

To get/use Linux:

- 1) Surf to distrowatch.com.
- 2) Choose a Linux “distribution” from the list on the right – stick with the top 5 or 10 if you are new to Linux.
- 3) Download the “distribution” you want to try to your desktop or some other directory. (700-4000MB – may take a while)
- 4) Burn that file as an “ISO/image” to a CD or DVD using your favorite burner.

A good burning app:

<http://isorecorder.alexfeinman.com/>

4b) Back up all valuables from current OS (Windows, etc.)

5) After you have any old files backed up and are ready to install Linux just put the burned disk in and reboot. Follow the prompts. Don't worry – you can keep re-installing until you get it right if necessary.

Cool Free / Open Source Applications

openoffice.org (office suite), [firefox](http://firefox.com) (browser), [thunderbird](http://thunderbird.com) (email)

neo-office – openoffice for mac (Currently version 2.2.9)

gimp.org (like Photoshop)

scribus.net (Desktop publishing)

[blender3d](http://blender3d.com) (3D)

mediacoder.sourceforge.net (converts video so you can use it on the web)

audacity.org (Audio editing / podcasting tool)

videolan.org (VLC media player)

[truecrypt](http://truecrypt.com)

sage plug-in for firefox (RSS)