Power, Software, Freedom

Why we need to divide and re-conquer our systems

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Free Software Foundation Europe

FOSDEM, Feb 5, 2011

Free Software Foundation Europe (FSFE) is part of the global network of independent FSFs.

- ▸ awareness
- ▸ policy
- ▸ legal work

FSFE's Fellowship http://fellowship.fsfe.org as a network for activists.

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"Starting this Thanksgiving I am going to write a complete Unix-compatible software system called GNU (for Gnu's Not Unix), and give it away free to everyone who can use it. Contributions of time, money, programs and equipment are greatly needed."

Richard Stallman, Sept 27, 1983

We've come pretty far.

- ▶ Free operating systems
- ▶ Free servers
- ▶ Free desktops
- ▶ Free Software everywhere
- ▶ Freedom everywhere?

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- Freedom everywhere?

"It's stupidity. It's worse than stupidity: it's a marketing hype campaign."

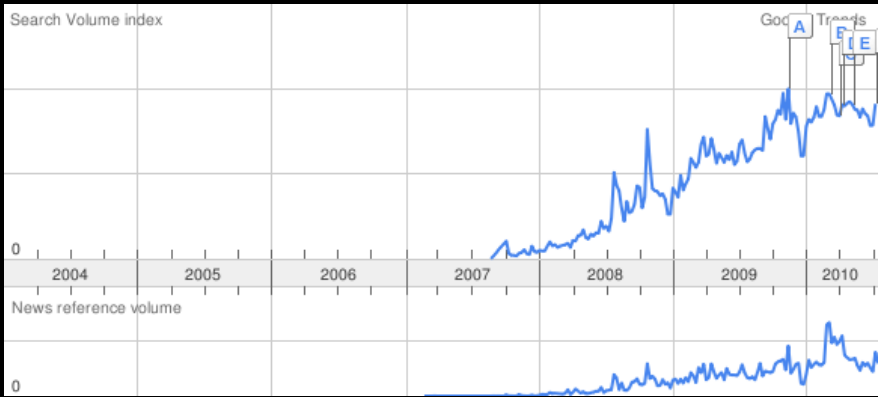"It's stupidity. It's worse than stupidity: it's a marketing hype campaign."

Richard Stallman, guardian.co.uk, Sept 29, 2008

"The interesting thing about cloud computing is that we've redefined cloud computing to include everything that we already do. The computer industry is the only industry that is more fashion-driven than women's fashion. Maybe I'm an idiot, but I have no idea what anyone is talking about. What is it? It's complete gibberish. It's insane. When is this idiocy going to stop?"
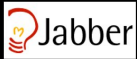
"The interesting thing about cloud computing is that we've redefined cloud computing to include everything that we already do. The computer industry is the only industry that is more fashion-driven than women's fashion. Maybe I'm an idiot, but I have no idea what anyone is talking about. What is it? It's complete gibberish. It's insane. When is this idiocy going to stop?"

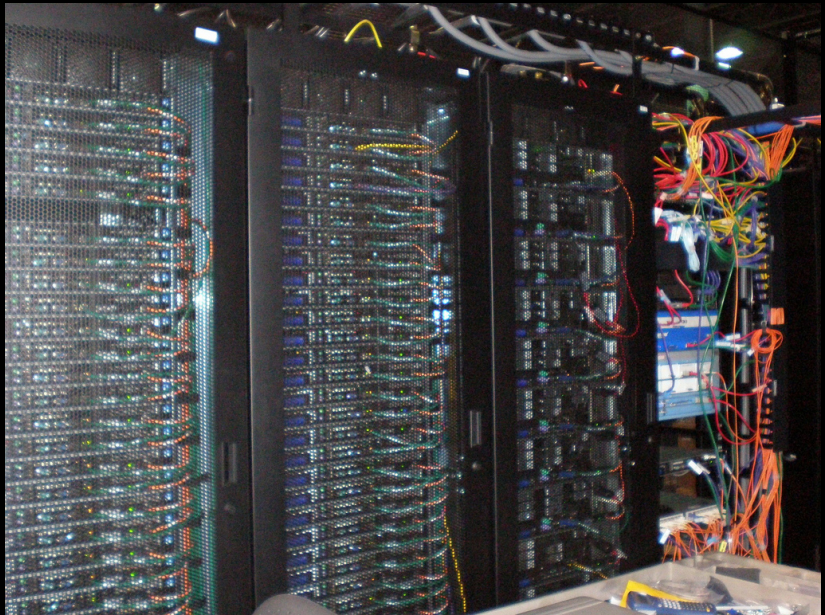Larry Ellison, Oracle, Sept 26, 2008

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What's cool about cloud computing?

- ▶ Omnipresence
  - ▶ get to your data from anywhere
  - ▶ on any device
  - ▶ use programs from anywhere
- ▶ easy to use
  - ▶ no installation
  - ▶ no maintenance

But how free are you in the cloud?

- ▸ Can you use the software, for any purpose?

- ▸ Can you study it, and adapt it to your needs?

- ▸ Can you redistribute copies of the software?

- ▸ Can you modify the software, and distribute modified versions?

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Where's your data?

Where's your data going?

You have to be fucking kidding, Yahoo!
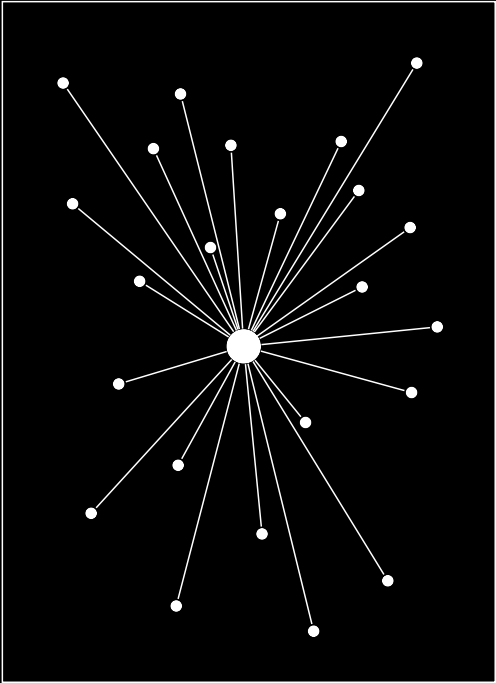
flickr

Fast fertig!

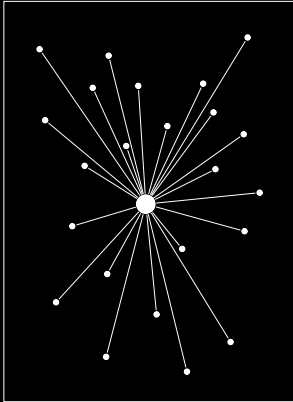Wählen Sie Ihren neuen Flickr Benutzernamen.

Sie können diesen jederzeit ändern. Leerstellen sind zulässig.

MEINEN ACCOUNT ERSTELLEN

Die Community ist der wichtigste Bestandteil von Flickr. Stellen Sie sicher, dass Sie unsere Community-Richtlinien kennen.
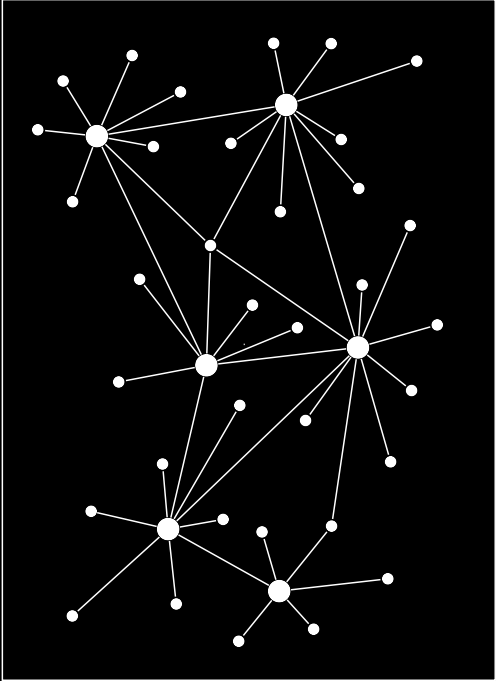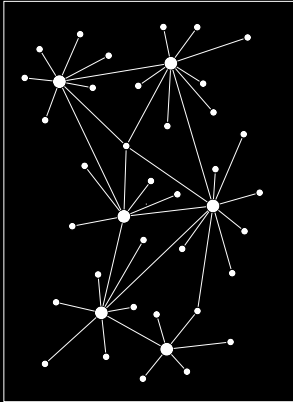
Power

Centralised network
Power over

- ► Program behaviour
- ► Terms of service
- ► Network beaviour

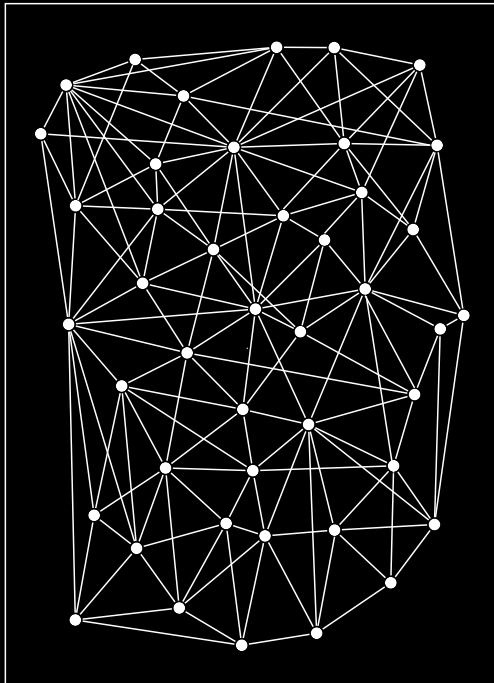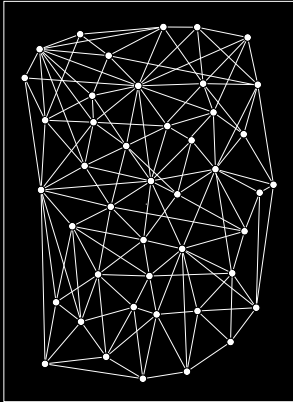**Decentralised network**
Power in every single node, but
no central controlling instance

- the web
- Email
- Jabber
- Status.net

Distributed network
Everybody is equal, no instance
has power over the others.

- BitTorrent
- GnuNET

Freedom

Systems that will respect our freedom:

- ▸ Decentralised or distributed design
- ▸ Use open standards and protocols to communicate between instances
- ▸ easy to create local instances
- ▸ software available under AGPLv3 or later
- ▸ let us export our data at any time in a standardised, documented format

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But what about the omnipresence?

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"We have to distinguish between visions and hallucinations."
Vint Cerf
Internet Governance Forum, Vilnius, Lithuania
Sept. 16, 2010

Want to own your social network?

GNU Social
http://groups.fsf.org/wiki/Group:GNU_Social

DIASPORA*
http://www.joindiaspora.com/

OneSocialWeb
http://onesocialweb.org/

Appleseed
http://opensource.appleseedproject.org/

The Friend of a Friend (FOAF) project
http://www.foaf-project.org/

Peerscape
http://www.peerscape.org/

and many more...

Collect them at https://wiki.fsfe.org/CloudComputing

Protocols

- OStatus
  http://status.net/wiki/OStatus
- The Friend of a Friend (FoaF) project
  http://www.foaf-project.org/
- Webfinger
  https://code.google.com/p/webfinger/
- salmon-protocol
  http://salmon-protocol.org/
- Activity Streams
  http://activitystrea.ms/
- pubusbhubbub
  https://code.google.com/p/pubsubhubbub/
- Portable Contacts
  http://portablecontacts.net/
- microformats
  http://microformats.org/
- Federated Social Web
  http://federatedsocialweb.net/wiki/Main_Page

Collaboration

- Crabgrass
  http://crabgrass.riseup.net/
- BuddyPress
  http://buddypress.org/
- Dreamwidth
  http://www.dreamwidth.org/
- AROUNDMe
  http://www.barnraiser.org/aroundme

Micro-Blogging

- StatusNet (Identi.ca)
  http://status.net/
- OpenMicroBlogger
  http://openmicroblogger.org/
- Thimbl http://www.thimbl.net/

Instant Messaging

- XMPP (Jabber)
  http://xmpp.org/

Distributed file storage

- GNUnet
  http://gnunet.org/
- BitTorrent (DHT)
  http://www.bittorrent.org/
- ANGEL APPLICATION
  http://angelapp.missioneternity.org/
- OwnCloud
  http://owncloud.org/

Hallucination?

Hallucination?

or Vision?

There's more:

- user-owned ISPs
  e.g. French Data Network
  `http://www.fdn.fr`
- P2P currencies
  e.g. Bitcoin `http://www.bitcoin.org`
- Free Identity
  `http://freedentity.org`

Hallucination?

Hallucination?

or Vision?

Join one of these projects.

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Figure out what's missing, and build it.

Join one of these projects.

Figure out what's missing, and build it.

Think for yourself.

Join one of these projects.

Figure out what's missing, and build it.

Think for yourself.

Use technology. Don't let it use you.

Take the power back.

`https://wiki.fsfe.org/CloudComputing`

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March 30, 2010
http://documentfreedom.org
@documentfreedom