

# Free Software Communication Tools

Shakthi Kannan

GNU Free Documentation License

October 2007

Version 1.1

**Each one speaks a  
different  
language**

**Programming language**  
**+**  
**Appropriate problem**

**Right communication tool**

**+**

**Right job**

**+**

**Right time**

**+**

**Right people**

# Announcements

- **RSS/Atom**
- **E-mail**

# Discussions

- **Forums**
- **Mailing lists**

# Chat

- **IRC**
- **Messenger chat**
- **Voice chat**

# Wiki

# RSS/Atom feed

- **Simplex.**
- **Use eyes, hands.**
- **Pull technology.**
- **User can multitask.**
- **News updates from blogs.**
- **Announcements/news.**

# E-mail

- **Half-duplex. Any instant, one-way communication.**
- **Use eyes, hands.**
- **User can multitask.**
- **Useful for announcements.**

# No response

means:

- 1. NOT interested.**
- 2. Don't care.**



# 'Raise the flag'

**Any problem/issue,  
report immediately!**

# Forum

- **Half-duplex. Any instant, one-way communication.**
- **Asynchronous.**
- **Use eyes, hands.**
- **User can multitask.**
- **What about mobile users?**
- **For discussions.**
  - **Example: [linuxforum.com](http://linuxforum.com)**

# Mailing list

- **Half-duplex. Any instant, one-way communication.**
- **Asynchronous.**
- **Use eyes, hands.**
- **User can multitask.**
- **Mobile users can handle e-mails.**
- **Handle large discussion traffic.**

# Internet Relay Chat

- **Full-duplex.**
- **Synchronous.**
- **Requires complete user's attention.**
- **Use eyes, hands, mind.**
- **Useful for technical discussions.**
- **Chat logs, saved.**

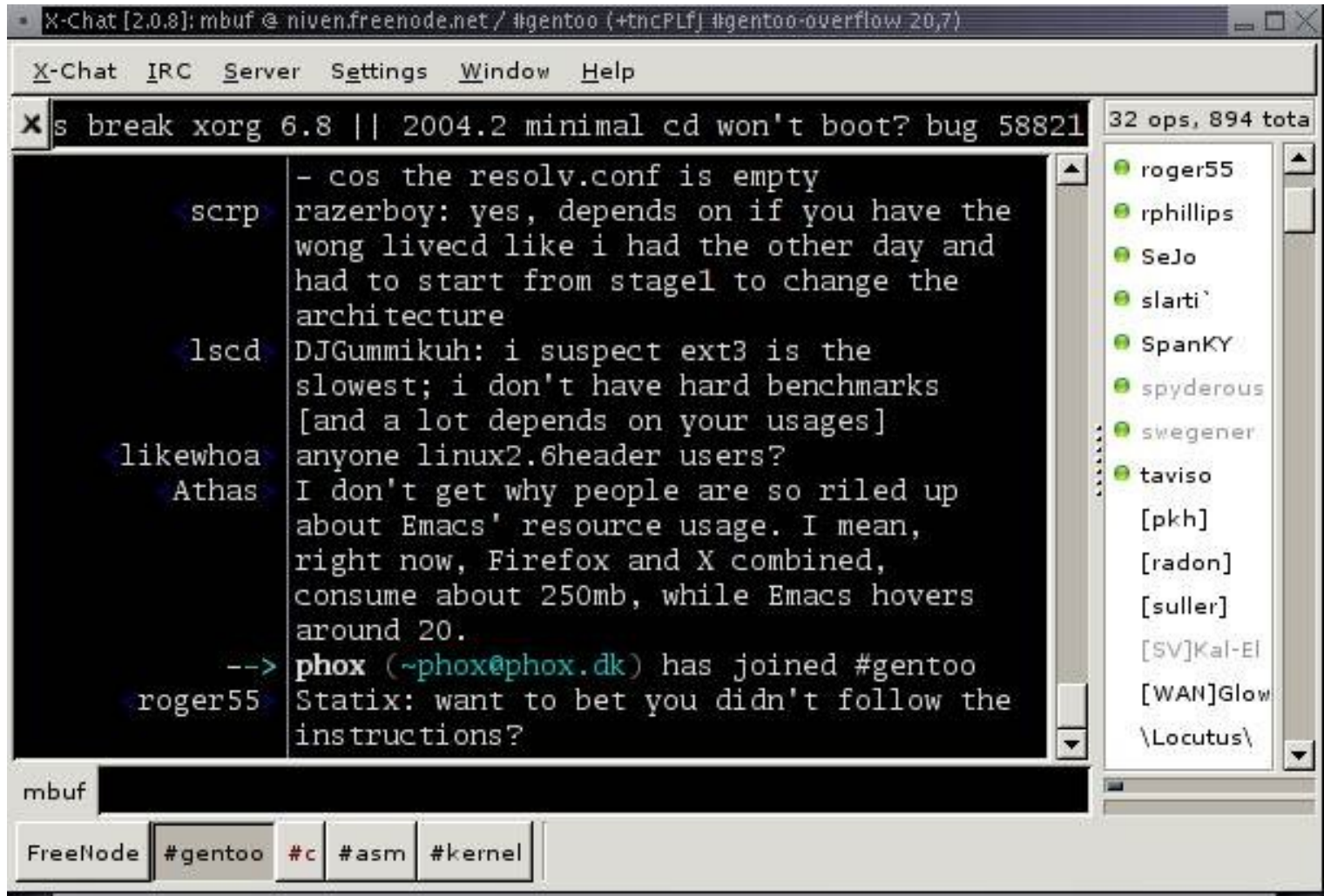
# Internet Relay Chat

irc.freenode.net

- **##c**
- **#asm**
- **#linux**
- **#debian**
- **#suse**
- **#kernel**
- **#gentoo**

IRC Clients

- **xchat**
- **irssi**
- **gaim**



# Messenger Chat

- **Full-duplex.**
- **Synchronous.**
- **Requires complete user's attention.**
- **Use eyes, hand, mind.**
- **Only meant for 'urgent' needs.**

# Voice Chat

- **Ugly duplex.**
- **Synchronous.**
- **Requires the user.**
- **Use eyes, hand, mind, vocals, ears.**
- **Cannot multitask.**
- **Only meant for 'high priority' or 'critical' needs.**

# Wiki

- **Asynchronous.**
- **Use eyes, hand.**
- **User can multitask.**
- **Useful for documentation.**
- **Useful for announcements, discussions.**



**Right communication tool**

**+**

**Right job**

**+**

**Right time**

**+**

**Right people**