

GETTING STARTED WITH "LINUX MINT"

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TOPICS

- Options for Running "Linux Mint"
- "Desktop Environment" Usage Percentages of "Linux Mint"
- Disk Formats in "Linux Mint"

OPTIONS FOR RUNNING LINUX

- Option 1:
Obtain computer with Linux already installed in it, power it up, and answer a few questions
- Option 2:
Install Linux into an existing Windows.. computer so that it dual boots when powered up and lets you select between Linux and Windows..

OPTIONS FOR RUNNING LINUX

- Option 3:
Use an external solid state drive or external hard drive to non-destructively boot up Linux in an existing Windows.. computer

OPTION 1: OBTAIN A COMPUTER WITH LINUX ALREADY INSTALLED IN IT

Three U.S.-based sellers of desktop computers with "Linux Mint" already installed in them:

- ❑ <https://currentbuild.com/>
- ❑ <https://thinkpenguin.com/catalog/desktop-computers-gnu-linux>
- ❑ <https://pc.eightvirtues.com/step-1-base-system-am4/>

"DESKTOP ENVIRONMENT" USAGE PERCENTAGES OF "LINUX MINT"

Linux Mint Desktop Environments Breakdown

- **Cinnamon**

- **Share:** ~70%–80% (Flagship edition)
- **Details:** The primary, default flagship interface developed specifically for Linux Mint. It offers a modern, feature-rich, and traditional Windows-like layout that draws the vast majority of new and migrating users.  Facebook · Linux Fans ... +3

- **MATE**

- **Share:** ~10%–15%
- **Details:** A traditional continuation of the classic GNOME 2 architecture. It is chosen by users who prefer a classic, highly reliable desktop metaphor with a lighter system resource footprint.  Eylenburg +1

- **Xfce**

- **Share:** ~10%–15%
- **Details:** A lightweight desktop environment engineered for speed and minimal resource consumption. It is favored primarily by users running Linux Mint on older, lower-spec, or legacy hardware.  commandlinux.com +4

"DISK FORMATS" IN "LINUX MINT"

Default Disk Layout in Linux Mint 1 2



When installing Linux Mint, the default disk layout typically includes several partitions designed to optimize system functionality and security. Here's an overview of the default setup:

1. **EFI System Partition (ESP):** This is a small partition (usually around 512 MB) formatted with the FAT32 file system and mounted at `/boot/efi`. It is essential for systems using UEFI firmware, as it stores bootloader files required to boot the operating system.
2. **Boot Partition:** A separate partition (around 1-2 GB) formatted with the EXT4 file system and mounted at `/boot`. This partition contains the Linux kernel and other boot-related files. It is kept separate to ensure the kernel remains accessible even if the main partition is encrypted.
3. **LVM Partition:** The remaining disk space is often allocated to a Logical Volume Manager (LVM) partition. Within this LVM, two logical volumes are created: Root (/): This is the main partition where the operating system, applications, and user data reside. It is formatted with EXT4 and typically takes up most of the disk space. Swap: A small partition (usually 1-2 GB) used as virtual memory when the system runs out of physical RAM.
4. **Encryption (Optional):** During installation, Linux Mint offers the option to encrypt the entire disk using LUKS (Linux Unified Key Setup). If enabled, the LVM partition is encrypted, adding a layer of security to your data.

"NTFS DISK FORMATS" IN "LINUX MINT"

How NTFS Works on Linux

- **Reading and Writing:** Modern Linux kernels include a built-in driver (`ntfs3`) and use tools like `ntfs-3g` to let you open, edit, and save files on NTFS drives.  Reddit
- **Sharing Files:** It is great for external hard drives or dual-boot setups where you need to read the same files on both Windows and Linux.  Reddit · r/linux4noobs +1

Limitations and Drawbacks

- **No Linux Permissions:** NTFS does not understand Linux file permissions or executable flags, meaning you cannot run native Linux apps, make scripts executable, or install a Linux system directly onto an NTFS partition.  Reddit · r/linux4noobs
- **Performance:** While much faster than it used to be, write speeds and operations can still lag behind native Linux formats like `ext4` .  Reddit · r/linux4noobs +1
- **Windows Fast Startup:** If Windows has "Fast Startup" turned on, it locks the NTFS drive in a semi-hibernated state. Linux will mount it as "read-only" to prevent data corruption.  Reddit · r/linux4noobs +2