

...from the pass ... until today!

Back in the nineties (1995-97) some young people, some of whom already had established web-pages, decided to form a Linux Users Group (LUG) using this Operating System on IBM compatible computers.

In 1998 this group formally became a legal entity as a non-profit club whose purpose was to proliferate the Linux Operating System and the philosophy of the **General Public License (GPL)** for **Free-Open Source Software (FOSS).** As a part of this process a tax number and an official stamp was obtained as a formal club with a constitution as provided by Greek law.

At first in 1999-2000 club members and their friends worked on new projects creating Greek fonts and translating application menus. They organized events such as install fests to encourage the use of this text based system to get involved in Linux and to better understand the GPL model.

From 2001 to 2010, the Linux Users Group encouraged **Linux and**Free Software (FOSS), involving itself in a variety of events:

- Setting up booths at the Infosystem exhibitions in Thessaloniki and dte-Comdex in Athens, distributing Cd's with various Linux and OpenOffice distributions, brochures, etc.
- Interventions on the use of software in the Public Sector.
- Raising awareness of the world of Information Technology about the risk of adopting software patents in the EU (<u>http://epatents.hellug.gr/</u>) and collecting protest signatures (<u>www.noepatents.gr</u>).
- Establishment of its laboratory in Kallithea Athens (http://lab.hellug.gr), which until 2010 offered "live" to the public and institutions, the philosophy, value and experience of Free/Open Source Software (FOSS).
- Demonstrating the reuse of old PCs with the Linux Terminal Server Project (LTSP) for example, in 2006, in partnership with AWMN (http://www.awmn.net), setup a working Press Room at the European Social Forum in Athens.
- Introducing LTSP to Public Schools with the support of the Technical Support of the Computer Technology Institute and Press (CTI)/Ministry of Education, Research and Religious Affairs. (http://ts.sch.gr), with its optimal management and near zero cost of new material and technical infrastructure.

Since 2011 **HEL.L.U.G.** has been an active member of the **G**reek **O**pen **T**echnologies Alliance (https://gfoss.eu/), and continues providing practical technical knowledge to any interested person or Organization with a variety of actions and events.



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