

L05: Choose the Best OS

IST 110

Windows

- Pros
 - Virtual desktop for application organization
 - Tablet mode for use on touch-based devices such as tablet/laptop convertibles
 - Easy installation process
 - Can be run on almost any hardware configuration
 - Backwards compatibility with older software
- Cons
 - May not be the most secure option due to how openly accessible the file system is
 - Limited app store: most applications will need to be downloaded through a web browser

Mac OS

- Pros
 - Includes the Apple app store, making software easy to find and download
 - Compatibility with many Mac OS exclusive creative apps such as Final Cut for video making and Logic for music production
 - Integrates with Apple mobile devices for easy data and file transferring
- Cons
 - Limited to Apple devices
 - May have difficulties with finding compatible software
 - Limited to no hardware configuration or upgrading possible

Linux

- Pros
 - Open source and free to use
 - Heavily customizable
 - Many options for pre-configured desktop environments (in the form of distributions)
 - Package managers provide an app store like way to find software
 - Can be run on almost any hardware configuration
- Cons
 - May be difficult to install
 - Configuration can be challenging for non-technical users
 - May not include necessary drivers for graphics, sound, and other key functions
 - Requires knowledge and frequent use of command-line interfaces

Nonprofit Social Service Organization

- A social service organization likely would be using web browsers and general office applications, which are easily found and supported on Windows and thus makes this OS viable.

- Different, but functionally the same, web browsers and office applications can be found on Mac OS, though with more limited hardware choices and this makes this OS only slightly viable depending on budget.
- Linux does offer plenty of web browser and office applications to choose from, however due to it's frequent difficulty of use for non-technical users it should be avoided.
- **For a nonprofit social service organization, Windows would be the best choice.**

Small Interior Design Firm

- Graphics applications would be the most important consideration for a design firm, and Windows offers both a large variety as well as enables hardware customization for heavy applications, making it a viable choice.
- Mac OS has many popular and exclusive design focused applications that would work well for a design firm, and likely they should not need high powered computers, making Mac OS viable.
- Linux could certainly support a design firm's needs; however, it would likely require IT staff to support installation and maintenance of graphics intensive apps, making Linux a non-ideal choice.
- **For a small interior design firm, Mac OS would be the best choice.**

Small Social Media Advertising Agency

- A social media advertising company would likely need a blend of office and light graphics applications, of which can be found easily for Windows, making it a viable choice.
- Mac OS, similarly, to windows, has adequate choices for office apps and popular design apps, making it nearly equal in viability to Windows.
- Linux's customizability shouldn't be necessary enough to overlook the difficulty of use the OS has for the average user despite certainly having the appropriate software compatibility, and thus would not be the most viable choice.
- **For a small social media advertising agency, Windows would be the best choice.**