



Get involved in choosing who benefits from our profits sharing scheme.

**I**t's been 10 months since the first issue of Linux Voice went on sale. So much has happened and it feels like we've barely started. But it's not long before we reach our first major milestone (after hitting our crowdfunding target) – the end of our first year.

We made three promises during our campaign. One was to create the best Linux and Free Software magazine available, and while there's always going to be room for improvement we think we've hit this target. Our

second promise was to release the entire contents of each issue under the terms of the Creative Commons Share-Alike licence and release each issue within nine months of them going on sale. As this very issue circulates the globe, that's exactly what we'll be doing

with issue 1. Head over to [LinuxVoice.com](http://LinuxVoice.com) and grab a copy, if you haven't already.

Our third promise was to give 50% of our profits back to Free Software and Linux communities. And the best thing about this was that you – our readers – get to choose who gets to benefits. And with only a

couple of months to go before our first year's accounts, now is the time to get started on the process. However, we want the process to be as open and as adaptable

**“We promised to give 50% of our profits back to Linux and Free Software communities.”**

as possible. Like the magazine, we want to get as close as possible to the ideal solution, but we also want to be open and transparent enough that we can improve the process with your help. Which is why we're starting a little early.

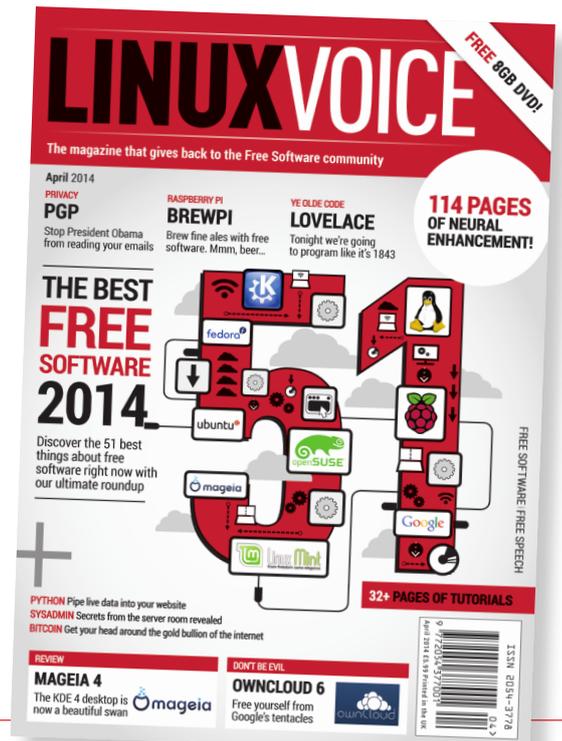
Issue 1 is now yours All of our work for the first issue has been relicensed under the terms of Creative Commons

As per our promise during the Indiegogo campaign that launched this magazine, our first issue, from February 2014, is now available completely free. But just like open source, we don't mean just in the 'free beer' cost sense, but also in the freedom sense. We always felt this was incredibly important for a magazine about free and open source software, and we always wanted to be a magazine that gave back in the same way, with a similar commitment to the same principles that drive open source development.

This is also the reason why we chose the Attribution-ShareAlike variant of the Creative Commons licences. This allows you to take our content and copy and redistribute on any medium or in any format. Just like open source, you can also edit, transform and build on any of our work for any purpose – even commercially! The only conditions are that you need to give us credit (attribution) and document any changes that you've made. And also like open source, you need to make those changes available under the same terms.

One example of what can be done with the content is that a few of us here on the magazine and many from the Linux Voice community have taken those words and turned them into a freely distributable audio recording. We've split the recordings by article and also made a complete RSS file if you wanted to grab the long play version. It's not bad for a first effort and it's brilliant hearing everyone's contribution. We're all extremely grateful for the support from the various people who have made their own recordings (you only need a microphone and a copy of Audacity if you want to help with our next issue). Not only does the audio version make our content more accessible, we also think that the spoken version makes an excellent time killer for long journeys and train delays. Take a look at [LinuxVoice.com](http://LinuxVoice.com) for more information.

Download, modify, share and upload our very first issue, thanks to the Creative Commons.



Central to our strategy are the 114 comments we received from our blog post "Giving Profits Back: Where and How", which we put online in November 2013. As you might expect when you ask a question like this, there are many different points of view, many of which may be incompatible with one another, or even have the potential to cause conflict. This is the absolute last thing we want to happen from doing this, so we want to tread carefully. At least for our first year, as we expect profits to be modest, and we can fine-tune the process and set a firm foundation for future Linux Voice awards.

Apart from the many specific projects, communities and foundations that were mentioned in that original post, there was a central point that was repeated by many: both large and small projects should benefit. This was primarily because most of us agree that large projects, such as the Free Software Foundation or the Electronic Freedom Foundation, should still be supported, but so too should the smaller projects, perhaps to help with web hosting, or to help a developer attend a conference. That means we've got to split the overall contributions into different categories, and for that, we're going to need a shortlist of both categories and the projects within them.

### Voting process

We've got our own strong ideas about the kinds of projects and communities we'd like to support. We've spoken about and spoken to many of the people and communities we'd like to see, and we've covered a handful of our favourites over the last 10 months. But it's vitally important that our readers get to choose not only who wins any awards, but also what projects go

into the selection pool. For that reason, we want to split the process into three stages. The first stage is going to be open to everyone who may want to participate, and we'll use this stage to formulate a shortlist of projects that go into the second stage. The second stage will be the voting process where our readers will decide on which projects they'd like to see succeed, and the final stage will be the awards themselves.

The list of potential projects out of those mentioned in the "Giving Profits Back" story comments is huge, mostly split between what we'd call organisations (24 from the original post, including FSF, EFF, Mozilla, etc.), distributions (nine in the post, including Debian, Slackware, Crunchbang) and an enormous variety of individual software projects. We thought about splitting this huge category into sub-categories – maybe one for graphical applications, another for APIs or frameworks and another for desktop environments, for example, but we're guessing this would get complicated quickly and maybe add a little unnecessary conflict when people argue over our



The Open Rights Group has similar aims to the EFF but UK-based and focused on UK activism, including fighting the Digital Economy Act and the default use of content filters. [www.openrightsgroup.org](http://www.openrightsgroup.org)

arbitrary categorisations. But it does seem like we could make a sensible split by putting the organisations and the distros into one pool, and the huge variety of software projects into another. This would allow us to reward more projects, and reward both big and small at the same time – depending on the final vote of course.

With two categories – one for organisations (where we include distros), and another for software projects, we now want to create two smaller shortlists that can be put to a final vote. The reduction to a smaller number is because we don't want an unmanageable pool of proposals, and to give everyone a better focus on the final projects that have contention. As this issue goes out, we'll ask again what organisations, distros, software, projects and developers people would like to see supported, and depending on the

balance of proposals, we'll put the most popular 10 proposals for each into the two categories, creating those two shortlists. We'll do this publicly so that everyone can see the progress of their favourite projects until we have a final list at some pre-determined cut-off point.

We're going to restrict voting to just our subscribers. This is because it will be a lot easier for us to manage – we'll be able to easily add the voting interface to the online subscriptions page for each subscriber, for example, and this limitation also recognises our subscribers for the contributions they're making. Our plan is to then have three different awards for each category – one main 'winner' and two 'runners up' – making six awards in total, which we'll announce after we've hired an accountant and we know how much we have to give away.

## Suggested projects

A quick overview of many of the projects, distros and software proposed online when we asked which our readers would like to support.

- **Accessible Computing Foundation** Making technology accessible to people suffering from various disabilities that normally make conventional computing extremely difficult, if not impossible. <http://accessiblecomputingfoundation.org>
- **Document Foundation** Primarily supports LibreOffice.org in attempting to give everyone access to office productivity tools free of charge. [www.documentfoundation.org](http://www.documentfoundation.org)
- **EFF** Defending our civil liberties in the digital age, the Electronic Frontier Foundation champions privacy, free expression and innovation. [www.eff.org](http://www.eff.org)
- **FSF** Promoting computer user freedom and the rights of free software users, the FSF is also the custodian of the GNU project and licences. [www.fsf.org](http://www.fsf.org)
- **FSFE** Sharing all the same principles as the FSF, the FSFE works with the European Commission and Parliament to create a positive environment for Free Software and Open Standards. <http://fsfe.org>
- **Gnome Foundation** Furthers the goals of the Gnome project by coordinating releases, sponsoring GUADEC and liaising with both commercial and non commercial organisations interested in Gnome. [www.gnome.org](http://www.gnome.org)
- **Hacker Public Radio** Releases a new community produced podcast Monday – Friday with no restrictions on length or content as long as the subject is likely to be of interest to "hackers." <http://hackerpublicradio.org>
- **KDE eV** This is the non-profit that represents the KDE desktop and the KDE community securing cash, hardware, and other donations to aid development and promotion. <https://ev.kde.org>
- **OSI** The Open Source Initiative is a global non-profit curating and promoting the definition of open source and the licences that fit its description. <http://opensource.org>
- **Outreach Programme for Women** Annual internships to help women get involved in Free and Open Source software. <http://gnome.org/opw>
- **Practical Action** Using technology to challenge poverty in developing countries by building skills and knowledge. <http://practicalaction.org>
- **Software Freedom Conservancy** Promotes, improves and frequently defends Free and Open Source software. Projects under its wing include *Git*, *Inkscape*, *phpMyAdmin*, *Samba*, *SugarLabs*, *Wine* and many more. <https://sfconservancy.org>
- **Young Rewired State** An independent global network, based in the UK, that helps kids ages 18 and under to use open data to make websites, apps and algorithms for solving real-world challenges. <https://youngrewiredstate.org>

The Free Software Foundation Europe is a separate organisation from the FSF, and doesn't get the credit it deserves.

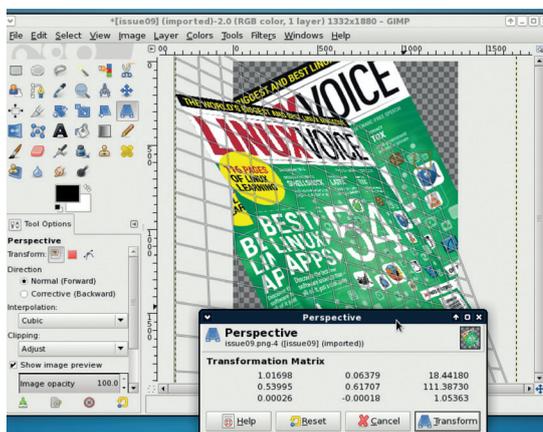


**Distributions**

- **Crunchbang** A Debian-based distribution with a great blend of “speed, style and substance” thanks to its use of the Openbox window manager <http://crunchbang.org>
- **Debian** Announced in 1993 with a first release in 1996, Debian is one of the pillars of the GNU/Linux distro community thanks to its emphasis on community and stability <http://debian.org>
- **FreedomBox** A private server that integrates strong privacy and encryption to deliver many of the same features you find from online cloud servers and services <http://freedomboxfoundation.org>
- **Linux Mint** One of the most popular distributions using either Ubuntu or Debian as a back-end and responsible for the development of the Cinnamon desktop and the Gnome 2.x fork, Mate. [www.linuxmint.com](http://www.linuxmint.com)
- **Manjaro** Based on the newbie-impenetrable Arch and using the Xfce desktop, this is a rolling release distro with an emphasis on ease of use and installation <http://manjaro.org>
- **Replicant** A fully open source version of Google’s Android operating for certain specific mobile devices system that promoted freedom, privacy and security issues [www.replicant.us](http://www.replicant.us)
- **Slackware** The oldest currently maintained Linux distribution, Slackware is still a benchmark for simplicity, security and stability [www.slackware.com](http://www.slackware.com)
- **Sonar GNU/Linux** An accessible distribution that bundles assistive technology like a screen reader, magnification, on-screen keyboard and a dyslexic-friendly font <http://sonargnulinux.com>
- **Trisquel GNU/Linux** Based on Ubuntu but with a commitment to remove all proprietary and non-free elements, it’s one of the few distros recognised by the FSF as containing only free software.

**Software**

- **Audacity** As used by podcasters the world over. cross-platform audio waveform editing unrivalled by functionality or price. <http://audacity.sourceforge.net>



A few readers reckon *Gimp* could do with a bit of cash.



Organisations such as Young Rewired State are doing a fine job of plugging the gap in the UK’s IT curriculum.

- **Blender** A 3D sculpting, animation, rendering and games engine that rivals software costing thousands and is quickly becoming an industry standard. [www.blender.org](http://www.blender.org)
- **Gpodder** A popular choice for listeners to our own podcast. It downloads and plays new episodes automatically. <http://gpodder.org>
- **Inkscape** A wonderful vector drawing application that’s capable of brilliant professional results and even better output. <https://inkscape.org>
- **MediaGoblin**: A decentralised media publishing platform trying to compete with YouTube, SoundCloud and Flickr. <http://mediagoblin.org>
- **Meld** Compare text/code files and visually spot the differences between them. Great for deciphering drunken coding sessions. <http://meldmerge.org>
- **Nouveau** These drivers give Nvidia owners graphics acceleration without resorting to closed proprietary drivers. <http://nouveau.freedesktop.org/wiki>
- **OpenSSH** This secure remote shell is as essential as oxygen to anyone using Linux on a remote device. [www.openssh.com](http://www.openssh.com)
- **Scribus** Desktop publishing that can take your words and images and turn them into something as magical as a printed publication. [www.scribus.net](http://www.scribus.net)
- **VLC Media Player**: It plays everything, streams everything and runs on almost everything. It’s the media player most of us rely on the most. [www.videolan.org](http://www.videolan.org)
- **Xmonad**: Tiling window managers make you look cool. Yes. But they also make you incredibly productive by keeping distractions and mouse clicks at bay. <http://xmonad.org>
- **ZoneMinder**: Home security is normally expensive, which is why this fantastic open source solution starting with just a webcam is such a great project. <http://www.zoneminder.com>

Now it’s up to you – have a think about which projects you’d like us to support, and keep an eye on [LinuxVoice.com](http://LinuxVoice.com) for the revised shortlist.