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If it's public money, make it public code!

How to effectively push for
Free Software all over Europe

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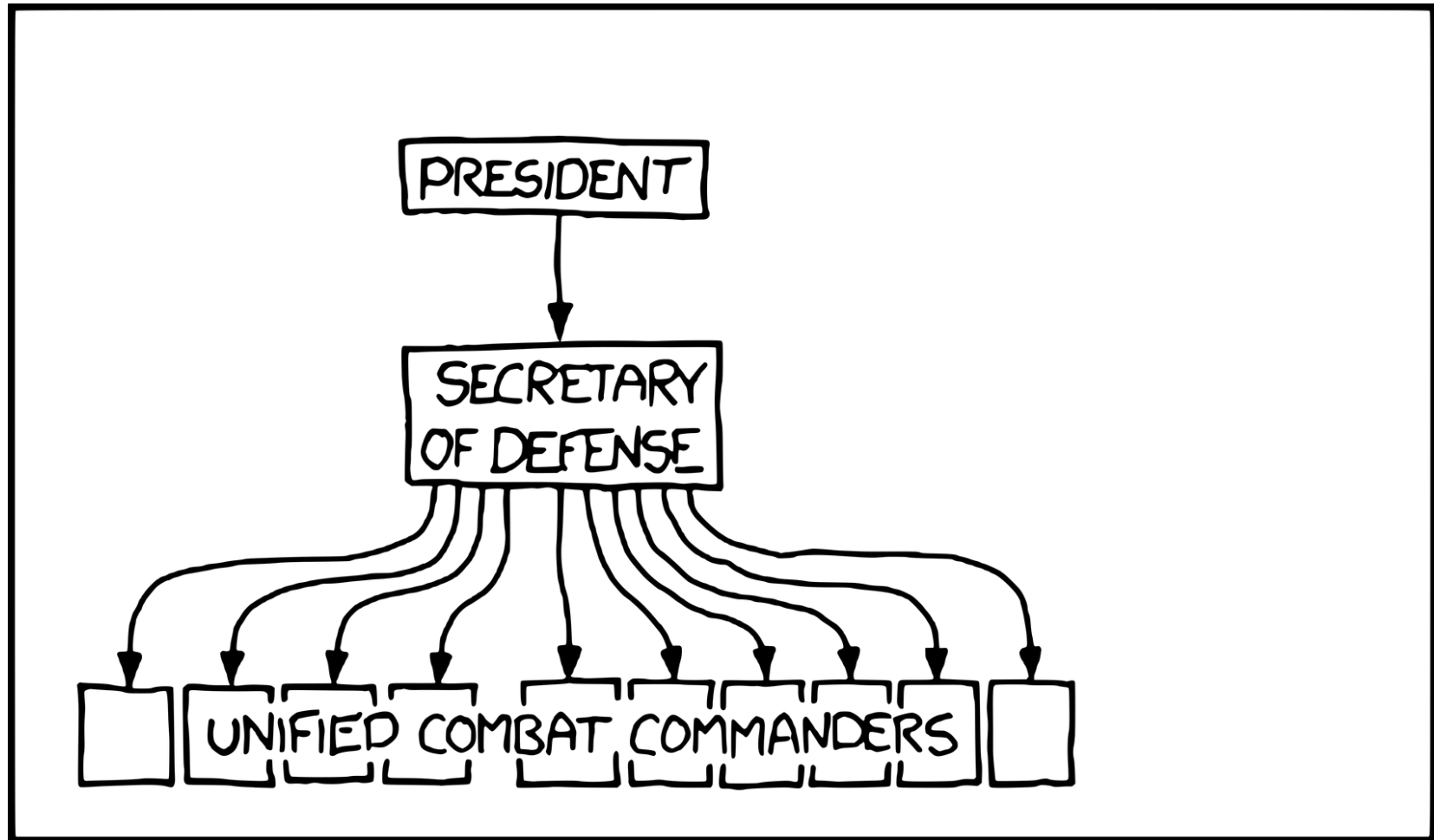


**Free Software Foundation Europe is a charity
that empowers users to control technology.**

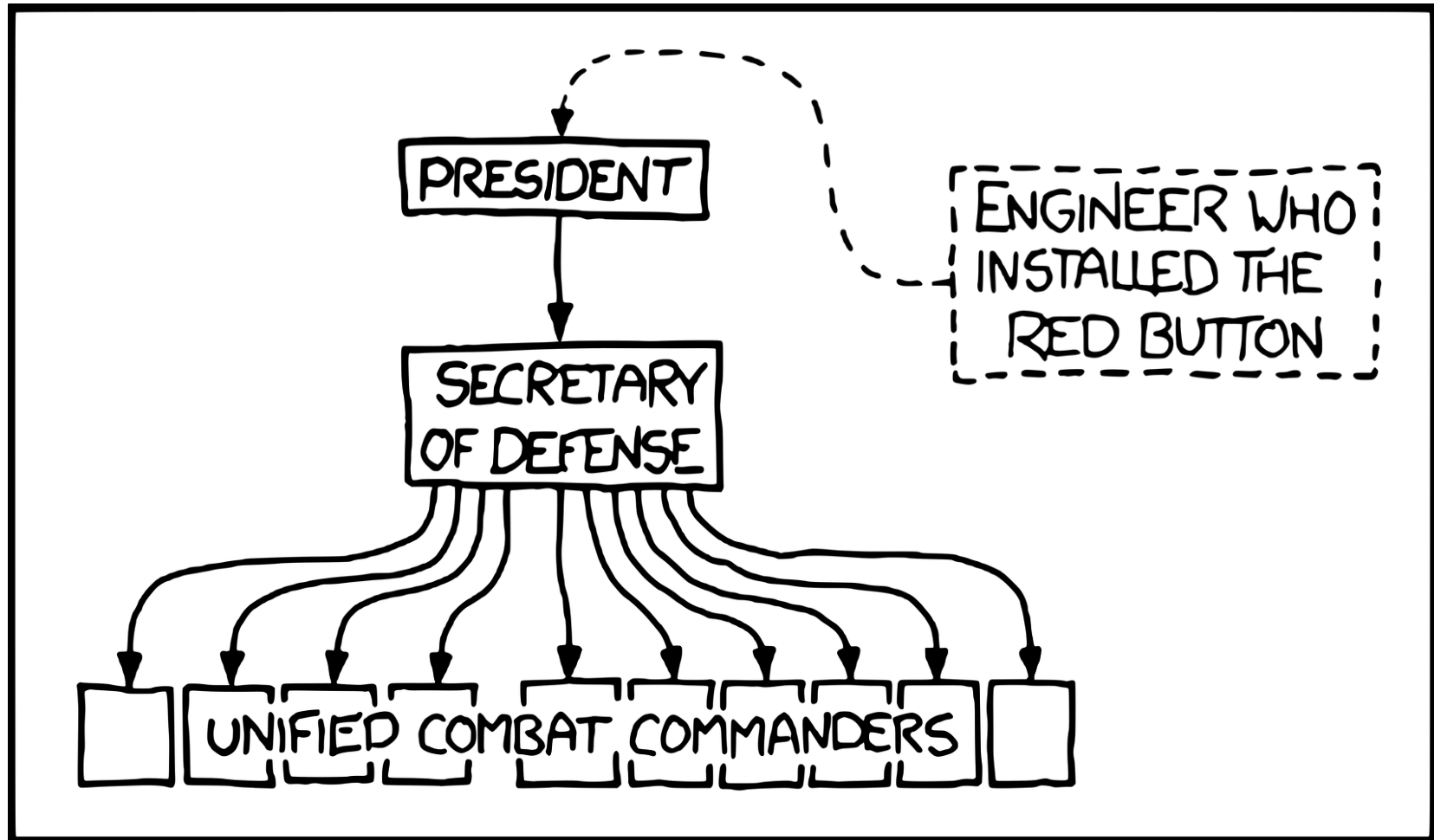




- **Why does Free Software matter?**
- **The “Public Money? Public Code!” campaign**
- **How can you get involved?**



US NUCLEAR CHAIN OF COMMAND



US NUCLEAR CHAIN OF COMMAND

What is Free Software

Use

The software can be used for any purpose without restrictions.

Study

The software and its code can be analysed by anyone.

Share

The software can be shared without limitations.
The price doesn't matter.

Improve

The software can be modified by you or others to give back to the community.





**Why should
public bodies
support Free
Software?**



Digital Sovereignty

In order to establish trustworthy systems, public bodies must ensure they have

full control over the software and the computer systems

at the core of our state digital infrastructure.





Public Money

Public bodies are financed through taxes.

They must make sure they spend funds in the most efficient way possible.

Problem: proprietary software

- **no interoperability**
- **vendor lock-in**
- **unpredictable costs & maintenance**
- **loss of investments**
- **no acceptance due to lack of transparency**
- **security concerns**

Problem: proprietary software

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- interoperability through open standards
- independence through free licences
- cost reduction through collaboration
- empowers local partners
- transparency by default
- auditable code

Solution: Free Software



Governments are among the largest purchasers of information technology (IT) goods and services accounting for up to 27% of software companies' revenues.



Public Money



Tax savings

Similar applications don't have to
be programmed from scratch
every time.





Public Money



Collaboration

Major projects can share expertise
and costs.



Public Money



Serving the public

Applications paid by the public
should be available for everyone.

Public Money



Fostering innovation

With transparent processes, others
don't have to reinvent the wheel.





France regulation led to

a 0.6% - 5.4% yearly increase in companies that use FS,

a 9% - 18% yearly increase in the number of IT-related startups,

a 6.6% - 14% yearly increase in the number of individuals employed in IT related jobs,

and a 5% - 16% yearly decrease in software related patents.



Barcelona:

Collaboration with other cities

70% of its software budget to be invested in Free Software

3.000 Companies, 60% SMEs

Germany:

re@di – collaboration of 9 municipalities

develop solutions together

exchange of information

Why you should support Free Software



Regionality

Regional SMEs can become strong partners



Autonomy

Free Software helps to develop and maintain tailored software that suits your needs, not just the vendor's business model.



Efficiency

With transparent processes, others don't have to reinvent the wheel. Major projects can share expertise and cost.



We want legislation requiring that publicly financed software developed for the public sector be made publicly available under a Free and Open Source Software license.

If it is public money, it should be public code as well.

<https://publiccode.eu>

UNTERSTÜTZENDE ORGANISATIONEN

Die folgenden Organisationen unterstützen unseren [Offenen Brief](#). Wenn deine Organisation sich ebenfalls dem Aufruf für Public Code anschließen will, [kontaktiere uns bitte](#).

Alle

Internationale NGOs

Verwaltungen

Nationale NGOs

Regionale NGOs



Already **33374 SIGNATURES** –
sign the open letter now!

SUPPORTING ORGANISATIONS

The following organisations support our [open letter](#). If your organisation is also interested in joining the call for Public Code, please [contact us](#).

☐ All

☐ International NGOs

☒ Administrations

☐ National NGOs

☐ Regional NGOs





Open Letter

Publicly funded software has to be [Free and Open Source Software](#). While there are plenty of good reasons for this, many politicians don't know about them yet.

Free Software gives everybody the right to use, study, share and improve software. This right helps support other fundamental freedoms like freedom of speech, press and privacy.

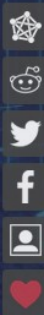
This is where you can help! Sign the open letter to give our message more weight. **34278 people** and **220 organisations** have already signed. We will hand over the letter and signatures to your representatives and make sure that they understand that: Public Money? Public Code!

Public Money? Public Code!

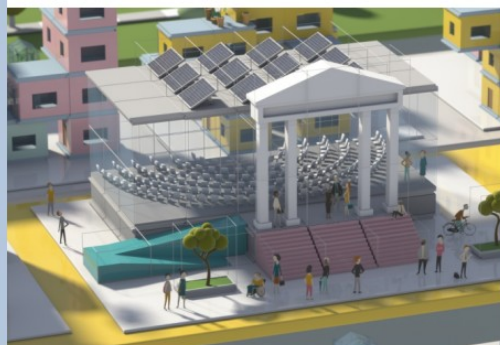
Digital services offered and used by our public administrations are the critical infrastructure of 21st century democratic nations. In order to establish trustworthy systems, public bodies must ensure they have full control over the software and the computer systems at the core of our state digital infrastructure. However, right now, this is rarely the case due to restrictive software licences that:

- Forbid sharing and exchanging publicly funded code. This prevents cooperation between public administrations and hinders further development.
- Support monopolies by hindering competition. As a result, many administrations become dependent on a handful of companies.
- Pose a threat to the security of our digital infrastructure by forbidding access to the source code. This makes fixing backdoors and security holes extremely difficult, if not completely impossible.

We need software that fosters the sharing of good ideas and solutions. Like this we



Public Money Public Code



Modernising Public Infrastructure with Free Software

10 Myths About Free Software

Although Free Software has become more of a perception is still dominated by very persistent time to shed some light on the most common

01

"It is impossible to do business with Free Software"

Free Software licences drive innovation and business all over the world. They rely on them. Car manufacturers apply Free Software to on-board emergency calls. The trading platform of the London Stock Exchange. Moreover, major servers in many global companies rely on Free Software. tech companies today would not exist without Free Software.

02

"Free Software is developed by amateurs."

Although there are a large number of Free Software projects that have been developed by amateurs, it is not true that only hobbyists contribute code. Many highly qualified IT professionals. Large companies invest millions of euros by assigning their employees to work on improving code. Today, the contributions to the Linux kernel, the core of GNU/Linux operating systems, are made by professional developers. Although the Linux kernel was initiated by a company, it is a part of critical IT infrastructure for almost all global players.

03

"There is no professional support for Free Software"

Many Free Software companies specialise in support services for clients. They offer consultation, the development and implementation of updates, or training. Companies who seek professional support packages can choose from a large number of providers. It is a myth that tech companies are not supported. Business associations such as OW2, OpenForum Europe (formerly Alliance OSSA) represent hundreds of small and medium-sized companies in Free Software services.

04

"Making source code publicly available poses security risks."

Free Software code that is publicly accessible can be checked by its users and deliberately installed backdoors. The publication of code is a security risk. Restrictive licences keep useful help away, while failing to

First Steps to Support Free Software

When it comes to the question of how to support Free Software in IT infrastructure, even small steps can have a big impact. The FSFE's expert network collected useful guidelines in politics and public administration to strengthen the role of Free Software in the



Organisational

- Use open standards and open file formats. This reduces switching costs.
- Reduce the hurdles for your staff to publish software under a Free Software licence.
- Make sure that the public code repository of your Free Software project is well documented if you have one.



Projects

- If you lack the experience, start with smaller projects.
- Make sure that your software code is well documented if you have one.
- Do not invent new licences, but use common ones.¹ This makes your code more compatible.



Cooperation

- Check first, if a Free Software project already exists that solves your problem.
- Benefit from economies of scale. Look for allies that might be interested in launching larger projects on their own.
- Collaborate with existing projects and communities and benefit from "lessons learned".



Education

- Spread the word when you publish code to encourage collaboration.
- Provide training about the use of Free Software licences.
- Invite input from specialists from within the Free Software community.



Legal

- Encourage the use of Free Software licences by setting quotas.
- Change the procurement procedure by making a Free Software licence a mandatory condition for purchasing software.
- Require public administrations to formally justify the purchase of non-Free Software alternatives.

¹ List of common Free Software licences: <https://www.gnu.org/licenses/licenses-list.txt>

Using Free Software to Democratise Smart Cities

Free Software has become a core element of Barcelona's smart city and digitalisation agenda. In this interview, Francesca Bria, Chief Technology and Digital Innovation Officer (CTIO) for the Barcelona City Council, explains how Free Software is supporting innovation.

In your work, you often refer to digital sovereignty and ethical digital standards. Could you briefly explain what digital sovereignty is, and what role Free Software has in relation to it?

We ensure that the data is secure and anonymous, and that people can decide what data they want to keep private, and what data they want to donate to the city and on what terms.

I have been appointed as CTIO of Barcelona to rethink the digital and technology agenda of the city, in particular the smart city agenda. My mission is to democratise data and technology, and to rethink their governance in a way that serves the people.

What is the key advantage of Free Software in this respect?

The greatest possibility lies in the ability to see and inspect the code, learn from it, and reuse it. This is very important, because you can minimise the costs and concentrate on investing in human resources and capabilities instead of licensing.



Decidim is a participatory democracy framework software that allows citizens to debate, attend meetings and create proposals with the goal of improving life in the city. The platform's source code is publicly available, enabling other cities to use and adapt it to their own requirements. It is based on a similar Free Software project by the Madrid City Council, called Camalot.

Free Software makes all the difference. First of all, government is investing public money and that's why citizens should control the software and the platform should remain in the public domain. As one of the city's biggest Free Software projects, we are learning a lot from Decidim Barcelona. We even had to change procurement standards to make sure that government legislation allows a platform that is managed and governed by a community.

Another key reason is technological sovereignty, which means getting away from vendor lock-in and dependency on big corporate players, being able to change providers, work with local entrepreneurs who respect users' rights and freedoms, and retain control of our data. With proprietary software, everything was outsourced to external providers and experts, who work with specific technologies. We don't want to keep losing this kind of inside knowledge.

For us, privacy awareness, data sovereignty, distributed technology, and Free Software are key components of a city's digital infrastructure. Due to another Free Software project, called Decidim, we are adding a module to Decidim, which gives citizens control over their

Free Software allows us to work with communities, use the talent of Free Software developers and collaborate with other cities on joint projects. In the long run, you can be more autonomous, you can be more independent, and you can be more transparent. Moreover,



Activities – Where?

Act on different levels:

**local, regional, national, international
administration, university, police...**



Activities – Who?

Decision makers

Members of a party

IT Department



Activities – How?

Use convincing examples

Choose your arguments wisely

...and always keep smiling! :)

FSFE welcomes CDU decision to make Free Software mandatory

on: 2019-11-25



The Free Software Foundation Europe welcomes the conservative CDU's party convention resolution on the use of Free Software. At its 32nd party conference this weekend, the CDU ("Christian Democratic Party") resolved to join FSFE in demanding that software developed with public money should be publicly available as Free Software. This decision aligns with our "Public Money, Public Code!" campaign, which is supported by over 170 organisations and 26,000 individuals.

Matthias Kirschner, President of FSFE, states: "Free Software gives everyone the right to use, study, share and improve programs for any purpose. These freedoms strengthen other fundamental rights such as freedom of speech, freedom of the press and the right to privacy. Digital sovereignty can only be achieved through Free Software. We are pleased that our campaign has now gotten through to the governing CDU party and that the conservatives support our demand "Public Money? Public Code!". We now expect the CDU to immediately work within the government to create the legal basis for publicly funded software to be released under a Free- and Open-Source Software license."





Activities – When

Timing matters!

Step in if something is going to happen

but also be proactive

and always follow up!





Pica Pica Hacklab, Orviedo (Spain)

(Picture by Marcos Suárez, CC-BY 4.0)

"The Parliament of Asturias commits itself to the international "Public Money, Public Code" campaign."

2015 – 2019: long breath

outreach to all parties: arguments!

email – face to face – knock on doors

hand them the brochure

not legally binding –but a first step!

They understand Free Software.



Activities – Success?!

Sign the letter! =)

**But also if they do not sign you
could win!**

Support the FSFE's work!



<https://fsfe.org/donate>

**Donate by 12 February and get
a chance to win this book*!**

***Limited copies can also be purchased at the
FSFE booth (building K)**

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