

# The Free and Open Source Users Community

*Users groups are a valuable source of information, training, support and most of all, fun.*

## Australia-wide

**Linux Australia** was founded to cater specifically to the needs of the Australian Linux community. Australia has unique problems that confront those attempting to organise and co-ordinate users groups and other support mechanisms because of its high level of urbanisation combined with large geographic distances between populated areas. Linux Australia hopes to assist in bringing the disparate pockets of Linux support into a single forum by encouraging and facilitating communication between these groups.



Through the promotion of awareness of free and open source software, Linux Australia helps to ensure that the community can flourish to its full potential.

In Australia, there are over 40 Linux Users Groups (LUGs) around the country, as well as many Unix, Python, Perl, Debian and other special interest groups.

Check out our listings of users groups to find one near you and get involved today!

<http://www.linux.org.au/usergroups/>

## Local

The **Sydney Linux Users Group (SLUG)** is a place to learn about and discuss Linux. The meetings take place in real venues as well as in virtual space, via our Web pages, mailing list and IRC channel. The SLUG membership is made up of professionals, semi-professionals, hobbyists, and those who like to play and gain knowledge of Linux and the vast amount of free software.



SLUG is about sharing experiences, knowledge and fun. SLUG caters for all levels, from those who are new to Linux, wanting to know how to install or set up Linux, to experienced kernel hackers and systems administrators.

Face-to-face SLUG meetings are held on the last Friday of each month. More information and news on events can be found on our Web site at <http://slug.org.au/>

## Around the world

Linux, free software and open source are global phenomena, with users groups all around the world. If you are going overseas, or if you are just curious, check out this listing of Linux users groups to see the strength of the worldwide community!

<http://www.linux.org/groups/>

## Want to know more?

If you are new to Linux, free software and open source, or are interested in using it in your home/school/business/organisation, visit our guide at

<http://www.linux.org.au/linux>

# Who uses Linux?

**GNU/Linux**, commonly known as **Linux**, enjoys widespread use across a range of purposes. Contrary to popular perception, the desktop computing market is but a mere fraction of the overall Information and Communications Technology (ICT) industry. As you can see, Linux can be found just about anywhere:

- Over **30 million** users and growing rapidly
- **Microsoft** use Linux for Web caching, wireless network infrastructure and more
- **Michael S. Dell**, Chairman and CEO of Dell Inc., uses Linux personally on his laptop
- **Dell, HP, IBM, Lenovo, Acer, ASUS** and many other computer manufacturers load Linux on servers, desktops and laptops
- **Over 95%** of the servers and desktops at large animation and visual effects companies
- **Over 85%** of the top 500 supercomputers in the world (including the top 46 most energy efficient)
- **Over half** of all Web servers, including **8 of the 10** most reliable Web hosting providers
  - The Apache Web server leads with **over 60%** of Web sites, including **44%** of secure (SSL) sites
- **One quarter** of the smartphone OS market
  
- **Government departments worldwide**, including in the United Nations, the European Union, the United States, Japan, Germany, France, India, China and Brazil
- **Australian Government departments**, including Centrelink, the Bureau of Meteorology, the RTA and the Australian National Archives
- **Educational institutions**, including schools, universities and TAFEs
- The **One Laptop per Child (OLPC)** educational programme, a collaborative effort by the United Nations and a multitude of governments, companies and other organisations to develop and distribute educational content, materials and infrastructure for millions of children worldwide
- **Scientific organisations**, including CERN, NCSA and CSIRO
- **Automotive companies**, including DaimlerChrysler, BMW and PSA Peugeot Citroën
- **Aviation**, including NASA, US Federal Aviation Administration, Boeing and Lockheed Martin
- **Financial organisations**, including the NYSE, Merrill Lynch, Citigroup and National Australia Bank
- **Film studios**, including Sony Pictures, Disney/Pixar, DreamWorks, Industrial Light & Magic and BBC
- **Internet companies**, including Google, Amazon, Wikipedia and Akamai
- **IT companies**, including Intel, AMD, IBM, HP, Dell, Lenovo, Acer, ASUS, Brother, Oracle and SAP
- **Communications companies**, including AT&T, NTT, Vodafone, Telstra and Optus
- **Embedded and consumer device manufacturers**, including Sony, Matsushita/Panasonic, Samsung, Nokia, Motorola, Cisco/Linksys, Palm, Sharp, TiVo and FIC
- **Energy and Resources companies**, including Royal Dutch Shell, BP, Alinta, Santos and Origin
- And many more...

See **<http://www.linux.org.au/linux>** to see how Linux, Free Software and Open Source can benefit your home/school/business/organisation today!