Bringing Linux to Public Schools and Community Centers

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- Linux (Debian and Ubuntu) Systems Administrator at LinuxForce
- Ubuntu Community Council Member
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Are you already using Linux in your school?
Getting Linux into schools in the United States is challenging
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
Example 3: ASCEND

Public Charter School: ASCEND
Oakland, California
• 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
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