# 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/mailinglist

## General purpose

### Independent

| Name | Init | Package managers | amd64? | Desktops? | Details / Notes | Other ports |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Ataraxia Linux | OpenRC | neko (compatible with CRUX) | yes | XFCE, DWM, OpenBox, i3, Sway, TWM | | x86, ARM, MIPS, PowerPC64 (big and little endians) and RISC-V |
| 4MLinuxDW | BusyBox | ? | no | JWM | | i386, i686 |
| Adélie Linux | OpenRC | apk | yes | KDE, Xfce, Fluxbox, i3, IceWM, Openbox | uses musl libc, currently in beta stage | arm, arm64, x86, ppc, ppc64 (See https://www.adelielinux.org/about.html for details) |
| Alpine LinuxDW | BusyBox + OpenRC | apk (custom) | yes | ? | uses BusyBox + musl libc + OpenRC | i386, armhf |
| Bedrock Linux | BusyBox / any | any | ? | ? | Bedrock Linux can utilize any of a large number of init systems as provided by other distributions | ? |
| CRUXDW | SysV + /etc/rc.* | tar.xz based | yes | Openbox | | arm |
| Dragora GNU/Linux LibreDW | SysV + perp | tar.xz based | yes | Xfce, IceWM, spectrwm | Linux Libre distro | i586, amd64, arm(64), microblaze, mips, powerpc(64), s390x |
| Fatdog64 LinuxDW | dumb-init | gslapt, SFS Loader | yes | | (3) | FatDogArm for Raspberry Pi2 and Odroid-XU3/XU4 |
| GentooDW | SysV + OpenRC[1] | Portage | yes | no | If Portage is pulling in systemd, please read this. Further suggested reading. | i486, i586, i686, alpha, arm, hppa, ia64, mips, powerpc, ppc64, sparc64 |

| Name | Init | Package managers | amd64? | Desktops? | Details / Notes | Other ports |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| GoboLinuxDW | SysV + BootScripts | file system | yes | awesome | a source-based distribution which employs a unique file structure (not FHS) | no |
| GuixSDDW | Shepherd (pure Guile) | GNU Guix | yes | Xfce and GNOME | provides advanced package mgmt features such as transactional upgrades and roll-backs; FSF-approved | i686 |
| KaNaPi | bash script | file system | yes | XFCE and Sugar | educational + game apps | armhf and i686 |
| KISS | busybox runit | KISS source packages | yes | | | |
| NuTyXDW | SysV | cards | ? | ? | inspired by LFS & BLFS; its “cards” pkg mgr can install individual or grouped binary packages, and can compile source pkgs from “ports” | ? |
| OviOS LinuxDW | SysV | pacman | yes | ? | (2) previously used systemd; was rebuilt around sysV init because systemd proved unsuitable for a stable storage system | no |
| PCLinuxOSDW | SysV | APT+RPM | yes | MATE and KDE | | no |
| Plop LinuxDW | SysV | | yes | ? | (PXE/liveboot) designed to rescue data from a damaged system, or to backup and repair operating systems | armv6l and i486 |

| Name | Init | Package managers | amd64? | Desktops? | Details / Notes | Other ports |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Puppy LinuxDW | SysV | Puppy Package Manager | yes | LXDE | Puppy Linux's position on systemd | i386 |
| SlackwareDW | SysV + /etc/rc.d/rc.* | installpkg, pkgtool, slackpkg | yes | KDE and Xfce | | i586, s390, arm |
| Source Mage GNU/LinuxDW | simple-init | Sorcery | yes | ? | source based | i386, i486, i586, i686 |
| Void LinuxDW | runit | 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? |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Tiny Core LinuxDW | BusyBox | ? | yes | FLTK/FLWM | ; (also: “CorePlus”) (also “piCore” edition, for Raspberry Pi) | i486 |
| Sanity Linux | BusyBox | pkgsrc | ? | ? | (formerly, “Pür Linux”), source-based, ports | ? |
| LinuxConsoleDW | ? | ? | 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

### Arch Linux based

Arch Linux's package manager is Pacman.

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

### Debian based

Debian's package manager is dpkg and APT. See DebianReleases.

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

#### Devuan based

| Name | Init | Details / Notes |
|---|---|---|
| Exe GNU/LinuxDW | SysV | features Trinity Desktop Environment; amd64, i686 |
| Refracta | OpenRC | (2) (3) amd64, i386; also: (Refracta Devuan 2) Openbox, eudev |

#### Void Linux based

| Name | Init | Details / Notes |
|---|---|---|
| Project Trident | runit | was based on FreeBSD, switched to Void Linux base end of 2019 |

### Gentoo based

| Name | Init | Details / Notes |
|---|---|---|
| Calculate LinuxDW | OpenRC init | Cinnamon, KDE Plasma, LXQt, MATE, or Xfce (wiki spamfilter block to project site: calculate-linux.org) |
| Chromium OS (2) | upstart init (boot-design doc) | |
| Funtoo LinuxDW FAQ | OpenRC | source-based; uses git-housed, distributed Portage tree and Funtoo overlay. amd64, i486, i686, sparc64 |
| 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

### Slackware based

| Name | Init | Details / Notes |
|---|---|---|
| Absolute LinuxDW (based on Slackware64-current) | SysV | IceWM+ROX; supported architectures: i686, amd64 |
| Salix OSDW | SysV | i486, i686, amd64 |
| SlackelDW (based on Slackware+salix) | SysV | |
| Slint (2) (3) (based on Slackware + Salix) | SysV | accessible to visually impaired users (speech and braille device) |
| SARPi (2) | SysV | Slackware ARM on Raspberry Pi |
| SlaXBMC (2) | SysV | |
| ZenwalkDW | SysV | suported 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
- PicarOS “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 Raspbery 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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