



At a glance: alternative operating systems

MAKING THE GRADES

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Product	Mac OS X Version 10.3.7	Novell Desktop Linux 9	Red Hat Desktop 4 (beta)	Xandros Desktop OS Version 3 Deluxe Edition
Vendor	Apple Computer Inc. Cupertino, Calif. tel. 408-996-1010 www.apple.com	Novell Inc. Waltham, Mass. tel. 888-321-4272 www.novell.com	Red Hat Inc. Raleigh, NC tel. 888-733-4281 www.redhat.com	Xandros Inc. New York tel. 212-213-8083 www.xandros.com
Platform	Unix	Linux 2.6 kernel	Linux 2.6 kernel	Linux 2.6 kernel
Linux interface	N/A	Gnome or KDE	Red Hat Bluecurve	KDE
Key productivity apps	Safari, Mail, iChat AV, iMovie, personal firewall	OpenOffice, Firefox, Mozilla, Evolution, personal firewall	OpenOffice, Mozilla, Evolution, personal firewall	OpenOffice, CrossOver Office, Firefox, Mozilla, personal firewall, VoIP client
Ease of use	A	B	B-	A-
Compatability	B+	C-	C	A-
Security	B+	B+	A	B+
Features	B+	B-	B-	A
Value	B	B	B-	A-
Price	\$129	\$50	\$179	\$129
OVERALL GRADE	B+	C+	B-	A- REVIEWER'S CHOICE