**Windows**

With almost 90% of the operating system market share, you can't miss Windows. It's in commercial buildings, industrial facilities, as well as home computers.

Windows, having been introduced in 1985, is a very mature and complete piece of software. Yet, it has it's flaws...

Pros:

* Compatibility: Almost every application, driver or game will work on Windows.
* Technical support: Having so many users, you can always find someone (either online or offline) who can help you with Windows
* User friendly

Cons:

* Viruses: You may need to buy an antivirus program, although free ones exist
* Slow: Windows, especially Vista and 7, requires a lot of computer resources (memory, processor, disk space), and thus, runs slower
* Price: It easily costs over a hundred dollars

**Macintosh**

Apple's Macintosh OS is even older than Windows. It is the first ever successful graphical-based operating system, being released one year before it's Microsoft counterpart.

Pros:

* Viruses: Apple Macs get almost no viruses. This is mostly due to Window's superior market share
* Reliability: Macs only run on Apple computers, and are thus less prone to hardware and software crashing.
* Graphic designing. Great for professional who are in designing such as, architects, engineers, constructions, web designing, planning, aircraft or car designing etc.

Cons:

* Expensive: Mac costs even more than Windows
* Only available on Apple computers: If you already have a computer, you cannot install MAC on it unless it's an Apple. Otherwise, you must buy a new computer
* Compatibility: Only a few programs will run on Mac, and almost no games.

**Linux**

Linux is an answer to Mac and Windows. Yes, this means that Linux is FREE! By free, you can download, modify and redistribute it without spending a dime! . Linux is a younger player in the OS world, having been written in 1991, and is optimized for modern use (well, more than Windows and Mac). Unfortunately, it has some disadvantages also...

Pros:

* Price: Linux is F-R-E-E. You can download it, install it, use it, modify it... All for a whooping 0$.
* Open source
* Viruses: Almost no virus because it is mostly used for enterprise environment which runs behind the firewalls and has no internet access
* Runs applications a lot faster

Cons:

* Complicated: Although some distros are quite easy to use, most of them will required a good deal of computer knowledge in order to get them to work
* Compatibility: Like Mac, representing only a few percent of the market share, Linux does not have as many programs and games as Windows
* Vendors: You won't find a lot of vendors selling Linux computers. Usually, you'll just end up having to buy Windows computer, reformatting the hard drive, and installing Linux yourself.

**Bottom line**

In conclusion, no operating system is really better, the choice is up to you. If you're a gamer, then you have no choice, go for Windows. Programmers might prefer Linux and video/graphics producers will probably tend towards Mac. The best thing to do is probably to try each OS and see which is best for you!