

## Linux - a great alternative to Windows

Linux is a **totally free**, open-source operating system (OS) which is an alternative to the paid-for, proprietary OSs from Microsoft (Windows) and Apple (OS X).

Linux is available in several hundred different distributions, but the 3 main ones are Linux Mint, Ubuntu and Debian.

One **major advantage of Linux** is that there is ***no need for any antivirus or anti-malware security software***.

A simple built-in firewall is sufficient.

Linux is simply ***more secure*** because of its superior design. Linux also has far fewer updates/security patches than Windows.

In addition, the Windows Update system, especially in Windows 10, causes users vast numbers of problems. In contrast, updates for Linux run smoothly, just as designed.

Linux does **NOT** require large amounts of memory and fast processors like Windows to run efficiently and therefore many older computers can be recycled instead of being sent to the rubbish tip.

**Tell me, if Linux is so good, then why are so few people using it?**

1. Lack of advertising, hence few even people know of its existence. Most people assume Windows is the only operating system available. Microsoft spends millions of dollars annually in advertising to promote its products.
2. Fear of the unknown, inertia and resistance to change, even though their current Windows experience may not be very pleasant. People surmise that perhaps Linux may be even worse.
3. There is a misconception that Linux is very complicated to use and therefore only used by computer “geeks” or “nerds”. In fact Linux is actually very simple and straightforward to operate.
4. Quite rightly most people are not bothered about what particular operating system they are using. It is totally irrelevant. They simply want to get on with their usual everyday tasks such as writing their documents, browsing the internet, sending emails, using Skype, Youtube etc. They just want a ***good reliable, uncomplicated computing experience without any hassle or virus infections***. Linux is the perfect solution to their problems and at the same time it gives them ***total control over their own computers***.
5. Fear of lack of compatibility with, for example, Microsoft Office. \*Libre Office is an open-source, **totally free** alternative suite of programs which is supplied with most Linux OSs and is capable of reading most Microsoft Office documents.

\*Libre Office:

<https://www.libreoffice.org/>

## **Q. Is Linux suitable for everybody?**

**A.** NO, Linux is not going to suit everyone, particularly if they have a favourite program such as **Family Tree Maker** which is Windows-based.

It should be pointed out that there are *many alternative programs available* which do run perfectly well on Linux. In this particular instance there is the open-source, free genealogy program called “Gramps”.

Gramps:

<https://gramps-project.org/>

## **Will all my hardware work with Linux?**

*Most* hardware will, but some printers and multi-function devices do **not** have suitable Linux drivers available.

**HP** is generally **very good** at providing Linux drivers for their products. Brother and Epson are good and more recently, Canon has improved its Linux support.

It is advisable to do a search via Google to check for Linux driver availability for a particular piece of hardware.

**NB** By the same token, **Microsoft** does not necessarily have backdated driver compatibility for older hardware. A product which works in Windows XP will **not** necessarily work in Windows 7, 8.1 or 10.

## **Linux is Running in 50 places that you might not expect:**

<https://www.comparebusinessproducts.com/fyi/50-places-linux-running-you-might-not-expect>

## **Linux Articles**

Linux vs Other Operating Systems-7 common myths busted:

<https://fossmaniac.hubpages.com/hub/Linux-vs-Other-Operating-Systems-7-common-myths-busted>

Review of Linux Mint 18:

<https://www.zdnet.com/article/linux-mint-18-the-best-desktop-period/>

Mint Just Works:

<https://arstechnica.co.uk/information-technology/2016/08/mint-18-review-linux-just-works/>

