Linux



**Linux** ([/ˈliːnʊks/](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Help:IPA/English) ([](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Linux.ogg)[listen](https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/2/22/Linux.ogg)) [*LEE-nuuks*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Help:Pronunciation_respelling_key) or [/ˈlɪnʊks/](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Help:IPA/English) [*LIN-uuks*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Help:Pronunciation_respelling_key))[[11]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Linux" \l "cite_note-pronunciation-2-14) is an [open-source](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Free_and_open-source_software) [Unix-like](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Unix-like) [operating system](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Operating_system) based on the [Linux kernel](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Linux_kernel),[[12]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Linux" \l "cite_note-15) an [operating system kernel](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kernel_(operating_system)) first released on September 17, 1991, by [Linus Torvalds](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Linus_Torvalds).[[13]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Linux" \l "cite_note-16)[[14]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Linux" \l "cite_note-17)[[15]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Linux" \l "cite_note-18) Linux is typically [packaged](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Package_manager) as a [Linux distribution](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Linux_distribution).

Distributions include the Linux kernel and supporting [system software](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/System_software) and [libraries](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Library_(computer_science)), many of which are provided by the [GNU Project](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/GNU_Project). Many Linux distributions use the word "Linux" in their name, but the [Free Software Foundation](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Free_Software_Foundation) uses the name "**GNU/Linux**" to emphasize the importance of [GNU](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/GNU) software, [causing some controversy](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/GNU/Linux_naming_controversy).[[16]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Linux" \l "cite_note-gnu_linux_faq-19)[[17]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Linux" \l "cite_note-linux-and-gnu-20)