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ANNUAL REPORT





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ANNUAL REPORT

This report highlights activities
and detailed financials for Fiscal Year 2016
(October 1, 2015 - September 30, 2016)



FREE SOFTWARE
FOUNDATION



FREE SOFTWARE
FOUNDATION



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[1]

LETTER FROM
THE EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR



OUR MOST IMPORTANT
MEASURE OF SUCCESS
IS SUPPORT FOR
THE **IDEALS** OF
FREE SOFTWARE...
WE HAVE MOMENTUM
ON OUR SIDE.

DEAR SUPPORTERS

For almost 32 years, the FSF has inspired people around the world to be passionate about computer user freedom as an ethical issue, and provided vital tools to make the world a better place.

Free "as in freedom" software, which grants everyone rights to use, modify, study, and collaborate, is the most important of those tools.

We've worked with an inspiring number of organizations to fight for better policy when it comes to freedom on the Internet and protection from bulk surveillance, but we need more than good laws. We need the software powering our world to be freedom-respecting by nature, from the ground up. This will only happen if a critical mass of people demands it.

I'm frequently asked in interviews, "Do you really think free software can win?" You'll read in the following pages, which cover our work from October 1 2015, to September 30 2016, examples like these of why I think it can:

- 1 LibrePlanet 2016 was our largest, most visible annual conference to-date; our opening keynote Edward Snowden highlighted the critical role free software plays in government accountability, and urged people to become members of the FSF.
- 2 We drove free software development by sponsoring over 400 GNU packages, as well as other critical projects like Replicant, the fully free mobile operating system.
- 3 We fought for freedom on the Web, and loudly oppose erosions of that freedom, like the inclusion of Digital Restrictions Management in HTML5.

Charity Navigator gave the FSF its highest rating — four stars — with an overall score of 99.57/100 and a perfect 100 in the Accountability and Transparency category. They chose us, out of 8,000 charities, for their all-purpose list of "10 Charities Worth Watching," demonstrating significant progress toward making user freedom an issue of general, widespread importance. These accolades reflect the hard work of our small, dedicated team, and show that supporters are right to invest their dollars and time in the FSF.

More people and businesses are using free software than ever before. That's big news, but our most important measure of success is support for the *ideals*. In that area, we have momentum on our side, but also much more to do.

Thank you for all you've done to bring this issue the prominence it must achieve if humans are to be free in a world experienced through software. Because of your donations, work, and support, we can dedicate our time to building the tools freedom still needs, and inspiring others to follow your lead. Thank you for standing with us and giving as much as you can.

Yours in freedom.



John Sullivan
Executive Director



[2]
OUR MISSION

OUR MISSION

The Free Software Foundation (FSF) is a nonprofit with a worldwide mission to promote computer user freedom. We defend the rights of all software users.

As our society grows more dependent on technology, the software we run is of critical importance to securing the future of a free society. Free software is free as in freedom. It's about having control over the technology we use, where computers work for our individual and communal benefit, not for companies or governments who might seek to restrict or monitor us.

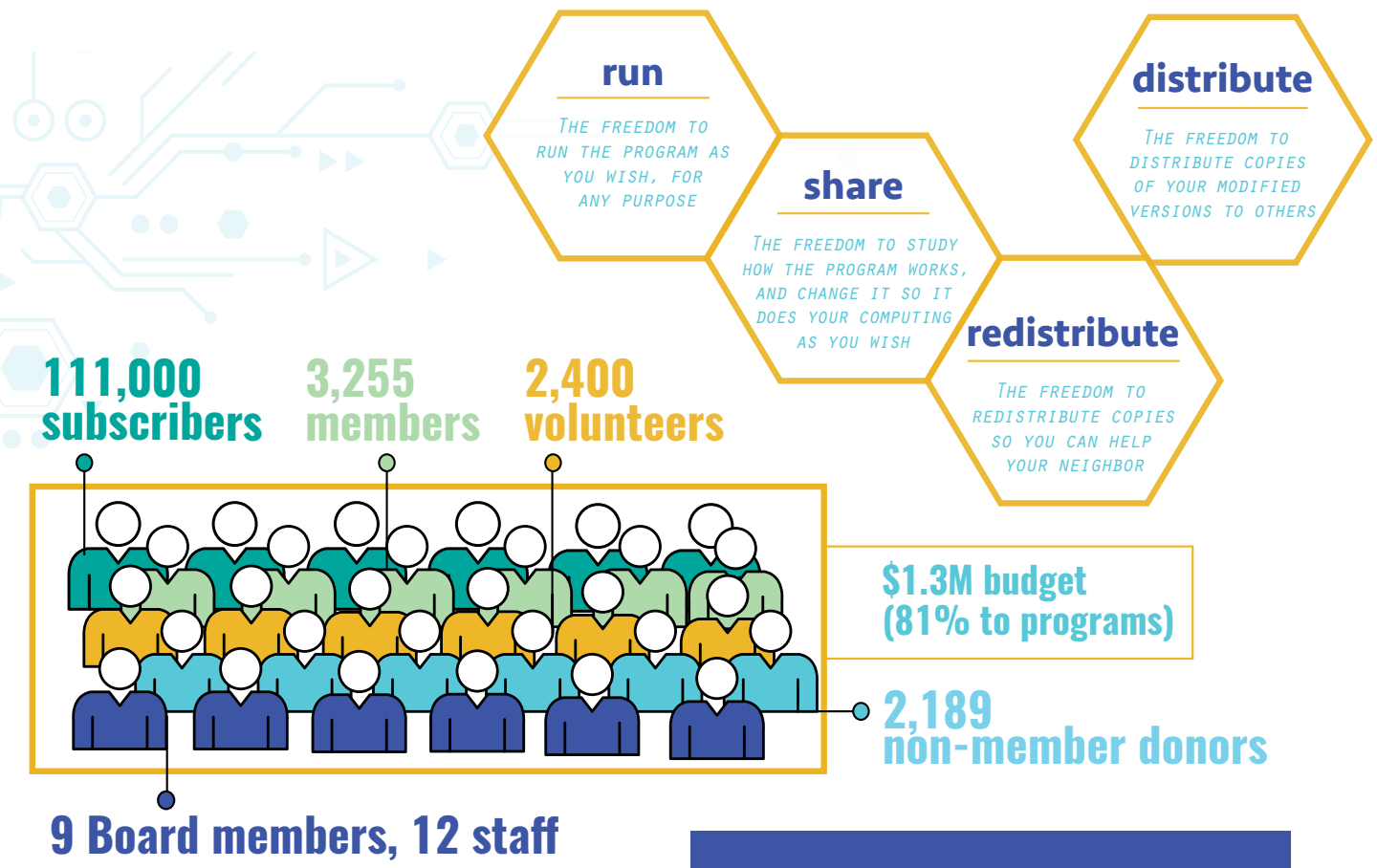
The Free Software Definition:

Free software means software that respects users' freedom and community. It means that the users have the freedom to run, copy, distribute, study, change and improve the software. Thus, free software is a matter of liberty, not price.

With these freedoms, users (both individually and collectively) control the program and what it does for them. When users don't control the program, the nonfree program controls the users and the developer controls the program; this makes the program an instrument of unjust power.



FREE SOFTWARE FREE SOCIETY

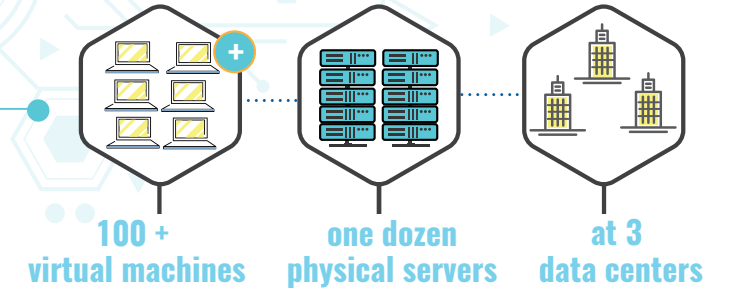


FY2016 AT A GLANCE

TECH

The Tech team at the FSF maintains services that are used by millions across the globe. In addition to providing all the in-house infrastructure for operations and programs, the team also supports the GNU Project, a three-decade effort that created the world's first complete free software operating system.

The FSF provides: funding, software maintenance, hosting services, and full email, shell, and mailing list services in support of GNU and other free software development.

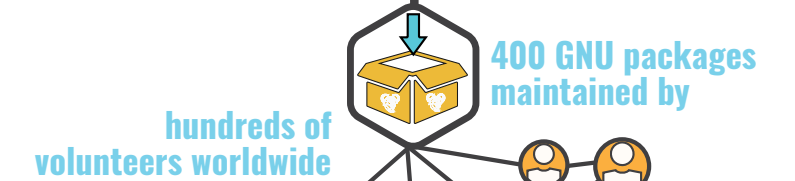


FY2016 At A Glance

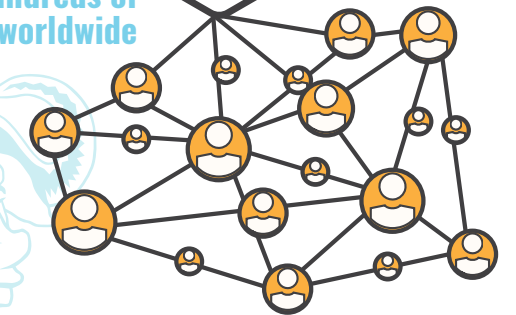
Technical Infrastructure

1 million

unique visitors each month on average to www.gnu.org



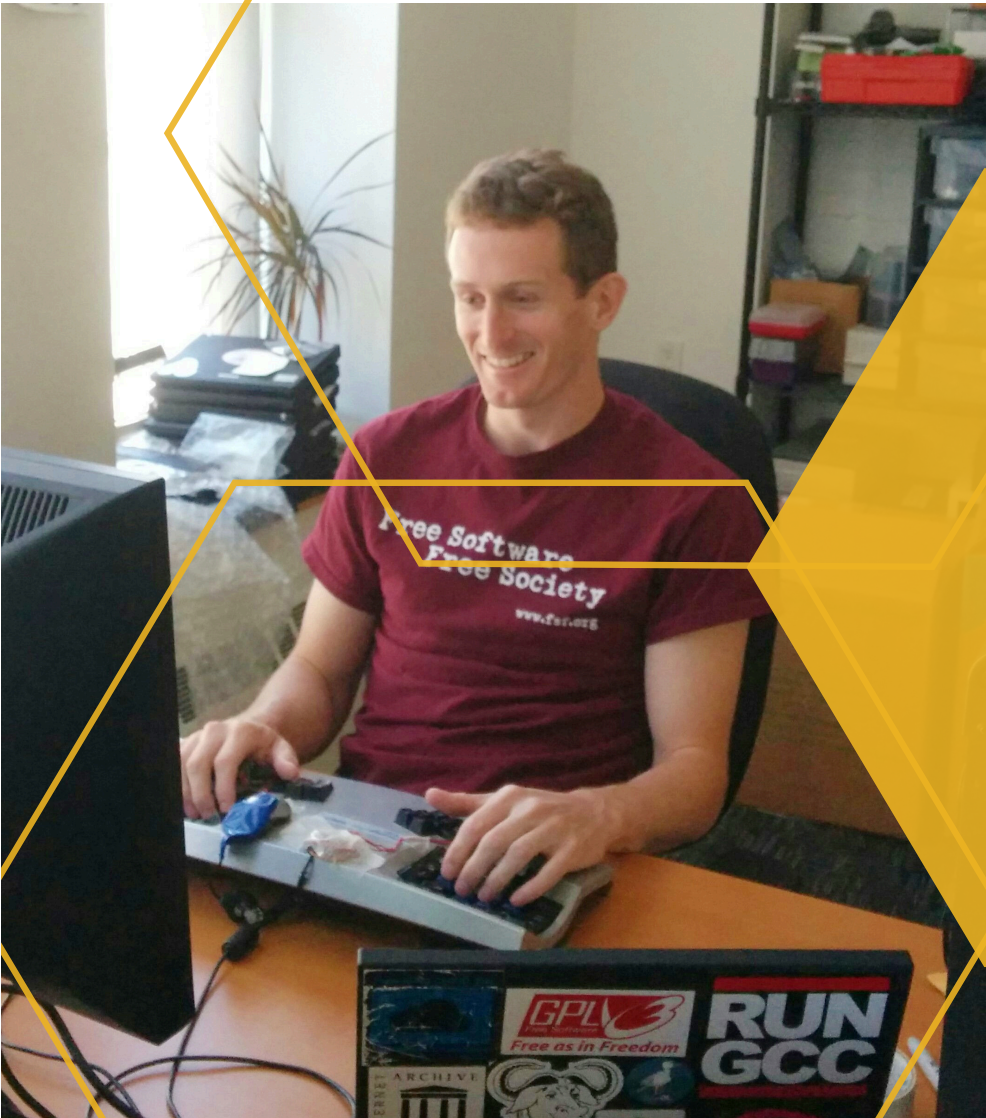
500,000 emails per day over lists.gnu.org and lists.nongnu.org



with 246 new releases in FY16

[3]

TECH



DOING MORE TOGETHER

In the last fiscal year the FSF continued to sponsor critical free software projects like:



mediagoblin



Replicant



GNUstep

Volunteer Spotlight

Andrew Engelbrecht, a long-time volunteer at the FSF, has helped out at the office, at events, and with the Tech team over the past 5+ years. He gained experience with networking, server building, hardware testing, and service configuration.



January 2017 Update:

Andrew interviewed, and was hired for, the Web Developer position. **Welcome aboard, Andrew!**

THE FSF'S EFFORTS ARE MADE POSSIBLE BY OVER AROUND THE WORLD

2,400 VOLUNTEERS

- Contribute to GNU projects
- Start local LibrePlanet groups
- Volunteer at special events
- Help with tasks at the FSF office
- Intern for the tech, licensing, or campaigns team

Your participation is appreciated and critical to the success of the free software movement.
 Visit [fsf.org/volunteer](https://www.fsf.org/volunteer) to sign up!



March 2017 Update:

The FSF started accepting donations to support the GNU Toolchain!

If you'd like to support these free software efforts, visit: <https://www.fsf.org/working-together/fund>

*Paul Kocialkowski,
Main Replicant Developer*

FOR A LONG TIME, IT WASN'T POSSIBLE TO OPERATE A MOBILE PHONE USING FREE SOFTWARE, EVEN THOUGH THAT IS ONE OF THE AREAS OF COMPUTING WHERE THE MOST IMPORTANT ISSUES ARE AT STAKE. REPLICANT IS A FREE ANDROID DERIVATIVE, WHILE OTHER ANDROID VERSIONS USUALLY REQUIRE NONFREE COMPONENTS TO ACTUALLY RUN ON PHONES. WE EXPECT THAT HAVING OUR PROJECT SUPPORTED BY THE FREE SOFTWARE FOUNDATION'S FUNDRAISING PROGRAM WILL GREATLY HELP THE PROJECT, PARTICULARLY BY ENABLING US TO BUILD SUPPORT FOR MORE PHONES.

*CHRIS WEBBER,
LEAD DEVELOPER*

We're developing GNU MediaGoblin because we believe user freedom is important, especially in the Web. More and more users are becoming trapped by proprietary, centralized media publishing systems where problems like automated censorship are becoming serious. We believe in the vision of the decentralized web as a mechanism to empower people, and we want to bring that web back! We're proud to be teaming up the Free Software Foundation in the fight to put power back into the hands of users. We've done a lot of good already, but we need your help to make this federated future a reality!

CAMPAIGNS



[4] CAMPAIGNS



Fiscal Year 2016 was a busy year for our Campaigns team and its unique blend of online advocacy, direct action organizing, resource sharing, and community building.

The FSF's Campaigns efforts, supported by free software activists worldwide, ranged from local on-the-ground protests to national-level policy activism, reaching hundreds of thousands of people each month.

FIGHTING FOR FREE SOFTWARE



Over the summer, the FSF joined with partners in a successful campaign to pressure European regulators into creating stronger net neutrality rules. On the US federal level, we were able to submit public commentary on the US Federal Source Code Policy, which resulted in free software being added to the policy text.

The FSF also mobilized community action against the US Supreme Court's approval of amendments to Rule 41 of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure, which would mean an unprecedented and dangerous expansion of government cracking authority.

Over the last fiscal year, staff worked with RMS and community members to launch Ethical Criteria for code-hosting repositories and a set of evaluations of major code-hosting sites.

Campaigns Manager Zak Rogoff also spoke on Al Jazeera about user freedom and the Internet of Things. And, the number of subscribers to our monthly Free Software Supporter newsletter grew from under **100,000 at the beginning of the fiscal year to over 116,000 by the end** — **Thanks for reading!**

CAMPAIGNS



FIGHTING FOR FREE SOFTWARE

The FSF continued to lead the fight against Digital Restrictions Management (DRM) as one of the most vigilant defenders of user freedom. In addition to the International Day Against DRM in May, we organized the first-ever in-person protest at the World Wide Web Consortium (W3C) in Cambridge, MA, with allies organizing another protest at a W3C meeting in Portugal.



Tenth Annual IDAD

Last May, the International Day Against DRM celebrated its tenth anniversary with an updated Web presence, a post by Cory Doctorow in *The Guardian*, and a record **17 participating organizations and 10 events around the world!**

10

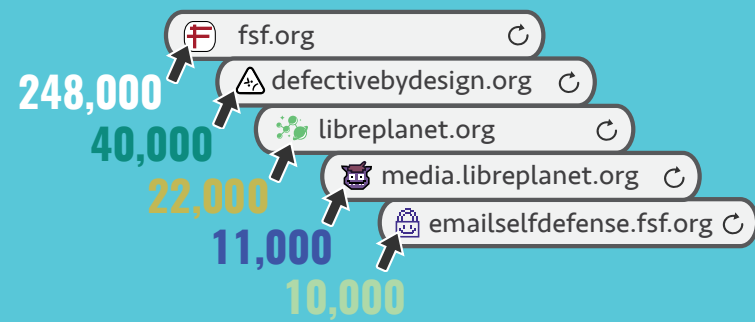


Resources for Digital Freedom

The FSF Campaigns team continued offering various online resources to protect user freedom and promote digital rights. **A new version of the Email Self-Defense Guide launched, in multiple languages, seeing 18,000 unique visitors in January 2016.**

The annual Ethical Tech Giving Guide, providing alternatives to proprietary technology and hardware gifts, **featured its first smartphone (running Replicant). This resource was visited by 20,000 people in its first week online.**

FSF on the Web: Average Monthly Unique Visitors



how have
you seen
free software
change
the world?

Developer

how has
free software
changed
your life?

Executive

“What is
your free
software
story?”

Building and Sustaining the Free Software Community

The FSF is proud to lead the free software movement and to fight for user freedom. Our successes are driven by, and in service of, the community. Our annual LibrePlanet conference was one of the most successful ever. We also produced a "What is your free software story" video showcasing the community's different backgrounds and experiences, all brought together by the free software movement.

“Last fiscal year, we were fortunate to be supported by 3,255 members from all over the globe.”

CAMPAIGNS

MEMBERS AROUND THE WORLD

- | | | | | |
|------------|--------------------|-------------|-----------------------|----------------------|
| Argentina | Cuba | Iceland | Mexico | Singapore |
| Australia | Cyprus | India | Monaco | Slovakia |
| Austria | Czech Republic | Indonesia | Netherlands | Slovenia |
| Bahamas | Denmark | Ireland | New Zealand | South Africa |
| Bangladesh | Dominican Republic | Isle of Man | Norway | Spain |
| Belarus | Republic | Israel | Pakistan | Sri Lanka |
| Belgium | Ecuador | Italy | Panama | Sweden |
| Brazil | El Salvador | Japan | Peru | Switzerland |
| Brunei | Estonia | Kazakhstan | Philippines | Taiwan |
| Bulgaria | Finland | South Korea | Poland | Thailand |
| Cambodia | France | Kuwait | Portugal | Turkey |
| Canada | French Polynesia | Latvia | Qatar | Ukraine |
| Chile | Germany | Lithuania | Reunion | United Arab Emirates |
| China | Greece | Luxembourg | Romania | United Kingdom |
| Colombia | Guatemala | Malaysia | Russia | United States |
| Costa Rica | Hong Kong | Malta | Serbia and Montenegro | Uruguay |
| Croatia | Hungary | Mauritius | | Venezuela |



Your Free Software Movement Is As Strong As Ever

Did You Know?

The FSF makes our Boston office available to the community as a free resource.

Local groups have their monthly meetings at the FSF after work, including the Boston CiviCRM and Emacs meetups.

COMMUNITY BUILDING



[5]

LIBREPLANET
2016

LIBREPLANET 2016



LibrePlanet is the FSF's annual free software conference, attended by developers, policy experts, activists, students, and users who care about the intersection of technology and digital freedom.

The two-day event regularly sees hundreds of attendees and thousands viewing online, and it is one of the only technology conferences to run its infrastructure entirely on free software. Once again co-hosted with Massachusetts Institute of Technology's (MIT) Student Information Processing Board, LibrePlanet 2016 was held on March 19th and 20th at the MIT Stata Center.

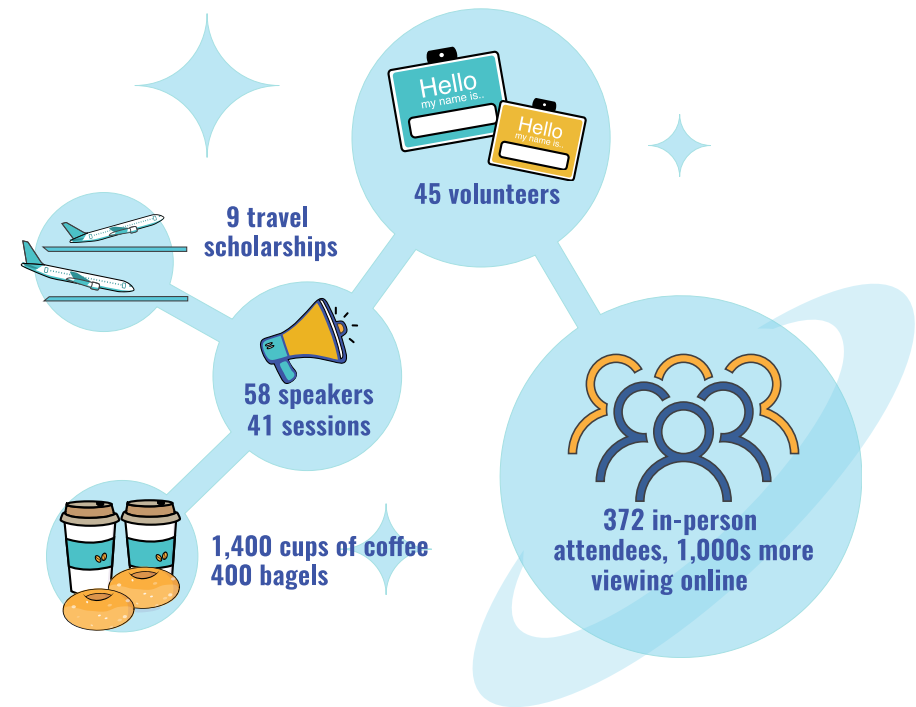
19 DAY-1

The conference kicked off with a rousing live video conversation between Edward Snowden and the American Civil Liberties Union's Daniel Kahn Gillmor (using secure free software), followed by sessions on free software in education, hardware reverse engineering, and High Priority Projects.

The first evening ended with the annual Free Software Awards.

20 DAY-2

Day 2 featured an opening keynote by Allison Randal, sessions about digital security and licensing compliance, lightning talks, and a closing keynote by Karen Sandler.



Free Software Awards



Each year at LibrePlanet, the FSF presents two awards recognizing important contributions in free software.

The Award for the Advancement of Free Software is given annually to an individual who has made a great contribution to the progress and development of free software, through activities that accord with the spirit of free software. At LibrePlanet 2016, the award was presented to Werner Koch, the founder and driving force behind GnuPG. GnuPG is the de facto tool for encrypted communication.

The Award for Projects of Social Benefit is presented to a project or team responsible for applying free software, or the ideas of the free software movement, in a project that intentionally and significantly benefits society in other aspects of life.

This award stresses the use of free software in the service of humanity. The award was given to the Library Freedom Project, a partnership among librarians, technologists, attorneys, and privacy advocates which aims to make real the promise of intellectual freedom in libraries.

By teaching librarians about surveillance threats, privacy rights and responsibilities, and digital tools to stop surveillance, the project hopes to create a privacy-centric paradigm shift in libraries and the local communities they serve. Notably, the project helps libraries launch Tor exit nodes.





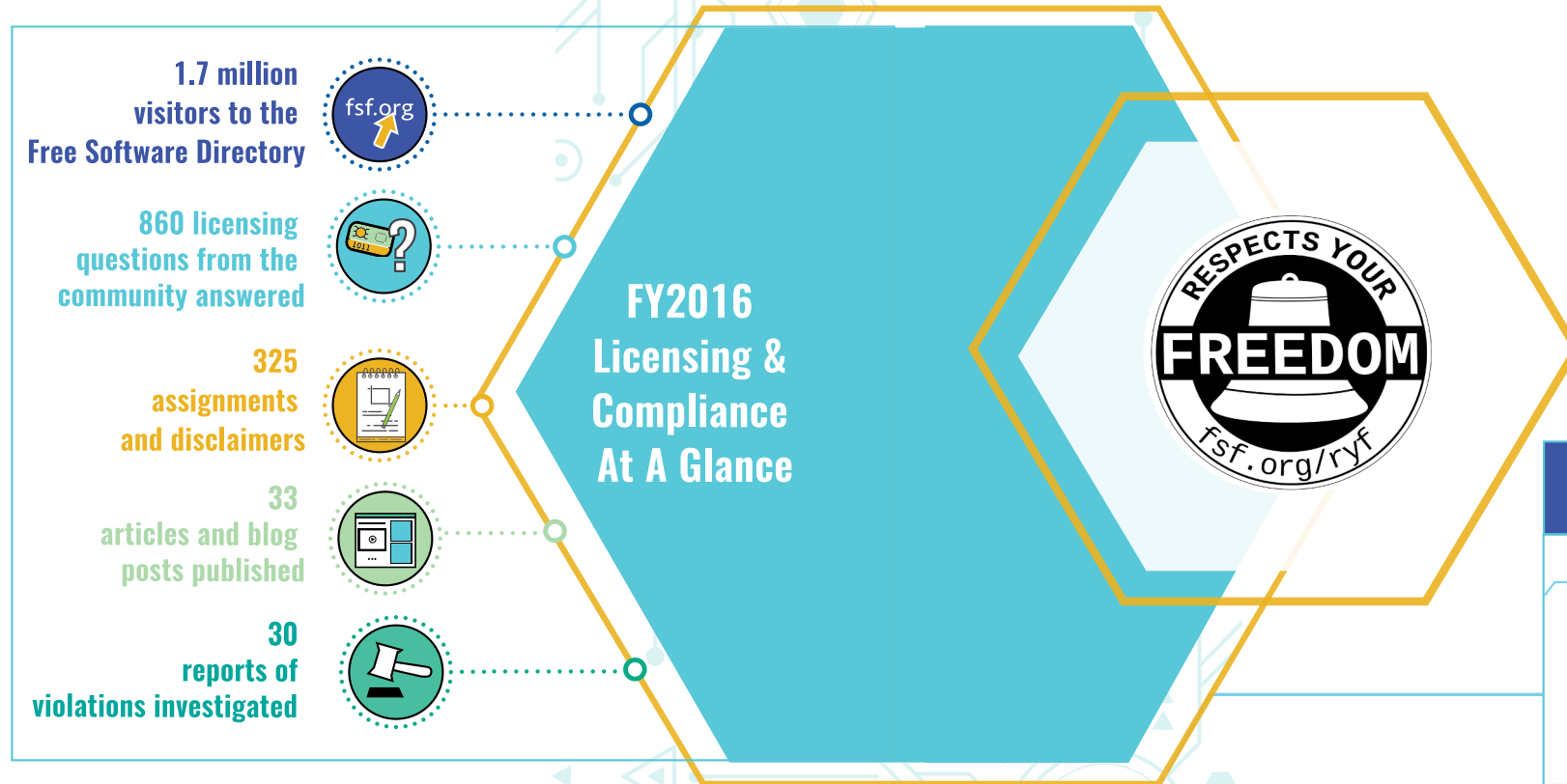
[6]
LICENSING
&
COMPLIANCE



LICENSING

The FSF's Licensing & Compliance Lab serves as a key pillar in supporting free software, enabling the GNU General Public License (GPL) and other legal tools to protect user freedom. We hold copyright on much of the GNU operating system, and each year hundreds of software developers and corporations assign copyright to the FSF. We defend and enforce these copyrights against companies who try to deprive users of freedoms they are due, and we publish licenses, including the GPL, the most widely used free software license, and the only one written with the express purpose of promoting and preserving software freedom. The FSF also shares its expertise and builds community capacity by offering Continuing Legal Education (CLE) credit-qualified trainings to legal and technology professionals and students.

In the last fiscal year, the Licensing & Compliance team continued fighting against the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) alongside ally organizations and rallied public responses to improve proposed US Department of Education regulations on the licensing of grant-funded works. And, we began accepting digital signatures (such as GPG) from contributors in Italy, with more countries to follow.



RYF

- The FSF's Respects Your Freedom computer hardware product certification program encourages the creation and sale of hardware that will do as much as possible to respect your freedom and your privacy, and will ensure that you have control over your device.
- There are currently half a dozen companies who applied for, and received, RYF certification for products including 3D printers, routers, and laptops.
- This past fiscal year, the FSF was able to certify the Aleph Objects Lulzbot TAZ 6 3D printer and ThinkPenguin Mini Wireless router.



Free Software Directory

- The Free Software Directory is an online catalog of useful free software that runs under free operating systems (currently featuring 15,000 projects). Each entry in the Directory contains a wealth of useful information, from basic category and descriptions to version control, IRC channels, and documentation. Licenses are also verified for each and every program listed in this directory. We also warn about software with antifeatures.
- The Directory is maintained by the community; **volunteers can join weekly IRC working meetings to help out — see <https://www.fsf.org/blogs/directory/> for more information.**



<https://www.fsf.org/licensing>

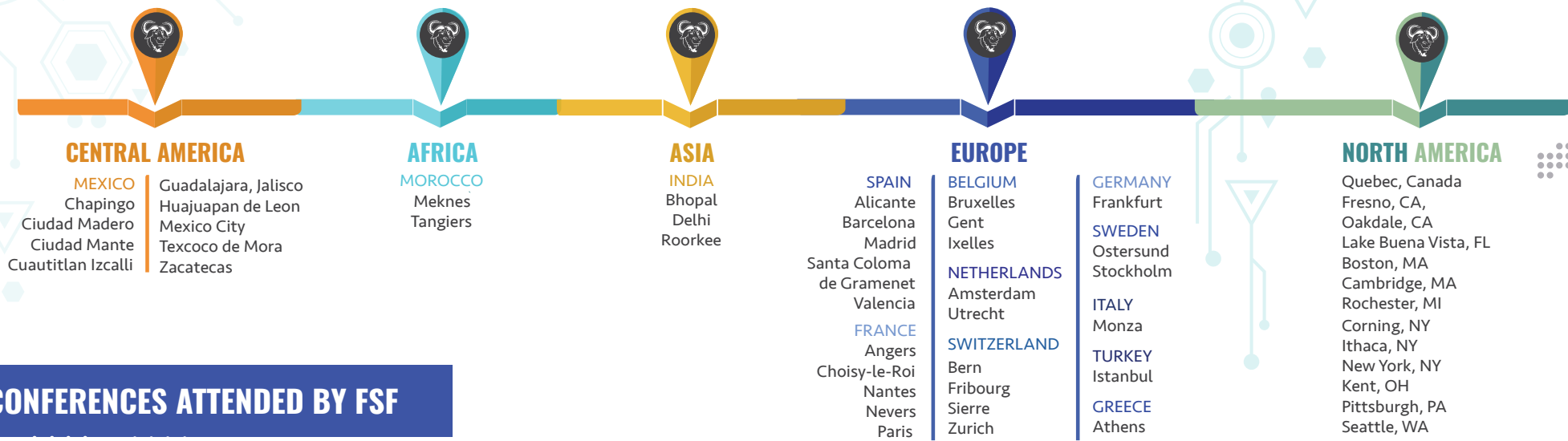


[7]


CONFERENCES
& EVENTS

CONFERENCES & EVENTS

RMS EVENTS AROUND THE WORLD



CONFERENCES ATTENDED BY FSF

 **FSF ATTENDED 13 conferences**
WITH THE HELP OF 58 volunteers





[8]

LEADERSHIP
& STAFF

LEADERSHIP



RICHARD M. STALLMAN
President



JOHN SULLIVAN
Executive Director



JOHN HSIEH
Deputy Director



ZAKKAI ROGOFF
Campaigns Manager

CAMPAIGNS



GEORGIA YOUNG
Program Manager



STEPHEN MAHOOD
Outreach & Communications
Coordinator

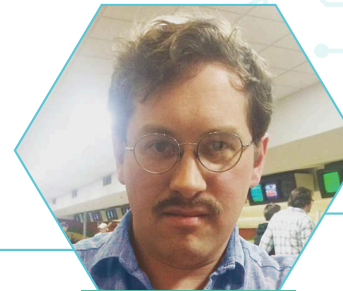


JASIMIN HUANG
Business Operations
Manager

OPERATIONS



JEANNE RASATA
Assistant to
the President



MATT LAVALLEE
Operations Assistant

Board of Directors

RICHARD M STALLMAN
President

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Professor of Electrical Engineering
and Computer Science at MIT

MATTHEW GARRETT
Principal Security Engineer at
CoreOS

BENJAMIN MAKO HILL
Assistant Professor of
Communication,
University of Washington

GEOFFREY KNAUTH
Senior Software Developer
at Accuweather

BRADLEY M. KUHN
President of the Software
Freedom Conservancy

HENRY POOLE
Founder of CivicActions

GERALD J. SUSSMAN
Professor of
Electrical Engineering at MIT

KAT WALSH
Legal Counsel at BlockStream

LICENSING & COMPLIANCE



DONALD ROBERTSON
Licensing &
Compliance Manager

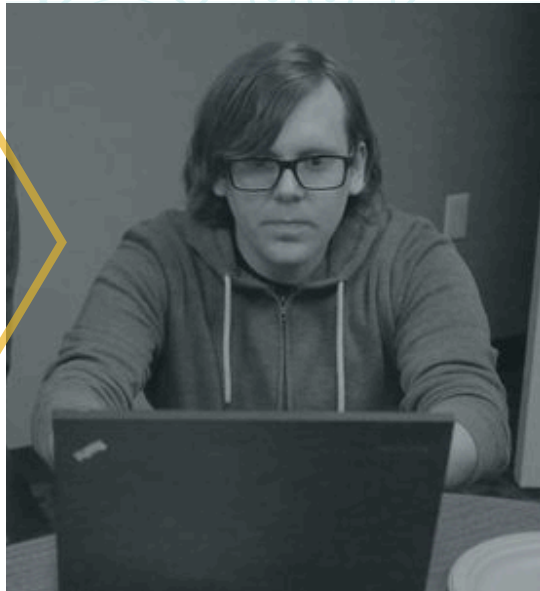


ANDREW ENGELBRECHT
Web Developer



RUBEN RODRIGUEZ
Senior Systems
Administrator

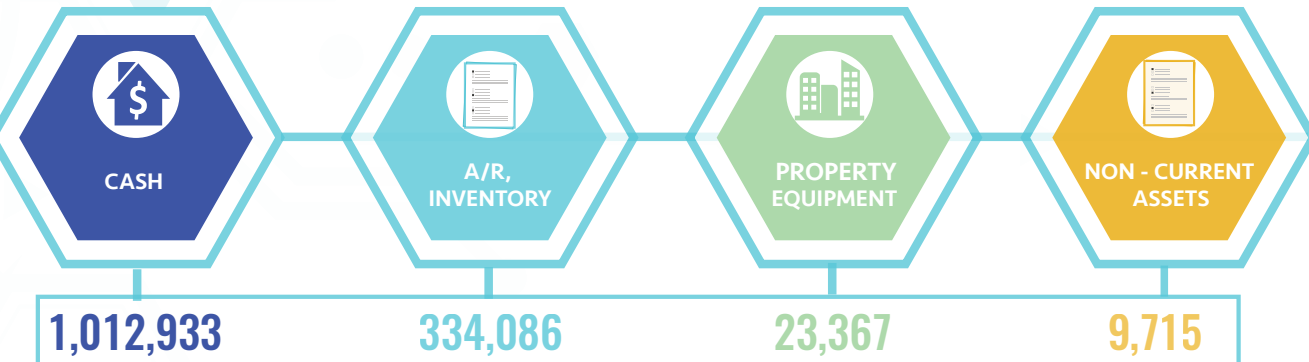
TECH



[9]
FINANCIALS

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

ASSETS



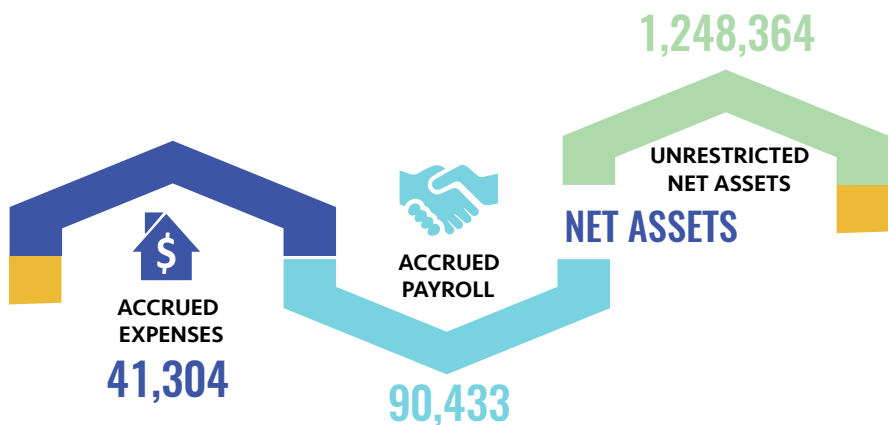
TOTAL ASSETS

1,380,101

TOTAL LIABILITIES

NET ASSETS 1,380,101

Charity Navigator, an organization that evaluates the financial health, accountability, transparency, and results of over 8,000 nonprofits, has assigned the FSF its top rating of 4 stars.



LIABILITIES NET ASSETS

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

1,211,776
INDIVIDUAL CONTRIBUTIONS

REVENUE SUPPORT

104,557
EARNED REVENUE

9,562
INTEREST OTHER INCOME

39,737
INVESTMENTS

1,365,632
TOTAL REVENUE

NET ASSETS

CHANGE IN NET ASSETS 56,885

BEGINNING OF THE YEAR 1,191,479

END OF THE YEAR 1,248,364



OPERATING EXPENSES

1,101,052 PROGRAMS
105,117 MANAGEMENT ADMINISTRATIVE
102,578 FUNDRAISING

1,308,747

TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES

OUR DONORS



[10]

OUR DONORS

Patrons & In-Kind Supporters



This list includes our patrons, in-kind supporters, and those who receive ThankGNUs for donations totaling over \$500 in a year. The FSF appreciates and thanks the thousands of individual donors, members, and corporate patrons across the world who make our work possible.

- Bibliotek Systemer
- Markley Group
- Igalia
- Alibaba
- The Linux Foundation
- TowardEX
- Tuxera, Inc.
- IBM
- Audeo, Inc.
- Hewlett Packard
- IUT Béziers (Université Montpellier 2)
- BackConnect
- Bytemark Hosting
- CivicActions
- Gandi

FY2016 THANKGNUS

OUR DONORS

\$500-\$999

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Jason Compton • Eric Cooper • Ken Cotton • Jeff Crane • David Crossland in honor of Mr. Francesco Vianello
Rob and Bonnie Cuthbert • James Fitzgerald • Cătălin Frâncu • Ashley Fryer • René Genz • Daniel Kahn Gillmor
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Huisking Foundation • Innovo Foundation • International Society for the Advancement of Software Education
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\$1,000 +

**FY2016
THANKGNUS**

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Hemant Patel in memory of Mrs. Pravinaben Patel • **Marcus Perner** • Donnie Pennington • **Roland Pesch**
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\$500-\$999