

Seminar - Linux Basics for Replacing Windows 10

Rev: 9/24/2025



💡 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

😊 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)

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

🧐 Transition Tips & Q&A

- Windows support comes from Microsoft **vs** a community of support for Linux.
- Offload “everything” you need from Windows then port into Linux.
- Is your computer system typical or unique with uncommon devices? (ie: Scanners or NAS drives)
- Research any s/w or h/w for Linux compatibility or options. (Google everything!)

🌀 Interface Demonstration – not that different from Windows

- Panel = Taskbar
- Menu = Start Menu (Windows key or Menu button on the Panel)
- Files = File Manager
- Welcome (walkthrough setup) & System Settings (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: updates the system and software apps
- Preinstalled apps: many match what’s in Windows (familiar but different).

🔧 *Live Demo:* Install “VLC Media Player” and introduce the Flatpak “package” type.

👤 Everyday Tasks

- Internet browsing – use the default Firefox (or your favorite browser)
- 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 (Check the Update icon in the Panel)
- Research questions using internet searches and AI (Duck.AI, ChatGPT ...)
- Need Help? <https://forums.linuxmint.com/> & <https://linuxmint.com/documentation.php>

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 responses 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, ls, pwd, clear**
(whoami = logged in user name, ls = List Files, pwd = Print Working Directory)
- **Tip:** Use the up/down arrows to repeat previous Terminal 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 <u>Web Apps</u> 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Backup Tool (for file backup)• Use RescueZilla (for full harddisk image backup)

Linux – continuous learning:

- **Linux Mint Install, Setup & Tips** document at: (check rev date for update)
<https://sites.google.com/view/htt-helpful-tech-tips>

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 “Linux User Group” monthly classes:

First Wednesday of each month: Nov 5, 12:00-2:00pm, Dec 3, 2:30-4:30pm
(Search the Library's website for “Linux” for schedule and room updates.)

