

**Consumer
choice for O/S
in 2026**

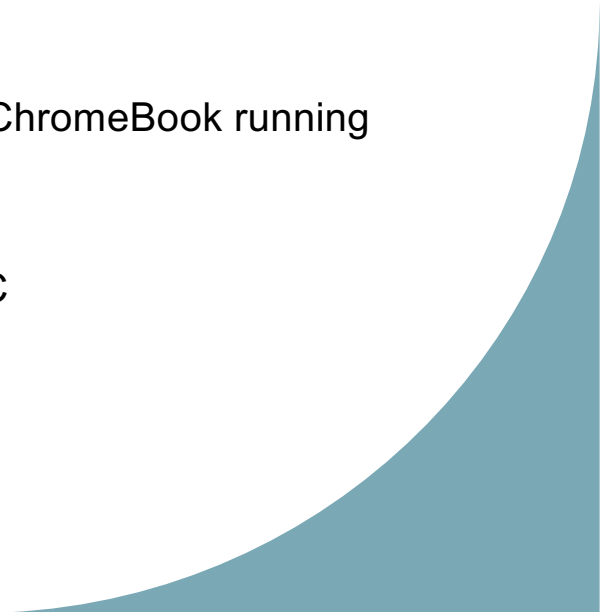


Choice of O/S

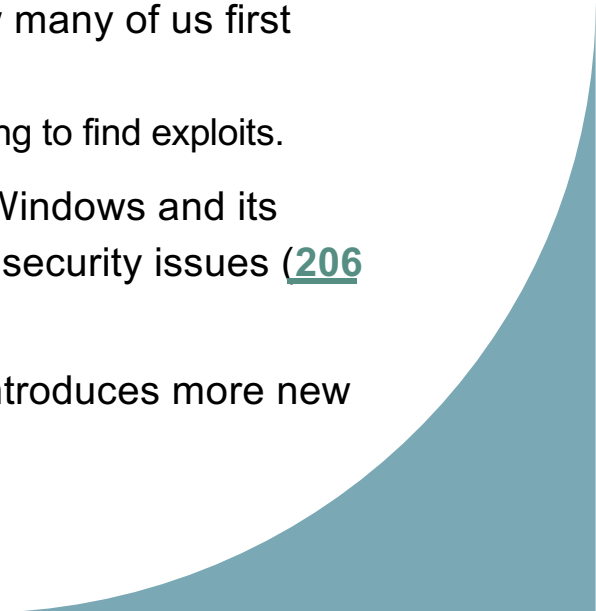
- Microsoft Windows
- Apple MacOS
- LINUX (various)

- If you don't want to run app locally on your computer then you can use a ChromeBook running **ChromeOS**
- **BUT** Google will replace ChromeOS soon with a version of Android for PC

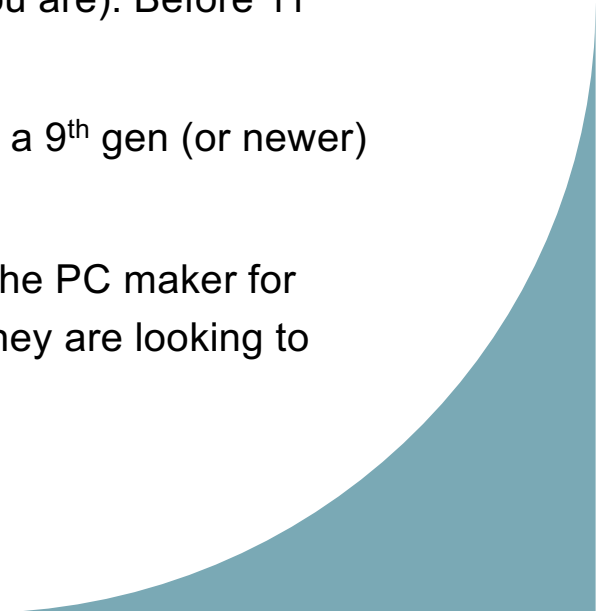
- There are a few more but they are not really aimed at home users like us



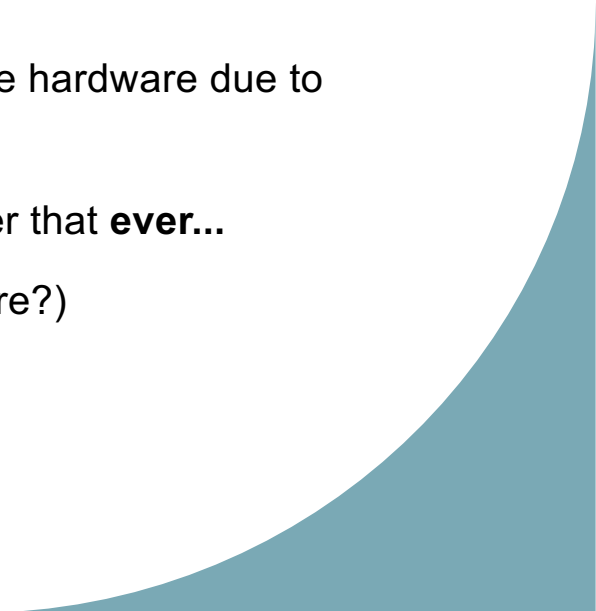
Microsoft Windows

- You have all been using Windows for many years now
 - Windows runs on a HUGE number of different PCs made by lots of different companies and even by home computer enthusiasts that build their own(!) This has been one of Windows big plus points for many many years...
 - Windows completely dominates the Business marketplace and that is how many of us first came to use it.
 - This is also why Windows has historically been the prime target for hackers trying to find exploits.
 - It appears (sadly) that in recent years MS has become less “focused” on Windows and its “quality” has taken a hit. This has meant more bugs & bug fixes and more security issues ([206 serious security fixes in June 2026 update](#))
 - Patch Tuesday every month tries to address these issues but frequently introduces more new issues of its own
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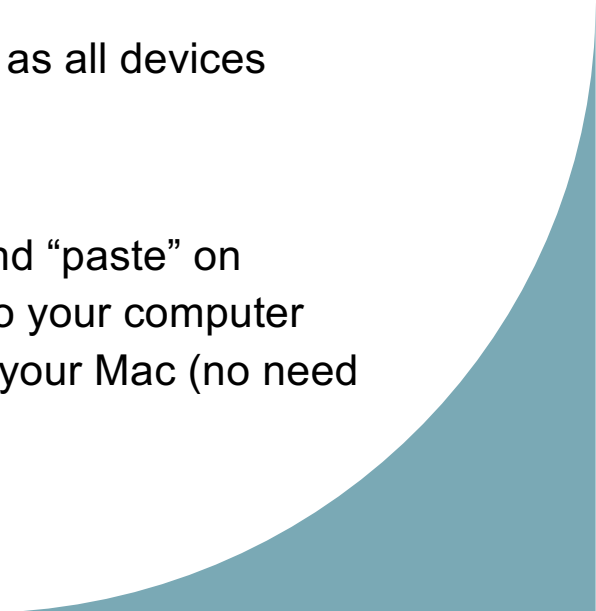
Microsoft Windows (cont'd)

- Windows has also become less and less “private” in the amount of data that Microsoft collects from your PC and the amount of unwanted Ads you are presented with
 - Windows 11 forces you to have a Microsoft account (so MS knows who you are). Before 11 that was optional
 - “Wintel” and the requirements to run Windows 11 – a T2 security chip **and** a 9th gen (or newer) CPU (unofficially you also need a solid state disk, not a spinning disk).
 - Microsoft has always charged a license fee for Windows (usually paid by the PC maker for home use) and MS is looking at ways to get more money for Windows – they are looking to see if a subscription model can work for Windows 12
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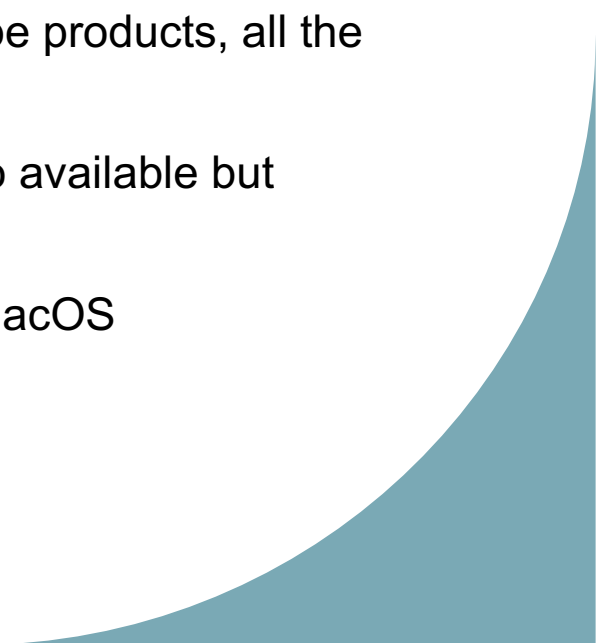
Windows (cont'd)

- Despite the minimum requirements to run Windows 11 you can run Windows 11 on **very** cheap “hardware”
 - This makes it a popular choice for people on a budget
 - Cheaper hardware usually means it will not last as long as more expensive hardware due to the cheaper components being used.
 - Windows 10 goes end of life (EOL) this October – no security patches after that **ever...**
 - If you are a serious gamer, Windows is still the prime platform (anyone here?)
 - Windows 11 has a significant footprint on your disk
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MacOS

- Only runs on Apple hardware which has traditionally been more expensive
 - except for Mac Mini and, more recently, Macbook Neo.
 - MacOS is more carefully developed (so more reliable), much more privacy-respecting and much more secure than Windows.
 - Very easy to use an Apple computer if you have an iPhone or an iPad as all devices have the same Apple apps and icons
 - You can even install and run iPhone apps on your Mac
 - All Apple devices are closely integrated e.g. you can “copy” on Mac and “paste” on iPhone (and vice-versa), start a call on iPhone and then “hand-over” to your computer (both voice and video), you can completely operate your iPhone from your Mac (no need to have the iPhone in the same room), etc.
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MacOS (cont'd)

- All Microsoft Office applications run natively on MacOS computers and you can even use your existing Office license that you had for Windows (after Office 2019)
 - Most Windows apps are also available for MacOS e.g. all the Adobe products, all the Meta products (WhatsApp, Facebook, etc.), etc.
 - All the mainstream browsers (Chrome, Firefox, Edge, etc) are also available but Apple's own browser, Safari, is still a good one to use
 - Some niche commercial Windows apps may not be available for MacOS
 - Gaming is still an issue but becoming less and less so
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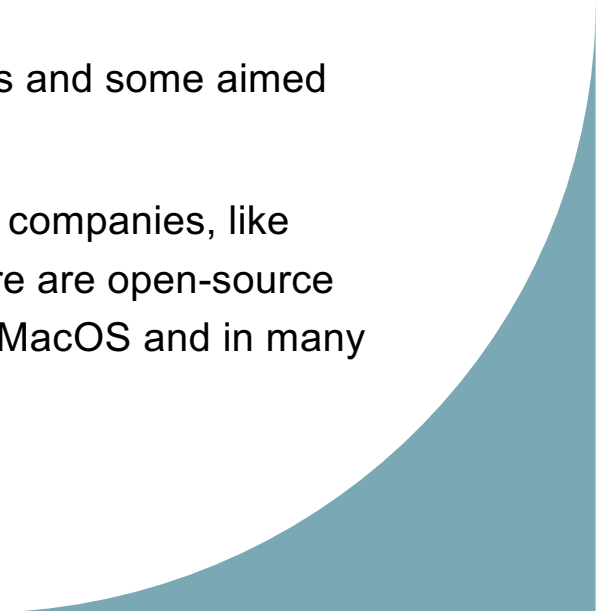
MacOS (cont'd)

- MacOS is “free” and is updated every September, again for “free”
 - Apple supports the latest O/S for 5 years after its release and Apple hardware support is available for 7 years from the year that the hardware was last sold by Apple
 - In the past, each O/S release also deprecated some hardware models (usually those more than 5 years old) however M1 Macs were released in 2020 but can still run MacOS 26 and may well run MacOS 27 so...
 - It is very easy to migrate all your data from Windows to MacOS
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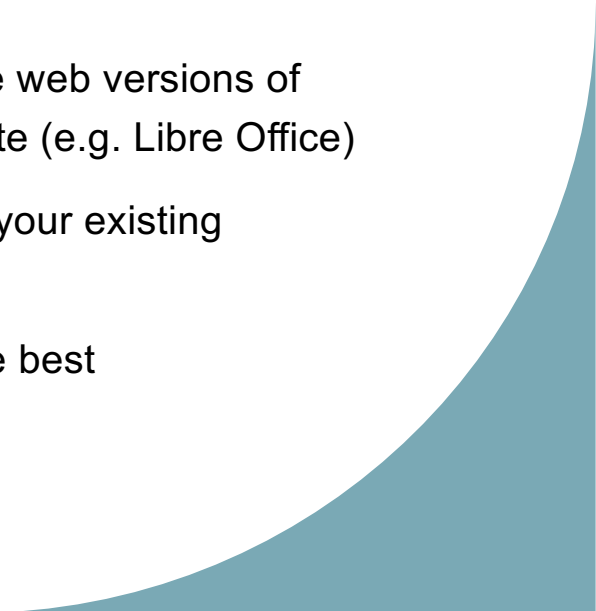
LINUX

- LINUX is completely free (paid versions are also available)
 - LINUX is the fastest, most stable, most secure and private computer O/S available today.
 - LINUX completely dominates the Internet – most servers in data centres are running LINUX
 - It has traditionally not been interested in being easy to use by mainstream consumers but MS decision to EOL Windows 10 and Apple's decision to stop supporting its Intel based products has really added momentum to changing that
 - perfectly good hardware that is unable to run Windows 11/MacOS is more than capable of running LINUX
 - LINUX requires fewer hardware resources to run (less memory, slower CPUs, less disk space, lower spec graphics) than Windows or MacOS
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LINUX (cont'd)

- It is not as easy to migrate from either Windows or MacOS to LINUX
 - There are a lot of different LINUX “distros” to choose from which can be baffling for anyone thinking to move from Windows or MacOS
 - That said, there are some notable distros that are aimed at Windows users and some aimed at MacOS users: Mint, Zorin and ElementaryOS are good examples
 - Because LINUX is free, there is not much market for commercial software companies, like MS, Adobe, et al, to make their products available on LINUX. Instead, there are open-source alternatives for nearly all commercial products available for Windows and MacOS and in many cases they are at least as good as their paid-for counterparts
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LINUX (cont'd)

- A lot of effort has been put into making it possible to run Windows games and apps on LINUX
 - If you only use your Windows/Mac PC for Email, Web and Office you can do everything you need to do on LINUX
 - Most of the popular browsers are available for LINUX and you can use the web versions of Microsoft Office for free if you don't want to use an open-source Office suite (e.g. Libre Office)
 - You can try out LINUX on your current hardware WITHOUT ANY RISK to your existing Windows installation and,
 - you can try out as many different distros as you want to see which you like best
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LINUX (cont'd)

- Demo time!

