

Windows to Linux Migration

Tips & Options

January 2014

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- **Decision**
- **What is Linux?**
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Decision

- To make that decision conduct a thorough **cost-benefit analysis**, projected out several years, based on what it would take to migrate and what it would cost not to migrate—not only financial costs, but other costs, such as the amount of overall control you want over your organization's software requirements.
- With a Windows-to-Linux migration, nobody can force you to upgrade or deny you a **security fix**. You always call the shots, so you are guaranteed to **save money** and **retain more control** in the long run.

What is Linux?

- Linux is an Operating System (OS), as your Windows 7/8, Mac OS X, Android and Unix are.
- Its job is to sit in your computer acting as a traffic policeman watching over the (digital) traffic in your PC.
- Linux is FREE but its capabilities rival that of commercial products.
- For Unix users, Linux offers all the familiar Unix capabilities.
- Visit <http://ossm.utm.my> to check out some of the distros available for local users at UTM.

Linux's Strengths

- **Adaptability:** The source code for Linux is freely available to anyone. You can modify the code to add other capability or adapt Linux to work with unique hardware.
- **Interoperability:** Linux-based systems can be connected to most other computer platforms.
- **Price:** Much of Linux code is licensed under GNU Public License (GPL). This license ensures that the code can be redistributed.

Migration Tips

- **Install Windows versions of free or open source programs.** Many Linux applications have Windows versions as well (and in many cases OS X versions too), knowing some of these programs makes switching easier:
 - LibreOffice productivity suite
 - Firefox web browser
 - Thunderbird email client
 - Opera web browser and internet suite
 - Google Chrome web browser
 - GIMP image editor
 - Inkscape vector drawing package
 - Pidgin Instant Messaging (formerly Gaim)
 - NVU HTML editor
 - Azureus bittorrent client
 - KPlayer, SMplayer or VLC media players
 - Xchat IRC client
 - Scribus desktop publishing
 - Audacity audio editing



Migration Tips

- **Check out the compatibility** of any existing data produced by Windows based applications.
- **Try the LiveCD/DVD.** Most Linux distros have LiveCD/DVD. With this you can boot a full Linux system that will only run from the CD/DVD and the RAM. It will not affect the data on your disk. This is a good way to get an idea how compatible your hardware is with Linux before installing. It's also an easy way to simply look at a Linux distro. Please keep in mind, that the system is a lot slower running from a CD/DVD than when installed on your harddrive.
- **Experiment with a spare PC or virtual machine.** Fear of losing data and system settings inhibits many people from exploring their OS. A trial-PC can be a powerful tool to convince others, such as family members, that a change to Linux is a good idea. Alternatively, you can install Linux as a **Virtual Machine (VM)** within Windows using free software such as **VirtualBox**.



Options?

- **If you insist on being extra cautious**, there are several options to choose from:
 - **Windows** dual-booting with **Linux**:
explore2fs on Windows, kernel-module-ntfs on Linux
 - **Wine** (Wine Is Not an Emulator) running on **Linux**:
MS-Office, IE, Adobe PhotoShop on Wine
 - **Windows in VMware** server running on **Linux**:
Fluent, Matlab, MathEdit, MS-Visio on Windows in VMware server
 - **Windows with VNC** on one PC, **Linux with VNC** on another:
SSH will connect both machines securely
 - **Windows** running on PC belonging to a domain, **Linux running Samba** acting as PDC



Thank you

... for listening.

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