

# 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	arch	Desktops?	Details / Notes
<a href="#">Ataraxia Linux</a>	OpenRC	neko (compatible with CRUX)	amd64, x86, ARM, MIPS, PowerPC64 (big and little endians) and RISC-V	XFCE, DWM, OpenBox, i3, Sway, TWM	source based, rolling
<a href="#">4MLinuxDW</a>	<a href="#">BusyBox</a>	none, "addons"	i386, i686	JWM	binary "addons", fixed
<a href="#">Ad�lie Linux</a>	OpenRC	apk	amd64, arm, arm64, x86, ppc, ppc64	KDE, Xfce, Fluxbox, i3, IceWM, Openbox	source based, fixed(?), musl libc, beta
<a href="#">Alpine LinuxDW</a>	BusyBox + OpenRC	apk (custom)	amd64, i386, armhf	?	binary packages, fixed, BusyBox, musl libc
<a href="#">CRUXDW</a>	SysV + /etc/rc.*	tar.xz based	amd64, arm	Openbox	binary base system, source passed ports, fixed releases, ports can be rolling
<a href="#">Dragora GNU/Linux LibreDW</a>	SysV + <a href="#">perp</a>	tar.xz based	i586, amd64, arm(64), microblaze, mips, powerpc(64), s390x	Xfce, IceWM, <a href="#">spectrwm</a>	source based, fixed, Libre
<a href="#">Fatdog64 LinuxDW</a>	dumb-init	gslapt, SFS Loader	amd64, arm		binary packages, fixed

Name	Init	Package managers	arch	Desktops?	Details / Notes
<a href="#">GentooDW</a>	SysV + OpenRC[1]	Portage	amd64, i486, i586, i686, alpha, arm, hppa, ia64, mips, powerpc, ppc64, sparc64	no	If Portage is pulling in systemd, please <a href="#">read this</a> . Further <a href="#">suggested reading</a> .
<a href="#">GoboLinuxDW</a>	SysV + <a href="#">BootScripts</a>	file system	amd64	awesome	a source-based distribution which employs a unique file structure (not FHS)
<a href="#">GuixSDDW</a>	<a href="#">Shepherd</a> (pure <a href="#">Guile</a> )	<a href="#">GNU Guix</a>	amd64, i686	Xfce and GNOME	provides advanced package mgmt features such as transactional upgrades and roll-backs; <a href="#">FSF-approved</a>
<a href="#">KaNaPi</a>	<a href="#">bash script</a>	file system	amd64, armhf, i686	XFCE and <a href="#">Sugar</a>	educational + game apps
<a href="#">KISS</a>	busybox runit	KISS source packages	amd64		
<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	amd64	?	(2) previously used systemd; was rebuilt around sysV init because systemd proved unsuitable for a stable storage system
<a href="#">PCLinuxOSDW</a>	SysV	APT+RPM	amd64	MATE and KDE	
<a href="#">Plop LinuxDW</a>	SysV		amd64, armv6l, i486	?	(PXE/liveboot) designed to rescue data from a damaged system, or to backup and repair operating systems
<a href="#">Puppy LinuxDW</a>	SysV	Puppy Package Manager	amd64, i386	LXDE	<a href="#">Puppy Linux's position on systemd</a>
<a href="#">SlackwareDW</a>	SysV + /etc/rc.d/rc.*	installpkg, pkgtool, slackpkg	amd64, i586, s390, <a href="#">arm</a>	KDE and Xfce	
<a href="#">Source Mage GNU/LinuxDW</a>	simple-init	Sorcery	amd64, i386, i486, i586, i686	?	source based

Name	Init	Package managers	arch	Desktops?	Details / Notes
<a href="#">Void LinuxDW</a>	runit	xbps	amd64, armv6, armv7, i686	LXQt	supported libcs: glibc, musl

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

## 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
<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 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
<a href="#">antiX LinuxDW</a>	10 Buster	SysV or runit	flexible remastering and persistence tools. Multiple WMs: JWM+iceWM+fluxbox; amd64, i486

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

#### Gentoo based

Name	Init	Details / Notes
<a href="#">Calculate LinuxDW</a>	OpenRC init	Cinnamon, KDE Plasma, LXQt, MATE, or Xfce (wiki spamfilter block to project site: <a href="http://calculate-linux.org">calculate-linux.org</a> )
<a href="#">Chromium OS (2)</a>	upstart init ( <a href="#">boot-design doc</a> )	
<a href="#">Funtoo LinuxDW FAQ</a>	OpenRC	source-based; uses git-housed, distributed Portage tree and Funtoo overlay. amd64, i486, i686, sparc64
<a href="#">Redcore LinuxDW</a>	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
<a href="#">Absolute LinuxDW</a> (based on Slackware64-current)	SysV	IceWM+ROX; supported architectures: i686, amd64
<a href="#">Salix OSDW</a>	SysV	i486, i686, amd64
<a href="#">SlackelDW</a> (based on Slackware+salix)	SysV	
<a href="#">Slint (2) (3)</a> (based on Slackware + Salix)	SysV	accessible to visually impaired users (speech and braille device)

Name	Init	Details / Notes
<a href="#">SARPi (2)</a>	SysV	Slackware ARM on Raspberry Pi
<a href="#">SlaXBMC (2)</a>	SysV	
<a href="#">ZenwalkDW</a>	SysV	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
- [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 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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