Logiciel Libre Cours 0 — Presentation

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2018-2019

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Free Software

Definition (Free Software — *a* definition)

Free/Libre/Open Source Software (FLOSS) is computer software that gives users the freedom to run the software for any purpose as well as to study, modify, and distribute the original software and the adapted versions.

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Let's look at a sample EULA:

https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/Useterms/OEM/Windows/10/UseTerms_OEM_Windows_10_English.htm (July 2017)

Why bother? — as citizens

Lester picked up a screwdriver. "You see this? It's a tool. You can pick it up and you can unscrew stuff or screw stuff in. You can use the handle for a hammer. You can use the blade to open paint cans. You can throw it away, loan it out, or paint it purple and frame it." He thumped the printer. "This [Disney in a Box] thing is a tool, too, but it's not your tool. It belongs to someone else — Disney. It isn't interested in listening to you or obeying you. It doesn't want to give you more control over your life." [...]

"If you don't control your life, you're miserable. Think of the people who don't get to run their own lives: prisoners, reform-school kids, mental patients. There's something inherently awful about living like that. Autonomy makes us happy."

— Cory Doctorow, Makers
http://craphound.com/makers/

Why bother? — as computer scientists

Free Software has radically changed the way software is:

- developed
- tested
- proven
- conceived
- marketed

- sold
- maintained
- taught
- deployed
- •

Why bother? — as IT professionals

- Free Software is everywhere
- participation in Free Software: a big plus on CVs
- in France: ≈10% of IT GDP in 2014 (≈4 BEUR), constantly growing in spite of the crisis (cf. "Le marché du logiciel libre pèse 4,1 milliards en France", Les Echos, 18/11/2015)



- "2017-2022: évolution du marché du Logiciel Libre en France", CNLL/PAC 2017: slides, 1 video 2
- 1. https://tinyurl.com/y8rh6agj
- 2. https://youtu.be/80Rg_gSaKpo

This course — topics

An introduction to Free Software topics, along the following axes

- history
- philosophy
- legal
- management / organization
- business / economics
- technical

Feedback from others, with external speakers

- companies
- professionals
- organizations / non-profits

This course — organization

Teaching (CM):

- $\frac{2}{3}$ lectures
- $\frac{1}{3}$ external speakers (usual time)

Practice (TD/TP):

• 11 sessions, alternating TD and TP as needed

This course — evaluation

- exam
- ② TD: +0/+1/+2 bonus on the final grade
 - exercises
 - short essays on selected topics, including external speaker interventions
- project (mandatory, not CC)
 - relevant code contribution to an existing, major Free Software project. Examples and guidance will be provided during 1st TP
 - exclusion criteria:

"pour le cours de Logiciel Libre de M. Zacchiroli je dois contribuer un patch à votre projet, pourriez vous m'aider s'ils vous plaît?"

 \Rightarrow do the above, and your project note will be 0

Final note

- le session: 50% exam + 50% project + TD bonus
- 2e session: 50% exam + 50% project + TD bonus

This course — teaching material

https://upsilon.cc/zack/teaching/1819/loglib/

Addendum:

- as separate slide decks
- orally → take notes (also during external speaker interventions)

Textbooks



Joshua Gay, Richard M. Stallman

Free Software, Free Society: Selected Essays of Richard M. Stallman 2009

http://www.gnu.org/doc/fsfs-ii-2.pdf



Van Lindberg

Intellectual Property and Open Source: A Practical Guide to Protecting Code

O'Reilly Media, 2008



Eric S. Raymond

The Cathedral and the Bazaar: Musings on Linux and Open Source by an Accidental Revolutionary

O'Reilly Media, 1999

http://catb.org/esr/writings/cathedral-bazaar/



Karl Fogel

Producing Open Source Software: How to Run a Successful Free Software Project

O'Reilly Media, 2017 (2nd ed.) http://producingoss.com/

Q&A

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