



Contribution ID: 157

Type: **Workshop or Hackathon**

Risk of technical debt, lock-ins, reliance on non-free software, hidden costs

Thursday 27 February 2025 09:00 (1h 30m)

Which software tools do we rely on?
Which tools do we take for granted?
What are their properties?
Are they legacy? Obsolete? Free? Freeware? Proprietary?
Do we contribute to them? Is their cost justified?
Are they maintainable, extensible, repairable?
What is astroturfing? What is a monopoly and how does affect us?
Is open-source better than freeware ? And than free?
What's the difference between open-source software and free software?
What common goals do they pursue? How their different philosophy has split the community?
Are there freedom-limiting costs?
What is customer lock-in?
Were you affected by Anaconda's change of terms of service?
Do you use GitHub? Do you rely on GitHub? Do you use VS.code? Do you know Microsoft Recall?

In this workshop we first get introduced to four topics: free and libre/open source software (FLOSS); de-facto monopolies and lock-in; the tragedy of the (digital) commons.

After a motivating 10-minutes introduction, we have four phases

1. FLOSS
2. Lock-in
3. Ways out
4. Giving back

Each phase takes 15 minutes and consists of a short intro and a pairwise activity.
Pairs will change every 15 minutes and will be formed in a way to maximize exchange.
In the pairwise activity we exchange experience and summarize the learnings.

Bring your questions, answers, open questions.

The workshop ends with a 20-minute round table.

No computer is required.
A computer with a browser and a keyboard can be optionally used instead of paper and pen.

The format of this event has been (partially) tried out and been appreciated by some 20 participants just two weeks ago, so we hope it can be appreciated here, too.

I want to participate in the youngRSE prize

no

Primary authors: MARTONE, Michele (Leibniz Supercomputing Centre); STARY, Tomas (Karlsruhe Institute of Technology)

Presenters: MARTONE, Michele (Leibniz Supercomputing Centre); STARY, Tomas (Karlsruhe Institute of Technology)

Track Classification: Education: RSE education