

THE COMPUTER CORNER

No. 306: Artificial Intelligence (AI)

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My daughter lives in Lexington, KY, and works for a large, multinational company that makes printers, other business machines, and software. She is a corporate writer and has recently been experimenting with the use of artificial intelligence (AI) for her company. During a July 2023 family visit with me, we were discussing her exploration of AI and she offered to let me try it. So, we logged into <https://chat.openai.com> and she permitted me to challenge the AI software with a task. I asked it to “write a paragraph on why one should use Linux instead of Microsoft Windows”. The AI software responded as follows:

“There are several compelling reasons why one should consider using Linux instead of Microsoft Windows. Firstly, Linux is an open-source operating system, which means its source code is freely available to the public. This allows for transparency, security audits, and a vibrant community of developers who continuously improve and update the system. Secondly, Linux offers a high level of customization and flexibility, allowing users to tailor their experience to suit their specific needs. Additionally, Linux is known for its stability and reliability, making it an ideal choice for servers and enterprise environments. It also boasts a vast array of software options, many of which are open source and free to use, offering a cost-effective alternative to Windows. Lastly, Linux is not as susceptible to viruses and malware as Windows, thanks to its robust security measures and smaller user base. Ultimately, Linux provides a powerful and reliable platform that empowers users with control, security, and a rich ecosystem of software.”

Pretty nifty work, for a computer program tasked with writing a single paragraph on the subject! I think the AI program provided a very succinct description of the advantages of Linux, similar to those points I have been describing in my recent series on the subject (Computer Corner articles Cc296 through 302). While the AI program didn't use nearly as many words as I did in the series, I think it did a very good job with the few words (I count about 147) it used to describe the general advantages of Linux without delving into the details covered in my series. By the way, any or all of the Computer Corner articles, and an Index to them all, are yours for the reading or downloading on the ORC site (<https://www.ozaukeeradioclub.org/>). Just Ctrl-click the link to take a look. Also, by the way, version 21.2, “Victoria”, of my personal favorite Linux Mint Cinnamon, was released on 14 July 2023. Ctrl-click the following link to explore Linux or to get this latest version: (<https://www.linuxmint.com/>). Happy Computing!