

Evolution of Linux

- 1969–1970: UNIX created at Bell Labs by Ken Thompson and Dennis Ritchie. It became the foundation for many later operating systems.
- 1970s–1980s: UNIX spread widely in academia and industry, inspiring variants like BSD.
- 1991: Linus Torvalds, a Finnish student, released the first Linux kernel as free software.
- 1990s–2000s: Linux grew rapidly with contributions from the open-source community, leading to distributions like Red Hat, Debian, and SUSE.
- Today: Linux powers servers, desktops, mobile devices (Android), and supercomputers.

Popular Desktop Linux Distributions (2026)

- Ubuntu – beginner-friendly, widely used.
- Linux Mint – polished desktop experience.
- Fedora – cutting-edge features, backed by Red Hat.
- Pop!_OS – optimized for developers and gamers.
- Zorin OS – Windows-like interface for easy transition.
- MX Linux, Manjaro, EndeavourOS – lightweight and customizable.

Popular Server Linux Distributions (2026)

- Red Hat Enterprise Linux (RHEL) – enterprise-grade, widely adopted.
- Debian – stable and reliable, base for many others.
- Ubuntu Server – popular in cloud and enterprise environments.
- SUSE Linux Enterprise Server (SLES) – strong in enterprise and SAP workloads.
- CentOS Stream – community-driven, successor to CentOS.

Global Usage & Market Share

- Desktop Linux: ~4.7% global share as of 2025, with India leading at over 16%.
Ubuntu, Mint, Fedora, Pop!_OS, Zorin
- Servers & Supercomputers: Linux dominates, powering 100% of the world's top 500 supercomputers.
RHEL, Debian, Ubuntu Server, SUSE