

Linux for the Frugal HAM

Linux: A computer operating system – like Windows or IOS (Mac/Apple)

Frugal: Nicer word for cheap

HAM: Us!

Why Linux?

Because we're frugal and HAMs

Frugal?

- Yeah. I haven't bought a new computer except a Raspberry PI in over 15 years.
- Some were bought used, some given to me.
- All that I use regularly runs Linux.

Upsides

- Linux is free
- There is software to do most everything I do that runs on Linux
 - Yeah it's free too.
- No viruses.
- You decide when to apply updates.

Downsides

- Deciding which distribution to use.
- Getting support can be a bit trickier.
- Don't know how to use the command line.
- There is no Linux version of some software
 - N3FJP
 - HAM Radio Deluxe
 - AutoCAD
 - Photoshop

So what do you use a computer for?

- Web browsing
- Email
- Spreadsheet
- Writing
- Drawing
- Presentations
- Games :-)
- Watching videos
- Graphics
- Desktop publishing
- Drafting
- Financial
- HAM
- ???

What kinds of software runs on Linux?

- Web browser – Firefox
- Email – Thunderbird
- Office productivity: Libreoffice - Writer, Calc, Draw, Impress, Base, Math
- Video – VLC
- Drawing – GIMP
- Drafting – LibreCAD
- Financial – GnuCash
- HAM – fldigi, chirp

Can you run Windows software on a Linux machine?

Yes!

- Wine
- VirtualBOX
- CrossOver – Not free
- Dual boot

Ready to give it a try

So you've decided to give it a try. What do you need?

- Computer
- Distribution
- Pretty good Internet connection
- Time
- One or more Linux geeks to talk to

Computer

Most anything you have available. Probably newer than 2007 would be best.

1 GB of ram (2 plus is better), 40 GB hard drive.

There is some hardware that can be problematic.

- Chip sets used by some video cards
- Wireless chip sets

Distribution

First what is a distribution?

To put it in a car context think of Linux as the engine and frame.

- The distribution is make, model, body style, wheels & tires, radio, air conditioning, etc.
- The distribution can come on a CD/DVD, thumb drive, or SD card.

Common distributions are:

- Linux Mint, Ubuntu, Redhat, SuSE, Fedora, CentOS, Arch,

Internet Connection

- Faster is better for the initial install and when adding some software packages.
- There are always the Libraries, coffee shops, etc. for pretty good and fast Internet access.

Questions

Of course there are.