

What's free software?

Free software is software that can be freely used, modified, and redistributed. When all users have these freedoms, the result is that the software is under the control of the users.

The complete definition, written in the 80s by FSF, consists of 4 freedoms:

0. To run the software for any purpose
1. To study the software's source code and modify it to do as you wish
2. To redistribute copies
3. To distribute your modified versions

"Everyone needs a hacker"

Enough free software already exists to replace most of the EP's software, and it's an obvious match for the EU's values. We just need to write some software, spread the knowledge, and build awareness. EPFSUG is the group of hackers to make this happen.

How to help

The best way to know about specific needs is to join our mailing list and come to a meeting, but in general we're always looking for people to:

- Help install free software
- Help organise events
- Talk to people at our events - explain free software and give technical tips
- Write promotional texts
- Design graphics, websites, flyers
- Test software we'll give to MEPs
- Write free software

Our logo, "Edge"

In the Estonian legend, the hero Kalevide was losing a battle because the planks of wood he was using as weapons kept breaking. A small, smooth-skinned creature saved the day by telling him to use the edge of the planks instead of the flat. The hero went on to win the battle and he gave the little creature a rough piece of material torn from his coat to keep warm, which is why hedgehogs have spikes.

EPFSUG

Estd. 2011

EPFSUG is a
Free Software User Group
inside the **European Parliament.**

Wanna help?

Upcoming meetings and events are listed on <http://epfsug.eu>



What we've done



Get involved!

Launched in February 2011, EPFSUG has already grown to having 4 MEPs as Patrons, 14 people working in the EP have joined as Members, and we have 39 supporters outside the EP.

We've developed the tmail software to allow staff and MEPs to access their email with free software, which brings security and privacy improvements.

We've developed Parltrack which shows the status of legislation and who's tabling what amendments.

We've organised many events in the Parliament and interest from the EU institutions goes right to the top! We've had MEPs, a Director-General, a Head of Unit, and many other high-level staff. Topics have included the FreedomBox, free software in the EP, CiviCRM, Parltrack, how to put a completely free system on Android phones, and Ubuntu's Unity interface.

The discussion of free software use inside the EP has finally begun!

This all gets done by volunteers like you. The more help we get, the more free software there'll be in the EP. (See back of flyer for a list of tasks.)

Meetings

As well as EP events, we frequently meet outside the EP. Usually it's for carrot cake at lunchtime in Karsmakers. Meetings and events are announced on the website and the mailing list, and everyone's welcome.

Contact us

If you want to join EPFSUG, or just join our discussions, go to these websites:

- **Main site:** epfsug.eu
 - contains info about events, services, and becoming a member
- **Etherpad:** pad.epfsug.eu
 - collaborative writing tool
- **Mailing list:** epfsug.eu/www/lists
 - where most collaboration starts

Free Software and the EP need each other

Free software can make the EP's workings more transparent and ensure that all procedures, written documents, and multimedia files are in formats that can be supported by any software. The EP could examine what the software does, perform security audits, and copy it to new computers without seeking licences.

It would free the EP from lock-in so that the EP's software could be developed, modified, and supported internally or by any external company, including Europe's small- and medium-sized businesses. And by publishing its software as free software, the EP's IT spending becomes an investment for everyone.

At the same time, a better understanding of free software inside the European Parliament would be very helpful when it comes to writing laws about copyright, patents, IT procurement, open standards, and other topics touching computing and the Internet.