Why Windows is NO solution.

- Costs

Windows has high license costs, and high costs for upgrades.
Linux has no costs at all.

- Flexibility

Windows isn't flexibel enought for a server we need.
Linux can be customized in any part of the system.

- Hardware-Requirements

Windows needs 25% more resources than any Linux-System, because Windows is considered as a Client-System.
Linux needs no graphical interface which means, no resources are trashed.

- Software-Availability

In Windows every third-party software generates high costs at purchase and in most cases continuing costs for upgrades.
Linux is free, even the used Software is free in nearly all cases and we use many free software, which is very expensive on Windows if you want a comparable product.

- Security

Windows is know to be insecure and has a slow update-cycle. Upgrading Windows is critical in any case and is to risky to guarantee a good uptime.
Linux is known to be secure. Because Linux is OpenSource, all securityholes can be fixed easily and doesnt affect the productive system in most cases. There are no know viruses on Linux, even if, there isn't a great problem, because Linux has a completly different internal concept.

- Scalability

Windows can't be scaled very good, because of its structure. Same problems like with Security.
Linux is very scalable and there are no problems to extend a running system.

- Reliability

Windows has his famous 'Bluescreens' and because it isn't OpenSource, problems can't be solved as easily as in Linux; not reliable in any way.
Linux is really stable, no problem at all in the foregoing time, where we ran it; it is reliable.

- Facts in OUR Company for using Linux instead of Windows

We run Linux and FreeBSD already on our system and they run great. We had no problems since we changed to Linux.
Our Webprecences use much free software. Reasons to use it are, that we have experience with it, we don't need to know new systems, we know how stable our systems are running and we can assure that the currently running servers are better than any Windows-server.
Another big point is the security. The Microsoft Internet Information server is the most unsecure webserver know at this time. This means, that we can be the one, who is experiencing a new security hole.

- What it means to switch to Windows

High downtimes! A switch to Windows would take much time, because it's hard to find a solution for all things we need.
In this time, no customer can visit our website, in addition to that, we can't guarantee, that all would run as good as it is running currently.
As far as i know, the Webserver would be integrated into the corporate network, but that is a huge security risk, because if someone hacks this windows machine, the whole company would be affected.
If we are running the webservers under Windows, administration becomes very time-intensive, because there is no way of fast and easy access to the configuration.
So every time we need to change something on the system, we need to be

connected (this is also a new security risk) and change all values by clicking around.

In Linux we can easily append or change something without any graphical user interface, which is much more effective and not as time- intensive as in Windows.

- Many other companies and even governments use Linux

Their decisions to Linux and against Windows always named the same points: Flexibilty, Costs (TCO) and Security.

The French government uses Linux in the Server-area.

Even Microsoft itself is using FreeBSD on their Hotmail-Servers.

China decided to run Linux in all government offices, as Server and as well as Client-Dekstop.

The German government prefered Linux over Windows in the scope of Servers.

Switzerland is switching all their government Computers and Servers to Linux.

The American National Security Association (NSA) is developing on Linux for the public.

The U.S. Airforce unit bought a IBM Linux computing cluster.

UK decided to switch to Linux, because of very lower costs compared to Microsoft products.

The Indien government switches to Linux.

Also Brazil and Mexico are working on a solution with Linux.

- Companies that work with and/or support Linux

SAP is developing their database as opensource (SAPDB) and offers all kind of clients and services for Linux.

Oracle has its great and widely known database available for Linux.

IBM is very active in Linux- and UNIX-developement and supports i.e. Oracle, SAP and others.