

# Building a local linux audio community

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## Abstract

The Open Source Audio Meeting Cologne is a monthly gathering of audio and free software enthusiasts. This workshop provides insights how such a regular event may be organized.

## Keywords

community, meeting, workshop

## 1 Introduction

Nearly every month since June 2014, audio and free software enthusiasts meet in Cologne for the local Open Source Audio Meeting. Usually, there are between 5 to 10 participants. On special occasions there may be more. The program of each event is created in a collaborative effort.

## 2 How we reach out to people

- website (<http://cologne.linuxaudio.org>)
- mailing list
- Facebook page / Meetup group

## 3 Meeting organization

We have a more or less fixed agenda which serves as a guiding path through each event. A low-tech approach is used to incorporate community input.

### 3.1 Agenda

The agenda includes:

- welcome round
- news
- in the media
- flea market
- talks and demos
- questions and answers

After each meeting, we usually go to a pub nearby to socialize.

### 3.2 Tools

The start page of a dokuwiki installation serves as our home page. It presents mostly static information.

In order to plan a new meeting, an etherpad document is initialized with our agenda template. During the days before the meeting, everyone is free to add topics to this document. Further information may then be added in the course of the event. After each meeting, the etherpad document is archived as a page in our wiki, and then reset to the agenda template.

### 3.3 Space

Fortunately, the meeting can take place on the premises of the Chaos Computer Club Cologne, a local chapter of the well-known German hacker community. The room we are using is equipped with WiFi, a beamer, and a light and sound system.

## 4 Highlights

Now and then, the monthly meeting may focus on a single topic. These meetings prove to be very popular. Highlights include:

- November 2015, Talks by Louigi Verona
- November 2016, Rust Audio Special in cooperation with the Rust Cologne meetup

## 5 Future direction

We are still looking for ways to reach a broader audience and to decrease the prominent gender gap in participation. An open source audio weekend is planned for November 2017.

## 6 Conclusions

It's fairly easy to set up your own local meeting. Spread the word!

## 7 Acknowledgments

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