

# Hazelwood Linux Users Group

<http://hzwlug.sluug.org/>

**QUESTION: Which Linux distribution (distro) should I use?**

**ANSWERS: (IN NO PARTICULAR ORDER)**

1) Those distributions that do what you need done.

2) Those distributions that work well on your machine.

Not just "the One", but "Those".

Be aware that any one distro may not work well on specific hardware.

Be aware that low RAM will effect how well applications function.

3) Those distributions that your friend uses.

Who else can best help you?

S/he can gently tell you when you are asking the wrong questions.

4) Those distributions that strive to keep you FREE.

As in FREE speech, not free beer.

Think about the Liberty Bell, and the Bill of Rights.

Any that won't lock you into something you don't yet see.

5) Those distributions that are somewhat popular; but, not necessarily in the top five.

You are going to have to look at more than just a few.

Look at the top 20, not just the top 5.

Popularity is hard to determine, fleeting and usually biased.

6) Those distributions that are available as a Live Linux CDROM disc format.

Runs from RAM, allowing you to try before writing anything to your hard drive.

**The following links may be somewhat helpful:**

<http://distrowatch.com/> (See page hit ranking in right column)

<http://www.livecdlist.com/> (Helps sort Live Linux Distributions by function)

<http://www.zegeniestudios.net/lcd/> (Linux Distribution Chooser)

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Linux\\_distribution](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Linux_distribution)

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Category:Computing\\_templates](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Category:Computing_templates)