

DSM, EIF, RED: Acronyms on the EU level and why they matter for software freedom

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EU level

Free Software as a part of internal policies within IT departments, as a response to excessive vendor lock within the EU institutions.

EU lock-in

Microsoft Corp. v European Commission

Microsoft fined with 860m euros for its anticompetitive behavior on the desktop market.

EU lock-in

By 2016, proprietary vendors such as “Microsoft, SAP, Oracle, Windows - account for 48% of the total vendors.”

“Study on the best practices for ICT procurement based on standards in order to promote efficiency and reduce lock-in” (PWC study for the EC, 2016)

Free Software is everywhere!

In 2015, 78% of companies run on Free Software, less than 3% don't use Free Software in any way.

EU response?

“Proprietary solutions[...] that limit interoperability can severely **hamper** digital single market.”

“Common **open standards** will help[...] SMEs, the public sector and the scientific community.”

Free Software communities need to be integrated into standardisation

ICT Standardisation Priorities for the Digital single Market, COM(2016) 176 Final, 19.4.2016

Digital Single Market

“ICT standardisation requires a balanced IPR policy, based on FRAND.”

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What is FRAND?

So-called “fair, reasonable and non-discriminatory” terms to license patents in standards

What is wrong with FRAND?

FRAND helps to maintain monopolies, and is incompatible with Free Software.

If EU wants to support competition...

'Restriction free' policies already in use for software, web, and internet standards.

European Interoperability Framework

EU e-government services should be able to communicate with each other, be open and transparent.

European Interoperability Framework v.1

Interoperability in 2004 = Open Standards
that **are** implementable with Free Software.

European Interoperability Framework v.2.

Interoperability in 2010 = open specifications
should be implemented with Free Software
but it is still okay when the standard is not
implementable with Free Software.

European Interoperability Framework v.3

Interoperability in 2016 = ?

Public consultation: Citizens ask for **more Free Software** in public sector and to promote the use of **(true) Open Standards**.

Copyright

European Commission promised wider online access to content for users...

Copyright

Instead reinforces technical restrictions on the legitimate uses of works.

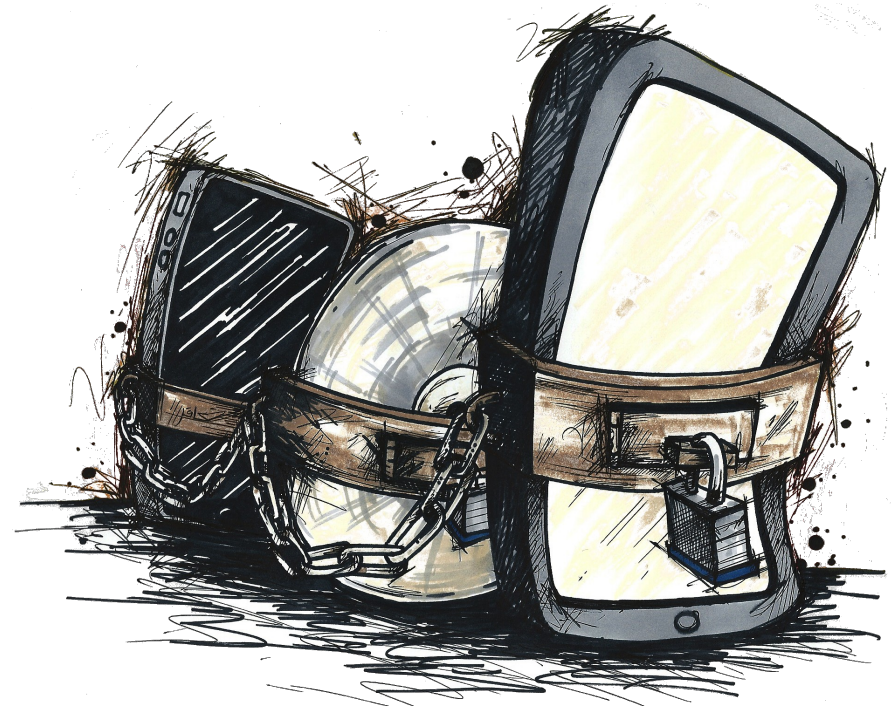
Proposal for EU Directive on copyright in the Digital Single Market (14.09.2016)

DRM

The right to apply “necessary” technical protection measures neutralises lawful exceptions to use a work without the rightholder's authorisation.

Digital Restrictions Management

“Measures where an article can only be downloaded every 20 sec... means you need 12 years to download 20 million documents”



What does that mean?

~~European Commission promised wider online access to content for users...~~

Radio Lockdown Directive

Radio Equipment Directive covers every device that can send and receive radio signals (WiFi, mobile network, GPS...).

RED 2014/53/EU

With the Radio Equipment Directive the EU intended primarily to harmonise existing rules, improve radio spectra, and to increase security for protection of health and safety.

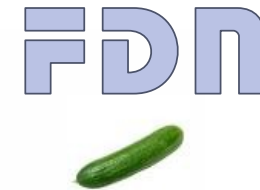
Why 'Lockdown'?

Puts an obligation on device manufacturers to check every possible software+hardware combination to be compliant with RED.

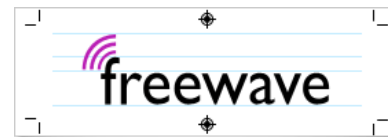
Why 'Lockdown'?

Makes it impossible to use alternative software on such devices as: routers, mobile phones, WiFi-cards, laptops, and possibly on the most of all IoT devices.

Joint Statement



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Questions?

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