

When and How to Introduce Students to Free and Open-Source Software

Inaugural GVSU Technology Summit

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1 Introduction

1.1 Follow Along

See the link to presentation handout on Tech Summit Website! <www4.gvsu.edu/gvtech-summit>

1.2 Disclosures and Disclaimers

- I have no disclosures or conflicts-of-interests related to this presentation
- I am not a software engineer, computer scientist, or other technology-oriented professional by training - but am an enthusiast and hobbyist

1.3 Learning Objectives

- Appreciate why we should pay attention to how software is published and priced (Sections: Motivation and Purpose)
- Understand the vocabulary used to describe pricing models and source code availability in software (Section: Vocabulary of Software Availability and Pricing)
- Appreciate both the advantages and disadvantages of adopting open-source alternatives into instruction (Section: Advantages and Challenges)
- Consider the ways in which exposure to different tools and methods produces more technology-literate students (Section: [])
- Learn about some methods to bring more diverse software to students (Section: Examples of Integration)

1.4 Motivation

- The four "Evil" Es of software
 - Software is everywhere it's always all around us
 - Software is essential it's a common requirement of navigating the world
 - Software is elaborate but it doesn't look it!
 - Software is expensive and keeps getting more so!
- I want my students able to navigate these "Evil Es" during and after college, and not feel lost

1.5 Purpose

- Following the liberal arts mission of creating well-(tech)-rounded students
 - Exposing students to more alternative tools
 - Seeing the similarities, differences, and quirks of each tool
 - When they encounter new software they can adapt easier
- Supporting projects and software that are free in a time of increasing prices
 - Push back against reliance upon subscription-based tools
 - Show students how to build their portfolio and skill set without incurring additional financial burden

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2 Vocabulary of Software Availability and Pricing

Important

There's a lot of different ways to describe software price models, be discerning when looking at options!

3 Examples of Integration

Important

There are several routes to integration of open-source tools, but all focus on flexibility and agency!

4 Advantages and Challenges

Important

Introducing open-source tools brings benefits and drawbacks, but the good outweighs the bad!

4.1 References

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