Getting Started with Your New Free Geek Computer Classes

These classes help volunteers setup and use their new Ubuntu-based computers. While oriented toward volunteers in the adoption program, hardware grant recipients and thrift store shoppers are also invited to sign up. Content is almost identical in all classes – *only sign up for the one class that best fits you.*

Beginner

Tuesdays & Thursdays 10:30-1:30
Saturdays 3:00-5:30

If you do not feel comfortable with computers or have rarely used one before this is the class for you.

Intermediate

Saturdays 12:30-2:30

If you have used a computer before, perhaps at the Library or the Free Geek computer lab, but are still a little unsure about how to save files and find them, then this class is for you. **Covers the same material as above**, and may also include some extra content.

Advanced

Wednesdays 11:00-1:00

If you are very comfortable with computers this is the class for you. **Covers the same material as above**, and often includes some extra content.

Other Classes

Basic Command Line for Builders

Saturdays 10:30-12:00
Tuesday 2/7, 2/14 3:00-4:30

Students will learn the parts of a command, listing, linking, tab completion, file system structure and more. Required for those Free Geek volunteers who want to move on to post-build positions. It is recommended that you have a good basic understanding of computers before taking these classes. If you have never used the command line before, or need a refresher, this is the class for you.

What is open-source software? Programs that everyone is free to modify and distribute.

What is Linux? An open-source computer operating system similar to Windows or OS X, but totally free.

Ubuntu versus Linux? There are hundreds of versions of Linux for many different needs/uses - Ubuntu is one of those versions and very popular with those using Linux for the first time.

Linux Open Questions

Friday 1/6, 1/20 10:30-12:30

Learn the basics of Ubuntu Linux in this class that changes based on the needs and questions of the students. You may take this class as often as you would like.

GIMP Fundamentals

Wednesday 2/8 3:30-5:30

Learn the basics of GIMP, the GNU Image Manipulation Program. If you have never used GIMP or Photoshop before to modify and create images this is the class for you.

GIMP Intermediate

Wednesday 2/22 3:30-5:30

Learn more advanced functions of GIMP like paths and layer masks. Perfect followup to the fundamentals class or for those already moderately familiar with Photoshop.

Introduction to Internet Use & Security

Wednesday 2/15, 2/29 3:30-5:30

Learn how to use the Internet safely. This class will cover the basics of using an Internet browser and how to generate and use secure passwords. Students will also learn tips and techniques to use websites like Craigslist and shopping sites safely.

Introduction to Writing Resumes & Cover Letters

Wednesday 2/16 3:30-5:30

Learn how to use word processing programs like Open Office to format documents correctly by creating a resume and cover letter. Even if you are not actively searching for a job this is a great way to learn how to use programs similar to Microsoft Word.

Many of the classes we offer are oriented to our amazing volunteers who receive a free computer after donating 24 hours of their time. These **Getting Started classes** are perfect for computer users of all levels who have never used Ubuntu Linux before. Setup and learn the basics of your new Free Geek computer. Volunteers who take these classes receive one year of free tech support from Free Geek!*

We also offer **Command Line classes** for both volunteers and the general public. These are an excellent way to learn the basics of the Linux command line. Build volunteers who would like to move onto post-build positions, like Advanced Testing, Mac and laptop repair, are required to take our **Basic Command Line for Beginners class**.

Free Geek provides other classes on specific topics: **GIMP classes** - to work on image manipulation and creation; **Internet Use & Security** – to learn how to use the Internet safely; **Resume Writing** – so you can use word processing programs better, and a **Ubuntu Linux Q&A** class – to ask questions about how to use your computer in ways effective for you.

*Free tech support void if you make major modifications to your computer or change the operating system.

Almost all of our classes are taught by an awesome collection of fantastic volunteer teachers.

Don't forget to thank your teacher!

Are you interested in becoming a volunteer teacher at Free Geek?

Do you have an idea for a class you think we should offer?

Call or email our Education Coordinator to find out how you can get involved.

Questions?

Call or email Darren Heiber
Hardware Grants & Education Coordinator:

dheiber@freegeek.org
503-232-9350 x111

http://www.freegeek.org/about/classes/

February 2012 Free Geek Classes

Free Geek's mission is to recycle technology and provide access to computers, the Internet, education and job skills in exchange for community service. To help fulfill this mission, we currently offer **free classes** on computer-related topics to our volunteers and the general public in our facilities at 1731 SE 10th Avenue in Portland, OR.

Pre-registration is required for classes. You can do so at the volunteer desk or by calling us at 503-232-9350 x101.

If you have online access you can always see our current class offerings at
http://www.freegeek.org/about/classes/