Software Freedom Conservancy

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Software Freedom Conservancy

Software Freedom Conservancy is a not-for-profit charity that helps promote, improve, develop, and defend Free, Libre, and Open Source Software (FLOSS) projects. Conservancy provides a non-profit home and infrastructure for FLOSS projects. This allows FLOSS developers to focus on what they do best — writing and improving FLOSS for the general public — while Conservancy takes care of the projects' needs that do not relate directly to software development and documentation.

Recent News

Conservancy Asks Trademark Office to Protect Applicant's Personal Privacy

September 19, 2019

Software Freedom Conservancy today submitted a petition to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) asking that Office to reconsider recent rulemaking that exposes trademark owners' **personal** addresses. This rulemaking has a direct impact on Free and Open Source Software (FOSS) projects and charities (like Conservancy) that work to advance software freedom. FOSS is developed virtually, with limited budgets, and rarely does a FOSS project have office space. FOSS projects that register trademarks should not be required to disclose the personal, residential, home address of the project leaders. Furthermore, software freedom organizations are more likely to be full-telecommute organizations, in which case, the new USPTO rule requires disclosure of officers and/or directors home addresses.

Read More…

Richard Stallman Does Not and Cannot Speak for the Free Software Movement

September 16, 2019

We are passionate about software freedom because we know it is a necessary precondition to safe and effective software that we can rely on in the long term. We fight for copyleft because it is a powerful tool to help us actually control the technology that is being increasingly embedded in our lives. The fight for diversity, equality and inclusion is the fight for software freedom; our movement will only be successful if it includes everyone. With these as our values and goals, we are appalled at recent statements made by the President and founder of the Free Software Foundation, Richard Stallman, in his recent email to the MIT CSAIL mailing list.

When considered with other reprehensible comments he has published over the years, these incidents form a pattern of behavior that is incompatible with the goals of the free software movement. We call for Stallman to step down from positions of leadership in our movement.

We reject any association with an individual whose words and actions subvert these goals. We look forward to seeing the FSF's action in this matter and want to underscore that allowing Stallman to continue to hold a leadership position would be an unacceptable compromise. Most importantly, we cannot support anyone, directly or indirectly, who condones the endangerment of vulnerable people by rationalizing any part of predator behavior.

Edited to add: Late this past Monday night, [Richard Stallman resigned as president and from the board of directors of the FSF](#).

[Conservancy News Archive…](#)

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[Karen Sandler keynotes *State of the Map* Tomorrow!](#)

by Bradley M. Kuhn on September 20, 2019

If you are up late in US/Pacific, up early in US/Eastern, or in Europe, be sure to catch [the live stream of Karen Sandler](#)'s [keynote address](#) at the [2019 State of the Map Conference](#). The keynote begins at 10:30 EU/Central (08:30 UTC, 04:30 US/Eastern, 01:30 US/Pacific).

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[Conservancy News Round-up August](#)

by Deb Nicholson on September 11, 2019

Updates from many of our projects' departing summer interns, updates on what our contractors have been up to and pictures from recent events.

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[Microsoft & exFAT: One Step on a Long Journey](#)

by Karen Sandler on August 30, 2019

This week Microsoft [announced that](#) they would [sign off on inclusion of exFAT in upstream Linux](#). In this blog post, I take a closer look at what this means for patent peace around exFAT.

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As a 501(c)(3) non-profit charity, Conservancy relies on charitable donations for its operations. Please join 573 others and **become a Conservancy Supporter today** and/or donate generously to help our work!

Learn More about Conservancy

An Overview of Conservancy… Conservancy's current member projects… Services Conservancy provides to its member projects… Conservancy's unique work defending and upholding copyleft licenses (e.g., the GPL) … Conservancy's Non-Profit Accounting Project …

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