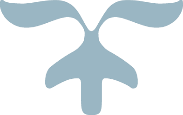


INDRISTRIAL ATTACHMENT  
SEMINAR REPORT

CSE-420(Dual)



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Name: SADIA AKTER

ID: 2125051059

Batch: 50(Autumn 2021)

Section: 7B1

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**Seminar Report:**

**Topic:** Free Software, Free Society (On the Occasion of Software Freedom Day)  
  
**Keynote Speaker:** Mr. Sajedul Rahim Joarder, President of Foundation for Open-Source Solution (FOSS)

Date of Seminar: 26, September 2024

### **Title: Free Software, Free Society: Why It Matters in Today’s Digital World**

#### **Introduction**

Software plays a significant role in our daily lives, helping us do everything from sending messages to running businesses. But not all software is the same. Some are free, and others are controlled by companies that keep their code secret.

On September 26, 2024, our university held a seminar titled **"Free Software, Free Society"** to celebrate Software Freedom Day. The main focus of this seminar was to educate students about the importance of free software. It also discussed how free software protects user privacy and security better than proprietary software.

The keynote speaker, **Mr. Sajedul Rahim Joarder**, talked about how free software empowers users. He explained the four essential freedoms of software and encouraged us to rethink how we use and develop software.

### **About the Keynote Speaker**

Two speakers joined the seminar: **Mr. Sajedul Rahim Joarder** and **Mr. Sagir Hussain Khan**.

**Mr. Sajedul Rahim Joarder**, the keynote speaker, is the President of the **Foundation for Open-Source Solution (FOSS)**.

* He has been a strong advocate for free software for many years.
* His work focuses on spreading awareness about open-source software and its benefits for society.
* He is an excellent speaker who shared valuable knowledge in a simple and engaging way.

Throughout the seminar, Mr. Joarder emphasized the need for more people to understand and support the idea of software freedom.

### **Purpose and Goals of the Seminar**

The seminar was organized to:

1. **Raise Awareness:** Help students understand why free software is important for society.
2. **Explain the Four Freedoms:** Teach the audience about the freedoms that define free software.
3. **Protect Privacy and Security:** Show how free software offers better control and safety compared to proprietary software.
4. **Encourage Open-Source Use:** Inspire attendees to use, modify, and share free software.
5. **Challenge Corporate Control:** Discuss how companies use proprietary software to limit user freedom and collect personal data.

The ultimate goal was to empower students to think critically about the software they use and encourage them to support ethical and open software solutions.

### **Key Points Discussed**

#### **1. The History of Free Software and Linux**

Mr. Joarder began by talking about the history of free software and how it started with the creation of the **Linux operating system**. Linux, developed by Linus Torvalds, is an example of how open collaboration can create powerful and reliable software.

The speaker explained that Linux is widely used today in many devices, from servers to smartphones, showing the success of free software.

#### **2. Understanding Kernels**

The seminar included a brief explanation of kernels, which are the core parts of operating systems. Kernels manage hardware and software communication.

* Mr. Joarder explained the different types of kernels and their roles in popular operating systems like Linux and Windows.

#### **3. The Four Freedoms of Free Software**

The most important part of the seminar was the explanation of the **four essential freedoms** that define free software. These are:

1. **Freedom 0:** The freedom to run the software for any purpose.
2. **Freedom 1:** The freedom to study how the software works and change it to meet your needs.
3. **Freedom 2:** The freedom to share copies of the software with others.
4. **Freedom 3:** The freedom to share modified versions of the software with others.

These freedoms ensure that users have complete control over the software they use, unlike proprietary software, which limits these rights.

#### **4. The Problems with Proprietary Software**

The speaker explained how proprietary software is controlled by companies that restrict user freedom. He highlighted how such software often:

* Prevents users from modifying or understanding its code.
* Collects personal data without user consent.
* Puts profit over privacy and security.

Mr. Joarder emphasized that free software respects users and puts them in control.

#### **5. Video Presentation by Richard Stallman**

The seminar included a video featuring **Richard Stallman**, the founder of the free software movement. In the video, Stallman explained the ethical importance of free software and its role in protecting user rights.

### **New Information and Skills Gained**

Before attending the seminar, I had limited knowledge about free software and open-source concepts. The seminar taught me many new things, such as:

* **The Difference Between Free and Open-Source Software:** Free software ensures user freedoms, while open-source focuses on collaboration.
* **The Importance of Software Freedom:** It protects privacy, promotes innovation, and empowers users.
* **The Four Freedoms:** These are essential to understanding why free software matters.
* **How Proprietary Software Affects Privacy:** The seminar explained how companies use proprietary software to track and control users.

### **Bridging the Gap Between Academics and Industry**

In the classroom, we learn a lot about programming and software development, but the ethical side of software is rarely discussed. This seminar helped bridge that gap by:

* Teaching us about the societal impacts of software choices.
* Highlighting real-world issues like data privacy and corporate control.
* Encouraging us to think about the ethical implications of the software we create.

This practical knowledge complements the theoretical lessons we learn in academic courses, making us more prepared for industry challenges.

### **Suggestions for Improving Academic Programs**

This seminar showed that academic programs can be improved in several ways:

1. **Include Ethics in the Curriculum:** Add courses that focus on the ethical and societal impacts of software.
2. **Promote Open-Source Projects:** Encourage students to work on free software as part of their assignments.
3. **Organize More Seminars:** Invite experts to share insights about real-world issues like software freedom and privacy.
4. **Teach Practical Tools:** Introduce students to free software tools like Linux and Git.

By making these changes, universities can better prepare students for the ethical and technical challenges they will face in their careers.

### **Seminar Summary**

The seminar was held at the UITS Conference Room on September 26, 2024, starting at 11:00 AM. It featured two guest speakers: **Mr. Sajedul Rahim Joarder** and **Mr. Sagir Hussain Khan**.

The keynote speaker, Mr. Joarder, gave a detailed presentation on the history of Linux, the types of kernels, and the four essential freedoms of free software. He explained why free software is necessary for privacy and security and how it empowers users.

The seminar ended with a Q&A session where attendees asked insightful questions about the topics discussed.

### **Concluding Thoughts**

This seminar was highly informative and inspiring. It helped me understand the importance of free software and its role in creating a fair and secure digital world. The knowledge shared by Mr. Joarder was practical and thought-provoking, encouraging us to support software that respects user freedoms.

I believe that more seminars like this should be organized to raise awareness about important topics like software freedom. They not only educate students but also prepare them to make ethical and informed decisions in their professional lives.

**The End**