
LINUX DEVELOPMENTS

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INTRODUCTION TO OPEN SOURCE/FREE SOFTWARE

Software distributed under an Open Source/Free license offers the user:

→ Source code availability

The source code allows a programmer to easily modify the behaviour of a piece of software.

→ Free redistribution

No restriction on who can sell. No royalty fees.

→ Derived Works

Allowed to modify and redistribute modifications under original license.

→ No Discrimination

No discrimination against who can use or how the software can be used.

→ Distribution of License

These rights apply to everyone to whom software is redistributed to.

BENEFITS OF USING OPEN SOURCE/FREE SOFTWARE

→ Reduced licensing costs

Saving: Potential lower TCO. No compliance overhead.

Opportunity: Local businesses can provide managed services at the same/lower cost of comparable closed source product.

→ Flexibility to customise software to your needs

Make software meet your needs.

→ Not reliant on original vendor for support

Freedom to get support from other vendors, not just the software producer.

→ You're in control

No vendor lock in. No vendor hidden agendas (deliberate version incompatibility, planned obsolescence, spyware, adware)

WHAT IS LINUX?

Linux is a clone of the operating system Unix, written from scratch by Linus Torvalds with assistance from a loosely-knit team of developers across the Internet.

It has all the features you would expect of a modern operating system.

Not owned by any one individual/organisation.

It is distributed under an open source license.

WHO IS WORKING ON LINUX?

- Tens of thousands of individuals all over the world
- Universities
- Non-profit organisations
 1. Open Source Development Labs
 2. Free Software Foundation
 3. United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)
 4. Debian project
- Commercial organisations
 1. IBM
 2. HP
 3. Oracle
 4. Sun Microsystems
 5. Novell
 6. Red Hat

7. Real Networks

8. SuSe

9. SGI

10. MandrakeSoft

11. Ximian

→ Government organisations

1. Research organisations (eg CSIRO, Los Alamos)

2. NSA

3. Chinese government (Red Flag Linux)

RECENT LINUX NEWS

- Telstra desktop trial
- Ford Automotive switching a lot of infrastructure to Linux
- German city of Munich switchover
- Motorola Linux based phone

RECENT LINUX APPLICATION DEVELOPMENTS

- Gnome 2.4 desktop environment
 - Increased usability
 - Improved accessibility (disabled user support)
 - New applications
 - Complete internationalisation
- GnuCash
 - Finance manager
- Open Office 1.1
 - Complete office suite (also runs on Windows)
- Mozilla web browser
 - Basis of Netscape Navigator (also runs on Windows)
- OpenGroupWare
 - Groupware server (Functionality similar to MS Exchange)
- Evolution 1.4
 - Email, contacts, calendar, and task scheduler

MS WINDOWS INTEROPERABILITY

- Open Office - Excellent MS Word compatability (98)
- Gnumeric spreadsheet - Excellent MS Excel compatability
- Ximian connector - Can connect to MS Exchange server
- Samba - Windows printer/file sharing, Active directory, Primary Domain Controller
- Rdesktop - Terminal services client

APPLICATION DEMONSTRATION...

QUESTIONS?

FURTHER RESOURCES

- ① Open Source Initiative: <http://www.opensource.org/>
- ② Free Software Foundation: <http://www.gnu.org/>
- ③ TCO:
http://www-1.ibm.com/mediumbusiness/us/imc/linux_tco.jsp
- ④ TCO:
<http://asia.cnet.com/itmanager/trends/0,39006409,39100088,00.htm>
- ⑤ TCO: http://www.cioupdate.com/article.php/10493_1477911
- ⑥ TCO:
<http://www.zdnet.com/techupdate/stories/main/0,14179,2907876,00.html>
- ⑦ Motorola Linux smartphone:
<http://www.theregister.co.uk/content/68/32468.html>