



WLUG

Waikato Linux Users Group

(Incorporated)

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PRESS RELEASE

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Waikato Linux Users Group To Run Public “Installfest” To Encourage Uptake of Free Software In Region

The Waikato Linux Users Group (WLUG), a society supporting Linux and Free Software in the Waikato region, is holding its second annual Linux installfest at the Crawshaw School Hall on Crawshaw Drive, Hamilton, from 10am on Saturday 7th May.

Registration for the installfest is now open on the WLUG website at <http://www.wlug.org.nz/installfest>. There is no charge to attend.

Linux is a free operating system for computers. It has been developed by thousands of programmers around the world, some working alone, some sponsored by large computer companies such as IBM and HP. No single company or group controls it. It prides itself on being free in both the sense of “no cost” and “freedom to modify” – unlike proprietary software such as Microsoft Windows; anyone can download the code that builds a Linux system, review and modify it. This openness has led to many governments and businesses choosing to run Linux instead of other operating systems. They can audit and change the software that runs on their system, and know they cannot be held to ransom if their vendor decides to stop supplying or maintaining it.

One of the biggest hurdles to adoption of Linux is that computers don't come with it installed. An installfest is an event where members of the local Linux community offer their time and expertise to help new users install and configure Linux software distributions on their computers. At the WLUG installfest, there will also be live demonstrations on how to maintain and update your new Linux system. Members of the public are encouraged to bring their computers and take the plunge with Linux.

A Linux system generally comes with dozens of useful programs, including a full office suite, graphics editors and Internet utilities, free of charge, and hundreds more can be easily downloaded. There are equivalent programs for most common Microsoft Windows software, and you can emulate some Windows software on Linux.

Computers can be configured with both Linux and Microsoft Windows, with a menu offering a selection between the two a user turns on their computer.

"Our last installfest was a great success and an educational experience for the WLUG, as well as the participants" says group president Greig McGill. "We look forward to applying lessons learned last year, and making this one as good as it can be." Over 50 people attended the 2004 event, and this year WLUG intend to streamline the installations in order to run more training.

For people who are interested in Free Software, but not yet ready to take the leap into running Linux, the WLUG will also have demonstrations of free software for Microsoft Windows, such as the tremendously popular Firefox web browser and OpenOffice.org office software.

The Waikato Linux Users Group is an incorporated society that exists for the betterment of Linux and Free Software in the Waikato area. WLUG runs meetings on a monthly basis where a member of the LUG or an invited guest speaks on a topic of interest to members. Support and guidance is offered to anyone using Linux through the WLUG website at <http://www.wlug.org.nz/>, and a public mailing list.

For further information, contact the secretary, Craig Box, by email on secretary@wlug.org.nz or on 021 475 869.