FSFLA's Coolest Works

Free Software in Latin America

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Summary

- What's in a name?

- GPLv3 and GFDLv2

- Copyright, Patents and Software

- Free Software adoption

- Constitutional support

- "Free" Trade Agreements

- $(\mathbf{GNU})^2$ initiative

What's in a name?

- GNU/Linux, GNU+Linux

- Free Software

- FSF Latin America

GPLv3, GFDLv2

- License developed like software

- Drafts and comment submission

- Participation in GPLv3 conferences

- Speaking and writing about GPLv3

`http://gplv3.fsf.org`

Copyright

- Purpose: favoring society, more creative works

- Means: temporary monopoly, public domain

- Problems: duration, purpose $\times$ means

  - Intellectual Property? Inappropriate Privilege?

  - Internet Protocol!

- Software: different regime?

    `http://www.fsfla.org/?q=en/node/128#1`

Software's Dual Nature

- Source code
  - Expression of ideas
  - Enjoyable by humans

- Object code
  - Automated translation
  - Incomprehensible for most

- Copyright monopolies on sourceless object code?!?

- Register, publish or distribute sources

Patents

- Purpose: favoring society, publication of ideas

- Means: temporary monopoly

- Problems: duration, patentability

- Variable duration

- Obviousness: before or after?

- Scope: life? formulas? software?

Free Software Adoption

- Businesses, especially big ones

- Government: Venezuela, Peru

- Brazil:

  – Political mechanics: FUD, lobbies, parties

  – GNU GPL translation

  – Free Software releases

  – Computador para Todos (PCs for all)

  – Laws to promote adoption

Free Software laws in Brazil

- Preference for 4 freedoms, no restrictions

- Rio Grande do Sul, with many copies elsewhere

- Unconstitutional? FSFLA as Amicus Curiæ

- No legal effect, but guideline for constitution

- (Some) public administration principles: efficiency, sovereignty, transparency, impersonality, free market, favoring small local businesses, increase employment, reduce regional inequalities

Campaign against "Softwares Impostos"

- Impostos adj. 1. taxes. 2. imposed

- Tax programs: sourceless, unlicensed, for MS-Windows or Sun's Java 1.4.1

- Legality: reject imposition

- Impersonality: reject choice of platform

- Transparency: demand source code

- Open standards and free software for any interaction with government

Free Trade Agreements
DRM and Software Patents

- FTAA (ALCA) tried to imposed both, we resisted

- WIPO and WTO attempts have failed so far

- Bilateral agreements: Chile, CAFTA (Costa Rica, Nicaragua, El Salvador, Dominican Republic, Honduras and Guatemala), NAFTA (Mexico), Uruguay

- FSFLA campaigns

$(\textbf{GNU})^2$ initiative

- **G**rupos **N**acionales de **U**suarios **GNU**

- GNU National User Groups

- FSFLA was mostly limited to Argentina, Brazil and Uruguay

- Known active communities in Chile, Peru, Colombia, Venezuela, El Salvador, Dominican Republic, Mexico, Cuba

- Invite activists and groups to join forces

Questions?

http://www.fsfla.org

http://gplv3.fsf.org

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