

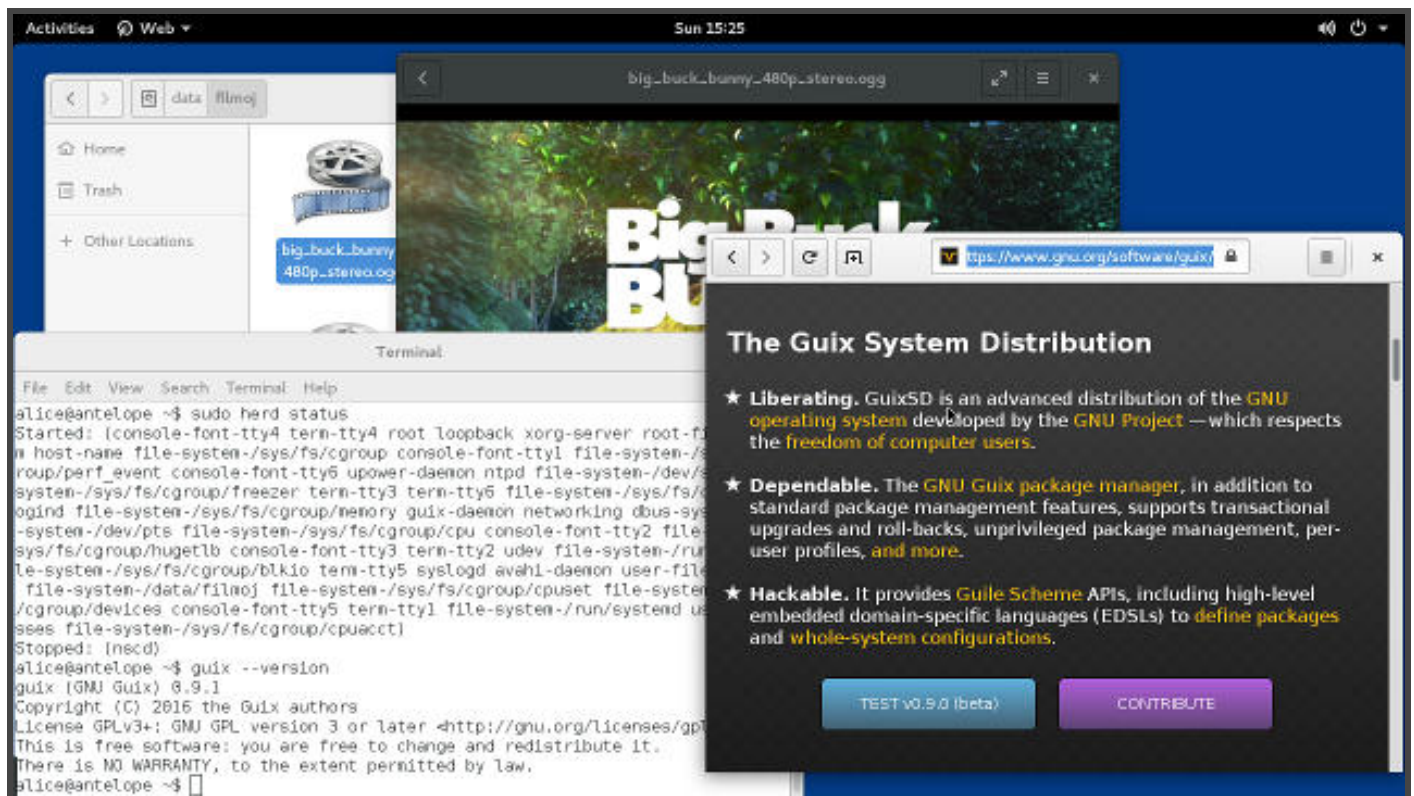
GNU is the only operating system developed specifically to give its users freedom. What is GNU, and what freedom is at stake?

## What is GNU?

GNU is an operating system that is free software—that is, it respects users' freedom. The GNU operating system consists of GNU packages (programs specifically released by the GNU Project) as well as free software released by third parties. The development of GNU made it possible to use a computer without software that would trample your freedom.

We recommend installable versions of GNU (more precisely, GNU/Linux distributions) which are entirely free software. More about GNU below.

## Try GNU/Linux



*Guix 0.15 with GNOME 3 desktop, Epiphany web browser, Totem video player, and GNOME terminal emulator*



... or **Try parts of GNU**

## What is the Free Software Movement?

The free software movement campaigns to win for the users of computing the freedom that comes from free software. Free software puts its users in control of their own computing. Nonfree software puts its users under the power of the software's developer. See the video explanation.

# What is Free Software?

**Free software means the users have the freedom to run, copy, distribute, study, change and improve the software.**

Free software is a matter of liberty, not price. To understand the concept, you should think of “free” as in “free speech”, not as in “free beer”.

More precisely, free software means users of a program have the four essential freedoms:

- The freedom to run the program as you wish, for any purpose (freedom 0).
- The freedom to study how the program works, and change it so it does your computing as you wish (freedom 1). Access to the source code is a precondition for this.
- The freedom to redistribute copies so you can help others (freedom 2).
- The freedom to distribute copies of your modified versions to others (freedom 3). 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.

Developments in technology and network use have made these freedoms even more important now than they were in 1983.

Nowadays the free software movement goes far beyond developing the GNU system. See the Free Software Foundation's web site for more about what we do, and a list of ways you can help.

## More about GNU

GNU is a Unix-like operating system. That means it is a collection of many programs: applications, libraries, developer tools, even games. The development of GNU, started in January 1984, is known as the GNU Project. Many of the programs in GNU are released under the auspices of the GNU Project; those we call GNU packages.

The name “GNU” is a recursive acronym for “GNU's Not Unix.” “GNU” is pronounced *g'noo*, as one syllable, like saying “grew” but replacing the *r* with *n*.

The program in a Unix-like system that allocates machine resources and talks to the hardware is called the “kernel”. GNU is typically used with a kernel called Linux. This combination is the **GNU/Linux operating system**. GNU/Linux is used by millions, though many call it “Linux” by mistake.

GNU's own kernel, The Hurd, was started in 1990 (before Linux was started). Volunteers continue developing the Hurd because it is an interesting technical project.

## Planet GNU

GNU lightning 2.1.3 released!: GNU lightning is a library to aid in making portable programs that compile assembly code at run time. Development: <http://git.savannah.gnu.org/cgit/lightning.git>...

Richard M. Stallman resigns: The board will be conducting a search for a new president, beginning immediately. Further details of the search will be published on [fsf.org](http://fsf.org). For questions, conta...

Google's smart home ecosystem is a complete mess - CNET: <https://www.cnet.com/news/googles-smart-home-ecosystem-is-a-complete-mess/>

For more news, see Planet GNU and the list of recent GNU releases.

## Take Action

- **Support the efforts on net neutrality in the USA**, and in your home country.
- Defend privacy, and support global copyright reform with LQDN.
- **Support current FSF campaigns.**
- Fight against software patents: worldwide, and in Europe.

- Free phone operating system,
- decentralization, federation and self-hosting,
- free drivers, firmware and hardware designs,
- real-time voice and video chat,
- encourage contribution by people underrepresented in the community,
- and more.

- cfengine, freetalk, halifax, mcron, quickthreads, are all looking for maintainers.
- Also, these packages are looking for co-maintainers: aspell, bison, gnuage, gnubik, metaexchange, powerguru, xboard.

## Recent GNU releases

Today's random package...



GNU MPFR is a C library for performing multiple-precision, floating-point computations with correct rounding.  
(doc)

TOP ▲

The FSF also has sister organizations in Europe, Latin America and India.  
Feel free to join them!

## meet the free software gang



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