**Linux as a Personal Desktop Operating System**

**Submitted to**

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**Abstract:**

Comparisons between the Microsoft Windows and Linux computer operating systems are a long-running discussion topic within the personal computer industry.

Linux and Microsoft Windows differ in philosophy, cost, versatility and stability, with each seeking to improve in their perceived weaker areas, Comparisons of the two operating systems tend to reflect their origins, historic user bases and distribution models.

**Introduction:**

Linux is a Unix-Like operating system that was designed to provide personal computer users a free or very low-cost operating system. Linux has a reputation as a very efficient and fast-performing system. Linux’s kernel (the central part of the operating system) was developed by Linus Torvalds at the University of Helsinki in Finland.

**Operating system and computer system:**

In technical language, we would say that an individual user has an abstract view of the computer system, an operating system can also be commonly defined as “a program running at all times on the computer (usually called the kernel), with all the being application programs”.

1. **The Essential differences between Linux & Windows:** 
   1. **Drives don’t have letters, they have mountpoints**

The first thing that usually trips up people who come from Windows to Linux is that filesystem isn’t assigned letters the way they are in Windows.

Single root filesystem whose path is “/”. If you must use the Windows analogy to help you conceptualize it, you can think of this as the C:\drive; it’s the top of the filesystem.

* 1. **There is no registry:**

Linux doesn’t use a single database of configuration options, the way Windows does with its registry. Instead, there are many individual configuration files, typically in a simple text format that can be edited by hand using a text editor if need-be.