

Day One: What is Linux?

Linux Week SP26

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1. Introduction

2. The Technical Answer

3. The Philosophical Answer

4. The Practical Answer

What is Linux Week?

“Learning Linux”

You can use the GUI. You can download things from the internet. You can effectively use Linux like Windows.

HOWEVER, “Learning Linux” makes your life easier.

- Manually search through tons of folders and files => a little CLI-fu
- Updating & installing programs is slow and tedious => `sudo apt install x`
- “Oh god why is my machine broken” => Seeing the exact error message

The best way to learn? Practice!

- Traverse Filesystem: Scavenger Hunt!
- Get familiar with CLI tools & Scripting: Solve challenges!
- Solve problems like a power user: Do it together, in real time!

“Do I need to install Linux?”

nuh uh

The Kernel

Any answer given short of a lecture will be riddled with asterisks.

- Manages Memory
- Schedules threads, processes
- Filesystem

Linux Distros

Package Managers

Free, as in Libre

Windows

- Effectively monetarily free, still requires you trick activation server
- Random updates at worst possible moment
- Always forcing new Microsoft bloat down your throat:
 - Copilot
 - OneDrive EVERYTHING
 - Start menu now searches internet!?
- Something broke? Pray its just Windows being Windows

MacOS is locked to Apple Hardware.

Linux

- GPLv2: Copyleft
 - TL;DR: Go crazy as long as you GPLv2 your code & open source it
- Something broke?
 - Everything that your system has done since boot has been logged.
 - 99% chance that your problem has an Arch Wiki article.
- “Windows supports so much more!”
 - Community patches, Containerization, Proton
 - Mainly CAD & Adobe Suite Software stuck on Windows

Open Source

- Ricing
- Code editor
- Community Support
- Security

Not Windows.

Things will take time to get used to.

- Command Line
- Package Manager
- Setting some things up by hand

However, a lot of things will be better!

- Super efficient
- FOSS Ecosystem

Where to start?

Ubuntu & Mint are common for good reason. I'd recommend Mint over Ubuntu.

Many people try to “learn Linux”. What they generally mean is they want to learn:

- How to get comfy with the command line?
- How do I fix problems?
- What does a free operating system even mean for me?