- FreeBSD isn't Linux. It's a complete UNIX based OS. (And pedigree wise, more of a "true" UNIX.)

- It's not Linux, meaning that not everything that runs on Linux will run on FreeBSD. There is a Linux compatibility layer you can enable, but it's not perfect. Because of this, some things released binary only for Linux can be a bit of an adventure. (Adobe Flash) And Linux drivers are a no go.

- Package management had been more of a real chore in FreeBSD compared to some Linux systems, but the new package management system brings it up to speed with the best Linux has to offer in my opinion.

- FreeBSD tends to be pretty lean and mean when running just FreeBSD stuff, your overhead goes up slightly if we're running Linux software.

- Most of the software you're familiar with runs on FreeBSD. Feel free to browse around the ports tree. http://www.freshports.org/

- The core OS is not a rolling release. The ports tree can if you wish it to be.

- Again on the Core OS thing, typically Linux distros are the Linux kernel and a collection of a GNU userland. These discrete parts are all maintained separately, and patched and put together into a coherent OS by your distro. FreeBSD has a "complete" OS maintained together. This complete OS is more bare bones than you might expect, but it means a very stable and consistent back end.