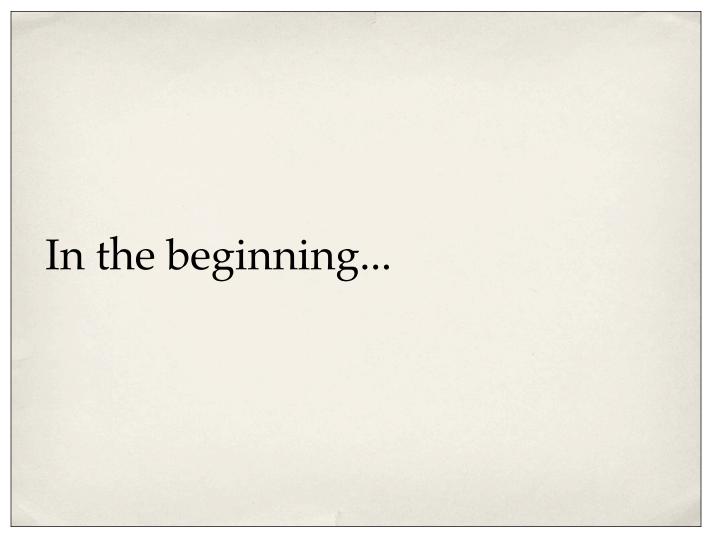# Free Software and You

Presented by Peter Wolanin and Larry Garfield

August 24, 2011 12:30 pm

In the beginning...

Software had to be custom compiled - free software didn't exist as a concept since all software was distributed as source.

When we could compile, source was no longer distributed - the community of sharing was disrupted.

I just want my printer to work!

* Richard Stallman (RMS)

* GNU's Not Unix, 1984

* Free Software
  Foundation, 1985

http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Richard_Matthew_Stallman.jpeg

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Rms_ifi_large.jpg

This pissed of Stallman - he couldn't get the source to make his printer work correctly. The company demanded copyright to the fix he discovered.

He dedicated himself to writing a unix-like free software operating system.

Free as in Speech, not Beer

Or think of it as free like "freedom" or free as like "liberty".

http://www.flickr.com/photos/heardsy/2006663493

Photo credit: Larry Garfield

The Four Freedoms

* Freedom 0: The freedom to run the program for any purpose.

* Freedom 1: The freedom to study how the program works, and change it to make it do what you wish.

* Freedom 2: The freedom to redistribute copies so you can help your neighbor.

* Freedom 3: The freedom to improve the program, and release your improvements (and modified versions in general) to the public, so that the whole community benefits.
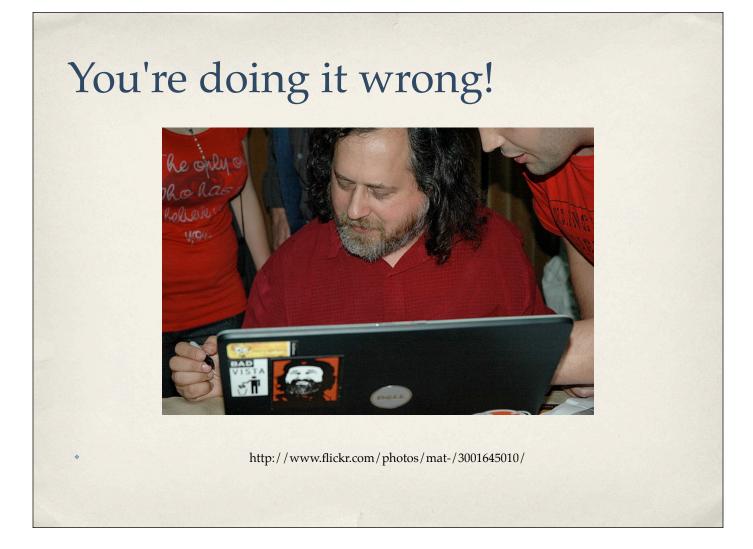
The Four Freedoms, redux

* Use

* Learn

* Improve

* Share

GNU General Public License

"You can have the four freedoms from me, if and only if you share the same freedoms with others."

Linux, 1991

✤ GPL Kernel + GNU OS = Linux OS

You're doing it wrong!

Is it linux or GNU/linux?

This upstart Linus beat us to writing a kernel.

The Cathedral and the Bazaar

* Eric Raymond, 1997

* Share-alike software development > Proprietary development

* "Free Software" turned off businesses

=> "Open Source Software"
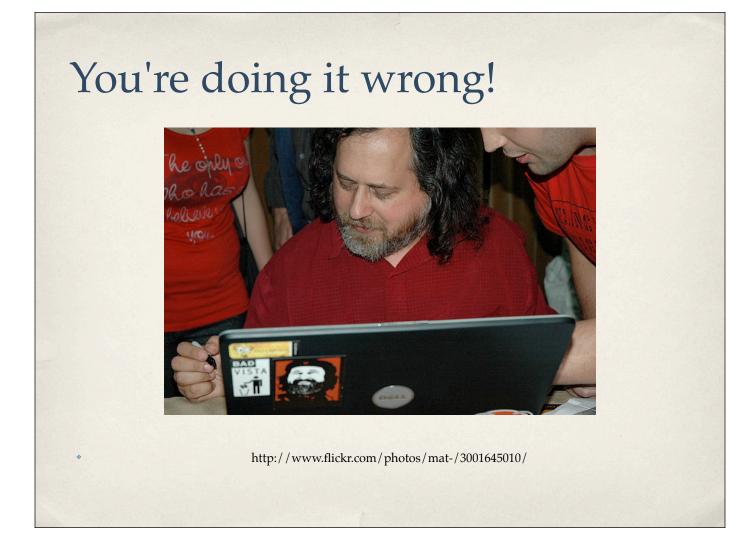
Open Source Definition

* Free Redistribution
* Source Code
* Derived Works
* Integrity of The Author's Source Code
* No Discrimination Against Persons or Groups
* No Discrimination Against Fields of Endeavor
* Distribution of License
* License Must Not Be Specific to a Product
* License Must Not Restrict Other Software
* License Must Be Technology-Neutral

open source initiative ™

opensource.org

Open Source

A development model that makes better code...

You're doing it wrong!

http://www.flickr.com/photos/mat-/3001645010/

Free software is a philosophy, a way to have a community of programmers, a way to make a better society!

Open source is just a development model.

Free as in Speech and Beer

http://www.flickr.com/photos/heardsy/2006663493

Photo credit: Larry Garfield

Licenses: A Quick Dive into Things A Drupal Developer, Consultant, or Business Owner Should Know.

Copyright: Basis of All Licenses

©

* Your right to use any software is based on permission from the copyright owner(s)

* If you are writing software that you want to be free or open source you *must* to apply a sensible license.

Why Not just Release it to the Public Domain?

* There is no effective mechanism for waiving copyright.

* There is no accepted way to dedicate a work to the public domain before its copyright expires.

* To achieve the same effect with legal certainty, use a very non-restrictive license and grant it to anybody.

"The goal of GNU was to give users freedom, not just to be popular. … Copyleft uses copyright law, but flips it over to serve the opposite of its usual purpose: instead of a means for restricting a program, it becomes a means for keeping the program free."

From *Free Software, Free Society* second edition

Zoography of Typical Licenses

* www.gnu.org/copyleft/gpl.html
* www.freebsd.org/copyright/freebsd-license.html (modified BSD)
* www.apache.org/licenses/LICENSE-2.0

GPL (v2, v2+, v3) - the most common free software license. GNU/linux

"modified" BSD (or similar X11) is a simple open-source license - disclaims warranty

Apache Software License 2.0 (ASL 2.0) - adds patent protection and other clauses, but not

The Four Freedoms, redux

* Use

* Learn

* Improve

* Share

Get Stallman's book (free download or purchase):

shop.fsf.org/product/free-software-free-society-2/

GPL is the License that Preserves *Your* Freedom

Hooray!

* Drupal uses GPL v2+.

* This means that any module or theme code (e.g. PHP or JS) *must* also be GPL

Note that this only applies to code, not the images, CSS, or some other theme assets.

However, note that all themes on drupal.org must be 100% GPL.

You are Free to Share or *Not* Share your Code

* You don't have to give anyone your code. In the context of Drupal, you can keep the code for your website private.

* However, you benefit from sharing (more on that later...)

A common misconception is that you are required to share GPL code. That is not true at all.

The GPL only says that *if* you share code licensed to you under the GPL, then all recipients also receive the benefits and freedoms of the GPL license, even if you have modified the code. That means they can choose to further share it.

Awareness of your Freedoms is Essential to Preserve Them

* The GPL can be considered a "restrictive" license in that you must grant to others the same rights you received. Freedom of the user, not the developer.

* Software patent uncertainty can cause anyone grief (though note GPL 3.0 and ASF 2.0 patent provisions).

Tivoization...

TiVo include linux (under GPL v2). TiVo distributes the source code, but they hardware knows the dignital signature of the official version, so will refuse to run a modified version.

This does NOT violate the terms of the GPL v2, and FSF and Linus disagree about whether this is a problem.

The GPL3 specifically protects against such hardware restrictions in commercial devices, but the linux kernel and busybox are still GPLv2.

Non-reciprocity in Open Source

* If you contribute to, e.g., a ASF project, the code you contribute can be bundled into a close-source application.

* You won't have access to see how your code was combined with other improvements.

* This is considered an advantage when Open Source is more important than Free.

Who Owns the Copyright?

* In the USA, the copyright belongs to the person paying for a "work for hire".

* In the EU, when working on contract, you may retain the copyright (IANAL).

* In almost every case, if you are a full-time employee, your employer owns the copyright to what your produce.

License Questions for You

* Do your contracts or agreements specify who owns the copyright?

* Do you have NDAs that prevent you from sharing code?

* Do you ask clients to license Drupal code back to you under the GPL?

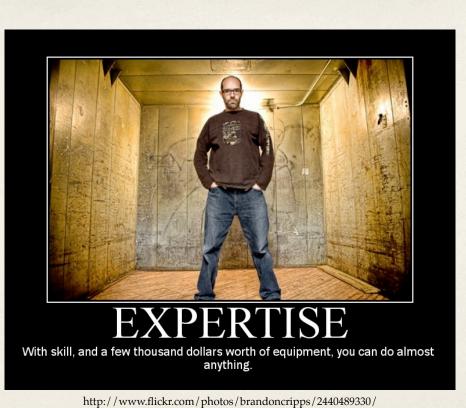* Are you sure that code you combine has compatible licenses?

So what's in it for *me*?

Value != $

Karma

http://www.flickr.com/photos/souparna/2162487100/

"The best way to get what you want

is to give other people what they want."

"Palantir's intellectual capital is the experience and expertise in problem-solving that we bring to the table, not a series of functions or template files."

--My Boss

EXPERTISE

With skill, and a few thousand dollars worth of equipment, you can do almost anything.

Attention economy

* Customers

* Job opportunities

* Influence

Giving w\away code is a way to market yourself.

The currency is time rather than money.

Reputation

We will be known forever by the tracks we leave.
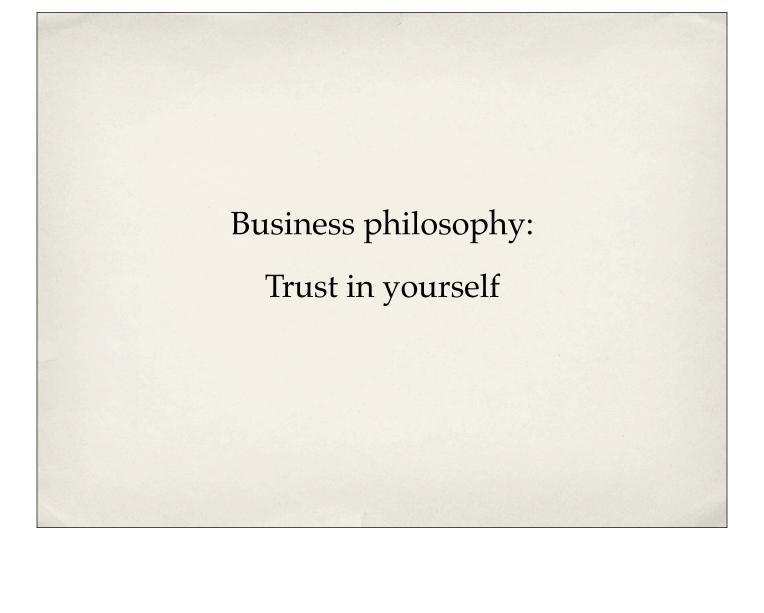- Lakota Native American Proverb

Reputation = Marketing

* Be selective with your clients

* Be selective in your employees

* Know your employees before hand

Reputation = Resume

* Modules

* Issue queues

* Forum posts

* IRC

Business philosophy:

Trust in yourself

Proprietary = Fear

http://www.flickr.com/photos/olaerik/2456089503

Free Software = Trust

"you can hire any available person to fix your problem; you are not at the mercy of any individual."

From Free Software, Free Society second edition

What did you think?

Locate this session on the
DrupalCon London website:
http://london2011.drupal.org/node/1184

Click the "Take the survey" link

THANK YOU!