View the Lesson

The components of Linux

There are several components of the Linux operating system.

Hardware

Computer hardware is the physical components that a computer system requires to function. It encompasses everything with a circuit board that operates within a PC or laptop; including the motherboard, graphics card, CPU (Central Processing Unit), power supply, and so on.

Boot-loader

The software that manages the boot process of your computer.

Kernel

It is the core part of the operating system and manages the CPU, memory, and peripheral devices. The kernel is the lowest level of the OS.

GNU Core

The GNU Core Utilities are the basic file, shell and text manipulation utilities of the GNU operating system. These are the core utilities that are expected to exist on every operating system.

X server

This is the sub-system that displays the graphics on your monitor. It is commonly referred to as the X server or just X.

Graphical User Interface

The Linux GUI is often referred to as a Desktop Environment. This is the piece that the users actually interact with. Several desktop environments are available to choose from (GNOME, Cinnamon, Mate, Pantheon, Enlightenment, KDE, Xfce, and so on).

Applications

Desktop environments do not have the full range of applications available. Just like Windows and macOS, Linux provides thousands upon thousands of software titles of high quality that can be easily found and installed.

