

# Challenges to Free Software Adoption

Then and now

# Microsoft Windows

- The dominant proprietary software
- Comes pre-installed in Desktops and laptops

# Early days

- GNU/Linux was in floppy disks
- Debian 1.1 buzz needed 6 floppy disks  
([http://archive.debian.org/debian/dists/buzz/main/disks-i386/1996\\_6\\_16/install.html](http://archive.debian.org/debian/dists/buzz/main/disks-i386/1996_6_16/install.html))
- Good internet was not very common

# My first GNU/Linux experience

- In 2001 at NIT Calicut
- Magazines like PCQuest came with CDs
- Downloading 700+ MB CDs - 12+ hours
- People shared CDs and shipped
- In 2004 Ubuntu shipped free CDs

# Red Hat, Mandrake, Ubuntu

- Red Hat Linux (before RHEL and Fedora split)
- Mandrake Linux now Mandriva (merged with Connectiva)
- Ubuntu

# Make disk partition in Windows

- Adobe partition magic to resize partitions
- Windows no longer boots after GNU/Linux installation
- Made a mistake and lost data

# Resize partition

- GNU/Linux installers started supporting resizing existing partitions
- Ubuntu had install along with Windows option

# Individual decision

- GNU/Linux installation need some expertise
- But individuals could choose to install it independently



## Fast forward to today

- WhatsApp – the most widely used proprietary software
- We are forced to use it even if we don't like it since everyone else is on it

# Easy to install Free Software

- On Android, one just has to click install
- We need to be activists and bring people to Free Software, even to use it

# **Cost and effort to maintain a service**

- We have to pay for hosting the service
- Somebody have to keep updating the software, updating operating system
- Somebody has to monitor the service and fix problems

# Community run services

- [Poddery.com](https://poddery.com)
- [Disroot.org](https://disroot.org)
- [Riseup.net](https://riseup.net)
- [Autistici.org](https://autistici.org)
- [Prav.App](https://prav.app)

## Join in

- Free Software Community of India  
<https://fsci.in>
- Prav App <https://prav.app>
- Privacy Yathra <https://privacyyathra.in/>