Bringing Linux to Public Schools and Community Centers

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SCALE10x

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Elizabeth Krumbach

- Linux (Debian and Ubuntu) Systems Administrator at LinuxForce

- Ubuntu Community Council Member

- Board Member of Partimus.org

Are you already using Linux in your school?

Getting Linux into schools in the United States is challenging

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Challenges arise around the social and political aspects.
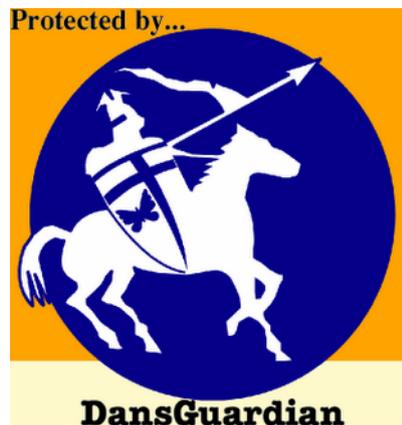
Social/Political Challenges

- Restrictive technology policies

- Funding obligations tied to specific technologies

- Lack of support from existing IT staff

- Misconceptions about FOSS

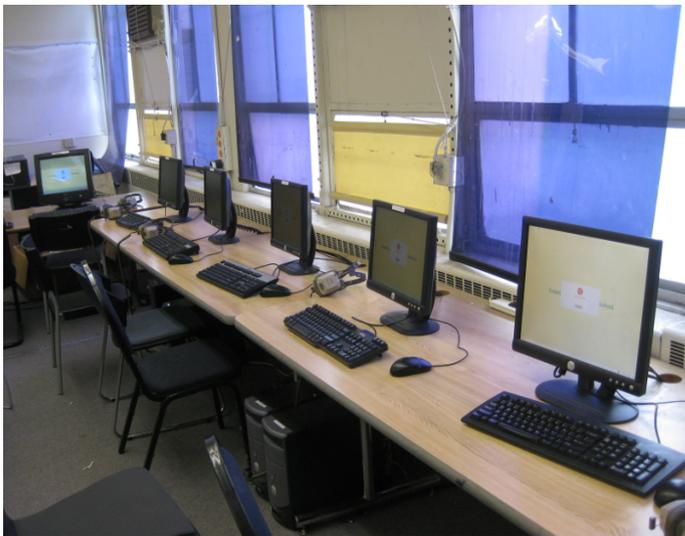- "But it's not used in the '"real world'"

The software is there!

The hardware is there!

The volunteers are there!

3 Examples

- Mt Airy Learning Tree (MALT)

- Creative Arts Charter School (CACS)

- ASCEND School

Example 1: MALT

Community Center: Mt. Airy Learning Tree (MALT)
Philadelphia area, Pennsylvania

Example 2: CACS

Public Charter School: Creative Arts Charter School
San Francisco, California

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Public Charter School: ASCEND
Oakland, California

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Summary of needs

- Strong allies at the school/community center

- On the ground support

- Strong project leadership

- Dedicated core team of volunteers

- Diligent and proactive training

- Education about the value of FOSS

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Questions?

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Credits

Jim Fisher and Randy Gold – Ubuntu Pennsylvania

James Howard, Christian Einfeldt, Grant Bowman – Partimus

Robert Litt – ASCEND

Charles Profitt – Pittsford Central Schools

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