

Practical 3

Basic understanding on free and open source software

1) Open Source Software (OSS):

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 control how a program or application behaves. A program also has access to source code and can change a program by adding to it, changing it, or fixing part of it which are not working properly. OSS typically includes a license that allows a programmer to modify the software to best fit their needs and control how the software can be distributed.

Example:

1. Android
2. Mozilla Firefox
3. VLC media
4. Apache web server
5. LibreOffice

2) Free Software (FS):

Free software means software that respects users' freedom and community. Roughly, it means that the user has the freedom to run, copy, distribute, study, change, and improve the software. Thus, free software is a matter of liberty, not price. Although the term free software had already been used loosely in the past, Richard Stallman is credited with giving it the sense and the discussion and starting the free software movement in 1983. For software under the pure view of copyright to be free, it must carry software license whereby the author grants users the aforementioned rights.

Example:

1. Linux kernel
2. BSD
3. C library
4. MySQL
5. Sendmail transport agent

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3) Difference between Free and Open Source Software

Free software	Open source software
Software is an important part of people's lives	Software is just software. There are no ethics associated directly to it.
Software freedom translates to social freedom	Ethics are to be associated to the people not to the software
Freedom is a value that is more important than any economical advantage	Freedom is not an absolute concept. Freedom should be allowed, not imposed.
Example: Linux kernel, BSD and Linux operating system, C library, MySQL etc.	Example: Apache HTTP server, Mozilla Firefox, LibreOffice etc.