

There's a new OS in town no matter what your preferences

Vendor	Product	Target	Pros	Cons	Price
Windows					
Microsoft Corp. Redmond, Wash. 800-426-9400 www.microsoft.com	Windows XP Professional Edition Windows XP Home Edition	Business, high-end enterprise users Personal, small business users	Is extremely stable and reliable; features multiprocessor support, advanced networking and remote control features, mobile and wireless network support, good digital media support, improved Internet tools, advanced security, good device/application compatibility, Hibernate mode, built-in Internet firewall, enhanced search capabilities A subset of XP Professional with most of its benefits, streamlined Luna interface, user-friendly Network Wizard, Fast User Switching, good CD and CD-RW burn capabilities	Expensive, some security flaws, extremely stringent licensing policies for individual users, useful mainly for fast PCs with lots of RAM and memory	\$299; \$199 for upgrade from Windows 98, 98 SE, Me, NT 4.0 or 2000; \$125 for upgrade from XP Home edition
	Windows XP Home Edition	Personal, small business users	A subset of XP Professional with most of its benefits, streamlined Luna interface, user-friendly Network Wizard, Fast User Switching, good CD and CD-RW burn capabilities	Fewer networking features than XP Pro, lacks sufficient mobile computer and wireless support, lacks full suite of administration tools	\$199; \$99 for upgrade from Windows 98, 98 SE, Me, NT 4.0, 2000
Macintosh					
Apple Computer Inc. Cupertino, Calif. 408-996-1010 www.apple.com	Mac OS X 10.1	Macintosh users	Improved performance, Internet-based, good DVD and CD burning, good support for digital cameras, compatibility with Windows networks, new Finder tools, movable dock	Not many native applications	\$129
Linux					
Caldera Systems Inc. Orem, Utah 801-765-4999 www.caldera.com	OpenLinux Workstation 3.1	Desktop users, system developers	Includes Borland Software Corp.'s Jbuilder Foundation and Sun Microsystems Inc.'s Forte Java development environments; full-function applications development system	Not for beginners	\$59; \$99 for installation via e-mail
	OpenLinux Server 3.1	Server-based networks	E-commerce and secure-server packages, good server/workstation integration, powerful enterprise-level network management features, bundled office applications, secure version of Webmin for remote server configuration	Expensive, limited third-party application support	\$599; \$799 for installation via e-mail
The Debian Project (A community of users with no specific address; contact information available from Web site.) www.debian.org	Debian GNU/Linux 2.2	Experienced Linux users	Strong suite of development tools and utilities; Advanced Package Tool (APT) used to add, update and remove software via CDs or online	Not for beginners	Freeware
MandrakeSoft Inc. Altadena, Calif. 626-296-6290 www.mandrakesoft.com	Mandrake Linux ProSuite Edition 8.1	Small and medium-sized business users	Enterprise kernel 2.4.8 with SMP and Hi-Memory support; user-friendly, journaled file systems; Webserver, firewall and router, extended server support; has DrakX GUI installer, automated server management, auto-install	Lacks extensive administration tools	\$149
	Mandrake Linux PowerPack Edition 8.1	Desktop and workstation users	Includes complete Internet, office and development software; comprehensive installation and user guide, multimedia support, server deployment, easy-to-use wizards, customized configuration tools, thousands of commercial and open-source applications	Lacks extensive administration tools	\$69
Red Hat Inc. Research Triangle Park, N.C. 919-547-0012 www.redhat.com	Red Hat Linux Professional 7.2	Advanced users, developers	For professional workstations and servers; enterprise kernel 2.4.8 with SMP and Hi-Memory support; includes user-friendly journaled file systems, GUI configuration tools, TUX and Apache Web servers, complete file, print and e-mail servers, and StarOffice 5.2	Not for beginners	\$200
	Red Hat Linux 7.2	Technical workstation users	Includes improved device security, new GUIs, Nautilus file manager, easy installation, network configuration tool for easy Internet connections, user management tool for user system administration, hardware viewing tool for quick system inspection	Not for beginners	\$60
SuSe Inc. Oakland, Calif. 510-628-3380 www.suse.com	SuSe Linux Professional 7.3	Advanced home users and IT professionals	Features stable, easy-to-use interface, good multimedia support, network and Internet support, strong user privacy features, thousands of third-party and open-source applications, built-in RAID, virus scanner; configures Network Information Service servers and clients; provides excellent documentation	Not for beginning or intermediate users	\$80
	SuSE Linux Personal 7.3	Linux newcomers	Bundled with Netscape Navigator 6.1, Sun StarOffice, Acrobat reader, GIMP image processing, lots of games, good multimedia support, processes most common file formats	Very basic beginners package	\$40
Turbolinux Inc. Brisbane, Calif. 650-228-5000 www.turbolinux.com	Turbolinux Server 7.0	Enterprise markets	Preconfigured core workstation and server versions for different enterprise applications, powerful security features, strong utilities suite, flexible disk volume management, multi-language support, international certification	Online documentation, for serious users only	\$200
Xandros Corp. Ottawa 613-842-3494 www.xandros.net	Corel Linux OS Standard Second Edition 3.0	Beginning and intermediate users	Xandros has taken over Corel Corp.'s Linux business; OS is easy to set up and user-friendly, supports servers as well as desktops, auto-detects hardware, has a browser-style file manager, good multimedia features	Limited support (Xandros is building its own OS, based on Corel.)	\$15
	Server OS 1.0	Enterprise markets	Built on Corel Linux, features enhanced security, scalability and interoperability with Linux/Unix and Windows; SOAP-based management tools code-named DaVinci	Not yet released	Not yet released