guide, and we'd like to give away prizes for those who win the competition. You can help make this project all the more awesome with your donation!

This competition also needs people like you to enter and do awesome things with it. Interested in taking part? Read up more here and join us at #liberatedpixelcup on irc.gnu.org — the admins and judges can be reached for questions on the official forum as well. ❧

How to Contribute

Associate Membership: Become an associate member of the FSF. Members will receive a bootable USB card and e-mail forwarding. To sign-up or get more information, visit `member.fsf.org` or write to `membership@fsf.org`.

Online: Use your credit card or PayPal account to make a donation at `donate.fsf.org` or contact `donate@fsf.org` for more information on supporting the FSF.

Jobs: List your job offers on our jobs page. See `fsf.org/jobs` for details.

Free Software Directory: Browse and download from thousands of different free software projects! `directory.fsf.org`

Volunteer: To learn more, visit `fsf.org/volunteer`.

Free Software Supporter: Make sure you're getting all the very latest news from the FSF at `fsf.org/fss`.

LibrePlanet: Find local groups in your area or start your own at `libreplanet.org`!

FREE SOFTWARE FOUNDATION
Bulletin
Issue 20
July 2012

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Order a GNU Emacs Reference Mug at `shop.fsf.org`

E-books must increase our freedom, not decrease it

by Richard Stallman
FSF President

I love *The Jehovah Contract*, and I'd like everyone else to love it too. I have lent it out at least six times over the years. Printed books let us do that.

I couldn't do that with most commercial e-books. It's "not allowed." And if I tried to disobey, the software in e-readers has malicious features called Digital Restrictions Management or DRM to restrict reading, so it simply won't work. The e-books are encrypted so only that malicious software can display them.

Many other habits that we readers are accustomed to are "not allowed" for e-books. With the Amazon "Kindle", to take one example, users can't buy a book anonymously with cash. "Kindle" books are typically available from Amazon only, and Amazon makes users identify themselves. Thus, Amazon knows exactly which books each user has read. In a country such as the UK, where you can be prosecuted for possessing a forbidden book, this is more than hypothetically Orwellian.

Furthermore, you can't sell the e-book after you read it (if Amazon has its way, the used book stores where I

have passed many an afternoon will be history). You can't give it to a friend either, because according to Amazon you never really owned it. Amazon requires users to sign an End User License Agreement which says so.

You can't even be sure it will still be in your machine tomorrow. People reading *1984* in the "Kindle" had an Orwellian experience: their e-books vanished right before their eyes, as Amazon used a malicious software feature called a "back door" to remotely delete them (virtual book-burning; is that what "Kindle" means?). But don't worry, Amazon promised never to do this again, except by order of the state.

With software, either the users control the program (making such software Libre or Free) or the program controls its users (non-Libre). Amazon's e-book policies imitate the distribution policies of non-Libre software, but that's not the only relationship between the two. The malicious software features described above are imposed on users via software that's not Libre. If a Libre program had malicious features like those, some users skilled at programming would remove them, then provide the corrected version to all the other users. Users can't change non-Libre software, which makes it an ideal instrument for exercising power over the public.

Any one of these encroachments on our freedom is reason aplenty to say no. If these policies were limited to Amazon, we'd bypass them, but the other e-book dealers' policies are roughly similar.

What worries me most is the prospect of losing the option of printed books. *The Guardian* has announced "digital-only reads": in other words,

books available only at the price of freedom. I will not read any book at that price. Five years from now, will unauthorized copies be the only ethically acceptable copies for most books?

It doesn't have to be that way. With anonymous payment on the Internet, paying for downloads of non-DRM non-EULA e-books would respect our freedom. Physical stores could sell such e-books for cash, like digital music on CDs — still available even though the music industry is aggressively pushing DRM-restrictive services such as Spotify. Physical CD stores face the burden of an expensive inventory, but physical e-book stores could write copies onto your USB memory stick, the only inventory being memory sticks to sell if you need.

The reason publishers give for their restrictive e-books practices is to stop people from sharing copies. They say this is for the sake of the authors; but even if it did serve the authors' interests (which for quite famous authors it may), it could not justify DRM, EULAs or the Digital Economy Act which persecutes readers for sharing. In practice, the copyright system does a bad job of supporting authors aside from the most popular ones. Other authors' principal interest is to be better known, so sharing their work benefits them as well as readers. Why not switch to a system that does the job better and is compatible with sharing?

A tax on memories and Internet connectivity, along the general lines of what most EU countries do, could do the job well if three points are got right. The money should be collected by the state and distributed according to law, not given to a private collecting society; it should be divided among all authors, and we mustnt let compa-

Motor Company, meanwhile, is backing the OpenXC Platform which "runs on a combination of the Arduino and Android platforms," meaning support not only for free software, but free hardware designs. Internationally, the 160+-member GENIVI Alliance is trying to get wide-spread adoption of an In-Vehicle Infotainment (IVI) free software development platform. Here 'infotainment' (a somewhat outdated term) refers to applications like driver-drowsiness detection and instrument-cluster software as well as the more traditional navigation and music programs.

Government regulatory bodies are growing interested in the safety implications of new vehicular software. Notably, the US National Highway Transportation Safety Agency has advocated mandatory Event Data Recorders;[13] that raise obvious privacy concerns; has proposed an in-vehicle mobile-phone ban that would limit device use models; and considered mandatory backup cameras that would show video within two seconds of power-on,[14] which is a real challenge for underlying operating systems.

Both opportunity and peril for free software abound in the rapidly evolving automotive sector. By listening carefully, with open minds, to the very real safety and security concerns of sympathetic parties within the industry, advocates can engage new allies and have a positive impact on the environmentally and economically critical transportation sector. ⬡

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[13]ur1.ca/9hxn9
[14]ur1.ca/9hxnk

A screenshot from the Liberated Pixel Cup styleguide's demo game

Liberated Pixel Cup

by Matt Lee
Campaigns Manager

Liberated Pixel Cup is a two-part competition: make a bunch of awesome free culture licensed artwork, and then program a bunch of free software games that use it.

Phase one of the competition is to build a set of artwork that's dual licensed under CC BY-SA 3.0 and GPLv3 and stylistically consistent. To that end, we're currently working on a style guide which incorporates these components.

Phase two of this competition will be building GPLv3 or later games that incorporate artwork from the artwork building phase of the project. People can work in teams or individually. Participants will be judged based on fun factor, innovativeness, and of course how well they incorporate assets built for the contest. Phase two runs from July 1st thru July 31st.

Liberated Pixel Cup will be awesome, but it can't happen without the help of people like you!

We're paying artists for comissions on the artwork for the initial style

The right to repair

by Alison Chaiken
she-devel.com

Familiar battles over privacy, security and (alas!) DRM will pop-up next in the automotive space. To date, software innovation in the automotive arena has been slow due to conservatism motivated by over-riding safety concerns plus the high expense and long lifecycle of products. Now the advent of wireless connectivity in vehicles has dragged them into the 21st century, where standards such as 1991's Controller Area Network 2.0 bus protocol are showing their age. The CAN protocol has little security, as befits a hardwired network optimized for robustness and low cost that is accessed only by trusted individuals. Wireless exploits against CAN by an academic collaboration[6] show the urgent need for the adoption of best practices exemplified by the Internet Protocol. Unfortunately, calls instead for security-by-obscurity in vehicles are already being voiced.

The Right to Repair[7] movement is an example of a new natural ally for free software. Right to Repair "would require automakers to provide the same service information and tools to independent auto and maintenance shops, as well as to consumers, that the automaker dealership service centers receive." In Massachusetts, the State Senate has approved the bill[8] although the auto industry "worries that the proposed legislation threatens intellectual property (sic) rights, and could compromise online security of the data, putting consumers at risk."

The advent of issues like Right to Repair presents free software with the opportunity to address the concerns of a new audience of stakeholders like auto mechanics whose level of interest in traditional desktop software may be low.

In April, Jason Wacha of MontaVista Software and Claus-Peter Wiedemann of Bearing Point gave an important presentation called "Motivations and Challenges for the Use of FOSS in the Automotive Industry" at the FSF-Europe Free Software Legal and Licensing Workshop. The authors argue that the GPLv3 "Requirement to deliver certificates/keys which normally protect car infrastructure from being tampered with" prevents use of GPLv3 in vehicles since it "has no exception for safety-critical operations." The controversy of Secure Boot vs Restricted Boot[9] on new consumer electronic devices is pertinent, as is the discussion initiated by Karen Sandler of the GNOME Foundation about how to manage source code for safety-critical devices.[10]

The Defective by Design campaign in its 2011 "Holiday Buying Guide"[11] called out the problems with the MyFord Touch software created by Microsoft. Now with the shipment of the Chevy Volt and three new models running the "Cadillac User Experience,"[12] buyers have the opportunity to purchase a car that is still locked, but at least is running a lot of familiar software underneath, like the kernel Linux and the X11 client-server. General Motors' website now features a corresponding Offer of Source. Ford

nies take any of it from them; and the distribution of money should be based on a sliding scale, not in linear proportion to popularity. I suggest using the cube root of each author's popularity: if A is eight times as popular as B, A gets twice B's amount (not eight times B's amount). This would support many fairly popular writers adequately instead of making a few stars richer.

Another system is to give each e-reader a button to send some small sum (perhaps 25 in the UK) to the author.

Sharing is good, and with digital technology, sharing is easy. (I mean non-commercial redistribution of exact copies.) So sharing ought to be legal, and preventing sharing is no excuse to make e-books into handcuffs for readers. If e-books mean that readers' freedom must either increase or decrease, we must demand the increase.

2011 Free Software Awards
Left: Luis Falcon, the president of GNU Solidario, accepted the *Award for Projects of Social Benefit* on behalf of GNU Health.
Right: Yukihiro Matsumoto (aka Matz), the creator of the Ruby programming language, recieved the *Award for the Advancement of Free Software*.

GNU Emacs Reference Mugs and more

by Chrissie Himes
Operations Assistant

We recently announced the availability of our GNU Emacs Reference mugs, and promptly sold out of our entire stock in less than 18 hours. These mugs were initially created by a generous person who decided to donate them to us, so we only had a limited number to sell. But, we have quickly replenished our stock of mugs and they are again available for purchase.

If you want to sign up to be notified about news and updates from the FSF store, please join the GNU Press Mailing list.[1] We're looking forward to announcing more fun items like these mugs in the future. If you have a great idea of what we should offer, please add your suggestion to our ideas page.[2]

We also recently launched our new Office Volunteers group on LibrePlanet. People often ask us if there is a day when we could use volunteers at the office — the answer is always the same: yes, every day!

Here at the FSF, we are constantly in need of help around the office with various ongoing projects. This group

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[6]autosec.org
[7]righttorepair.org/about/
[8]ur1.ca/9hxmp

[9]ur1.ca/9lgms
[10]ur1.ca/9ranr
[11]defectivebydesign.org/holiday
[12]ur1.ca/9dotm

[1]ur1.ca/9hlog
[2]libreplanet.org/wiki/Group:
FSF/Ideas

on LibrePlanet is meant to help inform volunteers who are local to Boston of all the opportunities to come by the office, hang out with the FSF crew, and help the Foundation with its day to day tasks. The more help we get from volunteers, the more we can do to help promote and protect free software. So if you are in the Boston area (even for a visit!), check out the volunteer page, send a message to `sales@fsf.org`, and come on by the office. ✐

Your money and your freedom

by John Sullivan
Executive Director

Talking to people about free software involves asking them to stop for a moment and consider aspects of the technology they use that aren't readily evident. Most people haven't been introduced to what "source code" is, or why it would be an important thing to have or to see. I'm just guessing, but in my experience most people judge and choose their technology based on what it does for them, how well it does those things, how much it costs, how it looks and sounds.

At the FSF, we can and do provide answers along these axes on behalf of free software. We're happy to explain when a piece of free software is good at doing a particular job, we're happy to point out when it doesn't cost much money, and we publicly boast when it looks good.

However, making these points is not the most important thing we do, as free software activists. These aren't the concerns we want people to stop and think about — they are the con-cerns people already think about. In fact, because we want people to use a free program even when it's uglier, more expensive, and less functional, we try not to "lead" with those concerns, which basically means not going out of our way to mention them unless we are going to follow up the mention with some points about software freedom.

This is because we are trying to help people help themselves at a deeper level than becoming a skillful user of a program or device appropriate to their practical needs. We help people protect their interests against containment and control by proprietary software companies. We want them to see how using free software is better for their privacy and security, and how it is wrong to subjugate themselves to a corporation's control.

This process is complicated by the fact that, in many countries, people are accustomed to having such a relationship with corporations. Corporations try to squeeze everything they can out of us, and we try to get everything we can from them. This attitude comes fully into play when something happens which makes the abuse of proprietary software come to the attention of those who don't usually focus on these issues.

When Amazon, using its proprietary Kindle software, remotely deleted copies of George Orwell's *1984* from readers' devices, or when they disabled the Text-to-Speech features on many e-book titles, people recognized this as bad behavior but mostly saw it as an example of a company making some individually bad decisions, rather than as natural and expected outcomes to a model of software distribution that gives Amazon immense power over readers.
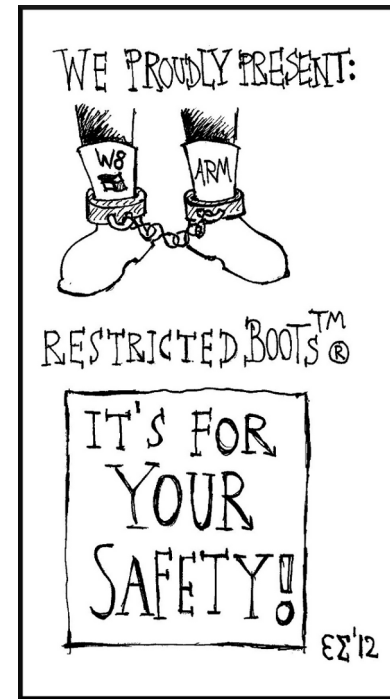
and license information, to suggesting new entries for the database.

SMW's flexibility has also allowed for the creation of RSS news feeds that list recently added or updated entries to the database. And that's just the beginning of what can be done.

I think that this directory is a great resource for the free software community, one that will certainly improve with time, considering the volunteer spirit of the hackers who have made all the free software listed there.

We are looking for administrators who are willing to help curate and ex-pand the database, while bringing the most popular projects' information up to date. Anyone who is interested in making improvements to SMW code and adding new features is also welcome to join.

Visit our Participate page on the Free Software Directory.[5] ✐

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[5] `directory.fsf.org/wiki/FSD:Participate`

The FSF Associate Membership Card

computer product endorsement program with the goal of promoting the creation and sale of hardware that will do as much as possible to respect your freedom and your privacy, and that will ensure that you have control over your device.[3]

While at the time of writing this article we do not yet have a product to endorse, but there are a lot of factors that leave us feeling hopeful that pretty soon we'll begin to see products shipping with a "Respects Your Freedom" logo. For starters, we've been pleased to see an increase of the number of hardware devices that work with computers running fully free operating systems. Check-out H-Node[4] for a database of hardware that works with free software operating systems.

Another thing that makes us hope-

[3]fsf.org/resources/hw/endorsement/criteria
[4]www.h-node.org

ful that we'll have products to endorse is the increase in DIY electronics being done by makers and hardware-hackers around the world. It seems like every day a new hackerspace is popping-up somewhere in the world, and more and more we are seeing people creating hardware that not only ships with free software and free documentation, but that very often comes with hardware designs also released under a free license.

. . . so, our hunch is that from this culture, we will also find more and more small companies forming with the goal of producing products that carry freedom to the user; computer products the FSF can endorse, that Respect Your Freedom.

We need your help in discovering these companies (big or small) that are selling, or even seriously thinking about selling computer products (of any kind!) that respect your freedom. If you have any leads, send an email to `licensing@fsf.org`.

Volunteering on the Free Software Directory

by Andrew Engelbrecht
FSD Community Volunteer

Over the past six months I have been volunteering on the Free Software Directory (`directory.fsf.org`), a database that lists over six thousand free software projects. It's now written using Semantic MediaWiki (SMW), which extends MediaWiki with numerous features for querying and displaying data. But, even more importantly, it allows for contributions by everyone, from submitting bugs against outdated version

When Apple bans politically controversial applications from being distributed through the App Store, or removes some feature from applications users already have installed on their phones, people have complained about those decisions but often think that the problem is that Apple didn't exercise its authority in justified ways, rather than contest that they should have that authority at all.

Because of this framing, a common response to these problems has been, "If that makes you uncomfortable, then just don't buy products from that company. Don't buy a Kindle or an iPad." If the problem is seen as a company just doing something unskillful, or making a bad product, this is a sensible response. Dumb products aren't illegal or unethical. However, there are many examples of alleged corporate misbehavior which do provoke a stronger reaction in people. When there was a controversy over the reliability of the brakes in Toyota hybrid cars, the predominant reaction was not "just don't buy a Toyota." Many demanded an investigation, and possible legal action.

Some of the concerns recently raised about Apple have elicited similar reactions. There has been an explosion of interest in Apple's manufacturing practices. People are concerned about reports that Apple suppliers' factory workers commit suicide at a high rate, and that they are treated poorly. People are also concerned that Apple's retail workers are exploited, because they make such low wages compared to the value of the products they are selling. They are upset when they think that Apple and Microsoft don't pay the taxes they should.

These moments are opportunities

for free software activists who want to advocate free software on a basis more significant than just showing people good programs to use. I don't mean that they are opportunities to compare proprietary software to abused factory labor. But they are opportunities to argue that some misbehaviors by proprietary software companies are problems that can't be addressed simply by shopping elsewhere. They are opportunities to show how we can and should take actions stronger than simply not buying Kindles in order to help others, and to make our societies better, freer places.

What puts proprietary software in the category of misbehaviors that require a bigger response? The proprietary control that these companies exercise over software stems from the legal subsidies given to them around the world. These legal subsidies — by which I mean subsidies in the form of laws and accompanying law enforcement — take public freedoms such as freedom of expression, and give them to corporations in the form of copyright holdings. Without laws dictating terms under which people are not permitted to share or modify software, such sharing would be a form of free expression and association. Free societies know that these basic freedoms should not be taken away by other laws unless absolutely necessary.

Therefore, whether or not we buy their products, these companies get something from us — our societal endorsement enacted as subsidies through our laws, funded by our freedoms. When people ask me whether the FSF thinks proprietary software should be illegal, I suggest that this is missing the point. The question is not whether to make it illegal — the ques-

tion is whether to remove the laws that create proprietary software in the first place. This is not banning proprietary software; it is undoing subsidies, without which proprietary software simply does not exist.

Changing laws to this end through public education and awareness-raising is a long and hard process. Until that can be successful, we will instead pressure companies not to take selfish advantage of the legal subsidy offered them. The mechanism for this refusal is copyleft licensing of the software they write — using the power of the legal subsidy given to them to *encourage* sharing and freedom. We want to reward those companies who do refuse the unethical subsidy, and criticize those who take advantage of it.

Certainly one step in addressing the abuses of proprietary software companies is to not buy their products, and to encourage others to do the same. But it's not the last step, and it's not the only step. We also must end the mechanism that hands these companies the public's freedoms, whether or not we buy their products. We "buy" these devices not only at the store with our dollars, but also through our acceptance of the laws that empower them at our expense. Let's make sure this problem is heard whenever other social and human impacts of these companies' practices are being discussed.

Update from the CTO

by Ward Vandewege
Chief Technical Officer

First of all, we'd like to welcome our new full-time system administrator, Nicolas Cesar! He's getting up to speed fast, and we're very happy to have him on the team.

We've been pretty busy since our last update. At the end of February, we completed the move of our servers to a new facility. For more than 10 years, Global NAPs graciously provided the FSF with donated colocation, power and bandwidth for our servers. Late last year, Global NAPs informed us that the arrangement would come to an end as the company was sold, and their local colocation facilities would be shut down.

Luckily, several organizations stepped up to help us out.

James Jun and Joshua Myles helped us broker a deal with Markley Group and TowardEX, who provide us with colocation space and bandwidth respectively, while Matthew Bloch and Peter Taphouse at Bytemark donated the use of a beefy dedicated server in Manchester, UK.

Barton Bruce was instrumental during our time at Global NAPs, for which we are extremely appreciative.

We also want to explicitly thank all of you who reached out to us after our call for help with colocation. We deeply appreciate all your help and support, and we are very grateful to have found a solution for our colocation needs that is 100% donated. Every dollar we do not have to spend on colocation can be spent on the core mission of the FSF. Thank you, all!

As part of the move to the new colocation facility, the FSF is now part of the new Boston Internet Exchange, which allowed us to roll out support for IPv6, the new addressing system for the Internet. Eventually all of our services will be available natively on IPv6.

Around the world with RMS

by Jeanne Rasata
Assistant to the President

Richard Stallman, the founder and president of the FSF, continues his work of tirelessly advocating for computer users' freedom. Over the past six months, he has traveled over eighty thousand miles by land and by air to bring the message of the free software movement to thousands of people — students and academics, newcomers and experts, policy makers, software developers, researchers, business people, and all members of the general public interested in civil liberties and the social aspects of computing — delivering over fifty speeches in thirty-eight cities across thirteen countries, including Sweden, Russia, France, India, Portugal, Slovenia, Croatia, Tunisia and Spain.

On his return to the United States he spoke on six college campuses: at Norwich University, at the University of Pennsylvania, at the University of Maryland, College Park, as part of the iPAC Speaker Series, at Cogswell Polytechnical College, at the John Jay College to an audience from throughout the CUNY system, including local and federal law enforcement agencies as well as local forensic and security firms, at Purdue, at the University of Chicago, and at Southern Oregon State University, as part of the Campus Theme — this year focused on "Civility" — speaker series, and at the Noisebridge Hackerspace, in San Francisco.

We look forward to stories and photographs from his trips to Brazil, Argentina, the United Kingdom, France, Spain, the Czech Republic, Germany, Venezuela, and Colombia. You can see photographic excerpts of some of his recent appearances on his blog at `fsf.org/blogs/rms`, and hear those of his speeches for which we have recordings at `audio-video.gnu.org`. Please write to `rms-assist@gnu.org` with any photographs you would like to share or to extend an invitation for Richard to come speak.

A hardware endorsement hunch

by Joshua Gay and Donald Robertson, III
Licensing and Compliance Team

We have a hunch, but we need your help to see if it is right!

OK, here's the back story ...

In the Fall of 2010 the FSF announced "Respects Your Freedom," a