



Free Software licensing,  
Patents and Open Standards

# What is Free Software?

'Free' does not refer to price.

It refers to freedom.

# Freedom to innovate

Use

Modify

Share

Improve

# Powered by licences

There are many Free Software licences.

They are not all compatible.

# Common issues

People don't read the licences.

People mix code with incompatible terms.

Engineering, legal and sales don't talk.

# Avoiding issues

Read the licences.

Have work flows and processes that take Free Software into account.

# The good news

Free Software offers a range of benefits.

A lot of best practice information exists.

# The problem of patents

Software patents are broad.

Software patents restrict innovation.



# A fair marketplace

ICT is a profitable and growing market sector.

Free Software helps ensure access for all parties.

# What is an Open Standard?

Available to all parties

No dependency on non-standards

Free from clauses

Managed independently

Available in multiple implementations

# Good ideas work together

Free Software and Open Standards work together to ensure fair access to technology

# Getting help

Talk to users.

[ftf@fsfeurope.org](mailto:ftf@fsfeurope.org)

[licensing@fsf.org](mailto:licensing@fsf.org)