

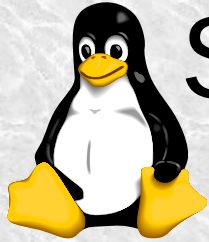
STL Linux Users Group for Seniors

Welcome

Starting a Linux Users Group for Seniors

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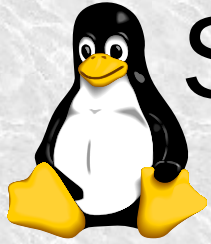
Stan Reichardt
stanr@sluug.org



STL Linux Users Group for Seniors

Introduction

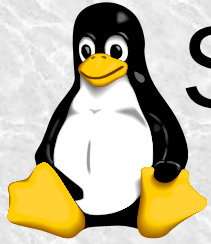
- I, Stan Reichardt, started a beginner friendly user group for Linux newcomers know as the Hazelwood Linux Users Group (<http://hzwlug.sluug.org>) in November 2000. Also, I am currently Vice-President of the St. Louis Unix Users Group. Both groups meet monthly. Membership and meetings are free.
- My start was around hobby computers back in the 1970's while on Active Duty with the U.S. Army Reserve. My interest became professional and over the next 10 years work included networked mini-computer systems, desktop PCs, help desk support for desktop users, data base programming, Unix System Administration, bulletin boards and more. I retired as an Information Systems Chief from the US Army Reserve Command.
- Contract work followed doing Software Deployment for the U.S. Postal Service, UNIX System Administration for U.S. Army Material Command, Linux Subject Matter Expert for Wave Technologies International, Senior Security Engineer auditing and evaluating security assessments for the Vetrans Administration.
- I have received Linux +, and Security + certifications from CompTIA, the IT Industry Trade Association.



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Agenda

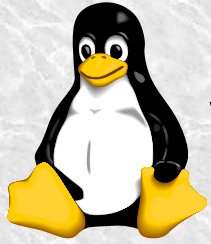
- Who
- What
- Where
- When
- Why
- How



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Who

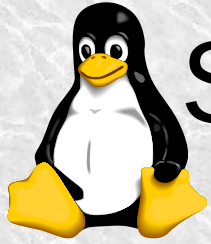
- Who else will be helping?
- Who are you?



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What

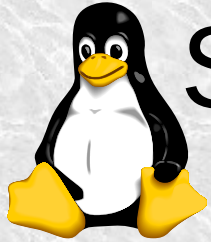
- *What is Linux?*
- *What Linux isn't?*
 - *NOT the premiere gaming platform {yet}*
 - *NOT a complete clone of Microsoft Windows*
 - *NOT always able to run commercial packages*
- **What other challenges?**



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What

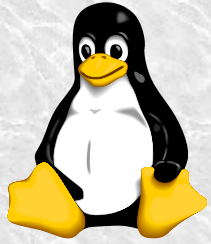
- What is this Senior Linux Users Group about?
 - Seniors, mostly age 55 or more
 - Seniors interested in using Linux
 - Others that are not seniors
- What kind of Linux will be explored?
 - Graphical User Interface (GUI)
 - Easy to use, familiar, friendly, and traditional
 - NOT Command Line Interface (CLI)
 - {seldom required, mostly optional}



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Where

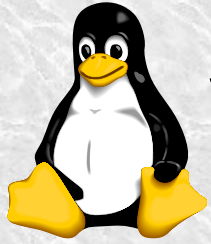
- St. Louis Linux Users Group for Seniors
 - VENUE St. Louis County Library Prairie Commons Branch
 - 915 Utz Lane (between Howershell & Dunn) Hazelwood MO
- Other Linux friendly meetings in St. Louis Metro Area?
 - HZWLUG ~ Hazelwood LUG for newcomers to Linux
 - SLACC ~ St. Louis Area Computer Club with Linux configuration workshop
 - STLLUG ~ St. Louis LUG with Linux topic presentations
 - SLUUG ~ STL Unix Users Grp with occasional Linux topics



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When

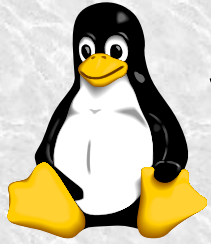
- Schedule of meetings:
 - Starting 9 January 2015
 - 2nd Friday of each month
 - Afternoon, 1PM ~ 3PM
 - Next meeting will be on 13 February 2015



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Why

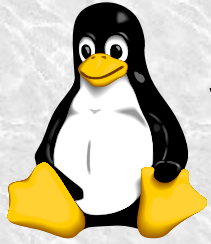
- Why I switched to Linux
 - Reliability
 - Unix-like was very familiar to me
 - Cost alternatives (when I switched ~ 1995)
 - SCO Unix ~ \$1500
 - Coherent Unix ~ \$100
 - Linux ~ \$0
 - Open Source Software license (mostly GPL)



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Why

- Why I continue using Linux
 - Fixable
 - Documentation
 - Packaged within Linux system
 - Books
 - Internet
 - Fun with computers
 - Family and friends



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Why

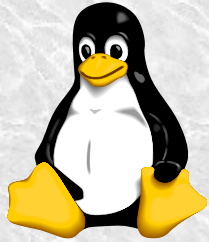
- Why you should use Linux
 - Free or very low cost
 - Liberty
 - Learning
 - Interface (Easy Usable Graphical)
 - Security
 - Hardware
 - Installation
 - Applications
 - Community



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Why

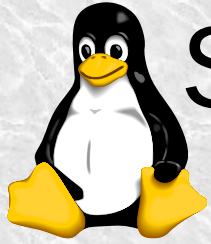
- Why have Senior Linux Users Group meeting
 - a ~ Promote Linux use by seniors
 - *b ~ Attract knowledgeable senior Linux users*
 - c ~ Exploit knowledge of older Linux users
 - d ~ A daytime LUG for those that can't do evenings
 - e ~ Provide to seniors what other local LUGs don't



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How

- Style of meeting
 - Must be beginner friendly ~ Linux newcomers always welcome
 - Participant interests to be primary driving force ~ ask questions
 - Free format ~ Usually unstructured with nothing planned
 - Occasional presentations or demonstrations ~ not critical
 - Repetition may be acceptable ~ often very good
- Maybe easy ~ Maybe hard
 - Do no harm
 - Hardware issues
- Handout Cds/DVDs
 - can be made ahead of time



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Resources

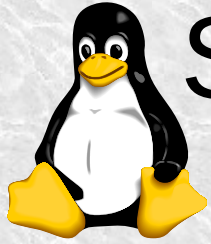
- Library books
- Other Linux/Unix groups
 - <http://hzwlug.sluug.org> ~ Beginners
 - <http://slacc.sluug.org> ~ Workshop
 - <http://stllinux.org> ~ More
- Internet
 - <http://www.sluug.org/calendar/> ~ Calendar
- Mailing lists ~ <http://www.sluug.org/mailman/listinfo/>



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Future

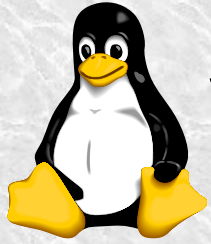
- Planned coverage (in no particular order)
 - Friendly Linux Distributions (Distros)
 - Reading the User Manual
 - Using the Desktop File Managers
 - Includes navigating the Desktop
 - Includes navigating the Linux File System
 - Getting onto the Internet
 - Intro to LibreOffice suite
 - E-mail
 - Security



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Summary

- We covered only very basic questions
- Where we go and how we get there is up to you
- Ask questions and learn



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Questions

What are your questions?

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