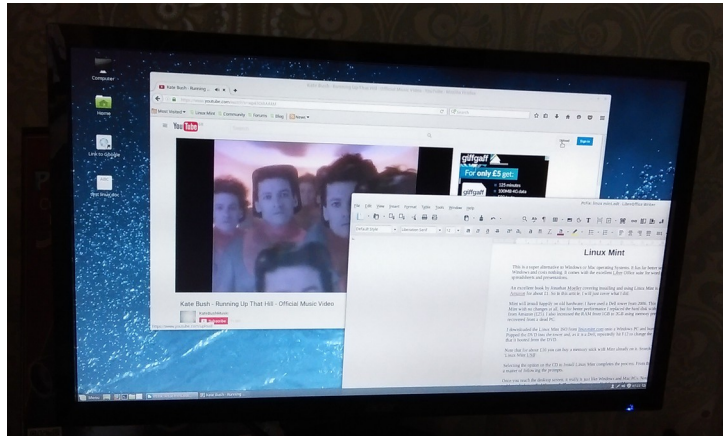


Linux Mint

This is a super alternative to Windows or Mac operating systems. It has far better security than Windows and costs nothing. It comes with the excellent Libre Office suite for word processing, spreadsheets and presentations.

A good book by Jonathan Moeller covering installing and using Linux Mint is available at [Amazon](https://www.amazon.co.uk/gp/product/B000APR004) for about £1. So in this article, I will just cover what I did.



The standard documentation is at <https://www.linuxmint.com/documentation.php>

Mint will install happily on old hardware, so I have used a Dell tower from 2006. This could have run Mint with no changes at all, but for better performance I replaced the hard disk with a 120GB SSD from Amazon. I also increased the RAM from 1GB to 2GB using memory recovered from a dead PC.

NB: After installing an SSD and before installing Mint, check that the disk mode in BIOS (or UEFI) is set to AHCI.

If Linux Mint does not display properly on older hardware (or gives a 3d-acceleration warning), try the 32-Bit Linux Mint Mate version instead.

I downloaded the Linux Mint ISO from linuxmint.com onto a Windows PC and burned it to a DVD. Popped the DVD into the tower and, as it is a Dell, repeatedly hit F12 to change the boot order so that it booted from the DVD.

Note that for about £10 you can buy a memory stick with Mint already on it. Search Amazon for 'Linux Mint USB'. Older computers (e.g. running Vista or XP) may need to boot from a DVD not a memory stick.

Selecting the option on the CD to Install Linux Mint completes the process. From then on, it is just a matter of following the prompts.

Once you reach the desktop screen, it really is just like Windows and Mac PCs. Note that the taskbar / dock is called 'the panel'. The Start Button is called the mintMenu; you can use the Windows Key or CMD Key on your keyboard instead of clicking on it if you want.

Tip 1: Rather than 'Next' buttons, Mint commonly says 'Forward'.

Tip 2: If you are unsure how to do something, try your Windows' way. It will probably work.

Tip 3: Still can't do something? Duckduckgo it in Firefox.

Steps after Installation:

1. Click on the shield by the clock to see what updates are available and apply them. It is important to do this before exploring Linux Mint to reduce the chance of problems.
2. Check your drivers: Click mintMenu, Administration, Driver Manager and choose the recommended choices.
3. Check your Audio: Click mintMenu, Preferences, Sound and test.

Audio:

1. Sound not working or broken? Try a USB Audio adapter from Amazon. Around £7.
2. Rip. You can use Banshee, but it does not keep metadata like the album and track names. So better to install K3B via Software Manager.
3. Play music with Clementine via Software Manager, or use your browser.

Browsing: Firefox is the default browser, which is fine. You can change the default search engine and home page to duckduckgo.com for better searching. Run a Youtube video to check your video and sound.

Burning CDs and DVDs: Brasero will do this for you.

DVD Movies: Stick it in and open in VLC. No faffing around with Windows Store or codecs.

Email: Use Firefox to access your emails. The alternative is Thunderbird mail.

File Manager: Is Nemo, look for the green folder icon on your panel. If you cannot access a shared folder on a Windows PC (and it is switched on and you are logged in) open Terminal on Linux Mint and run 'sudo apt-get install samba'. That worked for me, but if you still have problems, the alternatives are:

1. Use Firefox to use drive.google.com
2. Install Dropbox on your Windows and Linux PC
3. Use email attachments
4. Use memory sticks

For a lesson in [Samba setup for file sharing](#).

Games: You can install the usual games like chess and solitaire. Open terminal and type:

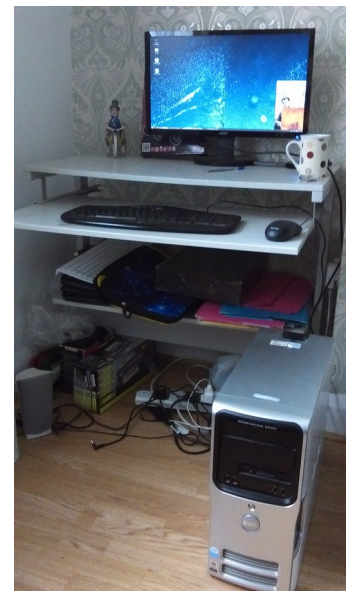
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sudo apt-get install gnome-games  
sudo apt-get install kpat
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Click on mintMenu and Games to choose what to play.

Kindle eBooks: Point your browser at read.amazon.com

Memory Sticks: If you get a mount error when plug in a memory stick, it will probably be because it is formatted as exFAT. No problem, install exFAT-fuse via Software Manager. Remember to eject memory sticks via Nemo before pulling them out.

Photo Editing and Viewing: gThumb and Gimp.



Printing: Click mintMenu, Administration, Printers to add your printer. If your printer won't work with Linux, get an HP Envy printer from Argos for about £50 and set it up as a wireless printer.

Scanning: Click mintMenu, Simple Scan.

Spreadsheets: Open Libre Office from the mintMenu.

Uninstall Software: Click on mintMenu, right-click the offending program and click uninstall.

Word Processing: Open Libre Office from the mintMenu.

If you need help with Linux Mint in Milton Keynes, please call me on 01908 317575 during normal working hours.