Free Software

An Introduction

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Free Software

Free Software

- Free as in freedom
- Respects Freedom!
  - Of users
  - Of developers
- Unrestricted usage, copying and sharing
- Unrestricted modification
- Unrestricted access to source

History

History

- Hardware and Software – early days

- Richard Mathew Stallman

- GNU Software stack

- The GNU Compiler Collection – GCC

- Free Software Foundation

- Eric S. Raymond

  - Cathedral and the bazaar

  - "Open Source vs. Free Software"

History (contd..)

- Andrew Tanenbaum
  - Minix
- Linus Torvalds
  - The Linux kernel
  - GNU/Linux operating system
  - BSDs vs. Linux vs. *nix
  - Licensing

Free Software Concepts

- Access to Source

- License to Use, Copy, Modify and Share

- The Four Freedoms
  - 0 – Freedom to use for any purpose
  - 1 – Freedom to copy and share with anyone
  - 2 – Freedom to modify as needed
  - 3 – Freedom to share the modified copy

- Gratis vs. Libre (Free as in freedom & not as in beer!)

- Proprietary vs. Commercial

Advantages of Free Software

- Rapid development
- Given enough eyeballs, all bugs are shallow!
- Collaborative model = Innovation
- Security
  - A little note on security through obscurity
- Continuos code audit
- Free of restrictions and patents

Advantages (contd..)

- Looks good on your resume :)
- Translations
- Pro-Bono – For the greater good.

FLOSS

- Free 'Libre' Open source Software

- Popular Free Software

  - Firefox

  - VLC

  - LibreOffice

  - Stellarium

  - GIMP / Inkscape

  - Pidgin