

about Tableau user groups

Does Tableau support user groups?

Tableau Software enthusiastically supports groups of people within a company, in regional areas or with common interests who wish to form user groups. We work with people and groups in a variety of locations and interest groups to help them start, build and grow their Tableau-oriented user groups.

Because we want the user groups to be driven by actual Tableau users, we don't lead their development. User groups are independent organizations run by volunteer Tableau enthusiasts. We promote and support user groups, but we do not own, manage, or direct them. Our support includes:

- + providing a place on our website to call for interested parties, post meeting news, and generally stay in touch.
- + sending an email to relevant customers in advance of the first meeting to help build interest and attendance.
- + providing web-based content for meetings, including speakers over the web who can provide visualization guidance, training information, and other topical information.
- + collaborating with user groups on new ideas for outreach, growing the group or other types of content and assistance Tableau could provide. We welcome your ideas.

By making it easier for Tableau customers to build a community around them, we hope that more people will get more from their Tableau licenses.

Can I form a company-oriented user group just for my organization?

Yes! We support company user groups just like any other user group.

How do I get started?

Starting a user group requires time, effort, leadership, dedication, and vision. However, ask almost any user group leader, and they'll tell you it's all worth it. To start takes a commitment to launch the first group and an email to our user group coordinator (usergroups@tableausoftware.com).

Realistically, we recommend the following process:

- Check out our User Group Forum - is there a group that meets your needs already in place? We're still a young company but we're adding new groups all the time.
- Explore the option of creating a Tableau user group with other users you know. It's always easier to start a group if you've got other parties interested.
 - Don't know other users? Check out the [Tableau forums](#) for like-minded people, our [Facebook page](#), our [LinkedIn group](#) or our Twitter feed [@tableau](#) to ask for like-minded people to contact you.
- Consider a possible agenda and location for your first meeting. What would be your goals for the first meeting? Could you meet in a conference room at your facility?
- Call or email your Tableau account manager or our sales team for ideas regarding other interested people and companies.

- Once you've got a pretty good idea on how to get started, email Tableau's user group coordinator usergroups@tableausoftware.com. We can help you get your user group meeting promoted.

Can someone from Tableau come to my user group?

Yes, we can almost arrange for a Tableau team member to join your group over the web. If you wish to have someone in person, that may be possible but only if arranged well in advance.

Must someone from Tableau come to my user group?

No, it is not at all required that someone from Tableau be at your group's meetings. We offer our presence only if needed.

I have a brilliant idea for how you can help foster user groups. Who can I tell?

Us please! We'd love to hear your feedback, good and bad. Please email us at usergroups@tableausoftware.com.

Do you have any resources to help guide me in starting a group?

Sure - there are great resources on the web. Some we've read and liked include:

- Google search - "start a user group"
(<http://www.google.com/search?q=start+a+user+group&ie=utf-8&oe=utf-8&aq=t>)
- Harness the power of peer support: Start a user group in your organization
(http://articles.techrepublic.com.com/5100-10878_11-1049094.html)
- How To Start A User Group
(<http://geekswithblogs.net/dlussier/archive/2008/11/16/127137.aspx>)