

FOSS Movement in Egypt

By:

Egypt GNU/Linux Users Group (EGLUG)

<http://www.eglug.org>



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About the Speaker

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Current FOSS status in Egypt

- Community: Active
- Private Sector: Growing Rapidly.
- NGO and non-profit organizations: Most of them already converted.
- Academia: Starting slowly.
- Government: Interested, didn't start to adopt FOSS (yet).



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Before EGLUG

- Growing FOSS awareness for a small group of professionals
- Linux-Egypt (1999): Online Community.



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EGLUG Start

- First Installfest (2004): first offline FOSS activity.
- More than 2000 attendees, most of them are Faculty students.
- Made with no fund at all, cost was less than L.E1000 (around \$250 at that time). All of them gathered by internal donations from the volunteers.
- Place was sponsored by a private cultural center in Egypt (Sakia). No profitable entities were involved.



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- Non-official / non-profit organization.
- Online & Offline community:
- Aims:
 - Advocacy.
 - Support.
 - On land activities.
 - Contribute back to the bigger community.
 - Education
 - Socializing
- Some documents were made to organize EGLUG work flow. The most important is the charter.



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Activities

- Annual Installfest.
- Meetings.
- Online resources: forum, wiki, blogs, irc channel.
- Do or Die.
- Helping non-profit organizations.
- Penetrating Academia.
- Teaching in Schools.



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Business

- Activities attracted Private Sector companies. Mainly for recruitment.
- In installfest 2005, was the first sponsor, and for the first time, the term “Community Member” was applied on a profitable company.
- More Companies started to adopt FOSS solutions as the skilled human resources was available. And more business models started to grow.



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Temporary Suspension

- Lots of active members got busy from the lug, thus the lug activities were reduced.
- The main fault that we did was that we didn't prepare a second line of volunteers with leadership skills.
- With reduced Activities, the entity that was giving us logistic support (mainly the place to meet and give sessions) retreated. Making the situation more hard.
- EGLUG retreated to be only online community in 2008



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EGLUG Alexandria

- Start was joining forces with EGLUG Cairo group in the installfest 2007
- Some sessions were made during 2007 and 2008.
- The boom happened when the FOSS awareness grew due to the wikimania2008 conference in Alexandria Library (bibalex).



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EGLUG Alex Strategy

- Sessions and courses in bibalex.
- Penetrating the Academia: 10 days campaign in Alexandria University, plus 3 sessions.
- Starting an Open Source club in Faculty of Engineering, Alexandria University.
- The Focus on faculties was to create a second line to ensure longevity for EGLUG even if the current volunteers aren't available at any point.



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Alex Installfest

- Installfest 2009 was made for the first time in Alexandria, with Cairo volunteers joining forces with Alexandria team.
- The place was for the first time donated by a governmental institute (Information Technology Institute).
- Attendees exceeded 1500, and the number of who volunteered after the installfest was near 1%
- The iTi enrolled OpenSource courses after the Installfest..



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EGLUG Cairo Resurrection

- After about 2 years without activities outside the electronic space, EGLUG made an agreement with an NGO in Cairo to host its activities, Focusing on helping people to contribute than advocacy to new users.
- The next phase will be to resume FOSS activities in the acadmia, then resuming All activities there.



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Thank You

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