

Why you
will have to use Linux in this Course

Achievements of Windows

Windows is designed for users who know little or nothing about computers.

If one keeps this in mind, Windows is a beautiful thing. Thanks to Windows, people who otherwise would never be able to, are able to use a computer.

But it makes Windows not suitable for teaching computer science.

Problems: Absence of User Control

The culture of Windows itself and Windows applications is such that it will try to make decisions for you.

- You typically have no control over the place in the directory structure where an application installs itself.
- Applications connect to the internet without user permission. (Looking for updates. Windows Media Player transfers information about which film/song you are playing.)
- Programs try to become the default application for files of their type type. (like **wav,mp3,pdf**) There are different such lists. The OS (windows), and each web browser maintains such a list.
- Applications try to put their logos in the panel without asking user permission.

Microsoft does not Stick to Standards

This is the main reason why I will insist on the use of Linux during exercises.

From 1960, progress of computer science has depended on the development of platform independent standards. (Programming languages, storage formats, character encodings, etc.)

Microsoft products do not stick to standards. MS uses market influence for imposing its own formats. Once you have decided to use a non-standard feature, you will be dependent on it.

The reasons why I insist on use of Linux in the course are.

I need to teach you standard C^{++} .

Windows hides its structure. Internally, Windows is not very much different from Linux, but it hides its internal structure. You will understand the structure of an OS much better, if you have used Linux for a while.

Linux for Starters

You will need to know the following about Linux.

1. How to create, delete, move a file.
2. How to create, delete a directory.
3. How to edit a file.
4. How to compile a C^{++} -program.
5. How to execute a program.