

Leaving Windows 7? Here are some non-Windows options.

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Created *13/08/2019 - 4:25pm*

Submitted by Roy Schestowitz on Tuesday 13th of August 2019 04:25:55 PM Filed under [GNU](#) [1] [Linux](#) [2] [Microsoft](#) [3]



Then there's my own favorite: the Linux desktop. But while I love it, I'm well aware of the Linux desktop's many problems.

But recently the Linux community looks to be finally getting its act together. So now might be a good time to kick Linux's tires.

Personally, when it comes to the many distros, I favor Linux Mint. It's good, secure and fast. It also has the advantage, from your perspective, of looking a good deal like Windows 7. That makes switching over to it easier than you might expect.

But if you need corporate support, you'll be better off with Red Hat Enterprise Linux Workstation or Canonical's Ubuntu for desktop. You can, by the by, use Linux desktops with your existing Active Directory domains if that's what's stopping you from considering Linux.

Which is best for you? Only you can answer that question. What I can say, though, is that these days you don't have to just grit your teeth and shift over to the next version of Windows. Thanks in large part to the move to a SaaS model for

nearly all applications, you have real desktop OS choices.

[4]

[GNU Linux Microsoft](#)

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[3] <http://www.tuxmachines.org/taxonomy/term/62>

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