

# Introduction to Linux and Open Source

Linux User Group Document Series #1

July 13, 2025

## Document Abstract

This document serves as the first installment in the Linux User Group document series, providing a comprehensive introduction to Linux, its history, and the open-source ecosystem. Topics covered include the biography of Linus Torvalds, the evolution of the Linux kernel, version control with Git, and an overview of popular Linux distributions.

*This document is released under the Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License*

# Contents

<b>1</b>	<b>Introduction</b>	<b>3</b>
1.1	What is a Linux User Group (LUG)? . . . . .	3
1.2	Why Linux? . . . . .	3
<b>2</b>	<b>Who is Linus Torvalds?</b>	<b>3</b>
2.1	A Quick Background . . . . .	3
2.2	From a Hobby to a Movement . . . . .	3
<b>3</b>	<b>What is Linux?</b>	<b>3</b>
3.1	Kernel vs. Operating System . . . . .	3
3.2	How Linux Relates to Unix . . . . .	3
<b>4</b>	<b>Open Source and Free Software</b>	<b>3</b>
4.1	What Does Open Source Mean? . . . . .	3
4.2	Free as in Freedom . . . . .	3
4.3	The Role of the GNU Project . . . . .	3
<b>5</b>	<b>A Brief History of Linux</b>	<b>3</b>
5.1	Initial Release in 1991 . . . . .	3
5.2	Community Collaboration . . . . .	3
5.3	Why Git Was Created . . . . .	3
<b>6</b>	<b>What is a Linux Distribution?</b>	<b>3</b>
6.1	Why Distros Exist . . . . .	3
6.2	Examples of Common Distros . . . . .	3
<b>7</b>	<b>How to Get Started</b>	<b>4</b>
7.1	Installing a Distro . . . . .	4
7.2	Desktop Environments . . . . .	4
7.3	Basic Terminal Usage . . . . .	4
<b>8</b>	<b>Wrap-Up</b>	<b>4</b>
8.1	Further Resources . . . . .	4

# 1 Introduction

## 1.1 What is a Linux User Group (LUG)?

## 1.2 Why Linux?

# 2 Who is Linus Torvalds?

## 2.1 A Quick Background

## 2.2 From a Hobby to a Movement

# 3 What is Linux?

## 3.1 Kernel vs. Operating System

## 3.2 How Linux Relates to Unix

# 4 Open Source and Free Software

## 4.1 What Does Open Source Mean?

## 4.2 Free as in Freedom

## 4.3 The Role of the GNU Project

# 5 A Brief History of Linux

## 5.1 Initial Release in 1991

## 5.2 Community Collaboration

## 5.3 Why Git Was Created

# 6 What is a Linux Distribution?

## 6.1 Why Distros Exist

## 6.2 Examples of Common Distros

## 7 How to Get Started

### 7.1 Installing a Distro

### 7.2 Desktop Environments

### 7.3 Basic Terminal Usage

## 8 Wrap-Up

### 8.1 Further Resources