Software Freedom

An Introduction to GNU/Linux

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Cars and Computers

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- Access to source code (which means...?)

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Q: What’s GNU? A: GNU’s Not Unix!

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(1) To study how a program works, and adapt it to your own needs

(2) To redistribute copies of the program (sharing recipes)

(3) To improve the program and release improvements to the public (benefitting the whole community)

Kinds of Software

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Utilities (generally less familiar)

- Development tools (compilers, headers, libraries)
- Text editors (vi, emacs. . .)
- Scripting languages (bash, Perl, Python)
- File manipulation (cat, grep, less, sed, sort, tar, uniq. . .)

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- Hardware is useless without software

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- Unsupported by ITS

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- Price (cost of the medium), copying (encouraged), freedom from the enforced upgrade cycle

Further Reading

http://mathcs.holycross.edu/~ahwang/current/gnu_linux.html