

See Also

My Linux Journey: <https://github.com/GregFinzer/Linux>

Top 10 Most Popular Distributions of Linux

Distro	Parent	Released	Desktop	Style	Packages	Release Cycle
CachyOS	Arch Linux	2021	You Pick	You Pick	pacman, aur	Rolling
Linux Mint *	Ubuntu	2006	Cinnamon	Windows 7	APT, flatpak	2 Years
MX Linux	Debian	2014	Xfce	Windows 7	APT	Irregular
Debian	Independent	1993	You Pick	You Pick	APT	2-3 Years
EndeavourOS	Arch Linux	2019	You Pick	You Pick	Pacman	Rolling
Pop!_OS	Ubuntu	2017	COSMIC	Unique	APT	6 Months
Manjaro	Arch Linux	2011	Xfce	Windows 7	alpm, aur, flatpak, snap	Rolling
ZorinOS *	Ubuntu	2009	GNOME	Windows 7-11 or MacOS	APT	2 Years
Ubuntu *	Debian	2004	GNOME	MacOS like	Snap or APT	6 Month
Fedora Workstation	Red Hat	2003	GNOME	MacOS	RPM	6 Months

See distrowatch.com/dwres.php?resource=popularity * Recommended for Beginners

Other Top Ranked Distributions

Distro	Parent	Released	Desktop	Style	Packages	Release Cycle
Artix	Arch Linux	2017	You Pick	You Pick	pacman	Rolling
Arch Linux	Independent	2002	You Pick	You Pick	pacman	Rolling
BigLinux	Manjaro	2004	KDE Plasma	Windows 11	pacman	Rolling
TrueNAS	Debian	2005	None	None	.deb	12-18 Months
Slackware	Independent	1993	KDE Plasma	Windows 11	Slackware	Years
Void	Independent	2014	Xfce	Windows 7	Void	Rolling
NixOS	Independent	2003	You Pick	You Pick	Nix	6 Months
Devuan	Debian	2014	You Pick	You Pick	APT	2-3 Years

See distrowatch.com/dwres.php?resource=ranking

Other Major Distributions

Distro	Parent	Released	Desktop	Style	Packages	Release Cycle
Gentoo	Independent	2002	You Pick	You Pick	emerge	Rolling
openSUSE	Independent	2005	KDE Plasma	Windows 10	RPM	Rolling
Red Hat Enterprise Linux	Fedora	2002	GNOME	Unique	RPM	3 Years

See distrowatch.com/dwres.php?resource=major



By Greg Finzer (GregFinzer)
cheatography.com/gregfinzer/
github.com/GregFinzer/

Published 3rd February, 2026.
 Last updated 14th March, 2026.
 Page 2 of 2.

Sponsored by [Readable.com](https://readable.com)
 Measure your website readability!
<https://readable.com>

Cybersecurity

Distro	Parent	Released	Desktop	Style	Packages	Release Cycle
Kali Linux	Debian	2013	GNOME	Windows	apt dpkg	Rolling



By **Greg Finzer** (GregFinzer)
cheatography.com/gregfinzer/
github.com/GregFinzer/

Published 3rd February, 2026.
Last updated 14th March, 2026.
Page 3 of 2.

Sponsored by **Readable.com**
Measure your website readability!
<https://readable.com>