Introduction to free & open source software

SRM University,

Chennai, India
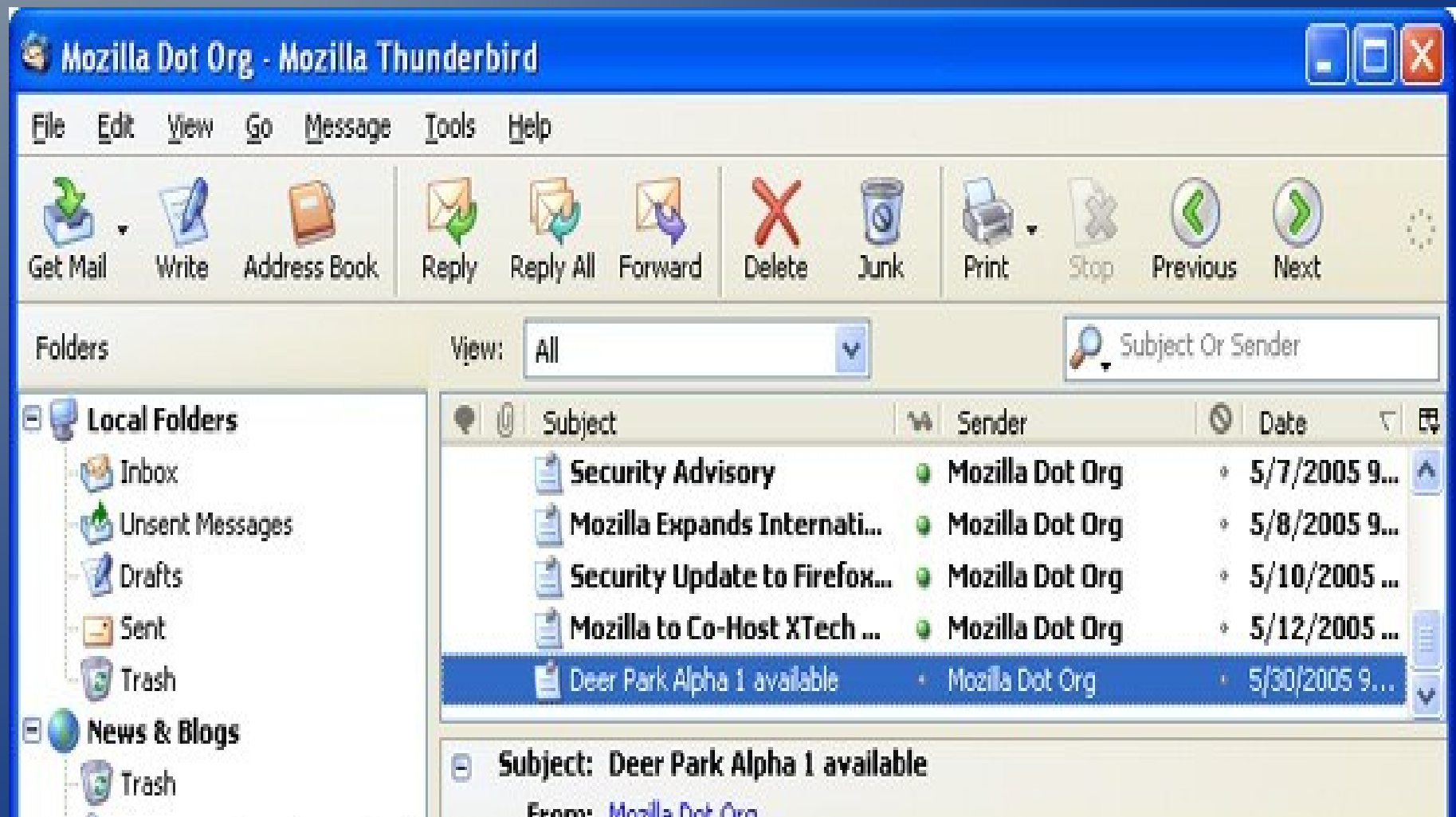
How many of you have used ..

Mozilla Firefox
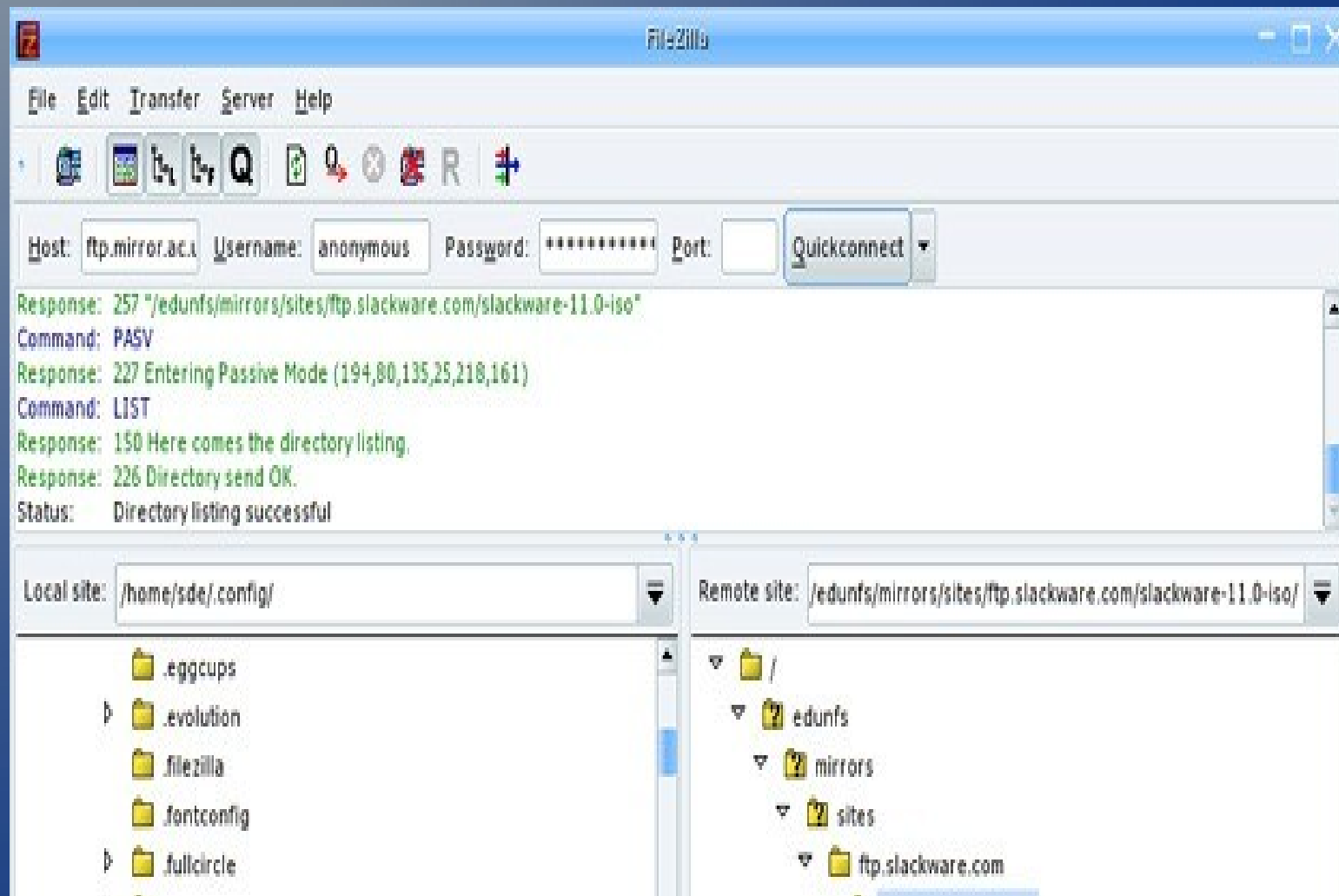
And

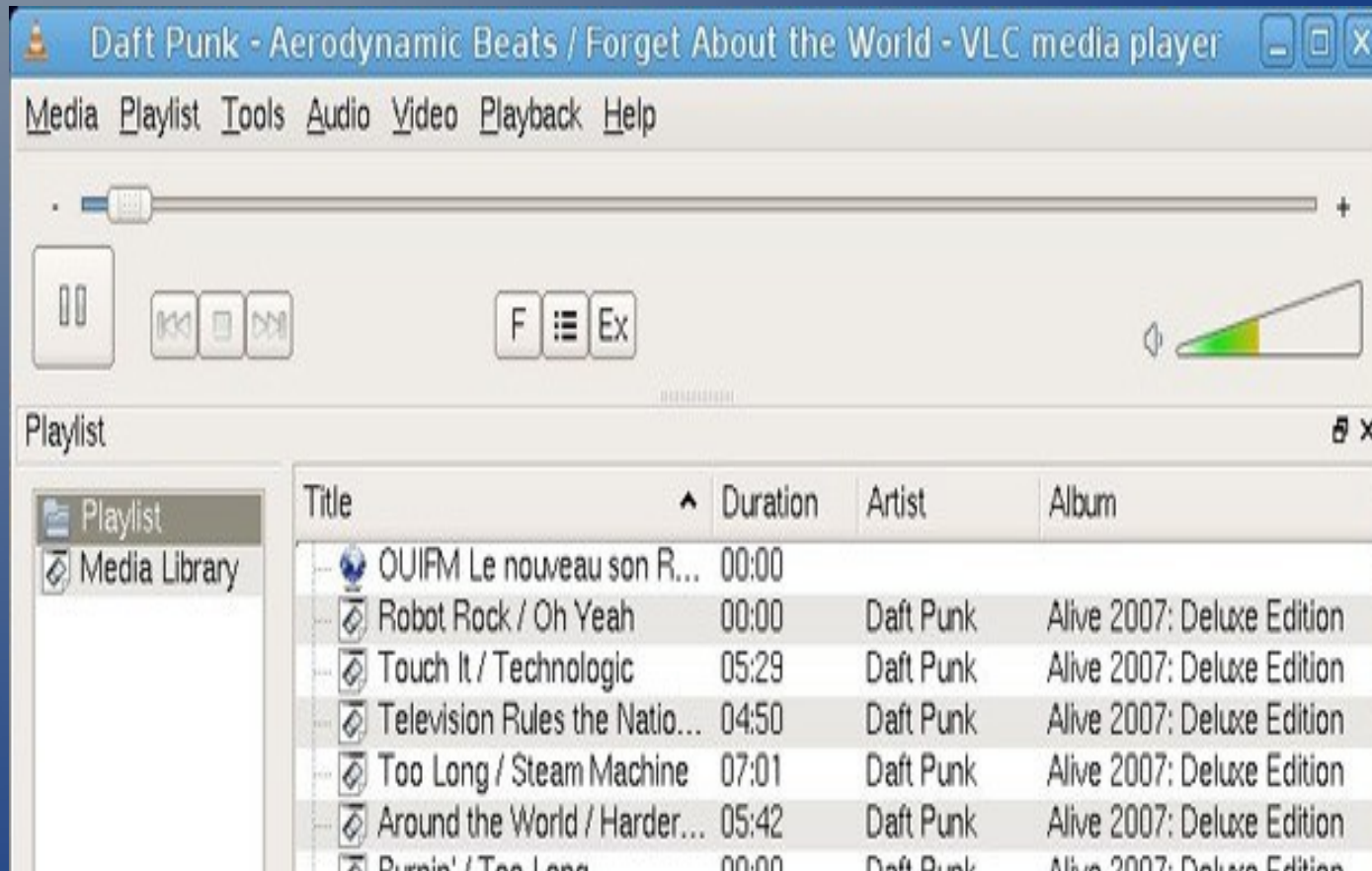Thunderbird

and

Filezilla

and

VLC media player

also

OpenOffice

What is common in all of them?

All the above are Free and Open Source Software.

Confused?

Lets go back ...

History

In 1985

Richard Stallman formed FSF

- He along with a group of like minded programmers started work in developing the tools needed to make a complete OS - like an editor (Emacs), a C compiler (GCC), libraries and all associated generic Unix tools like cat,ls, chmod etc

In year 1990

A finnish student by name Linus Torvalds

Wrote kernel

And released it under GPL.

This kernel is now popularly known as Linux.

So
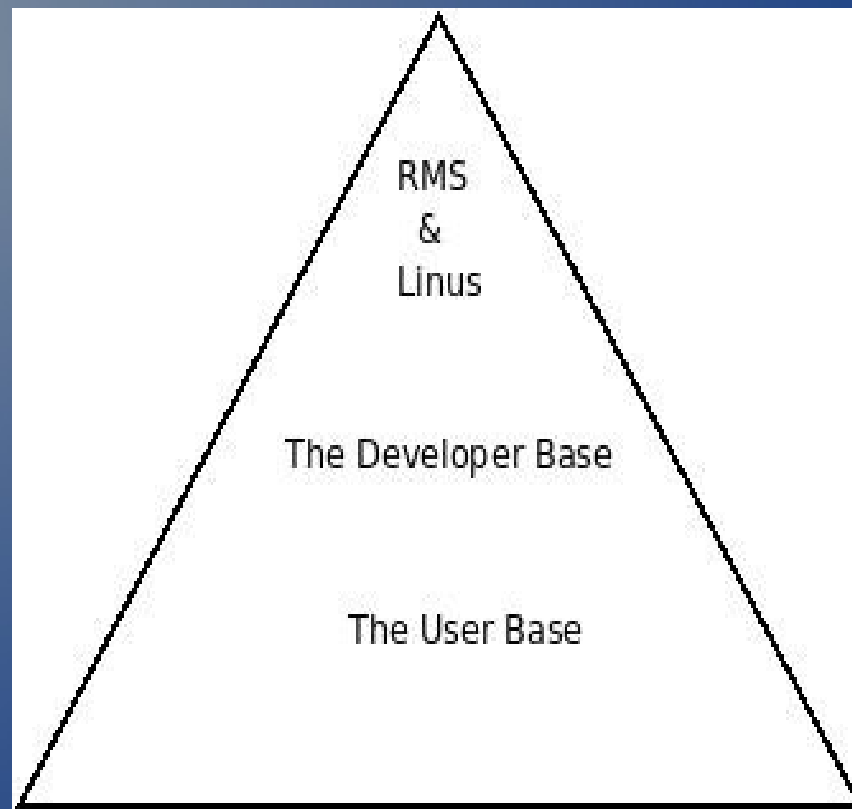
Gnu toolchains + kernel == Gnu/Linux

What are various distros ?

Also

After 1997, a programming model other than the GPLed model emerged which is now popularly known as the Open Source Initiative.

The Pyramid

So the question is ..

Why should i learn free & opensource software, Gnu/Linux?

How and where to look for help?

Why should i learn free & opensource software?

For your good.

Better knowledge about how things/technology works.

Better paid job?

How and where to look for help?

The Linux Documenatation Project (tldp.org)

Distribution/software specific websites

But am not a coder …..

You can still help and be part of the community

Localization

Documentation

Artwork

Bug Reporting

Mentoring

Questions?

Thanks

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