

LUG General Body Meet

Ethan Wong

Linux Users Group @ UIC

September 17, 2024

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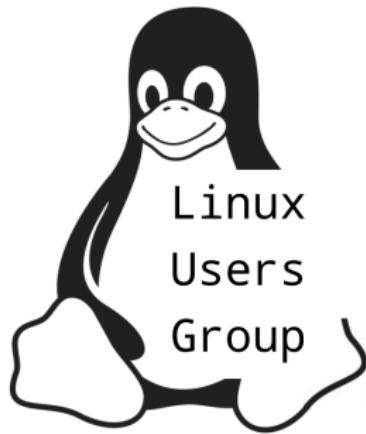
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Linux User Group @ UIC



LUG stands for Linux User's Group. We are a pre-professional organization who's mission is to provide a community space for like-minded individuals with interests in:

- Linux
- Free and Open Source Software
- Hardware Hacking
- Privacy and Security
- *among others...*

Fun Facts

- We are one of the oldest student organizations in the University, next to **ACM**, our sister organization.

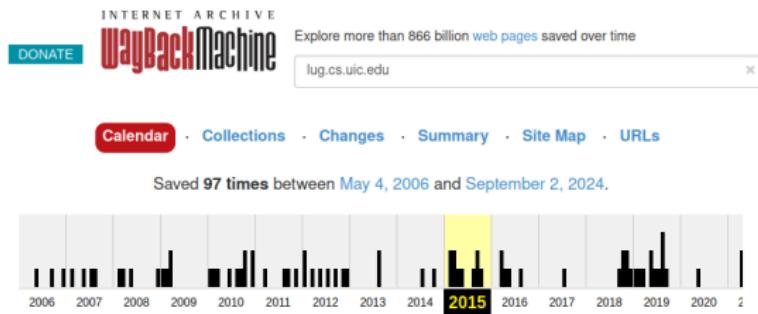


Figure: Our website has been active since 2006!

- We share an office with ACM in SELE 2264 where *anyone* can come in and talk technology!
- We maintain one of the largest CS org Discord servers, nearing **500** members :D

Meet the Officers President

- Ethan Wong
- Contact: ewong25@uic.edu
- Maintaining LUG since 2024
 - ▶ Distro: Arch
 - ▶ Owns *too many* Thinkpads
 - ▶ Loves homelabbing and enterprise rack-servers
 - ▶ Interested in VR hardware



Figure: My Homelab

Meet the Officers

Vice President

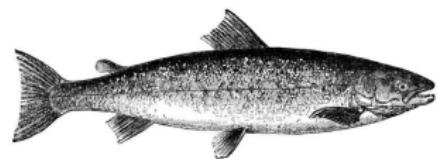
- Jacob Cohen
- Contact: jcohen30@uic.edu
- Maintaining LUG since 2024
 - ▶ Distro: Debian 12 on Home PC
 - ▶ PhD Student under Professor Eriksson
 - ▶ Runs ACM's SIG Systems

Meet the Officers

Treasurer

- Kevin Cordero
- Contact: kcord2@uic.edu
- Maintaining LUG since 2021
 - ▶ Distro: Linux Mint
 - ▶ Has a website
<https://olympicene.dev/>
 - ▶ Loves movies!
 - ▶ Also has a homelab (Dell Poweredge R320)

Security by optimism and prayer



Expert

Hoping Nobody
Hacks You

O RLY²

@ThePracticalDev

Contact Us

Email us!

`lug-officers@uic.edu`

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What's Linux?

Linux is a free and open-source operating system kernel. Linux is part of a family of operating systems that bundle various pieces of software to form a complete OS, called Linux distros.

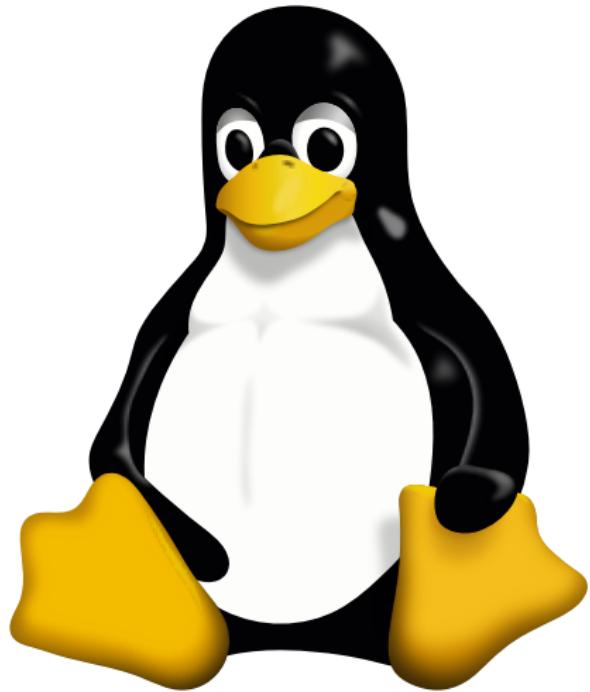


Figure: Tux, the Linux mascot

Why Linux?

- It's truly free!
 - ▶ Anyone can view, modify, and redistribute the kernel and its underlying source code.
 - ▶ It's actually libre/available for no charge.¹
- Linux powers millions of devices like Android smartphones, Chromebooks, and even the **top 500** supercomputers in the world!
- Unix-like systems like Linux are widespread in academia. Learning its usage is beneficial to your research and coursework!
- Linux systems are tailored to software development, programming and installing dependencies is far easier on Linux than other operating systems.
- It's not Windows.
 - ▶ Or macOS either...

Curious? Check out our Linux Week event coming soon!²

¹most of the time

²will be announced later in the presentation

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Past Presentations

In the past, we've ran presentations/workshops on various topics to spread knowledge of how to better use a Linux system. Some of these include:

- Vim, the ubiquitous text editor
- SystemD, the system and service manager
- Makefiles
- GDB
- *and more...*

You may have even encountered these in your coursework!

Website

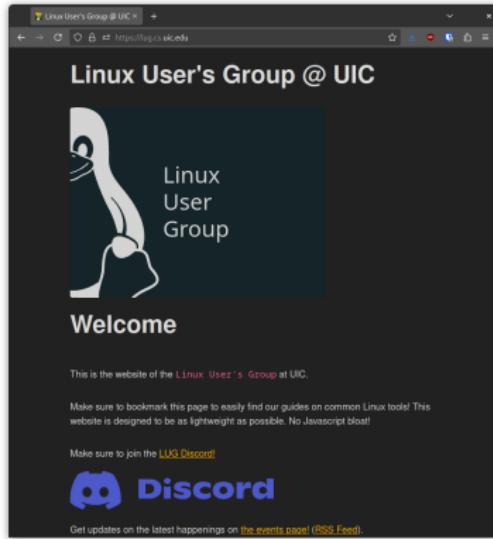


Figure: LUG Website

We've been building a *community-contributed* knowledge-base for Linux users at UIC who...

- daily-drive Linux
- use Linux in a class (i.e. `systems{1..4}.cs.uic.edu`)
- need information about Linux, GNU, Free Software, etc. or are otherwise trying to learn

Our new website has been in active development since **2022**. Students are also free to contribute, our website is open source under the MIT license. Check it out!
<https://lug.cs.uic.edu>

Projects

We've been working on fun things within the ACM/LUG room, mostly hobbyist projects that *anyone* can get involved with!

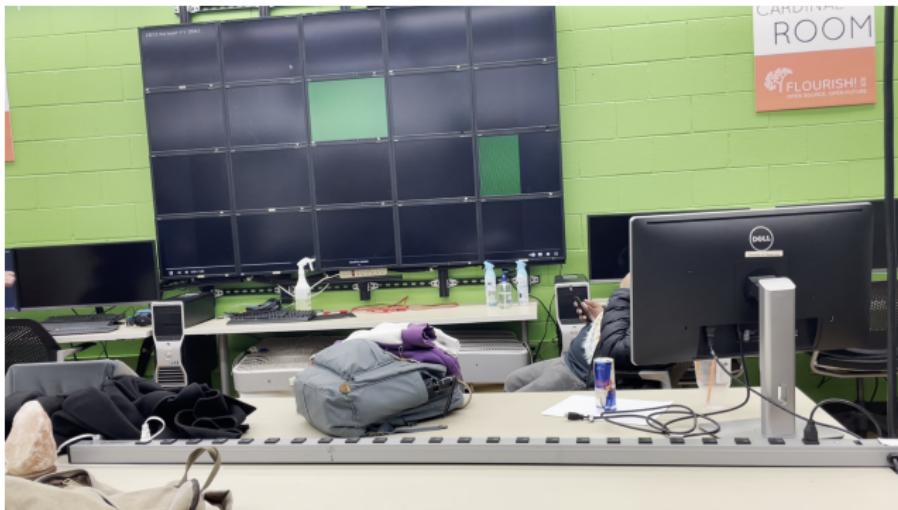


Figure: Bad Apple on the Monitor Wall
(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IMMLf1KIPig>)

Projects

Apart from that, our GitHub has many of our open-source works, including:

- Cerberus, an LDAP user management app
- eventfetch, automated event flyers
- doorkeeper-driver, an evdev driver for keycard readers
- doorbot, a Discord bot to keep access in the ACM/LUG office

Among many other incomplete works lost in the weeds due to time. Check it out here: <https://github.com/lugatuic>.

Server Rack



We share a server rack with **ACM**. We own our own server on the rack: `miku`. `miku` is a Dell Poweredge R610 running Proxmox, a KVM-based hypervisor which manages virtual machines. This server has an overkill amount of hardware.

Figure: ACM/LUG Server Room

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Tentative Semester Presentations

We're proud to offer these topics as workshops this semester.

- Linux, Libreboot, and Thinkpads
- Intermediate Tmux Usage
- Homelabbing

If you want a specific topic covered or want to present your own presentation, let us know! lug-officers@uic.edu

Linux Week

Linux Week is our (somewhat) annual event where we teach introductory Linux skills to newbies.

Linux Week 2024 is being held within the next two weeks!³

Topics include:

- Installing Linux on Your Machine
- Coreutils and Filesystem Usage
- Package Management
- Shell Scripting and Pipelines
- Software Freedoms and Copyleft

Keep tabs on our Discord and the newsletter listserv for further announcements.

³pending room reservation from the university

Cyberforce



This year, LUG members are representing UIC in the Department of Energy's Cyberforce competition! Cyberforce is a cybersecurity competition where members:

- solve CTFs
- harden infrastructure against *actual* White Hat hackers
- identify and re-secure breached machines

The event is in-person in St Charles, IL nearby Fermilab and is a fun way to get hands on experience with system security against **real professionals**.

The Endless To-Do List

We have some projects we'd like to get done, and we need help! If any of these interest you, feel free to reach out to us.⁴

- Re-image chopin, a legacy server on the ACM/LUG server rack.
- Spin-up a Matrix homeserver and bridge it with the Discord.
- Migrate our website off Github Pages and onto our own server.
- Add features to our website like a sidebar and search.

⁴lug-officers@uic.edu

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Join our Discord!



Figure: <https://discord.gg/NgxTR7PX5e>

I Hate Discord :(

We also have a newsletter listserv!

Email SUBSCRIBE LUG to listserv@uic.edu for timely email notifications.

Also, you should join CampusGroups to be “officially” part of the club.

https://uic.campusgroups.com/linuxuser/club_signup

We're Hiring!

As mentioned previously, we want people to help contribute to LUG! If you want to help with projects or have a presentation you want to present, email lug-officers@uic.edu or DM us on Discord :D

Closing Remarks

Thank you!

We'll stick around to chat afterwards...

Closing Remarks

The information in this presentation will be made available⁵ on our website!

<https://lug.cs.uic.edu>

Officers



Join our Discord!



Figure:

<https://discord.gg/NgxTR7PX5e>

⁵sooner or later