

## **Why Consider Linux Distro for Education instead of Microsoft OS and applications. By Ken Westgate Jr.**

Linux is an Opens Source Programming Language that is supported by a world wide community of developers. While not all Linux distributions are free, many are inexpensive alternatives to the Microsoft Operating System and its applications. Linux distributions and applications provide similar functions and are updated without cost to the user. Linux Core Operating System elements are also updated regularly for developers. Almost all Linux Distro for Education are easy to learn and frequently use Interfaces that are similar to either Windows or Apple Os. Some have even created Interfaces that are far easier to use than Windows or Apple OS. Most Linux applications for Education provide similar learning experiences to those available for Windows and Apple OS. Since Google Chrome and Android are built on the Linux Core many Google Apps and Android apps can now run under Linux distributions, and using the WINE app loader often allows users to run Windows applications under Linux.

Finally, from a security standpoint, most Linux Distro and Applications are much more secure than Windows and Apple OS.

### ***So here are some possible recommendations for considering trying a Linux Educational Distribution:***

Linux Mint <https://linuxmint.com/>

Edubuntu <https://www.edubuntu.org/> Built on the most widely used Linux Distro Ubuntu this distro is focused on providing an excellent set of educational applications.

Zorin OS <https://zorin.com/os/education/>

DebianEdu <https://distrowatch.com/table.php?distribution=debianedu> Based on another popular Linux Distro, this one is again focused on providing specific applications for education.

Sugar on a Stick [https://wiki.sugarlabs.org/go/Sugar\\_on\\_a\\_Stick/Downloads](https://wiki.sugarlabs.org/go/Sugar_on_a_Stick/Downloads) can be used online and offline on any X86 laptop or on a Raspberry Pi

EndlessOS <https://www.endlessglobal.com/foundation/access/operating-system> can be used online or offline. Can also be run as a dual boot system on a Windows Computer

Escuelas Linux <https://escuelaslinux.sourceforge.io/english/index.html> Based on Bodhi Linux it provides a good selection of educational applications Available in both English and Spanish.

Elementary OS <https://elementary.io/> Not built specifically for education, but has one of the simplest user interfaces that make it perfect for people considering Linux for the first time. It has an extensive applications library with applications for education as a part of that library.

L-I-F-E Linux <https://sourceforge.net/projects/cyberorg-home/files/Li-f-e/> Built on the Ubuntu Mate version of Linux this OS was built specifically for education. The Mate version can be run on older technology since it is a smaller version of the Ubuntu OS.

Ubermix Linux – <https://ubermix.org/download.html> Based on Ubuntu this educational version has built in Parental controls for both content and usage time.