Linux has been ported to more platforms than any general purposed OS.

Linux components:

* Boot Loader (Software that manages boot process to load your OS)
* Kernel: drive CPU, Ram, external Hardware, etc.
* Daemons: running supporting services like keep system time running
* The Shell: CLI
* Graphical Server: referred to as X-server or X-windows
* Desktop Environment: GUI, most distribution has a default like GNOME
* Applications

Why Linux:

* Free (core OS, application may charge)
* Stable (almost set and forget to some extent)
* Secure
* Open Source, which means
  + Free to run for any purpose
  + Free to study how it works
  + Free to change anything
  + Free to re-distribute and to re-distribute the changed version