Introduction to Linux and Open Source

Linux User Group Document Series #1

July 16, 2025

Document Abstract

This document serves as the first installment in the Linux User Group series, providing an introduction to Linux, open-source concepts, and our group's mission.

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1 Session 1: Introduction to Linux and Open Source

In this first meeting of the Mino LUG (Linux User Group), we covered the following topics in an informal, conversational style:

- **What is a LUG?** A Linux User Group is simply a gathering of tech enthusiasts who love Linux and open-source software. We get together to share experiences, learn from each other, and support newcomers. In our first session, there were four of us, but size doesn't matter – the focus is on sharing knowledge and growing together.

- **Our Group's Goal.** The aim of the Mino LUG is to create a friendly community where members can ask questions, present mini-talks, work on collaborative projects, and help each other solve Linux-related challenges.

- **What Is Open Source?** Open source refers to software whose source code is publicly available for anyone to inspect, modify, and distribute. This approach promotes transparency, collaboration, and rapid innovation.

- **Open Source Culture.** The open source culture values openness, meritocracy, and community contribution. Developers coordinate via public repositories, mailing lists, and forums, offering patches and improvements without monetary reward.

- **What Is Linux?** Linux is a free, Unix-like operating system kernel created by Linus Torvalds in 1991. Distributions bundle the kernel with system tools and applications to provide complete operating systems.

- **Who Is Linus Torvalds?** Linus Torvalds is the Finnish software engineer who initiated the Linux kernel project. His pioneering work laid the foundation for one of the world's most widely used open-source projects.

- **Why People Prefer Open Source.** Many choose open source for the freedom to inspect code, customize features, avoid vendor lock-in, and benefit from community-driven support.

- **Why Contribute Without Pay?** Contributors are often motivated by personal learning, reputation building, the desire to solve real-world problems, and the joy of collaborating with like-minded peers.

- **Benefits of Open Source.** Advantages include cost savings, security through transparency, faster bug fixes, and a vast ecosystem of shared tools and libraries.

Repository and Future Notes   For convenience, I have decided to publish all session notes and logs in our GitHub repository. You can find it here:

$$\texttt{https://github.com/medishen/LUG-Mino}$$

From now on, every topic discussed in our meetings will be added as a PDF (and in LaTeX source) in English to this repository. That way, anyone who misses a session can

catch up on what was covered. Everyone who participated in a session can contribute by editing, adding, or even removing items to keep our notes complete and up to date.