**FreedomBox – Eliminating Middlemen**

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FreedomBox was built with an idea of eliminating intermediaries. It all starts with the simple concept of data. Millions and millions of data are being transferred every day, and the problem or challenge here is: where our data is being stored? And how is it being used?

One of the best examples is Facebook. Why is it that you receive posts only from one set of friends? The simple answer is that Facebook filters all your information and will only give you the relevant information. That means we only see the information that Facebook wants us to see rather than what we want to see. The danger here is it kills the ability to think independently. All the Facebook posts are in a central location, and the same is the case with WhatsApp and others.

This means that there is a need to control the flow of our data, and this is where the issue of intermediaries comes into play. It is our data, and there are these middlemen who are using it and manipulating it, performing analytics for their purposes. Most of the services we are using today are centralized. The FreedomBox was built to decentralize these services.

We can consider FreedomBox as a Wi-Fi router with additional services. People who are connected to the network can use these services. The biggest advantage here is that we own our data. The FreedomBox can also be installed on a Debian-based operating system. Once it is installed the configuration and functioning are similar to that of a smartphone.

FreedomBox includes secure instant messaging at low bandwidths, high-quality voice conference calls. It lets you publish your content in a blog and wiki to collaborate with the rest of the world.

At present FreedomBox software has been installed on the campus. It's up and running, and the currently installed services are Mumble (Voice chat) and SIP Server (repro).