Seminar - Linux Basics for Replacing Windows 10

Rev: 9/7/2025

💡 Seminar Goals:

- Make Windows users feel comfortable using Linux Mint
- Navigate the Linux Mint interface, (Tip: take your time learning a new system)
- Demo how Linux Mint is "different' but "familiar" to Windows
- Demo practical tasks: web browsing, installing apps, file management
- Address fears (compatibility, software availability, terminal use)
- Provide a reference materials & links for continued self-learning

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😎 Introduction

- Why switch to Linux Mint? There are many Linux Distributions to choose from. Linux is not Windows! Take your time to learn how to use Linux, bit by bit.
- Two primary Linux Mint types to choose from: **Cinnamon** and **XFCE**
  - **Cinnamon** is "Windows like" with lot's of support. (For PCs with ≥4Gb of RAM)
  - **XFCE** is lighter. (For PCs with <4Gb of RAM)
  - https://www.linuxmint.com/download.php

> To find out how much RAM is in your Windows, launch Settings > System > About

🫨 Transition Tips & Q&A

- Is your computer system typical or unique with uncommon devices?
- Research any unique s/w or h/w for Linux compatibility or options.
- Backup everything! Take your time and be focused.
- Windows support comes from Microsoft **vs**. Linux is "open source", & community supported.

❄️ Interface Demonstration & Navigation

- Panel = Taskbar [Launcher Zone……System Tray] (Tip: Left & Right click)
- Menu = Start Menu (Tip: Launch from Menu button or Windows key
- Files = File Manager (demo the "view" buttons; top right side)
- Welcome (initial setup) & System Settings (more comprehensive)

🧪 *Live Demo:* Open Menu, show layout, launch Files - demo right-click context menu

✳️ Software Management

- Software Manager: Mint's App Store
- Package sources: .System, Flatpak, AppImage… (Apps are wrapped in a package!)
- Update Manager to update the Mint system and all install software
- Mint has preinstalled apps that match what is in Windows.
- Uninstall apps (use Software Manager or Rt-click on app; delete the desktop icon)

🧪 *Live Demo:* Install "VLC Media Player" or GIMP (Note the different "package" types.)

🧑🏽 Everyday Tasks

- Internet browsing with Firefox.
- Website applications can use Web Apps, for execution.
- Working with documents in LibreOffice.
- File operations (copy, paste, USB drives & /home/[username]/…)
- Open Update Manager and check for updates
- Research questions using internet searches and AI (Duck.AI, ChatGPT …)

- Need Help? https://forums.linuxmint.com/ & https://linuxmint.com/documentation.php
- 📏 *Live Demo:* Show: Timeshift , Firefox, Update Manager, Files, Web Apps & LibreOffice

💻 **Introduction to Terminal** (Text based command window)

- Use when a Mint's GUI (graphic user interface) doesn't exist.
- When researching what you want to do. Many responces will direct you to Terminal. (If response is a Terminal command, ask if there is a Mint GUI interface equivalent.)
- 📏 *Live Demo:* Terminal commands
  - The first **/** is the first directory, which is similar to C:/ in Windows
  - Demo: **whoami**, **cd /**, **ls, help cd, clear**
  - (whoami = logged in user name, ls = List Files, cd = change directories)
  - **Tip**: Use the up/down arrows to repeat previous Termanal commands

👩🏽‍💻 **Common Windows apps and Mint's equivalent suggestions:**

Windows	Linux Mint
Windows key	Opens the Menu (known as the "**Super**" key in Linux systems)
Start Menu	Menu (bottom left in the Panel)
System Settings	System Settings (all the settings for the system are found here)
File Explorer	Files (Nemo File Manager app)
Notepad	Xed
Outlook	Thunderbird (you can connect to Yahoo or Gmail accounts)
Microsoft Word	LibreOffice Writer
Paint	Pinta (The Drawing app offers more capabilities.)
Browsers	Firefox (Use Web Apps to run web-based programs within a browser. e,g., Yahoo, Gmail, Apple Music, iCloud…)
Task Manager	System Monitor (Mission Center app has more info)
Windows Security	ClamAV (Refer to Tips document for security discussion)
System Report	Menu > System Reports > System Information
File History Backups	Backup Tool (for file backup) Use RescueZilla (for full harddisk image backup)

👁 **Information Updates:**

- The **Linux Mint Install, Setup & Tips** document is available at: **https://sites.google.com/view/htt-helpful-tech-tips/home**

👁 **Next Step –** attend the **"How to install Linux Mint over Windows 10"** class:

Friday – Oct 31; 9:45 – 11:45 am in the Blackfoot room
Saturday – Nov 1; 9:45 – 11:45 am in the Blackfoot room

👁 **Continuous steps –** attend the monthly **"Linux User Group"** classes:

First Wednesday of each month: Nov 5, 12:00-2:00pm, Dec 3, 2:30-4:30pm