

## SYBEX Bonus Chapter

# Mastering™ Red Hat® Linux 9

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## Web Chapter 3: More Information Online

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## Web Chapter 3

# More Information Online

A WEALTH OF INFORMATION about Linux is available online. That's not a surprise, since Linux is developed through the cooperation of people working together from around the world. They shared what they learned online, and all of us can benefit from their experience.

If the documentation is not enough, several excellent newsgroup “libraries” are out there that can help you find many of the answers you need. If you still can't find the answer, and you can show that you've done your “homework,” you'll find many people in these newsgroups who are ready to help solve difficult problems. There are also Linux user groups available worldwide where you can share and learn more about Linux in person.

When you find solutions, you may need to download new packages. You can download the latest utilities, software, and kernels from several web and FTP sites.

As Linux develops, there is a constant stream of news on this operating system. Various Linux certifications are available if you want to prove your credentials to the rest of the world. An almost endless number of applications are constantly being improved for Linux. And when you have hardware questions, you can find websites dedicated to making Linux work with various components in the PC.

Neither Sybex nor I endorse or sponsor any of these web, newsgroup, or mailing list sites. The lists in this appendix are far from comprehensive. We include them simply as an aid in your research. The axiom “caveat emptor,” let the buyer beware, applies to all of these sites as well.

**NOTE** *Web links may change by the time you read this book. If the link does not work, you'll have to use your own insight on the Internet to find the information associated with the noted website.*

This is just a brief list of Linux links; many more are available online from sites such as [www.linuxlinks.com](http://www.linuxlinks.com). This appendix is organized by and therefore covers the following types of Internet sites:

- ◆ Online Linux documentation
- ◆ Linux newsgroups and mailing lists
- ◆ Download sites
- ◆ Linux news

- ◆ Professional certifications
- ◆ Linux applications
- ◆ Linux hardware
- ◆ General information

## Online Linux Documentation

Perhaps the first word in Linux documentation is the Linux Documentation Project, available online at [www.tldp.org](http://www.tldp.org). It includes the HOWTOs on many Linux topics, book-length guides, FAQs, and man pages. A number of other websites include copies, or mirrors, of the HOWTOs. While this is far from a comprehensive list, there are several other great sources of information, briefly described in Table W3.1.

**TABLE W3.1: ONLINE LINUX DOCUMENTATION**

SITE	URL	DESCRIPTION
ApacheWeek	<a href="http://www.apacheweek.com">www.apacheweek.com</a>	An online journal for the Apache web server software.
Free Software Foundation	<a href="http://www.fsf.org">www.fsf.org</a>	The developers behind a lot of the original Linux software and the GNU Public License.
Linux Documentation Project	<a href="http://www.tldp.org">www.tldp.org</a>	The repository for a wide variety of Linux documentation, including the HOWTOs.
Linux Focus	<a href="http://www.linuxfocus.org">www.linuxfocus.org</a>	A multilingual quarterly international Linux magazine.
Linux Gazette	<a href="http://www.linuxgazette.com">www.linuxgazette.com</a>	An online publication dedicated to “sharing ideas and discoveries.”
Linux Hardware	<a href="http://www.linuxhardware.org">www.linuxhardware.org</a>	Provides in-depth coverage of hardware that works for Linux.
Linux Journal	<a href="http://www.linuxjournal.com">www.linuxjournal.com</a>	One of the first journals on Linux, owned by Specialized System Consultants.
Linux Kernel 2.4 Internals	<a href="http://tldp.org/LDP/lki">tldp.org/LDP/lki</a>	An introduction to the Linux 2.4 kernel, only available online.
Linux Magazine	<a href="http://www.linux-mag.com">www.linux-mag.com</a>	Another Linux magazine, also available in bookstores.
Linux Magazine	<a href="http://www.linux-magazine.com">www.linux-magazine.com</a>	A European Linux magazine, printed in the UK, also available in many US bookstores.
Linux Network Administrator’s Guide	<a href="http://tldp.org/LDP/nag2">tldp.org/LDP/nag2</a>	An online version of the O’Reilly book of the same name.
Linux System Administrator’s Guide	<a href="http://tldp.org/LDP/sag">tldp.org/LDP/sag</a>	An online version of the O’Reilly book of the same name.

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**TABLE W3.1: ONLINE LINUX DOCUMENTATION** (*continued*)

<b>SITE</b>	<b>URL</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION</b>
Maximum RPM	<a href="http://www.redhat.com/docs/books/max-rpm/">www.redhat.com/docs/books/max-rpm/</a>	An older version of the still-valuable guide to the Red Hat Package Manager.
Red Hat Documentation	<a href="http://www.redhat.com/docs">www.redhat.com/docs</a>	Includes online manuals for various Red Hat operating systems, as well as links to various books.
Sys Admin	<a href="http://www.samag.com">www.samag.com</a>	The self-described “journal for Unix systems administrators” also has good tips for Linux users.
Computer Power User Magazine	<a href="http://www.computerpoweruser.com">www.computerpoweruser.com</a>	Includes a number of Linux related hardware articles; click Search All Articles to find what you need.

## Linux Newsgroups and Mailing Lists

Linux is under constant development by a community. Many members of that community are anxious to make their name by solving new problems, and their insights are available online. It’s quite possible that the answer to your problem is already available in the Internet newsgroup database, accessible through [groups.google.com](http://groups.google.com).

Alternatively, you can monitor individual newsgroups or subscribe to various mailing lists. Many mailing lists are available for specific distributions and applications, as well as through Linux user groups.

If you choose to post on a Linux newsgroup, be careful. Many newsgroups are dedicated to specific topics, which may lead to answers unrelated to your posts. Others use the e-mail addresses that they find on newsgroups for advertising, a practice known as spamming.

A wide variety of newsgroups are available through your newsreader, as shown in Table W3.2. Many Linux newsgroups don’t get a lot of valuable traffic.

**TABLE W3.2: SOME LINUX NEWSGROUPS**

<b>NEWSGROUP</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION</b>
<code>alt.linux</code>	An active group.
<code>alt.os.linux</code>	An active group, focused on the operating system.
<code>alt.os.linux.*</code>	Several groups are available for different distributions such as <code>alt.os.linux.redhat</code> .
<code>at.linux</code>	A Linux newsgroup in German (Austria).
<code>comp.os.linux</code>	Another active newsgroup.
<code>comp.os.linux.*</code>	Several different newsgroups, including those on different CPUs, hardware, networking, security, the X Window, and more.

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**TABLE W3.2: SOME LINUX NEWSGROUPS** (*continued*)

<b>NEWSGROUP</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION</b>
<code>cz.comp.linux.*</code>	Linux newsgroups in Czech; the Red Hat newsgroup is <code>cz.comp.linux.redhat-cz</code> .
<code>de.comp.os.unix.linux.*</code>	Linux newsgroups in German.
<code>es.comp.os.linux.*</code>	Linux newsgroups in Spanish.
<code>esp.comp.so.linux.*</code>	More Linux newsgroups in Spanish.
<code>fido?.*.linux</code>	Several Linux newsgroups in different languages; e.g., <code>fido7.ru.unix.linux</code> is a Russian language newsgroup.
<code>fj.os.linux.*</code>	Linux newsgroups in Japanese.
<code>fr.comp.os.linux.*</code>	Linux newsgroups in French.
<code>han.comp.os.linux.*</code>	Linux newsgroups in Korean.
<code>hun.lists.mlf.linux*</code>	Linux newsgroups in Hungarian.
<code>it.comp.os.linux.*</code>	Linux newsgroups in Italian.
<code>linux.apps.*</code>	A wide variety of Linux newsgroups on various types of applications; many are not active.
<code>linux.debian.*</code>	Many Linux newsgroups related to the Debian Linux distribution.
<code>linux.dev.*</code>	A wide variety of Linux newsgroups on various devices and drivers.
<code>linux.redhat.*</code>	Many Linux newsgroups related to Red Hat Linux.
<code>nl.comp.os.linux.*</code>	Linux newsgroups in Dutch.
<code>no.it.os.unix.linux.*</code>	Linux newsgroups in Norwegian.
<code>pl.comp.*.*</code>	Linux newsgroups in Polish.
<code>vmware.*.*</code>	Newsgroups related to the VMWare virtual machine software; more are available through the VMWare newsgroup server at <code>news.vmware.com</code> .

Several Linux mailing lists are available online as well. Red Hat has a wide variety of mailing lists that you can subscribe to at

[www.redhat.com/mailling-lists](http://www.redhat.com/mailling-lists)

Other active mailing lists are available for different applications and services, such as Apache, Samba, and CUPS. Navigate to their web pages listed later in this appendix for more information.

Linux user groups (LUG) commonly maintain their own mailing lists for their users. It can be helpful to join one in your local area. People are more likely to help you if they know your face. LUGs are available all over the world. You may be able to find a LUG in your area through one of the websites noted in Table W3.3.

**TABLE W3.3: LINUX USER GROUP LISTS**

SITE	DESCRIPTION
<a href="http://www.linux.org/groups">www.linux.org/groups</a>	The Linux Online user groups site
<a href="http://www.ssc.com:8080/glue">www.ssc.com:8080/glue</a>	Groups of Linux Users Everywhere
<a href="http://www.redhat.com/apps/community/LUG">www.redhat.com/apps/community/LUG</a>	Red Hat's user group program

## Download Sites

You can download Red Hat Linux for free from various locations on the Internet. You can also download a number of Linux distributions that you can install with the `rpm` or `tar` commands described in Chapter 10. Some of the most popular download sites are listed in Table W3.4.

While it's often more convenient to download from an HTTP site, FTP downloads are usually faster. As explained in Chapter 27, this is because FTP is built for file transfers. Many of the web-sites listed in the table include FTP links for download.

**TABLE W3.4: DOWNLOADING LINUX**

SITE	URL	DESCRIPTION
Red Hat Linux	<a href="ftp://redhat.com">ftp.redhat.com</a>	Requires anonymous access; often busy.
Freshmeat	<a href="http://www.freshmeat.net">www.freshmeat.net</a>	Offers the latest in Linux software; includes development home pages and FTP download links for numerous Linux components.
ibiblio Linux Archive	<a href="http://www.ibiblio.org/pub/Linux">www.ibiblio.org/pub/Linux</a>	Features an archive with over 170GB of Linux software; from the University of North Carolina.
LinuxApps	<a href="http://www.linuxapps.com">www.linuxapps.com</a>	A comprehensive download source for Linux applications.
Linux ISO	<a href="http://www.linuxiso.org">www.linuxiso.org</a>	A site where you can download <code>.iso</code> files for Linux distributions; with <code>cdrecord</code> , you can turn them into Linux installation CDs. Download links use FTP servers.
The Linux Kernel Archives	<a href="ftp://kernel.org/pub">ftp.kernel.org/pub</a>	Includes the latest stable, patch, and beta versions of the Linux kernel.
RPM Find	<a href="http://www.rpmfind.net">www.rpmfind.net</a>	A comprehensive database of available RPM packages for a variety of distributions.

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**TABLE W3.4: DOWNLOADING LINUX** (*continued*)

APPLICATION	URL	DESCRIPTION
Source Forge	<a href="http://sourceforge.net">sourceforge.net</a>	The self-described “world’s largest Open Source software development website;” includes development home pages and FTP download links for numerous Linux components.
Tucows Linux	<a href="http://linux.tucows.com">linux.tucows.com</a>	An all-in-one site for Linux downloads; you can select a mirror close to you before starting the download.

The Red Hat FTP site can be especially busy; you may want to try your download from one of the Red Hat mirror sites available around the world. The official list is available at [www.redhat.com/download/mirror.html](http://www.redhat.com/download/mirror.html).

You can find a huge list of sites with downloadable Linux software at [www.linuxbasis.com/downloads.html](http://www.linuxbasis.com/downloads.html).

## Linux News

Linux is developing every day. If you need the latest Linux software, whether it be for new features, security enhancements, or just to be “cool” in the Linux community, read some of the sites listed in Table W3.5 on a regular basis.

**TABLE W3.5: LINUX NEWS SITES**

SITE	URL	DESCRIPTION
Enterprise Linux Today	<a href="http://eltoday.com">eltoday.com</a>	The latest news in large-scale Linux deployments.
Linux Insider	<a href="http://www.linuxinsider.com">www.linuxinsider.com</a>	A listing of the latest news stories on Linux online; similar to Linux Today.
Linux Online News	<a href="http://www.linux.org/news">www.linux.org/news</a>	A listing of the latest news stories on Linux online; similar to Linux Today.
Linux Planet	<a href="http://www.linuxplanet.com">www.linuxplanet.com</a>	A resource of in-depth articles on the latest Linux software.
Linux Today	<a href="http://www.linuxtoday.com">www.linuxtoday.com</a>	In my opinion, the premier site for Linux news and information; links to news stories from other sites.
Linux Weekly News	<a href="http://lwn.net">lwn.net</a>	A weekly review of the latest Linux developments.
NewsForge	<a href="http://newsforge.com">newsforge.com</a>	A listing of the latest news on Linux; part of the Open Source Development Network.
Slashdot	<a href="http://www.slashdot.org">www.slashdot.org</a>	Self-described “News for Nerds. Stuff that matters.”

## Professional Certifications

There are four major Linux certification programs, which we discussed in detail in Web Chapters 1 and 2. They are summarized in Table W3.6.

**TABLE W3.6: LINUX CERTIFICATION PROGRAMS**

PROGRAM	URL	DESCRIPTION
Linux+	<a href="http://www.comptia.org">www.comptia.org</a>	Entry-level certification from CompTIA; intended for users with six months of Linux experience.
Linux Professional Institute	<a href="http://www.lpi.org">www.lpi.org</a>	Mid-level certifications from a nonprofit organization; not affiliated with any distribution. Two levels of exams are available at this time.
Red Hat	<a href="http://www.redhat.com">www.redhat.com</a>	Offers the Red Hat Certified Engineer (RHCE) and Red Hat Certified Technician (RHCT) exams; both are hands-on; the RHCT is considered to be one of the most difficult and practical exams in the computer industry.
SAIR Linux and GNU	<a href="http://www.sairinc.com">www.sairinc.com</a>	Mid-level certifications; not affiliated with any distribution. Two levels of exams are available at this time. Affiliated with Thomson/Course Technology.

## Linux Applications

You can find a wide variety of websites for just about every current Linux application. A few of them are listed in Table W3.7. They vary widely in content; many include documentation and downloads of the latest versions of the software. Some applications include an open source and a commercial version.

**TABLE W3.7: LINUX APPLICATIONS**

APPLICATION	URL	DESCRIPTION
Amanda	<a href="http://www.amanda.org">www.amanda.org</a>	The Advanced Maryland Automatic Network Disk Archiver; for backups.
Apache	<a href="http://httpd.apache.org">httpd.apache.org</a>	The most popular web server on the Internet.
Code Weavers	<a href="http://www.codeweavers.com">www.codeweavers.com</a>	Their CrossOver office product runs several Microsoft Windows applications, including Microsoft Office 2000, Quicken, and Lotus Notes.
Common Unix Printing System	<a href="http://www.cups.org">www.cups.org</a>	The default print server for Red Hat Linux; a commercial version is available from Easy Software Products at <a href="http://www.easysw.com">www.easysw.com</a> .
DNS/BIND	<a href="http://www.isc.org/products/BIND">www.isc.org/products/BIND</a>	The Domain Name System server software is based on the Berkeley Internet Name Domain (BIND).

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**TABLE W3.7: LINUX APPLICATIONS** *(continued)*

<b>APPLICATION</b>	<b>URL</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION</b>
The GIMP	<a href="http://www.gimp.org">www.gimp.org</a>	The GNU Image Manipulation Program is a fully featured image manager, similar to Paint Shop Pro.
GNOME	<a href="http://www.gnome.org">www.gnome.org</a>	The GNU Network Object Model Environment is from a group that develops a wide variety of applications.
Houdini	<a href="http://www.sidefx.com">www.sidefx.com</a>	The proprietary graphics software used by movie studios.
KDE	<a href="http://www.kde.org">www.kde.org</a>	The K Desktop Environment is from a group that develops a wide variety of applications.
Lindows	<a href="http://www.lindows.com">www.lindows.com</a>	An operating system that incorporates proprietary technologies to run Microsoft Windows software inside a Linux X Window.
OpenOffice	<a href="http://www.openoffice.org">www.openoffice.org</a>	A group dedicated to creating an open source office suite; the default for Red Hat Linux. Versions are also available for Microsoft Windows.
OpenSSH	<a href="http://www.networksimplicity.com">www.networksimplicity.com</a>	The developers of the Secure Shell software; a version is available for Microsoft Windows.
Samba	<a href="http://www.samba.org">www.samba.org</a>	The software that allows Linux and Unix-style computers to work on a Microsoft Windows-based network.
Sendmail	<a href="http://www.sendmail.com">www.sendmail.com</a>	The commercial version of the mail server described in Chapter 25. The open source version is at <a href="http://www.sendmail.org">www.sendmail.org</a> .
Star Office	<a href="http://www.sun.com/software/star/staroffice/6.0/">www.sun.com/software/star/staroffice/6.0/</a>	An office suite developed by Sun Microsystems that works with Linux, other Unix-style operating systems, and Microsoft Windows.
Transgaming	<a href="http://www.transgaming.com">www.transgaming.com</a>	The developers of cross-platform gaming technologies.
Tripwire	<a href="http://www.tripwire.com">www.tripwire.com</a>	The developers of software for checking the security of a network.
VMWare	<a href="http://www.vmware.com">www.vmware.com</a>	The developers of the virtual machine application that allows you to run Linux on Microsoft Windows (and vice versa).
Win4Lin	<a href="http://www.trellos.com">www.trellos.com</a>	The developers of the virtual machine application that allows you to run Microsoft Windows on Linux.
XFree86	<a href="http://www.xfree86.org">www.xfree86.org</a>	The XFree86 Project, developers of the standard Linux X Window software.

## Linux Hardware

Several groups are dedicated to making it easy to work with every type of hardware on Linux. Some of these hardware groups are described briefly in Table W3.8.

**TABLE W3.8: LINUX HARDWARE GROUPS**

HARDWARE	URL	DESCRIPTION
Digital Cameras	<a href="http://www.gphoto.net">www.gphoto.net</a>	Provides software for various digital camera interfaces.
FireWire (IEEE1394)	<a href="http://www.linux1394.org">www.linux1394.org</a>	Supports IEEE1394 hardware; interfaces are still “experimental” in the Red Hat Linux kernel.
Laptop computers	<a href="http://www.linux-laptop.net">www.linux-laptop.net</a>	The Linux on Laptops site provides tips for a wide variety of makes and models of laptop, notebook, and palmtop computers.
The Linux-Mobile Guide	<a href="http://tuxmobil.org/howtos.html">tuxmobil.org/howtos.html</a>	Provides tips for configuring mobile computers, including laptops and palmtops.
Linux Network Drivers	<a href="http://www.scyld.com/network">www.scyld.com/network</a>	Includes the latest Ethernet network drivers.
The Linux Printing Database	<a href="http://www.linuxprinting.org">www.linuxprinting.org</a>	A resource for print drivers.
Modems	<a href="http://www.linmodems.org">www.linmodems.org</a>	The work of the Linux Winmodem Support group is helping Linux work with many of these proprietary modems.
Scanner Access Now Easy	<a href="http://www.mostang.com/sane">www.mostang.com/sane</a>	A resource for using scanners on Linux.
Sound Cards	<a href="http://www.alsa-project.org">www.alsa-project.org</a>	The Advanced Linux Sound Architecture project provides audio and MIDI support.
USB	<a href="http://www.linux-usb.org">www.linux-usb.org</a>	The Linux USB Project is constantly releasing new drivers in support of new USB devices.

## General Information

You can find general information about Linux at a number of basic websites. In Table W3.9, we’ve included the websites of several of the other major Linux distributions, because they are repositories of good information, like [www.redhat.com](http://www.redhat.com).

**TABLE W3.9: GENERAL LINUX INFORMATION**

<b>SITE</b>	<b>URL</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION</b>
Bastille Linux	<a href="http://www.bastille-linux.org">www.bastille-linux.org</a>	A system designed to secure a number of different Linux and Unix distributions. Can be installed on Red Hat Linux.
Conectiva Linux	<a href="http://www.conectiva.com.br">www.conectiva.com.br</a>	A Linux distribution based in Brazil; originally developed from Red Hat Linux, it is now part of the United Linux consortium.
Debian Linux	<a href="http://www.debian.org">www.debian.org</a>	A Linux distribution developed entirely by volunteers.
Just Linux	<a href="http://www.justlinux.com">www.justlinux.com</a>	A great resource for newer Linux users, with guides and articles on basic Linux operations, formerly known as Linux Newbie.
Linux.com	<a href="http://www.linux.com">www.linux.com</a>	A Linux portal with links to NewsForge, Documents, and Freshmeat software.
Linux Online	<a href="http://www.linux.org">www.linux.org</a>	A Linux portal with documents, news, downloads, reviews, and more.
Security Enhanced Linux	<a href="http://www.nsa.gov/selinux">www.nsa.gov/selinux</a>	A revised kernel developed by the US National Security Agency, tested with Red Hat Linux.
The SCO Group	<a href="http://www.caldera.com">www.caldera.com</a>	The creator of Linux distributions “for business”; formerly known as Caldera and is now part of the United Linux consortium.
SuSE Linux	<a href="http://www.suse.com">www.suse.com</a>	A Linux distribution with a big following in Europe; now part of the United Linux consortium.
Turbolinux	<a href="http://www.turbolinux.com">www.turbolinux.com</a>	A Linux distribution with a big following in Asia; now part of the United Linux consortium.
United Linux	<a href="http://www.unitedlinux.com">www.unitedlinux.com</a>	A consortium of Conectiva, the SCO Group, SuSE, and Turbolinux; they are four independent companies supporting a common Linux distribution focused on the enterprise.
Xandros	<a href="http://www.xandros.com">www.xandros.com</a>	The developers of a desktop version of Linux that has a Microsoft Windows “look and feel”; developed from the former Corel Linux distribution.