Why I switched to Linux

Currently I am in the process of switching to Linux. Over the years, Microsoft has been more and more invasive into my privacy. The last time I bought a computer I had to, opt optionally, but had to use a Microsoft account giving Microsoft knowledge of my machine. Afterwards I still had work at switching to a local account to run my software.

I think Microsoft is doing this because they reviewed the Apple ecosystem. Apple holds your hands, helps you with everything, and connects everything together. As long as you are willing to live doing things the Apple way, this is fine. They are stealing customers from the Microsoft area. Microsoft appears to be moving towards doing the same idea. Even their Microsoft Copilot-Pre on the task bar runs full time and watches you to ‘help out’ when it can. New machines are coming out with Neural Processing Units to aid in running AI workloads efficiently. MS’s Copilot will be using these chips.

MS said they will not watch everything, and you can control it. But can you? Would you even know what they are doing? This is not limited to Microsoft. Android, Samsung, and iPhone are all doing this. TV makers are monitoring what you watch in order to ‘support’ your habits. Overall, I want to take control of my privacy.   
  
Linux provides the user with more control over their life. The version I have choses is Linux Mint. It comes with pre-installed FOSS apps that the user can use. It looks pretty much like Windows reducing the learning curve. A user can start with this and once they get used to dealing with the more geekish parts of Linux, then can pick and choose what the OS is doing. To learn the ‘geekish’ parts, I am using AI with questions like “how do I install 7Zip onto linux?”

I am not 100% converted yet, because I have multiple machines, and need to make sure that I can remote control back and forth, share data that I want to share, and have solid backups, verify that some of the more complex tools are useable or replaceable in the linux environment.

Why I Switched to Linux: Reclaiming Privacy and Control

In an era of increasing digital surveillance, I've embarked on a journey to switch to Linux, primarily driven by privacy concerns and a desire for greater control over my computing environment.

The Microsoft Dilemma

Over the years, Microsoft has become increasingly invasive in its data collection practices. The tipping point for me came when purchasing a new computer:

* **Mandatory Microsoft account**: Despite being labeled as optional, creating a Microsoft account was essentially required, granting the company access to my machine's data.
* **Local account hurdles**: Even after setup, reverting to a local account to run my software proved to be a cumbersome process.

The Apple-inspired Shift

Microsoft's strategy appears to be inspired by Apple's ecosystem:

* **Apple's approach**: Seamlessly integrated, user-friendly, but with a prescribed way of doing things.
* **Microsoft's emulation**: Moving towards a similar model, exemplified by features like Microsoft Copilot-Pre on the taskbar, which runs continuously to offer assistance.
* **Hardware integration**: New machines are incorporating Neural Processing Units to efficiently run AI workloads, which Microsoft's Copilot will leverage.

Privacy Concerns Across Platforms

This trend isn't limited to Microsoft:

* **Mobile ecosystems**: Android, Samsung, and iPhone all engage in extensive data collection.
* **Smart TVs**: Manufacturers monitor viewing habits under the guise of personalization.

Linux: A Path to Digital Autonomy

Linux offers users more control over their digital lives:

* **Chosen distribution**: Linux Mint, which provides a familiar Windows-like interface to ease the transition.
* **Pre-installed FOSS apps**: Ready-to-use open-source software for common tasks.
* **Customization potential**: As users become more comfortable, they can fine-tune the OS to their preferences.
* **Learning curve**: Leveraging AI to navigate technical aspects, such as installing software like 7-Zip.

The Transition Process

My switch to Linux is still in progress:

* **Multiple machine setup**: Ensuring seamless remote control and data sharing between devices.
* **Backup solutions**: Implementing robust backup systems.
* **Software compatibility**: Verifying that complex tools are either available or have suitable alternatives in the Linux environment.

By choosing Linux, I'm taking a stand for digital privacy and reclaiming control over my computing experience. While the transition requires effort, the long-term benefits of enhanced privacy and customization make it a worthwhile endeavor.

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<html lang="en">

<head>

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<meta name="viewport" content="width=device-width, initial-scale=1.0">

<title>Why I Switched to Linux: Reclaiming Privacy and Control</title>

</head>

<body>

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