

# Richard Stallman – The father of free software



**Richard Stallman**

**Richard Mathew Stallman (RMS), \*1953 in New York**, is an american hacker who works for Free Software projects.

**His view of freedom is very controversial**, because he's a bit radical. **Today he's traveling around the world**, mostly Latin America and Europe **to tell about the GPL and spokes up against DRM and software patents**. He is a single man, but at his website you can find a personal ad. **He is very interested in politics, science, music and dance**.

The astroid 9882 was named on him. **He got lots of awards** for his work.

## The GNU project and their license: the GPL

Up to 1970 all software were spreaded as source code. Then **many companies** changed their concept and **offered their software only as unfree software** without insight to the code.

**Stallman wanted to keep the freedom of the people** and made an **own free operating system: GNU** (GNU is not Unix).

For share this free software he needed a license. He **wrote the General Public License, the GPL**. This license can be used for all kind of media: **Software, texts, images, videos, music**.

This license **allow all people to use, modify and share the media** without any border.

The license exclude all kind of spending money for this! **Proprietary software is not valid**.

With time **lots of hackers** joined his project and **formed a community, the Free Software Foundation**.

Today lots of projects are based on the GPL.



Gnu – the mascot for the GNU project

## For what is the GPL important?

==> **For your own freedom!**

The GPL is the warranty, that you can use, modify and share a lot of software, texts, images or music **without any spending of money or law consequences**. You don't have to pay for it and **you aren't depending of only one company** who can do everything, because they have the monopole.

Without the GPL there wouldn't be projects like **Mozilla (Firefox), Linux, Java, KDE, Wikimedia, and many other projects!**



Do you looking for informations on the **Wikipedia**? If yes, then **you are also there confronted with the GPL!** All texts and many images are licensed under these license. **Only so you can use these material for your own things**. Thanks to all authors and workers of the Wikipedia.



Stallman telling about the profit and necessity of the GNU



## Free Software Song

*On every presentation of free software projects the hackers are singing the Free Software Song to express their solidarity.*

Join us now and share the software;  
You'll be free, hackers, you'll be free.  
Join us now and share the software;  
You'll be free, hackers, you'll be free.

Hoarders can get piles of money,  
That is true, hackers, that is true.  
But they cannot help their neighbors;  
That's not good, hackers, that's not good.

When we have enough free software  
At our call, hackers, at our call,  
We'll kick out those dirty licenses  
Ever more, hackers, ever more.

Join us now and share the software;  
You'll be free, hackers, you'll be free.  
Join us now and share the software;  
You'll be free, hackers, you'll be free.