

# Why experiment with Linux?

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In the last couple of weeks we've seen the announcement or release of a number of new products: the iPad Mini, an updated version of the full-size iPad, and Microsoft's Windows 8 and Surface tablet.

A lot less attention was paid to the October 18 release of one of the most widely-used Linux distributions, Ubuntu. That's unfortunate, because Linux in its various flavors is a solid operating system. It's even used by such major companies as Google on both their servers and their desktops.

That said, my aim in this post is not to review the latest Ubuntu release (LifeHacker provides a first look here) or to rave about the benefits of Linux over other operating systems (since I'm primarily a Mac user). Instead, I'd like to offer a few reasons why it may be worth your while to explore and experiment with Linux, even if you don't intend for it to become your primary OS.

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