

Introduction to GNU/Linux and Free Software

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Summary of the presentation

- unix is a family of compatible operating systems;
- unix design philosophy emphasizes modularity and re-use of programs;
- GUIs are nice, but they are not always optimal;
- Free Software was invented by Richard Stallman (RMS);
- GNU stands for *GNU's Not Unix*.
- Free Software is defined by four basic freedom : use, modification, redistribution, and fork.
- Free Software is copyrighted and has a license to guarantee those freedoms to the user.
- The most common Free Software license is the GNU GPL. It forbids the mixing of Free and non-Free software.
- BSD-style licenses are very common too. They have fewer restrictions.
- GNU/Linux is a Free unix operating system and environment.
- There are many GNU/Linux distributions: Debian, Mandrake, Red Hat, TurboLinux...
- There are other Free unix OSs: OpenBSD, GNU/Hurd...
- Free Software is supported by an active community.
- Great Free Software developers are often called (white-hat) hackers.

Important Websites

Important Chinese Websites

- <http://www.linuxaid.com.cn>: daily GNU/Linux news, and a complete and well-organized web knowledge base.
- <http://www.linux.org.tw/CLDP/gb/>: the official *Linux Document Project* Chinese website.
- <http://www.linuxforum.net>: the biggest Chinese Linux web forum.
- <http://www.unixchina.net>: The *nix web forum.
- <http://www.cngnu.org>: Free Software resources.

Other Chinese Websites

- <http://www.linuxeden.com/>: another GNU/Linux website.
- <http://www.linuxfab.cx>: if you have too much time ;)
- <http://www.linuxtea.org>: the Shanghai Linux User Group, including web forum.
- <http://www.ch2000.com.cn>: a Chinese office suite.
- <http://linuxcity.com.cn/linuxstore>: on-line Linux store.

International Free Software Websites

- <http://www.gnu.org>: the official GNU project website.
- <http://www.freshmeat.net>: great Free Software database.
- <http://www.rpmfind.net>: gives you packages.
- <http://slashdot.org>: if you have too much time.
- <http://www.dict.org>: contains the *Hackers' dictionary*
- <http://www.humorix.org>: very funny.
- <http://www.debian.org>: GNU/Linux distribution.
- <http://www.tuxedo.org/~esr/writings/cathedral-bazaar/>: to better understand Free software.