Software Enshittification or Freedom?

It’s not a hard choice!

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https://www.fsfla.org/svn/fsfla/ikiwiki/blogs/lxo/pres/unshittify/
Summary

- Enshittification
  - of software
  - of the web
  - of “your” devices

- How to fight back
Enshittification

- Online services
- Lure victims in
- Change the deal
- Bait and switch 2.0
- Irresistible strategy
- How platforms die

So nothing to worry about?
Software (industry) enshittification

- Multi-layer enshittification
- From obedient machines to...
  - Nonfree software, builtin malware
  - Imposed updates (backdoor)
  - Exclusive app stores
  - Remote revocation

It has intensified over time
Software (static) enshittification

- Back when users could choose
- Offline voluntary upgrades
- Users could choose to roll back
- New and old versions competed
- Needed attractive new features
- Upper limit for enshittification

Hard to get it worse from under you
Software (dynamic) enshittification

- Online imposed updates
- No way to roll back
- Most enshittifiable (so far)
  - On your computers: TRApps and CRApps
  - JavaScrapped WWWorst App Store
  - Service as a Software Substitute (SaaS)
Programmable Devices

- SmartIoT
- Installable nonfree software (firmware, \( \mu \text{code} \))
  - Auto-installed by OpSys
  - Available in online repo
  - From driver disk, download
- RYF hardware
  - With firmware \( \equiv \) hardware circuit
  - Without firmware

There's a new \( \mu \text{code} \) version.
Should I install it?
Enshittification cycle

- Bait
- Dependence
- Switch
- Extraction
- Death?
- Unhappiness

Break the cycle!
Software Freedom: Attain

• Increment it: flush!
  – CRAApps, TRApps, WWWRAApps, SaaS
  – Beware Free-for-somebody-else Software

• Disrespectful to boot

• Expect enshittification

• Compare accordingly

Irresistible strategy, absent freedom
Software Freedom: Keep

- Eternal vigilance
- Control your computing
  - Enshittification or freedom?
- Avoid enshittifiable crap
- Cultivate desirable alternatives
  - Unregrettable backup plans

Unshittify your digital life
Four freedoms a day
keep enshittification away

Be (Shit-)Free!

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Thank you!