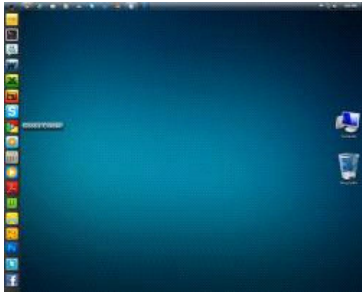


<http://www.ubuntu.com/>



This one may surprise some of you since a lot of people don't like Ubuntu 11.04's new Unity interface. I do like it. Oh, It's way too simple for the real Linux techie that want a lot more control over how the Unity application dock.

So why do I like it, because if the Linux desktop is to have any chance of pushing Linux over the 1% mark of total desktop use, it's going to be because of Ubuntu in general and Unity specifically. Unity is meant to tempt Windows and Mac users to Linux. I think it has a shot at doing it. For the first time it has Icon Shortcuts that are in addition to a great menu system.

Remember the one little CD contains everything: Linux OS; device drivers; office; games; video; music; photos; Internet; graphics; and thousand more are free and just a click away



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

<http://linuxmint.com/>



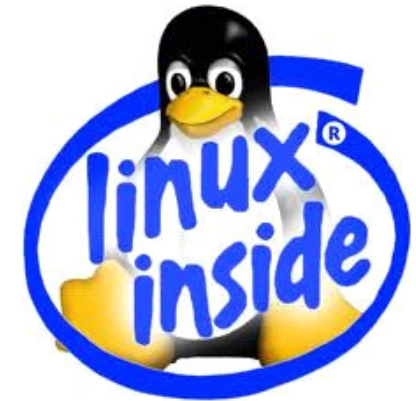
What I like most about Mint 11, is that its interface is easy to use, but I can get my hands dirty when I need to tune it up.

I also like that it's built on Ubuntu. This means that it gets support for the most popular open-source programs, such as Firefox and LibreOffice, as soon as they're available. As far as I'm concerned, if you're an experienced Linux user, and you're not wedded to KDE, Mint's the best of the current Linux desktop lot.

So, that's my list, for today anyway. As fast as Linux changes I know they'll be another great distro coming around the corner shortly. What's on your list?



<http://pc3.org/>



The 4 best Desktops for Linux, then Let's Install UBUNTU

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Alternatives to Apple and Microsoft for non business applications

While I wasn't there from the very start of Linux. I was an early adopter. In the last twenty years I've used several desktop versions of Linux beginning with SUSE 7.2 back in 2002.

I'm a big believe in What Works. I use Linux on my desktops, notebooks and net book not because I find its free and open-source software foundation is morally superior to the proprietary competition from Apple and Microsoft. I use it because it works better for me. When it comes to technology, I'm a realist, not an idealist.

That said, I do think open-source is ethically better than other methods of creating software, or anything else. But given a choice between an open-source program that doesn't do its job and a proprietary program that does the same job superbly, I'm going to use the latter.

That's why, for example, I use Adobe Flash Player for Flash video rather than Gnash. The Adobe player is, for now, clearly the better player. That's also why I use commercial audio and video codecs. It would be great if everyone used open media codecs such as Ogg Theora, but they don't, and I'm not going to annoy myself or anyone to whom I recommend Linux by telling them they must use only open codecs. Maybe HTML5 will finally get it act together on this point and we won't need to worry with proprietary codecs, but I'm not holding my breath. BTW codecs are the reason your movie DVDs won't play unless you purchase an application or the proper codec.

During the course of fixing or assembling computers for my friends and neighbors I have installed Ubuntu Linux on several of them. Older folks who have never used a computer and now want to be a part of the great social phenomena need something simple and fast operating, Ubuntu has done them well. Except for the latest release, Ubuntu 11.4, all prior ones were completely menu driven , there was no need to learn what icon did what. There is also no antivirus to keep up with.

You don't have to install it to try it out because it will run directly from the CD

<http://www.opensuse.org/en/>



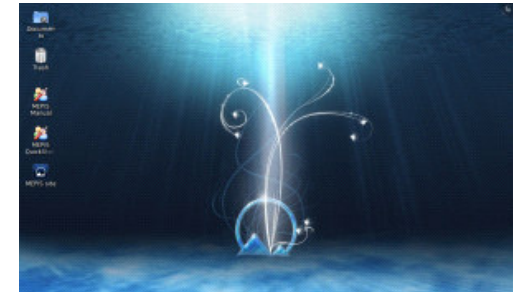
I used to love openSUSE. I wish I could say I love openSUSE 11.4, but I can't. It's just feels a little too... klutzy. That said, I like its KDE 4.6 interface.

While I'm not crazy about openSUSE as a pure desktop, I love it as a server. While I have lots of good things I can say about Red Hat Enterprise Linux (RHEL) and its clones such as CentOS, for working with a server at its desktop, I like the openSUSE approach. That's why while I use CentOS for my Web and other outward facing servers, I use openSUSE for all my intranet Linux servers. It just makes managing server software so darn easy.

Did you know that you can >>>>

- Network to your MS computers and copy the files to Linux without a password.
- Automatically make a dual boot to both Windows and Linux on the same computer.
- Install a new application with a click of the mouse.
- Run all Microsoft office files using a linux

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



I've always had a soft spot for MEPIS . It's a Debian-based desktop Linux distribution that uses the KDE desktop. I like it a lot because it simply works. I almost never have any trouble with it—and when you beat up on desktops the way I do I always find the bugs! All Linux distributions tend to be stable. MEPIS is bedrock stable.

The only reason I don't rate MEPIS any higher is that it's a one-man shop. Warren Woodford, and his fans and supporters, are the only "organization" behind this Linux distribution. That means it's fine for experienced Linux users who can handle their own support. But, if you're new to Linux, or just not sure of yourself, I can't recommend MEPIS. If you know what you're doing, though, check it out. MEPIS is a great distro.

Microsoft	Linux
Office 97- present	Open Office
Firefox	Firefox
Thunderbird	Thunderbird
Quicken / Quickbooks	GnuCash
Media Player	Totem