



Is It Really Free?

Yes! Of course, it is supposed to mean free as in "free speech" not free as in "free beer", but there is no license fee for Linux.

What it really means is that all the source code that makes up the Linux kernel is freely available for anyone to read and use. It is done this way for the purpose of allowing anyone to read what the Kernel does and allows people to make changes. Many people who use Linux never even look at the source code.

What about Support?

Contrary to popular myth, Linux has better support than many commercial operating systems. The Linux community is very responsive to people with questions.

Posting questions in news groups or on message boards can yield answers very fast. If a person or business really needs guaranteed support, there are many companies locally and globally that can support Linux for modest fees.

What Is Linux?

Linux is an operating system, like Windows 95 or MacOS. All operating systems act as an intermediate layer between computer hardware and applications, like word processors, spreadsheets and web browsers.

It has evolved to become one of the most flexible and powerful operating systems available. The Linux kernel is based on Unix™ and was originally developed by Linus Torvalds. He has since been helped in its development by hundreds of programmers from all over the world.

What Is It Good For?

Linux makes an excellent server system. Recent benchmarks show it is as fast or faster than other commercial operating systems on similar hardware in a variety of applications. It can run the most popular web server, Apache. It also runs the most popular mail transport, Sendmail.

With desktop applications like Star Office and Applixware, Linux is already competing for the desktops of home and office systems.

Linux is also becoming more popular as a game platform given its fast networking and video performance. Games like Civilization II, Quake III arena and Myth II are available and many more are on the way.

<http://www.mlinux.org>