What is Free/Open Source Software?

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What this talk is about

- Proprietary/Closed Source Model

- Free/Open Source Model (FOSS)

- Why do I want the source?

- Who writes FOSS?

- The FOSS Community

- Where does Linux come in?

- Who uses FOSS?

- You use FOSS!

The Closed Source/Proprietary Model

- Write code

- Create (compile) executeable program from code

- Sell program

- Do not share source code

- Most software on the shelf follows this model

The Free/Open Source Model

- Write code

- Create (compile) executeable program from code

- Give away program (or sell it...)

- Share the source code

- This model is gaining popularity, again

Why do I want the source?

- To customize and develop the software

- To fix bugs

- To control security

How does this FOSS thing work?

- How can FOSS be competitive with companies that spend millions (or billions!) of dollars developing software?

- Is it really as good?

- *Who is doing this work, and why?*

Who writes FOSS?

- Companies interested in development of products to fit their industry needs

- Companies which profit from supporting their Open Source programs

- Volunteer professionals doing development in their free time for fun or to advance their career

- Hobbyists and students who enjoy the work

The FOSS Community

- All of these contributors come together to work on a project

- A project is made up of a variety of important elements, such as:

  - Code

  - Documentation

  - Design

  - Usability

  - Support

Where does Linux come in?

- Linux is an Operating System

- Linux is FOSS

- Companies and Communities have taken Linux and created "distributions" to fit certain market demands
    - Red Hat (Red Hat Enterprise Linux)
    - Canonical (Ubuntu)
    - Novell (Suse)
    - Debian
    - Gentoo
    - ...hundreds more

Who uses FOSS?

- Google

- Amazon

- US Army

- ...Travelocity, U.S. Postal Service, Toyota Motor Sales U.S.A., Boscov's Department Stores, Burlington Coat Factory, Raymour & Flanigan and many more!

You use FOSS!

- *At least* half the sites on the Internet are using FOSS at the core (including Facebook and Twitter!)

- Apache, a FOSS web server, currently is the market leader on the internet, serving 46% of the websites in the world

- The next biggest is Microsoft's web server, which serves less than half that at 21%

- nginx, also FOSS, hosts 5.5%

- Firefox is FOSS