What is Free and Open Source Software ...

OpenApp.biz Seminar

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Olivier Berger <oberger@april.org>

APRIL (http://www.april.org/)

GET / INT (http://www.int-evry.fr/anglais/english.shtml)
Who is Olivier Berger?

Not a native English or Irish speaker!

Free Software activist / evangelist

Research Engineer at GET (Groupe des Ecoles de Télécommunications) / INT (Institut National des Télécommunications) in Evry, near Paris, France

Vice President of APRIL (www.april.org, french Free Software association since '96, associate member of FSF Europe)

Several Years Consulting to Public Sector with Cap Gemini
Principles
Free Software / Open-Source software

Think about free speech or free trade, not free beer!

4 Freedoms for the Public:

Freedom to run the program, for any purpose

Freedom to study how the program works, and adapt it to your needs

Freedom to redistribute copies

Freedom to improve the program, and release your improvements
Terminology

Free Software

Open Source Software

Libre Software / Software Libre (?)

... and of course various languages (Software Libero, Software Libre, Freie Software, etc.)

FLOSS : Free/Libre/OpenSource Software
### FLOSS vs. Proprietary Software

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Proprietary software</th>
<th>FLOSS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Right to use: Yes (but limited)</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Right to study: No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Right to modify: No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Right to copy: No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Considerations

Free vs. no cost

Open-Source vs. open / shared, ...

Freeware,

Shareware,

...  

Software off-the-shelf / shrink-wrap vs. custom made
Two Movements?
Free Software movement

Philosophy: Liberté, Egalité, Fraternité

Freedom: Make copies, improve, distribute

Equality: Same rights for everyone

Friendship: Co-operation of all to build something together

Free Software movement:
- ethics, philosophy, political activism
- FSF (Free Software Foundation)
- Debian distribution
Open Source movement

A more pragmatic approach appealing to businesses:

• Technical benefits
• Cost

Open Source movement:

• Open Source Initiative
• Most software vendors (distributions, ...)

History
F/OSS Development

- First there was the source code (< 80)
- Unix (> 80)
- GNU project / Free Software Foundation (> 84)
- Linux kernel (> 91)
- GNU/Linux Distributions (> 95)
- IBM (2001)
- StarOffice / OpenOffice.org (2002)
Legal Considerations
... Just for fun

... Looking for information about free software in Ireland on google ...
I'm feeling lucky...
http://www.google.fr/search?q=ireland+free+software+association&sourceid=mozilla-search&start=0&start=0
Here comes BSA UK...
http://www.bsa.org/ireland-north/freetools/jump_memo.phtml

Free Tools

Note: you can also download this memo as a PDF.

SOFTWARE MANAGEMENT

To: (specify distribution)

From: (CEO or Senior Management Official)

Subject: Computer Software and the Copyright Law

Date: (insert)

The purpose of this memorandum is to remind you of (name of organisation)'s policy concerning the illegal copying and use of software.

Unlicensed duplication or use of any software programme is illegal and can expose you and the Company to civil and criminal liability under the copyright law.
Software Protection / Control

How is software legally protected ("Intellectual Property"):

- Copyright / *droit d'auteur*
- Various grants through a *License*

Who's business?

- Author
- Publisher
- Customer
- Public
4 freedoms, again

4 Freedoms for the Public:

• Freedom to run the program, for any purpose

• Freedom to study how the program works, and adapt it to your needs

• Freedom to redistribute copies

• Freedom to improve the program, and release your improvements
Categories of Licences:

Two Main Categories:

- "Public Domain"-like (BSD, X11)
- Copylefted (e.g. GPL):
  - Freedom to change the software
  - No possibility to change its licence terms

One single piece of software may have mixed licences: dual-licensing (Qt, ...)


Choosing a Licence

Who are you:

- User
- Initial author
- Contributor
- Regulator
FAQ: Open Source vs. Free Software

Talking about the movements?

- Well... there's much to say.

Talking about the licences?

- FSF definition (4 freedoms)
- Open Source Definition (10 requirements)

=> 99% the same
Choosing Free/OpenSource
Quality Benefits

Future Proof

Safety

Adaptability

Independence

Low cost

Portable
Being part of a new community

Freedom and responsibility:

- Freedom for your businesses
- Freedom to change
- Ethics and responsibility (Sustainable development)
- National independence
Situation in France

Many things Happening!

Just 2 interesting examples

- ADULLACT : Local administrations group to pool free software developments
- ATICA : Prime Minister’s agency which issued a guide recommending use of the GPL for Administrations
References

http://www.gnu.org/
http://www.opensource.org/
http://www.fsfeurope.org/
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