

1. Introduction

Linux is a powerful open-source operating system that serves as the backbone for servers, developers, and tech enthusiasts. Among its many distributions, Ubuntu stands out as one of the most popular and user-friendly options, developed by Canonical Ltd.

Ubuntu was first released in 2004, built upon Debian Linux, and has since evolved into a reliable OS for both personal and professional use. It follows a structured release cycle, offering Long-Term Support (LTS) versions that receive updates for five years, ensuring stability, while regular releases bring the latest features with shorter support durations. As of 2024, the latest version is Ubuntu 24.04 LTS (Noble Numbat).

2. Key Features of Ubuntu

- Free and Open Source – Ubuntu is completely free, with an active community supporting its development.
- User-Friendly Interface – Comes with the GNOME desktop environment, making navigation simple.
- Enhanced Security – Unlike Windows, Ubuntu is much less prone to viruses and malware.
- Frequent Updates – Regular security patches and feature improvements keep it stable and modern.
- Built-in Applications – Pre-installed with useful tools like LibreOffice, Firefox, Thunderbird, and Terminal.
- Easy Software Installation – Uses apt (Advanced Package Tool) and the Snap Store for managing applications.
- Highly Customizable – Users can personalize everything, from themes to core functionality.
- Efficient Performance – Runs smoothly even on older hardware.
- Multilingual Support – Offers multiple language options for accessibility.
- Great for Cloud & Servers – Widely used in cloud computing and enterprise environments.

3. Ubuntu vs. Windows: Key Differences

Feature	Ubuntu (Linux-based)	Windows OS
Cost	Completely free & open-source	Requires a paid license
Security	More secure, fewer viruses	Prone to malware & cyberattacks
Customization	Highly customizable	Limited customization options
Software Compatibility	Supports open-source and Linux-native apps	Supports mainstream commercial software
Performance	Lightweight, efficient	More resource-intensive
User Interface	Uses GNOME, KDE, etc.	Windows UI with taskbar & Start menu
File System	Ext4, XFS, Btrfs	NTFS, FAT32

Command Line	Terminal with Bash & Shell scripting	Command Prompt & PowerShell
Gaming	Limited (works via Steam Proton/Wine)	Full support for AAA games
Best Used For	Development, servers, security, lightweight computing	General-purpose computing, gaming, productivity

Akshat Sharma 2314005