



Reluctance to Linux distros: A study among college students in Malappuram district, Kerala

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ABSTRACT

Linux is one of the most popular and well-known operating systems like other operating systems such as Microsoft Windows, Apple Mac OS, iOS, Google android, etc. An operating system is a software that directly manages a system's hardware and resources, like CPU, memory, and storage. Linux on the desktop is not as popular as Windows and Mac OS. This survey was conducted among the college students in Kerala to know why students show a reluctance to the Linux distros. This study found that there are few reasons for that. The main reason is that people buy PC and the operating system as a whole, and most people don't know an OS can be changed.

Keywords: Operating System, Linux distros, Open source.

INTRODUCTION

Technology has been on the rise throughout the past several decades. Every new generation has been getting savvier about devices around them. College students experience that it becomes harder and harder to ignore the need to study up on their IT knowledge if only a little bit. This study focuses on Operating systems among college students. An Operating System(OS) is a collection of software, each designed for a specific function. There are mainly 4 types of OS available. In broader classification, Mac OS, Windows, Linux, and Dos. Linux has various flavors, they pretty much do the same stuff, different vendors configure Linux according to requirement and sell in various flavors. Windows as we all know is very common. With Windows dominating the market, the choice of a perfect OS may seem like a very straightforward issue. But it's not quite as simple when you start digging. There are multiple alternatives that might just suit your needs better than Windows ever could. And when researching these alternatives, Linux is the first option that pops up.

Linux is an open-source that comes entirely for free which was founded by Linus Torvalds in 1991. Despite being one of the oldest operating systems, Linux is still well-known and widely used by many people. Linux is actually everywhere, it is very much famous among developers and normal computer users. It also runs on our phones, laptops, PCs, cars, and even in refrigerators.

At first glance, Linux doesn't have the image of being user-friendly, but that's only for people who believe that Linux is all about the command line. In fact, you don't even have to touch the terminal in daily use if you don't want to. It is simple to install and not vulnerable to viruses, which means the security won't be breached easily. One of the best things about Linux is its access to all the different Linux distributions – commonly known as Linux distros. Each distro holds a unique philosophy and thereby bundles in different software and utilities, making it perfect for certain users but not all.