

Free as in Freedom

A step towards Software freedom

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Who am I?

- 28 years old.
- M.Sc. in Computer Science, Uppsala University 2011.
- B.Sc. in Software Engineering, Salahaddin University 2006.
- I am a free and open source software advocate.
- I have some activities against copyright violation.
- My research interest is type systems.



The Expected Outcome

- Get introduced to Software Freedom.
- Differentiate between FOSS and stolen (or cracked) software.
- Get rid of your installed stolen software.
- Learn how to find a legal and free alternative to your illegal(pirated) software.

Free as in Freedom

- Free as in freedom, not as in food.
- To achieve software freedom, a program's users must have:
 - The freedom to run the program, for any purpose.
 - The freedom to modify the program to suit their needs.
 - The freedom to redistribute copies, either gratis or for a fee.
 - The freedom to distribute modified versions of the program.

Richard Stallman

- Sept 1983 started the GNU project and thus the free software movement.
- Pioneered concept of copyleft.
- Wrote Emacs, GCC compiler.
- MacArthur 'Genius Grant' recipient.



GNU Project

- Is a free software, mass collaboration project, announced on September 27, 1983, by Richard Stallman.
- It initiated the GNU operating system, software development which began in January 1984.
- The founding goal of the project was, in the words of its initial announcement, to develop “a sufficient body of free software [...] to get along without any software that is not free”.

Linux for Humanity

- Is a Unix-like computer operating system, based on the Linux kernel.
- It's development is one of the most prominent examples of free and open source software collaboration.
- The Linux kernel runs on a highly diverse range of computer architectures.
- It is widely used on servers, for its reliability, scalability and security.

Linus Torvalds

- Initiated development of the Linux kernel.
- Now acts as project coordinator.
- Implementer of GIT, a distributed version control system.



Windows vs. Linux

- Linux is free, while Windows costs about 150\$.
- Linux, unlike Windows, is well known for its reliability, security and scalability.
- Most of Linux applications are free.
- Unlike Windows, Linux is rapidly developed.
- Linux has more than an option for its Desktop Environment, like: GNOME Classic, Gnome Shell, Unity, KDE, LXDE, XFCE among others.

Why Should We Care?

- Free and Open Source programs, unlike their proprietary counterparts, respect our freedom.
- They often cost *ZERO* dollars!
- They are inherently more secure (because of the way they are developed).
- Bugs are detected and fixed very early.
- A huge community is behind them!
- You can find help and support anywhere, for **FREE**.

What is Bad About Proprietary Software?

- No one can 100% trust others (be them companies, developers or service providers).
- Proprietary formats (and software) lock the users to the vendors.
- We can not modify the proprietary programs to match our needs.
- It is unethical when a license asks the users not to help their friends, neighbours and other fellow humans.

Why Should We Open Source Our Programs?

- For the sake of freedom!
- It is immoral, when you write a program and sell it to someone, then tell him, if you lend it to your neighbour, I sue you!
- There are plenty of ways to collect money while you are developing for free and open source software programs.
- You can gain money from donations, (Wikipedia runs on donations!)
- Other developers help you fix bugs and introduce new features.

A Few Examples of FOSS

- Linux based Operating Systems (e.g. Ubuntu)
- Wikipedia
- Firefox and Chromium
- Android Operating System
- Java, PHP and Python
- LibreOffice and OpenOffice.org
- Netbeans and Eclipse IDE
- Apache, Tomcat and MySQL
- GIMP and Inkscape

Free Licenses

- GNU License:
 - General Public License (GPL)
 - Lesser General Public License (LGPL)
 - Affero General Public License (AGPL)
 - Free Documentation Licence (FDL)
- Mozilla Public License (MPL)
- Apache License
- MIT, BSD, CDDL and *more*

Software Piracy

- Or “Illegal Software”
- Pirated software hurts everyone.
- From software developers to retail store owners, and ultimately to all software users.
- Furthermore, the illegal duplication and distribution of software has a significant impact on the economy.

Detect the Cancer

- In Wikipedia search for your suspected application.
- Look at its licensing field.
- If it was “proprietary” or “freeware” then it is a non-free software.
- Alternatively you can go to the application's website and find the licensing terms of it.

And Remove It

- Google the name of the application + alternative, like:
 - MS Office + alternative
- Search for the application's name in these two sites:
 - <http://www.osalt.com>
 - <http://www.alternativeto.com>

Questions?

*”The only stupid question is
the one that is not asked”*

English Proverb