

## FREE SOFTWARE DAY

Come and explore new ways of making computer equipment last longer, save money on software, find out about free community ICT support networks - and have fun with a barbecue!



There will be hands-on demos (you can try the software yourself with help from our volunteers) and presentations about the software as well as sustainable ICT and the environment. VCOs already using the software and systems will demonstrate it for you. **17 September, 11am-7pm near Aldgate East - get full venue details and book online here: <http://softwarefreedom.eventbrite.com/>**

## WHO'S IT FOR?

We want to set up and support a social network for people who use Free Software in small organisations. It's for anyone who manages or helps look after ICT in VCO, Social Enterprises or ethical businesses and has problems with:

- High cost of software and hardware (and not knowing what's the best thing to choose)
- Clogged up, slow and infected PCs and laptops
- Lack of easily available tutorials and training - not knowing how to use it or fix it yourself
- Getting 'locked in' (computer stuff that won't work properly with other computer stuff)

## WHAT'S FREE SOFTWARE?

A quiet revolution has been moving through the ICT world and Free and Open Source Software (FOSS) is **used on at least 30% of the world's desktop and laptop computers and 60% of corporate servers as well as mobile phones.** **Ubuntu\*** is now overtaking Mac as the world's second most popular desktop operating system and many governments and NGOs all over the world are using it. Yet it's still barely used (or even heard of) in the UK VCS - where the benefits could be enormous.

The software and operating systems we promote are:

- Free of charge with free updates, works well with other FOSS software (no 'lock-in')
- Software can be used on Windows, Mac or **Ubuntu\*** desktop and server systems
- The **Ubuntu\*** operating system doesn't slow your computer to a crawl and doesn't get hacked or clogged up with viruses, popups etc
- Software and operating systems are all easy to install and maintain yourself - and no messing about with installation CDs - works with most 'high street' hardware
- Free online community support and tutorials
- Can be used on PCs, laptops and netbooks up to 6 years old (or even older)
- We offer regular free mutual support and 'accidental techie' networking events to help you maintain it yourself for free

\* **Ubuntu** is a free replacement for MS Windows which can be installed on computers up to 6 years old for free to give them a new lease of life - with free online support from the worldwide Ubuntu community. Find out what it can do here: <http://www.ubuntu.com/desktop/features>