

# What's The Difference Between Linux Distributions If They're All Linux?

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When a user is first introduced to Linux, they might be told they're using Linux, but they'll quickly learn that it's called something else. Yes, Ubuntu, Fedora, Linux Mint, Debian, openSUSE, and so many others are all variants of Linux, or "Linux distributions". That's cool and all, but if you give it a little thought, you'll be asking yourself why there are so many different distributions in existence, especially if they're all Linux anyway.

Windows has multiple editions, but they aren't marketed as entirely separate operating systems, Mac OS X only has a single variant (at least for the desktop). So why are there so many different Linux distributions?

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