

How Free Software can empower your life

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0. Roadmap

Approaching the issues

1. Free Software Basics
2. Social Perspective
3. Regulatory Perspective
4. Free Software Business
5. A word on economy
6. Careers in Free Software



1. Free Software

Free for freedom, not price.

- 1. Freedom:** unlimited use, for any purpose
- 2. Freedom:** study and modify
- 3. Freedom:** copy / distribute
- 4. Freedom:** distribute modifications

First publication: January 1989

From Copyright to Freedom:

Copyright allows licensing

licensing grants Freedom

GNU GPL, X11 License, BSD, MIT, ...



1. Clarity matters

1983: Free Software

January 1989: "Our Freedoms"; DFSG (1997)

1992: Libre Software

European Context

1998: Open Source **LICENCE**

Proposed marketing term for Free Software

200X: FOSS ("Free / Open Source Software")
redundant, combines ambiguity **BASE**

2003: FLOSS ("Free/Libre/Open Source")
triple redundant, combines all ambiguities



1. Essential

Free/Swatantra Software = freedom to

use

study

modify

distribute



2. Social Perspective

Access to software determines access/ability for

Communication

Education

Work

**Software is the digital cultural
technique!**

**Who controls an increasingly essential
cultural technique of humankind?**

3. Regulatory perspective

Code shapes the physical laws of digital space

Code & Law
are both regulators!

Governments are themselves "just users"
= Equally dependent, monitored and controlled

From Democracy to Technocracy?

Democracy transferring its mandated
power to (non-mandated) industry

4. Free Software Business

Free Software as a strategic asset

- No more forced upgrades
no more largely unpredictable liabilities of timing and cost
- No end of usage
end of lifetime determined by user, not vendor
- User determined development
user needs more important than vendor interests
- Security of investments
only Free Software can ever be “owned”
- Another degree of freedom
in-house, out-house, or both?



5. A word on economy

<http://www.flossimpact.eu>

- Free Software key factor for ICT Competitiveness
- “The notional value of Europe’s investment in FS today is Euro 22 billion (36 billion in the US) representing 20.5% of total software investment (20% in the US)”
- “By providing a skills development environment valued by employers and retaining a greater share of value addition locally, FS can encourage the creation of SMEs and jobs.”
- “Defined broadly, FS-related services could reach a 32% share of all IT services by 2010, and the FS-related share of the economy could reach 4% of European GDP by 2010.”



6. Careers in Free Software

Here are a few choices...

- Path 1: Interview with Google/Sun/IBM/...
for a Free Software related job
- Path 2: Join one of the local initiatives, like SPACE
there is a lot of work to be done, and work follows work
- Path 3: Reputation by participation
Join (or start) a Free Software project and demonstrate your skills,
someone will take notice
- Path 4: Start your own company
India's Free Software market is undersupplied: everyone complains
about lack of support; this is an opportunity!

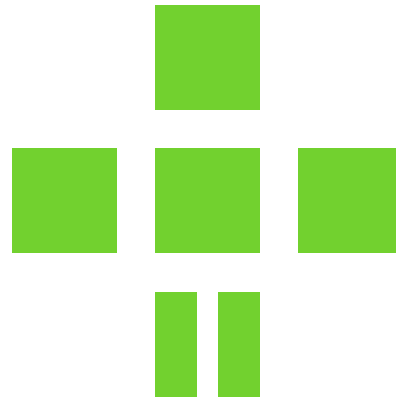


...it depends on what you want.

7. More information

Thank you for your attention!

Questions?



- Free Software Foundation Europe:
<http://fsfeurope.org>
- Get involved, defend your freedom:
<http://www.fsfe.org>