Cars and Computers

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- Stability, multi-tasking, networking, security...
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- Access to source code (which means . . . ?)
What is GNU/Linux?
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An operating system (often known as “Linux”) and a complete alternative to Windows, MacOS, Unix... 

Q: What’s GNU?
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Q: What’s GNU?
A: GNU’s Not Unix!
What is GNU/Linux?

A philosophy – Software Freedom is Paramount
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(1) To study how a program works, and adapt it to your own needs

(2) To redistribute copies of the program (sharing recipes)

(3) To improve the program and release improvements to the public (benefitting the whole community)
Kinds of Software

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- Web browsers, email and chat clients, media players
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Utilities (generally less familiar)

- Development tools (compilers, headers, libraries)
- Text editors (vi, emacs...)
- Scripting languages (bash, Perl, Python)
- File manipulation (cat, grep, less, sed, sort, tar, uniq...)
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- Hardware is useless without software
Reasons not to use GNU/Linux
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- Unsupported by ITS
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- Price (cost of the medium), copying (encouraged), freedom from the enforced upgrade cycle
Further Reading

http://mathcs.holycross.edu/~ahwang/current-gnu_linux.html