



BASIC UNDERSTANDING ON FREE AND OPEN-SOURCE SOFTWARE

- Describe Open-Source Software with Example
- Describe free Software with Example
- Difference between Free and Open-Source Software

A. Open source software is software with source code that anyone can inspect, modify, and enhance.

"Source code" is the part of software that most computer users don't ever see; it's the code computer programmers can manipulate to change how a piece of software—a "program" or "application"—works. Programmers who have access to a computer program's source code can improve that program by adding features to it or fixing parts that don't always work correctly.

EXAMPLE:-Open source software is different. Its authors make its source code available to others who would like to view that code, copy it, learn from it, alter it, or share it. LibreOffice and the GNU Image Manipulation Program are examples of open source software.

B. "Free software" means software that respects users' freedom and community. Roughly, it means that the users have the freedom to run, copy, distribute, study, change and improve the software. Thus, "free software" is a matter of liberty, not price.

EXAMPLE:-There are thousands of free applications and many operating systems available on the Internet. Users can easily download and install those applications via a package manager that comes included with most Linux distributions.

The Free Software Directory maintains a large database of free-software packages. Some of the best-known examples include the Linux kernel, the BSD and Linux operating systems, the GNU Compiler Collection and C library; the MySQL relational database; the Apache web server; and the Sendmail mail transport agent. Other influential examples include the Emacs text editor; the GIMP raster drawing and image editor; the X Window System graphical-display system; the LibreOffice office suite; and the TeX and LaTeX typesetting systems.

c. Free Software

1. Software is an important part of people's lives.
2. Software freedom translates to social freedom.
3. Freedom is a value that is more important than any economical advantage.

Open Source Software

1. Software is just software. There are no ethics associated directly to it.
2. Ethics are to be associated to the people not to the software.
3. Freedom is not an absolute concept. Freedom should be allowed, not imposed.

