



Unprecedented Linux Growth in Europe Amid Windows 10 End-of-Life

BY [LENA MILES](#) / [JULY 5, 2025](#) / [TECH](#)

Millions of people using Windows 10 are facing a tough choice. Microsoft plans to stop offering security updates for the system, leaving countless computers vulnerable. For many, upgrading to Windows 11 simply isn’t an option because their hardware isn’t new enough. This situation is pushing users to look for alternatives.

But here’s a fresh twist in the tech world: Linux, a free operating system, is suddenly booming in Europe. It’s growing faster than ever before. This surprising surge suggests a real shift in how people are choosing their computer software.

Statcounter, a company that tracks website traffic and operating system use, shows a clear picture. In April 2024, Linux had a small 2.84% slice of the desktop market in Europe. Fast forward to July 2025, and that share has jumped to an impressive 5.21%. That’s a massive 83.45% increase in just over a year. For many years, Linux numbers barely budged, staying below 3% even with small bumps during the pandemic. This recent jump is truly unique.

One big reason for this sudden popularity is definitely Microsoft’s decision about Windows 10. When support ends, hundreds of millions of computers won’t get vital security updates. Many of these machines are perfectly good but can’t handle Windows 11. Instead of buying new hardware, people are choosing a different path.

The Open-Source Solution

The folks behind open-source software are taking this opportunity to help. They’re telling users, “Don’t throw away your old computer! Just install Linux!” Some versions, like Zorin OS, are even designed to make the move from Windows feel easy and natural. Plus, popular programs like LibreOffice offer guides to help users familiar with Microsoft Office get comfortable.

This isn’t the first time we’ve seen such a migration. Back in 2021, when Microsoft ended support for Windows 7, many users also switched to Linux. It seems history is repeating itself, but on a bigger scale this time.

Beyond individual users, whole governments are now making big changes. Denmark and Germany, for example, have announced plans to move away from Microsoft products entirely. This includes Windows, Office software, and even Azure cloud services. France is also joining this trend; the city of Lyon confirmed it will replace its commercial software with open-source programs. This shows a broader belief in the power and freedom of open-source solutions.

The numbers suggest that 2025 could be a turning point for Linux on desktop computers. It seems the challenges posed by older Windows versions are finally giving this underdog operating system its big moment.

Source: [Statcounter](#)

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