




# IEEE Huntsville Section Computer Society Meeting



<b>Speaker:</b>	<b>Mark Spencer</b> President, Digium, Inc. Asterisk Open Source Private Branch Exchange (PBX) Developer	
<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Opportunities Abound In Open Source</b>	
<b>Date/Time:</b>	11:15AM – 1:00 PM, Tuesday, August 15 <sup>th</sup> , 2006.	
<b>Place:</b>	Adtran Executive Cafeteria. Ask receptionist for directions.	
<b>Reservations:</b>	Please confirm with Daniel Chang at <a href="mailto:daniel.chang@adtran.com">daniel.chang@adtran.com</a> (963-8620) or Bob Robinson at <a href="mailto:robert.a.robinson5@ieee.org">robert.a.robinson5@ieee.org</a> .	

**Abstract:** Mark Spencer originally created Asterisk, the industry's first open source PBX, to serve as a PBX for his own company. Now a worldwide phenomenon, Asterisk is quickly reinventing the way corporations and telecommunications companies purchase telecom solutions. Mark will discuss how companies and technology innovators can leverage open source solutions to save money, increase efficiencies, benefit from more flexibility and roll-out advanced solutions for their customers. Specifically, Mark will address the critical issues surrounding open source VoIP in the telecom market, including how companies might get started leveraging Asterisk and building solutions for the community at large with Asterisk-based distributors and training partners.

**Biographical Sketch:** Mark Spencer founded Linux Support Services in 1999 while still a Computer Engineering student at Auburn University. When faced with the high cost of buying a PBX, Mark simply used his Linux PC and C code knowledge to write his own. This was the beginning of the world-wide Asterisk phenomenon, the open source PBX, and caused Mark to shift his business focus from Linux support to supporting Asterisk and opening up a telecom market. Linux Support Services is now Digium, and is bringing open source to the telecom market while gaining a foothold in the telecom industry.

Mark strongly believes that every technology he creates should be given back to the community. This is why Asterisk is fully open source. Today that model has allowed Asterisk to remain available free of charge, while it has become as robust as the leading and most-expensive PBXs.

The Asterisk community has ambassadors and contributors worldwide. Recently Network World named Mark as one of the 50 Most Powerful People in Networking, next to Cisco's John Chambers, Microsoft's Bill Gates and Oracle's Larry Ellison. He was also recognized in Inc.com's "*30 Under 30: America's Coolest Young Entrepreneurs*". A renowned speaker, Mark has presented and delivered keynotes at industry conferences including Internet Telephony, SuperComm, and the VON shows, among others.

Mark Spencer holds a degree in Computer Engineering from Auburn University, and is now president of Digium, Inc. He has also led the creation of several Linux-based open source applications, most notably Asterisk, the Open Source PBX, and Gaim Instant Messenger. Digium earns \$10 million in annual revenue and delivers a highly-regarded PBX capable of scaling to any size enterprise deployments and handling carrier-grade applications.

**Directions:** Take Bradford Drive West past Research Park Blvd, then continue through stop light at Explorer Boulevard. Adtran East Tower is straight ahead, continue straight to the front courtyard

**Notes:** You do not have to be an IEEE member to attend. All guests are welcome. We will eat from 11:15-11:45a.m. and Mark's presentation begins at 11:45 a.m. We meet in the Executive Room adjacent to the Adtran cafeteria vending area in the East Tower, where you can order from their excellent lunch selections. *See you there!!*



## Please Mark Your Calendar & Post at Your Business

