

Using Linux Mint instead of Microsoft Windows  
An Alternate Operating System  
CUGG Presentation by Ron Mettler July 12, 2014

Linux Mint is a complete operating system that has many advantages that are not found in Windows 7 or 8.

1. It is an open source free operating system.
2. A default install includes a complete office suite with word processing, spreadsheets, presentations, a drawing application, a scientific formula creator and editor, and a drawing program. The office suite includes the ability to save-to Microsoft office suite formats; doc, docx, xls, xlsx, pps, pptx. The suite can read almost error free all Microsoft formats.
3. Other programs installed by default include Gimp, a photo editor similar to Adobe Photoshop; Firefox browser; Thunderbird email; Backup Software Tools, Banshee Media player, VLC media player, Brasero create and copy CD's and DVD's, PDF Document viewer, networking, and Scanner program. There are many other software tools included as part of the installation package.
4. Thousands of other programs are available for free from a central repository, all virus and malware free. No undesired tag on programs are ever included when installing programs from the repository.
5. Installing Linux Mint is a simple process that takes about 20 minutes. Updates to the install may take another 15 minutes. The install in almost all cases recognizes all of the hardware of the computer system. Installing Windows 7 would in turn take about 10 hours. The install necessitates that drivers be located on the manufacturers Web site for the motherboard, Ethernet controller, Wireless Controller, Video card, and other computer hardware. After those drivers are installed, a large number of additional updates will be required.
6. Linux Mint contains considerably fewer bugs in the software such as updates and backups,
7. Linux Mint will be robust in even a lot of older computers that cannot be used with Windows 7 or 8.
8. Installing a printer does not require a manufacturers install program. The system will find a connected USB or network printer and complete the install in less than one minute. Many printers that are not Windows 7 or 8 compatible can be used with Linux Mint.
8. Other programs widely used in Linux Mint include, Google Chrome Web browser, Shutter (a great screen capture program, PDF Shuffler (add, delete and arrange PDF pages), Caja (a Windows Explorer type of program), Stellarium (astronomy program), USB ISO image writer, simple text editor, Google Earth. Popular Windows Add-Ons for Firefox and Chrome are also available for Mint versions including Last Pass, Stumbleupon, Adblock, Email This Page etc. Firefox and Chrome will Sync settings and Add-Ons once you log onto the appropriate accounts.
9. Myself and several other CUGG members are using Linux Mint as their main computer operating system. I use it on my main desktop and laptop computers for almost all applications. The only time I go back to Windows 7 is for my archived Auto Cad drawing revisions.
10. Linux Mint does lack a compatible Auto Cad program and a Quicken Accounting program.
11. Try it on an old computer by replacing Windows XP.