

# Busted: A Few Common Myths About Linux

You may have heard the rumors - Linux has many myths associated with it that are not true. Being an open source platform, the operating system is constantly changing and improving. The developer community that is constantly working on Linux is making it easier to install, navigate, and integrate into daily use. So, we will address a few of the most common myths and the truth behind them.

## It's difficult to use

There [are still forums](#) where the question pops up about Linux being difficult to use. Because it is an open source platform, it is very different from Windows and Mac operating systems. However, it has changed so much since 1991 and the large developer community has really altered how the user interacts with Linux.

Many people still think "You must use the command line and know source code to use Linux." This just isn't true anymore. There are many [distributions of Linux](#) available now and many of them have several desktop environments similar to the Windows and Mac versions. This helps [new Linux users](#) that have been using those systems switch over more easily and quickly.

There are many opinions on which distribution, also called a "distro," is the best and many [people have their favorites](#). Each distro is created for a particular purpose or set of tasks, so depending on how you use your computer, you may have a different preference than someone else. One of the best things about Linux is the variety and ability to choose what is best for your needs. Also, Linux is free, so if you choose a distro and you don't like it after trying it, you can change and don't have to pay for each new one. So, you can keep trying until you find the distro that satisfies your requirements. Below is an image of the [Elementary OS distro](#), one of the desktops that is similar to the style and layout of Mac OS.



Image source: [Linux.com](#)

## Linux is insecure because it's open source

Some may think because it's open for anyone to alter, Linux is vulnerable to viruses, worms, and such. However, the opposite is actually true. Windows has the [largest market share of operating systems](#), so [Windows users are actually targeted much more](#) often by cyber criminals. There are thousands of developers in the community and if anyone did try to affect the code in a negative way, the others would quickly catch it and fix the problem. So, it is also much faster than waiting on a proprietary company to discover the problem, have their smaller number of developers work on a solution, test it over and over, and then finally release it to the public.

## Linux is hard to install

Many still think that Linux is too hard to install, so they don't bother with the steps. While Linux doesn't come with a "wizard" to help you through the steps, there are plenty of other wizards at your fingertips in the developer community. There are many videos and articles about the [installation process](#) for different Linux distros and the source of the distro will tell you what is involved, as well. The large open source community is very helpful and willing to answer questions along the way, providing an inherent technical support system.

While Linux is different from the proprietary operating systems, the differences are the best features. The ability to choose your version, customize your environment as much as you want for free, and have access to the community to help support your more secure Linux OS are some of the main reasons that Linux users love it so much. If you would like to [learn more about Linux](#), browse the [Linux Academy](#) courses on Linux as well as our other cloud computing courses and [hands-on labs and study tools](#).