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## Linux Distributions

### What Is the Role of Linux Distributions?

Some of the things Linux distributions do:

- Package up open software in a convenient fashion
- Form the bridge between the upstream developers and the end users
- Test software under more varied conditions than the upstream developers are able to; in particular, they find and resolve conflicts between components
- Push out updates, or patches, for security problems and bugs, in a timely fashion
- Provide a uniform packaging system that can resolve dependencies for software components, as well as aid system administrators in many ways
- Invest resources into the improvement of all system components, including the kernel and the desktop managers, by employing and funding many leading developers
- Represent the face of Linux to new users