

# LibrePlanet 2014

## Free Software activism: European perspective and experience

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<http://www.april.org/en>*



What about you?

# Agenda

- Who are we?
- Why Free Software activism matters
- man legal
- Our role
- Past campaigns
- Upcoming campaigns
- Wrap up
- Useful links

# April – who are we?

- Founded in 1996
- Promoting and protecting Free Software
- 3 600 members, 3 full-time employees, a lot of volunteers
- Focusing on the French speaking area
- Working with the FSF since 1996

# Why Free Software activism matters

- Hackers create a lot of free software
- Social activism: spread awareness
- Political activism:
  - Impediments still exist (software patents, DRM...)
  - Creating a favorable political and legislative environment

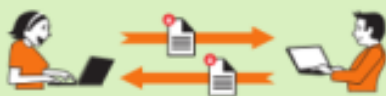
# What we do

- Promotional activities include:
  - Libre Association Guide
  - GNU.org translation
  - Conferences, outreach...

# Open formats, what for?

## ► So that users might read my documents unhindered

Users exchanging reports.



CLOSED FORMAT, IDENTICAL SOFTWARE

Alice uses the software program "Carcera". She records her report in a closed format (one that does not permit interoperability), then sends it to Bob, who has the same software program. He can read the document, modify it and send it back to Alice.



PROGRAMS WITH CLOSED FORMATS, DIFFERENT SOFTWARE

The following day, Alice sends her report to Albert. He doesn't have the same software program, which refuses to open the document. Alice has no other choice than to acquire the Carcera software used by Alice, with the hope it is compatible with its computer.

So that your documents might be read more easily by other people, without you having to worry about which software they use, choose open formats.



PROGRAMS WITH OPEN FORMATS, DIFFERENT SOFTWARE

Carole, another user, chooses to record her report in open format (allowing for interoperability) and sends it to David. David can read the document, modify and record it, either by using the same open format software or by using another interoperable software.

## ► To ensure the longevity of my documents

Alice and Carole use text editors to write, save, and preserve a novel.



The availability and longevity of your documents, saved in a closed format, depends on the decisions of software vendors.

In your interest, choose software programs that save your documents in open formats. They are not dependent on any particular software program.

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**LES DRM EFFACENT  
VOS LIVRES**





# What we do

- Defense activities:
  - Fighting against threats
  - Creating a favorable political and legal environment

# What we do

Work done  
by staff members and volunteers

# # man legal

- Lots of lobbying
- The lobbies work full time
- Habits of staying within a well-identified circle of people
- Lack of technical knowledge and consequences of laws
- The legal system is being built by and for politicians, lawyers, analysts and everyone interested

# # cat /dev/network | law

- Bringing expertise from the community
- Inform and influence the final decisions
- Write down our own proposals
- Need for full-time staff

# Some past campaigns (1)



Free Software advocacy association April  
[www.april.org](http://www.april.org)



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# Some past and current campaigns (2)

- Legal priority to free software in public administration (France, 2013)
  - Legal analysis
  - Activists call their MPs

# Upcoming campaign



- Get candidates to make a stand for Free Software
- Activists contact parliamentary candidates
- Help us: translating the Pact, the web site; contacting candidates; animating local campaigns; launching your own campaign

First they ignore you,  
Then they laugh at you,  
**Then they fight you,**  
Then you win

*Attributed to Mahatma Gandhi*



# Thanks for listening

- April - <http://www.april.org/en>
- [contact@april.org](mailto:contact@april.org) [fcouchet@april.org](mailto:fcouchet@april.org)  
[lallorge@april.org](mailto:lallorge@april.org)
- #april on [irc.freenode.net](http://irc.freenode.net)
- Free Software Pact :  
<http://freesoftwarepact.eu>
- Slides : <http://www.april.org/en/node/18257>



Questions ?

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