



PRESS KIT

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ABOUT THE FREE SOFTWARE FOUNDATION

The Free Software Foundation (FSF) is a nonprofit with a worldwide mission to promote computer user freedom. We defend the rights of all software users.

The FSF, founded in 1985, is dedicated to promoting computer users' right to use, study, copy, modify, and redistribute computer programs. The FSF promotes the development and use of free (as in freedom) software — particularly the GNU operating system and its GNU/Linux variants — and free documentation for free software. The FSF also helps to spread awareness of the ethical and political issues of freedom in the use of software, and its websites, located at www.fsf.org and www.gnu.org, are an important source of information about GNU/Linux. Donations to support the FSF's work can be made at donate.fsf.org. The FSF is a remote organization, but incorporated in Massachusetts, United States.

The free software movement is one of the most successful social movements to arise from computing culture, driven by a worldwide community of ethical programmers dedicated to the cause of freedom and sharing. But the ultimate success of the free software movement depends upon teaching our friends, neighbors and work colleagues about the danger of not having software freedom, about the danger of a society losing control over its computing.

OUR CORE WORK

- Campaigning for free software adoption and against proprietary software
- Maintaining the [definition](#) of free software
- Collecting through assignment, and holding copyright on, a large proportion of the GNU operating system and other free software
- Maintaining articles about the [free software philosophy](#)
- Furthering the development of the [GNU Operating System](#)
- Defending free software, including the GNU Operating System, from efforts to turn it proprietary
- Providing important resources to the community including the [Free Software Directory](#)
- Funding and promoting free software development
- Providing infrastructure for GNU software maintainers
- Publishing and stewarding the GNU family of licenses, including: the [GNU General Public License](#) (GNU GPL), [GNU Lesser General Public License](#) (LGPL), [GNU Affero General Public License](#) (AGPL), and the [GNU Free Document License](#) (FDL)
- Sponsoring the [GNU Project](#)
- Fiscally sponsoring important free software projects

OUR CAMPAIGNS

The FSF's campaigns target important opportunities for free software adoption and development, empower people against specific threats to their freedom, and move us closer to a free society. For more information about these campaigns, visit: www.fsf.org/campaigns/.

Campaign for Hardware that Supports Free Software

Calls for hardware manufacturers to offer support for free software.

Defective by Design

Mobilizes people to reject products from businesses that use DRM to control their customers.

End Software Patents

Works to end software patents entirely through legal and legislative action.

Fight to Repair

Supports worldwide right to repair initiatives in every kind of hardware, from cars to printers.

Free BIOS

Champions the use of free BIOSes like GNU Boot and Canoeboot.

Free JavaScript

Persuades organizations to have their websites run on free Javascript.

Freedom Ladder

Helps users switch to GNU/Linux.

GNU Operating System

Supports the development of this entirely freedom-respecting, complete operating system.

Surveillance

Promotes autonomy over personal information.

Upgrade from Windows

Advocates for users to drop Microsoft and its controlling programs.

Working Together for Free Software

Aims to introduce users to free software programs.

FORTY YEARS OF FSF HISTORY

Sep 1983 - GNU Project is announced

Mar 1985 - GNU Manifesto published

Oct 1985 - FSF incorporated with Richard Stallman as president

Feb 1986 - First version of "free software" definition published

Feb 1989 - GNU General Public License (GPL) published

Oct 1999 - UNESCO and FSF launch the Free Software Directory (FSD)

Mar 2001 - Bradley Kuhn becomes first FSF executive director

Mar 2001 - Free Software Foundation Europe (FSFE) established

April 2001 - Free Software Foundation France is established

Jul 2001 - Free Software Foundation India is established

Dec 2001 - Licensing and Compliance Lab is established

Nov 2002 - Associate membership program launched

Mar 2003 - FSF hosts first annual membership meeting

Feb 2005 - Peter Brown becomes second FSF executive director

Nov 2005 - Free Software Foundation Latin America is established

May 2006 - Defective by Design campaign launched

Jun 2007 - GNU GPLv3 published

Nov 2007 - AGPLv3 published

Mar 2008 - 1st edition of the Free Software Supporter published

Mar 2009 - First annual LibrePlanet conference held

Mar 2011 - John Sullivan becomes third FSF executive director

Oct 2012 - Lulbotz first hardware device to receive Respects Your Freedom (RYF) certification

Dec 2013 - Gluglug x60 first laptop to receive RYF certification

Jun 2014 - Email Self-Defense Guide published

Dec 2015 - Associate member count hits 4,000

Mar 2019 - Free Software Supporter hits 200,000 subscribers

Aug 2020 - Geoffrey Knauth elected FSF president

Feb 2021 - FSF receives perfect score from Charity Navigator

Feb 2021 - Zoë Kooyman becomes fourth FSF executive director

Jan 2023 - FSF launches new board member process involving associate members

May 2024 - FSF deposed in Software Freedom Conservancy v VIZIO case

Aug 2024 - FSF becomes a remote organization leaving Franklin St office after 19 years

Aug 2024 - FSF serves on United States' NIST's consortium on the safety of so-called "artificial intelligence"

Oct 2024 - FSF starts work on freedom in machine learning applications

May 2025 - FSF launches LibreLocal initiative

Oct 2025 - FSF turns 40

Nov 2025 - FS40 Hackathon

TIMELINE OF FSF40 EVENTS

JAN 6-20
FSF40 Anniversary Logo Contest

MAR 17-21
Silent memorabilia auction

MAR 23
Live auction

**CELEBRATE
THE
FREE
SOFTWARE
MOVEMENT**

**AND
FORTY
YEARS
OF
ACTIVISM**



FSF FREE SOFTWARE
FOUNDATION

MAY
LibreLocal meetups

AUG 14-31
FSF40 Photo Contest

OCT 4
FSF40 celebration

NOV 21-23
FSF40 hackathon

4 DECADES, 4 FREEDOMS, 4 ALL USERS

BOSTON, Massachusetts, USA (Tuesday, July 22, 2025), the registration for the FSF40 celebration is now open. The Free Software Foundation (FSF) is excited for free software supporters to join them for the festivities on October 4, 2025, at the Wentworth Institute of Technology in Boston, MA, USA!

"4 decades, 4 freedoms, 4 all users" is the slogan of the Free Software Foundation (FSF)'s [fortieth anniversary year](#). Throughout 2025, the FSF will be celebrating its fortieth anniversary with [several initiatives](#) from [LibreLocal month](#) in May to the in-person celebration in October to a free software [hackathon](#) in November. All these activities aim to bring the international free software community together, celebrate forty years of activism and all that has been achieved, and discuss what next steps to make the world freer. There have been so many stepping stones laid by the free software community since 1985, and the FSF staff are eager to continue this work building the road to software freedom.

The FSF staff cordially invites the free software community to join them in celebrating the free software philosophy on the FSF's actual birthday, October 4, 2025, in the city where it all began: Boston, MA, USA. "After an entire year of working remotely, the FSF staff is especially excited to welcome free software supporters for this momentous occasion," states outreach and communications coordinator Eko K. A. Owen.



Leftmost image: "Group photo from meetup in Kinshasa" © 2025, Narcisse Mbunzama. This photo is licensed under CC BY-SA 4.0.

Center image: "Tech Pizza Monday meeting in honor of FSF40" © 2025 Ryan Futures of TechPizzaMondays. This photo is licensed under CC BY-SA 4.0.

Rightmost image: "LibreLocal meetup Warsaw - GNU monk" © 2025, Free Software Foundation. This photo is licensed under CC BY-SA 4.0.

The FSF has stated that they will organize events in other states and countries, recognizing that not every free software supporter will be able to make the trip to Boston, MA in October. They welcome suggestions of where future events should be held, as well as what types, at campaigns@fsf.org. For those who are unable to attend FSF40 in person, the FSF is also hosting a virtual livestream of the event.

Program

The program, which is jam-packed with talks and roundtable discussions by important community members, starts at 10:00 EDT and will run through 17:30 EDT. The celebration will be followed by the annual associate member meeting from 17:45 to 19:00 EDT. After the associate member meeting, the FSF invites all free software supporters to join them at a local bar to round the celebration off.

FSF40 REGISTRATION, SPONSORSING, & VOLUNTEERING

Registration

In-person participant

The event will be held at the Wentworth Institute of Technology, the same lively campus where LibrePlanet 2024 was held. Meet friends, both old and new; see the speakers up close and personal; and chat casually with fellow advocates during coffee breaks.

Associate members and students enter free of charge; nonmembers can register for the FSF40 celebration at our nonmember rate of \$50. Attendees will only be admitted to the in-person celebration if registered as an in-person participant. [Register to the in-person event](#) now.

Online participant

Registration is gratis. The online participant level grants general access to watch the talks and workshops online on fsf.org/events. [Register to the online event](#) now.

Stalwart participant

For the \$200 USD ticket price, a stalwart participant helps fund essentials like fully free servers and hosting, gratis admission for students, and refreshments for attendees. Stalwart registrants will receive a specially designed and ethically manufactured FSF40 T-shirt and meet with multiple FSF staff members to chat about a free software topic of their interest. Stalwart registrants will also get an hour of free licensing consultation, or advice in any other field where the FSF may be of assistance.

Sponsoring and exhibitors

FSF40 is also an opportunity for brands, companies, and organizations to be presented to more than two million annual unique web visitors on fsf.org. Sponsor and exhibitor support will help sustain and energize the free software community, and thereby raise supporting companies' profiles among developers, students, activists, legal and policy experts, free software and technology enthusiasts, and potential employees.

Sponsorship and underwriting opportunities can be found in the [FSF40 sponsorship prospectus](#) or in this [informational flyer](#).

All materials must be submitted by September 15, 2025, to guarantee inclusion at the celebration. Please contact campaigns@fsf.org with any questions.

Volunteer remotely or in person

The FSF is looking for volunteers who can provide support either on-site or online. Specifically, people who can help with the GNU Press booth, registration, and room monitoring, all important tasks that help make the event a success. As a thank you for volunteering, the FSF will gift each volunteer an FSF40 T-shirt. For in-person volunteers, the FSF will also serve lunch on October 4. Interested volunteers should contact resources@fsf.org and note whether they would like to volunteer in person or remotely.

OCT 4 CELEBRATION AGENDA

10:00 - 10:30

Registration and coffee

10:30 - 10:45

Welcoming address

10:45 - 11:35

Board panel presentation on the mission and vision for the FSF

11:45 - 12:30

Roundtable talk with FSF volunteers

12:30 - 13:30

Lunch on your own

13:30 - 14:15

LibreLocal group lightening talks

14:15 - 14:40

FSF40 trivia part 1

14:40 - 15:25

Birthday cake and coffee networking break

15:25 - 15:45

FSF40 trivia part 2

15:45 - 16:45

Panel with FSF, Electronic Frontier Foundation (EFF), F-Droid, and Sugar Labs

16:55 - 17:30

Celebratory speech by FSF executive director

17:45 - 19:00

Associate member meeting

19:30 - 21:00

After party



ORG MODE, GNU GUIX, MATTERMOST, AND MORE PROJECTS TO PARTICIPATE IN THE FSF'S HACKATHON

BOSTON, Massachusetts, USA (Tuesday, July 16, 2025), the Free Software Foundation (FSF) today announced the projects that will participate in the virtual FSF40 hackathon on November 21-23 and opened general registration.

Having campaigned for software freedom for [forty years](#) now, the FSF is celebrating its anniversary with different [festivities throughout 2025](#). One of these events is a virtual hackathon to help improve important libre software projects.

Hackathons are fun events that bring together people with different levels of expertise to work on project contributions, solve a specific problem, or work towards a particular milestone. While hackathons evolved in programming spaces, the term "hacking" is much broader than just programming and can describe playful and clever exploration and problem-solving in any field.

The FSF40 hackathon will be centered around important GNU software like [Org Mode](#), [GNU Guix](#), and [GNU Boot](#), with plenty of tasks for both developers and non-programmers. This hackathon will also feature some less-known but remarkable projects, like an interactive platform to learn African writing systems called Lewa, and Don't track bugs: track valuable discussions, a tool for helping contributors track bugs, patches, feature requests, and other valuable discussions shared on mailing lists.

Participating projects

Here is the list of projects so far that have declared that they will participate in the FSF40 hackathon:

- Don't track bugs: track valuable discussions, a tool to help contributors track bugs, patches, featured requests, and other valuable discussions shared on mailing lists;
- The [Free Software Directory](#), the FSF's free software catalog;
- [GNU Boot](#), a boot software distribution that can replace nonfree boot software like BIOS or UEFI on specific computers;
- [GNU Guix](#), a reproducible package manager;
- Lewa, an interactive platform to learn African writing systems;
- LibreVR, a project working on ethical replacements for nonfree VR games;
- op-mattermost, OpenProject integration for Mattermost; and
- [Org Mode](#), the notes management and organizer for GNU Emacs.

The FSF's executive director, Zoë Kooyman, is pleased to see important free software projects participate in the hackathon. She said when asked about the submissions: "We would like to

ORG MODE, GNU GUIX, MATTERMOST, AND MORE PROJECTS TO PARTICIPATE IN THE FSF'S HACKATHON (cont.)

thank all the maintainers who keep these projects running, oftentimes by committing a large portion of their free time to the development of these programs. We look forward to working on these projects together during the hackathon." Greg Farough, the FSF's campaigns manager, added: "With this hackathon, we want to spotlight the indispensable and hard work free software hackers are carrying out in the background, often without being seen and valued enough."

Program manager Miriam Bastian emphasized that hackathon participants do not need to be developers, since there will be tasks for all kinds of interests and every experience level. In addition to advancing the participating projects, the goal of this hackathon is also for participants to learn from each other, acquire skills, and sharpen them. Adding entries to the Free Software Directory, for example, is a dedicated exercise to deepen the understanding of licenses and how to codify software freedom. GNU Boot and op-mattermost are actively looking for non-developers to help write and improve documentation that can be understood by anyone. Bastian concluded: "We hope to draw in a wide range of people including non-programmers, experienced hackers, seasoned free software advocates, and proprietary software developers who want to get involved in libre software."

Anyone with any of the following skills is encouraged to participate in the hackathon:

- Basic knowledge of JavaScript, Node.js, Mocka, Chai, and Sinon is ideal for op-mattermost;
- Basic Python and web development skills for Lewa;
- Emacs Lisp hacking experience for Org Mode; and
- Understanding of DIY hardware, which is welcome but not necessary for LibreVR

Participation

Today, the FSF also opened general registration for hackathon attendees. You can register here to participate in the virtual FSF40 hackathon.

Attendees may participate either as individuals in the hackathon or as teams consisting of up to four members. To team up, people can state in the Libera.chat IRC channel #fsf-hackathon that they are looking for fellow members to work on one of the projects together.

Upon registration, attendees will be asked to share their preference whether they would rather participate as individuals or with a team, and to specify one or two projects they would like to contribute to during the hackathon.

Registration is gratis, but [donations](#) are encouraged and will support the FSF's work as well as the [GNU operating system](#), which the FSF sponsors. You can also choose to [donate to GNU Guix](#)

ORG MODE, GNU GUIX, MATTERMOST, AND MORE PROJECTS TO PARTICIPATE IN THE FSF'S HACKATHON (cont.)

through the FSF's [Working Together for Free Software Fund](#).

There will be prizes awarded to participants who have not contributed to a free software package before and a team that includes at least one new free software contributor, as well as for diverse and inclusive teams. On top of these prizes, a jury will award a prize for the most impactful contribution made during the hackathon.

The FSF also announced that it will hand out certificates that acknowledge the work of each hacker during the hackathon. These certificates can serve as a valuable reference for job applications.

The FSF encourages contributions to free software projects any time but points out in the hackathon [terms and conditions](#) that only work accomplished between November 21, 10:00 EST (15:00 UTC) and November 23, 10:00 EST (15:00 UTC) will be considered for the awards. Those who will need to work on submissions in shifted timezones can request an exception upon registration.

Any code that is part of a hackathon contribution must be free software and may only be produced with free software.

Sponsoring

Companies and organizations can raise their profile among hackathon participants and present their brand to the more than two million annual unique web visitors on fsf.org by sponsoring the event. Sponsorship and underwriting opportunities can be found in the [FSF40 sponsorship prospectus](#) or in the [informational flyer](#).

Volunteering

The FSF is looking for volunteers who will moderate the hackathon channels. Those interested can email resources@fsf.org.

Share the word

You can share the word about the FSF40 hackathon using #HackFSF40 on your favorite [microblogging platform](#). Invite your friends and family to join you for the event.

CONTACT US

Please direct all inquiries to:

campaigns@fsf.org
+1 (617) 542-5942



Timeline of events

| When | What | Where |
|----------------------|--|------------------------------|
| January 6–20, 2025 | FSF Anniversary Logo Contest | Online |
| March 17–21, 2025 | Silent memorabilia auction | Online |
| March 23, 2025 | Live auction | Online |
| May | Local community meetups | In person, anywhere on earth |
| October 4, 2025 | FSF40 celebration | Boston, MA, USA |
| November 21–23, 2025 | FSF40 hackathon | Online |