

# Free Geek Database Overview for Computerbank Victoria

by Jan Smith 20<sup>th</sup> May, 2007

Free Geek located in Portland Oregon is a not for profit community organisation recycling used technology to provide computers with open source software, education, internet access and job skills training to those in need in exchange for community service. Free Geek are building a new database using Postgres and Ruby on Rails. This is a summary of that emerging database. Some aspects of this database could be useful for Computerbank's next database.

The database is set up to collect the following data:

- Hours entry form- volunteer hours are collected. 24 volunteer hours results in being granted a free computer. NA (Not Applicable to Computerbank)
- Donations entry form - search for a name, the date, the type of gizmo, the amount charged, payment method, a comments field but no tax field. You can add more gizmos.
- Sales information entry form - search for a name, a drop down list for the type of gizmo. There are cash and other payment methods, date, a box for quantity and unit price and an area for comments, can add more gizmos.  
Note: Computers don't have specs, computers also don't have their own in house number recorded here. It may be that the computer number and specs are recorded outside the database because every gizmo is given a number when it arrives in the building.
- Recycling information entry form - records gizmo type - drop down list, quantity, and date recycled/received can add more gizmos.
- Disbursement entry form - ability to search for a contact, details kind of hardware leaving Free Geek to be reused. Disbursement records the type of gizmo, type of disbursement and quantity. It does not have space for computer specs and no area for price (because these are given free to volunteers with 24 hours service)
- Contact information. This a general contact form with selectable buttons for the contact type: ie donor, volunteer, buyer, member, recycler. Records contacts name, address and phone numbers and type of contact only. (This is directly useful for Computerbank)

The database currently reports on:

- Contacts report. Has a 'find the contact' search field. Contacts lookup screen gives name, address and status ie, member, volunteer, recycler etc. Don't seem to be able look up via type such as volunteer, member etc. Bug: Seems to only return one name even when more than one name in category.
- Income report. A range of dates can be chosen, such as weekly, monthly, annual etc. The income report, displays summary of items sold, recycled, dispersed and the cash, cheques, credit totals. Also records bulk prices and discounts. This report seems automatically generated from sales and disbursement forms.
- Gizmos report. A date range can be chosen, such as weekly, monthly, annual etc. The Gizmos report headings are disbursement, donation, recycling, sales, total flow. It covers computers in general (not by cpu), harddrives (but not ram), laptop, monitors, modems, mice, cables, networking device, sound card, speakers, tuition, video card.

## Aspects of Free Geek Database useful for Computerbank

Immediately useful is the layout and navigation. It is user friendly and could be a good model for the Computerbank Database, with a slight tweak of the colours and layout. See screenshot of welcome page. Note the easy to understand side navigation.

# FREE GEEK

## Welcome to the Free Geek Database

This is the first release, so be rough and report all your problems. Feel free to make feature requests in general, but try to have to wait until all the kinks have been worked out of what we have so far.

[hours](#)  
[donations](#)  
[sales](#)  
[recycling](#)  
[disperse](#)  
[income](#)  
[gizmos](#)  
[contacts](#)

Free Geek Contacts form (below) could be adjusted for Computerbank use. It is a general contacts entry form with the ability to select one or more status options for a person. This raises the question of whether access to certain categories of contacts can be restricted to certain users?

### Create Contact

organization  donor  volunteer  staff  adopter  build  certified  waiting  buyer  comp4kids  grantor  member  preferemail  recycle

First name  Middle name

Surname  Address

Extra address  City

State or province  Postal code

Country  Notes

Method of contact  Details

[Delete](#)  
[More contact methods](#)