



Learn in 30

Transitioning from Windows end-of-life to Linux: [almost] a slam dunk!

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The problem

- Toshiba Satellite L55 laptop
 - Core i5 with 2 cores @ 2.20 GH, 8 GB RAM, 1 TB HDD
 - purchased November 2015
 - running Windows 10 Pro
- Decently configured, a solid system, sometimes sluggish
- *Not* my workhorse system
- Windows 10 Pro, reached support end-of-life, October 2025
- Microsoft offered free Extended Security Updates program, but system didn't qualify

Possible solutions?

- Keep running what I've got — take no remedial action
 - Too risky!
- Buy into MS ESU program
 - \$30, not guaranteed for more than one year
- Buy new laptop
- Install ChromeOS Flex
- Install Linux

So what is Linux anyway?

- Free open-source operating system
- Created by Linus Torvalds in 1991
- Originally an educational project
- Alternative to proprietary OS such as Windows and MacOS
- Embraced by hobbyists and eventually large enterprises
- Noted for security, stability, efficiency
- Powers most of the Internet, supercomputers, Android devices, smart TVs

Linux distributions

- Different “flavors”, also known as “distros”
- What’s the same
 - Linux kernel
- What varies
 - Lightweight versus heavyweight
 - Areas of specialization
 - System administrative interface
 - Included tools and applications
 - Desktop environment
- Many popular distros
 - RedHat, Fedora, Ubuntu, CentOS, SUSE, Debian, Arch, Mint, ...
 - Test drive via “live CD” or in web browser www.distrosea.com

Tom's choice: Linux Mint + Cinnamon

- Prior experience after Windows 7 end-of-life
- Simpler learning curve for Windows refugees
 - Windows 7-like layout
 - Zero terminal use
- All updates handled in background
- No telemetry, no ads, no crapware, no AI
- Annual Long Term Support (LTS) releases — 5 years!



Time for proof-of-concept

- Download Mint/Cinnamon
<https://linuxmint.com/download.php>
- Create bootable DVD
- Boot a “live” session to confirm viability
 - ~9 minutes after splash screen, “kernel panic”
 - Same result on old desktop system
 - Using Rufus, built bootable USB flash drive
 - System now boots okay, but doesn’t see any wi-fi networks
- Insert TPLink USB wi-fi adapter, networks now recognized (but need permanent fix)
- Zoom works, including mic and cam
- Plugged in Ethernet cable and LAN recognized
- Settings | Driver Manager sees Broadcom wi-fi as not working
 - Clicked radio button to install driver — wi-fi now working
- System recognized Brother laser printer and HP deskjet printer
- Can access files on C::\ (existing Windows main drive)
- Web browser works

Satisfied that this will work!

Ready to go live

- Want to create dual-boot environment with Windows
- Boot the flash drive, then click to “install”
- *Quite similar to Windows initial setup*
- Select language
- Select keyboard
- Install multimedia codecs [Be patient!]
- Install alongside Windows Boot Manager
- Select disk drive | allocate drive space
- Allow changes to be written
- Where are you? [timezone]
- Who are you? [username, computer name, password]
- Copying files...
- Restart to run persistent installation

Success, now more setup!

- Both printers found automatically
- Welcome splash screen | First steps
- Desktop colors [boring, but look for “Cinnamon Spices”]
- System snapshots [creates restore points]
- Update Manager — security updates, system updates, system snapshot
- Driver Manager [had to install Broadcom driver for wi-fi]
- System settings – Firewall [need to research]
- Take a breather — now have enough to use for class

Meeting my software needs

- Notion — no app, use web browser
- Zoom — Software Manager didn't show anything for Zoom.
Launched Zoom in Firefox, got offer for Zoom Workplace app
- System Monitor — similar to Windows Task Manager for performance monitoring
- Windows key launches equivalent of Start menu
- Workspaces (like virtual desktops)
 - Ctrl-upArrow to see all
 - Ctrl+leftArrow or Ctl-rightArros to select
- How to connect to projector
- When dual booting, system clock gets confused
 - `timedataclr set-local-rtc 1 --adjust-system-clock`
- If frequently dual-booting, use hibernate instead of sleep/suspend
- Email: Thunderbird or Mailspring
- Nemo file manager — similar to File Explorer or Finder
- Grsync — to sync between local file system and flash drive
- Was able to set PIN entry instead of password for initial login
 - But if screen timeout reached, must use password instead
- Wanted samba to easily share files with primary Windows desktop — complex?
 - Currently using localSend, which also syncs to Android and iOS
- Wanted numlock automatically active.
 - Install and configure `numlockx`

Microsoft Office interoperability

- May need MS fonts — `ttf-ms-core-fonts-installer`
- Use web-based versions of Word – Excel – PowerPoint
 - Supported by advertising or use MS 365 subscription
- Use Google Workspace Docs – Sheets – Slides
- Use LibreOffice Writer – Calc – Impress
- Other office suites available
- None are 100% compatible with Windows desktop applications

Another option?

Zorin OS

**Make your computer
easier.**

Zorin OS is the alternative to Windows and macOS designed to make your computer faster, more powerful, secure, and privacy-respecting.

Be brave, not perfect!

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