

# GTUG.PL INTRODUCTION

## What is GTUG?

GTUG is a global Google technology community run for the IT enthusiasts and by the IT enthusiasts on a volunteer, unpaid basis. GTUG is represented by local groups (chapters) which are producing lectures, workshops, hackathons and other cool activities focusing on technical aspects of Google and also other internet technologies.

GTUGs aren't run by Google and are independent on Google, but Google is sometimes a partner of GTUGs and supports selected GTUG chapters and also provides the global communication umbrella. All the world's GTUGs are connected via the GTUGs.org website and an internal discussion group for GTUG organizers. In some countries, Poland included, there is also a local communication and support platform for organizers from the individual country.

## What is a GTUG chapter?

There is several hundred chapters around the world and Europe and several chapters incubating in Poland. GTUG in Poland is supporting the incubation of first few chapters by providing advice, support for running events and by creating a platform for the organizers of Polish chapters that will serve as a channel for communication and providing support (association with this platform is voluntary).

A chapter is basically represented by an energetic individual or a group of people who do stuff under the GTUG flag and with the possible support from the GTUG.pl platform. These individuals can come from a University, polytechnic or other school, an IT company or from any other environment.

The activities can involve anything from an evening lecture about an interesting topic through a half-day hands-on workshop to a full-weekend hackathon. Many GTUGs around the world come with other creative ideas for events and there's almost no limit for what can be done with the developer community to bring them together around interesting technologies as long as it fits within a basic criteria on the tone and focus of the events. An active chapter should do one event open to public at least every 3 months.

A chapter is often based per city or town. In larger cities, more than one local chapters can exist. There's no limit on the number of chapters per country, region or city. Also, although there are some traits that will make the GTUG work smoother from an organizer's perspective (see another question below), it's completely open who will become a GTUG organizer.

The GTUG chapter is officially created after an application is submitted and approved with the

Googlers in the US who are helping with organizing the world's GTUG umbrella (Van Riper and Steph Liu). The Polish chapters are welcome to join the GTUG.pl platform for inspiration and support even prior to getting the application processed in the US.

### **Why is it cool for me to be involved as an organizer?**

In general, there are many ways that you can be involved with GTUG.pl more than just a visitor of activities. You can help other chapters organize their events, you can provide advice and share experience to get an event going, you can help any GTUG chapter or the [gtug.pl](http://gtug.pl) as a whole with developer support, you can help with marketing... and yes, you can also become a leader of a chapter :)

If you love internet technologies and enjoy exploring them with others, you'll love being involved in a chapter or even being its founder. You'll be able to bring together great speakers and like-minded audience and do things together that YOU personally like to do, but on a larger scale and with your direct influence on what that will be. While you could of course do this yourself anytime, the association with GTUG brings you personally closer to the Google world, helps you in promoting and running your events, gives you a chance for really interesting Google speakers and will let you get inspiration from more than 500 other GTUG organizers around the world and Poland. You will also learn a lot yourself - from organizing and leading people, through running events to growing your technical knowledge. The GTUG leadership position isn't paid, but it lets you get a lot of other benefits. And it looks darn good on résumés, too.

### **Who should an organizer be?**

The key is a combination of interest in the internet technology, high amount of energy, ability to communicate and relate to people, friendliness to Google tech and willingness to have fun with others.

Everything else is "nice to have". Although it helps if you are a "networker" (in the "human network" sense) or have some experience with running community events such as Barcamps, hackathons or lectures, it doesn't really matter what's the level of your technical background, age or experience with community activities. The chapter leaders should be able to communicate in written English.

### **I want to get involved as an organizer or even create a chapter. What are the next steps?**

Join the general GTUG.pl group <http://groups.google.com/group/gtug-pl> and join the traffic.

If you know you'd really like to be involved, please apply for membership in the organizer group (<http://groups.google.com/group/gtugpl-organizers>) and let us know a few words about you and

how you would like to get involved.

For more information on the GTUG in general, also feel free to browse GTUG Wiki at [http://  
wiki.gtugs.org/](http://wiki.gtugs.org/)