Free Software Movement Karnataka
Newsletter

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Editorial

In this edition we choose to write about an important topic concerning each citizen of India. Let us start this with a simple question. Why do we endorse free software?

Free software is 'freedom' software. The user has the full freedom to understand the software (by analyzing the source code), has complete freedom to upgrade or customize according to his need, and can also fix the bugs without any dependency. So freedom to understand a piece of source code is very crucial as far as an individual is concerned.

We know this, then why are we reiterating this basic question?

The union budget '09 proposed to provide a Unique Identifier (UID) number to each citizen in this country. It is argued that this UID number would help the Government in identifying targeted beneficiaries for various welfare schemes. Various departments based on their needs, would be using this number. Going forward, this UID number would avert the need for multiple proof of identity for citizens like, ration card, electoral card, pan card, etc.(Apart from availing Government services, it would be used for private needs also, such as opening bank accounts or seeking telephone connections). Hence no doubt, the role of this number is very crucial. Taking all these arguments into consideration, the implementation of this project has to take place with utmost care as it carries a very important projected role as far as society's progress, justice and welfare is concerned.

Another important aspect is security. The UID database hold very crucial information and is very much important as far as National Security is concerned. Virtually this UID Database holds the key for all kinds of

information. Considering the global and national scenarios, this project is of prime importance.

The project is very huge. Initial budget estimation is of Rs 120 crores. And for sure it would be revised multiple times before implementation (and can end up 3 to 5 times above budget estimation considering our practical experiences from the industry.) Any one can oversee the complexity of the work which includes construction of a new online database with identity and biometric details of each citizen of India. We feel this includes development of sophisticated applications which may include many tiers, huge databases, different types of reports, packages etc. It may also include interaction with different existing systems, and migration of data from those system.

So, what has happened?

Well, some disturbing news is heard. *"Microsoft is keen to partner in this project."* We have serious reservations on the involvement of Microsoft in this crucial project.

Freedom is each individual's fundamental right. He cannot allow infiltration to his privacy or dictating terms to him. What about a society? A society can be termed as progressive only when each individual's right and freedom is protected. This is exactly the State's role. It should ensure the freedom and well being of each of its citizens.

Microsoft is notorious on denial of the freedom (in digital world). Restricting access to source code and not allowing modifications from users is denial of his fundamental right - freedom to know - which is the corner stone of any society's progress. Denial of freedom to know (for a user and in this context the user is Indian government) gives freedom for Proprietary Software companies to infiltrate his(user's) privacy.

The sheer number of anti-trust suits against Microsoft and other Proprietary Software makers is a testimony to the monopolistic tendencies of corporates and their utter disregard to the laws of the land, in pursuit of making money by hook or crook. In one of those cases, Microsoft argued that it cannot continue revealing further information to the judge, as the information is closely related to US national security. In short Microsoft is bound by the US Laws and is having strong strategic alliance with US Government, obviously this is in conflict with our national interest as USA can use this alliance for achieving any objectives they wanted (they have also announced Cyber warfare NSPD 16 for crippling any networks across the world, which makes the whole scenario more complicated). All these facts suggests an impending danger is looming on the sovereignty of India if we allow Microsoft in implementing this project.

Just imagine how terrible it will be if the presence of malicious code or bugs in Microsoft's proprietary closed source crashes or corrupts the database, where future of millions depends. The source code of a project which is having tremendous importance to India, should be owned solely by the Govt. of India and not by Microsoft or any other corporates. A software can be termed as secure only if the freedom to examine or modify the code lies with its user, in this case Govt. of India. As per IT Act 2000, public systems cannot have malicious code inside. IT Act further says, public systems should not cause leakage of sensitive information relating to "privileges of parliament, trade, or other sensitive information". This can only be ensured if public systems are only on Free Software. Besides this, what if Microsoft resorts to steal the most vital and crucial information (as Satyam computers did to World-bank) and thereby destabilizing the country as part of USA's global imperial agenda? It is unimaginable. Another classic example is the case of Venezuela's state-owned oil company PDVSA, which demonstrated how Proprietary Software is a threat to the sovereignty of a country.

(http://news.northxsouth.com/2008/11/18/protecting-sovereignty-with-free-software-is-a-good-idea-and-the-duty-of-governments-says-stallman/).

Apart from the security concerns shared above, we identify Microsoft's attempt as a crooked one! Microsoft sees the huge benefits it could accomplish by involving in this project. Huge budget involvement, support work (in software industry, majority of revenue is churned from the support work, and one can not deny the possibility of introducing bugs in the software for getting the support work!), upgradation work, backward entry to National E-commerce project implementations, increased market penetration and forcing of the implementation of IPR and copy right laws by close association with the policy makers etc are few of the advantages they could easily get! Adding to above, storage, distribution and display formats of this crucial data is very important. Openness and Interoperability are two vital and basic requirements for any standard. It is often correctly noted that the closed standards would drive one in to the folds of proprietary

realm and thereby much serious patent complications. We must ensure that vital data of this stature is stored in formats that are open and free of all constraints like royalties, patent claims etc and there by should not allow to be controlled by anyone. Incidentally, this is also time where India's Draft Policy on Open Standards close to finalization, and in a surprise move, Nasscom – a representing body of the industry and MAIT recommended inclusion of standards under RAND terms and the usage of multiple standards in the same domain. Both of these recommendations have serious implications as far as India's interest is concerned. Issues of interoperability (between different standards), complications (on adhering to multiple standards) and high cost (of proprietary standards and bringing one in to the fold of patent issues) are few of the major issues. We suspect Microsoft's role and motivation on Nasscom and MAIT's recommendation.

Another disturbing fact is Nandan Nilakeni whom our union ministry entrusted to implement this crucial project. This project can be handled easily by any senior administrative officer who is having prior experience of implementing complex e-commerce applications. He could be biased as his previous company shares, business interest with Microsoft and also they voted for OOXML, much against national interest. Considering his links and role he played in Infosys, the possibility of Infosys being promoted cannot be overruled (and obviously going with the proprietary realm). All indications are that Microsoft is directing heavy lobbying in India for accomplishing its vested interests.

Different studies have shown the superiority of Free Software when compared with Proprietary Software. Robert Francis Group (IBM-sponsored research) found security

levels in GNU/Linux generally exceeded those in Windows, providing a more secure and manageable environment out of the box with significantly more functionality in terms of security integration and management. The Linux kernel programming code is better and more secure than the programming code of most Proprietary Software - based on a four-year analysis of the 5.7 million lines of Linux kernal source code conducted by five Stanford University researchers. So we should use only Free Software for the implementation of this crucial project. It is the only way for developing a superior implementation, in a very economical way which is important for a country like India where majority of population is in poverty and destitution.

We are afraid that this project may lead to giving pathway for the Proprietary Software companies and their products to the e-commerce projects, which is against National interest in different ways – Huge economic loss for the national exchequer, inferior quality products, with future liabilities and the most important one - invoking gross vulnerability to National Security and stability. This needed to be countered at any cost. State should have control on the software products it purchases or develops. We cannot allow these proprietary s/w companies to loot public money for inferior quality products and allowing them to infiltrate in to the freedom of our fellow citizens. We appeal our readers to raise your voice against the infiltration attempts of Microsoft(and other companies who endorse proprietary realm in software industry) and to endorse Free Software for keeping nation's interest forefront.

"The most unfortunate thing is that India still seems to believe in proprietary solutions"

Dr.A.P.J. Abdul Kalam, Former President of India, May 28, 2003

A Talk on Patent Issues

Dr. Sabyasachi Chatterjee

Before starting the discussion on Intellectual Property and our stand, let us examine the ideas like Trademark, Copyright , patents etc. These ideas formed the precursor to Intellectual property rights definitions and formulation of IP laws.

Trade Mark is an identification of a particular business-purpose using some kind of symbols. The Brand name of a manufactured product with its individual symbol is an example of this.

Copy right is the right to copy a certain expression of ideas. A Music or Film can be quoted as the best example of expression of ideas. : When this expression of the ideas comes into commercial use, it is called Intellectual Property rights."

The question of Patents come when this expression of ideas find a physical form. For eg: a Manufactured Product. To safeguard the ideas from being replicated, the patent serves the interests of those who implement these ideas. This prevents others from making use of the particular idea or invention for the term of the Patent which is usually for 20 years.

Hence, all the 3 mentioned above could be misunderstood in the first instance as means to safeguard the individual innovations. But one should go a bit deeper into the politics behind the birth of all these so called safeguard measures to really understand the implications of Intellectual Property rights and Patents.

The vulnerability of the miseries caused in the 2nd World War led to the advent of Product Patents in drugs. The Capitalist predators took this opportunity to raise their profits which was much more barbarous than the miseries suffered by the people during the war. This made many drugs unaffordable to the poor people across the world be it in capitalist or developing countries.

Following this, India and other developing countries rallied against this discriminatory move, which led to the Indian Patents Act 1970, which made Natural resources, Agriculture and Atomic Energy completely outside the Patents regime. India adopted Process Patent, which had huge implications on the developmental aspects of India. Through small modifications in the process, Indian companies were able to replicate the products which could be exported and the drugs which was very much needed for a country like India with a huge number of people living in poverty. This had an economic perspective in terms of the Balance of Payments (BoP) too. India was a huge importer of products which led to BoP crisis. India had to do import substitution by producing more and more products in India and adoption of Process Patent was much needed. Another important thing was the introduction of Compulsory License wherein unless the particular product for which patent is filed, is not produced within 3 years, the Patents get cancelled. This was to counter the numerous false patents being filed which could threaten new innovations and other competitors.

However, from 1980s the situation started changing across the world following the rise two new industrial sectors - Communication Industry and Biotechnology . There was paradigm shift in the way business was conducted until date. The nature of business became transnational i.e., cutting across national boundaries. The patent and intellectual property laws for individual countries became obsolete. Since the trade is going to be global there was a need for a global patent system which will benefit the commercial interests of corporations in these two sectors.

Using the institutions such as World Bank and International Monetary fund, many liberalization policies were enforced upon

money starved developing countries using instruments like GATT. The seeds policy under Rajiv Gandhi regime was the best example and the first of such changes in policies. This was the beginning of Imperialist ways to dominate world trade, hence to bring in different regimes of its will and to collapse the regimes going against its will.

The discriminatory tariff regime which initially destroyed the domestic agriculture, industries etc were reminiscent of the Colonialisation period where Indian small scale industries like Textile industry collapsed due to the discriminatory tariff systems. The increasing number of farmer suicides witnessed in India today has its roots in the change of policy adopted during the 90s.

Hence to understand the Intellectual Property issues, one should understand the discriminatory tariff regime to which the Intellectual Property is subservient to. This again has to be understood from the Politics played behind this by US and its attempts to create a Uni-polar world and for which it uses its Military and Economic power, the ramifications of which the whole world is witnessing. Ironically its economic power is getting weakened due to the inherent flaws of Capitalism and the failure of its military expeditions is vindicated by the happenings in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Hence, to fight against Patents, one should realize the Politics behind this and then fight combined against these. For this, India and other developing countries should unite and forge a struggle to create a multi-polar world and against the discriminatory contents in the WTO.

Dr. Sabyasachi Chatterjee is a scientist in Indian Insititue of Astro Physics. His area of work involves structure of galaxies, scattering of light and optics. He obtained his Phd in physics from IISC. He had published more than 30 research papers.

My Eagle Eye - Free as the Air, Above the Clouds

Ranjan

I was preparing to sleep yesterday, then a thought struck me and i could not sleep for the rest of the night. What if my freedom was taken away from me? All my choices is lost in the eternity of space forever? What if I had to live my life in compromise to someone else's terms, with each second of my life monitored? Could there be something worse?

When I truly understood "Free as in Freedom", I was scared, not because I did not value it but at the thought of what happens when freedom is lost. In a world where cash is king, greed is god and money is power - true knowledge is divinity. When you know the code, you can stand up for yourself. Make a mark. Give back to the society which has made you who you are. Stallman is right - *only when we learn can we teach*. Educate the society. Maybe then our goal of "Free software Free society" would actually thrive to take an actual form.

But wait, am I skipping something? Am I moving too fast towards a conclusion? Did I mention that the megalith Microsoft, one of the big corporates was held in courtroom in Jan 1999. The Depatment of justice noted that Mircosoft was using its monopoly to cut off competiton, Microsoft later declared GNU/Linux as its major threat.

So are they afraid of a bunch of guys who like playing with computers? People who leave their girlfriends, mothers, wives or husbands at home; students of college who discuss at ease what they actually deserve in life. They do not complain. They figure out a way to get what they deserve. Yes they are righteously afraid. It is because those people have shattered the foundation of a huge empire. So they are considering us as a serious trouble now.

Well, software is a wonderful thing. Create once copying costs nothing. What is the reason that so many software companies are able to do good business inspite of what they call "recession"or work-extra-long-or-get-lost policy and high layoffs while earning quaterly profits? Maybe this is because of the almost zero investment on raw material or "code" here.

Well, imagine a world ruled by some major corporate giant who monitor and control you."While you were sleeping" shall you let some one control your life or would you rather wake up and fight for your existence. Because if you want to fight for survival, maybe now is high time to wake up .

I do not undermine the power of capital. Yes it can do magic. But we perhaps under estimated the power of people - people who caused the Rennaisance and brought the Age of New Thought.

Perhaps Free Software will grow faster and better as more people come on board. More programmers adding fresh code. More people looking for bugs and correcting them. More is always Better.

Can the thought of a Free Society beat Capital? Well as Peter Wayner says in Free For All-"Maybe Capital will win. Maybe it won't. Its freedom versus assurance. Its Open Sharing versus stock options. Its cooperation versus intimidation. Its Geeks versus the suits, all in one knockdown, winner take-everything fight."

We will have to wait long for the results. But one thing is clear. We are not going away anywhere. We are here to stay. We are here to fight. The results I think are already beginning to show. Maybe we will change the world one day. Make a world where every god's creation would be truly "Free". Free as in Freedom, yes Mr. Stallman.

Ref:Free for All by Peter Wayner

Ranjan is a student and an FSMK activist.

Open Up, Open Up...

Mayank

I wish to change the world but they won't give me the source code"

- from a T shirt at FOSS@IISc

Promoting GNU-Linux/FLOSS has always been a challenge but fortunately it gets easier by the day! I have often found similarities between advocating biking against fossil fuel vehicles and GNU/Linux against Windows -

1. It is gonna be tough - "Common give it a try - a matter of getting used to!"

2. It's not friendly enough - "when was the last time you used GNU-Linux/a bike?" Try the latest ones and you will know what you have missed all along!

3. I don't mind paying the license fee/fuel - "But why pay when you can use it for free?. If you run into an issue wear the do it yourself (DIY) hat and if you can't figure out, there is a huge community out there to help you out! :) If you still can't do it pay for some help but at least you gotta a choice!"

4. It looks cool! - "Check out the new distros/brands - cudn't get any cooler!"

Common Remarks

"Switching to GNU-Linux/biking was tough a few years ago but now."

"You buy any computer/cycle and then all you need is GNU-Linux/pedal power - absolutely free!"

"I can only wish that I had switched earlier!"

"Keeps me fit/my mind fit"

"I haven't known what a virus attack is for long be it flu or melissa. If you do get it you recover in no time!"

Flame Wars

"Merida vs Trek" - "Fedora vs Ubuntu"

"Emacs vs Vi" - "Road bike vs Mountain Bike" => Emacs with viper - Hybrid/Crossway

Communities

"GNU, Free, OSS, Libre,..." - "BOTS, GGGC, Wheelsports, Decathlon, RAC-F, ..."

Unfortunate One

"Fewer chicks on either!"

...but the few that are - are darn good!

Linux is open and so am I!

PS: I love the song Open Up from nescafe - kind of goes with the mood -

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d262BfXK1zc

Mayank is an avid biker and a free software enthusiast. In this article he has combined his thoughts on biking, and free software.

Diffing Files the Different Way

Rahul Upakare

The diff utility compares the content of file1 and file2 and writes to standard output a list of changes necessary to convert file1 into file2.

Diff may not be used when you want to find out which lines in file1 are not present in file2 and vice-a-versa. Let's say you have a expected result's output file and a current result's output file,

expected-output.txt:

12 something some blah

15 ok ok and not ok

14 someone at somewhere

20 and many more such records

current-output.txt:

15 ok ok and not ok

13 this is not present in expected output

20 and many more such records

One quick way to do this is using power of Unix piping, sed, sort and uniq commands.

```
cat expected-output.txt | sed 's/^/expected-output.txt /g' > mixed.txt
```

```
cat current-output.txt | sed 's/^/current-output.txt /g' >> mixed.txt
```

```
sort +1 mixed.txt | uniq -u -f1 | sort
```

I would need to test this for files with really large number of records. But, currently I am satisfied with the above solution.

Rahul Upakare is a free software enthusiast with a passion for teaching. In early days of his career, he was a part of NCST and now enjoys developing cool software tools at Cadence.

Useful (and Colourful) Prompt

Pravin Shinde

Many a times, I have felt irritated with default command prompt. It normally includes PWD (Present working Directory) path in each command.

When you are working in directories with descriptive names and depth of 6 to 10, command prompt takes lot of screen-space. When you are dealing with long commands which are inherently complicated, this stupid prompt causes them to overflow into another line!

It is *really* annoying situation.

Finally, I decided to waste few hours to clean up my prompt.

It's not very complicated work. It needs editing few lines in ~/.bashrc file.

The $PS1 is the variable which controls the behavior of the prompt.

The PWD path information is undoubtedly useful and should be accessible, but we don't need it embedded in prompt for each command.

The username, machine name and whole path is always visible on the Title bar of terminal window, and is updated automatically with each directory change. So, lets drop this information.

I still add '\W' option, which gives the name (and not whole path) for the working directory.

It gives the context of each command without wasting lot of screen space.

Other options added are

'\t' - tells time of command execution

'\${?}' - tells the success or failure of last command. (0 represents success)

So, my $PS1 variable looks like this.

PS1='[\t][${?}][\W]\$ '

With some Google search, it was easy to figure out how to have colors.
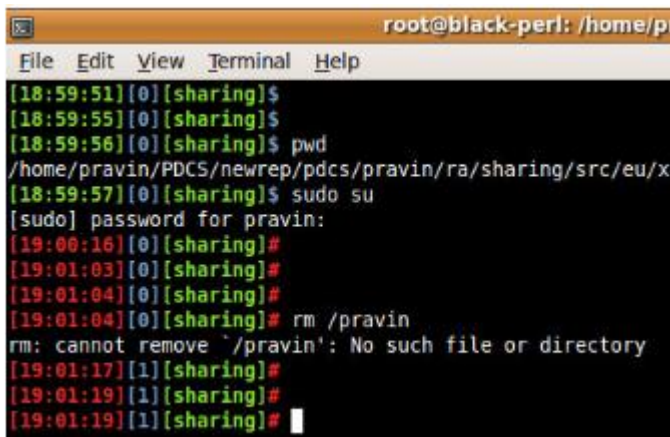
And after adding colors, my PS1 became

PS1='\[\033[01;32m\][\t]\[\033[01;34m\][${?}]\[\033[01;32m\][\W]\[\033[01;34m\]\$\[\033[00m\]'

Another improvement was done by modifying the root prompt in a similar way but to use RED color

which will warn user to be careful. Following will generate similar (but reddish) prompt for the root.

PS1='\[\033[01;31m\][\t]\[\033[01;34m\][${?}]\[\033[01;32m\][\W]\[\033[01;31m\]# \[\033[00m\]'

Here is a screenshot showing my new prompt in action !!

PWD is having depth more than 10 which can be seen from the title bar, but still the command prompt is clean.

It also includes the color switch when logged in as root.

Also, one wrong command is executed whose return status can be seen on the following prompt.

http://www.cyberciti.biz/tips/howto-linux-unix-bash-shell-setup-prompt.html

will give information about other possibilities with the prompt.

The various possible color codes that can be used are given here :

http://www.cyberciti.biz/faq/bash-shell-change-the-color-of-my-shell-prompt-under-linux-or-unix/

My ~/.bashrc file with important lines highlighted is here:

http://pastebin.com/f81212a3

Pravin Shinde is pursuing his masters in Vrije University, Amsterdam. Prior to this Pravin worked in CDAC Mumbai's Computer Networks division for nearly two years.

Editors note : Prof. Tanenbaum teaches in Vrije University.

GNU Generation: Calling all pre-university students

GNU Generation is a new project sponsored by the Free Software Foundation to involve high school age pre-university students (approximately ages 13-18) in free software. By Max Shinn, Campaigns Intern 2009.

Participants will have the opportunity to get involved with the free software community, and win some prizes! If you have never considered contributing to a free software project before, or if you wanted to but had no idea where to start -- this is your chance!

Getting started is easy -- sign up for an account, create a profile, and pick something you'd like to work on:

There are projects for both specific free software applications, as well as more general activism.

If you do not like any of those available, you

can also create your own. If you want, there are some ideas to get you started.

Regardless of what project you choose, you continue to receive help and support, via the GNU Generation wiki, mailing list and IRC channel.

Both programming and non-programming projects are available, and several projects can accommodate many different skill levels, so this is an ideal opportunity for new users of GNU/Linux to get involved.

At the end of each month, projects will be asked to contribute to a progress report, and the strongest contributor will be chosen to win a free t-shirt.

At the end of each year, the top contributor will win a GNU/Linux powered netbook!

http://www.fsf.org/blogs/community/gnugener ation

How the Swidish Pirate Party platform backfires on FS

FSF president Richard Stallman explains the unintended interactions between the Swedish Pirate Party's platform and free software in his new article, "How the Swedish Pirate Party Platform Backfires on Free Software".

Because free software currently relies on copyleft to protect software freedom, while proprietary software has other means beyond copyright to keep users restricted (like patents and EULAs), eliminating copyright

would protect proprietary software and hurt free software. Users would never get to have the source code of the proprietary software, while proprietary software companies would be able to openly pillage from the free world.

Read on :

http://www.fsf.org/blogs/community/pirate-party-and-free-software

FSF demands that Amazon drop the DRM from the Kindle

The FSF's DefectiveByDesign.org campaign, in cooperation with prominent authors, journalists, and librarians, has launched a petition against the Amazon Kindle's use of digital restrictions management (DRM).

"The freedom to read without supervision or interference is central to a free society," said FSF executive director Peter Brown. "When "

ebook products like the Kindle use DRM to restrict what users can do with their books, that is a clear threat to the free exchange of ideas.

Read on : http://www.fsf.org/news/amazon-kindle-drm-petition

Latest update: (Amazon apologizes)
http://www.fsf.org/news/amazon-apologizes

Dailymotion's support for Ogg is a big deal

With video streaming site Dailymotion offering the free Ogg Theora video format, FSF urges other video sites to follow.

Dailymotion has transcoded over 300,000 videos to the free Ogg Theora format, which will play without the need for plugins in the latest free software web browsers. Dailymotion is among the world's largest video streaming sites, making this a major advance for Ogg Theora format,

The Free Software Foundation and its

PlayOgg campaign welcomed the news, "A creative art such as video production that is dominated by proprietary software can limit freedom of expression," said FSF executive director Peter Brown, "Dailymotion's support for Ogg Theora will let videomakers reach a large audience without compromise or concern for their software freedom."

Read on :

http://www.fsf.org/blogs/community/dailymotion-theora

Microsoft's empty promise

Last week, Microsoft extended the terms of their Community Promise to implementations of the ECMA 334 and 335 standards. You might think this means it's safe to write your software in C#. However, this promise is full of loopholes, and it's nowhere near enough to make C# safe.

Why Worry About C#?

Since we published Richard's article about Mono last week, some people have been

asking us why we're expressing special concern about free software developers relying on C# and Mono, instead of other languages. Sun probably has patents that cover Java. Maybe IBM has patents that cover C compilers. "Shouldn't we discourage the use of these too?" they ask.

Read on :

http://www.fsf.org/news/2009-07-mscp-mono

Texas judge rules Microsoft can't sell Word anymore

Go ahead and clean up the coffee you just spit all over your keyboard. We'll wait. Back? OK. A judge in Texas ruled that Microsoft Word's XML systems violate patents by Toronoto-based i4i Inc. Word uses XML in reading and writing XML, DOCX, and DOCM files.

The lawsuit alleges that MS violated i4i's 1998 XML patent #5,787,449. The injunction

will go into effect in 60 days and prevent Microsoft from selling or demonstrating Microsoft Word. MS will have to pay i4i about $290 million in damages.

http://www.crunchgear.com/2009/08/12/texas-judge-rules-microsoft-cant-sell-word-anymore/

http://blog.seattlepi.com/microsoft/archives/176223.asp

FSMK appeals to people for financial aid for enlarging its scope of work

Free software or Swatantra/Libre software is software that can be used, studied, and modified without restriction, and which can be copied and redistributed in modified or unmodified form either without restriction, or with minimal restrictions only to ensure that further recipients are also guaranteed these freedoms.

This nature of free software has given enormous innovative potential for students to increase their technical capabilities. Today, world wide a large number of students and programmers contribute to Gnu/Linux, *http://directory.fsf.org/GNU/*. This very philosophy encourages entrepreneurship among the youth worldwide.

FSMK(Free Software Movement – Karnataka: *http://fsmk.org*) is formed by a group of individuals working in various IT companies irrespective of geographical locations, public sector employees, students(college and school) and lecturers & teachers. FSMK has shouldered a mammoth task of taking Free Software technologies and Philosophy to the students(of colleges and schools), lecturers and teachers. Free Software enables the students to study the technology in depth, students can even read and understand the source code of TCP/IP stack and the whole Operating Systems code. FSMK encourages students to do projects in Free Software and to use Free Software.

Major Tasks

1. Setting up GLUGs(GNU/Linux Users Group) in colleges. Educate students the philosophy and different free software technicalities

2. GNU/Linux installation festivals in colleges.

3. Running computer centers among economically marginalized people.

4. Encourage active participation of students in FSMK activities and build their leadership skills and collective responsibility.

5. Making efforts to build lecturers community in Free Software Front.

6. Assisting Students in final years projects.

Since it is not possible to mention all the activities of FSMK, we have given below some links:

The essential Free Software Workshop for Govt. School Teachers

   http://fsmk.org/node/35

Teachers Workshop

   http://fsmk.org/node/34

Linux Kernel Workshop

   http://fsmk.org/node/26

With Richard M Stallman and Prof. Eben Moglen's and their visit to Bangalore

*http://fsmk.org/node/13
,http://fsmk.org/node/12
http://fsmk.org/node/11,
http://fsmk.org/node/10
http://fsmk.org/node/7   ,
http://fsmk.org/node/6*

IEEE tutorial on GNU / Linux kernel

   http://fsmk.org/node/24

FSMK identifies with "Free Software is the Future". It removes different constraints on spreading of knowledge which is very important for facilitating the betterment of society.

FSMK is committed to work seriously for that cause, but in a much wider spectrum - which involves educating the "Free Software" Philosophy, and its technicalities to different sections of people that ranges from school students, college students, teachers,

academicians, intelligentsia, common and marginalized sections of the society. In order to carry out these activities in the most effective way and to meet the quality expectations, FSMK needs funds, and here by we appeal to all the people to donate generously.

Account Details

In favour of - Free Software Movement Karnataka

Account No-1172101012320

Bank name - Canara Bank