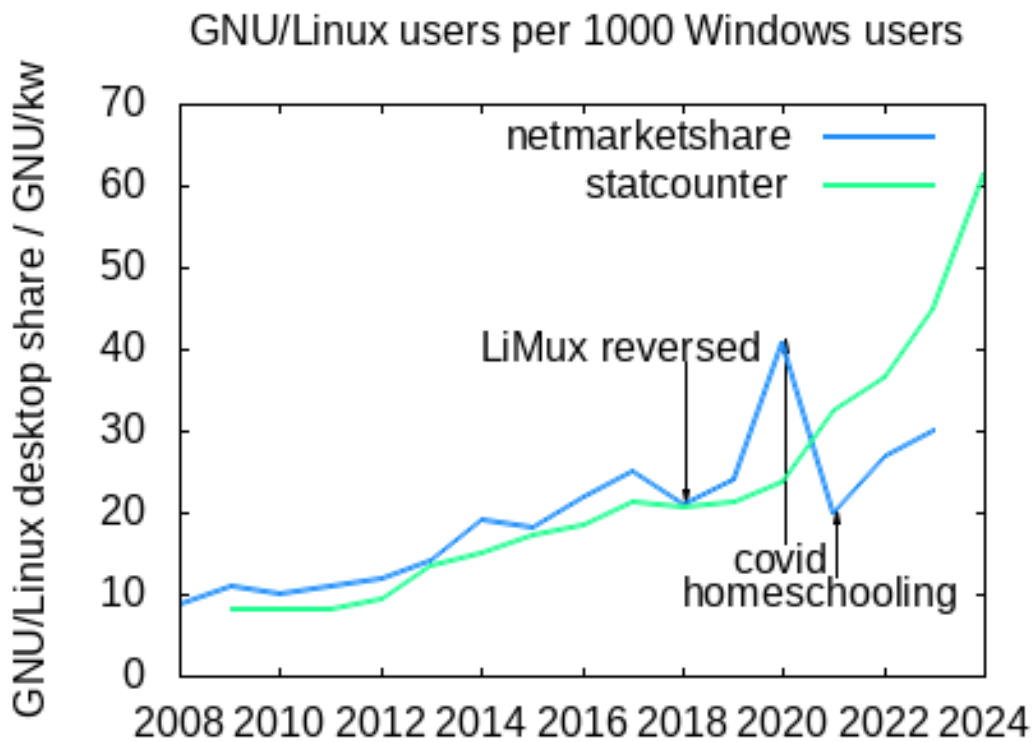


GNU/Linux users per 1000 windows users

TLDR: In 2020 the fraction of Linux users doubled compared to Windows users. Compared to 2008 the Linux-user fraction rose by factor 5.

Every year people ask “is it finally the year of the Linux Desktop?”.

In 2020 the answer is clear: since 2008 almost every year was a year of the Linux Desktop: Compared to Windows users there was reliable superlinear growth:



The source of this graph is data I collected over the past decade every July from [OS market share](#). Except for the 2022 data which is from October because I missed taking the data point in time. They do browser detection, so the data is far from perfect, but at least they have data we can use:

As a second datasource, here's this data as reported [from statcounter](#) (postprocessed from their csv export to be GNU/kw and filtered to just july; and ignoring Chrome OS):

2008	8.6	GNU/kw
2009	11	GNU/kw
2010	10	GNU/kw
2011	11	GNU/kw
2012	12	GNU/kw
2013	14	GNU/kw
2014	19	GNU/kw
2015	18	GNU/kw
2016	22	GNU/kw
2017	25	GNU/kw
2018	21	GNU/kw
2019	24	GNU/kw
2020	41	GNU/kw
2021	20	GNU/kw
2022	27	GNU/kw
2023	30	GNU/kw

Date	Windows	Linux	Chrome OS	GNU/kw
2009	94.83	0.76	0	8.014341453126647
2010	93.29	0.77	0	8.253832136349018
2011	91.87	0.76	0	8.272559050832697
2012	88.85	0.83	0	9.341586944288126
2013	90.49	1.23	0.03	13.592662172615759
2014	89.25	1.34	0.19	15.014005602240896
2015	87.7	1.52	0.26	17.33181299885975
2016	83.33	1.54	0.35	18.480739229569185
2017	84.46	1.79	0.45	21.193464361828084
2018	82.88	1.71	0.5	20.632239382239383
2019	77.61	1.65	0.54	21.260146888287593
2020	77.74	1.85	0.67	23.79727296115256
2021	73.04	2.38	1.21	32.58488499452355
2022	75.21	2.76	1.5	36.69724770642202
2023	69.52	3.12	3.24	44.87917146144994
2024	72.1	4.44	1.41	61.58113730929266

Thanks to [gamingonlinux](#) and [The Linux Experiment \(video\)](#) for referencing the stat-counter data.

GNU/Linux is growing. (though there is a dip during the pandemic)

When will you migrate? Did you migrate already?

This is based on an older German article I wrote in 2010 and updated regularly: [GNU/Linux gewinnt gegenüber Windows und MacOSX an Marktanteil](#)

FAQ

- Could the increase be due to Windows users moving to mobile platforms?

Windows users did not go down enough, and MacOS did not rise along, to warrant a 100% increase of GNU/kw. It's at 87% while GNU/Linux in July was only 3.57%. If this were due to an exodus of Windows-users, I would expect MacOS to rise along.

The results are filtered for Desktop. When including mobile, Windows did not have sufficiently high losses compared to mobile to explain the Linux numbers differently than with an increase of Linux users.