

# Free and Open Source Software

Andy Pepperdine

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# How can it be free?

- Started by engineers in their spare time for their own use
  - They want high quality stuff for themselves
  - They want rapid fixes to problems
  - But appearance not thought out for newcomers
- Now often supported by foundations, in turn supported by commercial interests
  - More work now going into user interfaces
  - Redhat is now a \$1 billion company

# How safe is it?

- Engineers use it! Security is taken very seriously
- Use standard formats (ISO, etc.) giving long term assurance documents can be read
- Browsing still needs care as the problems come from the websites, not your software
- Extras for doing more checks on what is happening

# Who uses it?

- The vast majority of websites run “Apache”
- Most sites execute on Linux platforms
- Android phones are based on Linux
- Routers usually run Linux
- Most companies have Linux in their data centres

# Why consider changing?

- Windows XP will cease support in April 2014
  - No updates
  - No security fixes
  - Become out of date
  - Replacement systems will not run on existing machines

# What could you do?

- Buy another PC from your friendly PC supplier
  - Windows 7 or Windows 8
  - Different interface
- Buy an Apple device of some sort
  - Convert all your files to new machine
  - Learn new applications
- Install Linux on your existing machine
  - Extend lifetime of what you have – for free
  - Learn new applications and maybe interface

# In the meantime

- Several free applications can be run on Windows as well as Linux
  - Learn how to use them before switching your system
- Firefox for browsing the web
- Thunderbird to handle e-mail
- LibreOffice for documents
  - letters, spreadsheets, presentation, books

# U3A FOSS group

We are here to help



# Where do I get them?

- Firefox
  - <https://www.mozilla.org/en-US/firefox/new/>
- Thunderbird
  - <https://www.mozilla.org/en-US/thunderbird>
- LibreOffice
  - <https://www.libreoffice.org/download/>
- Linux
  - Ask FOSS group for advice first