

Under The Desk @ MIT

Introducing
the
Public Domain Software Foundation

V. Alex Brennen
vab@MIT.EDU

PDSF

- Commercialization hits the MIT AI Lab
- The GNU Project is Announced
- The GPL Takes the Lead
- BSD License
- Commercial Interest (Open Source)
- License Proliferation
- ...what's next?

- Freedom (4)
 - Run The Code
 - Study The Code
 - Share The Code
 - Improve the Code
- Control
 - Investment Recoup
 - Protect Trade Secrets
 - Competitive Advantage
 - Predictability of Maintenance Costs

- Freedom & Control Commonalities
 - Improved Software Quality
 - Improved Software Efficiency
 - Lack of Difficulty in Training and Education
 - Reduced Investment in Basic Computing
 - *Rapid Technological Progress*
 - *Rapid Scientific Progress*

- Public Domain
 - No Rights Reserved
 - No Legal Restrictions on Use
 - Four Freedoms Intact
 - No one's Freedoms Restricted
 - More Friendly to Corporations and Gov't
 - It's Where Everything Eventually Ends Up
 - Original Format of Most Software
 - *Involves Paradigm Shift in the Viewing of Software as Product Holding Value*

- Why Is It Better Than Open Source or GNU GPL'd Software
 - No One's Freedoms are Restricted
 - More Efficient
 - No Complex Licenses To Deal With
 - Programmers Spend Time Programming
 - Less Duplication of Work is Necessary
 - Lowest Point in the Legal Landscape
 - “Information Yearns to Be Free as Sparks Fly Upward or Water Seeks The Lowest Point”

- So How Complex Are Licenses Getting?
 - Major Problem in OpenSource Movement
 - People can't tell if they can share code
 - Anyone can and does create their own license
 - Amature licenses that are not even legally valid
 - OSI Certification can't keep up
 - Legal Diversity Across Jurisdictions
 - The Laws Keep Changing (WTO, Lobbyists)

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- Five Major Types
 - GPL
 - LGPL
 - BSD
 - MIT
 - Mozilla
- Trove Category Searching is Helpful, but...

- More License Complexity is “Needed”
 - RMS's Success
 - DRM
 - Liability Changes
 - More People Writing Code
 - Virtual Machine Based Platforms
 - Web Application Service Providers
 - GRID and Clusters
 - Licensed Content Included with Applications
 - Blur between hardware and software

- Problems of the Open Source Institute
 - 59 Preferred Licenses on Homepage
 - 2 New Licenses Per Week to OSI Cert Approval List
 - License Changes Mean New Review Needed
 - License Authors Not Version Shy
 - OSI Tried to Convince People Licenses Not Needed

- Sticky Problems on The Horizon
 - When is knowledge representation a derivative work?
 - Semantic Web
 - When are you running an ASP program and when is the ASP running it?
 - AJAX
 - Is Distributed Processing Distribution or Copying? Neither?
 - Folding@home

- Programming is Getting Easier
 - Massive API Introduced
 - Java
 - PHP
 - Massive Internet Repositories Become Popular
 - CPAN
 - New Even Easier Languages
 - Python
 - Ruby on Rails

- Free Software Becomes Mainstream
 - Best Way to Get A Job
 - Easy Way to Learn New Skills
 - Support Your Own Internet Project
 - Support Your own Internet Start-Up
 - Supplemental Income

- FSF Became Less Focused on GNU Project
 - Address Licensing Issues
 - Advocacy
 - Education
- Free OS Coordination is Split
 - Linux (and Distributions)
 - BSD
 - ReactOS

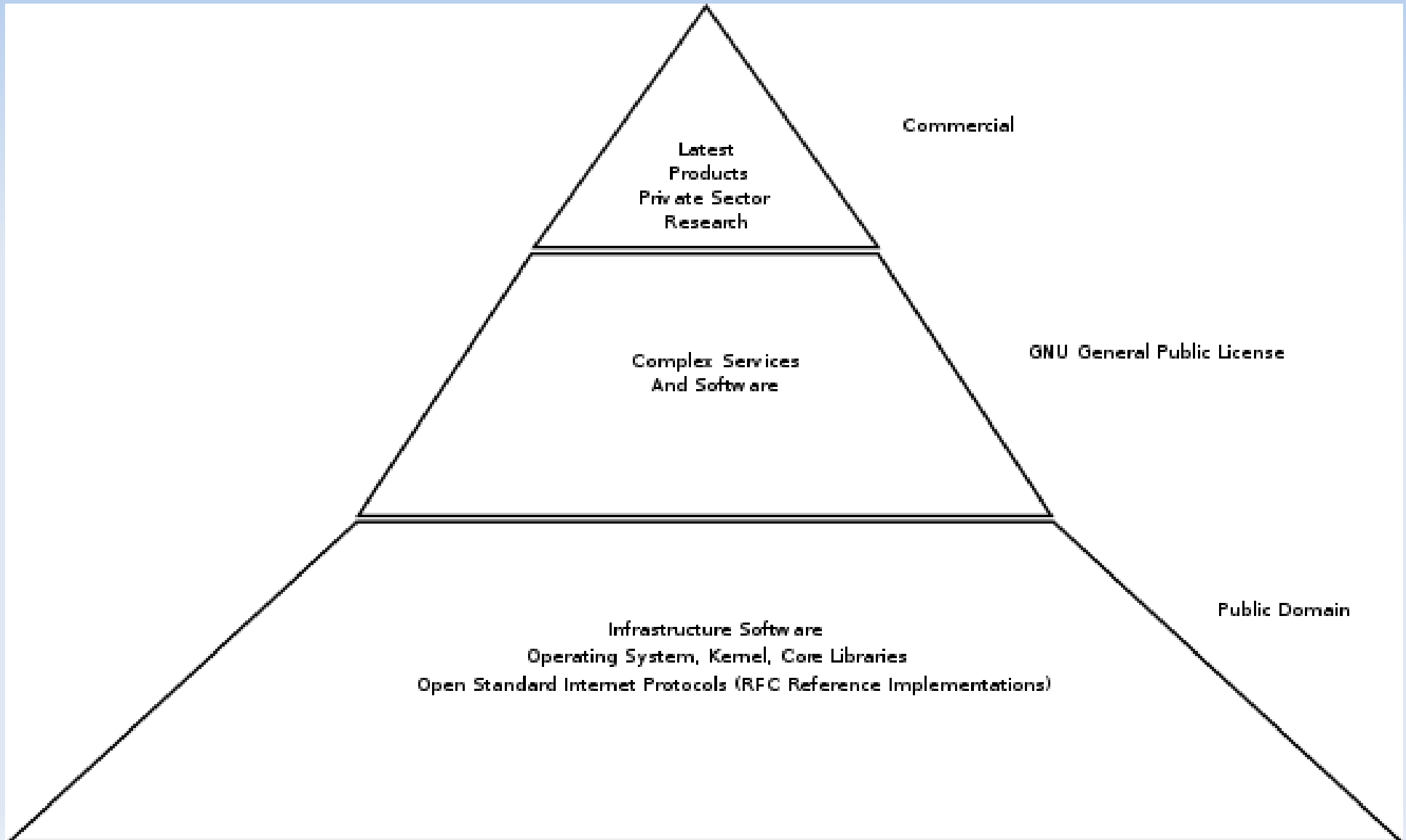
- Forks and Re-implementations Proliferate
 - Editors
 - Mail Clients
 - Graphics Editors
 - IDE's
 - Libraries for Various Functions
 - Distributions (installers, package managers, management tools)
 - Desktops

- How Could We Have Better Spent That Time?
 - Innovating
 - Writing Free Software Apps That Don't Exist
 - Improving Algorithms
 - Writing Code for Emerging Sciences
 - Bioinformatics
 - GRID Computing
 - ERP/Payrolls (Business Efficiency Increasers)

- What Do We Want?
 - All Software To Be Free?
 - Rapid Technological and Scientific Advance
 - Travel Into Space
 - Reduced Computing Cost
 - Cheaper Products
 - Higher Wages

- Mixed Models Dominate Economic Debate
 - Basic Level Guarantees
 - Health Care
 - Nutrition
 - Shelter
 - Higher Levels Require Competition
 - Privatization of Most Companies
 - Limited Scholarship for Advanced Degrees
 - Some Nationalization
 - Natural Resources: Mining and Oil

What Would Mixed Model Look Like?



- Am I writing an Operating System?
 - Short Answer: No.
 - Long Answer: Yes:
 - Shamrock GNU/Linux
 - Step by Step Replacement
 - Ports Like Package and Patch Management
 - Code Repositories
 - RFC Reference Implementations
 - Cryptographic Code

- What's Stopping People
 - Companies
 - Revenue Models Still Work
 - Software That's Not So Fun To Write
 - Support Concerns
 - Educational Sector
 - Identity Crisis of American Schools
 - Extensive Competition For Grants
 - Grant Awards Based on Usage
 - Grant Awards Based on Reputation

- Cryptographic Solutions
 - Tivo Code Verification
 - Digital Signatures of Output
 - Digital Signature of Code
 - Complete Identity Protection

- Legal Mechanisms Available
 - Trademark Law
 - Mozilla/Netscape
 - Patents
 - Alternatives to Contract Law
 - Alternatives to Copyright Law
 - Limited Term Copyrights

- Why Public Domain Your Work
 - Eliminates The Need For Re-implementation
 - More Efficiency
 - Less Versions to Sift Through
 - Saves You From Dealing With Licenses
 - Saves Others From Dealing With Licenses
 - Allows For Easier Automation
 - gentoo emerge of commercial software
 - Reduces Liability
 - *Communicates a Lack of Monetary Value*

- How To Get Involved
 - We're Just Starting Out
 - Hardly Any Code Yet
 - Keep in Touch and Be Patient!

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<http://metanet.org/pdsf/>

vab@MIT.EDU