

Fun with FOSS

Why Software Freedom makes sense for students...

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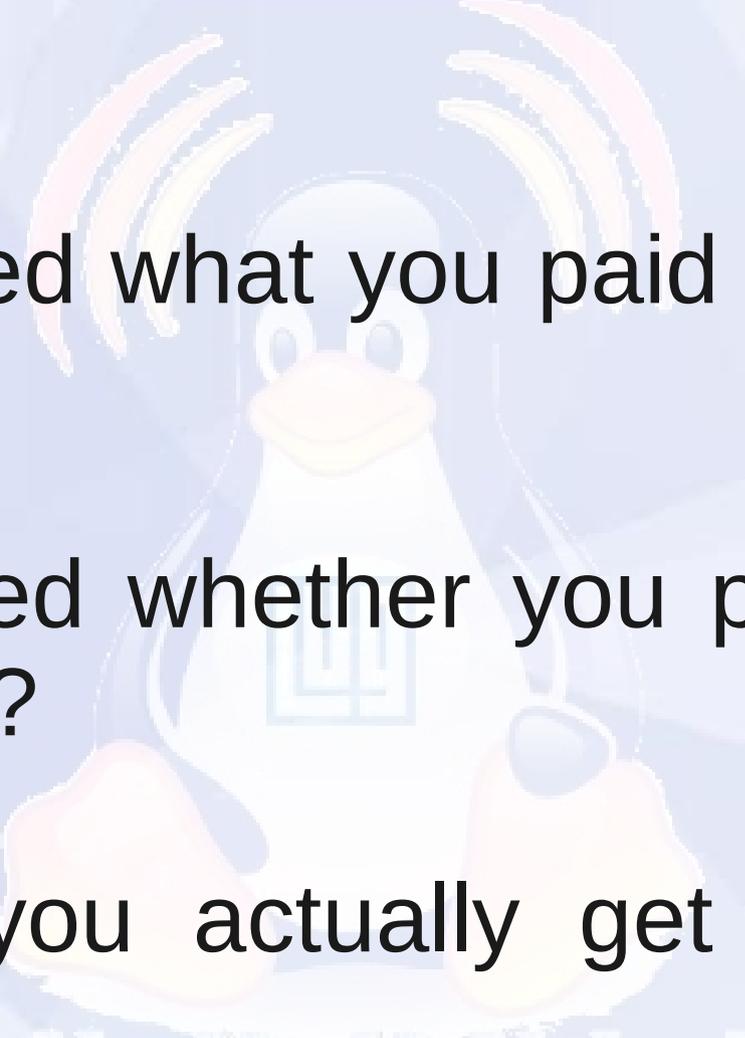
Why are we here today?

- What is Free Software?
- What is the difference with Proprietary Software?
- Why is Freedom important to us?
- What is GNU/Linux?
- Whats in it for Students?

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Have you bought software recently?
What sort of software was it?
What exactly did you pay for?





Who decided what you paid for what you bought?

Who decided whether you paid for what you bought?

What did you actually get out of your purchase?

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Does the software vendor provide you the **traditional freedoms** that are guaranteed to you in our country?

Do you realize the value of freedoms that you might not have?

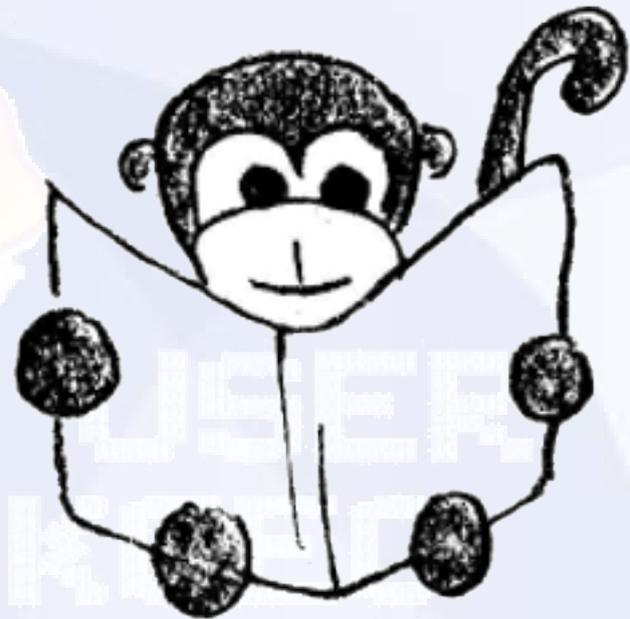


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What is your agreement with the software vendor?

How many of you have read the EULA that is generally presented when you purchase or install software?

What is the downside of agreeing to it?
Is it legally enforceable?





THINK

We have been talking about proprietary software. A lot of commonly available software that you might be using on your computer is proprietary software.

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Free Software does not refer to software that is available free of charge. Think “Free” as in Free Speech not Free Lunch. Free Software is matter of liberty - not price.



Enjoy the Freedoms!

Free Software provides you four basic freedoms:

- 1. Freedom to use the software for any purpose,**
- 2. Freedom to access and study the source code of the software,**
- 3. Freedom to make changes to the source code, and**
- 4. Freedom to share the software with others under the same conditions**

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Retaining your Freedom

- When we purchase other products (say cars or appliances) we always ensure that they can be serviced either by ourselves or by someone we know. **Can we demand such conditions from our software vendors? Would they agree?**

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Retaining your Freedom

- When we purchase other products (say cars or appliances) we always ensure that they can be serviced either by ourselves or by someone we know. **Can we demand such conditions from our software vendors? Would they agree?**
- When we purchase cars, trucks or other vehicles we always ensure that we can get add-ons, extensions, replacements and accessories from anyone (including the manufacturer). **Does all software we use allow this?**

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Retaining your Freedom

- If we don't like a product or have problems with it, we can either complain about it, exchange or replace it or pass it on to someone else.
- If we are not satisfied with the service, we have legal and commercial remedies.

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Retaining your Freedom

- If we don't like a product or have problems with it, we can either complain about it, exchange or replace it or pass it on to someone else.
- If we are not satisfied with the service, we have legal and commercial remedies.
- **But what about software? Can we get software fixed satisfactorily? If it can't be fixed, can we give it back? Or share it with others?**
- **How many of us would put up with a faulty car for five years?**

Richard Matthew Stallman (RMS)

American software
freedom activist

Started GNU
Project (1983)

Free Software
Foundation (1985)

Wrote GNU GPL (v2, v3)



Linus Benedict Torvalds



Initiated the development
of the Linux kernel

Chief architect of
the Linux kernel

Created the
revision control system git

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GNU/Linux



www.whylinuxisbetter.net



Forget about viruses.



Is your system unstable?



Linux protects your computer.



Don't pay \$100 for your operating system.



Freedom!



When the system has installed, why would you *still* need to install stuff?



Forget about drivers.



Update all your software with a single click.



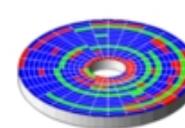
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Jump into the next generation of desktops.



Does your digital life seem fragmented?



Choose what your desktop looks like.



Why does your Windows get slower day after day?



Do something for the environment.



No back doors in your software.



Enjoy free and unlimited support.



Too many windows? Use workspaces.

www.whylinuxisbetter.net



No big mess in your start menu.



Don't wait years for bugs to be solved; report and track them down.



Are you tired of restarting your computer all the time?

It's alive!!

Let your old computer have a second life.



Play hundreds of games for free.



Help other countries, and your own.



Use MSN, AIM, ICQ, Jabber, with a single program.



Get a great music player.



Keep an eye on the weather.

The few cases where you should stick to Windows (for now)



There is proprietary software you can't live without



You're a hardcore gamer



You work in the book/printing industry



Your hardware is not yet supported

USER
GEC

*Is a FOSS contributor
= A nice person?*

Lets analyze where a student stands after becoming a FOSS contributor...

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Student's gain



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Student's gain

1. Popularity/Fame



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Student's gain

1. Popularity/Fame
2. Feedback from better people



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Student's gain

1. Popularity/Fame
2. Feedback from better people
3. Solutions to problems that he himself can not fix

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Student's gain

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4. Industry standard skills in documentation and planning

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5. Online code portfolio for potential recruiters

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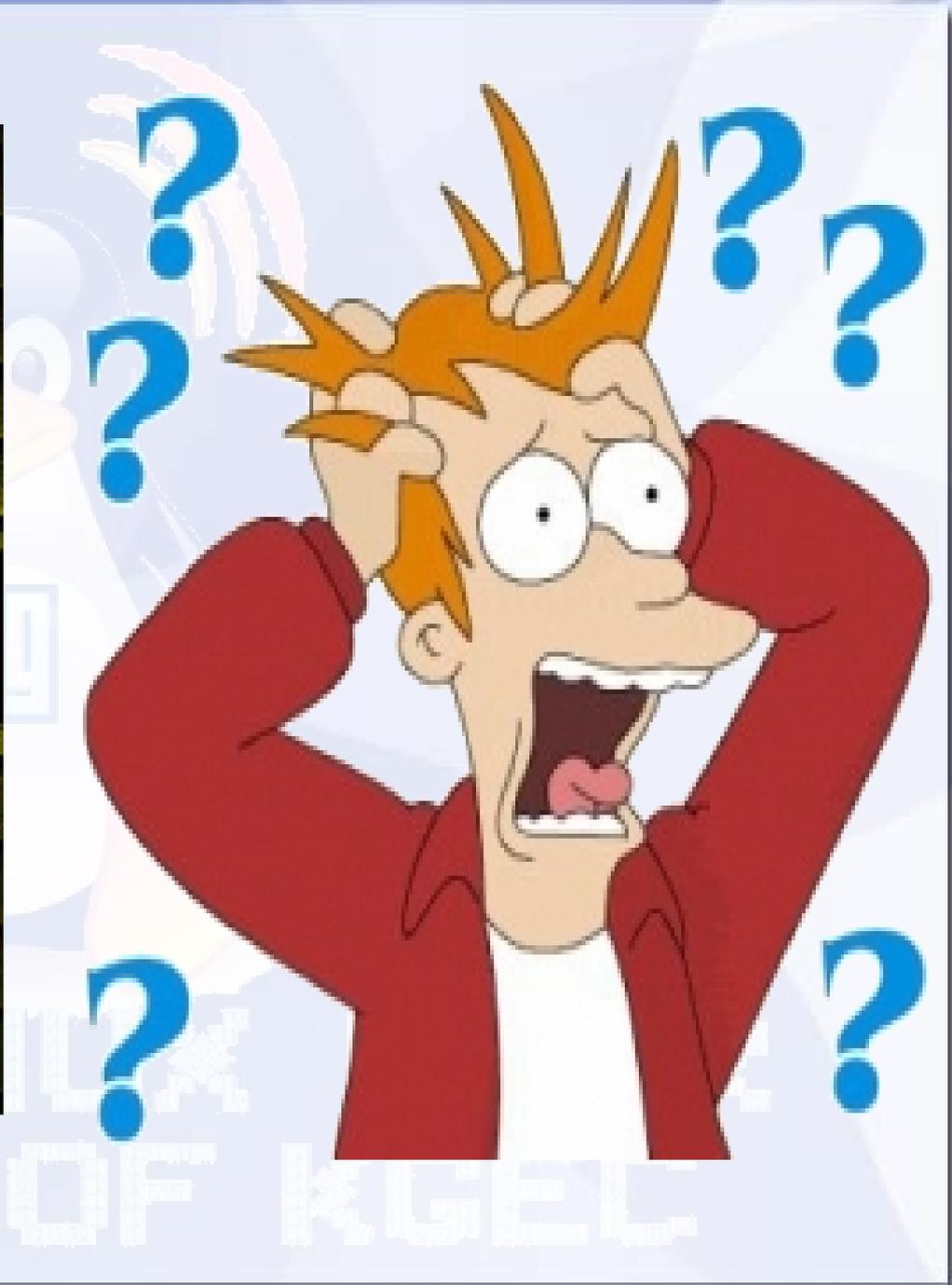
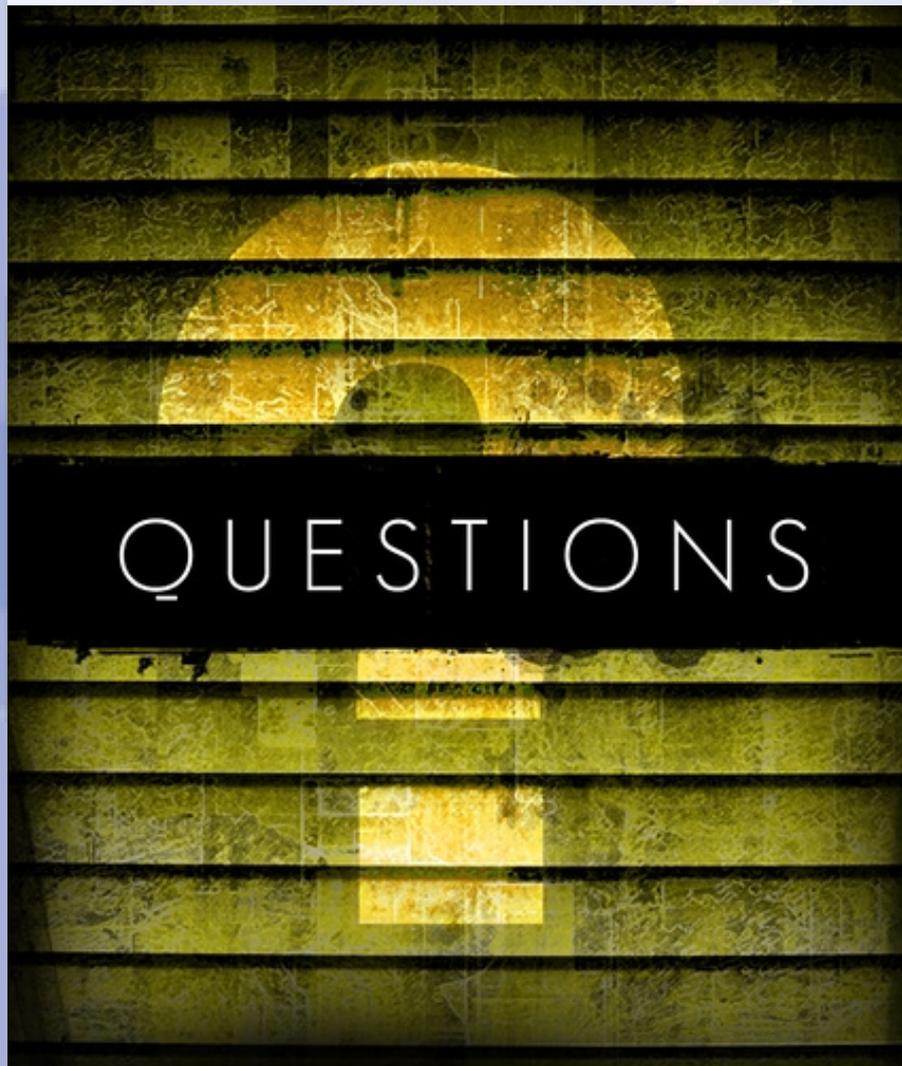
Student's gain

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6. Extending the skills acquired to grab fellowships/Summers of Code

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Student's gain

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3. Solutions to problems that he himself can not fix
4. Industry standard skills in documentation and planning
5. Online code portfolio for potential recruiters
6. Extending the skills acquired to grab fellowships/Summers of Code
7. And hence.... money.....



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Thank
you

FOSS IS

fun!

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