

## You're Invited to Discover Linux and the Free Software Movement.

If you're sick of popup ads, activation keys, spyware and viruses, GatorLUG might be just what you're looking for.

### What is *GatorLUG*?

The **Gator Linux User Group** is a loose association of computer professionals and enthusiasts that promote *free software* along with *open standards* for free exchange of your data between all systems, present and future.

But it's not all serious advocacy; we have a lot of fun at our monthly meetings.

### What is *free software*?

Computer programs are written in human-readable *source code* then translated into a *binary* that only your computer understands. In the *proprietary* business model, you don't get to see the source code. You must rely on the supplier (e.g., Microsoft) to make changes and fix problems.

In contrast, with free software (sometimes called *open source*) you not only get to see the source code, but you (or someone you hire) can fix or improve it and even incorporate it into a product you sell.

But there's a catch: If you sell free software, you can't keep it secret. You must tell everyone the modifications you make and how to get the free program for themselves.

### Software you get for free can't be any good, right?

Strangely, free software is often *better* than proprietary. It's more reliable, faster, and works fine on old computers. Some large corporations (e.g, IBM and Google) embrace the free approach and make substantial contributions to open source.

A worldwide cadre of programming professionals find and report bugs directly to the responsible programmer. Problems are fixed quickly; it's a point of pride for an open source developer.



*If you've used an Apple or Windows PC, you'll feel right at home on a Linux Desktop.*

### What is an *installfest*?

Several times a year, GatorLUG convenes specifically to install Linux on new computers. At an installfest you'll get plenty of expert help to smooth over any bumps.

You'll need to do a little preparation to make room for Linux. Reservations are recommended. See the website (right) for details.

### I'm not with UF. Can I participate? Are there dues?

A lot of UF people attend the meetings, but GatorLUG is not a UF organization. There are no dues; meetings are free and open to the public. We sometimes raise funds by

auctioning donated equipment, but you aren't expected to bid.

### Where and When does GatorLUG meet?

We meet at Virtually Cuban, 2409 SW 13 St. from 6-8PM on the third Wednesday each month. There is ample seating, free wireless internet, easy parking, coffee, beer, and great food.

### Where can I get more information?

Browse: <http://www.gatorlug.org>  
Email: [info@gatorlug.org](mailto:info@gatorlug.org)

## What is *Linux*?

Linux is an open source *operating system* favored over Microsoft Windows when reliability is important.

Linux seldom comes by itself, but it's bundled with a host of free *applications* surpassing those that came with your computer. Linux with applications is called a *distribution*. Specialized distributions serve various niches, from workstations to multimedia centers to cellular phones.

<i>Linux Application</i>	<i>Replaces</i>
Open Office Suite	Microsoft Office
MPlayer	Media Player, Real Player
Gnu Image Manipulator	Adobe Photoshop
Mozilla Firefox	Internet Explorer
Thunderbird	Outlook (Express)
Impress	PowerPoint
GAIM	All Instant Messengers
Skype for Linux	Skype for Windows
Gnumeric	Excel Spreadsheet
MyMoney	Quicken, MS Money
Ghostview	Adobe Acrobat
Festival Speech	Microsoft text-to-speech
CD Record	Nero CD burner
Xara	Adobe Illustrator

*A sample of replacements for proprietary applications*

Although widely deployed in businesses, Linux hasn't been as popular in the home. It is unfairly criticized as harder to install than Windows. As a monopoly, Microsoft can force manufacturers like Dell or HP to install Windows on their retail computers. Certainly, installing Linux in your computer is harder than not installing software that's already there.

Data is not information.  
Information is not knowledge.  
Knowledge is not wisdom.

Gary Flake, Yahoo

## The Myth of "Linux Competitors"

There are several companies who make products that Linux threatens directly. Any firm selling, for instance, an operating system, would feel threatened by what is becoming the standard OS much as TCP/IP became the standard networking protocol.

But to call these "competitors" of Linux is to misunderstand the nature of the threat. Linux is not a business, it is not a strategy, it is not a concept.

Linux represents the brutal and unflinching march of technology towards the zero price point. Linux - and all free and open-source software - exists because all the barriers to its existence have been gradually razed.

The first rule of competition is that all players must be playing the same game. How can anyone seriously still think that Linux and (e.g.) Microsoft are playing the same game?

The game is not over - there is no game, and there never was.

by "ites" on Slashdot, March 8, 2005

Free software drives the internet.  
Everything else is just along for the ride.

Clinton Collins on #gatorlug IRC

As we enjoy great advantages from inventions of others, we should be glad of an opportunity to serve others by any invention of ours; and this we should do freely and generously.

Benjamin Franklin

# Fostering Open Source and Open Standards in Gainesville, Florida



## Freedom is Contagious

<http://www.gatorlug.org>