

Free Software for a Free World

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September 20, 2024

What is Free Software?

- ▶ "Free" as in Freedom, not Free Beer
- ▶ Software that respects users' freedom and community
- ▶ Adheres to the Four essential freedoms (defined by Free Software Foundation)

The Four Freedoms

- ▶ Freedom to run the program
- ▶ Freedom to study and modify
- ▶ Freedom to redistribute
- ▶ Freedom to distribute modified versions

Popular Free Programs

- ▶ Firefox
- ▶ Linux
- ▶ LibreOffice
- ▶ VLC Player
- ▶ Blender
- ▶ Audacity

The Birth of Free Software

- ▶ 1950s-70s: Software freely shared among researchers and hobbyists
- ▶ 1980s: Proprietary software becomes dominant
- ▶ 1983: Richard Stallman announces GNU Project
- ▶ 1985: Free Software Foundation (FSF) established

Key Milestones

- ▶ 1989: First version of GNU General Public License (GPL)
- ▶ 1991: Linux kernel released by Linus Torvalds
- ▶ 1993: Debian project founded
- ▶ 2000: RUSLUG formed
- ▶ 2007: GPLv3 released

Richard Stallman is a Character

| Lastly, I hope that you get well soon.

Thank you, but "get well" does not fit my medical situation. My lymphoma is in remission and expected to stay that way for 4-5 years. When it comes ack they will give me another treatment and give me some more years.

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Dr Richard Stallman (<https://stallman.org>)
Chief GNUisance of the GNU Project (<https://gnu.org>)
Founder, Free Software Foundation (<https://fsf.org>)
Internet Hall-of-Famer (<https://internethalloffame.org>)

Free vs. Proprietary Software

Free Software

- ▶ Source code available
- ▶ User freedom prioritized
- ▶ Community-driven development
- ▶ Customizable

Proprietary Software

- ▶ Closed source
- ▶ Restricted user rights
- ▶ Controlled by single entity
- ▶ Limited customization

Getting Involved

- ▶ Use free software
- ▶ Contribute to projects
- ▶ Spread awareness
- ▶ Join us at RU Student Linux User Group

Thank You!

- ▶ ruslug.org
- ▶ ruslug.org/discord
- ▶ ruslug.org/flickr