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Thread: [The Basic Guide to Anonymous Tools Part 2 : Parrot OS vs Kali Linux Which One Should I Choose](#)

Chorozon - February 21, 2025, 6:25 am

Hey everyone,

I've been seeing a lot of questions lately about whether to go with Parrot OS or Kali Linux, especially from folks who are just starting out in ethical hacking, cybersecurity, or even general privacy-focused computing. I've used both extensively, so I thought I'd share my thoughts to help you decide which one might be the best fit for your needs.

The Basics

Both Parrot OS and Kali Linux are Debian-based distros packed with tools for penetration testing, ethical hacking, and security research. They're both great, but they cater to slightly different audiences and use cases. Let's break it down:

1. Performance & Hardware Requirements

If you're running an older machine or something with limited resources (like a laptop with 2GB of RAM), Parrot OS is definitely the way to go. It's lightweight, fast, and doesn't hog your system resources. The default MATE desktop environment is smooth and snappy, even on low-end hardware. I've run Parrot on a 5-year-old laptop, and it felt like a dream.

On the other hand, Kali Linux can feel a bit heavy, especially if you go with the GNOME version. The Xfce version is lighter, but it still requires more juice than Parrot. If you've got a beefy modern machine, this won't be an issue, but if you're working with older gear, Kali might feel sluggish.

TL;DR:

Parrot OS : Lightweight, great for older hardware.

Kali Linux : Needs more resources, better for modern systems.

2. Tools & Features

Both distros come preloaded with tons of tools, but there are some differences in focus:

Parrot OS gives you all the essentials for penetration testing, forensics, and cryptography, but it also emphasizes privacy and anonymity. Out of the box, you get tools like Tor, Anonsurf, and I2P, which make it a solid choice if you're concerned about staying anonymous online. Plus, it's not just for hacking—it's also great for everyday use, coding, or even just browsing the web securely.

Kali Linux, on the other hand, is a powerhouse when it comes to specialized tools. It has over 600 pre-installed tools covering everything from wireless attacks to password cracking, digital forensics, and vulnerability scanning. If you're diving deep into ethical hacking or penetration testing, Kali is hard to beat. It's designed for professionals, so it's got everything you could possibly need—but it's not as focused on general usability or privacy.

TL;DR:

Parrot OS : Privacy-first, good for general use + hacking.
Kali Linux : Tool-heavy, built for hardcore penetration testers.

3. User Experience

This is where things get interesting.

Parrot OS feels more polished and beginner-friendly. The MATE desktop is clean, intuitive, and easy to navigate. Even if you're new to Linux, you'll find it pretty straightforward to get around. It's also less intimidating for people who aren't full-time hackers but still want a secure OS for everyday tasks.

Kali Linux is functional but not as polished. The Xfce version is decent, but it's clear that Kali is designed for pros who know their way around Linux. If you're a beginner, you might find the interface a bit overwhelming at first. That said, once you get used to it, Kali is incredibly powerful and customizable.

TL;DR:

Parrot OS : Beginner-friendly, clean UI.
Kali Linux : More complex, better for advanced users.

4. Community & Support

Kali Linux has a massive community, and you'll find tons of tutorials, forums, and guides online. It's backed by Offensive Security, which also offers professional certifications like the OSCP (Offensive Security Certified Professional). If you're serious about a career in cybersecurity, Kali's ecosystem is invaluable.

Parrot OS has a smaller but growing community. The documentation is solid, but you won't find as many resources or tutorials compared to Kali. That said, the Parrot team is active on forums and GitHub, so you can usually get help if you need it.

TL;DR:

Parrot OS : Smaller community, fewer resources.
Kali Linux : Huge community, tons of tutorials and professional support.

5. Use Cases

Here's where I think each OS shines:

Go with Parrot OS if:

- You want a lightweight OS that's great for older hardware.
- You care about privacy and anonymity (e.g., using Tor, avoiding trackers).
- You're a developer or someone who wants a secure OS for everyday tasks, not just hacking.
- You're new to Linux and want something user-friendly.

Go with Kali Linux if:

You're a professional penetration tester or ethical hacker.

You need access to a massive library of specialized tools.

You're comfortable with Linux and don't mind a steeper learning curve.

You're studying for certifications like OSCP or working in a professional cybersecurity role.