

# Why is free software important?

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## More information about free software

### Free Software Foundation (FSF)

The Free Software Foundation, 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.

<http://www.fsf.org/>



### GNU Project

The GNU Project was launched in 1984 to develop a complete Unix-like operating system which is free software: the GNU system. GNU's kernel isn't finished, so GNU is used with the kernel Linux. The combination of GNU and Linux is the **GNU/Linux operating system**, now used by millions.

<http://www.gnu.org>



### Video: Stephen Fry – Happy Birthday to GNU

<http://www.gnu.org/fry/>

### Article: What is free software and why is it so important for society?

<http://www.fsf.org/about/what-is-free-software>

### Article: Why “Open Source” misses the point of Free Software

<http://www.gnu.org/philosophy/open-source-misses-the-point.html>

### Free Software Melbourne Mailing List

An email list for Victorian and Melbourne people interested in free software.

<http://www.softwarefreedom.com.au/free-software-melb.html>

## Getting free software

### Free Software Directory

<http://directory.fsf.org/>

### gNewSense

gNewSense is a fully free software [GNU/Linux](#) distribution.

<http://www.gnewsense.org/>

## **How to get involved and support free software**

1. Read and learn about free software
2. Talk to friends, family and colleagues about free software
3. Try some free software
4. Install a free software operating system, like GNU/Linux
5. When evaluating software for you or your organisation, ask “is it free software?”
6. Support free software development:
  - become a member of the Free Software Foundation
  - offer to write some documentation
  - help with translate
  - write some code
  - donate to a community project that interests you