

## PRACTICAL 3: BASIC UNDERSTANDING ON FREE AND OPEN-SOURCE SOFTWARE

### (1) Open-Source Software with Example.

The term open source refers to something people can modify and share because its design is publicly accessible.

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.

- 1) Firefox— A Web browser that competes with Internet Explorer.
- 2) OpenOffice—A competitor to Microsoft Office.
- 3) Gimp—A graphic tool with features found in Photoshop.
- 4) Alfresco—collaboration software that competes with Microsoft Sharepoint and EMC's Documentum.



## **(2) Free Software with Example:**

Free Software is computer software distributed under terms that allow users to run the software for any purpose as well as to study, change, and distribute it and any adapted versions. Free software is a matter of liberty, not price: all users are legally free to do what they want with their copies of a free software (including profiting from them) regardless of how much is paid to obtain the program.

The concept of free software is the brainchild of Richard Stallman, head of the GNU Project.

The best known example of free software is Linux, an operating system that is proposed as an alternative to Windows or other proprietary operating systems.

Debian is an example of a distributor of a Linux package.

## **Difference between Free and Open Source Software:**

- **Free software**

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

- **Open source software**

1. Ethics are to be associated to the people not to the software.
2. Software is just software. There are no ethics associated directly to it.
3. Freedom is not an absolute concept. Freedom should be allowed, not imposed.
4. Examples: Prime examples of open-source products are the Apache HTTP Server, the e-commerce platform osCommerce