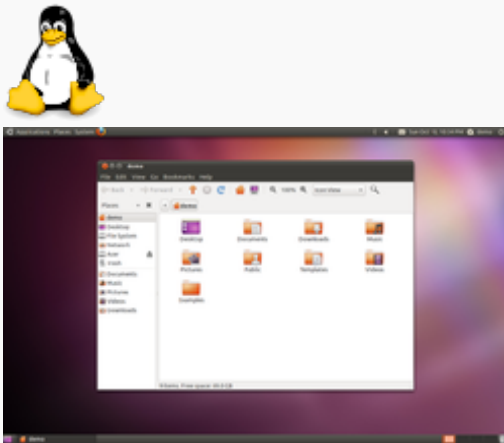# Linux

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

Ubuntu, a popular Linux distribution, one of many available

OS family	Unix-like
Working state	Current
Source model	Open source
Supported platforms	IA-32, MIPS, x86-64, SPARC, DEC Alpha, Itanium, PowerPC, ARM,m68k, PA-RISC, s390, SuperH, M32Rand more
Kerneltype	Monolithic
Userland	GNU and others
License	GNU GPL[1]("Linux" trademark owned by Linus Torvalds[2] and administered by the Linux Mark Institute)

Linux or GNU/Linux is a free and open source software operating system for computers. The operating system is a collection of the basic instructions that tell the electronic parts of the computer what to do and how to work. Free and open source software (FOSS) means that everyone has the freedom to use it, see how it works, change it or share it.

There are a lot of software for Linux and - like Linux itself - a lot of the software for Linux is free software. This means that it doesn't put any license restrictions on users. This is one reason why many people like to use Linux.

Tux the penguin

Tux the penguin

The mascot of Linux is a cartoon penguin named "Tux". When a person sees the penguin on software and hardware, it means that it will work with Linux, and sometimes all systems that are like Unix.

The idea of the penguin came from the creator of Linux, Linus Torvalds. The image was made by a man named Larry Ewing in a competition to create a logo. The image, Tux, did not win,

but it was picked as a mascot later.

Tux has now become a symbol for Linux, and sometimes even for open source. He can be seen in many different places and often, when people refer to Linux, they think about Tux. Tux has even been included in many video games, such as Super Tux (like Super Mario Bros.), Tux Racer (where players race Tux down an icy hill) and Pingus (like Lemmings).

Uses

Desktop

Although there are only a few Linux versions for some Mac OS X and Microsoft Windows programs in areas like desktop publishing[6] and professional audio and video[7][8][9] there are programs that are comparatively similar in quality compared to those available for Mac and Windows.[10]

Many free software titles that are popular on Windows, such as Pidgin, Mozilla Firefox, Openoffice.org, and GIMP, are available for Linux. A growing amount of proprietary desktop software can also be used under Linux, such as[11] Adobe Flash Player, Opera, Google Picasa, RealPlayer, andSkype. CrossOver is a proprietary solution based on the open source Wine project that supports running older Windows versions of Microsoft Office and Adobe Photoshop versions until CS2. Microsoft Office 2007 and Adobe Photoshop CS3 are known not to work.[12][13]

KDE and Gnome

KDE

Gnome

Pronunciation

In 1992, Torvalds explained how he pronounces the word Linux:

" 'li' is pronounced with a short [ee] sound: compare prInt, mInImal etc. 'nux' is also short, non-diphthong, like in pUt. It's partly due to minix: linux was just my working name for the thing, and as I wrote it to replace minix on my system, the result is what it is... linus' minix became linux. "

Torvalds has made available an audio sample which indicates his own pronunciation, in English and Swedish.

Some English speakers pronounce the name as lee-narks or lee-nix or lie-nix. According to Torvalds, that is incorrect pronunciation.