

Linux

The Operating System Linux is used everywhere in our hyper-connected world. Estimates in 2025 are as follows:

1) Servers

- Web servers: Over 90% of the top 1 million websites are on servers which use Linux (like Ubuntu, Debian, CentOS and AlmaLinux).
- Cloud servers: Major cloud providers like AWS, Google Cloud, and Azure mostly use Linux. In AWS, for example, over 90% of instances are Linux-based.
- Enterprise servers: In enterprises and data centers, Linux use is around 70%, and this number is growing.
- Supercomputers: Nearly 100% of the world's top 500 supercomputers use Linux.

Why does Linux dominate servers?

- open-source
- customizability
- flexibility
- free
- excellent security
- high performance (fast)
- stability
- resilience
- high availability

About 25% of servers around the world use **Windows**.

2) Smart phones

72% of smartphones worldwide use Linux-based operating systems. This is because Android is based on Linux, and Android holds about 72% of the global smartphone market share. iOS is not Linux-based, it is based on Darwin, and iOS holds about 27% market share.

3) Smart devices

- Smart TVs – Samsung Tizen, LG WebOS and Android TV use Linux-based operating systems.
- Smart Speakers & Assistants – Amazon's Alexa, Google Nest/Home and Mycroft AI use Linux.
- Routers and Networking Devices – almost all routers use firmware which is based on Linux.
- Smart Home Devices like plugs, thermostats, lights, cameras, etc. often use embedded Linux.

4) Wearables (smartwatches, fitness bands, etc.)

- Many use Android Wear / Wear OS which are both Linux-based.
- Others (like Fitbit or Huawei OS) use customized embedded Linux.
- Apple watches use WatchOS which is based on iOS.

5) Desktops and laptops

In 2025, only about 3% of desktop and laptop computers around the world use Linux.

Global Desktop OS Market Share (2025 estimate)

Operating System	Global Share
Windows	75%
MacOS	18%
Linux	3%
ChromeOS	2%
Others	< 2%

Chromebooks, which use ChromeOS, are based on Linux, so the real Linux total is about 5%, depending on whether or not you include ChromeOS.

Linux usage is growing, especially with:

- Developers and IT professionals
- Privacy/security-conscious users
- Students and researchers
- Countries which promote open-source (like India, Russia, and Brazil)

Why don't people use Linux on their home computers?

Pros

Free

Secure

Customizable

Stable

Fast

Efficient memory management

Uses less memory (typically 25% of what Windows uses)

Uses less disk space (Windows needs 20-30GB, and Linux between 1 and 8GB)

Cons

Difficult to choose from many distributions

Fear of the "unknown"

Need to use some terminal commands

Not many games available