"Free as in Freedom"

Free,Open-Source Software and
Courseware for Education

Exploring a New World

April 25, 2009
Argosy University
Future of Education Conference

ubuntu

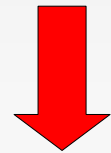# The Issues

Stressed school finances

Stressed home finances

Aging or non-existent classroom technology

Outdated or non-existent software

Inequity of access, training, and opportunity: Digital Divide Issues

ubuntu

The Issues (continued)

Increasingly technology-infused society

Greater demands for student achievement

More expectations placed on teachers

Digital Natives taught by Digital Immigrants

ubuntu

Solution Part 1: Freedom

⭐ Becoming aware of possibilities

⭐ Using scarce resources responsibly

⭐ Choosing materials wisely

⭐ Leveraging past accomplishments

⭐ Identifying and developing hidden potential

ubuntu

Freedom and Software

- Libre versus Gratis

  - Not about price – it's about freedom

- Four Freedoms

  - Freedom 0: Freedom to use a program

  - Freedom 1: Freedom to understand and modify the program to meet your needs

  - Freedom 2: Freedom to share unmodified versions

  - Freedom 3: Freedom to share modified versions

ubuntu

Solution Part 2: Sharing

- Two of the four freedoms protected by free software involve sharing.

- Sharing builds community in the sense of **ubuntu**, translated as:

  - Humanity towards others

  - I am because we are

  - The belief in a universal bond of sharing that connects all humanity.
    (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ubuntu_(ideology))

- Nelson Mandela's explanation of ubuntu:
  (http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Dx0qGJCm-qU)

ubuntu

The Legal Basis of Sharing

- **Copyleft** is the legal mechanism that protects users' freedoms and perpetuates the freedoms for derivative works. Once a software program is published as free software, every derivative from it must be free as well.

- Copyleft was conceived by Richard Stallman and Eben Moglen.

- Stallman considers copyleft to be a hack of copyright – based on the typical licensing of software but including a twist.

ubuntu

Open Source

- The term Free Software can be misleading, making business people skeptical of it.

- In 1998, the term Open Source was adopted to describe this software focusing on:

  - Efficient and effective development process

  - Easier marketing to business

  - Less philosophical "baggage"

- But, avoids the focus on freedom

ubuntu

Commonly Used Names

- Free Software (confused with freeware)

- Open Source Software (ignores freedoms)

- Libre Software (used in Romance languages)

- Free (Libre) Open Source Software (FLOSS)

- Free and Open Source Software (FOSS)

ubuntu