Software Enshittification or Freedom?

It’s not a hard choice!

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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 WWWWorst App Store
  - Service as a Software Substitute (SaaS)
Programmable Devices

- SmartIoT
- Installable nonfree software (firmware, μcode)
  - Auto-installed by OpSys
  - Available in online repo
  - From driver disk, download
- RYF hardware
  - With firmware ≡ hardware circuit
  - Without firmware
Enshittification cycle

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

Break the cycle!
Software Freedom: Attain

- Increment it: flush!
  - CRApps, TRApps, WWWRAApps, SaaSS
  - 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 enshttifiable 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!