

Logiciel Libre

Cours 0 — Presentation

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Free Software

Definition (Free Software — *a* definition)

Free/Libre/Open Source Software (FLOSS) is computer software that gives users the freedom to **run** the software for any purpose as well as to **study**, **modify**, and **distribute** the original software and the adapted versions.

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How is that different from “usual” (proprietary) software?

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Let's look at a sample EULA:

https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/Useterms/OEM/Windows/10/UseTerms_OEM_Windows_10_English.htm (July 2017)

Why bother? — as citizens

Lester picked up a screwdriver. “You see this? It’s a tool. You can pick it up and you can unscrew stuff or screw stuff in. You can use the handle for a hammer. You can use the blade to open paint cans. You can throw it away, loan it out, or paint it purple and frame it.” He thumped the printer. “This [Disney in a Box] thing is a tool, too, but it’s not your tool. It belongs to someone else — Disney. It isn’t interested in listening to you or obeying you. It doesn’t want to give you more control over your life.” [...]

*“If you don’t control your life, you’re miserable. Think of the people who don’t get to run their own lives: prisoners, reform-school kids, mental patients. There’s something inherently awful about living like that. **Autonomy makes us happy.**”*

— Cory Doctorow, *Makers*
<http://craphound.com/makers/>

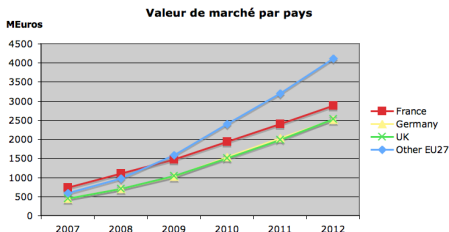
Why bother? — as computer scientists

Free Software has *radically* changed the way software is:

- developed
- tested
- proven
- conceived
- marketed
- sold
- maintained
- taught
- deployed
- ...

Why bother? — as IT professionals

- Free Software is everywhere
- participation in Free Software: a big plus on CVs
- in France: $\approx 10\%$ of IT GDP in 2014 (≈ 4 BEUR), constantly growing in spite of the crisis (cf. “Le marché du logiciel libre pèse 4,1 milliards en France”, Les Echos, 18/11/2015)



- “2017-2022: évolution du marché du Logiciel Libre en France”, CNLL/PAC 2017: slides,¹ video²

1. <https://tinyurl.com/y8rh6agj>

2. https://youtu.be/80Rg_gSaKpo

This course — topics

An introduction to Free Software topics, along the following axes

- history
- philosophy
- legal
- management / organization
- business / economics
- technical

~~Feedback from others, with external speakers³~~

- ~~• companies~~
- ~~• professionals~~
- ~~• organizations / non-profits~~

3. starting with academic year 2019-2020 this class duration has been reduced, so we will no longer have guest lectures

This course — organization

- $\frac{1}{2}$ lectures
- $\frac{1}{2}$ TD/TP

alternative CM/TD/TP as needed (same slot)

This course — evaluation

- 1 exam
- 2 TD: +0/+1/+2 bonus on the final grade
 - ▶ exercises
 - ▶ short essays on selected topics
- 3 project (mandatory, not CC)
 - ▶ relevant *code contribution* to an existing, **major Free Software project**. Examples and guidance will be provided during 1st TP
 - ▶ more info in the first TP

Final note

- 1e session: 50% exam + 50% project + TD bonus
- 2e session: 50% exam + 50% project + TD bonus

This course — teaching material

<https://moodle.u-paris.fr/course/view.php?id=10717>

Addendum:

- as separate slide decks
- orally → **take notes**

Textbooks



Joshua Gay, Richard M. Stallman

Free Software, Free Society: Selected Essays of Richard M. Stallman
2009

<http://www.gnu.org/doc/fsfs-ii-2.pdf>



Van Lindberg

Intellectual Property and Open Source: A Practical Guide to Protecting Code

O'Reilly Media, 2008



Eric S. Raymond

The Cathedral and the Bazaar: Musings on Linux and Open Source by an Accidental Revolutionary

O'Reilly Media, 1999

<http://catb.org/esr/writings/cathedral-bazaar/>



Karl Fogel

Producing Open Source Software: How to Run a Successful Free Software Project

O'Reilly Media, 2017 (2nd ed.)

<http://producingoss.com/>

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