

What is Linux?

Linux is a freely-distributable, independent UNIX-like operating system for Intel x86, DEC Alpha, Sun SPARC, Mips, and Motorola PPC & 68K machines. It is an implementation of the POSIX specification with which all true versions of UNIX comply.

The Linux kernel uses no code from AT&T or any other proprietary source, and much of the software available for Linux is developed by the Free Software Foundation's GNU project.

The result of efforts by thousands of programmers coordinating via the Internet, Linux is now recognized as one of the most stable and flexible operating systems available at any price.



Why Would I Use Linux?

Networking

Linux can add great value at low cost to a new or existing network of Windows 3.1/95/NT, OS/2 or Macintosh machines. Linux supports just about every networking protocol in existence, and can provide network services such as being a file, printer or proxy server, or a router, gateway and/or firewall.

Linux can also provide Internet and intranet services like HTTP, FTP, News and POP3 e-mail with efficient and scalable solutions.

Software Education & Development

Since the source code to the OS and most of the tools is freely available, Linux is the perfect environment for those learning how software and operating systems work.

Linux, when combined with X, can also be a very powerful software development platform, with all standard languages being available, including Java.

Network Computers & "Light Clients"

Using Linux, an old 486 can be configured to be a full featured Network Computer. Corel recently announced that their forthcoming NC will be running Linux as the operating system.

How Can I Get Support?

Many of the most valuable resources for Linux support are available 24 hours a day via the Internet.

Websites:

CANLUG – Linux in Canada.

<http://www.oclug.on.ca/canlug.html>

The Linux Applications, Resources Pages

<http://www.xnet.com/~blatura/linapps.shtml>

<http://www.xnet.com/~blatura/linux.shtml>

The Linux Documentation Project

<http://sunsite.unc.edu/mdw/>

The Linux Gazette – Monthly webzine.

<http://www.ssc.com/lg/>

The Linux Homepage – Linux resources.

<http://www.ssc.com/linux/>

Linux NOW – More resources.

<http://www.linuxnow.com/>

Linux Online – Linux community site.

<http://www.linux.org/>

Linux v2 Information HQ – Kernel and software info.

<http://www.linuxhq.com/>

Newsgroups – sample list; please see

<http://www.linux.victoria.bc.ca/support.html>

comp.os.linux.answers

For posting Linux FAQs, How-To's, README's and other documents that answer questions about Linux.

comp.os.linux.networking

For questions and discussion relating to networking or communications.

comp.os.linux.setup

For questions and discussion relating to Linux installation and system administration.

comp.os.linux.x

For questions and discussion relating to the X Windows System, version 11, running under Linux.

Mailing Lists – almost a hundred to choose from:

<http://summer.snu.ac.kr/~djshin/linux/mail-list/index.shtml>

Local Linux Resources

There are a fair number of Linux enthusiasts in the Greater Victoria area. Assistance is available through the following user groups:

Victoria Linux User's Group – VLUG

Website and monthly meetings (with BB&C SIG).

<http://www.linux.victoria.bc.ca/>

Victoria Free-net Linux SIG

Connect via modem: 250.479.6500

or via Internet: telnet free-net.victoria.bc.ca

at the prompt, type `go linux`

An account is required.

BB&C Linux SIG

Listserve and monthly meetings.

Send e-mail to majordomo@baremetal.com with `subscribe linuxsig` in the body of the message.

Commercial Support

The following Victoria based companies provide Linux support at a commercial level, and contributed to the costs of the "Linux at VIEX" booth.

Baremetal Designs 250.598.7708

<http://www.baremetal.com/>

CSP Internet Ltd. 250.953.2680

<http://www.csp.net/>

Recommended Reading

Running Linux (Second Edition) ISBN 1-56592-151-8

Matt Welsh and Lar Kaufman, O'Reilly

An excellent primer on Linux. Covers everything from making boot disks, to partitioning the hard drive and basic systems administration. Anyone can install Linux by following the steps in this book.

Linux Network Administrators Guide ISBN 1-56592-087-2

Olaf Kirch, O'Reilly

If you plan to network with Linux, you need this book. It explains how to hook up the hardware, how to configure the software and how to sort things out if something doesn't work quite right.

www.linux.victoria.bc.ca

www.linux.org

Isn't Unix All Text and Stuff?

Many perceive Unix (and Linux) as difficult to use because they think the user interface is text based. While such an interface does exist, there's also something called the X Windows System, or X for short.

On top of X sits one of a number of available Window Managers which implement very sophisticated Desktop Environments. Some of these are even able to duplicate the look and feel of the more mainstream desktops.



In a networked environment, it's possible to have a program running on one computer (say a server), and have its windows open under X on another workstation.

What can I run on Linux and X?

Below is an incomplete list of available software for the Linux with X environment. A much more complete list can be found at <http://www.linux.org/apps/>

- **Adobe Acrobat Reader 3.01**
<http://www.adobe.com/prodindex/acrobat/lindnld.html>
- **ApplixWare 4.3**
<http://www.redhat.com/products/product-details.phtml?id=apx>
- **Corel WordPerfect 7**
<http://www.sdcorp.com/>
- **ElectroGIG 3DGO**
<http://www.gig.nl/products/prodinfo.html>
- **FlagShip**
<http://www.wgs.com/>
- **Mathematica 3.0**
<http://www.wolfram.com/>
- **Netscape Communicator 4.03**
<http://www.netscape.com/>
- **RealAudio Player 5.0 beta**
<http://www.real.com/products/player/playerdl.html>
- **Quake 1.06**
<http://linuxquake.telefragged.com/>

Distributions

A Linux 'distribution' consists of the Linux Kernel and a combination of other software to make a complete Unix "environment." Some distributions are available for download via the Internet, others must be purchased on CD-ROM. Listed below are only four of over a dozen available distributions. Additional information on these and other distributions is available at:

<http://www.linux.org/dist/>
<http://www.linux.victoria.bc.ca/Files/where.html>

RedHat Linux (Intel, Alpha, SPARC)

Internet: <ftp://ftp.redhat.com/pub/>
CD-ROM: Red Hat Software
PO. Box 13588.
79 TW Alexander Dr.
4201 Research Commons, Suite 100
Research Triangle Park, NC 27709
1.888.733.4281
sales@redhat.com
<http://www.redhat.com/>

Caldera OpenLinux (Intel)

CD-ROM: Caldera, Inc.
633 South 550 East
Provo, Utah 84606
1.800.850.7779 / 1.801.377.7687
info@caldera.com
<http://www.caldera.com/>

Slackware Linux (Intel)

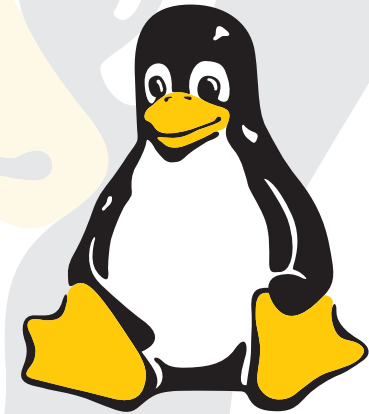
Internet: <ftp://ftp.cdrom.com/pub/linux/slackware/>
CD-ROM: Walnut Creek CDROM
4041 Pike Lane, Suite E
Concord, CA 94520
1.800.786.9907 / 510.674.0783
<http://www.cdrom.com/>

MkLinux (PowerPC Macintosh)

Internet: <ftp://ftp.mklinux.apple.com/pub/>
CD-ROM: Prime Time Freeware
370 Altair Way, Suite 150
Sunnyvale, CA 94086 USA
1.408.433.9662
info@ptf.com
<http://www.ptf.com/>

www.linux.victoria.bc.ca
www.linux.org

An introduction to Linux,
a **free**, yet very powerful operating
system for personal computers
of all types.



Linux

IN VICTORIA

*Brought to you by the volunteer efforts of
Victoria's Linux community.*

Linux is an operating system initially created in 1991 as a hobby by a young student, Linus Torvalds, at the University of Helsinki in Finland.

Since then thousands of programmers have contributed to make Linux one of the most stable and full-featured operating systems available at any price.

The current, full-featured version of the kernel is 2.0.31, and development continues with several updates that are available for public use.

The penguin, shown above, is the official Linux mascot.

www.linux.victoria.bc.ca
www.linux.org