How is Linux operating system used?

Every version of the Linux operating system manages hardware resources, launches and handles applications, and provides some form of user interface. The enormous development community and wide range of distributions means that a Linux version is available for almost any task, and Linux has penetrated many areas of computing.

For example, Linux has emerged as a popular operating system for web servers such as [Apache](http://searchsoa.techtarget.com/definition/Apache), as well as for network operations, scientific computing tasks that require huge compute clusters, running databases, desktop/endpoint computing and running mobile devices with OS versions like [Android](http://searchenterpriselinux.techtarget.com/definition/Android).

Linux distributions

Since its initial development, Linux has adopted the [copyleft](http://searchenterpriselinux.techtarget.com/definition/copyleft) stipulations of the [Free Software Foundation](http://searchenterpriselinux.techtarget.com/definition/Free-Software-Foundation) which originated the GNU GPL [General Public License (GPL)](http://searchenterpriselinux.techtarget.com/definition/General-Public-License). Copyleft says that anything taken for free and modified must in turn be distributed for free. In practice, if Linux or other GNU components are developed or modified to create a new version of Linux, that new version must be distributed for free. This is the foundation of open source development which prevents a developer or other groups from profiting from the freely available work of others.

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What is a Linux bash?

On **Linux**, **bash** is the standard shell for common users. This shell is a so-called superset of the Bourne shell, a set of add-ons and plug-ins. This means that the Bourne Again shell is compatible with the Bourne shell: **commands** that work in sh, also work in **bash**.

<https://www.tldp.org/LDP/Bash-Beginners-Guide/html/Bash-Beginners-Guide.html>