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**MID-AMERICA GNU/LINUX NETWORKS CONFERENCE, A COMMUNITY-DRIVEN  
OPEN SOURCE EDUCATION EVENT, ANNOUNCED:  
SPEAKERS AND SPONSORS WELCOMED**

ST. LOUIS - In an effort to bring Open Source education to America's Heartland, a group of volunteers have teamed up to host the Mid-America GNU/Linux Networkers Conference on May 6-7, 2011. These dedicated volunteers have attended, spoken at and sponsored other similar events in far flung parts of the United States and the world, from Florida and California to The Netherlands and Australia.

Russ Woodman, a trustee of the hosting foundation and conference spokesperson, says, "St. Louis, Missouri was chosen because it has a centralized location with an international airport which accommodates flights from almost anywhere in the United States and many other parts of the world. Also, it's a very cosmopolitan city with nearby attractions, great local entertainment, accessible public transportation, professional sports, a proud history and much more to recommend it. Our conference, too, of course."

The conference venue is the St. Louis Union Station Marriott hotel. Situated a few blocks west of the downtown St. Louis Arch, this beautiful and historic building hosts restaurants, shops, a public transit stop and a wide array of amenities for conference goers, exhibitors, sponsors and speakers alike. Ballrooms and break-out rooms for educational presentations are plentiful and the exhibit area will be in the hotel's central promenade which should generate excellent foot traffic. The event coordinators are also planning on having nighttime social events, a live music concert to close the show, community inspired BOF sessions, a hallway track for interpersonal networking and much more.

The main focus of the event will be education on everything from Linux on the desktop to Open Source philosophy to business applications. Linux for the artistic, software and hardware, security and networking will also be covered; plus a bit of everything in between. Everyone from the simply curious to the seasoned technology professional will find something of interest at MAGNet Con.

The trustees and organizers have now opened the search for sponsors, speakers and volunteers. If interested, please visit the event home page at <http://magnetcon.info>. Information about the conference as well as speaker and sponsor application forms can be found there. A general FAQ area and Forum are also provided at the site to promote community interest and involvement. "We're hoping to have a well-attended and exciting event in our first year," Woodman adds. "We appreciate every individual and organization who comes on board and does their part to make MAGNet Con the success we dream it will be."