

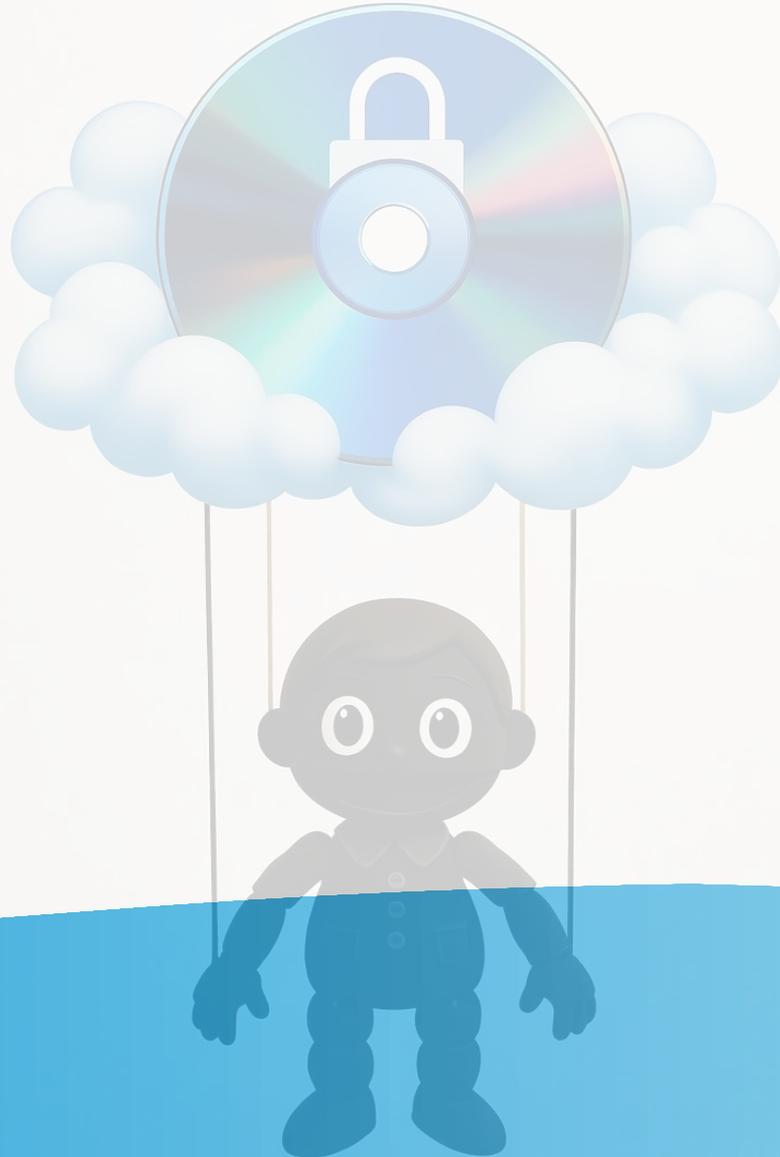
Freedom *in the Age of Digital Slavery*

Ajith Kumar B P
<https://scischool.in>
bpajith@gmail.com

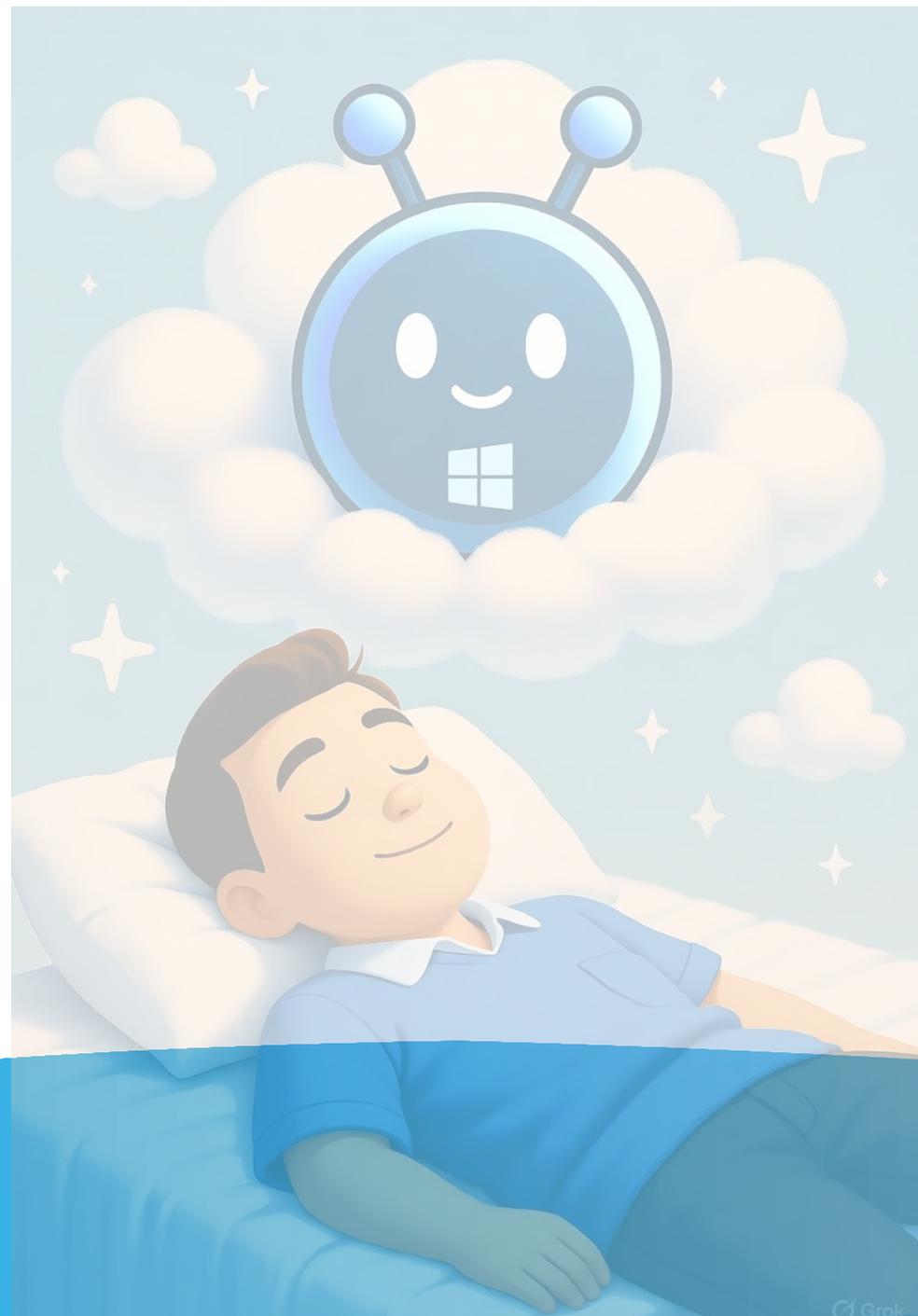
Do you enjoy being exploited by others ?



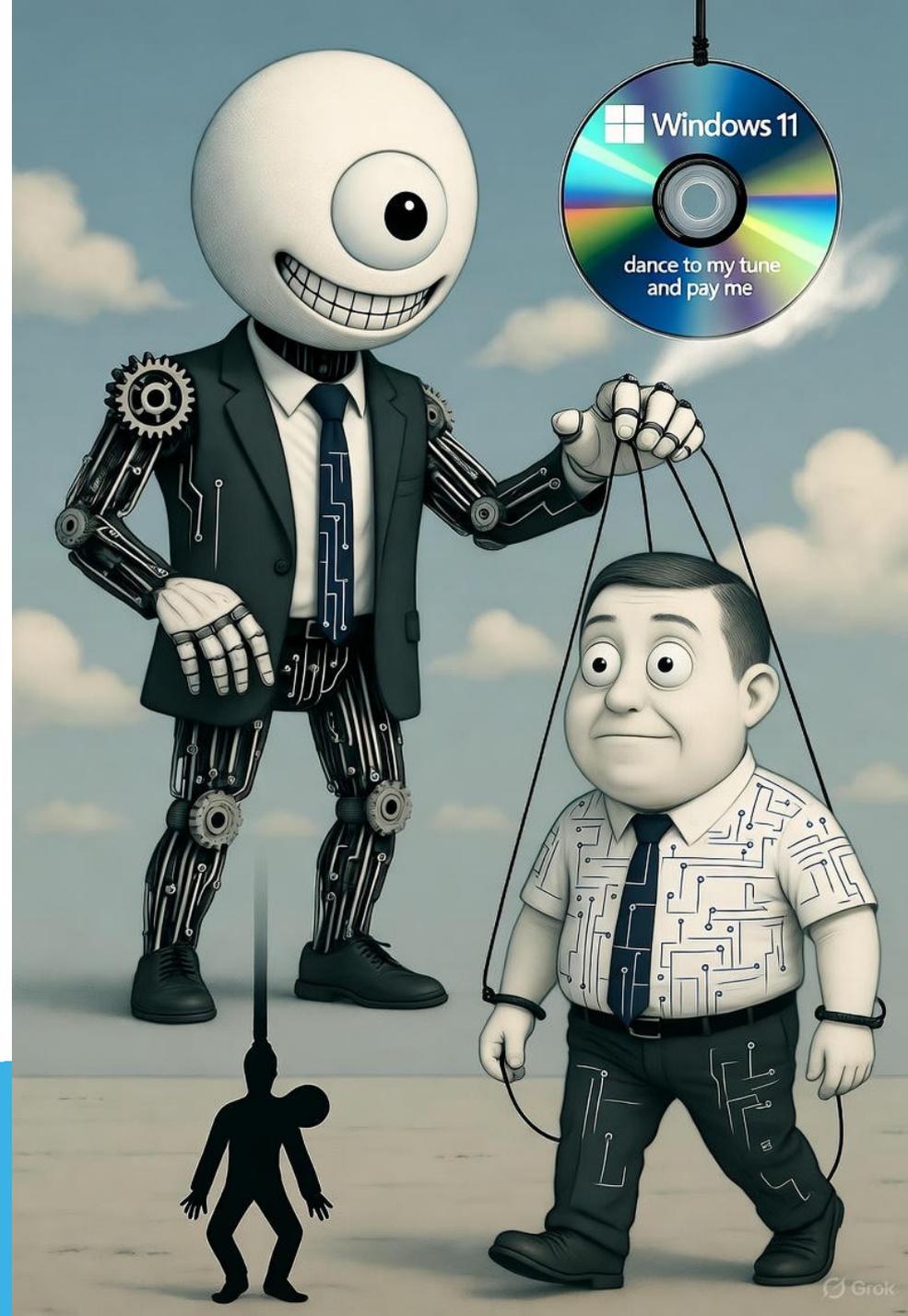
You paid for the software, but you don't get the install media. Is it fair ?



Do you like to be
under surveillance ?
Your computer sharing
your personal data
by default ?



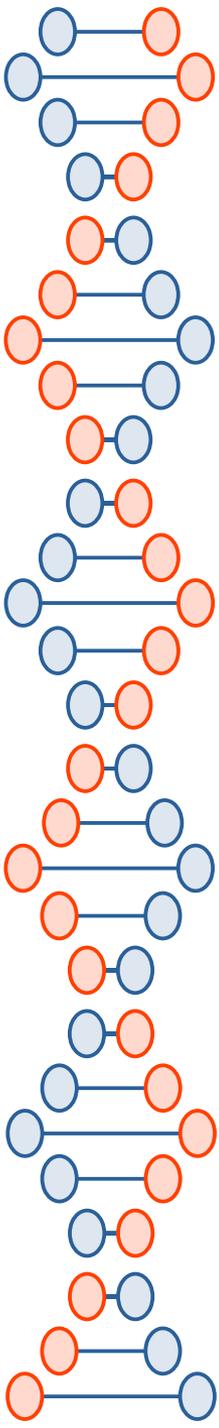
- Do you like to be a Puppet, controlled by the data taken from you ?



Exploitation (old story)

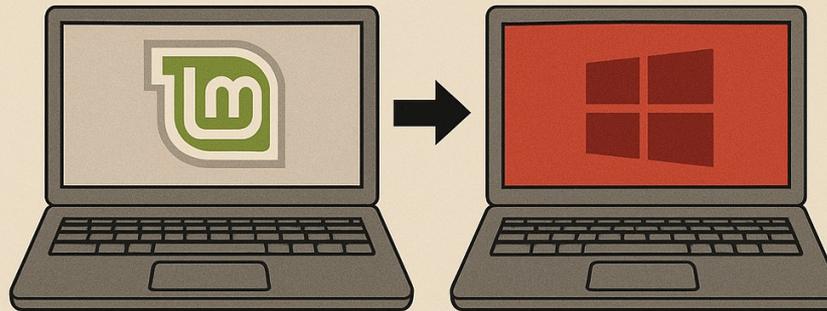
- In 1995, I was running Windows-3 on an 80386 PC, using a word processor included in it for drafting letters.
- Once I received a **.doc** file from someone, and opening it required the latest version of MSWord.
- Bought MSWord and it demanded Windows 95.
- Installing Windows 95 required an 80486 computer.

Total expense to the institute was around 1.2 lakhs
I was not the only one faced such exploitation
It continues even now.



The constant upgrade loop

PLANNED OBSOLESCENCE = HIDDEN TAX



FREEDOM

**FORCED
UPGRADE**

**YOUR COMPUTER DIDN'T GET
OLD – THE SOFTWARE MADE
IT OBSOLETE.**

**An old Ryzen3 with 4GB RAM
runs Linux Mint smoothly – obsolete.**

New methods to trap the users

PAID FOR WINDOWS – BUT NOT ALLOWED TO OWN IT



**This isn't convenience.
It's digital feudalism.
You don't own your
system – you rent it.**

**You bought the PC. You paid for Windows.
But where's your install disk?**

- No install media means you can't reinstall freely.
- Your Windows key is locked to the motherboard.
- The “recovery” option restores all the ads and bloatware.
- Cloud recovery demands an Internet connection and a Microsoft account.
- And when the system slows down – you're told to buy a new

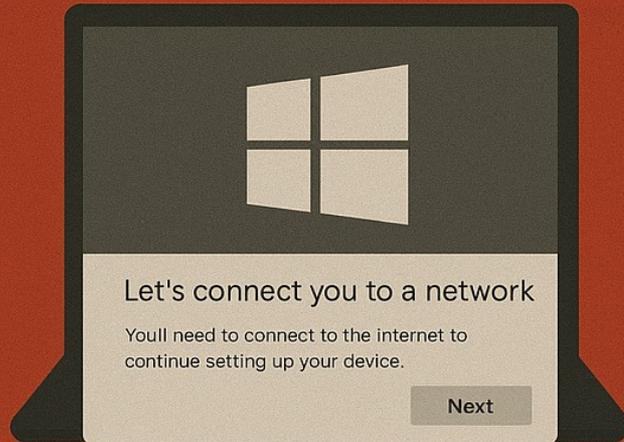
**Meanwhile, GNU/LINUX gives you the installer,
the source code, the freedom – everything.**

“When software you paid for denies you the right to reinstall, it's not your computer anymore.
RECLAIM YOUR MACHINE. RECLAIM YOUR FREEDOM. SWITCH TO FREE SOFTWARE.

New forms of Exploitation

OFFLINE WINDOWS? NOT ALLOWED

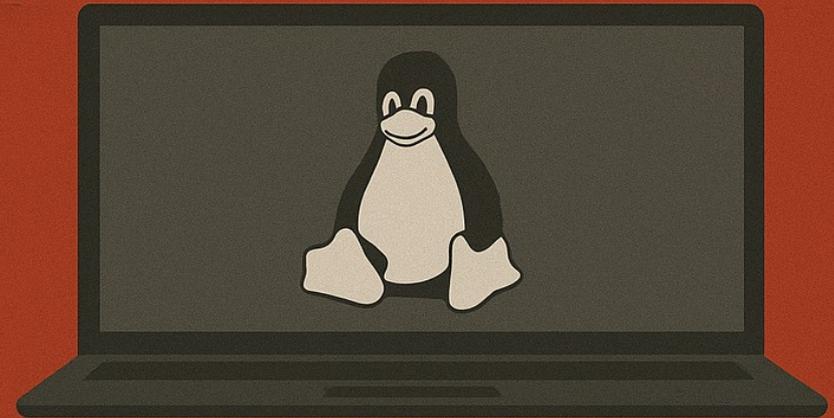
FREEDOM COSTS INTERNET ACCESS



WINDOWS 11 refuses to install
without an Internet connection.

You can't even create a local account unless you
hack around the setup.

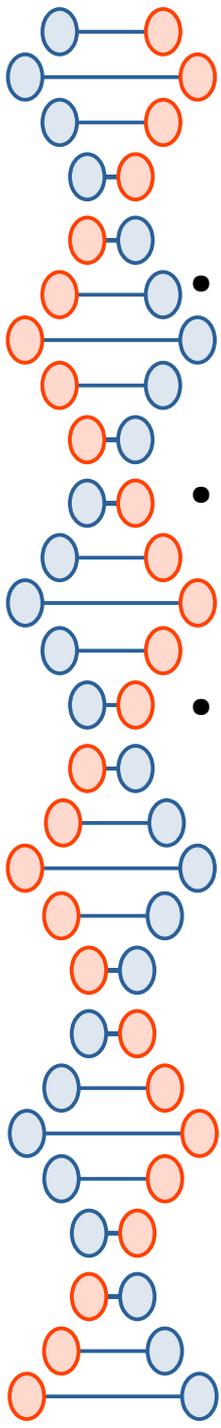
CHOOSE FREEDOM. CHOOSE FREE SOFTWARE. ^{to you.}



MEANWHILE, GNU/LINUX
asks for nothing.

It installs offline, boots offline,
works offline — because it belongs

^{to you.}

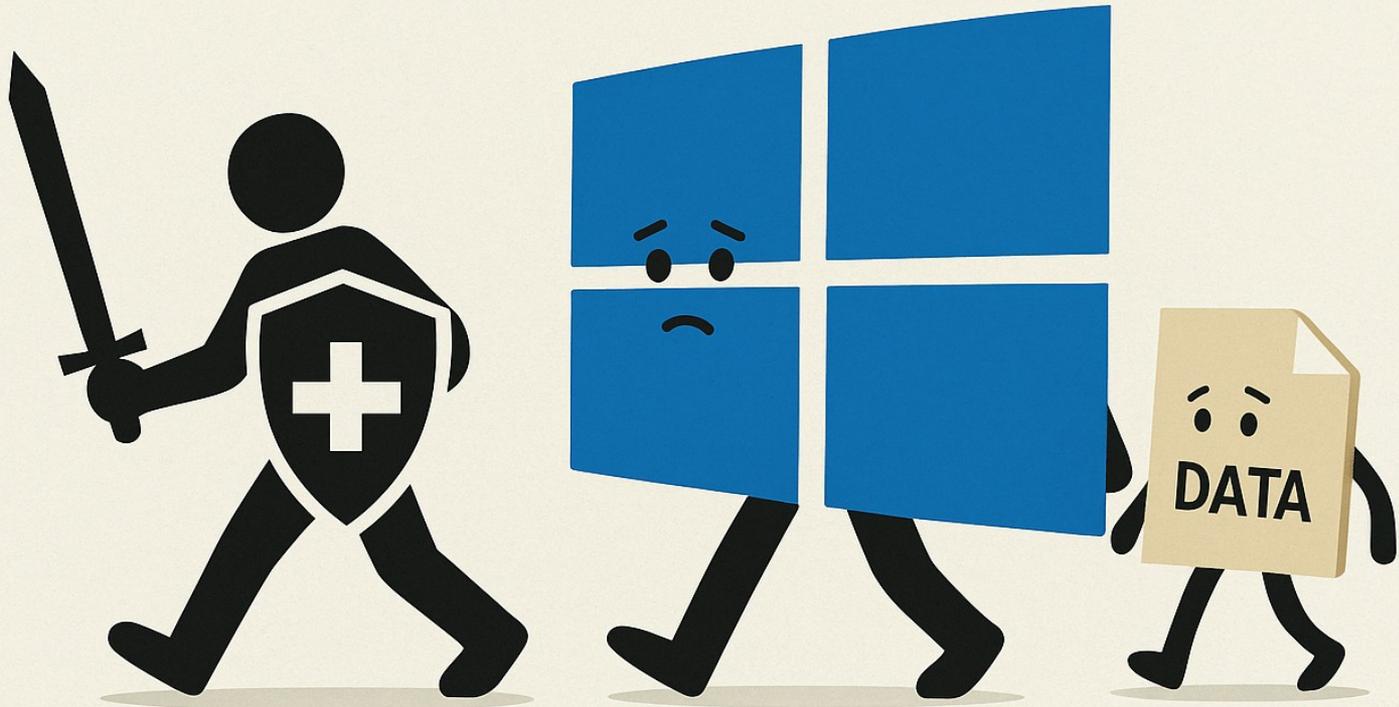


Why Windows-11 insists on a Microsoft Account ?

- Your computer becomes Microsoft's surveillance device.
- Bundling features that create new data flows (AI + tracking).
- Designing defaults that favour data collection (**enabled by default**, opt-out, or buried settings).

Whom you are trusting with your
Data ?

Your data is safe with me,
I am safe only with antivirus software.



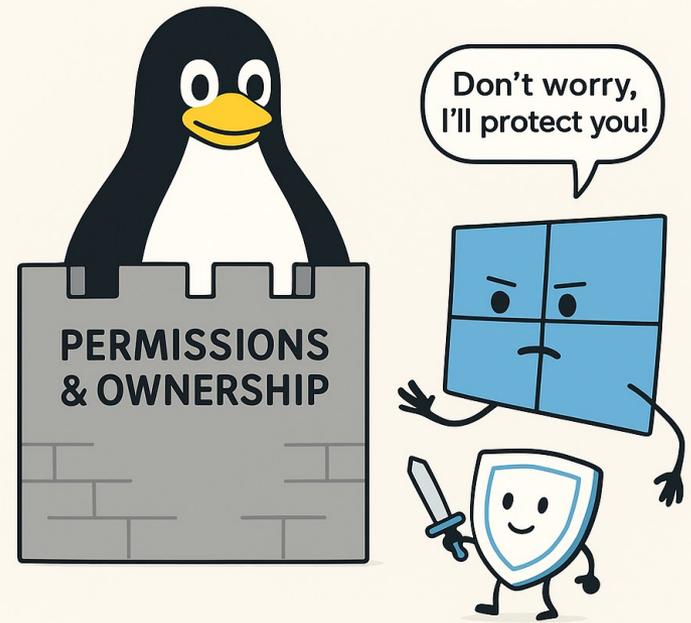
Can you imagine US army saying
“We are protected by ABC securities, Texas”

Why MSWindows is not Secure ?

The concept of Ownership and Permissions are at the core of all Unix like Operating systems.

When you use GNU/Linux you are running it as an ordinary user and any program that you run cannot modify the system resources.

Windows doesn't follow such a scheme and depend on Anti-virus software that are ineffective against new viruses, until their signature is included in the antivirus software database..



**GNU/Linux: Security
by Design, Not by Antivirus**

Comparison with other software vendors

- "Google wants your data. Microsoft wants your data and your money."
- "At least Google gives you something free. Microsoft charges you to be watched."
- "You paid for Windows — but it still reports to Redmond."
- "Free services mining your data is one thing. Paid spyware is another."
- "With Google, you're the product. With Microsoft, you're both customer and product."



TOP CONCERNS ABOUT WINDOWS 11 AND AI INTEGRATION

1. MASSIVE DATA COLLECTION ('WINDOWS RECALL')

Captures frequent screenshots of your activity to build an AI-searchable timeline. Even “local only” storage can expose private information

3. FORCED CLOUD DEPENDENCE

Windows 11 increasingly requires online accounts and cloud syncing. Local account setup is hidden or discouraged, converting stand-alone PCs into thin clients for leasor

4. HARDWARE LOCK-IN ('COPILOT+PCS')

AI features tied to specific CPUs/NPUs pushing unnecessary upgrades.

5. OPACITY IN AI DATA USE

Microsoft does not clearly disclose how interaction data (text, voice, behavior) feeds its AI models. “Improving the service” can legally include training algorithms on user data

6. SECURITY AND LEGAL LIABILITY

Sensitive data stored in Recall's local database may be vulnerable to malware or insider access. Users may unknowingly violate data-protection laws

7. PSYCHOLOGICAL AND SOCIETAL IMPACT

Always-on surveillance. Normalizing a generation to accept opaque, unaccountable digital systems

IN SHORT WINDOWS 11 TURNS PERSONAL COMPUTERS INTO MONITORED TER

The solution

GNU/Linux ecosystem created by

Richard Stallman, Linus Torvalds and many others.



Richard Stallman: The Programmer - Idealist

- Harvard University (1970–74) BA Physics
- MIT AI Lab as a Programmer (1971–1980s)
- 27-Sep-1983, Announces the GNU project (a free OS).
- Established the Free Software Foundation (FSF) in 1985
- Wrote GCC, GNU Emacs and many other tools
- GPL (GNU General Public License)

Inspired a movement, not just tools

Open Book: Free as in Freedom



A Kernel for the GNU Operating System from Linus Torvalds

Biography: [Just for Fun](#)



- Started coding in BASIC on a VIC-20 , at the age of 10
- Joins MS computer science at Helsinki University, Finland
- 1991, Bought a 386 computer, **partly on credit.**
- Started writing an OS Kernel (Used GNU tools like GCC)
- Named it Linux (Unix from Linus), suggested by a co-worker.
- Shared according to the ideals of Science
- Switched to GNU GPL, after listening to a talk by Stallman
- Version 1.0 of Linux released in **March 1994**
- Together with GNU, a complete free OS became available.

Current Status of GNU/Linux

- Web Servers: Approximately 70% of all websites
- Cloud Infrastructure: Around 90%.
- Supercomputers: All of the top 500
- Software Development: About 53% of software
- Machine Learning: 87%

Desktop: Around 4% only, mainly because of the OEM vendors (Like Dell, HP etc.) influenced by Microsoft. Very few models are offered without Windows pre-installed. That was the Windows OS cost is charged by default.

Why Free Software Matters ?

- In 1980s the entire software industry was controlled by few corporations and software was very expensive.
- Arrival of GNU/Linux enabled a lot of new firms to come up (Google for example)
- Software became cheaper, open and more democratic due to the Free Software movement.
- AI systems of today is similar to the Operating Systems of 1980s, closed and owned by few.
- Free Software is the only option to make AI more democratic, essential due to many reasons.
 - Available AI tools: TensorFlow , PyTorch , Scikit-learn, OpenCV, Hugging Face Transformers

Implications of Free Software

- Prevents wasteful expenditure
 - We spend ~ Rs 3000 crores annually for Windows OS
 - No Forced Hardware upgrades
- Avoids dependence on foreign or proprietary software vendors (e.g., Microsoft, Oracle)
- Freedom from proprietary file formats.
- Ideal for teaching and learning, since students can study how the software works.
- Freedom isn't just technical — it's social and political.

How GNU/Linux reaches you

Different parts like the Kernel, Compilers, Web Servers, etc. are developed by different groups. An ordinary user need to get them ready for installing on a computer.

This need is taken care by the GNU/Linux Distributions, like

- Slackware - Started by an individual
- Redhat - First corporate distro (Fedora)
- Debian - An organization of Free Software developers
- Ubuntu - A Debian based distro, from Canonical Inc.
- Mint - A Debian based distro, community supported.

FREEDOM BEGINS IN THE CLASSROOM

KERALA LEADS WITH FREE SOFTWARE

EDUCATION REFORM

OVER 15,000 SCHOOLS USE GNU/LINUX, LIBREOFFICE, GIMP

GOVERNMENT POLICY

OFFICIAL FOSS POLICY
DIGITAL SOVEREIGNTY



INTERNATIONAL RECOGNITION

MODEL FOR STATES & COUNTRIES

LEARN MORE AT

www.gnu.org

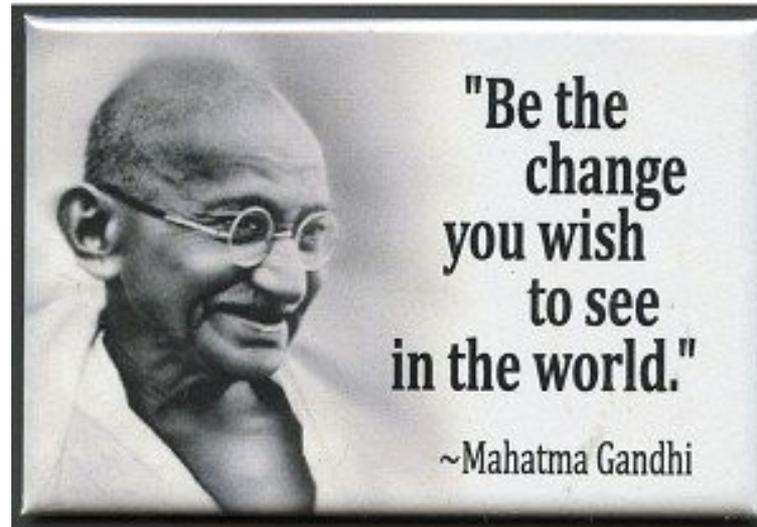
www.fsf.org

← Poster created by ChatGPT

It looks like it is unaware of the black spots in this shining example, Colleges in Kerala.

- Mostly unaware of Free Software.
- Struck with the proprietary MSWindows OS, including the computer science departments.
- Happy with a pre-installed OS and troubled either by virus or antivirus programs.

How can you help ?



- Start using a Free OS and software tools.
- Learn how to install GNU/Linux.
- Help others to convert to Free Software

Don't dance to strings unseen,

Stand tall, think clean,

Be your own being

A free human being.

Thank You