

# Workshop: MusicBrainz Picard

Talk proposal for [Linux Weekend](#) / [OSCAL](#)

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**Purpose:** This workshop aims to introduce the audience to MusicBrainz, the open source music encyclopedia, and teach them how to tag their own music using Picard.

**Title:** *Unify your local music library*

**Description:** MusicBrainz is an open source music encyclopedia powered by community-contributed metadata. With MusicBrainz, it's possible to not only contribute artist, album, and track information for your favorite music, but using the MusicBrainz Picard app, you can take back control of your local music library to have it use correct metadata, album artwork, and more. Laptop with some local music files recommended for the best experience.

**Length:** 25 minutes

**Contact:** freso@metabrainz.org

- Introduction: What is MusicBrainz?
  - Open source music encyclopedia founded in 2000 with *open* data
    - CC0 / CC-BY-SA-NC 3.0
  - Collects metadata to store, categorize, sort music from around the world (in multiple languages and scripts)
    - Can be used by:
      - Developers: Building music apps
      - Commercial user (Spotify, Amazon, Google, Last.fm, and more): Updating local databases with live updates in metadata
      - Users: Tagging your own music (that's us!)
    - Some numbers (<https://musicbrainz.org/statistics>)
      - Artists: 1,189,376
      - Releases: 1,769,002
      - Recordings: 17,152,131
      - Audio drama: 257
      - Artist locations: 259 countries, 74,087 cities, 96 islands
      - Editor accounts: 1,781,906 registered, 191,143 contributed, 1,329 contributed last week
- Why does music metadata matter?
  - *Visibility:* To find music you want
  - *Record keeping:* To document music as a representation of culture or history
  - *Research:* To allow for easier analysis of music and trends related to music
- How does it work?
  - Introducing MusicBrainz Picard

- Tool to scan / look up local music files on your computer against the MusicBrainz database
  - Will sort, scan, and correct metadata for you
  - Allows you to have correct metadata in your music players of choice (album name, artist name, album artwork, etc.)
    - Helpful for music tracking services, like Last.fm / Libre.fm
    - If using a cloud music listening service, upload your music with correct metadata and save time later
- Installing Picard
  - <https://picard.musicbrainz.org/>
    - Provide copies of Apple DMG / Windows EXE / Debian DEB if needed
  - Example installation on my Fedora system, provide live support if needed
    - Explain caveats with Fedora + chromaprint-tools
- Using Picard (live demo, no slides)
  - Overview of user interface
    - Left side == not sorted
    - Right side == identified
  - Adding folder / files
  - Scanning *versus* lookup *versus* lookup in browser
  - Saving metadata to existing files
    - Demo: Music for a Film, Hiatus
    - Demo: Random MP3 with no information
- Questions, comments, ideas, concerns: open floor!