

The Linux Advantage

Join the Linux revolution.

Over the past decade, Linux® has evolved into a formidable player in today's IT world. Steadily, it has emerged as a system of choice for many e-business and core business applications – trusted by companies around the globe. In fact, businesses of all sizes and industries have embraced Linux for its reliability, modifiability, scalability and high availability, and value its strength as a high-performance, low-cost alternative to current platforms.

ACCPAC Advantage Series™ is one of the first mid-market accounting applications to support deployment on both Linux servers and Linux desktops. Companies considering Linux as a high-performance server or a cost-effective workstation now have a full-function Linux-based accounting solution in ACCPAC Advantage Series.

ACCPAC® leverages the performance and reliability of Linux along with the proven capabilities of award-winning Advantage Series and IBM® DB2® Universal Database® – the end result is a business management application that performs equally well for both Microsoft® Windows® and Linux users.

Transitioning from Advantage Series on Windows to Advantage Series on Linux is easy because it provides an identical graphical user interface (GUI), the same functionality and the same user experience in either environment. Best of all, support for both the Windows and Linux operating systems on the desktop provides users a choice in selecting the right system for a particular job. For companies with an eye on their budget, Linux is a low-cost alternative to more expensive systems touting a variety of costly and perhaps unnecessary embellishments.

Open Standards Open the Market

Created by a community of developers in the early 1990s as a robust software platform for research, engineering, scientific and academic computing, Linux is a freely distributed, multiuser operating system that can run on a wide range of platforms.

Over time, Linux has grown into an enterprise-class operating system that offers the benefits of the UNIX® platform, but in a highly cost-effective manner. Linux has been embraced by organizations of all sizes as a highly scalable, secure and economical platform upon which to deploy mission-critical applications.

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Ultimately, businesses that make open standards a priority avoid “vendor-lock”, and are better able to respond to technological shifts. They can build systems capable of integrating mixed components for substantially greater efficiency, scalability and connectivity to partners, suppliers, customers and others. Businesses that do not act on open standards today may be faced with fewer choices and higher costs tomorrow.

Linux’s open source architecture (and the community of thousands who stand behind Linux development) makes it extremely stable, modifiable, versatile and flexible. By nature, open source software is continually inspected, customized, re-used and distributed by a global community of developers committed to enhancing and adapting it to fit ever-changing market demands. With an open source architecture, Linux helps companies expand business and reduce total cost of ownership (TCO) associated with managing their technology because both up-front and annual service/support costs are typically low.

For application deployment, Linux provides the flexibility and adaptability that give companies better control of their technology investment over time. Best of all, applications can be deployed on a wide range of Linux platforms. As a result, Linux is an excellent choice for business management applications that demand a system hefty enough to handle critical data integrity and security requirements.

Expanded Solutions Add Value

Commercial software companies called Linux distributors assemble the Linux kernel and other elements of the Linux operating system from the community, ensure that all of the software’s collected components work together properly, bundle additional value-added products and services into the solution and sell it as a licensed product. A Linux distribution typically includes the operating system and tools to install it and set up the user interface, and can also accommodate varying levels of customization and pricing. Advantage Series supports many commercial Linux distributions on today’s market.

Many premier companies offer servers and workstations pre-loaded with Linux software, making acquiring and using the software easier for businesses attracted to Linux’s affordability, reliability, ease of customization and low maintenance costs. Moreover, because of its ability to handle massive volumes of network traffic, Linux (and its components, such as the Apache™ Web server) is quickly becoming a familiar platform for Web serving, and is used by most major Web retailers and Web search engines.

In addition, many industry-leading software and hardware companies have demonstrated their commitment to Linux by creating products that ease the migration to Linux. Partnerships such as UnitedLinux have also emerged to lend their expertise in developing and deploying quality Linux offerings.

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The DB2 Advantage

Because Advantage Series for Linux manages some of the most critical business information in an organization, it relies on the enterprise strength of IBM DB2 Universal Database. DB2 provides valuable stability, flexibility and manageability, and with IBM's commitment to Linux, DB2 is a clear choice for companies seeking to optimize their Linux investment.

A high-powered, multimedia Web-ready relational database management system, DB2 is widely used in the server software market and is well-suited for developing and deploying critical business solutions. It easily scales to support exponentially greater numbers of customers across local, regional and global geographies, making it a practical answer for companies seeking a long-term enterprise solution. Moreover, DB2 advances the speed and ease of migration, development and management.

DB2 is easy to administer and delivers essential high availability, complementing the strength and dependability of the Linux platform. With a robust foundation, DB2 offers mission-critical reliability and solid performance with one of the lowest TCOs of any other database on today's market.

Linux Makes Good Business Sense

Linux and the open source movement in general are reshaping the technology landscape at a dizzying rate. Open standards let businesses leverage the applications and platforms that best satisfy their particular requirements. Companies can modify their Linux solution to satisfy future business needs, maximizing their return on investment.

One of the first mid-market accounting solutions that leverages Linux on both the desktop and the server, Advantage Series is helping fuel companies around the globe. Together, Linux and Advantage Series represent an ideal answer for companies considering a reliable, customizable business management system.

It's Your Choice ... Choose Wisely

Backed by a dedicated, highly disciplined community of software specialists, Linux provides forward-thinking companies a fresh approach to enterprise computing. ACCPAC invites you to join the Linux revolution and experience what so many businesses already have – powerful financial management expertise on your own terms.

To learn more about Linux-based solutions from ACCPAC, e-mail linux@accpac.com or visit www.accpac.com.

Linux is the fastest growing server operating system, installed on one out of every four servers worldwide.¹

Linux client operating environment (COE) shipments grew 107% in 2001, more than 4 times the growth in 2000.²

Linux spending is expected to increase at a 29.3% compound annual growth rate (CAGR) over the next five years.²

57.1% of Linux users use Linux to run a "major application."³

Linux was one of the more fortunate players during the 2001 economic downturn; Linux unit shipments were up in 2001 compared with 2000.²

Both the Linux COE and server operating environment (SOE) market segments will experience strong continued growth.²

Source

¹IDC, "Server Operating Environments Market Forecast & Analysis", January 2001

²IDC, "Worldwide Linux Operating Environments Forecast, 2002-2006: Client Shipments Pick up the Pace", February 2002

³IDC, "Linux: A Journey into the Enterprise", March 2001



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