

The Influence of Open Source Culture on Government

- Intro
 - Who am I?
 - What is open-source software? / What is open-source culture?
 - How is it influencing governments?
- Four essential freedoms as defined by the GNU Project
 - Source code is required for freedoms 1 and 3
 - Freedom 0: Microsoft heavily restricts use of Windows.
 - Against Win8 License Agreement to install on more than one computer with same license key and cannot use it as a server and/or for commercial hosting
 - You want to test a local website and must run a http server
 - You get a new PC and put in an old HDD
 - Source: <https://tinyurl.com/9o2lxlx>
 - Freedom 2: Help a friend read an office document – can't just install MS Office
 - Freedom 3: Redistribution with or without mods; don't need to ask permission
 - Not required to publish your changes
- Open Source Licenses
 - GPL – Copyleft – Forces projects that use GPL code to release under the GPL; “viral”
 - MIT/BSD – Do whatever you want, but keep this notice and don't use our names or sue us
 - Richard Stallman created the GPL – <https://stallman.org>
- Open Source Software
 - Proprietary Software Restricts Rights
 - MS Office: rights to functionality; LibreOffice: rights to functionality **and** methodology
 - Don't reinvent: Windows NT 3.1 used significant portions of the BSD TCP/IP code
 - Public audits: OpenSSL runs almost the entire internet – lots of eyes means lots of bugfixes
 - Vendor Lock-In: PostgreSQL (similar to BSD license) vs Oracle (proprietary)
- Open Source Culture
 - Community: Wikis; Anyone can contribute anytime; GitHub; Collective wisdom
 - Transparency: Why decisions are made, data used, etc
 - Majority of developers are volunteers – not because your boss told you to
- Why FOSS?
 - Standardization: OpenDocument – open specification for office documents
 - Customization: Whatever you want; roll your own Linux distro
 - DebianEDU, Kali, Debian Jr, Debian Med, Astra (Russian army)
 - Sec through Obs: “code isn't public, harder to exploit” - Not true!
- Why Proprietary?
 - Standardization: everyone uses MS Office
 - Compatibility: proprietary firmware for embedded hardware
 - SaaS: Pay what you use
- Data.Gov: Public datasets on: Food safety, civil rights, student loans, CDC, immigration, substance abuse, urban development, dept of labor, land management, transportation, etc.