

What exactly is Free, Open Source Software?

Free software is software that anyone is free to use, copy, improve, examine or distribute, either free of cost or for a price. More precisely, it refers to four fundamental freedoms, which users of the software should have:

1. Users should be able to run the software for any purpose.
2. Users should be able to closely examine and study the software and should be able to freely modify and improve it to suit their needs better.
3. Users should be able to give copies of the software to other people for whom the software will be useful.
4. Users should be able to improve the software and freely distribute their improvements to the broader public so that they, as a whole, benefit.

Ultimately the concept is that you retain your rights to do what you will as a user. There are lots of different types of free software licenses which cover and specify different levels of freedom, however they all have the commonality that the underlying code which runs the program is available for free, which in almost all cases guarantees you a number of rights that you waive when you agree to a standard EULA (End User License Agreement) when not using free software.

Err...uhh... is this legal?

Of course! All the information presented here is 100% legal as is the software and applications which are referred to. However there are always various uses which could be considered illegal, but that has nothing to do with the fact the software is Open Source.

TheOpenCD | <http://TheOpenCD.org>

TheOpenCd.org offers a collection of high quality Free and Open Source Software. The programs run in Windows and cover the most common tasks. Only the highest quality programs, which have been carefully tested for stability and are considered appropriate for a wide audience are included. Free CDs will be available while supplies last.

Globally Organized by
SoftwareFreedomDay.com

Locally Sponsored by
GBZTechnology.com
and the
Susquehanna County Library
www.susqcolibrary.org

More Info at
sfd2006.GBZTechnology.com



SEPTEMBER 16, 2006

MONTROSE, PA, USA

LOCATION: SUSQUEHANNA COUNTY LIBRARY IN MONTROSE, PA, USA

TIME: 10:00 AM TIL NOON

Software Freedom Day is a global, grassroots effort to educate the public about the virtues and availability of Free (Libre) and Open Source Software. Local teams from all over the world are organizing events on 16 September 2006.

Our goal for our initial Software Freedom Day right here in Montrose will be to set up a display in a popular area to distribute flyers and CDs, to demo Open Source products, and to increase public awareness of Open Source Software.

Why not join our team?

Free means what?

The word "free" has two meanings in the English language.

1. The "free" in "free beer", which refers to zero cost.
2. The "free" in "free speech", which refers to freedom.

The free in free software refers to the freedoms that we'll talk about that people have. There's nothing in the definition of free software that says that you cannot sell it to someone for a price. Indeed, there are companies whose entire business model is centered around collecting, compiling and selling free software with value-added services.

Free? Why!

Okay, so maybe you have a friend who rants about how cool their Linux computer is. Maybe you have another that gripes about the fact they have to pay \$400 dollars to get Microsoft Office® for their new laptop that they just spent a grand on before they can even use it. Maybe you want to be able to do the neat things that the software at your school and university does.

Or it could just be **that someone shoved this pamphlet in your face**, and you are only now pondering why you even took it.

Free software cannot solve the problem of you being gullible enough to take this pamphlet, but for the others it can at least help, and in almost all cases save you megabucks in the process (and probably stop you from getting a dodgy copy of X,Y & Z software from your first cousin in Miami!!)

What?

There are a lot of high quality Open Source applications, many of which contain features you don't get with commercial packages. There are some that everyone, student or professional, should know about. They are available for Mac, Windows and *NIX so no matter what you are running you can use them. Here are a few examples:

OpenOffice.org | <http://openoffice.org>

An Office suite, which is compatible with Microsoft Office. It contains extra functionality such as the ability to create PDF's and supports a much wider range of document formats. As of version 2.0 it also includes Access style database tools.

The GIMP | <http://gimp.org>

GIMP (GNU Image manipulation program), is a Graphics editing program. Similar to Photoshop. It supports a much wider range of formats and the Windows version (with a plugin) can support Photoshop filters.

Mozilla Firefox | <http://getfirefox.com>

Firefox, is a Web browser. It is much more secure and renders web pages faster and more correctly than Internet Explorer, as well as supporting many features that IE does not include. By not using Internet Explorer you reduce the risk of having your computer exploited with spyware and malware. Firefox also includes popup blocking, making it a must have application for all web users.

Thunderbird | <http://mozilla.org>

Mozilla Thunderbird mail, this program is similar to outlook express. Outlook Express is installed alongside IE in a default windows environment, but is very insecure and is one of most frequent ways in which a computer becomes infected with viruses through e-mail. By installing and using Thunderbird you keep yourself secure from e-mail viruses. Thunderbird of course includes many features Outlook express does not.

NVU | <http://nvu.com>

A complete Web Authoring System for desktop users to rival programs like FrontPage and Dreamweaver. Nvu (which stands for "new view") makes managing a web site a snap. Now anyone can create web pages and manage a website with no technical expertise or knowledge of HTML.