

The Declaration of Independence from Proprietary Software

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When in the course of human events it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the binary bands which have connected them with their software and to assume among the powers of the machine the su and root to which the Laws of systems administration entitle them, a decent respect to the the opinions of developers requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation.

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all users are created equal, that they are endowed by the system with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Freedom, Libre, and the pursuit of Source Code. — That to secure these rights, permissions are instituted among filesystems, deriving their just powers from the consent of the users, that whenever any Form of Operating System becomes destructive to these ends, it is the Right of the Users to alter or abolish it, and to institute new OSs, laying it's foundation on such principles and organizing its operation in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Productivity and Creativity. Prudence, indeed, will dictate that Operating Systems long established should not be formatted for light and transient causes; and accordingly all experience hath shewn that users are more disposed to suffer, while evils are sufferable than to right themselves by wiping the software to which they are accustomed. But when a long train of restrictions and bad UX, pursuing invariably the same Object evinces a design to reduce them under absolute Propriety, it is their right, it is their duty, to reformat such Software, and to provide new Freedoms for their future security. — Such has been the patient sufferance of these users of proprietary code; and such is now the necessity which constraints them to alter their former Systems of Operation. The history of the present forms of proprietary software is a history of repeated injuries and usurpations, all having in direct object the establishment of an absolute Tyranny over these Computers. To prove this, let Facts be submitted to a candid world.

They have held hostage data of the user that cannot be freely recovered from vaults beyond the user's control.

They have forbidden their users to modify their property beyond restrictive sets of changes trivial to its operation.

They have refused access to source code to provide for adequate security of valuable personal data.

They have prevented access to study the workings of their code to others, stifling innovation and progress.

They have persecuted those presenting valid and provable security flaws while allowing those flaws to be exploited for profit by the insidious.

In every stage of these Oppressions We have petitioned for Redress in the most humble terms: Our repeated Petitions have been answered only by repeated injury. An Operating System, whose performance is marked by every act which may define a Tyrant, is unfit to be the software of a free people.

We therefore, the Representatives of the united Users of Software, in General Congress, Assembled, Appealing to the Supreme User of the world for the rectitude of our intentions, so, in the Name, and by Authority of the good Users of these Computers, solemnly publish and declare, That these united Users are, and of Right ought to be Free and Independent Sysadmins, that they are Absolved from all Allegiance to the EULA, is and ought to be totally dissolved; and that as Free and Independent Users, they have the full power to open, compile, study, redistribute, modify, and to do all other Acts and Things which Free Users may of right do.