What is Linux?

Linux is an extremely powerful, free and open source operating system that can be run on desktops, laptops, netbooks, mobile phones and just about anything else you can put software on. Linux was first developed in 1991 by a Linus Torvalds in Helsinki Finland, and is now developed by thousands of individuals and corporations around the world whose efforts benefit the entire community. Linux is already the dominant system on web-servers and super-computers. If you Google, you are using Linux.

Linux can be run side by side with Windows or OSX on your PC or Mac or it can be used to completely replace those operating systems. You can also try Linux off a Live CD (e.g Ubuntu) without making any changes to your computer at all.

What is an Operating System?

Web Browser: Firefox Internet Explorer Safari	Applications: Office Games Photos

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Operating System:
Linux Distribution, Windows, OSX

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Hardware

For More Information:

www.linux.com
www.wikipedia.org/wiki/Linux
http://linux.softpedia.com
Google it - "Linux"
www.linux.org
www.ubuntu.com
www.ubuntuforums.org
www.debian.org
www.fedoraproject.org
www.fedoraforums.org

Buy Preinstalled Linux Computers:

www.zareason.com
www.system76.com
www.dell.com/ubuntu

User Groups:

linuxmafia.com/bale
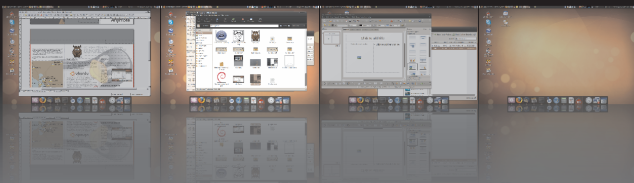www.linux.org/groups

Prepared By BerkeleyLUG
Berkeley, CA, USA

www.berkeleylug.com
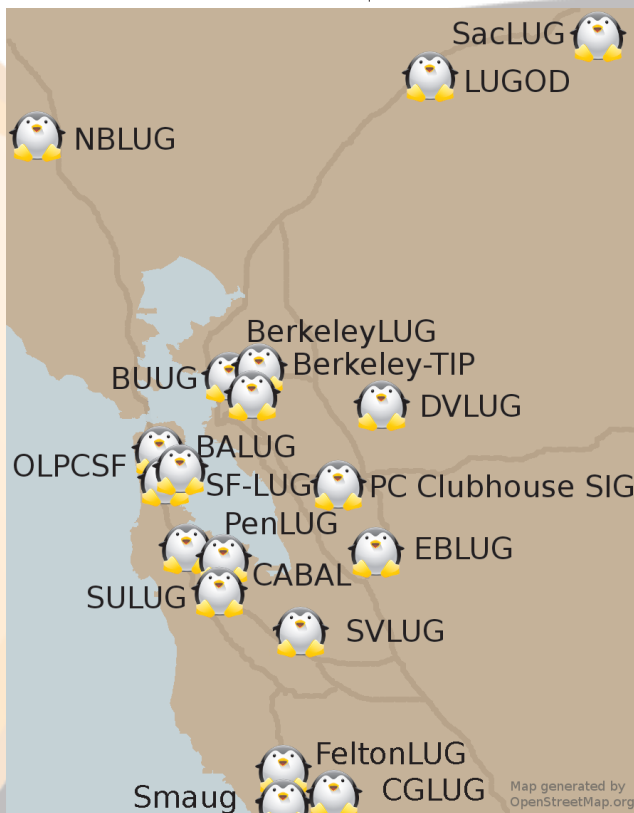twitter.com/berkeleylug

Email: berkeleylug
         @googlegroups.com

Other Credits at
berkeleylug.com/?page_id=2

This is Linux

And It's Ready for Your PC

Linux is created by software engineers and users all over the world to satisfy their own needs and the needs of the community. There are many groups of users and developers in the Bay Area, and elsewhere, willing to help newcomers get started.

You or your formal/informal computer support team can contact your local Linux User Group (LUG) for meeting times, mailing lists and other advice getting started.

SacLUG
LUGOD
NBLUG
BerkeleyLUG
BUUG   Berkeley-TIP
        DVLUG
OLPCSF BALUG
        SF-LUG   PC Clubhouse SIG
        PenLUG
        CABAL   EBLUG
SULUG
        SVLUG
        FeltonLUG
Smaug   CGLUG

Map generated by OpenStreetMap.org

Linux User Groups of the Bay Area
See linuxmafia.com/bale

GNU (recursively standing for GNU is Not Unix) is a set of free and open source utilities, such as compilers and editors that make up the software stack on a typical Linux distribution, which is why many refer to a Linux distributions as a GNU/Linux system.

Linux Distributions:

A Linux distribution is a complete operating system including the Linux kernel, window managers and productivity software. Different distributions share the same basic components but subtly differ in how software is managed as well as in the look, feel and ease of use of the system.

Ubuntu, meaning "Humanity Towards Others", is the most used Linux distribution today for desktop/laptop computers. Supported by the UK based Canonical organization, it is a great distribution for beginners as it provides easy software management and an easy to use interface.   It is based on the community driven Debian distribution

RedHat/Fedora - RedHat is a North Carolina based company that produces an enterprise Linux distribution. It also supports a free community driven distribution: Fedora - known for its incorporation of the newest Linux technologies.
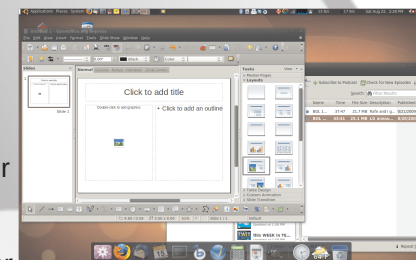
Other Notable Distros: openSUSE/SLED, Linux Mint, Slackware, Gentoo, Mandriva - see distrowatch.com.

Linux Software

There are thousands of free programs available for the Linux desktop that can be easily installed with a few clicks of the mouse. Just a few examples:

OpenOffice
Firefox
Thunderbird
Youtube/Hulu
VLC Media Player
Music Players
3D Games
Gimp Photo Editor
Instant Messaging / VOIP
Google/Adobe Software
Amazing 3D Desktop Effects

Where to Get a Linux Install CD

Ubuntu and other distribution CD images can be downloaded for free from their respective websites. You can find info on creating a bootable CD here: https://help.ubuntu.com/community/BurningIsoHowto.

Many computer manufacturers have Linux options for their netbook, laptop or desktop computers. Other manufactures like ZaReason and System76 specialize in Linux preinstalled systems.

Linux vs. Windows:	Linux vs. Apple OSX:
Faster	Faster
More Stable	Stable
No Viruses/Spyware	Cheaper
Better Looking	More Free Software
More Powerful	More Customizable
Easier to Maintain	Better Hardware Support