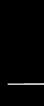


Free Software: What is it,  
and why is it important.

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# Intro

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- I'm Bob Murphy, I've been a long time Free Software Enthusiast.
- I've been using Linux since about 1997, starting right here with my Computer Science studies.
- I've been using Linux ever since, and that was my introduction to Free Software.

# Where did it begin.

- Free software was developed with the idea that if the source code is required for distribution, that there would be no chance that people would be locked into one version from a company, there would always be the possibility that you could make changes to improve or fix the software.

# The Four freedoms

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0) The freedom to run the program as you wish, for any purpose .

1) The freedom to study how the program works, and change it so it does your computing as you wish . Access to the source code is a precondition for this.

# Four Freedoms

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2) The freedom to redistribute copies so you can help others.

From: <https://www.gnu.org/philosophy/free-sw.en.html#four-freedoms>

3) The freedom to distribute copies of your modified versions to others . By doing this you can give the whole community a chance to benefit from your changes. Access to the source code is a precondition for this as well.

# Why is it important?

- Free Software is an important part of the software ecosystem. Proprietary software only allows the publisher allowed to examine and improve the software. As of lately, there has been a move for software that is subscribed to, which is even worse in that regard, you can be locked out of your files and data, not allowing you any alternatives for access.
- Free software is focused on user freedom

# Open Source vs. Free Software

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- Open source was coined in about 1998 by some folks that thought that the "Free" nomenclature was too ambiguous, and sought to come up with a new name, and make the idea more appealing to business.
- Open Source focuses on collaboration.

# Operating systems

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- Various Linux Distributions
- RedHat/Fedora
- Debian/Ubuntu/Mint
- Arch

- BSD versions
- FreeBSD
- OpenBSD
- NetBSD

# Software:

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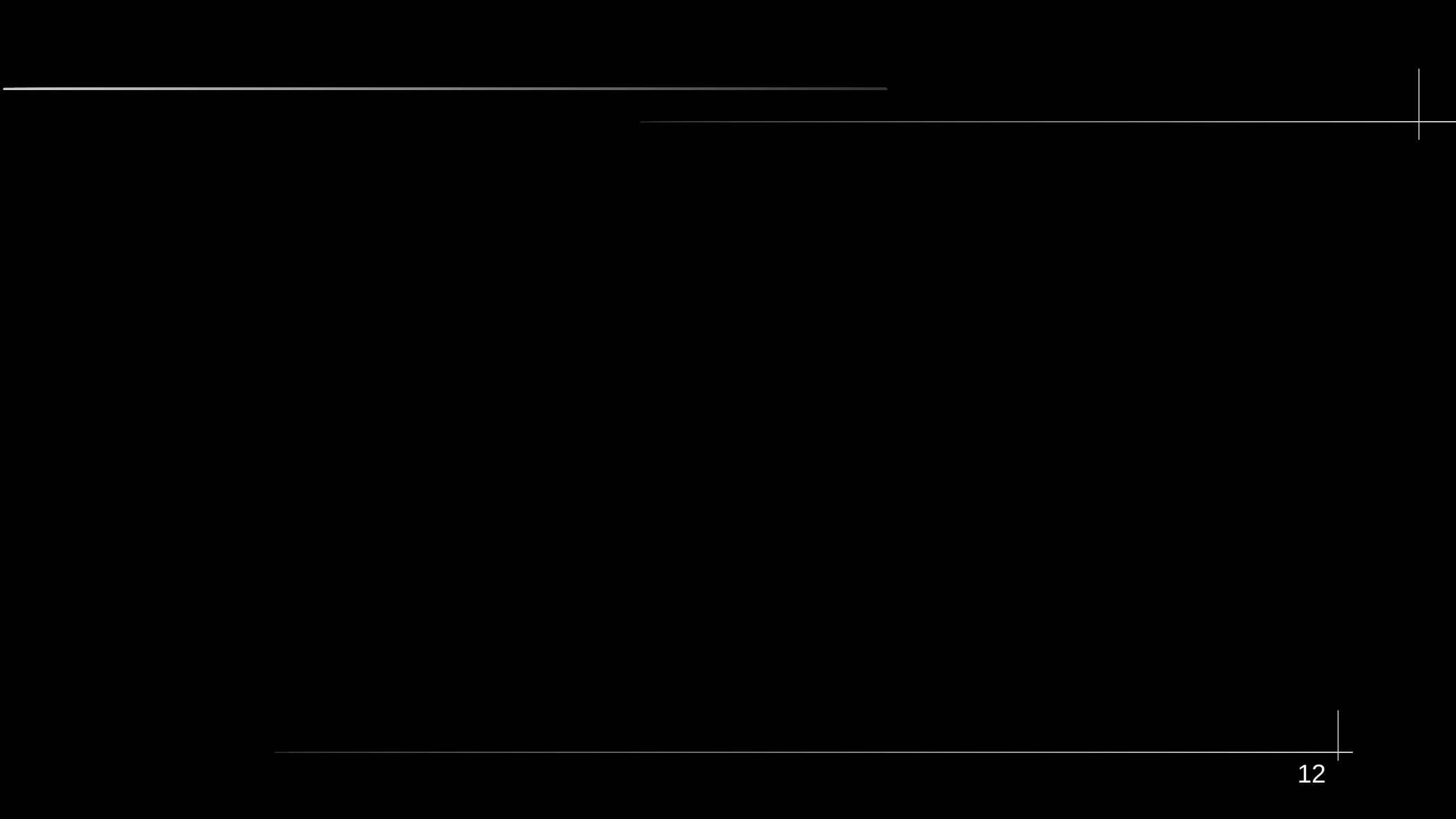
- Honestly, too much to list, in every category.
- Firefox
- LibreOffice
- Blender
- OBS

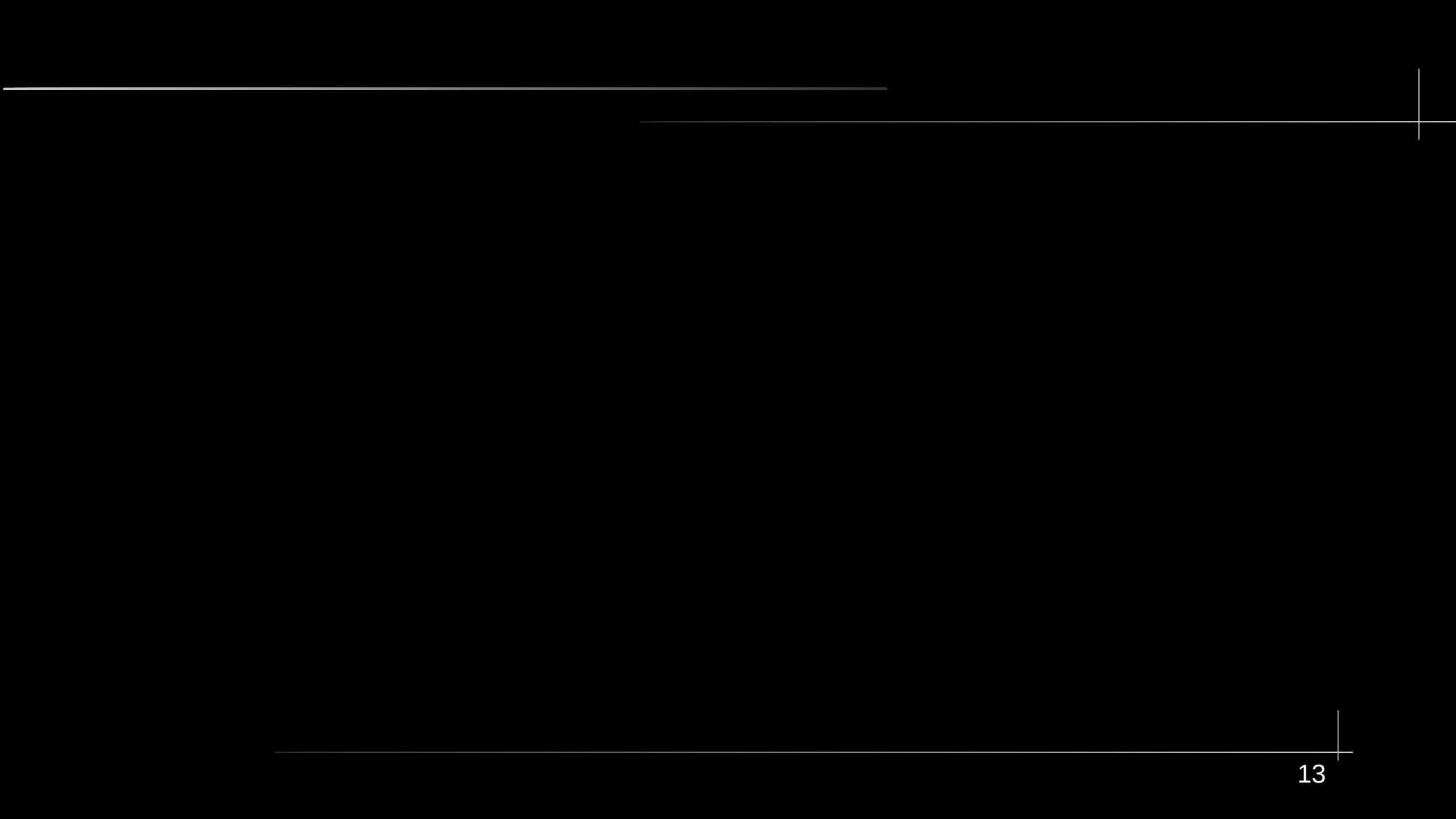
# Vendor Lock-in

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- Vendors would like to lock you into their software, making you pay on a regular basis to continue.
- Free software allows you to use the software as you see fit, and Open standards allow you to move to different software that implements it.









# Questions and comments:

- mastodon/fediverse:  
<https://gardenstate.social/@murph>
- Matrix:  
<https://matrix.to/#/#sf-d-nj:matrix.org>
- Feedback, and please let us know where you heard about us:
- [murph@njlinux.org](mailto:murph@njlinux.org)

# Contact us!

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- Mastodon:
- Matrix:



- Feedback email:

