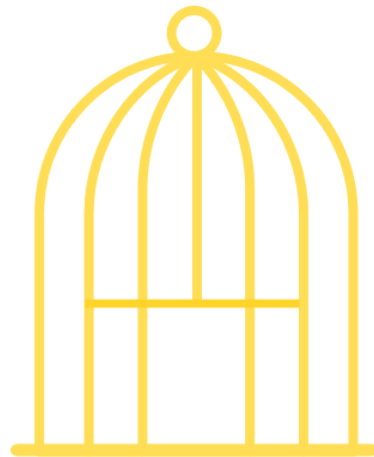# ETHICAL TECH GIVING GUIDE

Give the gift of freedom!

New electronic gadgets make great presents for family and friends, but so many of the phones, computers, and toys come with proprietary programs, privacy-disrespecting software, and surveillance tools hidden inside.

This guide replaces these holiday humbugs with better devices from ethical companies — no creepy remote deletion of files or punitive and mean rules about copying and sharing (https://gnu.org/proprietary). Just products and software that respect the freedom and privacy of your loved ones: gifts you can feel good about.

Most of the devices in this list carry a Respects Your Freedom (https://fsf.org/ryf) (RYF) hardware product certification, which means that the product meets our high standards for endorsement. RYF-certified devices make great purchases and great gifts at any time of year – learn more and explore the full list on our Web site (https://www.fsf.org/resources/hw/endorsement/respects-your-freedom).

We also hope that our Giving Guide will help you find new ways to talk about how these kinds of devices deny users their freedom, and why it's important to respect your freedoms.

Tell your friends (https://www.fsf.org/share? u=https://www.fsf.org/givingguide/&t=Check out the Free Software Foundation Ethical Tech Giving Guide)

Use #givefreely . You might get a gift out of it!

Host a Giveaway (https://www.fsf.org/givingguide/giving-guide-giveaway-primer)

Printable version coming soon!

Support free software

Donate to our suggested charities

Smartphones

Galaxy S3 with Replicant

Why it's cool: Your smartphone is so much more than a phone: it's a tiny computer you carry with you every day, and for many people around the world, it's their only Internet-enabled device. Choosing one of these phones lets you bring software freedom everywhere you go. You *can* run your favorite apps and send all the text messages you want, while still running free software.

You can also get an S2 (https://tehnoetic.com/tehnoetic-s2-phone-replicant) or an N2 phone/tablet (https://tehnoetic.com/tet-n2), complete with Replicant.

Runs the Replicant (https://www.replicant.us) free operating system, based on Android.

Features F-Droid (https://www.f-droid.org/), the free software catalog that makes it easy to get all the applications you need without sacrificing control of your phone.

Note: While the main processor exclusively runs free software, the modem processor runs a Samsung nonfree system.

Stay away from: iPhone

Comes with no shortage of spyware (https://www.gnu.org/philosophy/proprietary-surveillance.html#SpywareIniThings).

iOS is a fully proprietary operating system (https://gnu.org/proprietary), giving Apple control over the software on every Apple device.

Avoid: iPhone XR, iPhone XS, iPhone X, and other models.

Laptops, Tablets, and Desktops

Laptops

T400 with GNU/Linux

BUY   ^{SALE}

Why it's cool: The T400 is a popular laptop for running GNU/Linux because of how well-suited it is to work and play. Now you can get it completely free, with these RYF-certified options.

Setting up a fully free system is easier than it used to be, but can still seem daunting — especially if you've never done it before. Luckily, you can now get a new-to-you laptop that's ready to go out of the box.

Technoethical also has a T400s (https://tehnoetic.com/laptops/tet-t400s) available.

Runs the FSF-endorsed (https://www.gnu.org/distros/free-distros.en.html) Trisquel operating system and libreboot firmware.

Durable hardware is meant to last, and is easy to repair.

Created by small businesses that replace all restrictive components from a stock laptop.

Whether you purchase from Minifree or Technoethical, your T400 will be Respects Your Freedom certified (https://fsf.org/ryf).

Stay away from: Microsoft Windows

Runs on proprietary software (https://gnu.org/proprietary) that profits from treating the user as a product — forces users to consent to data collection (https://privacy.microsoft.com/en-US/privacystatement) for purposes including "targeted advertising."

Mandatory Windows updates force users to test potentially unstable new versions. Read more about Windows's abuses. (https://www.fsf.org/campaigns/windows)

Looking at a computer that includes an Intel CPU? Intel comes with Management Engine (https://www.fsf.org/blogs/sysadmin/the-management-engine-an-attack-on-computer-users-freedom), a hardware-based backdoor that gives Intel a permanent backdoor into your computer.

Compact Laptops

X200 with GNU/Linux

BUY   SALE

Why it's cool: Take it to the office, take it to the cafe, take it to class, take it home and set it up on the counter so you can rock out while you cook. Do all of this the easy way.

This machine is made to go everywhere with you, and thanks to our friends who make RYF-certified products, you can have your mobility and your freedom, too.

Runs the FSF-endorsed (https://www.gnu.org/distros/free-distros.en.html) Trisquel operating system with libreboot firmware. The X200 sold by Libiquity is also certified to Respect Your Freedom (https://www.fsf.org/ryf).

Durable hardware is meant to last, and is easy to repair.

Created by a small business that replaces all restrictive components from a stock laptop.

Stay away from: Apple

Runs on proprietary software (https://gnu.org/proprietary) that restricts the user's freedoms.

Apple has been opposing the Right to Repair (https://motherboard.vice.com/en_us/article/evmeya/apple-iphone-right-to-repair-california) for years.

Comes crawling with spyware (https://www.gnu.org/philosophy/proprietary-surveillance.html#SpywareInMacOS).

Avoid: MacBook Air (and MacBook Pro).

Note: Apple laptops come complete with Intel Management Engine (https://www.fsf.org/blogs/sysadmin/the-management-engine-an-attack-on-computer-users-freedom) as well.

Convertible Laptops/Tablets

X200t with GNU/Linux

BUY   SALE

Why it's cool: Use it as a laptop or as a tablet with a built-in stylus. It may not be a brand-new concept, but it'll always feel a little futuristic.

Enjoy all the portability of a tablet, without having to hunt-and-peck every letter when it comes time to do some work. It's versatile, multi-purpose, and stylish, and fits smoothly into every environment in your life (without pummeling you with the abuses of proprietary software).

Runs the FSF-endorsed (https://www.gnu.org/distros/free-distros.en.html) Trisquel operating system with Libreboot firmware.

Durable hardware is meant to last, and is easy to repair.

Created by a small business that replaces all restrictive components from a stock laptop.

Stay away from: iPad Pro

Apple uses Digital Restrictions Management (DRM) (https://www.defectivebydesign.org/what_is_drm_digital_restrictions_management) to block competing software.

Apple's App Store has been threatening user freedom for ten years (https://www.defectivebydesign.org/blog/apple_app_store_anniversary_marks_ten_years_proprietary_appsp From user surveillance to allowing governments to control app access, the Apple App Store has done it all.

Desktops

D16 Workstation with GNU/Linux

BUY   SALE

Why it's cool: Sometimes you need heavy-duty computing power that a laptop just can't provide.

Gamers, video editors, and other users may want or need a more powerful machine — a desktop is the answer when you really need that extra push. Also good for users who want a bigger screen.

Choose from two operating systems: the FSF-endorsed (https://www.gnu.org/distros/free-distros.en.html) operating systems Trisquel and Parabola.

Comes with free boot firmware.

You can customize and specialize this model to your needs -- the essence of user freedom!

Stay away from: Apple iMac

An iMac puts designers and filmmakers at risk:

Adobe Premiere Rush rents Mac (and Windows) users access to video editing software in exchange for control over their files.

Stay away from: Alienware Area-51 Threadripper

The newest Alienware gaming desktop comes with Ryzen Threadripper processors and loads of freedom-restricting proprietary software.

3D Printers

LulzBot Mini
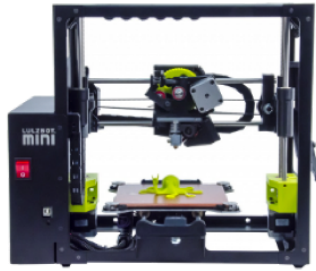
BUY   SALE

Why it's cool: Think ahead -- if you give this to your friend or relative, they might use it next year to make YOU a gift.

3D printers are an amazing learning and exploration tool for kids and a fun toy for grownups, and they've come a long way from their origins in the early 2000s. Keep it free and fun by digging into the thousands of free software options for modeling, and communities that share freely licensed designs.

Performance and seamless interface earned it "Editor's Choice" (https://www.tomsguide.com/us/best-3d-printers,review-2236.html) in _Tom's Guide_'s 2018 3D printer comparison.

Hardware designs are available to make customization easy. Standardized material format allows 3D printing with plastics, wood-, stone-, bamboo-, rubber-, and metal-like materials.

Stay away from: MakerBot

MakerWare software is proprietary, restricting freedom and stifling creativity (https://gnu.org/proprietary).

MakerBot was founded with a more freedom-respecting philosophy, but has since announced (https://www.cnet.com/news/pulling-back-from-open-source-hardware-makerbot-angers-some-adherents/) an increasingly proprietary approach and distanced itself from the community that formed around it.

Cool Devices

NeuG USB True Random Number Generator

BUY ^{SALE}

The perfect present for the cryptogeek in your life.

FST-01 (Flying Stone Tiny ZERO-ONE) is a tiny USB 32-bit computer based on a free (as in freedom) hardware design.

NeuG is an implementation of a true random number generator (TRNG) for STM32F103 MCU.

Mini Wi-Fi Adapter

BUY ^{SALE}

Why it's cool: Trying to go 100% free but stuck with a proprietary Wi-Fi card? Just plug this into your USB port and you're ready to go.

Great for all-free-software installations on laptops with incompatible Wi-Fi hardware.

Certified to Respect Your Freedom (https://www.fsf.org/ryf).

If you use a laptop listed in this Guide, an adapter like this won't be necessary.

Long Range Wi-Fi Adapter

BUY   SALE

More powerful than its smaller cousin, and can be further upgraded with a larger antenna.

Certified to Respect Your Freedom (https://www.fsf.org/ryf).

VPN Router

BUY   SALE

Designed to complement your existing router by providing a VPN that enhances privacy and security and circumvents network controls.

Designed for easy setup.

As free as can be: runs the FSF-endorsed (https://www.gnu.org/distros/free-distros.en.html) LibreCMC operating system on a product that is certified to Respect Your Freedom (https://www.fsf.org/ryf).

Books, Music, and Video

Books

DRM-free Ebooks

There are plenty of places (https://www.defectivebydesign.org/guide/ebooks) to get your literature fix without any pesky DRM. We're highlighting some publishers and shops you should patronize below!

Leanpub (https://leanpub.com/) is an author-driven ebook Web site encouraging people to "publish early, publish often."

Lektu (https://lektu.com/) provides you with media in Spanish.

Manning Publications (https://www.manning.com/ebooks) has audio and video in addition to ebooks.

No Starch Press (https://nostarch.com/) offers "the finest in geek entertainment."

Packt Publishing (https://www.packtpub.com/) has ebooks and videos covering a range of technical topics.

Smashwords (https://www.smashwords.com/books/category/1/bestsellers/0/any/any) is the world's largest distributor of indie ebooks.

Looking to buy paper books? Check out the GNU Press Shop (https://shop.fsf.org/collection/books-docs) for your technical manuals and documentation needs.

Stay away from: Amazon

Amazon is one of the most notorious DRM offenders (https://www.defectivebydesign.org/amazon). Whether it's their Kindle ebook reader or their countless DRM-encumbered ebooks, Amazon is the

place to go if you want to let someone else snatch away texts
(https://www.defectivebydesign.org/amazon-kindle-swindle) from your personal library.

Read more about DRM, the risks it poses, and the damage it causes
(https://www.defectivebydesign.org/).

Music

DRM-free Music

Many consider music essential to the richness of the human experience. Thanks to the many artists,
producers, record labels, and shops (https://www.defectivebydesign.org/guide/audio) highlighted on
Defective by Design (https://defectivebydesign.org), the rights-respecting options are nearly endless. Check
out music from great labels and artists, including:

Dischord Records (http://www.dischord.com/), a classic punk label providing music since 1980.

Emusic (https://www.emusic.com/) is the Web's second largest music store.

Folkways (https://folkways.si.edu/), courtesy of the Smithsonian Institute.

Stay away from: Spotify, iTunes, (and all other major streaming services)

Spotify is only one of many offenders when it comes to putting DRM in music: all major streaming
services do this, with the support of big record labels.

In addition to streaming music encumbered by DRM, people who want to use Spotify are required
to install additional proprietary software. Even Spotify's client for GNU/Linux
(https://www.spotify.com/us/download/linux/) relies on proprietary software.

Apple Music and iTunes streaming also use DRM on its files.

Video

DRM-free video

As winter comes to the Northern Hemisphere, it's the perfect time to curl up under a blanket and watch
some DRM-free video. In the Southern Hemisphere? Enjoy relaxing with a great movie actually owned by you.

You can find your DRM-free video fix (https://www.defectivebydesign.org/guide/video) at places including:

ComedyDirect (http://www.comedydirect.com/) can make you laugh while storing your videos locally.

Moving Image Archive (https://archive.org/details/movies) is a section of Archive.org (https://archive.org) containing thousands of film releases, available to stream or download.

WolfeOnDemand (http://wolfeondemand.com/) provides for all of your LGBTQ watching desires.

Stay away from: Netflix

Whether it's using major studios as scapegoats for using DRM (https://www.defectivebydesign.org/blog/tell_netflix_nix_drm_original_productions) or pushing for DRM as an official W3C Recommendation (https://www.w3.org/2017/09/pressrelease-eme-recommendation.html.en), Netflix has been at the front line of getting DRM into media online and in your home.

We need better choices!

Sadly, there is not always the opportunity to choose freedom. You have to decide what is the right thing for you to do. In this section of our guide, we've highlighted some of the types of devices where there isn't a good choice. We hope you'll take this list as inspiration for the free software projects you contribute to and support.

In need of development

Cameras

Ebook readers

Fitness trackers

Smart watches

Video gaming systems

Stay away from: These devices

Internet of Things connected home appliances, smart speakers, and virtual assistants are little more than spying devices brought into your home. These include Amazon Alexa, Amazon Echo, Google Home, Nest, Philips Hue lighting, Ring doorbell, Sonos One, and Wembo.

Self-driving cars are full of proprietary software, and they also pose a terrible risk to cyclists, pedestrians, and riders. Read more about (https://www.theguardian.com/technology/2017/jul/31/tesla-model-3-electric-car-doesnt-have-key-things-we-learned-speedometer-battery-sleep) the Tesla Model 3's anti-features and autopilot system.

Recommended organizations for holiday donations

(https://www.fsf.org/)

The Giving Guide is brought to you by the Free Software Foundation (https://fsf.org). We are powered by our Associate Members. Will you help us propel free software to new frontiers by joining today (https://my.fsf.org/join?pk_campaign=fall18&pk_kwd=ggjoin)?

(https://april.org/)   (https://www.openrightsgroup

(https://creativecommons.org/)(https://www.eff.org/)

(https://www.gnome.org/)   **(https://sfconservancy.org/)**

(https://www.wikimedia.org/)

Promotion details

Companies, distributors, and makers of freedom-friendly gadgets want to make it easier for you to give gifts that you feel good about. Check out these discounts and promotions.

- **GNU Press Shop:** 5% discount on all items using the coupon code `GIVEFREELY`. Code expires on December 31st. As always, FSF members get a 20% discount.

- **Libiquity:** 10% rebate off your subtotal price for any items you buy from the Web site. Libiquity will donate 5% of each purchase's subtotal price to the FSF. Ends at 00:00 EST on February 1st, 2019. Claim the rebate by sending the code `FSFGIVING` and your order number to sales@libiquity.com (mailto:sales@libiquity.com). Libiquity will then credit the rebate amount to your payment method.

- **LulzBot:** Features sales and clearance items on their Web site (https://www.lulzbot.com/lulzbot-sales-clearance-items).

- **Minifree:** Offering a discount on all products through the end of the year. (https://minifree.org/)

- **Technoethical:** 5% discount on **all** purchases using the coupon code `FSFHOLIDAYS`. FSF members get an additional 10% off, using the code `FSREWARDS`.

- **ThinkPenguin:** 5% discount on **all** products is available to FSF members (https://fsf.org/join).

- **Vikings:** 5% discount on **all** products and services between now and February 1, 2019. **Help the FSF:** Vikings will also make a donation to the FSF for each product purchased using the coupon code `fsfftw`.

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