

Why Linux Isn't a Desktop Alternative

By *Rianne Schestowitz*

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The year of the Linux desktop has become a joke, referred to ironically when mentioned at all. Under the circumstances Linus Torvalds showed either courage or naivete when he admitted last week at Linuxcon that he still wants to see Linux become popular on the desktop.

However, neither Torvalds nor anyone else should stay up nights waiting for the event. Most users have no awareness of the possibility, or set impossible standards for it, even though, for a minority, the year of the Linux desktop happened years ago.

The problem is not a technical one, as it was in Linux's earliest days. Linux desktops like KDE's Plasma or Linux Mint's Cinnamon are not only the equal of any proprietary desktop, but in many ways more advanced.

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