*Linux*

***Linux*** *(*[*/ˈliːnʊks/*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Help:IPA/English) *([](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Linux.ogg)*[*listen*](https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/2/22/Linux.ogg)*)* [*LEE-nuuks*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Help:Pronunciation_respelling_key) *or* [*/ˈlɪnʊks/*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Help:IPA/English)[*LIN-uuks*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Help:Pronunciation_respelling_key)*)**[[11]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Linux" \l "cite_note-pronunciation-2-14) is an* [*open-source*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Free_and_open-source_software)[*Unix-like*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Unix-like)[*operating system*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Operating_system) *based on the* [*Linux kernel*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Linux_kernel)*,**[[12]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Linux" \l "cite_note-15) an* [*operating system kernel*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kernel_(operating_system)) *first released on September 17, 1991, by* [*Linus Torvalds*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Linus_Torvalds)*.**[[13]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Linux" \l "cite_note-16)**[[14]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Linux" \l "cite_note-17)**[[15]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Linux" \l "cite_note-18) Linux is typically* [*packaged*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Package_manager) *as a* [*Linux distribution*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Linux_distribution)*.*

Distributions include the Linux kernel and supporting [system software](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/System_software) and [libraries](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Library_(computer_science)), many of which are provided by the [GNU Project](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/GNU_Project). Many Linux distributions use the word "Linux" in their name, but the [Free Software Foundation](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Free_Software_Foundation) uses the name "**GNU/Linux**" to emphasize the importance of [GNU](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/GNU) software, [causing some controversy](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/GNU/Linux_naming_controversy).[[16]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Linux" \l "cite_note-gnu_linux_faq-19)[[17]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Linux" \l "cite_note-linux-and-gnu-20)