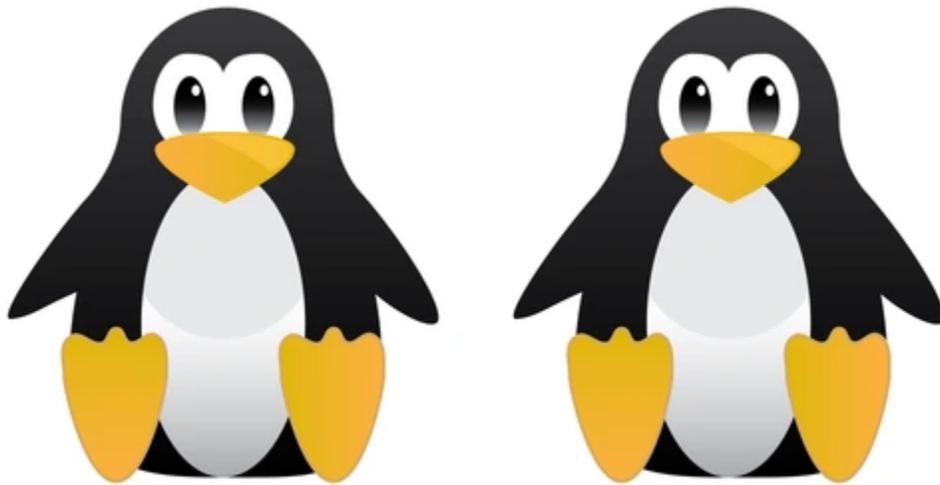


Linux Monthly NEWSLETTER

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Roundup of Recent Notable Distro News



January 2026 Releases

Several popular distributions shipped significant updates in January. **Linux Mint** and **CachyOS** both released updates, with CachyOS switching its live ISO to boot via Wayland instead of X11 and replacing SDDM with Plasma's Login Manager. **DietPi 10.0** hit a major milestone by upgrading its base to Debian 12 "Bookworm," expanding automated installation scripts with tools like Uptime Kuma and ownCloud Infinite Scale — though support was dropped for some older single-board computers that couldn't run Debian 12. **EndeavourOS** also put out a refresh, and notably now defaults to open-source NVIDIA drivers instead of proprietary ones, which may require manual adjustments for users with older NVIDIA GPUs.

February 2026

The week ending February 22nd brought **Clonezilla Live 3.3.1**, based on Debian Sid as of February 20th and powered by the Linux 6.18 LTS kernel. **OmegaLinux** made a dramatic pivot, switching from an Ubuntu base to Arch in its 2026.02.21 release. **Parrot 7.1** also dropped as the latest update to this Debian-based ethical hacking and penetration testing distro. On the desktop environment side, **KDEPlasma 6.6.1** improved its custom tiling feature and animation performance by leaning more heavily on the Wayland Presentation Time protocol.

Emerging Distros Worth Watching

ObsidianOS is a new UEFI-only distro built around A/B partitioning — updates apply to an inactive slot, so if something goes wrong you can roll back with a reboot. **BlendOS** pairs an Arch base with Podman containers, letting you run apps from Ubuntu, Fedora, Arch, and even Android without a VM. **KDE Linux** is KDE's own official reference implementation for Plasma, shipping as an immutable OS where the base system stays untouched and apps come from Flatpaks, Snaps, or AppImages.

Broader Trends

The Linux kernel 6.18 has been declared LTS. GNOME 48 and KDE Plasma 6 have reached new levels of maturity, and Wayland adoption is continuing to solidify across distributions. Immutable distros are also a growing trend — these use read-only core filesystems with atomic updates, making rollbacks much easier when something goes wrong. This is a great topic for a possible future dedicated newsletter piece, as immutability is reshaping how people think about OS stability.

For context, Linux desktop market share peaked at 4.1% in mid-2025, and Steam's Linux gaming population hit an all-time high of 3.58% in December 2025 — both good data points to mention if LUG members are interested in the broader Linux adoption picture.

The Windows 10 Migration Wave

With Windows 10 support ending in October 2025, Microsoft told users to either upgrade to Windows 11 or buy new hardware — leaving millions of perfectly functional PCs facing forced obsolescence. [gHacks Tech News](#) This has created one of the biggest opportunities for Linux adoption in years, and distros are responding. Beginner-friendly options like Linux Mint Cinnamon and Zorin OS have seen renewed interest, specifically because they ease the transition for Windows refugees with familiar desktop layouts and minimal setup friction. [It's FOSS](#) Linux Mint 22.3 "Zena" dropped in January 2026 with Cinnamon 6.6, improved Wayland compatibility, and a completely overhauled System

Information tool designed to make hardware troubleshooting more approachable for newcomers. [LinuxBlog](#) For LUG members, this is a meaningful moment — install fests and beginner outreach events are arguably more valuable right now than at any point in recent memory.

Rust Is Reshaping the Ecosystem

Rust is increasingly embedded in the Linux kernel itself, and Ubuntu is planning to replace GNU Coreutils with a Rust counterpart. A Rust-based implementation of **sudo** already shipped in Ubuntu 25.10. Meanwhile, Pop!_OS recently released the stable version of its COSMIC desktop environment, written entirely in Rust. [Tech Refreshing](#) This trend is set to accelerate through 2026 — more classic UNIX tools are getting Rust rewrites, promising better memory safety and performance without sacrificing the command-line philosophy Linux users love. It's a good topic for a deeper newsletter feature, especially for members who do systems programming or are curious about the long-term direction of the Linux toolchain.

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