

Address

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1 Welcome

Director Dr. VK Dadhwal, deans, faculty members and dear friends, Good afternoon all. Thank you for joining us today. I am Nidish, a final year BTech student currently pursuing Aerospace Engineering.

We are here for the inaugural session of the FOSS group of IIST. FOSS is short for Free and Open Source Software - in order to go into what it actually stands for, we will have to look into what is known as the GNU project, or the Software Freedom movement. We now have Gowtham, speaking to us about what the Free Software movement is all about and how relevant it is in the current scenario.

2 FOSS

GNU, standing for GNU's Not Unix, represents a rebellion against proprietary software copyrights placing restrictions on redistribution, sharing and general usage of software from the user's side. The project was initiated by Richard Stallman in 1983, the then to-be-founder of the Free Software Foundation. He defines Free Software as software that respects the user's freedom and the social solidarity of his community.

The word Free in FOSS pertains to freedom, not price. It is a common refrain, "Free as in Freedom; not free beer". Realizing the implications of such freedom to the modern scientific community. we have come up with IIST's own FOSS group.

The advantage with FOSS is that anybody is authorized to distribute and/or publish the modified or unmodified source code since it is openly shared. Richard Stallman also came up with the GNU Public License, which acted as a "copyleft" in providing the users with necessary freedom rather than restricting it from them through copyrights.

The GPL offers four kinds of freedom to the users:

- Freedom to run the program for any purpose
- Freedom to study how the program works
- Freedom to redistribute copies
- Freedom to improve the program and also release improvements to the public

The above will be kind of the driving motto for the FOSS group of IIST. The main idea is that knowledge is a common heritage of mankind and thus software, a form of knowledge, has to be free and accessible to all.

Realizing the importance, in the March of 2015, the Government of India adopted a comprehensive and supportive open source policy. The policy requests all governmental organizations to prefer the use of open source software in all central government departments and ministries, with use of closed source software only being considered as an exception with sufficient justification.

I would like to conclude by noting that IIST's FOSS group, will be India's first Space research oriented FOSS chapter and the avenues to be explored are numerous.

3 Interlude

Thank you Gowtham. In order to drive home the idea of "free software - free world" in IIST's perspective, we have Nikhil, another final year BTech student from our batch.

4 Nikhil's Part

5 Interlude

Thank You Nikhil. I now call upon our Director, Dr. Vinay Kumar Dadhwal to grace us with his address.

6 Director's Address

7 Github Repo Creation

Thank You Sir. In order to kick things off, we want to create a repository on github, an open source online Git repository hosting service.

Git is an open source version control system used to track and monitor changes in large software programming and other projects. We will have a detailed session on version control systems very soon. The repository is intended to be the central resource base of the FOSS group of IIST - it will contain software tutorials prepared/adapted by members and serve as a reference containing information of current projects and undertakings of the group and some other miscellany pertaining to the group.

We request our director, Dr. V K Dadhwal to initiate IIST's FOSS chapter by creating the repository on github.

8 Github Repo Creation

9 Interlude

Thank You Sir. We are sure the repository will stand witness to many projects the FOSS group will undertake.

In order to give the audience a more informed picture of FOSS based research in Aerospace Engineering, we have Dr. Manoj T Nair, Associate Professor from the department of Aerospace Engineering.

10 Dr. Manoj Nair's address

11 Interlude

Thank You Sir.

We now have Dr. Manoj B S, associate professor from the department of Avionics, giving us an idea of how FOSS tools may supplement research in computer science and other avionics disciplines.

12 Dr. Manoj B S's address

13 Interlude

Thank You Sir.

To have a feel of what is in store from the group and get a good idea of the upcoming activities, we have Dr. Devendra Ghate, a faculty from Aerospace engineering who has worked very closely with us in setting up this group.

14 Dr. Ghate's address

15 Concluding Remarks by Sudhanshu