

(FOSS = Free/OpenSource Softwares)

- *Isn't Free/OpenSource software choice is very limited ?*

1. On Google, a "Free Software" search returns 104 million references while " [proprietary software](#) " (its opposite) only returns 2 million links.

2. When installing a [Ubuntu Linux distribution](#) (as example), ~25 000 different, selected softwares are included, freely available from the Ubuntu network servers, free of charge. And some famous are not even in this subset: GoogleEarth, Skype, Webmin, ... are not in this "short" list, but are however available for Linux, freely, from their respective web sites.

3. A single [collaborative software development site](#) ([SourceForge.net](#)) hosts about **2 millions volunteers software developers working on 180 000 different projects** (as of August 2008)

The amount of Free/OpenSource softwares is 1000+ times more that what might offer any proprietary software vendor catalog.

- *When I go to my computer shop/supermarket, I never see a FreeSoftware offer, or a computer pre-installed with Linux. Why ?*

1. Every computer shop knows very well about the Free/OpenSource software offer, and the advantages of this kind of softwares. As example, they know that there is (about) no viruses on free operating systems, and that a free office suite (such as [OpenOffice](#)) offers all what might be wished by their customers, including some features not available on proprietary solutions. If they don't tell you about those solutions, it's because they prefer to

sell you expensive

unreliable solutions that require

expensive maintenance

(such as antivirus software) and

expensive service

(such as re-installation of the corrupted operating system) instead of

giving you

the web address of a free software download site.

2. If a computer shop employee doesn't know anything about free softwares or Linux, do you trust him as competent for giving you technical advices ?

3. Computer manufacturers are forced to pre-install W*****\$ OS on PCs in Europe. The situation is very different in other continents:

- In North-america, [Wallmart sells Linux-based PCs since 2003](#) , with great success.

- In South-america, [governements are widely supporting the adoption of free/OpenSource softwares in administrations](#) and schools.

Free/OpenSource software choice

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- In Asia, [since 2003, governments of Seoul, Benjin and Tokio created AsiaLinux](#) , a flavour of Linux for Asia. Chinese administration runs since then on Linux and Free Softwares
- In Africa, governments and the local computer software industry is leading the Linux revolution, behind the South-African company providing [Ubuntu distribution](#) .
- In Europe, despite numerous condemnations for illegal bundled sales, the freedom of choice is still banned by some political authorities. See " [Dossier ventes conjointes forcées](#) " for details.

Using Free/OpenSource softwares and Linux is your right and good for you. It doesn't look good for some proprietary software vendors and your freedom of choice is harmed by them, with complicity of some political authorities.

Join us and fight with us for your freedom of using Free/OpenSource softwares !

4. *When I browse the Internet, I always see Windows/Mac versions available for download. Where are the Linux versions ?*

1. If you follow links to softwares or services pre-installed on your computer by the operating system vendor, it directs you systematically to commercial offers linked with this OS provider. Those offers are generally not free softwares neither free services. Good software or service providers, giving good value for your money, generally do not pay for this kind of advertisements, so you should join a user group (such as LiLux) to gather good advices and references of good software and services.

2. A company selling [proprietary software](#) , often, releases only versions for proprietary operating systems. So, if you are looking for a good e-mail client on Linux, don't look for the one you were using on another OS if it was a proprietary software. But equivalent free softwares are generally numerous and have more and better features, so you should just be informed about the most appropriated software matching your need. LiLux user group is a perfect place for that.

3. Free/OpenSource softwares are generally available for Linux platform and maybe others, while proprietary softwares are sometimes only available for some proprietary systems. If you want to enjoy free softwares, by switching to Linux operating system, you might lose access to some proprietary/commercial/expensive softwares, but at the same time, you open your choice to hundred of thousands of free softwares.

4. Some softwares (as example, [FirewallBuilder](#)) are available as Free/OpenSource Softwares (**and at no charge**) for their Linux version, while **sold**

under proprietary licenses when running on non free operating systems. So, by switching to a free operating system, you not only increase your software choice, but you also enjoy some softwares for free (*gratis*

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5. If you go on download sites, they automatically detect the operating system you are using, so they propose you by default the installation file matching your current system, and even in the default language of your web browser. The same page, visited from a Linux-running host, would show you the right version for Linux, most of the time. Example:



Skype download page from MacOSX running computer



Same page viewed from a Linux running computer