

## Open Document Format(ODF):

The Open Document Format (ODF) is an open file format for office applications used for documents containing text, spreadsheets, charts and graphical elements. ODF frees the user from vendor lock-in that comes with proprietary formats.

## THE ORGANISERS:

**ILUGC** is one of the oldest LUGs in the country, continuously active since its inception in 1997. It specialises in grass root level work all around Tamilnadu and in the neighboring states too. Under its guidance, many local LUGs are active in colleges and towns across Tamilnadu. ILUGC members are also in the forefront of the FOSS movement at national and international level.

**NRCFOSS**, funded by the Min. of Information Technology, Govt. of India, is jointly run by C-DAC and AU-KBC, Chennai. For the past three years, NRCFOSS has been actively promoting FOSS in the academic and government domain. The focus areas include introduction of FOSS in engineering curriculum, encouraging student projects in FOSS, and inducing academia to release their work under FOSS/Creative Commons licenses. C-DAC has developed the *Bharat Operating Systems Solutions (BOSS)*, an Indian version of Linux distro. AU-KBC research groups in NLP, Bio-informatics, Wireless, Cryptography, etc., have been using various FOSS tools and are also contributing to the FOSS repository.

## Contact Details:

Conference web site:

<http://registration.fossconf.in/web/>

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<http://nrcfosshelpline.in/web/>

### Some Useful FOSS Links:

<http://www.fsf.org/>

<http://www.opensource.org/>

<http://www.bsd.org/>

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

<http://www.odfalliance.in/>

<http://sourceforge.net/>



**FossConf**  
Chennai Feb 2008

FOSS Conference for the common man

Jointly organised by



[\(http://www.chennaiug.org/\)](http://www.chennaiug.org/)

and



[\(http://www.nrcfoss.org.in/\)](http://www.nrcfoss.org.in/)

on  
1<sup>st</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2008

at  
MIT Campus, Anna University  
Chromepet, Chennai, INDIA.

<http://registration.fossconf.in/web/>

The Indian Linux Users Group, Chennai Chapter (ILUGC) and the National Resource Centre for Free/Open Source Software(NRCFOSS), Chennai, take great pleasure in inviting you to participate in the **FossConf** to be held at MIT, Anna University, Chromepet, Chennai from noon on Friday 1st to noon on Sunday 3rd February 2008.

## SCOPE:

The conference will focus on new users/contributors to FOSS. They could improve their knowledge and gain experience in speaking on and presenting FOSS related topics.

**For Teachers/Lecturers/Professors:** Training in teaching and using of FOSS subjects and tools.

**For Government Employees:** Orientation on how to effectively use their FOSS systems.

**Mini-Talks:** 10 minutes each, every conceivable FOSS related topic highlighting some aspect of FOSS.

**Tutorials:** up to 2 hrs of intense instruction on a particular subject.

**Sprints:** Groups of people working to achieve a target: coding, fixing bugs, translation, documentation...

**Academic & Research Presentations:** On work done using FOSS tools from the academic community.

**Informal Talks:** Talks, group chats, presentations and discussions 'under the trees' in the MIT campus.

**Demos:** Installation, Games, Embedded Linux and many...

**Student Projects:** Project presentations or Ideas for projects using or developing FOSS Tools.

**Cultural Competitions:** Art, poetry, songs and skits on FOSS theme.

## What is FOSS?

Free/Open Source Software (FOSS) are programs whose licenses give users the freedom to run the program for any purpose, to study and modify the program, and to redistribute either the original or modified copies of the program.



There are three major philosophies in the FOSS world: the *Free Software Foundation(FSF)* philosophy, the *Open Source Initiative (OSI)* philosophy and the *Berkeley Software Distributions(BSD)* philosophy. All of them share the same space and cooperate on practical grounds like software development, efforts against software patents, and such like.

FOSS is built with a collaborative development model. Most of its software are created by volunteers and employees of companies, governments and organisations from all over the world.

FOSS is free to use and everyone has the freedom to contribute to its development. Everyone can benefit from this co-operative development model and hence, we like to call it Free/Open Source Software, or **Socially Responsible Software**.

FOSS is not just a type of software, it is a methodology, a philosophy and a movement.

## What is : GNU, Linux, BSD and Distributions ?

### GNU's Not Unix:

GNU is a Unix-like OS that comes with source code which can be copied, modified, and redistributed. The GNU project was started in 1980 by Richard M Stallman and others, who formed the FSF. GNU project built a set of tools including a compiler, linker, shell, utilities and a micro kernel(HURD). These tools and the kernel constitute the GNU OS - a Free Operating System. GNU software are released under the GNU General Public License(GPL).

### Linux:

In early 1990s, Linus Torvalds, a Finnish student, developed a monolithic kernel that came to be named as Linux, possibly the most prominent example of FOSS. Like GNU tools, the Linux kernel is also under continuous development with thousands of developers contributing code and continuously enhancing its capabilities.

### BSD:

BSD began as the "*Berkeley Software Distribution(s)*" in the late 1970's. It added new programs to Unix and, later, the original proprietary Unix code was replaced with BSD-licensed code. TCP/IP, IPv6 and IPSec were first widely introduced for BSD.

### Distributions:

GNU/Linux or BSD Distribution (or distro) is a complete, usable OS. It consists of various GUI and console applications that could be used for daily work. Well known distro names are *Debian, Red Hat, Ubuntu, Mandriva, FreeBSD, OpenBSD, NetBSD* etc.,. *Knoppix* distribution allow you to run the OS from the Live CD, without having to install it on the hard disk.