

Why not Linux?

What is Linux?

I'm not in the mood to rewrite everything that I've written or read.

But I will write an outline of the:

- Relation between UNIX, Minix, GNU/HURD and Linux
- "Ideology" of GPL
- X
- DE's
- Distributions

(Why is this needed: Well first the annotations say that we should elaborate. But then you really can't elaborate on Linux without at least some condensed version of its development history. It also helps to explain what exactly is meant by things like Customizability, Choice etc. In short this is the main body of this document as it explains all the differences between Linux and other OSes. It also leaves to the user the decision if the way Linux is developed is what they expect from a modern OS)

Why use a Linux distribution?

What choices do you have?

From Ubuntu to Gentoo, whatever suits your Linux preferences, from extremely user-friendly (preconfigured settings and prebuilt catch-all [architecture wise] packages of every popular Linux application) distributions to challenging ones^[why?] where you learn something new^[such as?] everyday. Feeling bored of your current Linux install? Try a new distribution¹. It might^[or might not?] become your new favorite one.²

Other things worth mentioning?

- It is incredibly easy^[how easy?] to clone a complete working Linux installation from one hard drive to another^[Norton Ghost?], onto a memory stick and between different computers. No need to install from scratch like Windows^[Again, Norton Ghost?]!
- Ready for professional audio with standard^[what standard?] sound cards and low-latency audio with JACK^[how?].
- No need to install drivers. Almost everything^[except WHAT?] within the standards^[what standards?] works out of the box.
- You actually learn using it, instead of mindless clicking and obscure "0xFE6484 the memory address could not be read" errors.
- No registry. Seriously, most if not all of Windows' problems are directly related to its messed up^[how?] registry and they're often solved^[unskillfully?] by formatting the machine due to the difficulties^[what difficulties?] of fixing registry errors^[examples?]. Linux instead has^[examples?] unique (plain text) configuration files^[ini files?] for each app. App X stopped working/I messed it up? Easy: delete its configuration file and start over^[easy?]. No

¹Some Linux users are notorious tinkerers and see OS more as a hobby than as a tool. It's upon every individual to decide how she or he wants to use their Linux distribution.

² <http://distrowatch.com>

need to search for hacks on the Internet or to delete 34+5 keys^[anecdote] hidden in the registry

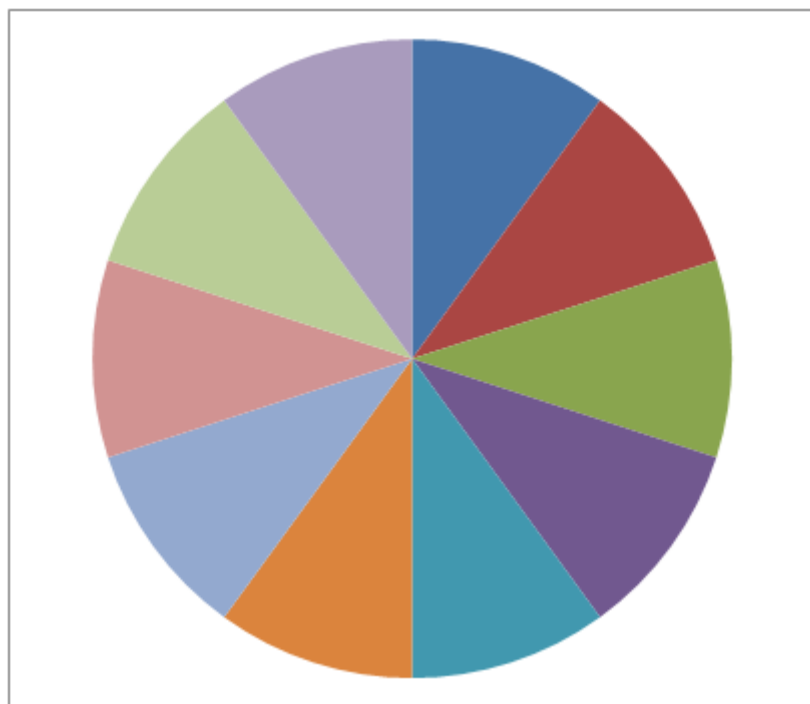
[Several problems:

- What is the purpose of this chart in the context of this document?
- "Linux has no viruses" is a flat-out lie.
- What are "few" and "many", and "extensive" and "limited"? Any actual *figures* to What support these claims?
- are the metrics for "useful"?
- What does a computer user care about instruction-set architectures saving the popular ones, or, more importantly still, the one featured in the machine?]

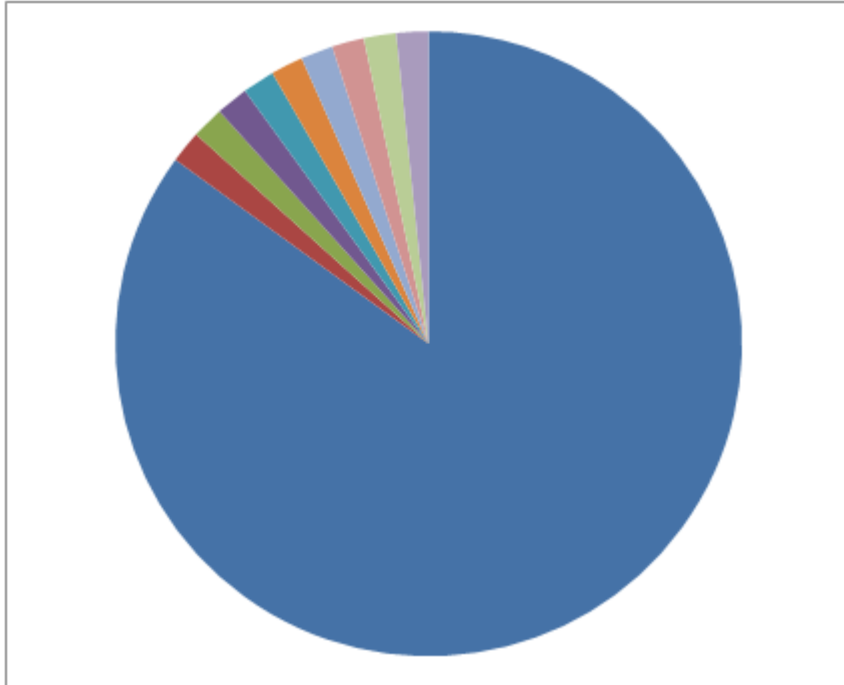
If you think that Linux might be the right choice for you go and use it, if not continue to use Windows or OS X. If you feel even more adventurous you can use various BSD versions (OpenBSD, FreeBSD, PC-BSD, NetBSD, etc.) or Minix3 or Haiku. Options are limitless, if you think you need to choose between them. If not, just use what suits your demands. If there's anything this document wants to convey is that there are choices and it's your ^[obj]decision if you want to regard them in your decisions about which OS to use or not.

[How about this instead:

Every argument for "choice" is usually accompanied by a statement along the lines of, "there are many different kinds of users that prefer different choices, therefore we need to support all of them." In terms of distribution of choices, given 10 choices, this statement implies the following type of distribution:



In other words, ten equal choices with ten roughly equal-sized groups each preferring a different choice. For some limited version of the world, this may be true (for example, existing people who are FOSS users already, fighting amongst themselves). But if you look at the general population at large, I claim a different picture emerges:



Here, the blue represents the people who don't care about a particular choice, and actively do **not** want to have to make a choice. They just want things to work. They will take "working" over "choice" in an instant. They essentially want the developers to make choices for them.

Linux and FOSS so far have optimized for the former, not the latter. In doing so, they've concentrated on inserting abstraction layers and decoupled mechanisms at every layer of the stack: kernel, graphical toolkit, command line shell, terminal program, text editor, office suite, window manager, desktop environment, sound system, etc. etc.

In adding choice after choice, Linux moves farther and farther from what the mainstream user wants.

[08]

Furthermore, any developer will tell you that each time a new layer of "choice" is added, the possible number of configurations multiplies. This means more untested configurations, more bugs, and more brokenness. Not necessarily due to incompetence of developers, but rather simply due to the sheer number of configurations that are possible.

[08] So not only does the addition of so many choices alienate would-be users, it also makes it difficult for developers to create tested, working configurations. It's a double whammy. Obsession with providing choice in every level actively works against efforts that would otherwise push Linux to provide what the mainstream wants.

Source: [Linux Hater's Blog](#)

Appendix: Windows application/feature support in Linux

Application/feature On windows	Linux Support?	Linux alternative?	Remarks
Microsoft Office ^[which version?]	No. But works on WINE.	LibreOffice, KOffice, GOffice, OpenOffice, Calligra Suite(?)	[How about learning how to use a productivity suite <i>properly</i> before telling other people what to use?]
Outlook ^[which version?]	No but works on WINE	Thunderbird, Evolution, Kmail, Postler	[And how are these “alternatives” supposed to work with existing network infrastructures like Exchange Servers?]
Firefox ^[which version?]	Yes	Current Firefox version, Development versions (7,8 as of Sept. 12, 2011)	[Care to point out which Firefox version maps to which distro and which version?]
Google Chrome ^[which version?]	Yes ^[which version?]	Chrome & Chromium (OSS)	[Ditto]
Virus Scanner	Yes	Linux can get viruses as well, just like any other OS. ClamAV, AVG, and Avast! are available to protect other Windows machines. ESet has a client as well, haven't tried it though.	[See: • previous sections • this]
VLC	Yes	MPlayer, SMPlayer, VLC	
Air Video Server	No	VLC	
uTorrent with GUI	No	Transmission, rtorrent, ktorrent, Deluge, Vuze, qbittorrent	
MediaPlayer	No	Banshee, Rhythmbox, Amarok, Clementine,	

		Audacious2, gogglesmm	
iPod/iPhone etc. support	To an extent		[How about just being honest and saying “gtkpod, wonky command lines arcana and no guarantee of anything working”?]
Picasa	No	Shotwell, DigiKam	
CD burning ^[using what?]	Yes	Brasero, K3b, Xfburn	
desktop gadgets	No	screenlets, gdesklets (gnome), plasmoids (KDE), conky!, karamba, Google Gadgets (Qt+GTK)	
iPad sync	To an extent	http://www.linuxuser.co.uk/tutorials/how-to-sync-your-ipad-with-linux/ What's currently possible: http://www.libimobiledevice.org/	[Again, how about just some good old-fashioned honesty?]
Windows 7 style	No	KDE, Gnome, Enlightenment, Xfce, and more unique and productive options ^[such as?]	[This should not be “yes” until you prove to me that Aero and DWM can run on Linux.]
Photoshop ^[which version?]	No But works in WINE	The GIMP or Krita (http://www.deviantart.com/download/201794789/smooth_colors_by_lostsoul164-d3c55ut.rar) ^[really?]	
Illustrator ^[which version?]	No	Inkscape ^[really?] Karbon (KDE) ^[really?] Synfig (poorly) ^[And you are suggesting this because... ?]	
After Effects ^[which version?]	No	Cinelerra	[In a document titled “Why Linux”. Irony?]
Premiere ^[which version?]	No	Cinelerra, Kdenlive (poorly), OpenShot	[Again, do you even care about what people want to use and <i>why</i> ?]

VST Plugins	No (with dssi-vst or festige)		
MSN Messenger	No	Amsn, emesene, Empathy, Pidgin, Kopete	
Skype	Yes	Ekiga, Linphone, Sflphone, Qutecom, Skype	Skype for Linux uses the classic interface.
Cubase	No	Ardour, Rosegarden	
Spotify	No (through the Spotify for Linux preview)	Despotify (console)	
Scanning software	Depends	Xsane	
DVD player [specifically what?]	No	Xine, Vlc, Smpayer, Totem, and many more	
TV [specifically with what hardware and software?]	No	TVTime, XMBC, MythTV, veetle(?)	[Driver availability?]
Adobe Flash Player	Yes	Gnash, Lightspark, Flash Player is available in Linux, but some (not just users but distros as whole) are against it because it's closed source.	[Not even <i>close</i> to being alternatives]