

# What's a Linux Distro and How Are They Different?

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If you've heard anything at all about Linux, you've probably heard of Linux distributions ? often shortened to ?Linux distros.? When deciding to use Linux ? on a desktop computer or server ? you'll first need to choose a distro.

For many people, Ubuntu has become synonymous with Linux. But Ubuntu is one of many distros, and you have a lot of choice when it comes to Linux.

What is a Linux Distro, Anyway?

Linux isn't like Windows or Mac OS X. Microsoft combines all the bits of Windows internally to produce each new release of Windows and distributes it as a single package. If you want Windows, you'll need to choose one of the versions Microsoft is offering.

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