

# Windows Subsystem for Linux Documentation

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Windows Subsystem for Linux (WSL) lets developers run a GNU/Linux environment -- including most command-line tools, utilities, and applications -- directly on Windows, unmodified, without the overhead of a traditional virtual machine or dual-boot setup.

[Install WSL](#)

## Learn more

- [What is the Windows Subsystem for Linux \(WSL\)?](#)
- [What's new with WSL 2?](#)
- [Comparing WSL 1 and WSL 2](#)
- [Frequently Asked Questions](#)

## Get started

- [Install WSL](#)
- [Install Linux on Windows Server](#)
- [Manual install steps](#)
- [Best practices for setting up a WSL development environment](#)

## Try WSL preview features by joining the Windows Insiders Program

To try the most recent features or updates to WSL, join the [Windows Insiders Program](#). Once you have joined Windows Insiders, you can choose the channel you would like to receive preview builds from inside the Windows settings menu. You can choose from:

- Dev channel: Most recent updates, but low stability.
- Beta channel: Ideal for early adopters, more reliable builds than the Dev channel.
- Release Preview channel: Preview fixes and key features on the next version of Windows just before its available to the general public.

## Team blogs

- [Overview post with a collection of videos and blogs](#)
- [Command-Line blog](#) (Active)

- [Windows Subsystem for Linux Blog \(Historical\)](#)

## Provide feedback

- [GitHub issue tracker: WSL](#) [↗](#)
- [GitHub issue tracker: WSL documentation](#) [↗](#)

## Related videos

### WSL BASICS

1. [What is the Windows Subsystem for Linux \(WSL\)?](#) [↗](#) | One Dev Question (0:40)
2. [I'm a Windows developer. Why should I use WSL?](#) [↗](#) | One Dev Question (0:58)
3. [I'm a Linux developer. Why should I use WSL?](#) [↗](#) | One Dev Question (1:04)
4. [What is Linux?](#) [↗](#) | One Dev Question (1:31)
5. [What is a Linux distro?](#) [↗](#) | One Dev Question (1:04)
6. [How is WSL different than a virtual machine or dual booting?](#) [↗](#) | One Dev Question
7. [Why was the Windows Subsystem for Linux created?](#) [↗](#) | One Dev Question (1:14)
8. [How do I access files on my computer in WSL?](#) [↗](#) | One Dev Question (1:41)
9. [How is WSL integrated with Windows?](#) [↗](#) | One Dev Question (1:34)
10. [How do I configure a WSL distro to launch in the home directory in Terminal?](#) [↗](#) | One Dev Question (0:47)
11. [Can I use WSL for scripting?](#) [↗](#) | One Dev Question (1:04)
12. [Why would I want to use Linux tools on Windows?](#) [↗](#) | One Dev Question (1:20)
13. [In WSL, can I use distros other than the ones in the Microsoft Store?](#) [↗](#) | One Dev Question (1:03)

### WSL DEMOS

1. [WSL2: Code faster on the Windows Subsystem for Linux!](#) [↗](#) | Tabs vs Spaces (13:42)
2. [WSL: Run Linux GUI Apps](#) [↗](#) | Tabs vs Spaces (17:16)
3. [WSL 2: Connect USB devices](#) [↗](#) | Tabs vs Spaces (10:08)
4. [GPU Accelerated Machine Learning with WSL 2](#) [↗](#) | Tabs vs Spaces (16:28)
5. [Visual Studio Code: Remote Dev with SSH, VMs, and WSL](#) [↗](#) | Tabs vs Spaces (29:33)
6. [Windows Dev Tool Updates: WSL, Terminal, Package Manager, and more](#) [↗](#) | Tabs vs Spaces (20:46)
7. [Build Node.JS apps with WSL](#) [↗](#) | Highlight (3:15)
8. [New memory reclaim feature in WSL 2](#) [↗](#) | Demo (6:01)
9. [Web development on Windows \(in 2019\)](#) [↗](#) | Demo (10:39)

### WSL DEEP DIVES

1. [WSL on Windows 11 - Demos with Craig Loewen and Scott Hanselman](#) [↗](#) | Windows Wednesday (35:48)

2. [WSL and Linux Distributions – Hayden Barnes and Kayla Cinnamon](#) | Windows Wednesday (37:00)
3. [Customize your terminal with Oh My Posh and WSL Linux distros](#) | Windows Wednesday (33:14)
4. [Web dev Sarah Tamsin and Craig Loewen chat about web development, content creation, and WSL](#) | Dev Perspectives (12:22)
5. [How WSL accesses Linux files from Windows](#) | Deep dive (24:59)
6. [Windows subsystem for Linux architecture: a deep dive](#) | Build 2019 (58:10)