forward distros to run for beginners or advanced users and is one of the few which has serious support behind it.

[Reply](#)

dragonmouth

July 25, 2020 at 8:06 pm

First, we need a definition of what "beginner" is. Is it someone who never had contact with a computer? Is it someone who is switching from Windows to Linux? "Beginner" means different things to different people, depending what agenda they are pushing.

CentOS MAY be used as a server distro but it is also used quite successfully by many people as a desktop distro. Using Linux has become so easy that any distro, with few exceptions, can be used by "beginners" if all they do is surf the 'Net, email and do some word processing. If, OTOH, the user spends most of his/her time using CLI, then the situation is completely reversed – no Linux distro is "beginner" friendly.

"openSUSE doesn't get a mention, even though it's probably one of the most straight-forward distros to run for beginners"

I agree. It is straight forward IF you have used it for a while. After one gets used to them, Slackware and/or Gentoo become "straight-forward".

[Reply](#)**Sum Yung Gai**

July 29, 2020 at 7:16 am

"dragonmouth" answered this very well. I had my Dad on CentOS 5, then 6, as his desktop OS, and he found it pretty straightforward to use. He was certainly what I would call a "beginner". At the time, he was using Windows NT Workstation 4.0. I moved him first from Microsoft Office and MS Outlook Express over to OpenOffice.org and Mozilla Thunderbird. He loved them. Regarding Thunderbird,

he told me, "I've been wanting a program that can do this for years!", referring to how T-bird handled its address book even back then.

After he got used to the Free Software applications, I built him a newer, faster computer and installed CentOS on it. Since he was already used to the applications, the rest (the OS) was pretty easy. The one thing I had to figure out was an equivalent for Quicken. That equivalent was KMyMoney, which did a fine job. I exported his existing data and imported it to KMyMoney, and he was good to go.

So, yes, CentOS can be a fine desktop OS, even for beginners.

[Reply](#)

Sum Yung Gai

July 25, 2020 at 6:46 am

I tend to use the KDE version of Ubuntu for new GNU/Linux users. This is called Kubuntu and has been an official flavor of Ubuntu almost since the get-go. The reason I do this is because the KDE desktop looks more like Microsoft Windows. If it's a macOS user, then I'll use Ubuntu with its GNOME desktop. Depends on the audience.

Any way that we can get a user of a proprietary platform to a Free Software platform (e. g. GNU/Linux), that's a good thing, no matter which distribution is used.

[Reply](#)



Proserven

July 24, 2020 at 8:24 pm

This sounds like a Zorin's informational...

[Reply](#)

James

July 25, 2020 at 1:58 pm

I used Zorin for years and then left it. It claims to be Windows-like and it became that, hidden and locked down, which is not what Linux should be to any user. I do use Ubuntu Mate, which gives you a traditional desktop, which people coming from Windows seem to want, not Gnome3 which is Win8 like and drives people away. I also dual boot Parrot OS, but would never recommend that for a new-commer.

[Reply](#)

dragonmouth

July 25, 2020 at 7:43 pm

No. It sounds like a Ubuntu infomercial. Four out of the five distros are Ubuntu-based.

[Reply](#)

Sum Yung Gai

July 29, 2020 at 7:20 am

And thus based on Debian. There's a very good reason for that, and it's that Ubuntu has always fundamentally been Debian optimized for the desktop, with all the goodness that this implies. Therefore, taking an already-good desktop distro and optimizing it for your own use case is easier, since most of the heavy lifting has already been done. It's the same approach I probably would've taken.

[Reply](#)

Jonathan Purnell

July 24, 2020 at 6:52 am

How about a flavor that comes with a free VPN and Utorrent?

[Reply](#)

dragonmouth

July 24, 2020 at 7:17 pm

Utorrent you can install to any distro.

You can also add any VPN of your choice to any distro. However, a free VPN is not advisable because their providers keep logs, defeating the entire purpose of a VPN. Do an Internet search of "Free VPN" and check out the articles on why you should not use one.

[Reply](#)

**hostdog**

June 13, 2013 at 2:19 pm

Although Mint gains momentum, this seems to be a pretty “mixed” list, for example I doubt the 6th position of Debian on desktop, and vice versa in the use of servers.

My point is that distributions by definition come to cover different needs, and should be listed among other similar distributions

[Reply](#)**Rumaer**

April 17, 2013 at 11:57 am

Linux Mint – “It gives you a feeling as you are using Microsoft Windows.”

Well, thanks for the warning..

[Reply](#)**WretchedSoul**

April 16, 2013 at 7:01 pm

That Debian Openbox setup looks sweet!! I Like the icons put into conky as well as the obmenu. How do you put icons in those two? G

Great list. It is pretty standard from distrowatch but great for newbies just getting there toes wet testing things out.

[Reply](#)**W**

April 16, 2013 at 10:25 am

Which Version of openSUSE is with "GNOME 2.32, Xfce 4.8 and LXDE 0.5 along with latest KDE Plasma Desktop 4.6" 10.1? Certainly not 12.3!

[Reply](#)

Admin

**Anusha Saive**

April 16, 2013 at 12:39 pm

Sorry for providing wrong info, now corrected. Please check and let me know if any.

[Reply](#)**W**

April 16, 2013 at 1:45 pm

looks good now.

[Reply](#)**PuZZleDuck**

April 16, 2013 at 8:55 am

"It has inbuilt firewall and virus protection"... excuse me... what virus protection are you talking about?!?

"you can share, edit files without any hazel"... that's it, I'm out of here. Do you realize the entire article is riddled with simple spelling errors.

[Reply](#)



JasonLG

April 16, 2013 at 6:10 am

Where should I start?... The Open Suse section is full of VERY outdated version info... Debian Linux is not Unix based... And the latest Arch installer comes with the 3.8.4 kernel.

Where did you get your info, cached Wikipedia pages?

[Reply](#)

thatguruguy

April 16, 2013 at 6:04 am

"We have gathered and compiled the list based on online research."

It would be neat to state what exact methodology you followed in this "online research." Particularly since it appears that your "online research" consisted solely of looking at Distrowatch.com.

[Reply](#)**Ishaan Gupta**

April 15, 2013 at 6:22 pm

Cool list. Thanks.

Maybe you can try and get top 50 as well for Personal and Business class use including top 10-20 starter linux based apps for personal-enterprise based used.

[Reply](#)**hadrons123**

April 15, 2013 at 5:53 pm

Puppy linux ?

You must be joking!

[Reply](#)

Admin

**Ravi Saive**

April 15, 2013 at 6:26 pm

No, not at all. We have gathered and compiled the list based on online research.

[Reply](#)

hadrons123

April 16, 2013 at 11:41 am

Where is redhat?

Care to link your online research resource?

http://w3techs.com/technologies/history_details/os-linux/all/y

I bet there are more linux servers than linux desktops.

[Reply](#)

hadrons123

April 16, 2013 at 11:48 am

Ranking should not have been done. Becoz it reduces the crediblity of your research. Feels like the ranking are based on Distrowatch.com page visits.

How on earth can you rank mageia/Linux mint before Debian or CentOS?

apalling research.

[Reply](#)

**Israel**

April 16, 2013 at 6:50 am

Puppy Linux is a stable for many people. It is one of the most user friendly distros to use for fixing someone's windows computer. It is also very easy to dual boot

(the whole os can fit in a small folder) I for one always keep a puppy around for fixing other people's computers and JWM!!!

[Reply](#)

rcsteiner

April 16, 2013 at 8:20 am

I use many distros, but Puppy lives on a lot of older hardware here as well as a lot of USB sticks, and I'm sure I'm not alone.

Keep in mind that Slacko is based on Slackware packages and many of the newer Puppies use .deb packages and have access to the entire .deb universe. Software is no longer an issue. :-)

[Reply](#)

Friendly Guy

April 15, 2013 at 4:56 pm

The Debian-link is wrong.

[Reply](#)

Admin



Ravi Saive

April 15, 2013 at 5:00 pm

Thanks for heads up!. Corrected now...

[Reply](#)**Tony**

April 15, 2013 at 3:39 pm

Mandrake was NOT the only Linux distribution during the 1990s: to say it was is very insulting to Slackware, Debian, Redhat and others which existed before Mandrake. It was arguably the most user friendly distribution of the time, but not the only distribution.

[Reply](#)**rcsteiner**

April 16, 2013 at 8:18 am

Mandrake started as Red Hat _ KDE because Red Hat wouldn't include it. That's why I switched to Mandrake ... KDE 2.2 rocked compared to many of the other X11 desktops of the day.

Fedora is also a Red Hat spinoff.

[Reply](#)**madpuppy**

April 17, 2013 at 9:45 am

And Red Hat is a spin off of slackware. in case nobody here knew that.

Open source..you gotta' love it.

[Reply](#)**JFM**

April 17, 2013 at 8:23 pm

That is quite simply not true. I own a CD from the very first RedHat release (Halloween) aka RedHat 0.9, I also tried Slackware. RedHat already had its own packaging system RPP (RPM came later) while Slackware used tgzs. Software selection was different, installation system was different. Files were not at the same places. Kernel was different. I think but I cannot tell for sure RedHat already used the System V init system while Slackware still uses the BSD one. RedHat already had a for that time quite good X configurator while Slackware's was a lot less sophisticated (read you had to read more about monitors than you wanted and to test different settings until one worked).

Basically the only thing they had in common was they used the linux kernel and even this was built differently so you can't even say they "lifted" it from Slackware.

That is quite different from Mandrake who started as a RedHat + Kde sold by Gael Duval on CDs he himself burned and later, after the Mandrake company was founded and differences began to become more substantial still shared key components and used Redhat's installer for at least, two or three years.

[Reply](#)**Tormak**

April 17, 2013 at 3:47 am

Ah, yeah. Yggdrasil, SLS and TAMU were some of the very first Linux distributions... but RedHat, SuSe, Debian, Slackware all predate Mandrake which was just

RedHat+KDE. You really need to correct that in the article.

[Reply](#)

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