#define freedom

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Debian and Ubuntu Projects

Strange Bedfellows

Indymedia says...

"Free/open source software is *inherently* anti-capitalist!"

IBM says...

"Free/open source is *inherently* capitalist!"

Lawrence Lessig says...

"Free/open source software is *inherently* a system about placing limits capitalism!"

A quick history of free software's...

Defining Moments

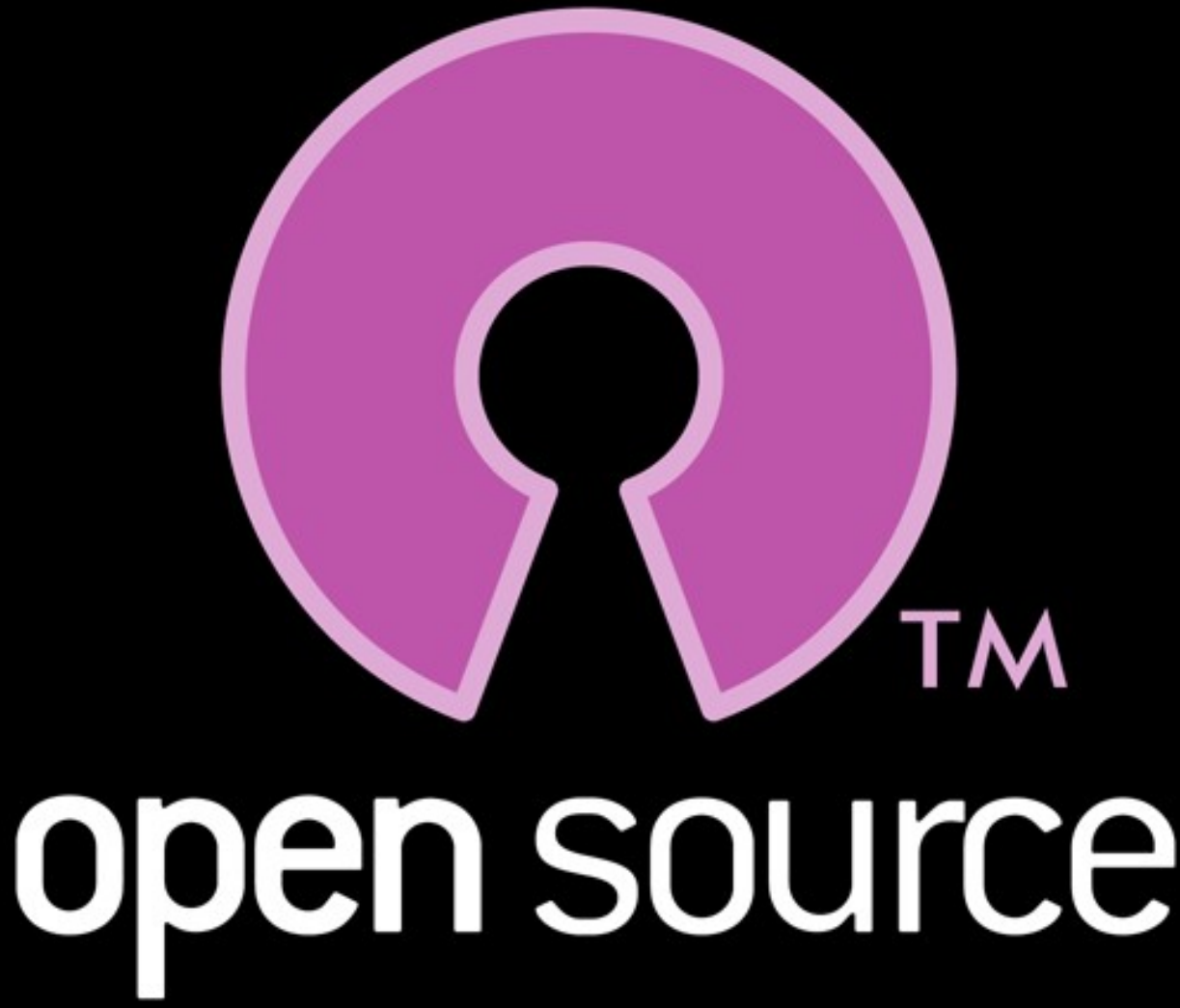
GNU Is Manifested

Freedom Is Defined

- The freedom to run the program, for any purpose
- The freedom to study how the program works, and adapt it to your needs
- The freedom to redistribute copies so you can help your neighbor
- The freedom to improve the program, and release your improvements to the public, so that the whole community benefits

Debian Does Freedom

Open Source Joins The Mix



At the heart of each step...

Freedom
(Broadly Defined)

And at the heart of freedom (broadly defined)...

Radical Non-Discrimination

This leads to...

Large and diverse development communities

This leads to...

Large and diverse user communities

Ultimately, normative positions lead to...

Pragmatic Benefits

Summary

- Free software history can be read as a series of “defining moments.”
- Each moment describes *normative* positions on non-discrimination, etc.
- Practical benefits of free software can be traced to these positions.