



October 24, 2021

Go2Linux, Inc.

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Hello this is Reece Zunino from Go2Linux. It has been brought to our attention at Go2Linux that your company has some questions and concerns about your transition from Windows to the Linux distribution Ubuntu. Questions and concerns when transitioning to a new operating system (OS) is very understandable and common in the industry, so I am hoping that this memo will address all questions and concerns you might have about the transition and put your minds at ease.

Our company Go2Linux has recommended to Faster Computing that transiting to the Linux distribution Ubuntu from their current Windows operating system would be in their best interest and would give their company many benefits in using Linux over Windows as their main operating system. One of the major benefits of the transition is that no current hardware needs to be replaced to bring Ubuntu online in their online work environment.

- **How will you implement security in the Linux systems?**
 - *The Linux distribution Ubuntu already has security baked into the distributions kernel and works for both user workstations and servers. Ubuntu also already has installed within the operating system a firewall and antivirus software. Ubuntu will also always update new antivirus definitions that are released along with any security updates to the operating system to ensure that all your systems both user workstations and servers are safe and secure. All basic security needs will be installed in your new Linux system when we bring it online in your company.*
- **End users have expressed some concern about completing their day-to-day tasks on Linux. How would activities such as email/web browsing work? How would they work with their previous Microsoft Office files?**
 - *Users using Ubuntu will not lose any of tier daily tasks. The Linux distribution we are suggesting to your company will have a Graphical User Interface that will help the user navigate the web using a browser just like windows, in this case the user will not even see much of a difference between the two because you can use popular browsers such as google chrome and Firefox on Ubuntu.*
 - *Unfortunately Microsoft Office is not compatible with Ubuntu. However there are alternative programs that are compatible with Microsoft Office that can be used within the Linux distribution, such as LibreOffice. These programs have the same tools available as Microsoft office and can be exported as a Microsoft compatible document that you can send off in an email to a user that is not running windows.*

You can also convert any Microsoft office file into the compatible Linux version as well with LibreOffice

- *When it comes to email and web browsing the program Apache has you covered with all your webserver needs. Clients typically request and view Web pages using Web browser applications such as Firefox, Opera, Chromium, or Internet Explorer.*
- **The current Windows administrators are unsure about administering Linux systems. How are common tasks, such as process monitoring and management, handled in Linux? How does logging work? Do we have event logs like we do in Windows?**
 - *Ubuntu and Linux offer system administrators many tools to monitor and manage their systems. The systems log files are held within a directory called **cd/var/log** then type the command **ls** to see the stored logs under this directory. You can also view the systems logs via **syslog** this will contain everything but auth-related messages.*
 - ***/var/log/boot** is a repository of all information related to booting and any messages logged during startup. **/var/log/maillog** or **var/log/mail** stores all logs related to mail servers, useful when you need information about postfix, **smtpd**, or any email-related services running on your server.*
- **Some folks in IT raised questions about the Linux flavor that was recommended. They would like to see comparisons between your recommendation and a couple of other popular options. What makes your recommendation the best option?**
 - *Here at Go2Linux investigated other options for Faster Computing to use as a Linux operating system such as CentOS, Mint and Fedora. Some of these Linux distributions had many similarities between them such as Graphical User Interfaces and beginner useability. They all also offered built in security and applications that would fit your company's needs.*
 - *We chose Ubuntu for Faster computing however because it is widely used withing the industry as an easier to learn distribution for users unfamiliar with the Linux operating system. The main and most important difference is also that Ubuntu is supported by Canonical, this offers your company relief and reliance that their company will regularly push out updates for both its security and its maintenance when it comes to bugs and fixes for the operating system.*
- **How does software installation work on Linux? Can we use existing Windows software?**
 - *Installing software on a Linux system is different then on a windows system. You will have to search for the software on the Ubuntu software repository and download/install it from there. Ubuntu also uses a similar application like apples app store where you can also download applications from to use on your Linux system.*
 - *To use existing Windows software you will have to use the Wine compatibility layer. Wine provides its compatibility layer for Windows runtime system (also called runtime environment) which translates Windows system calls into POSIX-compliant system calls, recreating the directory structure of Windows, and providing alternative implementations of Windows system libraries, system services through **wineserver** and various other components (such as Internet Explorer, the Windows Registry Editor, and **msiexec**) ("Wine (software)," 2002).*

- **How can Linux work together with the systems that will continue to run Windows?
How will we share files between the different system types?**
 - *Linux uses a software called Samba to allow windows and Linux to work together. You can share folders using this software that will allow both windows and Linux users to have access to them. There are many tutorials on the Ubuntu tutorial site that will show your company on how to install them and set them up on your server.*
 - *Samba is the standard Windows interoperability suite of programs for Linux and Unix. Since 1992, Samba has provided secure, stable and fast file and print services for all clients using the SMB/CIFS protocol, such as all versions of DOS and Windows, OS/2, Linux and many others ("What is samba?," n.d.).*

We here at Go2Linux hope that we were able to answer all your questions and concerns about your transition from Windows to Linux. Please if you have any more questions or concerns feel free to reach out to myself or any member of the Go2Linux team so we can answer any other questions you may have about Ubuntu or any other Linux general question you may have.

Warm regards,

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Linux Deployment Manager

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