Meetings

Our monthly meetings are announced on the mail list and web site. These meetings feature presentations and demos about things that interest Linux/Unix users. Sometimes we even host social events, too. In an impersonal world of Email, IM, phones, video, and chat rooms, there are things only a physical meeting can foster: Meet new people, get hands-on experience with new devices, build social relationships, swap hardware, you might even win a door prize. Attendees vary from seasoned admins, to brand new casual users.

Membership

Becoming a TWUUG member is easy- just come to one of our meetings, put yourself on the sign-in sheet, and get your picture taken at the end of the meeting. There are no dues. You will retain "membership" status as long as you attend at least one meeting per year. You don't have to be a "member", however, to attend meetings or join the mail lists.

Mailing Lists

TWUUG maintains several Email lists that you can join. Once on the list, you can participate in discussions, ask questions, and post information. Although there are numerous Linux, Unix, and free/open source mailing lists and support groups on the Internet, local people usually derive more enjoyment out of helping and interacting with each other, locally.

Website

Our website is based on Wiki technology so everyone can participate in adding and editing content. Along with the membership directory, you can find the archives of the mail list, notes from meetings, and helpful tips.

Examples of a few of the Popular FOSS Projects

Firefox: The fast and featureful web browser that invented tabs and has captured lots of the web browser market.

OpenOffice: An entire suite of MS-Office compatible productivity applications, including a word processor, spreadsheet, presentation manager, and vector graphics designer.

GIMP: The GNU Image Manipulation Project. Similar to Adobe Photoshop, GIMP is a very powerful raster graphics editing program.

VirtualBox: a virtual machine that lets you run one OS under another, like MS-Windows under Linux or vice-versa.
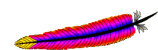

Various Wiki programs, such as "MediaWiki" that power the global Wikipedia.

Thunderbird: Flexible and multiplatform Email system with RSS support.

Samba: The way to share files, printers, and other resources between different platforms.

Apache: The world's most used web server software, powering most of the Wold Wide Web.

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The TideWater Unix User's Group

TWUUG

Are you Interested in Linux or other free/open source software?

TWUUG, the "Tidewater Unix User's Group", is one of the strongest and longest lasting user groups in southeastern Virginia, formed in 1990.

Everyone is welcome; we have no dues or fees and feature monthly meetings, Email lists, and a collaborative website,

www.twuug.org

TWUUG Mission

- To act as a conduit for Unix/Linux users in the area to share information and experiences.

- To teach the community about Unix/Linux & Free and Open Source Software (FOSS).

- To support the cause of "Open Systems".

- To provide a forum for demonstrations of and discussions on new Unix/Linux hardware and software.

- To provide an area where networking information can be discussed.

- To support the members and the local area with projects that are appropriate to the group.
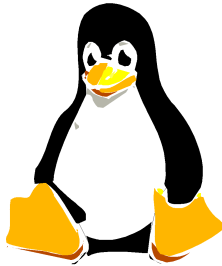
What Exactly Is "Linux"?

Linux, itself, is just the "kernel" of a modern operating system. Many of the other components of the OS sprung from the "GNU" project and many other similar projects. Collectively, when all the parts are integrated together, a "Linux distribution" is born. So, when you see the term "Linux" used, it is usually synonymous with "Linux distribution".

Linux has its roots in Unix. Unix came into existence around 1970, developed originally by Bell Labs, as a powerful and portable operating system. The design was brilliant and hugely successful. Other companies and even universities started licensing the source code of Unix to develop their own versions of Unix.

Long had been the dream to develop a free version of the hugely popular and powerful Unix operating system. The GNU project (www.gnu.org) took on this goal and started the concept of "open source", developing Unix-like components. These tools were not only free to use, but offered complete access to the source code. In 1991 a student named Linus Torvalds followed the open source model and developed a new kernel which was later dubbed "Linux". Coupled with the vast array of GNU utilities and many other projects, the Linux operating system came into existence.

Linux is a free, open source, modern, Unix-like operating system. Developed and maintained by thousands of volunteers all over the world, Linux is perhaps the most interesting challenge to the dominance of proprietary systems. Linux is a 32/64 bit, multiuser, multitasking, multiprocessing, multithreaded environment.

Nobody really owns Linux nor the vast number of GNU and other tools and applications found on the Internet. Many organizations and companies have put together huge collections of open-source Linux applications and integrated them into Linux distributions. These distributions make installation and configuration of Linux systems easy and convenient. Some of the most popular include Redhat/Fedora, Novell/SuSe, Mandriva, and Ubuntu; but there are many others.

Today, there are many millions of Linux users all over the world. Linux has home, corporate, government, and student users. All benefit from Linux's freedom. Google, the world's largest privately owned network, is based almost exclusively on Linux. Linux has found its way into countless products, such as TiVo, Nokia & Motorola pads and phones, Linksys routers, one laptop per child project, Amazon Kindle, Asus EEEPC, Netgear NAS, Axis cameras, TomTom GPS, etc. And although not typically found in retail stores, major vendors such as IBM, Sun, Dell, HP, Asus, Cray, and SGI all offer Linux systems.

Top 10 Reasons People Use Linux:

1) **It is free**. Linux is completely free. And every upgrade is free. And most of the software applications are free. It's about freedom. It's about choice. YOUR choice.

2) **It is open-source**. You get the OS source code. And because of that, nobody can take it away from you and nobody can take over Linux or corrupt its freedom.

3) **No company requires you to register your software**. No serial numbers, no licensing concerns, no activation codes, no restrictions, no forced upgrades.

4) **No company monitors what you do** with the software. No backdoors, no spyware, no "big brother watching".

5) **It is fast**. And has less hardware requirements, and installation is usually amazingly simple and quick.

6) **It is flexible & powerful**. You can do just about anything with Linux. Full command-line, several GUI environments, multiple CPU support, full 64Bit, embedded systems, etc.

7) **It is secure**. Linux is built on the legacy of Unix. It is essentially virus-proof and very resistant to all types of "malware".

8) **It is reliable & stable**. A properly setup Linux box will run for months or years without rebooting. Nothing is "crash-proof", but Linux is as close as it gets.

9) **It is truly multiuser**. Linux really understands the concept of multiuser. Every person has their own login and permissions. Even automated tasks on the system are separate users.

10) **It is purely standards based**. Unlike proprietary systems, Linux is based on open standards, guaranteeing interoperability and preventing vendor lock-in situations.

Other Free & Open Source Software:

There are many thousands of different FOSS applications. You might already be familiar with some of the largest projects. Although Linux distributions contain all these applications and thousands of others, many FOSS applications are also available for other platforms, such as MS-Windows or Apple MacOS. See the back of this flier for a few popular examples.