

### Understanding The Benefits Of Linux

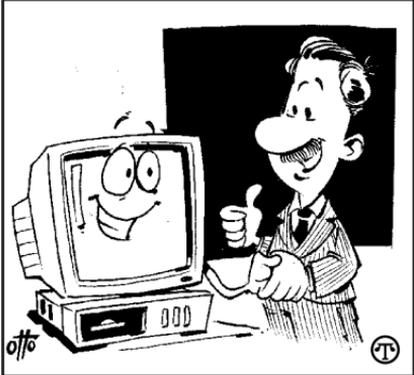
(NAPSA)—These days, when you purchase a new PC, chances are it has some version of Microsoft Windows installed on it. There are a number of reasons for this, the most notable of which being that Windows has become the industry standard-bearer in PC-based operating systems.

While Windows is a perfectly functional and highly powerful operating system, there are other options available for both business and personal applications. One that has a growing following in the information technology sector is Linux—a free download based on robust solutions that anyone can view, criticize or improve upon.

A growing number of companies, such as Red Hat Inc. and IBM, are touting the benefits of Linux, and making the system more useful by offering add-ons that make it compatible with—and comparable to—Windows.

Even fans of the system say Linux can be a challenge to learn, though it's considered well worth the effort. Benefits include:

- A modern, very stable, multi-user, multitasking environment that works with inexpensive PC



**Many small businesses are looking into alternative operating systems for their PCs.**

hardware—at no (or almost no) cost for the software;

- Excellent computing power, portability and flexibility;
- Easy networking capability built into the operating system;
- Connectivity to other proprietary networks, including Microsoft, Apple and Novell;
- Dozens of excellent, free, general-interest applications; and
- Hundreds of specialized applications built by researchers around the world.

To learn more, visit the Web site at [www.ibm.com/linux](http://www.ibm.com/linux).