LINUX
FOR BEGINNERS

Tips, Tricks, and Information to Use Linux Like a Pro

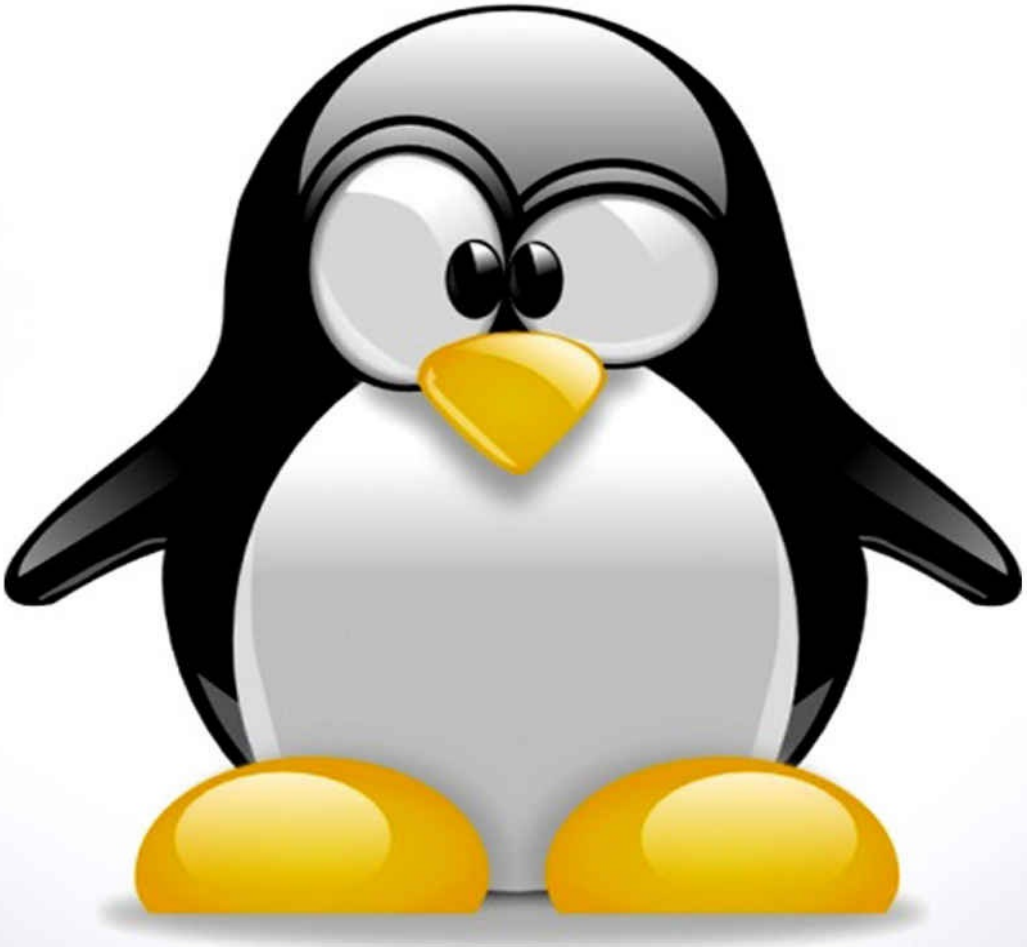

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Table of Contents

Introduction

There are only a few of the big operating systems that are available for you to choose from. The ones that you may be the most familiar with are those for Mac computers and the Windows varieties. It is expensive and takes a lot of work and knowledge in order to create one of these which is why there are not a lot of competitors that are out on the market. But one option that you may want to consider is Linux.

Linux has a lot of different options so you can pick the one that is the best for your needs and will fit on your computer. This guidebook is going to spend a bit of time discussing the Linux system and giving you some tips and tricks in order to get properly started with this system in no time.

Chapter 1 is going to start out with a little introduction to what Linux is. Basically it is just another option of operating systems that you can choose. Many people find that it is easier to use and since most versions are free and do not take up much space, it is the perfect option for you. Chapter 2 then goes on to discuss some of the different versions of Linux that you can choose from. Since this operating system is developed through 1000's of programmers and different companies all over the world, it is easy to see that there are a lot of different programs under the Linux name. This chapter is going to look at some of these options to help you make a decision about the best one for your needs.

Chapter 3 then goes on to spend a bit of time talking about how to download Linux when you are ready to use it on your computer. The steps to doing this is pretty easy to do and you will be able to get going with using it right away. Chapter 4 brings up how to use some of the programs and commands that are found on Linux. While these might seem a bit confusing in the beginning, it is really easy to use and you are going to love how quick and seamless the work is for you.

Chapter 5 finishes out the guidebook with some cool little tricks and tips that you are able to use with Linux and some of the apps that come with it in order to have even more fun. This is a great chapter to check out once you have downloaded Linux and you have a good idea of how it works and what you would like to do with it.

Since Linux does not usually come on most of the computers that you can purchase, it is not one that most people know anything about. But once you get used to the changes and get to use it a bit, you will find that it is a great system and you are going to be able to get a lot of use out of it in no time. Give it a try today and see how great it can be.

Chapter One: What is Linux

There are many different kinds of operating systems that you will be able to use on your computer. An operating system is the way that your computer is going to work and will help all of your apps, documents, and everything else on your computer. Linux is one of those systems and we will spend a bit of time looking at what this system is all about.

In this chapter, you will learn:

- What Linux is and why you would want to use it.

What is Linux

Linux is an operating system that is going to be placed on the computer and will enable applications to work on the computer. It is responsible for relaying instructions from one application to the processor of the computer and then tells it how to perform a task that you ask it to.

This system is similar to Windows and the operating system that is on your Mac. There are some differences that set this system apart. This operating system is produced in a cooperation which means that there is not one company that is making this system for a profit. The companies that participate in this process are going to share the development and research costs with the competitors and partners. When the development burden is spread out among this amount of people, it is going to produce a low-cost product that is one of the best on the market.

There are over 1000 people working on the development of this system and a minimum of 100 companies and they are going to work on making this product great.

Since this product is shared across the platform of so many companies, the cost to you is going to be free, unless you would like a paid version. There are a few different areas where the paid version is better, but you will be able to get a lot of benefits out of the free version as well.

Since there are so many people who are working on this product, you will be able to see lots of great updates that come with this system. And you will not be stuck with purchasing another operating system each time that there is an upgrade. Linux will be able to walk you through this system in order to get it upgraded when it is needed.

This is not a program that is found on most of the computers you might purchase which is why a lot of people have never heard of this system and might be a little wary of how it works. It is pretty simple and has a lot of new possibilities compared to your other operating systems so it is something to check out. It is even going to work well with your current operating system, you can have one or the other running, so you do not have to give up the original if you are not ready or if you would like to have both.

While you may be used to using the Windows system or the operating system that is on your Mac, there is so much that you are missing when it comes to Linux. This is a great option for those who want to do a bit more with their computer, such as video editing, blogging, making podcasts and so much more. And it is much easier to use than some of the others that you are used to having in the past. Giving it a try, something that is easy to do before making the switch, is a great way to get used to how this system works and to find out how great this whole program is.

Take some time to look through this guidebook to see all of the great things that you will be able to use with this tool and to get started with this operating system today.

Chapter Two: Choosing the Right Linux for You

Just like with your Windows and Mac computers, Linux is going to come in some different versions and each one is going to allow you to do some things a bit better. This chapter is going to look at some of the different kinds of Linux so that you can pick the one that is going to work the best for you.

In this chapter, you will learn:

- The different versions of Linux and why you might choose each one depending on the uses you have for your computer.

The Different Versions of Linux

Some of the different versions of Linux that you might enjoy using include some of the following:

- Ubuntu—this is a version of Linux that is going to be based through Debian, but there are some differences in the software that is used. This is a good project to go with if you are looking to get a good server and desktop experience. You will be able to get releases twice a year. It is currently just available on a computer or laptop but plans are being worked on to expand to phones and tablets as well later on.

- Linux Mint—this is a distribution that was built on Ubuntu. It is using the same software repositories so you will be able to get the same packages with both. This was originally an alternative to the other distributions and it was loved because it had a lot of room to work with media that was not available with Ubuntu.

- Debian—this is an operating system that has only open source and free software. This one has been around since 1993 and is really respected because it is releasing newer versions. While it moves at a slower rate than the other Linux Mint and Ubuntu, but this allows them to be more stable compared to these other options.

- Red Hat Enterprise—this option is more intended for workstations and servers. It is based off the Fedora project, but it is more stable and has a good support system. The core software is free although the Red Hat is trademarked so that others are not able to use it.

- Fedora—this is one of the newest platforms and it is going to offer you all of the latest and greatest that you will want from this system. Because it is always changing and upgrading, it is not going to be supported for as long. Unless you are looking to just have things that are the newest. For those who just want a good operating system that is going to work well and they can use for the long term, this is not the right option to go with.

- Mageia and Mandriva—the Mageia operating system comes as a part of the Mandriva system and it is considered one of the best in terms of being user-friendly out of all the Linux options. This is a great thing if you are not good with operating systems and just want something that is easy to use and will not have a lot of bugs in it. The only issue is it is not available for desktop PC’s any longer so you will need to find an older version or switch to another device.

- Arch Linux—this is one of the older options that you can get from Linux, but it is meant to be minimal, lightweight, flexible and basically just makes the whole thing simple. While it is simple, it does have a lot of options that are great for making things easy. You will be in charge of picking out the software that you like and getting the system all configured how you want. The configuration is clean and easy to edit so you can use them how you would like. This is a system for those who already know how the system works or who are able to learn it. If you do not

have any idea how to work on the system, it is best to pick another option or have someone with some knowledge help you out.

- Puppy Linux—this is a really well-known option that you can use and it is great to be used on some older computers that are not able to take some of the newer options in operating systems. It is lightweight and small so it will not take up a lot of space on the older computers, in fact it is able to run on computers with as low as 256 MB of RAM, although it is better if you are able to have at least 512 MB for the best experience.

These are just a few of the options that are available through Linux. There are many more but these are the most user-friendly and great if you just want to have a simple system that will help you to do your normal functions on the computer without a lot of issues.

Chapter Three: Downloading Linux

Once you have decided that it is time to download Linux onto your computer, you need to know how to do it properly. This chapter will spend some time helping you to know the right steps to take in order to properly download Linux to make it work on your system.

In this chapter, you will learn:

- The steps to downloading Linux

Getting Started with the Download

Some of the steps that you should take in order to download any of the Linux Distributions include:

Download the Distribution of Your Choice

You can get most of the Linux distributions for free through download in an ISO format. Look at the website for the distribution in order to find the kind that you like. You will then need to burn this to a CD. Pushing to download will get it to the CD; you can use the burning tool that is already on the system or install one at this time.

Boot from the CD

Now that you have gotten this downloaded onto your computer, you will need to get this downloaded. Most of the time your computer is going to be set to boot off the hard drive so you will need to switch it up so that you can get the boot to happen on the computer. To do this reboot the computer and then push the BIOS key. For Windows 8 you should do the Shift key before clicking the restart. Go to this Boot menu before asking the computer to go from the CD. Save this and let the computer restart so it will go from the computer.

Give it a Try

Before you go through and install the Linux system, take some time to try it out. Most of the time, the CD will just let you use the operating system for a bit while the CD is in place. You will not be able to make new files, but it will bring up the interface so you can play around with it a bit. See how you like it and if you choose to switch, you can go on to the next step.

Install

Once you decide to keep the Linux distribution, you can start installing. You will launch this install from a file that is on the desktop. You can then go through and answer the prompts that come up such as time zone, keyboard layout, and even language to make it the best for you.

Create the Safety Features

At this point, you will be given a prompt to fill out the username and the password. This is how you will get into Linux to install it. You will need to pick something that only you will remember because you will need to use this in order to perform any administrative tasks that come up with this system.

Set Your Partition

To get Linux installed, you will need to make a different partition away from the other system that you have on the computer. Doing this sets apart a part of the hard drive that is only going to hold the Linux system. Some of them, such as Ubuntu, will do this for you and then you can make the adjustments that you need later. You will need to have about 5 GB of room to do an installation so make sure there is at least that much on your hard

drive. If the option you choose does not do this partition for you, you will need to go and do it on your own.

Boot up Linux

Once you are done with the installation process, you will need to have the computer reboot. You are then going to see a brand new screen once the computer is all booted up call the “GNU GRUB.” This is the loader that is going to handle all of the Linux installations. You can then pick the new option fro Linux from this list. If you have installed more than one of the options, you will see all of these options listed.

Look at the Hardware

Most of the time the hardware that is already on your computer is going to work just fine with Linux automatically. Take the time to check this out to ensure that you do not need to download some extra things to get it working well. The graphics cards are the ones that are going to have the most trouble with Linux so you may need to download some other things to see success on this.

Start Using

Now that you have gone through the whole process of downloading Linux, it is time to get to use. There are going to be a few programs that are already installed with your version of Linux, but you should check out which each of these are and see if there are some more that you would like to download. Now that it is all set, have some fun with this operating system to see what it is able to do.

The downloading of Linux systems are not much more difficult than what you are going to see on some o the other operating systems. As long as your computer has enough space on your computer, you are going to be able to get this system downloaded in no time and can make your experience that much better. Get started today and see how easy it can be.

Chapter Four: What Can You Do with Linux

Once you have the Linux system, you are going to be ready to get started on learning how to use this operating system. Take some time to play with it and see how great it can be compared to your regular operating system. This chapter is going to spend some time showing how to use Linux so that you are ready to go in no time.

In this chapter, you will learn:

- Some of the best ways that you are able to use Linux to make life easier.

How to Use the Linux Operating System

Basic Usage of Terminal

You will be able to launch this just from the application menu on the desktop. From here you will see what is called a bash shell. There might be some other shells, but Linux is going to use the bash one. You will be able to launch the program by typing in the name when prompted. Everything that is launched from this screen, is going to be a program whether it is Firefox for internet or a graphical applications. This is easier to do compared to Windows because you are not going to need to type in your full path in order to launch.

Installing New Software

One of the things that has been changed on this system to be more efficient is how to install the software. These are only going to need to type in the right code and it is taken care of. For example, if you would like to use a new program, just type in “sudo apt-get install packagename”. You will substitute in the app that you want into the package name part and you are all set. This might seem a bit difficult, but it is basically going to work just like the one above.

Files and Directories

The software is going to look at the current directory until you change it around to a different one. You can change the command to get to somewhere else if you would like, it is just going to take a few extra steps. For example, if you are looking for a document, typing in the words will bring up the directory you are currently in; if it is in another directory, you will need to go through and make the change. Some of the keys that you need to know to do this will include:

- cd—this is often used in order to change to a different directory easily. The cd Downloads would also be used in order to change and open the Downloads throughout the whole system.

- Is—this is going to list all of your files in whichever directory you are currently inside.

- Mkdir—this command is going to create a brand new directory. If you went and used mkdir example, you would be able to create this new directory inside of your current one and it would be called example.

- Rm—this command is going to remove the file in your directory.

- Cp—this command will allow you to make copies of a file and move from one location over to another. You could copy the file that is on your current directory and move it to another one to have later. The file is going to be moved into both areas.

- mv—this command is going to move the file from a location over to a different one. This is different from cp because you will just have the mv to the new section

and it will no longer be in the old directory.

Tab Completion

This is a trick that can be really useful. When you are typing, no matter what it is, you can push on the Tab in order to have it finish filling in what you type. For example, you can type in firef and then push on the Tab button to get it to finish out firefox. This will save you a lot of time when it comes to typing and it is really useful to know.

Mastering the Linux Terminal

Spend a bit of time looking through this operating system and learning how to make it work. It is not too complicated but you will find that it is a bit different compared to what you might be used to in the past. Once you have a bit of time looking through this system, you are going to find that it is a great option to do all of the things you want on your computer.

Chapter Five: Tips and Tricks to Get the Most out of Linux

After you have had a bit of time to get used to using Linux, it is time to do some of the fun things that comes with using this operating system. This chapter is going to look at some of the cool things that you are able to do with this system in order to get the most out of it.

In this chapter, you will learn:

- Some cool things that you are able to do with the Linux system.

Cool Things That You Can Do with Linux

Some of the things that you do with the Linux system includes:

1. Use OpenRocket in order to build your own rocket. This can be a fun way to get used to the system and do something when you are bored.

2. Make movies—there are a lot of people who love to make their own movies on a computer and using the Linux system can make this really easy and painless. You will be able to edit as well as cut up the movies to make something amazing. Some software that you will need to download that goes with the Linux system includes Cinelerra, LIVEs, Toonloop, and OpenShot.

3. Write your blog–this is a great option if the movie thing is not your whole thing. You are able to use the various software that Linux has in order to make your own blog. Blogilo is the software to get you started and it will help to post it up, spell-check, and even gives you a cool slate to use.

4. Database tools—no matter what the database you would like to use, you will be able to use Linux is order to get it organized and ready to go. MySQL and then Calligra will be able to help you to get the visual overview of these things so that you can have them in order and ready to go.

5. Customize the desktop—yes, this might not seem that important, but it can help to make the computer completely yours. Linux also offers a lot of cool options that are going to go far and beyond what you are able to see with the other operating systems.

6. Security—you can set up this system with your web camera and Camstream in order to look around at the things that you need to survey for safety. If you need something that is a bit more professional, Zoneminder is going to work well on Linux.

7. Celestia is a great software that works well on Linux that is going to allow you to have a space simulation to look at the stars from your very own computer.

8. Photographs—Linux has some of the best software that is going to help you to take care of the pictures that you have and then place them on your social media sites in just a few steps. Some of the best to use on this system include Digikam, F-Spot, and Fotoxx.

9. Creating PDFs has never been easier and you will not need to download some expensive stuff like you will do on some of the other operating systems. Using LibreOffice will do the work for you.

10. Use Audacity in order to create some music or a podcast in order to have something that is completely your own.

11. Blender is a great tool that you can use in order to create some good 3D

models as well as renderings. These are great things to do with any of the games and movies that you might be creating with some of the other software that works on Linux.

12. OwnCloud works well on Linux and allows you to host a cloud server for you and the others you are working with.

13. For those who would like to become a DJ or just want to make some of their own music for the fun of it, Linux has a great software called Mixxx that is going to do it all for you.

14. If you are worried about what to do when something goes wrong on the computer with Linux, just keep it on a USB key to use whenever you are ready. You might also want to consider just putting it on a separate computer so that you are able to do troubleshooting when it is needed.

15. For those who like to do some programming, this is the perfect system that is going to be able to help you out You can use this system in order to learn how to program with Scratch, Assembler, C++, C, and python in no time at all.

As you can see, there are a lot of different things that you are able to do with this operating system that are going to make your life so easy. All of the software that is listed in this chapter can be downloaded on Linux which makes it easy to give them a try and see how fast you are able to get with doing something that is new and a lot of fun.

Conclusion

The Linux operating system is a great option to use in order to get the most out of your computer. It does not take up that much space and it is really easy to use compared to some of the others. It will not take you very long to download this software onto your computer and since it is easy to use, with a lot of cool tricks as shown in the final chapter, you are soon going to be wondering why you did not use this system in the past.

Use this guidebook in order to learn everything that you need about the Linux system. You are going to learn what this system is, the different versions that you can pick, the how to download and some of the best things that you are able to do with this system. Take a look through this book and see just how great this system can be for you to use for all of your computer needs.