

# April

## Why free software activism matters for GNU hackers

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# April – who are we?

- Promoting and protecting Free Software
- A few facts:
  - Focusing on the French speaking area
  - Works with FSF since 1996
  - First working group was trad GNU
  - 3,600 members, 3 staff members, many volunteers

# Promotion and protection of Free Software

- Promotion
  - Guide Libre Association
  - Trad GNU
  - Conferences, outreach, ...
- Protection:
  - Against legal threats
  - Ensuring a legal and political environment that's not working against free software – even create a favorable environment

# Man law: how the law-making process works

- Lots of lobbying, especially on technical issues
- Habits of staying within a well-identified circle of persons
- The legal system is being built by and for politicians, analysts
- We need to be there

# The need for expertise

- Bringing expertise from the community
- More than information: influence on final decisions
- Writing down our own proposals and the need for full-time staff

# Examples from the past

- Software patents
- DADVSI (DMCA like law)
- DRM, reverse engineering

# Examples (2)

- ACTA
- Priority to free software in public administration

# What we can do

- Free Software Pact: an example of direct interaction between citizens and their representatives.
- Campaigns

# Next events

- Software Freedom Day in Amsterdam (Sep 18)
- GNU 30th anniversary celebration in Paris (Sep 21, TBC)

"First they ignore you,  
then they laugh at you,  
**then they fight you,**  
then you win."

*attributed to Mahatma Gandhi*

# Thanks for listening.

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