

Date: 20th September 2008

Dear Sir or Madam,

Greetings on the occasion of Software Freedom Day! We are a newly formed civil society organisation based in Bangalore called Centre for Internet and Society (CIS). We are collaborating with Free Software Users Group of Bangalore (FSUG-Bangalore) to organise a essay competition for schools and colleges in Bangalore on the occasion of “Software Freedom Day” on the 20th of September 2008.

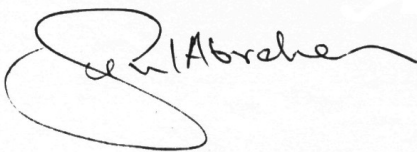
Free/Libre/Open Source Software (FLOSS) is software that anyone is free to use for any purpose; to study; to modify and to share either for free or for a fee. FLOSS has several advantages for the educational sector.

1. Availability of Source Code: Students who read the source code of FLOSS applications write better software. Just like students who read books write better essays. With proprietary software students are reduced to computer operators while with FLOSS they can become computer scientists.
2. More Sharing: Since FLOSS encourages sharing of software – students will be motivated to bring software from home and share it with their friends. It is important that students learn the value of sharing in a world with finite resources and infinite challenges.
3. Lower Total Cost of Ownership: FLOSS can reduce the amount of money that a school or college spends on software.

We hope you will be able to encourage students to participate in the essay competition by making an announcement in each class and by displaying the enclosed poster on the school notice board.

If there are any questions that you have regarding CIS, FSUG, Free Software, or Internet and Society, please feel free to contact me at sunil@cis-india.org or on my personal mobile number +91 9611100817.

Best wishes,



Sunil Abraham
Director – Policy
On behalf of Centre for Internet and Society