

BASIC UNDERSTANDING ON FREE AND OPEN-SOURCE SOFTWARE

A) Describe Open-Source Software with Example:

Open source refers to a software program or platform with source code that is readily accessible and which can be modified or enhanced by anyone. Open source access grants users of an application permission to fix broken links, enhance the design, or improve the original code. Open source practices can also lead to considerable savings, with many open source offerings provided to consumers for free, relying instead on a shareware or donation model.

Open source code can be used for studying and allows capable end users to adapt software to their personal needs in a similar way user scripts and custom style sheets allow for web sites, and eventually publish the modification as a fork for users with similar preferences, and directly submit possible improvements as pull requests.

There are many examples of open-source software some of them are listed below, with many popular applications allowing improvements and modifications from users. While not all of the changes and improvements made by programmers will be made available to the general public, the ability to work with these source codes can be educational and fun for some

- LibreOffice
- GNU/Linux
- VLC Media Player

B) Describe Free Software with Example:

Free software is software that can be freely used, modified, and redistributed with one caveat: any redistributed version of the software must be distributed under the same terms as the original software (known as copyleft). The Free Software Foundation and the GNU Project have agreed on a definition of free software. Free software can be packaged and distributed for free; the "free" refers to the ability to reuse it as part of another software package, modified or unmodified.

Users of free software may have access to and study the source code as part of their ability to modify it. The right to study and modify a computer program entails that source code—the preferred format for making changes—be made available to users of that program. While this is often called "access to source code" or "public availability", the Free Software Foundation (FSF) recommends against thinking in those terms, because it might give the impression that users have an obligation (as opposed to a right) to give non-users a copy of the program. 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. Other influential examples include the Emacs text editor; the GIMP raster drawing and

image editor; the X Window System graphical display system; the LibreOffice office suite; and the TeX and LaTeX typesetting systems.

C) Difference between Free and Open Source Software:

➤ Free Software

Free Software usually refers open source under GNU GPL license. Because the word free in English means cost the terms open source was created.

Software is an important part of people's lives

Software freedom translates to social freedom

Freedom is a value that is more important than any economical advantage.

➤ Open Source Software

Your source code is accessible to anyone to read and modify and redistribute depending on license conditions. Publishing source code online without the public being able to modify them doesn't make lots of sense.

Software is just software. There are no ethics associated directly to it.

Ethics are to be associated to the people not to the software.

Freedom is not an absolute concept. Freedom should be allowed, not imposed.