Raspbian

Raspbian is a free operating system based on Debian Wheezy armhf optimized for the Raspberry Pi hardware. It’s called Raspbian because it’s a portmanteau of Raspberry and Debian.

Linux is a kernel, which, while a core part of any operating system, does not make up the entire operating system. There are various tools that come with the kernel via the GNU project (the reason why it’s sometimes called GNU/Linux) which bring it up to a level more akin to an operating system. The different versions of Linux are called distributions or distros. They take the Linux kernel and its other technologies and package it with their own software, software repositories, branding and perhaps even a desktop environment. Debian is a line of quite popular Linux distributions that is the base of many famous distros;

Because the official Debian Wheezy armhf release is compatible only with versions of the ARM architecture later than the one used on the Raspberry Pi (ARMv7-A CPUs and higher, vs the Raspberry Pi’s ARMv6 CPU). Small, dedicated team of developers that are fans of the Raspberry Pi hardware, the educational goals of the Raspberry Pi Foundation and, the Debian Project was created Raspbian. An operating system is the set of basic programs and utilities that make your Raspberry Pi run. However, Raspbian provides more than a pure OS: it comes with over 35,000 packages, pre-compiled software bundled in a nice format for easy installation on your Raspberry Pi.

The initial build of over 35,000 Raspbian packages, optimized for best performance on the Raspberry Pi, was completed in June of 2012. However, Raspbian is still under active development with an emphasis on improving the stability and performance of as many Debian packages as possible.