

BEST
PRACTICE
GUIDE

7 Good Reasons to Switch to Linux

The reasons and circumstances under which it is beneficial for businesses to switch their endpoint operating system, and the manner in which modern unified endpoint management facilitates a seamless transition.

Now is the right time to make the switch

Reliance on a single operating system is no longer just a technical issue. Windows 10 will lose its regular support in October 2025, Windows 11 requires new hardware, licensing costs continue to rise, and privacy concerns regarding U.S.-based providers are growing. As a result, many IT departments are under pressure: part of their existing device fleet must be replaced, migrated, or otherwise secured.

Linux offers a mature, secure, and more cost-effective alternative. Modern unified endpoint management solutions make the transition much easier to plan today than it was just a few years ago.

Three figures that sum up the problem:

- **93 %** consider digital sovereignty important, but less than a third has a clear implementation strategy.¹
- **84 %** of IT decision-makers support the use of EU digital products for critical systems—but only 20% are in the process of making the switch.²
- **45 %** of Windows desktops in Europe are still running Windows 10—a growing security risk now that support has ended.³

Many companies recognize the problem. Too few are taking action.

¹ Myra Security, 2025 ((State of Digital Sovereignty 2025 by Myra Security))

² Myra Security, 2025 ((State of Digital Sovereignty 2025 by Myra Security))

³ Statcounter Europe 2026
((<https://gs.statcounter.com/os-version-market-share/windows/desktop/worldwide>))

No more licensing costs

Microsoft licenses are expensive, and they aren't getting any cheaper. Windows licenses, Office subscriptions, client access licenses for server services: Small and medium-sized businesses can easily end up paying five- to six-figure annual amounts for these.

Linux distributions such as Ubuntu LTS, Red Hat Enterprise Linux, or Debian are free or significantly less expensive. This immediately saves money that can be reinvested in security, staff, or innovation.

A fair point: The savings aren't immediate. Migration, training, and adapting existing applications cost time and money at first. But after that, unexpected licensing costs simply disappear.

- No operating system licensing costs for desktop clients with community distributions
- Free choice of compatible open-source applications (LibreOffice, Thunderbird, Firefox, and many more)
- Older hardware lasts longer, which reduces procurement costs
- Easy to switch Linux distributions in the event of unexpected price increases

Older hardware continues to run

Since the end of Windows 10 support, companies have been faced with a simple choice: buy new hardware for Windows 11 or continue using devices without security updates. Millions of endpoints that are technically in perfect working order are thus effectively cut off from the Microsoft ecosystem.

Linux generally runs smoothly on older hardware. This extends the lifecycle of existing devices, saves on procurement costs, and reduces electronic waste. For companies with ESG reporting requirements, this is a compelling argument.

- No restrictive minimum hardware requirements, unlike with Windows 11
- Devices last several years longer
- Less IT waste, lower procurement costs
- Contribution to the ESG strategy and carbon footprint

Security Through Open Source Code

“Security through obscurity” is not a strategy. Linux does the opposite: The source code is open, and thousands of developers and security researchers worldwide review it. Vulnerabilities are detected more quickly and fixed more quickly.

What’s more, Linux remains a significantly less common target for malware and ransomware on desktop systems than Windows. Of course, that alone isn’t enough: systems must be consistently hardened and kept up to date, but this isn’t a particular problem under Linux.

- Rapid patches provided by the global open-source community
- Lower risk of malware
- Full transparency regarding system architecture and processes

Data Protection and Digital Sovereignty

Windows is developed by a U.S. company and is therefore subject to the U.S. CLOUD Act.

This law requires providers to hand over data, even if it is stored on European servers. For companies that must operate in compliance with the GDPR or that operate in regulated industries such as KRITIS, healthcare, or financial services, this is a real problem, not a theoretical one. Those who opt for an open IT architecture now will retain more flexibility.

Linux is not tied to a single provider. Combined with a European UEM solution, it is possible to build an IT infrastructure that enables true data sovereignty.

- Reduced dependence on providers under the U.S. CLOUD Act
- Compatibility with European data protection and IT security legislation; suitable for GDPR-compliant operations and KRITIS requirements under NIS2
- Less dependence on U.S. tech companies
- Future-proof IT architecture based on open standards

Fewer crashes, fewer outages

Linux systems are designed for stability: A single application crash rarely brings down the entire system. However, reboots are still necessary — for example, when installing kernel updates for security reasons.

This means fewer unplanned outages, lower support costs, and employees who don't have to wait for a reboot in the middle of their workday.

- Stability even under heavy load
- Updates can often be installed without a reboot
- Higher availability through more controlled patch management

No Vendor Lock-in

If you rely heavily on a single provider, you'll realize it - at the very latest - when that provider raises prices, discontinues products, or changes its strategy.

With Linux, the choice of distribution and support partner is yours. And if something changes, you can switch without having to start from scratch.

- Free choice of distribution and support partner
- Open standards facilitate integration and system migration
- Co-Management enables a phased transition

The ecosystem is extensive

Linux desktops have improved significantly in recent years. Ubuntu LTS, Debian, and openSUSE offer user-friendly interfaces that are well-suited for many office workstations.

Microsoft 365 runs in the browser. Slack, Zoom, and Visual Studio Code are available in Linux versions. And demand for Linux skills is on the rise in the job market. The objection “nobody knows that” is becoming less and less valid.

- User-friendly desktops with a modern interface
- Microsoft 365 and other SaaS services accessible via a browser
- A growing selection of native Linux applications
- Rising demand for Linux expertise

Conclusion: Linux is ready. Are you?

The technical hurdles to making the switch are lower than ever before. The ecosystem has grown, and modern UEM solutions make Linux clients just as manageable as Windows systems.

This is more than just a technical issue. Digital sovereignty isn't a one-time project. It's a path you embark on. Those who set the right course today will have more options tomorrow, no matter how markets, regulations, and geopolitics evolve.

Any questions?

Feel free to schedule an appointment with us.

In a one-on-one meeting, you'll learn how baramundi software GmbH can support you in operating and centrally managing Linux systems—from inventory and package management to integration into a unified endpoint management solution.

ABOUT BARAMUNDI SOFTWARE GMBH

baramundi software develops Unified Endpoint Management solutions for the centralized management of PCs, mobile devices, and servers. It automates software distribution, simplifies patch management, and provides transparency across the network. In doing so, baramundi makes a significant contribution to IT security and frees up resources.

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