Welcome Speech

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Nidish Good afternoon all, thank you for joining us today. I am Nidish and this is Gowtham;

Gowtham We are final year BTech students pursuing Aerospace Engineering. We are here for the inaugural session of the FOSS group of IIST;

Nidish 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 system, or the Software freedom movement;

Gowtham 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;

Nidish The GNU project was initiated by Richard Stallman, the then to be founder of the Free Software Foundation, in 1983. He defines Free Software as software that respects the user's freedom and the social solidarity of his community;

Gowtham The word Free in free software 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;

Nidish 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";

Gowtham 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;

Nidish 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;

Gowtham 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;

Nidish 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.