

I Love Free Software Day

What is the “I Love Free Software Day”

On Valentine's Day, show your love for Free Software!

on: 2010-02-12

This year on Valentine's Day, FSFE calls on Free Software users everywhere to show their love for Free Software. Behind every Free Software initiative and organisation there are real, hard-working people.

Free Software is everywhere. Its presence on desktop computers, servers, routers, mobile phones, television sets and in other electronics means that most of us use Free Software every day.

This is why for Valentine's Day, FSFE invites everyone to show their appreciation of the people who produce, distribute and promote Free Software.

“This year why not take the opportunity to show you care about the people who show you their love all year round?”, suggests Karsten Gerloff, FSFE's President. “Free Software is about making technology fit people's needs. It's people who are at the centre of it all, not computers.”

Who is the Free Software Foundation Europe (FSFE)

- German non for profit founded in 2001
- European sister organisation of the US based FSF
- Creates campaigns for public awareness
- Lobbies for Free Software at EU institutions level
- Provides licensing legal support
- Supports legal actions against regulations/licenses infringements
- It's a bunch of very nice people



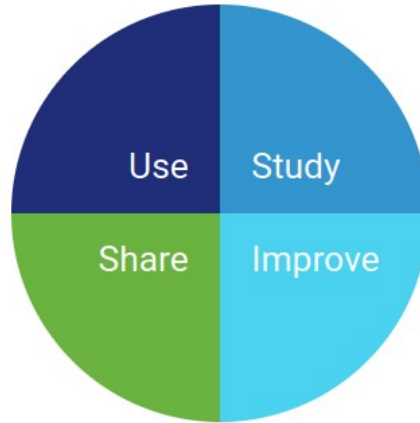
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Who is the Free Software Foundation Europe (FSFE)



What is Free Software?

Is software that comes with 4 main rights



Use

Free Software can be used for any purpose and is free of restrictions such as licence expiry or geographic limitations.



Study

Free Software and its code can be studied by anyone, without non-disclosure agreements or similar restrictions.



Share

Free Software can be shared and copied at virtually no cost.



Improve

Free Software can be modified by anyone, and these improvements can be shared publicly.

Source: fsfe.org

Some advantages of Free Software



Autonomy

Free Software helps to develop and maintain tailored software that suits your needs, not just the vendor's business model.



Collaboration

Free Software can be shared and used in a non-exclusive way by everyone – serving the public good.



Share & Copy

A Free Software licence allows a limitless number of installations to be run, without paying extra.



No Lock-in

Free Software licences reinforce independence from vendors and provide more choice in service providers.



Reuse Code

Free Software provides the freedom to reuse the code for other projects.



Innovation

A Free Software licence encourages innovation for your software.



Competition

Free Software resists monopolisation and enhances competition.



Security

Free Software allows for independent security checks that help close security holes faster.

Source: fsfe.org

Free Software or Open Source Software?

Complementary approaches to software freedom



Original concept around freedom for individuals in relation to software



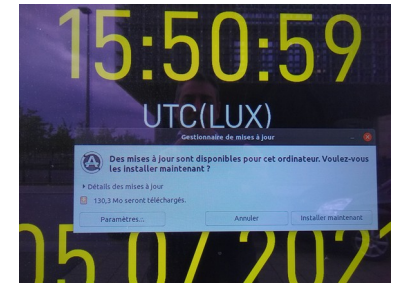
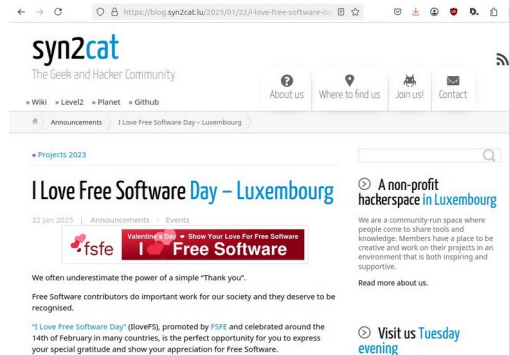
Extends the concepts with more licenses including one for AI.

Similar goals, slightly different ways to achieve them and a large number of licences to choose from.

Today there are many Open Source/Free Software association around the world... but not here.

Does Free/Open Source software matter to you?

You are a **consumer** of Open Source software in your daily lives



Does Free/Open Source software matter for Luxembourg?

Practically everyone is using and in some cases contributing to Open Source



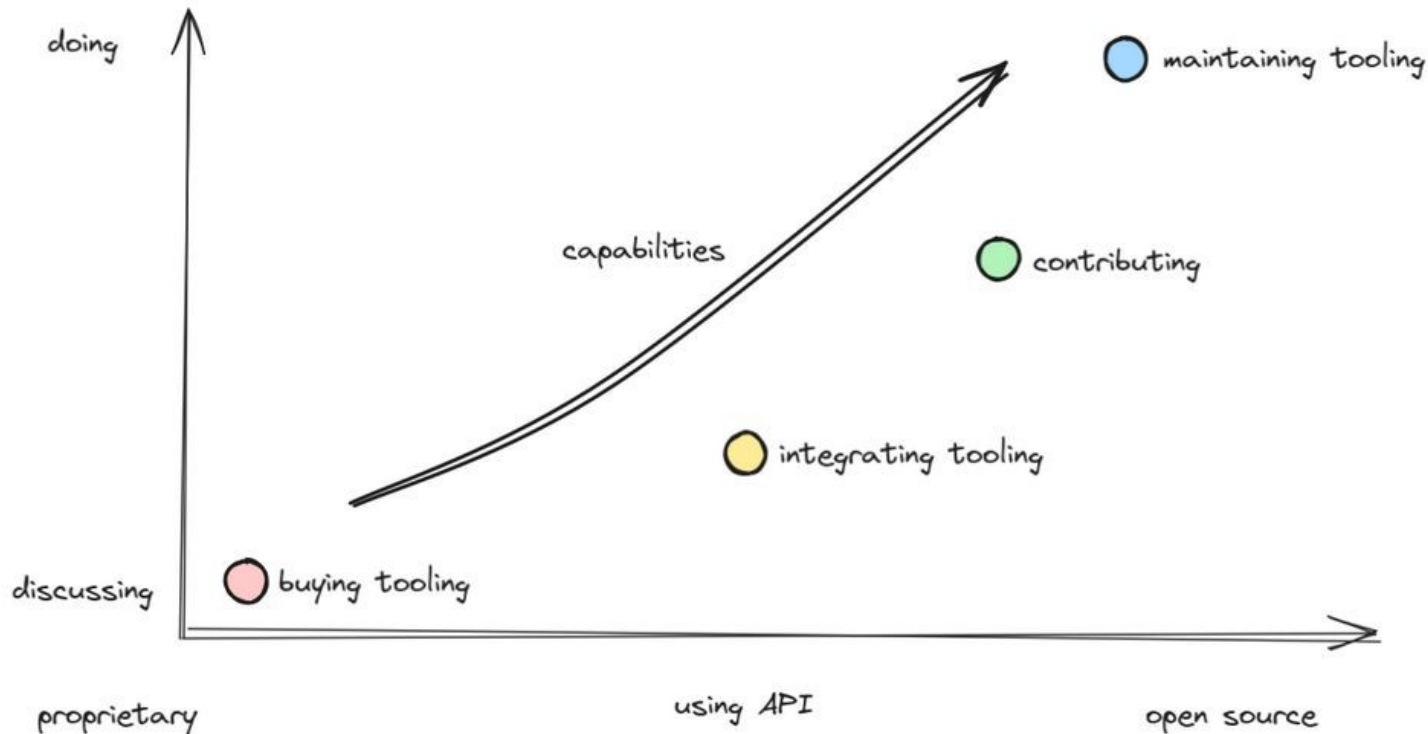
Just a small selection of organisations

Going beyond consuming Free/Open Source software

- Empowers us to create, modify & use our tools
- Reduces dependency from a few platforms
- Removes support to surveillance capitalism
- Helps in protecting our privacy
- Lowers licencing costs
- Allows improvement and reuse of technologies



Owning your tools and contributing to Open Source



https://www.foo.be/2024/10/How_Developing_and_Utilizing_Open_Source_Solutions_Enhances_CSIRT_Capabilities

Sharing knowledge and reusing Open Source software



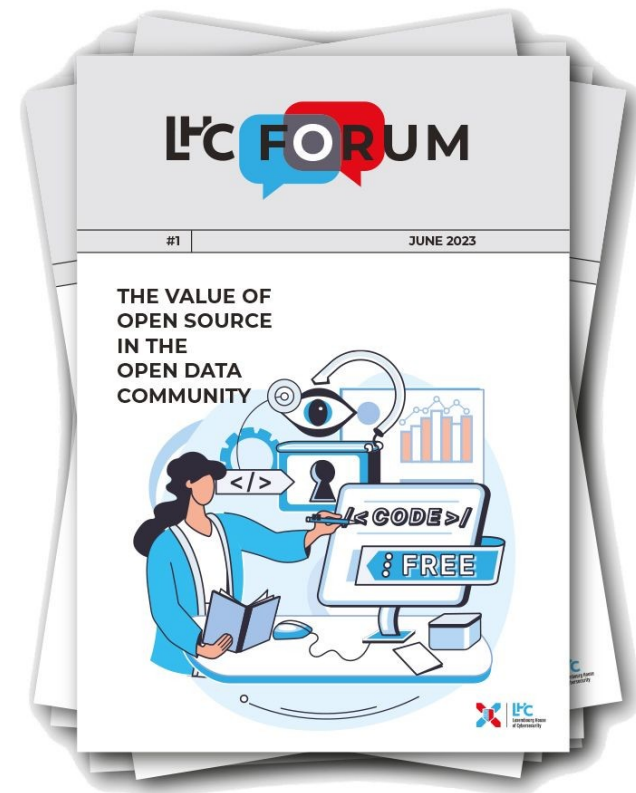
Other benefits of Open Source Software

- Fundamental for Digital Sovereignty
- Is the base for a trusted data driven economy
- Helps in protecting citizens privacy
- Promotes sustainable innovation
- Develops and preserves local skills
- Allows improvement and reuse of technologies

Recent developments

Suggestions

- Create a national software catalogue
- Promote Open Source tools
- Create national strategies
- Progress towards European digital autonomy
- Encourage sharing and reuse



lhc.lu/resource/lhc-forum-1---the-value-of-open-source-in-the-open-data-community

Recent developments

A forum for Open Source advocacy and policies

- Announcement of our first national OSPO
- Technical and data sovereignty
- Safe & private Algorithmic Inference
- Cyber Security
- Interoperability
- EdTech



Recent developments

Open Source Programme Office

- Leads by example starting with Cyber Security
- Coordinates adoption and compliance
- Shares best practices and experiences
- Could help with regulations and licensing compliance



Open Source Working Group

- Promotes bottom-up awareness and interest
- Connects local ecosystem and international associations
- Interacts with private and public sector OSPOs
- Helps achieving and supporting digital sovereignty



Recent developments



Future developments

- **Clear national Open Source policies/strategy**
(Mandating Open Source software as the first choice for public sector)
- **Consider IT as critical/strategic infrastructure**
(The nation cannot function without safe and Sovereign digital infrastructure)
- **National catalogue of Open Source software**
(Most organisations don't know what they are using or could be using)
- **Economical incentives for development & reuse**
(Supporting Open Source software create more value than paying licences/subscriptions)
- **A coordinating agency/association**
(Coordinate developments and awareness campaigns, become member of EU OS associations)

What do we need

- **Visibility for general public/organisations/institutions**
(Most don't know about Open Source software and its benefits, chamber of commerce, FEDIL, LuxInnovation, etc. could help)
- **Political/Public sector support**
(Public sector is the main driver for changes)
- **Support for an Open Source ecosystem**
(Create awareness to create demand and more local business will be generated)
- **Activities funding**
(Organising/participating to events and marketing are expensive)

What can we do now

- **Leading by example**
(Setup an OSPO to support and promote OS in your organisation)
- **Discovering what is available**
(many don't know there are great alternatives to proprietary software/Cloud services)
- **Organising tech days/meetings**
(showcase the Open Source software you are using/creating for others to learn about it)
- **Participating to projects and communities**
(also non techies can contribute to Open Source software)
- **Sharing case studies & success stories**
(Most already use Open Source successfully but a very few know about it)



ospo-alliance.org/ggi/

Open discussion

Other ideas and suggestions?

#ILOVEFS

Tell us what we can do together

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