

# Linux distributions without systemd

From Without Systemd

This article lists [Linux distributions](#) which :

1. have a default init system other than systemd
2. are open source (accessible source code available for the content of the distributed IMG or ISO)
3. are actively maintained and provide contact information of the developers
4. have a website and/or provide end user support via a well-established and maintained forum/maillinglist

## General purpose

### Independent

Name	Init	Package managers	amd64?	Desktops?	Details / Notes	Other ports
<a href="#">4MLinuxDW</a>	<a href="#">BusyBox</a>	?	no	JWM		i386, i686
<a href="#">Ad�lie Linux</a>	OpenRC	apk	yes	KDE, Xfce, Fluxbox, i3, IceWM, Openbox	uses musl libc, currently in beta stage	arm, arm64, x86, ppc, ppc64 (See <a href="https://www.adelielinux.org/about.html">https://www.adelielinux.org/about.html</a> for details)
<a href="#">Alpine LinuxDW</a>	BusyBox + OpenRC	apk (custom)	yes	?	uses <a href="#">BusyBox</a> + <a href="#">musl libc</a> + <a href="#">OpenRC</a>	i386, armhf
<a href="#">Bedrock Linux</a>	<a href="#">BusyBox</a> / any	any	?	?	Bedrock Linux can utilize any of a large number of init systems as provided by other distributions	?
<a href="#">CRUXDW</a>	SysV + /etc/rc.*	tar.xz based	yes	Openbox		arm
<a href="#">Cucumber LinuxDW</a>	SysV	from #Slackware	yes	Xfce	Kernel version 4.9 LTS, GNU Userspace utilities	i686
<a href="#">Dragora GNU/Linux LibreDW</a>	SysV + <a href="#">perp</a>	tar.xz based	yes	Xfce, IceWM, <a href="#">spectrwm</a>	Linux Libre distro	i586, amd64, arm(64), microblaze, mips, powerpc(64), s390x
<a href="#">Fatdog64 LinuxDW</a>	dumb-init	gslapt, SFS Loader	yes		(3)	<a href="#">FatDogArm</a> for Raspberry Pi2 and Odroid-XU3/XU4
<a href="#">GentooDW</a>	SysV + OpenRC[1]	Portage	yes	no	If Portage is pulling in systemd, please <a href="#">read this</a> . Further <a href="#">suggested reading</a> .	i486, i586, i686, alpha, arm, hppa, ia64, mips, powerpc, ppc64, sparc64

Name	Init	Package managers	amd64?	Desktops?	Details / Notes	Other ports
<a href="#">GoboLinuxDW</a>	SysV + <a href="#">BootScripts</a>	file system	yes	awesome	a source-based distribution which employs a unique file structure (not FHS)	no
<a href="#">GuixSDDW</a>	<a href="#">Shepherd</a> (pure <a href="#">Guile</a> )	<a href="#">GNU Guix</a>	yes	Xfce and GNOME	provides advanced package mgmt features such as transactional upgrades and roll-backs; <a href="#">FSF-approved</a>	i686
<a href="#">januslinux</a>	busybox + runit	npkg + prt-get	yes	XFCE, DWM, OpenBox, i3, Sway, TWM	Fast and compact Linux distribution which uses musl libc	aarch64, armv7h, armv6h, mips, mipsel
<a href="#">KaNaPi</a>	<a href="#">bash script</a>	file system	yes	XFCE and <a href="#">Sugar</a>	educational + game apps	armhf and i686
<a href="#">Milis Linux (Beta)</a>	SysV	MPS	?	?	created with LFS; has a few of its own tools	?
<a href="#">MisiProject</a>	SysV + <a href="#">OpenRC</a>	PISI	yes	MATE		armv7h
<a href="#">NuTyXDW</a>	SysV	cards	?	?	inspired by LFS & BLFS; its "cards" pkg mgr can install individual or grouped binary packages, and can compile source pkgs from "ports"	?
<a href="#">OviOS LinuxDW</a>	SysV	pacman	yes	?	(2) previously used systemd; was rebuilt around sysV init because systemd proved unsuitable for a stable storage system	no

Name	Init	Package managers	amd64?	Desktops?	Details / Notes	Other ports
<a href="#">PCLinuxOSDW</a>	SysV	APT+RPM	yes	MATE and KDE		no
<a href="#">Plop LinuxDW</a>	SysV		yes	?	(PXE/liveboot) designed to rescue data from a damaged system, or to backup and repair operating systems	armv6l and i486
<a href="#">Puppy LinuxDW</a>	SysV	Puppy Package Manager	yes	LXDE	<a href="#">Puppy Linux's position on systemd</a>	i386
<a href="#">SlackwareDW</a>	SysV + /etc/rc.d/rc.*	installpkg, pkgtool, slackpkg	yes	KDE and Xfce		i586, s390, <a href="#">arm</a>
<a href="#">Source Mage GNU/LinuxDW</a>	simple-init	Sorcery	yes	?	source based	i386, i486, i586, i686
<a href="#">Void LinuxDW</a>	<a href="#">runit</a>	xbps	yes	LXQt	supported libcs: glibc, musl	armv6, armv7, i686

Non general purpose:

- [RancherOSDW](#) a minimalist Linux distribution designed to host Docker containers. Supported architecture: amd64
- [TLD Linux](#) for server environments (no desktop support except for running VNC/RDP sessions for virtual machine management GUI) ; amd64 and i686

Unclear what init system they use:

Name	Init	Package mgmt	amd64?	Desktops?	Details / Notes	Other ports?
<a href="#">Tiny Core LinuxDW</a>	BusyBox	?	yes	FLTK/FLWM	; (also: "CorePlus") (also "piCore" edition, for Raspberry Pi)	i486
<a href="#">Sanity Linux</a>	BusyBox	<a href="#">pkgsrsc</a>	?	?	(formerly, "Pür Linux"), source-based, ports	?
<a href="#">LinuxConsoleDW</a>	?	?	yes	MATE and LXDE	tailored to gaming / educational use	i686

## Derivatives

- [CruxEX](#) (based on #CRUX) (2)(3) x86\_64 available only as a zip file, no iso; LXDE desktop
- [Uplos32](#) (2) (based on #PCLinuxOS) targets i386 machines; uses APT+RPM package mgmt

## Arch Linux based

Arch Linux's package manager is Pacman.

Name	Init	Details / Notes
<a href="#">Artix LinuxDW</a>	OpenRC/runit	eudev, replaces <a href="#">Arch-OpenRC</a> and <a href="#">Manjaro-OpenRC</a>
<a href="#">Hyperbola GNU/Linux-libre</a>	OpenRC	(2) pacman pkg manager; "LTS Arch snapshot versions"; amd64, i686. Switches to OpenBSD, last Linux based release supported until 2022
<a href="#">Obarun</a>	s6-rc	x86_64
<a href="#">Parabola nosystemd editionDW</a>	OpenRC / <a href="#">GNU+Shepherd</a>	[2],[3]; <a href="#">A part of the GNU project and FSF-approved</a> ; x86_64, armv7h, i686

## Debian based

Debian's package manager is dpkg and APT. See [DebianReleases](#).

Name	Debian version	Init	Details / Notes
<a href="#">antiX LinuxDW</a>	10 Buster	SysV or runit	flexible remastering and persistence tools. Multiple WMs: JWM+iceWM+fluxbox; amd64, i486
<a href="#">TrisquelDW</a>	9 Stretch > Ubuntu 16.04	<a href="#">upstart</a>	LXDE and MATE desktops; amd64 and i386
<a href="#">DevuanDW</a>	9 Stretch	SysV / OpenRC	XFCE desktop; supported architectures: amd64, i686, arm (see: <a href="#">/embedded</a> )
<a href="#">KNOPPIXDW</a>	merge of stable, testing and unstable	SysV	( <a href="#">video</a> : "Defying systemd") employs systemd-shim
<a href="#">MX LinuxDW</a>	10 Buster	SysV	(Mepis+antiX) XFCE desktop; includes antiX remastering n persistence tools; supported architectures: amd64, i386
<a href="#">GNUstep Live CDDW</a>	9 Stretch	SysV	<a href="#">GNUstep</a> using <a href="#">WindowMaker</a> ; amd64, i686

## Devuan based

Name	Init	Details / Notes
<a href="#">Exe GNU/LinuxDW</a>	SysV	features Trinity Desktop Environment; amd64, i686
<a href="#">Refracta</a>	OpenRC	(2) (3) amd64, i386; also: ( <a href="#">Refracta Devuan 2</a> ) Openbox, eudev

## Void Linux based

Name	Init	Details / Notes
<a href="#">Project Trident</a>	runit	was based on FreeBSD, switched to Void Linux base end of 2019

## Gentoo based

- [Calculate LinuxDW](#) OpenRC init; Cinnamon, KDE Plasma, LXQt, MATE, or Xfce (wiki spamfilter block to project site: [calculate-linux.org](http://calculate-linux.org))
- [Chromium OS](#) (2) upstart init ([boot-design doc](#))
- [Funtoo LinuxDW FAQ](#) (source-based; uses git-housed, distributed Portage tree and Funtoo overlay) OpenRC init; amd64, i486, i686, sparc64
  - [Slontoo](#) (based on Funtoo) OpenRC; XFCE 4.12, MATE 1.12
- [Redcore LinuxDW](#) OpenRC or SysV init; serves pre-built binary packages from repository;

openbox window manager

NOTE: additional Gentoo/\*BSD subprojects exist, providing ports to various BSD-derived operating systems. See: [Gentoo/Alt](#)

## Puppy Linux based

- [Legacy OSDWSF](#) (previous name: TEENpup) focused on supporting Pentium 3 and 4 (Sept2017 release ships Linux kernel v2.6.18)

Other pages listing more Puppy Linux derivatives: [\[4\]](#)[\[5\]](#)[\[6\]](#)

## Slackware based

- [Absolute LinuxDW](#) (based on Slackware64-current) IceWM+ROX; supported architectures: i686, amd64
- [Salix OSDW](#) i486, i686, amd64
  - [SlackelDW](#) (based on Slackware+salix) amd64, i486, i686
  - [Slint](#) (2) (3) (based on Slackware + Salix) accessible to visually impaired users (speech and braille device)
- [SARPi](#) (2) Slackware ARM on Raspberry Pi
- [SlaXBMC](#) (2)
- [ZenwalkDW](#) supported architectures: amd64, i486, i686

## Available without standard GNU tools

- [Alpine Linux](#)
- [EasyOS](#) (2)(3)(4) aufs layered filesystem, containers; ROX desktop
- [Sabotage Linux](#) (musl libc + [BusyBox](#) init) i386, x86\_64, MIPS, PowerPC32, ARM(v4t+)
- (xref) Void Linux
- [XBian](#) (based on Debian) media center distribution for the Raspberry Pi, CuBox-i, and other arm devices (init: Upstart)

## Linux from scratch

[Linux from ScratchDW](#) is not a distribution, it's a book on how to build your own Linux system from source. It can be used with SysV. i386, x86\_64; (also CLFS, aka [Cross LFS](#) supports additional architectures: mips, powerpc, ppc64, alpha, sparc, hppa, arm)

## Special purpose

- [IPFire](#) (2)(3) (forked from IPCop, based on LFS) firewall distribution for x86 and ARM-based systems; armv5tel, i586, x86\_64

- [Maemo Leste](#) (based on Devuan Ascii) for Nokia N900, Nokia N950, Nokia N9 and Motorola Droid 4 mobile phones, Allwinner tablets, and Raspberry Pi 2, 3 and Olimex Lime 2 SBCs[7] mainline Linux; OpenRC init; Hildon desktop; architectures: armel, armhf and amd64
- [PicasOS](#) “suitable for kids from 3 to 12 and teachers” ?; XFWM + LXDE desktop; i486, i686
- [Porteus KioskDW BusyBox](#) init; lightweight kiosk
- [Smoothwall Express Community Edition](#) firewall O/S, provides a web interface
- [TinyPaw-Linux](#) (based on CorePlus) a self-described “passive & aggressive WiFi attack distro”

## Live-only distros

- [AUSTRUMIDW](#) bootable live CD, to be run from RAM ([iso images](#) via ftp)
- [heads](#) (based on Devuan) The Heads incognito live OS, intended as a systemd-free alternative to Tails, the Amnesia incognito live OS
- [Liveslak](#) Liveslak is the project which generates the ISO images for many variants of the [Slackware Live Edition](#). Supported architectures: i486, i586, amd64.
- [Minimal Linux Live \(2\)\(3\)](#) Linux kernel, GNU C library, and [BusyBox](#) init; i386, x86\_64
- [Parted Magic](#) ?what init system?, liveboot distribution providing disk partitioning and data recovery tools. Openbox WM; i486, i686, x86\_64 [FOSS?](#) (licensed [GPL](#))
- [PentooDW](#) Gentoo-based security-focused live CD; i686, x86\_64
- [PorteusDW](#) (based on Slackware 14.2) lightweight modular live CD/USB; i486, amd64
- [SliTaz GNU/LinuxDW](#) BusyBox init, uses tazpkg, lightweight live CD/USB, supported architectures: armel, i386, x86\_64
- [SystemRescueCdDW](#) (Gentoo/OpenRC based system rescue disk) JWM, Xfce; i586
- [TAZ \(2\)\(3\)](#) (SliTaz fork) (also: a gentoo-based [version](#) ) runs entirely from RAM; openbox desktop
- [ToOpPy Linux \(2\)](#) (based on PuppyLinux) liveboot, operates completely in RAM; JWM desktop

## Embedded devices

- [ChibiOS/RTSF](#) ARM7, Cortex-M0, Cortex-M3, Cortex-M4, PowerPC e200z, STM8, AVR, MSP430, ColdFire, H8S, x86
- [DD-WRT W](#) a Linux based alternative OpenSource firmware suitable for a variety of WLAN routers and embedded systems
- DevuanEmbedded (xref: Devuan GNU+Linux)
- [Gargoyle](#) work is underway to port Gargoyle [to the latest version of LEDE](#)
- [LEAF](#) (Linux Embedded Appliance Framework) xref: [Bering-uClibc](#)
- [libreCMC](#) (LibreWRT successor) supports a wide range of routers, plus some small single board computers. [FSF-approved](#)
- [Moebius Linux](#) ?what init system?, armhf [changelog](#) minimal (no X) distro currently focused on RaspberryPi v3
- [OpenWrt \(LEDE merged into OpenWrt\)](#) provides a fully writable filesystem, and package management.
- [PiBox \(BusyBox init\)](#) an embedded distribution for the Raspberry Pi
- [postmarketOS \(2\)\(3\)](#) a touch-optimized, pre-configured Alpine Linux tailored for [smartphones and other mobile devices](#)
- [ProteanOS \(2\)](#) ([BusyBox](#) init) an [FSF-approved](#) Linux-libre distribution for embedded systems

## Non-English

- [aldOS](#) Spanish distro, uses upstart, eudev, ConsoleKit2[8]; MATE desktop
- [mdrights live](#) Chinese Liveslak-based distro, mdrights is a Chinese social rights movement; amd64
- [Pisi LinuxDW](#) Turkish distro (sysvinit + python init scripts) x86\_64
- [Plamo LinuxDW](#) Japanese Slackware-based distro; i486, amd64
- [Vine LinuxDW](#) Japanese Debian-based distro, Kanji support across most applications; Japanese input support via FreeWnn or Canna input server; i686, powerpc, x86\_64
- [WifislaxDW\(3\)](#) Spanish Slackware-based distro; i486

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