

Why You Should View Linux as a Core IT Skill: 6 Areas of IT That Use Linux

Twenty-five years ago, some fellow students and I were sitting in a computer lab at the University of Waterloo trying to compile a new open-source UNIX operating system called Linux on a PC. Back then, installing a Linux system was about as difficult as nailing Jell-O to a tree, but we managed to get a system installed after only four days of work.

Linux has come a long way since then.

Today, Linux is the most diverse and aggressively developed operating system in the world, primarily due to its open-source nature. And if you work in an IT field, you've probably been exposed to more Linux in the last few years than before. In fact, the Gartner research company identified Linux as the fastest-growing operating system segment in the computing industry in 2017.

6 Areas of IT That Use Linux

So, what does this mean for you as an IT professional? It means that you'll likely be working with far more Linux systems and technologies in coming years, regardless of whether you currently work with them or not. It also means that Linux is fast becoming a core skillset for IT professionals working in any facet of the industry. However, you should start viewing Linux as a core IT skill today, especially if you work with the following.

1. Cloud Computing

As internet technologies have evolved over the past decade, so has the technology used to provide services to internet users and organizations. Large-scale, distributed cloud platforms have appeared, and more and more companies are moving certain aspects of their information infrastructure to the cloud. This includes hosted services (e.g., email, web), containerized apps and infrastructure services, such as authentication and management.

And the operating system that dominates the cloud is Linux! In other words, if you want to create a distributed cloud service, push an app to Amazon EC2 or Docker Cloud, or move a production database to a cloud provider, you'll definitely need to know Linux. Even Microsoft's Azure cloud hosts Linux.



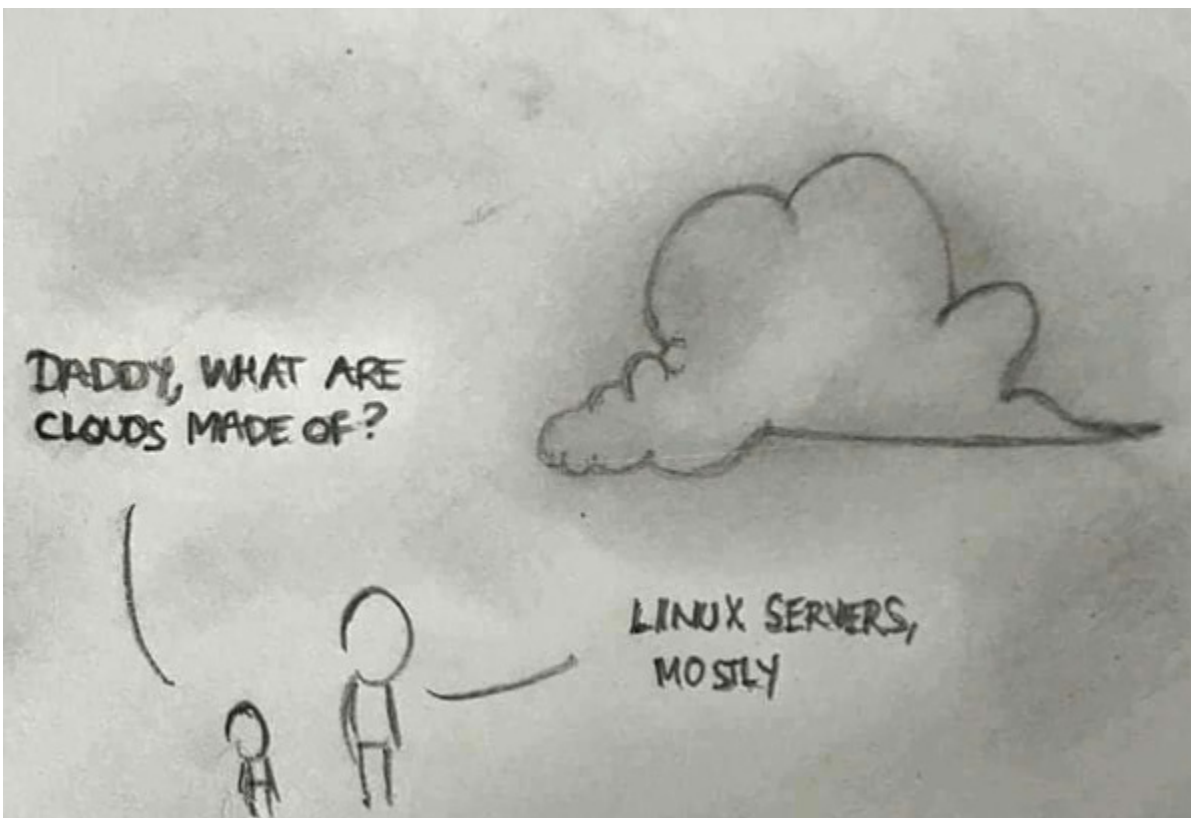
Global I.T.'s Monthly Thought Provocation

Tomorrow, is the first blank page of a 365 page book. Write a good one."

- Brad Paisley

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devices that provide network functionality. Nearly all wireless routers today run a custom Linux operating system, as do most enterprise-level wired routers and switches. Moreover, these devices often provide a command line interface where you can enter Linux commands to configure IP, routes, interfaces and security, as well as perform advanced tasks such as scripting, automation and integration with other technologies.

Even if your network device doesn't run Linux, it probably runs a

flavor of UNIX. Since Linux is simply an open-source UNIX operating system, many of the same administration skills apply. For example, the commonly used Cisco brand of wired routers and switches typically use a UNIX operating system called Cisco IOS, which is why most Cisco IOS commands bear great resemblance to the equivalent commands in Linux.

4. Open-Source Technologies

The business world is more competitive than ever before, and companies are looking to minimize software costs while maximizing software benefits. Open-source software has no up-front costs and offers greater control, flexibility, reliability and longevity compared to closed-source software. As a result, companies of all sizes are investing more heavily in open-source software today than ever before.

There are open-source alternatives for nearly all closed-source products on the market today, including web content management systems (CMS), customer relationship management (CRM) systems, help desk ticketing systems and even creative software suites. For smaller companies and startups, these open-source alternatives are often the only cost-effective solution. Furthermore, many open-source alternatives are available only for Linux, or contain mainstream support only on the Linux platform, which isn't surprising considering that Linux is also open source and has no additional licensing costs.

5. Android and Embedded Technologies

By 2016, more than 9 out of 10 smartphones in the world ran Google Android, which is simply a Linux operating system that

2. Cybersecurity

Because it is open source, the Linux operating system can be customized quickly and easily. As a result, cybersecurity and Linux go hand in hand.

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Nearly all security appliances that you see within organizations today run Linux, including next-generation firewalls (NGFWs), which filter traffic entering and leaving your organization for malware, spam, intrusion attempts and attacks, and security information and event management (SIEM) appliances, which are designed to centrally monitor the security of other systems and network devices within your organization to detect vulnerabilities and malicious activity.

Moreover, most hacking utilities are Linux apps. If you perform penetration testing to audit the security of your organization or other organizations, you'll likely be using a large suite of apps running on a Linux distribution that is geared for hacking.

3. Networking and IT Infrastructure

Just as most security appliances run Linux, so do most



contains an Android framework on top. But because it's freely available, Android isn't limited to just smartphones — tablets, smart appliances, GPS devices, car navigation systems and hundreds of other embedded technologies, or internet of things (IoT) devices, use a modified Android operating system.

While manufacturers can install Android on their IoT devices, they can instead choose to create a custom, streamlined Linux system for the device itself, since Linux is a free and open-source operating system. Consequently, IDC reported that more than 80 percent of all IoT devices in 2017 ran a custom Linux system. Thus, if your organization creates or uses Android-based mobile technologies, embedded technologies or IoT devices, you'll likely be supporting the Linux operating system.

6. High-Performance Computing (HPC)

Many organizations today deploy high-performance computing clusters (also called supercomputers) to perform tasks such as scientific modeling, rapid prototyping, 3-D graphic rendering, statistical analysis and more. As of November 2017, TOP500 reported that all 500 of the world's fastest supercomputers are running Linux. This isn't surprising, especially since most supercomputer development over the past 20 years has focused primarily on Linux. As a result, if your organization deploys HPC, it is likely going to use a supercomputer framework that runs on the Linux operating system.

Of course, the proliferation of Linux technologies isn't new — it's been happening steadily over the past two decades. Even Scott Adams reflected on this trend more than a decade ago in one of his Dilbert web comics.

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4 Reasons to Use Social Media in Your Job Search

Using social media is a great way to boost your job search. Taking advantage of social media sites can help you get your name out there and find the job you're looking for.

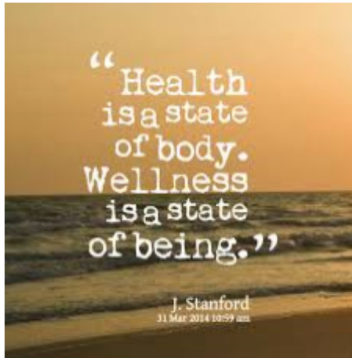
Here are four (4) reasons to use social media in your job search:

1.You Can Become an Expert

Demonstrating a deeper knowledge about the industry you're in — or would like to be in — through blogging builds your credibility,

GIT Wellness Corner

Eating Well



In today's fast-paced world, eating properly and maintaining an exercise regimen can seem like luxuries rather than necessities. However, in the long run, taking the time to eat well-balanced meals and working out increases productivity and can help your company's bottom line. Since health care costs eventually come back to the employer — it's estimated that about \$130 billion a year in health care costs are related to overweight and inactivity — it really makes good business sense to embrace healthy habits.

Career Guidance Column



I stumble over a certain question in the interview that a lot of people do. Tell me your thoughts when I am asked why they should hire me?

- Henry Vonmeyt

Indeed, you are not alone. Foremost, talk how you are a good fit for the company - your personality and work ethic. Also, stress what you have to offer the employer, not how nice it would be to work there or what you want from them. Remember, your skillset got you the interview, YOU will get the job.

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says Lisa Parkin, CEO of social media consultancy Social Climber. “Whether it’s on a personal website or on a dedicated blog about the industry they’re seeking employment in, job hunters can show potential employers their knowledge and skill sets by writing about a news event or relevant topic once or twice a week.”

2.It Shows You’re Not Afraid of Technology

You don’t have to be an expert, but having a social media presence shows you care about your professional reputation and you’re comfortable using technology, says Brie Weiler Reynolds, director of online content at FlexJobs.

Pinterest is a good site to try something innovative with your job search, she says. “Create a board for your resume where you pin pictures of your work experience and education such as pictures of the college you attended, the companies you’ve worked for, and so on. Pinterest is especially interesting because it helps you create a visual out of your resume, which is traditionally a text document.”

3.You Can Blog Your Way to a Job

Commenting on the issues in your industry or field or work can itself be a path to a new job. Michelle Bramer, marketing and PR manager for online advertising firm eZanga.com, says blogs are an excellent resource for job candidates looking for new opportunities. And linking back to your blog while posting on other sites can lead recruiters right to your virtual door.

4.You Can Learn About a Company’s Culture

Social media can go both ways — you can tell hiring managers about yourself, but you can also use it to learn about companies you’re interested in. Following a company on social media can give you an inside look into its culture, clients, and work says Lauren Maiman, owner of the Midnight Oil Group. “Use that info to your advantage when it comes to cover letter or interview,” she says. “Use this insight to make sure you mesh with and want to be a part of their team. If you’re connecting in a meaningful way with them on social media, by the time you get to the interview,

Technical Advice



“Marcia, how do you think scientific and technological breakthroughs can be accelerated to improve the human condition?”

The continued acceleration of S&T is fundamentally changing what is possible, and access to the S&T knowledge that is changing the prospects for the future is becoming universal. Free online university courses proliferate; open source hardware and software are sharing the means of production. And the ability to learn this knowledge is also improving with. We need a global collective intelligence system to track S&T advances, forecast consequences, and document a range of views so that everyone can understand the potential benefits, and even some consequences, of new S&T.

Microsoft Office Skills for Resumes

By Alison Doyle
Updated January 2017



Employers across many industries and fields expect job seekers to have Microsoft Office skills. It's probably the most universally utilized software in businesses around the globe. You may not need to be an expert in MS Office, but it will help your job prospects to at least be acquainted with the basics, and to be considered for most roles. If you're applying for an administrative position, you should be well versed in using Office programs for your daily tasks.

In this case, your hiring manager will no doubt expect a high level of proficiency. For other jobs — even high level positions, literacy in at least Microsoft Word is typically expected.

MS Office includes ten different desktop applications, and the most common are Excel for spreadsheets, Outlook for e-mail, PowerPoint for visual presentations, and Word for desktop publishing.

Most Important Microsoft Office Skills for the Most Common Desktop Applications

Top MS Excel Skills

- Pivot Tables
- Fill Function
- Formatting

Top MS Word Skills

- Formatting & Page Setup
- Smart Art and Text Boxes

Top MS PowerPoint Skills

- Animation & Transitions
- Custom Slides & Templates
- Formatting

Work with MS Office can be fun and rewarding. Microsoft Office will come in handy in just about any role, but especially a workplace environment where administrative tasks will be valued.

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