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FYCS-04

PRACTICAL NO. 3
BASIC UNDERSTANDING ON FREE AND
OPEN-SOURCES SOFTWARE



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OPEN SOURCE SOFTWARE

A. OPEN SOURCE SOFTWARE

Definition:

1. Open-source software is a program that has publicly available code which anyone with technical expertise can use, modify and distribute.
2. Open-source software (OSS) is any computer software that's distributed with its source code available for modification. That means it usually includes a license for programmers to change the software in any way they choose.
3. They can fix bugs, improve functions, or adapt the software to suit their own needs.

Open source software is released through a specific kind of license that makes its source code legally available to end-users. There are many such licenses but typically software is considered open source. It is available in source code form without additional cost, meaning users can view the code that comprises the software and make any kind of changes to it they want.

The source code can be repurposed into other new software, meaning anyone can take the source code and distribute their own program from it.

• Licenses used for Open source software :

Different licenses allow programmers to modify the software with various conditions attached. According to the Black Duck KnowledgeBase, a database of some two million open source projects, five of the most popular licenses are:

1. MIT License
2. GNU General Public License (GPL) 2.0
3. Apache License 2.0
4. GNU General Public License (GPL) 3.0
5. BSD License 2.0 (3-clause, New or Revised)

• **Advantages of Open source software**

- 1.Its quality can be easily and greatly improved when its source code is passed around, tested, and fixed.
- 2.It offers a valuable learning opportunity for programmers.
- 3.They can apply skills to the most popular programs available today.
- 4.It can be more secure than proprietary software because bugs are identified and fixed quickly.
- 5.Since it is in the public domain, and constantly subject to updates, there is little chance it can become unavailable or quickly outmoded an important plus for long-term projects.

• **Disadvantages of Open source software**

1. Some open source applications may be tricky to set up and use. Others may lack user-friendly interfaces or features that user may not be familiar with.
2. Many types of proprietary hardware need specialised drivers to run open source programs, which are often only available from the equipment manufacturer.
3. Open source software licences typically contain only limited warranty and no liability or infringement indemnity protection.
4. Software that is free up-front but later costs money to run can be a major burden, especially if you haven't considered hidden costs from the outset.
5. Vulnerable to malicious users.

Some examples of Open source software.

1) Linux



5) Android



2) Open office



6) Wordpress



3) ClamWin antivirus



7) Python



4) Chromium



B. FREE SOFTWARE

Definition:

1. Free software (or libre software) is computer software distributed under terms that allow users to run the software for any purpose as well as to study, change, and distribute it and any adapted versions.
2. Free software is a matter of liberty, not price, all users are legally free to do what they want with their copies of a free software (including profiting from them) regardless of how much is paid to obtain the program.
3. Computer programs are deemed "free" if they give end-users (not just the developer) ultimate control over the software and, subsequently, over their devices.

• Licenses used for Free software

Unless the applications' licenses are compatible, combining programs by mixing source code or directly linking binaries is problematic, because of license technicalities. Programs indirectly connected together may avoid this problem.

The majority of free software falls under a small set of licenses. The most popular of these licenses are:

1. The MIT License
2. The GNU General Public License v2 (GPLv2)
3. The Apache License
4. The GNU General Public License v3 (GPLv3)
5. The BSD License
6. The GNU Lesser General Public License (LGPL)
7. The Mozilla Public License (MPL)
8. The Eclipse Public License

- **Advantages of Free software**

1. Available at minimal cost.
2. Provides full freedom for editing.
3. No imposed upgrades.
4. No spying on users
5. Auditability and Provides better security.

- **Disadvantages of Free software**

1. **No Guaranteed Support.** :Some free software programs don't have a large user base, and therefore the user support for certain programs can be lacking or nonexistent
2. **Inconsistent Updates.**: Since many members of the free software community develop the code in their spare time as unpaid volunteers, there is a chance that some of the prog
3. **No Guaranteed Support.**: Some free software programs don't have a large user base, and therefore the user support for certain programs can be lacking or nonexistent
4. **Varying Interfaces.** ;Some free software programs have a much different user interface than their commercial counterparts, and can have a steep learning curve.

- **Some examples of Free software.**

1) Mozilla firefox



5) GIMP



2) Audacity



6) Inkscape



3) Libre office



7) Blender



4) Shotcut (video editor)



8) Thunder Bird



C. Difference between OSS and FS

FREE SOFTWARE

1. Software is an important part of people's lives.
2. Software freedom translates to social freedom.
3. Freedom is a value that is more important than any economical advantage.
4. Examples: The Free Software Directory maintains a large database of free-software packages. Some of the best-known examples include the Linux kernel, the BSD and Linux operating systems, the GNU Compiler Collection and C library; the MySQL relational database; the Apache web server; and the Sendmail mail transport agent.

OPEN SOURCE

1. Software is just software. There are no ethics associated directly to it.
2. Ethics are to be associated to the people not to the software
3. Freedom is not an absolute concept. Freedom should be allowed, not imposed.
4. Examples: Prime examples of open-source products are the Apache HTTP Server, the e-commerce platform is Commerce, internet browsers Mozilla Firefox and Chromium (the project where the vast majority of development of the freeware Google Chrome is done) and the full office suite LibreOffice.