



Open Source IP Telephony Toronto Asterisk Users' Group

Increasingly and inevitably telephone service is moving to inexpensive VoIP protocols. \$500,000 custom hardware is frequently being replaced with inexpensive commodity servers running Open Source software at a small percentage of the cost. Asterisk PBX software is among the key technologies enabling this transition. It allows you to easily and inexpensively develop advanced telephony services for your enterprise or your home.

The Toronto Asterisk Users Group (TAUG) is a community organization for Asterisk users, both commercial and hobbyist, to share knowledge and experiences.

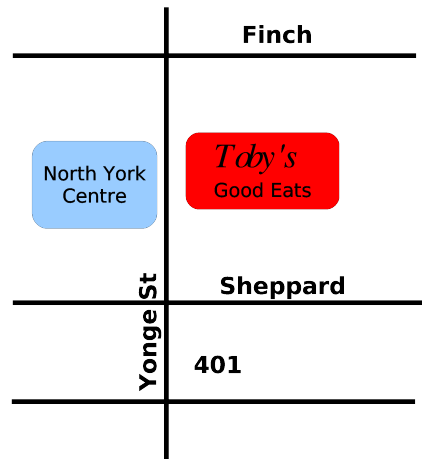
Whether you are a telecom engineer looking to take advantage of the newest developments in VoIP to "fill in the cracks" of your commercial package or an entrepreneur with an idea for a telephony application, you will probably need to know Asterisk to make your projects cost-effective.

TAUG brings together an enthusiastic collection of individuals who have experience in many disciplines, including Residential, Small-Medium Business, Large Enterprise, Call-Centre, Carrier and ISP (to name a few). You can talk face-to-face with the people who are doing exactly the kinds of things you need to do.

Professional or Hobbyist

If you're just looking to save a few dollars on your phone bill by creating a do-it-yourself custom phone system, TAUG's monthly presentations can be an invaluable learning tool. TAUG also holds hands-on workshops, seminars and install-fests to help you get started on your projects. The TAUG mailing list also provides a comfortable, low-key environment for asking questions or discussing problems.

Joining is free. Simply visit <http://taug.ca/> and sign up to the mailing list. Meetings and events are all announced on the list. TAUG typically meets at 6:30pm on the last Wednesday of the month at North York Civic Centre.



Our Sponsors

We would like to thank Linux World for sponsoring our booth, and O'Reilly Media for books and posters.

The funding for incidental expenses for this booth, and the equipment on display here, were provided by our members.

Asterisk?

Asterisk is a sophisticated software PBX which runs on a wide range of computers and devices, and not only delivers all of the functions of typical business telephone systems, but also features and capabilities that closed, proprietary systems cannot even dare to dream of. Best of all, you do not have to pay for Asterisk - it is free software.

An open platform

Gone are the days of expensive specialized hardware. Asterisk is Open Source so programmers can modify it: fix bugs, add features, and more. Asterisk runs on almost any computer running Linux, Windows XP, FreeBSD, OpenBSD, & more. It also runs on some routers. Hardware is entirely generic (even line termination boards, which are available from multiple vendors).

Asterisk Features/Benefits

Asterisk supports all standard PBX features (and many that are expensive options on proprietary systems), including trunking, speed-dial, Voicemail (including email notification), IVR, ACD, Conferencing, per-user language prompts, and more. If we tried to fit all of Asterisk's features into this brochure, the list would fill both sides, so instead we'll refer you to <http://www.asterisk.org/features>.

Asterisk saves all configuration information in plainly-readable files or standard databases, so there is no hidden lock-in. You'll appreciate this if you've ever tried to get all your configuration and call detail records from a traditional PBX that may have suffered a catastrophic hardware failure (or even if you have one that hasn't failed . . . yet).

Configuration is done by editing these files (default) or by menus (see add-ons).

Asterisk Users in your area?

There are Asterisk User's Groups (AUG's) in Toronto (<http://taug.ca>), Montreal (<http://amug.modulis.ca/>), Winnipeg, Atlanta, New York, Sacramento, San Diego, Utah, and New Zealand. See <http://taug.ca/augs>

Open-access VoIP INFO

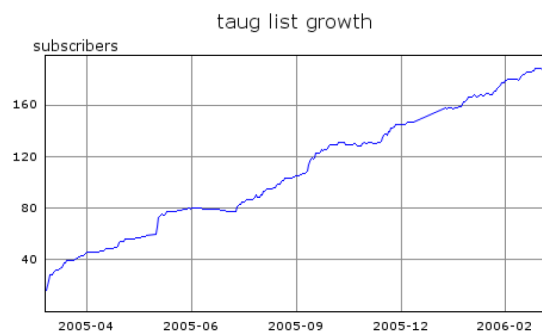
<http://www.asteriskdocs.org/>
<http://www.voip-info.org/wiki/>
<http://www.voipuser.org/>

Asterisk Official Sites

Asterisk <http://www.asterisk.org/>
Ast Conference <http://www.astricon.net/>
Digium <http://www.digium.com/>

Open Source Info

<http://tinyurl.com/3ald3> - The Cathedral & The Bazaar
<http://www.opensource.org/>



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TAUG Web: <http://taug.ca/>



A complete minimal PBX inside a router? Replacement software for home routers offers all the original features plus the Asterisk PBX with voicemail. This is the perfect home office or remote teleworker solution. Add a SIP-to-analog (FXO/FXS) adapter to your network and it becomes an integrated, fully functional PBX for your home phones as well.

A New Business Model

Asterisk is developed as Open Source software. Created by Mark Spencer, and supported by Mark's company, Digium, Asterisk has the corporate backing that many businesses require, but also enjoys the community support that allows it to achieve rapid and relevant technological leaps. Because the source code for Asterisk is available, anyone can add support for their hardware or software, fix bugs that impact their business, or add features they need.

Open Source Marketplace

If you don't want to get under the hood, the dynamics of an Open Source community nurture multiple vendors competing to support you. Many of the TAUG members in Toronto offer local commercial deployment, support and development services. To complement this, Digium offers commercial support packages.

What is Open Source?

Open Source software stems from the belief that quality software is built by communities. The value of allowing open access to the source code is that users of the software can contribute to its improvement. This model has proven highly effective in building such successful products as Linux and Apache, the foundations of much of the Internet.

The tip of the iceberg

The public open source repository SourceForge.net lists around three hundred VOIP projects. One of the better known of these is Asterisk@Home, which was originally designed for home users and provides a web-based simplification layer in front of Asterisk. At the other end is Digium's commercial version, Asterisk Business Edition.

Web management:

FreePBX, ACaMI, Callware VoiceOne, AstWeb - Asterisk PBX Web Interface, Asterisk Realtime Web Configuration, Ampersand

Full systems:

ST-PBX Live, Asterisk@Home, MyAsterisk

Enhancers:

app-conference, Enhance Me, AsterOID, Ruby Asterisk Gateway Interface

Billing:

*starShop, Astbill, A2billing

Sounds

Want more/better/different sound files? Get extra-sounds from Asterisk itself, or native sounds which are recorded in different formats requiring less compression and providing better sound quality. Or choose from several commercial sound suppliers.

