
“FREEDOM? WHAT IT IS? DO AS I SAY!”

**“Silence, something about silence
makes me sick
'Cause silence can be violent sorta like
a slit wrist
If the vibe was suicide, then you would
push the button
But if ya bowin' down, then let me do
the cuttin'
Some speak the sounds but speak in
silent voices
Like radio is silent though it fills the air
with noises
Its transmissions bring submission as
ya mold to the unreal
And mad boy grips the microphone
with a fistful of steel
Yeah ...” - Fistful of Steel, Rage Against
The Machine(1992).**

That's how the song starts, A perfect song with detailed analogy of the obvious truth hidden in plain sight. Whenever I hear this song in Zach de la Rocha's voice and the words of the band RATM it hits harder and harder. **“If the vibe was suicide, then you would push the button, But if ya bowin' down, then let me do the cuutin'”**, Yes, that's exactly how I feel. Why? To know why I feel that way, you have to give some, so called “Valuable” amount of your Time, a construct or some moments as price to me, so I can enlighten you!

I'm going to share few experiences here, especially after getting into **Free/Libre and Open Source Softwares (and Technologies)** Movement – **Shortly FLOSS-** and becoming a Free Software/Technology Activist. Having my roots deep in the Anarcho-Communism, Libertarian Marxism, Anarcho-Transhumanism, and other Leftist Ideologies, I easily gravitated towards Richard Mathew Stallman's Ideology of Free(Libre) Softwares and started advocating it. As a Defiant, Rational Intellect, and Outcast of this Insane Society I am always infuriated about how the system works. And none of what I am going to share here is new, but the perspective and experience I am going to share here can enlighten you with current trends of society, how a bureaucracy can and is stealing away the rights of people without them – the

multitude – knowing, and how the bureaucrats, and agents of the system who are also the members of the ordinary people, who are part of society, abide to system, and execute its protocols without any questions, to insist and compel the other ordinary people to abide and obey to system.

The Privacy is misunderstood to be Perversity and thus have made people vulnerable to let the data-greedy, control structures to pervade. The Freedom is never Long Lost. The truth is it is Never Sought Throughout the history of mankind, and a group of people has let a small group of people to be deus, and exploit the masses, without any resistance. I, who is a Data Analyst-cum-Software Engineer, know how and in what ways the corporations can exploit and mine data from people. I am well aware of their surveillance techniques, telemetries, free service strategies and open audacious statements in the name of privacy policies. And I stopped using almost all Properitery Softwares and Technologies, Products and Services. And I have started using secure ways to use proprietary softwares in case I have to use them (for education and banking only). But in last december, I have to encounter several problems in paying my tution fees, and especially I faced problems when trying to pay through online portal with my debit card information. When I approached Banker they couldn't understand what the issue or why I couldn't do a transaction beyond the limit but instead insisted me to use their mobile app or an e-wallet. I refused and asked them “why?” which annoyed them and they started to convince me. The counter staff were little upset and annoyed. The act of forcing me to what should I do instead of helping me to solve the problem by facilitating the banking business as I liked showed their inadequacy to handle customer issues.

The outbreak of COVID 19 forced educational institutions to shift to online peadagogy. For online classes, Google Meet was predominantly preffered by many institutions. While they encountered a problem of not permitting more than 100 participants in a meet at a time, many institutions opted for Microsoft

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Teams while there are more FLOSS alternatives that are private and secured are available.

The new normal (COVID 19) has made many to switch to use E-Wallets and mobile banking apps using QR code instead of handling liquid cash for commuting, small purchases and this has paved the way for continuously tracking the purchase power and mobility of commoners which is stored as data in a server to serve the capitalist interests.

Offlate, like bankers, insurance companies too have started online services for buying insurance and verification process. Recently, my experience of renewing my Vehicle Insurance that is followed by a Verification Process forced me to Download and Install an App which asks permission to access my location, camera, storage and microphone for completing the verification. While resisted to install the App, and asked for alternatives like online web portal the agent insisted upon installing the App by saying it doesn't occupy much space and why I am asking for alternatives. He too insisted to complete the verification process within 48 hours for getting my insurance renewed, which is annoying and disturbing for a consumer who pays for his service is being bossed over by the agents and businesses.

These are few instances which tells about the prevailing insecurity around us in the name of technology backed ease of doing business, which actually poses a threat to the privacy of our lives. For persons like me who are FLOSS enthusiasts, this is further more stressful and annoying. This also rises a question of integrity and social consciousness of not doing a proper digital literacy to the vast majority internet users.

The System is imagined to follow a Panopticon model, but in contrary, the system opposes decentralisation and autonomy, through its infinite decentralised eyes. For ages, the bureaucrats has shaped and sculpted minds, and fed data in a way to make these individual minds think in the expected way, and preservation of this order is accelerated today through technologies which makes them robust, to achieve a Syntellect, Unified, Centralised Society, discarding Liberty,

Authenticity and Diversity. People are silently pushed to a point where they will never Resist, Defy or Insurrect. The Applications, Softwares, Hardwares or Technologies were never been a problem here. Their License and Usages were the problem. The amount of data it knowingly and unknowingly collect, the way we define legal and illegal, the licenses and laws through which they take utmost control is what makes us concern about our dystopian future. You can take it as a rant, or brag, or click-bait, or repetition of what you already knew, but out there the masses who don't know to raise question even for their own rights, are being exploited. They merely become the eyes and ears of the everted captivity. Not only them, but also you. Yes, you will be denied, you will be left unanswered and pushed out of queues and offices, for asking an alternative or work-around. They will make you install a software to provide you service, which will track you forever, will record your digital fingerprints, or you will be left unattended, without any service. What are we going to do?

- Elmiar. (2022-01-08)