First steps in FOSS
Becoming part of the FOSS ecosystem

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What is Free and Open Source Software ?

- Free as in mukt not muft

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▶ Free as in mukt not muft
  ▶ FOSS != Freeware

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- ▶ Free as in mukt not muft
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- Not a new concept

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- Free as in mukt not muft
  - FOSS != Freeware
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  - FOSS != Public Domain
- Not a new concept
  - Open research, Open standards, Open source !

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Why should you care ?

- ▶ FOSS has influenced the software industry

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- ▶ FOSS has influenced the software industry
- ▶ FOSS will continue to influence the software industry

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Why should you care ?

- ▶ FOSS has influenced the software industry
- ▶ FOSS will continue to influence the software industry
- ▶ FOSS concepts have influenced and will continue to influence other industries

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Why should you care ?

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- ▶ FOSS will continue to influence the software industry
- ▶ FOSS concepts have influenced and will continue to influence other industries
- ▶ FOSS makes you smarter :)

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► The properties:

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► The properties:
  ► Evolutionary

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- ▶ The properties:
  - ▶ Evolutionary
  - ▶ Self-regulating

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- ► The properties:
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    - ► Self-regulating
    - ► Fault-tolerant

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- ▶ The properties:
  - ▶ Evolutionary
  - ▶ Self-regulating
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  - ▶ So, FOSS ecosystem is an 'Intelligent positive feedback system'

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- ▶ The participants:

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▶ The participants:
  ▶ No clear distinction of participants
    consumers are producers and vice versa

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  - So, FOSS ecosystem is an 'Intelligent positive feedback system'
- The participants:
  - No clear distinction of participants
    consumers are producers and vice versa
  - Contribution is not just technical. Translators,
    content creators, designers, in fact anyone who can add
    value can participate.

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How is the FOSS ecosystem different ?

- FOSS versus proprietary software ecosystems
  - Driven by needs instead of 'market size'
  - Feedback loop is more responsive and more reinforcing
  - Longer lifetime

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- ▶ FOSS versus proprietary software ecosystems
  - ▶ Driven by needs instead of 'market size'
  - ▶ Feedback loop is more responsive and more reinforcing
  - ▶ Longer lifetime
- ▶ FOSS ecosystem versus an online community
  Users are contributors not just members

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Install and use FOSS

- ▶ FOSS alternatives on Windows
  Firefox, VLC, Pidgin, OpenOffice, PDFCreator, ClamWin ...

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  - ▶ What is a distro ?

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  - ▶ Which distro should I use ? Fedora ? Ubuntu ? ...
  - ▶ Dedicated flavors - Edubuntu, Fedora Electronic lab, Ubuntu studio ...

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  - What is a distro ?
  - Which distro should I use ? Fedora ? Ubuntu ? ...
  - Dedicated flavors - Edubuntu, Fedora Electronic lab, Ubuntu studio ...
  - Explore and learn your tools – think why ?

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▶ Read FOSS related news, blogs ...etc

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- ...but remember – everyone is also doing the same ! so,
  - Respect the rules (for example: mailing list rules, irc conventions, etc)
  - Ask smart questions
  - Acknowledge the value of the community

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  - Be kind to the n00bs

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- Developer, content writer, designer, translator, all of them ?

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- Scratch your own itch

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As a contributor

- ▶ Developer, content writer, designer, translator, all of them ?
- ▶ Submit bug reports and fix bugs
- ▶ Become a package maintainer
- ▶ Scratch your own itch
- ▶ Innovate, Share, Repeat !

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- ▶ FOSS and FOSS ecosystem
  http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Free_software
  http://www.fsf.org/
  http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Open_source
  Google !
- ▶ FOSS software for windows
  http://www.osalt.com/
  http://osswin.sourceforge.net/
- ▶ Popular Linux distributions
  http://distrowatch.com/

References, cont...

- ▶ Essential reading for surviving in a FOSS community !
  http://catb.org/~esr/faqs/smart-questions.html
  http://catb.org/~esr/faqs/hacker-howto.html
  http://www.catb.org/~esr/writings/
  cathedral-bazaar/homesteading/
- ▶ Join the Fedora Project
  http://fedoraproject.org/en/join-fedora

From n00b to guru

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This place intentionally left blank
Thanks for listening.
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