Frequently Asked Questions

This is intended to be a useful collection of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) for people wanting to learn more about the Anglian Linux User Group, The ALUG gives no responsibility for anything that is incorrect, breaks your computer, someone else's computer, causes your house to burn down or someone else's. We also accept no responsibility if this document causes the end of the world, invasion by aliens or causes you to be dragged through a worm-hole into another dimension.

What is ALUG?

The ALUG is the Anglian Linux User Group, we are based in the UK and primarily cover the counties of Norfolk, Suffolk, Cambridgeshire and Essex although members are encouraged from all over the universe and will be made to feel welcome.

Some members' views...

"The Anglian Linux Users Group (ALUG) is a group of like minded individuals, many of whom live in the East Anglian region of England. Membership is not limited to East Anglia with members living as far afield as Kent, the Channel Islands and Japan. As a group, we exist to help promote the use of Linux and are happy to help any newbie to get started. Anyone is welcome, even Bill Gates :o)" – David Freeman

"ALUG is a bunch o' misfits." – Alexis Lee

"ALUG is your best hope for a saner computing future." – MJ Ray

What is Linux?

"Linux, or more properly GNU/Linux, is an extremely powerful and reliable UNIX-like operating system. It can be installed alongside another OS (such as MS Windows or Mac OS) to provide a superior networking, coding, design or office platform. Contrary to popular belief, Linux does have very sophisticated GUI (Graphical User Interface) facilities, including many utilities to help you set up your machine the way you want/need it." – Alexis Lee

"Linux is a five letter word." – David Freeman

What does the ALUG do?

We exist primarily to advocate the use of Linux as a mainstream computer operating system and provide support to beginners and hardened veterans, and have a chat about Linux-related topics.

We are a sociable group who try to arrange regular meetings throughout East Anglia to provide advocacy, help and have a chat over things not only related to computers.

We generally try and have a meeting at least every couple of months. Unlike some groups we don't meet weekly, as the geographic area we cover is so large but we try and supplement this by having an email mailing list for people to join.

We have a mailing list for people to post to with problems they are having with Linux and GNU software and for discussion of Linux-related items. We also have an IRC channel with a scheduled weekly meeting although you can try dropping in anytime to see who is on as some of us hang out there at other times. The discussion can be very wide ranging also not just limiting itself to discussions about Linux (see below for more info on IRC).

What doesn't ALUG do?

We are not a secret society planning to take over the world while worshipping a giant Penguin called Tux (honest).

I don't yet use Linux, is it still ok to join?

Yes, by all means. Newbies (beginners) are very welcome and encouraged. If you are a beginner and have a question feel free to ask the list but make sure you have at least done a quick search on google first and read (or tried) any documentation you have. We are generally supportive of new users but remember we are human too. If you ask too many questions too quickly, then you may find people getting to the end of their tether...

How many people are there in the ALUG?

There are about 170 subscribed to the mailing list and the meetings generally get attendance of around 20-30.

How long has the ALUG been together?

The ALUG has been together since just before the first meeting in May 1999.

What is this IRC thing?

IRC stands for Internet Relay Chat. It is a kind of online chat room system. The IRC meetings are held every Monday evening at around 8pm onwards and it is not unusual to find people hanging out sometimes in the week. We use the IRC server irc.openprojects.net in the #alug channel. You can take a look at http://www.openprojects.net/ to get more info on the openprojects network.

Popular irc clients include tkirc, epic, xchat and ircII on Unix, and Mirc under windows. Here are some links to help you get started with IRC.

Unix

* http://www.xchat.org/ * http://freshmeat.net/ (lots of them) * http://www.epicsol.org/

Windows (if you must)

* http://www.mirc.com/

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