

What is CLUG?

The Calgary Linux User's Group is a local organization that is part of a global network of independent Linux User Groups. Approximately 945 LUG's Exist in communities around the world.

Our purpose is to provide a community for people who are interested in the Linux Operating System (OS) at home, in the office, or in an enterprise setting. The only requirement is an interest in Linux.

- CLUG meets on a monthly basis where participants network, discuss new Linux developments, and enjoy informative presentations on matters relevant to Linux and CLUG.
- CLUG offers an email list that anyone is free to join and participate in.
- CLUG also has a chat room where members meet and discuss topics related to Linux.
- CLUG occasionally undertakes InstallFests as well as workshops on a broad range of topics relevant to beginners and advanced users alike.

Participation in the organization is free (like the Operating System we support) though we also offer memberships for \$20/year – the proceeds of which contribute toward supporting and sustaining the organization's activities.

Local businesses support us as well by providing discounts to CLUG members as well as supporting CLUG activities in a number of ways.

Please visit www.clug.ca to learn more about CLUG.



Calgary Open Source Systems Festival, 2007

This one-day conference and expo will be made up of speakers and hourly workshops. Booths featuring hardware vendors, software companies, services companies, and (of course) user groups will be on hand.

**4-Nines Dining Centre, John Ware Building
SAIT Polytechnic
1301 - 16th Avenue NW, Calgary, AB T2M 0L4
Saturday, October 27, 2007
9:30 am to 5:30 pm.**

This is a FREE event

(Registration for attendance is required at www.cossfest.ca)

For more information, please visit: www.cossfest.ca

Contact: **Kin Wong** at 403.617.9316 or e-mail: info@cossfest.ca

Everyone interested in Linux, Unix, Open Source and Free Software is welcome

What is Ubuntu?

Ubuntu is a community developed operating system that is perfect for laptops, desktops and servers.

Ubuntu is currently funded by Canonical Ltd (owned by South African billionaire entrepreneur Mark Shuttleworth), which provides commercial support for Ubuntu.

Whether you use it at home, at school or at work Ubuntu contains all the applications you'll ever need, from word processing and email applications, to web server software and programming tools.

Ubuntu is and always will be free of charge. You do not pay any licensing fees. You can download, use and share Ubuntu with your friends, family, school or business for absolutely nothing.

We issue a new desktop and server release every six months. That means you'll always have the the latest and greatest applications that the open source world has to offer.

With the Long Term Support (LTS) version you get three years support on the desktop, and five years on the server. There is no extra fee for the LTS version, we make our very best work available to everyone on the same free terms.

Everything you need on one CD, which provides a complete working environment. Additional software is available online.

The graphical installer enables you to get up and running quickly and easily. A standard installation should take less than 25 minutes.

What is Linux?

- Linux is a free computer Operating System developed by Linus Torvalds in 1991 while he was a student at Helsinki University in Finland.
- Linus Torvalds made the source code for the Linux kernel freely available (“Open Source”) with the combined purpose of providing people with access to it, as well as providing people with the opportunity to make improvements to it.
- The rest of what eventually comprised the core Linux Operating System was a result of a collaboration together with the GNU / Free Software Foundation (FSF) which is lead by Richard Stallman.
- Linux is a UNIX-like operating system originally designed for Intel based computers (PC's), but now runs on many other types as well.

Why Linux?

Linux is a result of the coordinated effort of thousands of programmers all over the world (via the Internet). Linux is now recognized as one of the most stable and flexible operating systems ever developed.

Some of the main reasons it is becoming increasingly popular:

- Powerful features and stability.
- Linux is inherently secure.
- End users are able to extensively configure and customize it to provide optimal performance in any environment.
- Developers have access to the source code.
- Last but not least – It can be obtained and used for FREE! ... what's not to like about that?

How is Linux different from other operating systems?

Proprietary software developers rarely – if ever – provide access to the source code of the software they produce. As a result, users of proprietary software are often “stuck” with instabilities, security flaws, limited feature sets, and limited configurability, until the manufacturer chooses to make changes to the software.

End-user's are also often charged for significant upgrades and improved functionality and have limited input into the software development process outside of answering the questions, “how much are you willing to pay?”

Closed source application licensing is becoming more and more prohibitive, confusing and aggravating to end users. Open Source Software is developed on a per project basis, many of which are on-going in nature. The collaborative approach to software development has lead to an unprecedented rate of development while at the same time ensuring high quality software as well as quicker patches to bugs and security issues as they are discovered.

Proprietary software is developed in a closed environment that is not open to public review and public scrutiny. This matter is particularly important when it comes to computer security. Eric Raymond (author of “The Cathedral and the Bazaar”) has likened the situation to the number of “eyes” that are able to look over the code.

Open Source as a development model allows for a lot more “eyes” to participate in the review process. The result of which is better software by peer review and quicker bug-fixes when bugs are found.

The US's National Security Agency (NSA) has embraced Linux as a result of this and has subsequently contributed a project called “Security Enhanced Linux” which aims to bring computer security to new heights. This contribution would not be possible under traditional proprietary software development models.



What is the Free Software & the GPL?

The GPL is a 'copy-left' software license, written by the Free Software Foundation. It provides four 'freedoms' to users of GPL software:

- The freedom to run the program, for any purpose .
- The freedom to study how the program works, and adapt it to your needs (access to the source code is a precondition for this).
- The freedom to redistribute copies so you can help your neighbor .
- The freedom to improve the program, and release your improvements to the public, so that the whole community benefits.

Popular Linux Distributions:

- Ubuntu (www.ubuntu.com)
- Fedora Core (fedora.redhat.com)
- Mandrake Linux (www.mandrake.com)
- SuSE Linux (www.suse.com)
- Debian Linux (www.debian.org)
- Slackware Linux (www.slackware.org)
- Gentoo Linux (www.gentoo.org)

Free Linux CDs:

Ubuntu (shipit.ubuntu.com)

Some other great Free software:

- Firefox/Thunderbird (www.mozilla.com)
- VLC media player (www.videolan.org)
- The Gimp (www.gimp.org)
- OpenOffice (www.openoffice.org)
- AbiWord (www.abisource.com)
- Audacity (audacity.sourceforge.net)
- Inkscape (www.inkscape.org)