coggle

The software problem

"Freer" software

Software that its users can't change without having to know code is not "free"

If you have to take a programming course to change a program then the price to change is not free, for some it may be impossible, and therefore this is a kind of restriction

Additionally, even if you can program, some projects are so complex as to be very difficult to even *compile*, let alone make modifications to at a source-level

---

FSF is concerned with practicality, and not just moral theory

If you have to take a course, or hire a team to modify a program, then you might just as well create a new program. What does that say about the software's configurability?

Open + free as in freedom is not enough, it has to be accessible

FSF (re GPL) says: it's not enough to merely be open source, you have to enforce that changes to that source cannot be distributed closed. This is keeping with the spirit of empowering the end-user.

"Configurable software"

Software should not require a config file, or special, custom UI to change each program

Configuration should be built into software from the ground up!

This includes logical decision making and processes: button click events, interpretation of commands, timers, state transformations, etc.

This includes constants (numbers, strings) for e.g. ports, ips, names, percentages, rates, times, etc.

This includes visual layout, in a terminal or GUI setting, whether to include or not include buttons, sort order, text, colors, sizes, arity, etc.

You need a way to build, and a way to make changes

You should be able to choose to accept or ignore, or modify, incoming changes to the software, without compromising its function or hosing it

An interactive means of seeing "mock" state happen in reaction to your changes would be invaluable

New releases of software should be diffs, not complete replacements, of your software.