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The best Linux Laptops Android Central 2020 When it comes to finding an alternative laptop for Windows or macOS, then you're going to want one of the best Linux laptops. There may not be as many options running the Linux operating system as the competition as most major name computer manufacturers don't make Linux laptops, so it's helpful to know exactly what small companies have available. Fortunately, there are some great options from smaller players who have a great reputation when it comes to standing up for their products. But there are also a few that come from those big companies that also make some of the best laptops and the best Chromebooks. Pick Lenovo's staff is focused on the corporate power user who wants Linux with this power plant. The Windows version is already one of the best laptops in general, so why not get the best but with Linux? From the 10th generation Intel Core i5, up to 16GB of RAM, up to 1TB SSD, and Fedora 32, this is the developer's dream machine. The 1080p display is its only drawback. Chrome OS is Linux, and now you can run any Linux app natively on Intel Chromebooks - provided they're powerful enough. ASUS' large Flip C434 is powerful enough for everyday use and most Linux applications and price falls into the sweet spot. The Dell XPS 13 9300 is already a contender for one of the best laptops. Those who want Ubuntu instead of Windows can enjoy the XPS 13 Developers Edition. It is also filled with top of the line specs like the 13-inch FHD or 4K display, the Intel i5 processor, and up to 2TB SSD. There's nothing this laptop can handle. From $1,179 to Dell Purism set out to build the safest laptop ever, and the result is Librem 14. Each hardware chip has been selected not only for Linux compatibility, but also with privacy with PureOS - a software that starts with a loader and is built on a line to keep you safe. In addition, the Librem 14 is one of the few Linux laptops capable of providing 4K output for dual displays, in addition to the built-in screen. From $1,399 at Purism Most high-quality Linux laptops offer fast processors and lots of RAM, but the 76 system adds NVIDIA GeForce RTX 20-series graphics cards to the mix. Play games on ultra settings or develop them with power and style. And if you want a laptop with a big screen, there's a 17.3-inch version that has an upgrade speed of 144 Hz and has a matte finish. From $1,599 to System 76 in a world where IO disappears from our laptops, the Darter Pro from System 76 gives you all the ports you need and more. There's everything you could want, including HDMI, Ethernet, mini-DisplayPort and then some. With a built-in SD slot Darter Pro is one of the best Linux laptops for creators. You'll also get some great specs customized to your liking with up to 64GB of RAM, 6TB of total memory, and a 15.6-inch Matte FHD display. From $949 per per 76 This laptop barebones from Pinebook gives you bare essentials to get started in the Linux world. The Pinebook Pro sports 4GB of RAM, 64GB of storage, and is comparable in performance to mid-range Chromebooks. There's also an uninhabited m.2 NVMe slot if you need (or want) to upgrade your storage. $200 on Pinebook If you're looking for a desktop computer in a laptop configuration, then the 76 Serval WS system is the way to go. It's a laptop workstation with the fastest GeForce GPUs, paired with desktop processors, and the entire laptop is customizable to your liking. In addition, the Serval WS comes in 15 or 17-inch sizes, giving you all the screen real estate you need. From $1,249 to the 76 system so we cheated a bit here, but Hack Key is really a unique product that works with any Windows computer you have. This little device is a USB boot key with an endless PREinstalled OS, and it's the perfect way to teach your kids about coding on Linux. In addition, everything is stored directly on the USB key, meaning your kids can start a project on one laptop and then pick things up on another. $40 on Amazon Which of the best Linux laptops is right for you? Buying a Linux laptop is just like buying any other; You have to find one that fits both what you need to do and your price range. It's a bit of a sticking point compared to Windows-powered laptops. Linux has been a niche product since it was launched in 1991. Companies like Acer or Toshiba don't crank out inexpensive laptops that run Linux and probably never will. Finding the best Linux laptop is easy; Companies such as Dell and Lenovo cater to a crowd of businesses, while small but very reputable companies such as System 76 cater to enthusiasts. Theoretically, you can install Linux on any laptop if you are willing to go through a headache to find the right configuration for the hardware inside, and this is a good option if you are technically inclined to do so. And I was lucky enough for it to work. If you know you want a great Linux laptop, anyone on this list will serve you well. However, we recommend the Lenovo ThinkPad X1 carbon. It has everything you might need from a company that builds for corporate users. Out of the box, you get a 10th-generation Intel i5 chipset paired with 8GB of RAM and a 256GB SSD. Also, it ships with Fedora 32 distro, so you don't have to do anything on the software side when it arrives. Chromebooks offer a bit in between. ChromeOS actually blocked the Linux Distribution in its own right (like Android) and Google allowed Chromebooks using Intel processors to actually run any correctly Linux applications in your home container. If we had to choose only one, it would be the ASUS Chromebook Flip C434, which is really versatile and would be great for everyone. The C434 is also our pick for the best Chromebook, due to under the hood and that sweet reversible display. We can earn commissions for purchases using our links. Learn more. The Linux Linux Foundation Linux Core Archives is a clone of the Unix operating system, but it was written entirely from scratch by Linus Torvalds and a small team of hackers from all over the world. Linux strives to meet POSIX requirements as well as meet UNIX Spec requirements. Linux is the core, while other GNU software makes up the bulk of what we call Desktop Linux. Linux is at the heart of every Android Linux device is a full-featured Unix, with true multitasking - including network multitasking tasks with both IPv4 and IPv6. Linux also offers proper memory management (including virtual memory), shared libraries in system folders, on-demand downloads, and copies on record. About 70 percent of Internet servers and 95 percent of supercomputers control the Linux kernel. Since Android is Linux, about 80 percent of mobile devices also run Linux. You will also find Linux in your coffee maker, or DVD player. Linux is extremely scalable, easy to build and program, and very popular. Android devices use the Linux kernel, no matter who built it. There are also several GNU tools we would like to see on the Linux desktop in our phones and tablets to manage things like wireless radio and networking. Google has used most of its own code as a medium and user interface in Android, but at its heart Android is still Linux. The Linux kernel is free open source software and is covered by GPL. Android may be Linux-based, but it's not based on the type of Linux system you may have used on your computer. You can't run Android apps on typical Linux distributions, and you can't run Linux programs you're familiar with on Android. Linux makes up the bulk of Android, but Google hasn't added all the typical programs and libraries that you'll find on a Linux distribution like Ubuntu. It makes all the difference. Linux vs. Linux Core FINAL: Linux is not just Linux: the 8 pieces of software that make up Linux Systems The big difference here comes down to what we mean by Linux. People use the term Linux to mean a lot of different things. In its core, Linux means the Linux kernel. The core is a major part of any operating system. We also call Linux distributions simply Linux. However, Linux distributions aren't just about the Linux core. They contain many other pieces of software such as the GNU shell utility, the Xorg graphics server, the GNOME desktop, the Firefox web browser and so on. That's why some people think the term GNU/Linux be used for Linux distributions like Ubuntu, Mint, Debian, Fedora, Arch, OpenSUSE, and others. Android uses the Linux kernel under the hood. Because Linux is open source, Google's Android developers can change the Linux kernel to match theirs Linux gives Android developers a pre-built, already saved core of the operating system to start by saying they don't have to write their own kernel. This is how many different devices are built - for example, PlayStation 4 uses an open source FreeBSD kernel, while Xbox One uses the Windows NT kernel found in modern versions of Windows. You'll even see a version of the Linux kernel running on your device under your phone or tablet in Android settings. Differences: What is the Linux Distribution and how are they different from each other? There's some debate over whether Android qualifies as a Linux distribution. It uses the Linux kernel and other software, but it doesn't include much of the Linux distribution software that usually includes. When you download an Android device, the Linux kernel is loaded the same way it does on the Linux distribution. However, much of the other software is different. Android does not include the GNU C (glibc) library used in standard Linux distributions, and does not include all of the GNU libraries you'll find on a typical Linux distribution. It also doesn't include an X server like Xorg, so you can't run standard Linux graphics apps. Instead of running typical Linux apps, Android uses the Dalvik virtual machine to work with Java-written apps. These apps are targeted at Android devices and the application programming interfaces (API) Android provides rather than Linux-focused overall. Why can't you run Linux desktop software on Android RELATED: What is Unix, and why is it important? Because Android doesn't include a graphic X server or all standard GNU libraries, you can't just run Linux apps on Android. You have to run apps written specifically for Android. Android has a shell like the one you'll find on Linux. There's no way to access it out of the box, but you can install an app like the Android Terminal Emulator to access this terminal environment. By default, there isn't much you can do here. The terminal will still operate in a limited environment, so you can't get a full root shell without rooting your Android device. Many of the standard commands you might need aren't available - which is why people who root their device usually install the BusyBox app, which sets a lot of command-line utilities. These utilities are used by root access applications. Why You Can't Run Android Software on a Linux RELATED desktop: How to Play Android Games (and Run Android Apps) on Windows Linux doesn't include a Dalvik virtual machine, it can't run Android apps. The Dalvik virtual machine and all the other Android programs can't just be reset to the Linux desktop computer - you'll have to do more work to make the Android apps exit in the window window standard desktop through Xorg, for example. Theoretically, with enough work, developers could make Dalvik work on desktop Linux so that Linux desktop users can run android applications on their desktops. Currently dormant Ubuntu for Android product tried to do something like this, integrating Ubuntu and Android on the phone and allowing these Android apps to run on the desktop Ubuntu. BlueStacks and other Android app emulators are trying to do this for Windows and Mac. They run android on virtual hardware in a virtual machine, allowing them to run Android apps - with fine performance - on your desktop. These solutions have not proved very popular, however. Google Chrome OS is also based on Linux. Like Android, Chrome OS doesn't provide a standard X window system, so standard Linux apps can't work on Chrome OS. Unlike Android, Chrome OS is closer to standard Linux distributions, so you can use developer mode to install missing Linux desktop software. Image Credit: ranti on Flickr, Anatomy and Physiology Android Android