

Here Comes GPLv3

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Who I am

- A Ph. D. Candidate majoring in economics and management theory
 - IANAL
- A FLOSS (Free & Libre / Open Source Software) Developer & Contributor
 - An Official Debian developer
 - A GNU Maintainer
 - Translated FLOSS documents into Japanese, including GPL itself
- A Member of GPLv3 Discussion Committee D
- A member of IPA OSSC Legal TG

What's GPL?

- GNU General Public License
- Written by Richard M. Stallman for GNU Project
- The current version is Version 2.x (published in 1991)
- Many FLOSS Projects adopted GPL
 - About 7-80% (according to freshmeat)
 - GNU software, Linux kernel, etc.
 - Recently, Sun declared they will release Java under GPL

Things GPL want to defend

- The users' 4 freedoms
 - The freedom to run the program, for any purpose (freedom 0).
 - The freedom to study how the program works, and adapt it to your needs (freedom 1). Access to the source code is a precondition for this.
 - The freedom to redistribute copies so you can help your neighbor (freedom 2).
 - The freedom to improve the program, and release your improvements to the public, so that the whole community benefits (freedom 3). Access to the source code is a precondition for this.

GPL idiosyncrasy

- The “Copyleft” provision
 - Innovative use of copyright
 - prohibition of prohibition, restriction on restriction
- Really international software license
 - Who have jurisdiction?

What's GPLv3?

- First major revision in 15 years
- To make GPL nice for people
 - Make it more readable
 - Internationalize GPL
 - Improve license compatibility
- An attempt to make GPL suited for nowadays situation
 - Legal challenge
 - Technical challenge

GPLv3 Revision Process(1)

- Each discussion drafts are prepared by FSF
 - The final say remains with RMS
- Consultancy by SFLC (Software Freedom Law Center)
 - Headed by a Columbia law professor Eben Moglen
- Schedule
 - Jan. 15, 2006 - The 1st draft of GPLv3 has been released
 - Jul. 27, 2006 – The 2nd draft of GPLv3 has been released
 - The 3rd one will be ready soon

GPLv3 Revision Process(2)

- Community involved process
 - International GPLv3 Conferences
 - Discussion committees
 - A-D
 - Invited experts from various realm, including lawyers, corporate people, hackers, etc.
 - Submit reports to RMS
 - The public comment system
 - See <http://gplv3.fsf.org/comments>
- The door is wide open for discussion

The Enemy of GPLv3

- Everything which endangers FLOSS developers legally
- DRM (Digital Restrictions Management)
 - Undermines the users' freedom by stealth
 - DMCA in the U.S., EU Copyright Directive
- Software Patents

What's the difference?

- The bottom line and spirit are unchanged
 - GPL2 and GPLv3 are fundamentally the same
- Internationalization of wordings
 - Actually, “de-Americanization”
- Anti-encumbered-by-law DRM clause (cl.3)
 - Not really “Anti-DRM”
- Patent retaliation
 - Actually, very mild one
- Note that DD1 and DD2 are so different!

What's IPA OSSC Legal TG?

- A team of people who are interested in FLOSS licensing
- Hosted at IPA OSSC (Open Source Software Center)
- Varied background
 - Legal professionals
 - People from companies
 - A FLOSS developer (me!)
- Have regular meetings

The mission of the Legal TG

- The current focus is GPLv3
 - Assess the actuality of GPLv3 in Japan
 - Thorough investigation is needed
 - Several members visited Prof. Moglen
 - Tell him our concerns directly
 - Established good relationship
- Long run goal
 - Reduce uncertainty of FLOSS licensing in Japan
 - Japanese version of SFLC?
 - ADR?

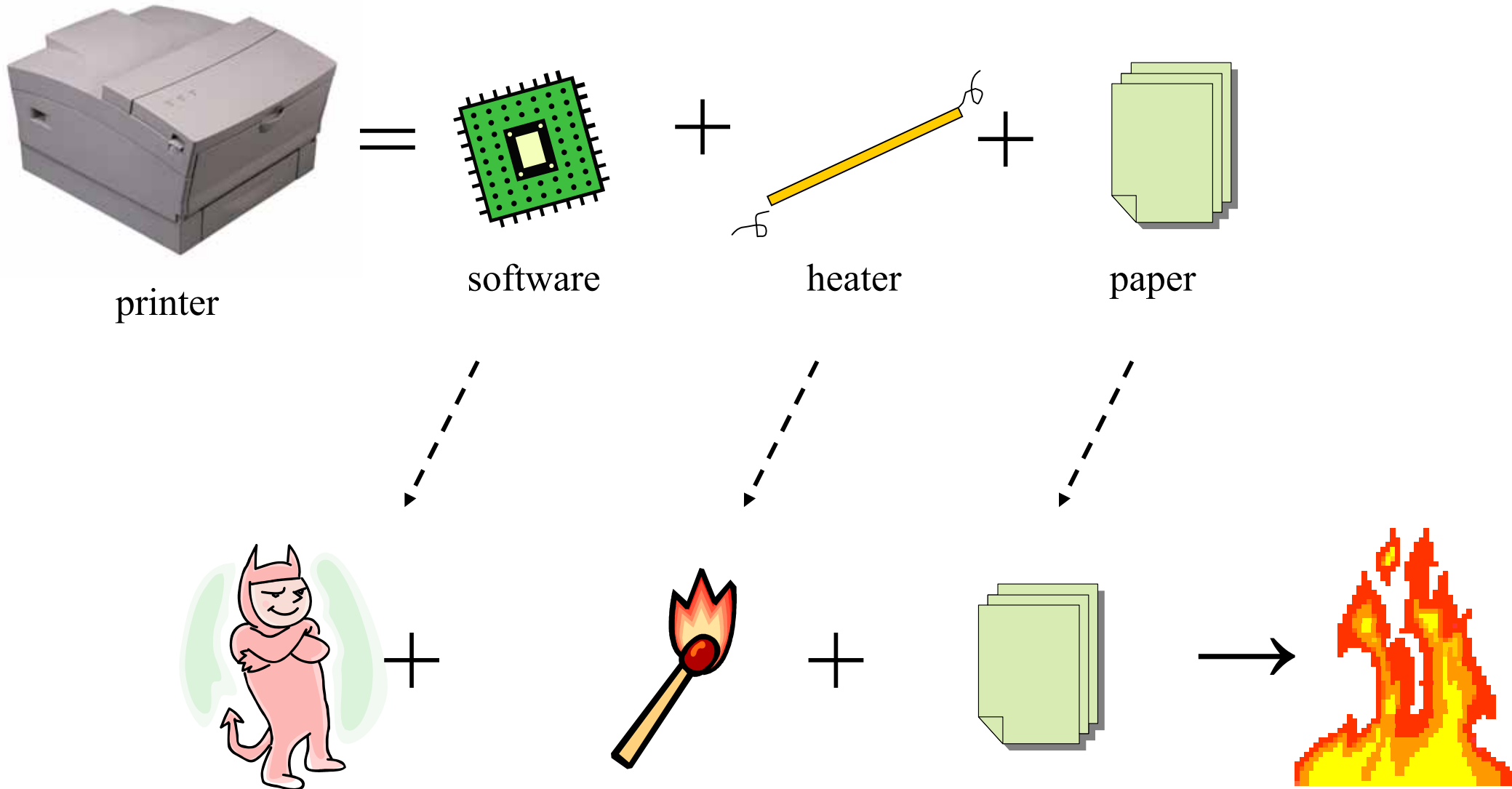


Digital Appliance = commodity components

+ Linux

+ Application software

The case trusted environment is required



Need to make an coexisting environment of
Software Freedom / Openness
with
Security
Safety
Trustability

Thanks

- Thank you very much for your attention.
- If you have any question...
 - See <http://gplv3.fsf.org/>
 - Send me e-mail: mhatta@gnu.org
- Japanese translation of GPLv3-related documents are placed in <http://opentechpress.jp/>