From E-Waste to Empowerment: The Story of The Computer Upcycle Project

- **Speaker**: Mike Kelly
  * **Room**: 250
  * **Time**: Friday, Oct 23rd 11:30 – 12:20
- **Format**: Talk (50 min)
  * **Difficulty**: Beginner
- **Additional Tags**: E-waste, Linux, Community, Upcycling, NixOS, Hardware
  * **Experience**: CTO, Developer and Co-Founder of MemberVault; uses Linux exclusively for development and hosting.

Description:

A small effort to keep old laptops out of landfills grew into The Computer Upcycle Project, a community upcycling program that's refurbished 3,000+ computers for people in need. This talk shares how a local donation program in Olympia, WA turned into a full-scale computer reuse effort—breathing new life into old hardware with a mix of Linux systems, including Debian, Bazzite, Fedora, and Nixbook OS (a simple, stable, auto-updating NixOS-based build). Learn how thoughtful design, the right OS for the right machine, and community action turn e-waste into opportunity.

Project URL: https://computerupcycleproject.org/

Target Audience:

- Linux enthusiasts and sysadmins
  * Community organizers and activists
  * People interested in sustainability and e-waste reduction

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