

Zachary Moonilal  
Santo Romano  
CART 211  
October 22<sup>nd</sup> 2018

### The GNU Manifesto

This manifesto was very different from the formality of other articles I have read. For the most part, this felt like a sales pitch for GNU and I am very aware that this is mentioned at the beginning of the reading. However, what interests me in the persuasion of asking for help to produce this operating system is the well structured and organization of their ideas. It begins with the base information, what makes this great for developers, the team philosophy behind GNU and the author, Richard Stallman, answers some of the most hard-to-reply questions about a free operating system for people who are looking for purpose in this operating system.

Jumping straight into GNU's philosophy, Stallman describes it quite clear as a system which should be shared freely and shouldn't be shambled and manipulated by corporations to be used for profit. The Unix-compatible system is meant for users to experience the same elements as the Unix system but in a completely different way. In other words, this is a system which replicates the elements of Unix but doesn't look or operate quite the same. However, it is meant to be used so that users are comfortable to use it as if they were to use its competitors. I believe that adapting this free system but not making it look exactly the same, is both a really good way for users to experience something old and operate something new. All with this to say, the philosophy behind GNU is also a very liberal way of thinking that emphasises to be "free, just like air".

The simile is very powerful in the sense that it is a system for developers who should feel free to use it the same way air is free and at our disposal at all times. It would become very corrupted if air was to be paid for although it is a necessity to for life. For that reason, I can see how important this was for Stallman to create it if it just as important to breath; even if it might

seem a tad extreme. In addition to feeling strongly about this, he also had the chance to answer some of the burning questions about how people would be able to make a living using a free system. One of the interesting responses he gives shines light on the idea that it is true that developers have to make a living somehow and then proceeds to variety of ways such as teaching software, but ultimately sees the goal in which we will live in a world where we will not have to worry about this idea of a competition-based living. Soon, we will live it out to the point where we do these things as we wish and making a living will be easy.