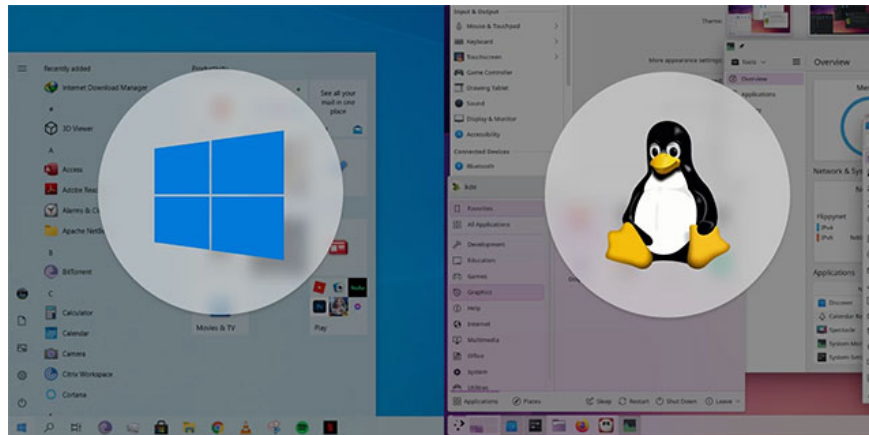


Why does Windows warn that Linux ISO is a virus? Causes and how to handle it

Many users have reported that Windows often flags Linux ISO files as viruses. Why does this false warning occur and how to handle it? This article will explain the cause and provide solutions so you can install Linux with peace of mind, especially when Windows 10 support is about to expire.

DistroWatch – a familiar address in the Linux community – has just highlighted a notable issue in the recent *DistroWatch Weekly* newsletter . Accordingly, many Linux newcomers reflect that Windows antivirus software often flags Linux installation ISO files as 'containing malicious code'.

Many users have never encountered this situation, but in fact the problem is quite common, has been documented for many years and is becoming more common. DistroWatch said it has received reports on many different Linux distributions, from many different antivirus software, proving that this is a widespread phenomenon.



Reason

It is very unlikely that Windows malware would be 'mispackaged' in Linux ISO files. The most common reason is the way virus scanners recognize ISO files.

A Linux ISO file usually contains:

1. The code can change the drive layout,

2. Boot loader,
3. And also code running at the kernel level.

These are all required components for Linux installations, but are easily misidentified by security software as malicious behavior.

Solution

According to DistroWatch, most of these alerts are **false positives** . If you encounter one, you should:

1. **Check again with another virus scanner** to see if the results repeat.
2. If you still get a warning, report it directly to **the Linux distribution developer** instead of sending it to DistroWatch (as DistroWatch does not host the ISO files).
3. If you are still concerned, you can try switching to a different Linux distribution.

Note: With **Windows 10 reaching end of support next month** , many people are considering switching to Linux. If you download the ISO and encounter a warning, you can use various scanning tools to verify before installing.

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