

# Richard Stallman

## Quotes

*People, Writing, Use, Thinking, Mean, Giving, Ideas, Software, Real, Way,  
Running, World, Want, Government, Law, Trying, Community, Movement, Jobs,  
Practice*

Whether gods exist or not, there is no way to get absolute certainty about ethics. Without absolute certainty, what do we do? We do the best we can.

~Richard Stallman

Fighting patents one by one will never eliminate the danger of software patents, any more than swatting mosquitoes will eliminate malaria.

~Richard Stallman

I did write some code in Java once, but that was the island in Indonesia.

~Richard Stallman

Sharing knowledge is the most fundamental act of friendship. Because it is a way you can give something without losing something.

~Richard Stallman

You can use any editor you want, but remember that vi vi vi is the text editor of the beast.

~Richard Stallman

Sharing is good, and with digital technology, sharing is easy.

~Richard Stallman

Facebook is not your friend, it is a surveillance engine.

~Richard Stallman

By the way, I hope you all know about the worldwide boycott of Coca Cola company for things like murdering union organizers in Colombia. See the site [killercoke.org](http://killercoke.org).

~Richard Stallman

Free software is software that respects your freedom and the social solidarity of your community. So it's free as in freedom.

~Richard Stallman

Playfully doing something difficult, whether useful or not, that is hacking.

~Richard Stallman

People get the government their behavior deserves. People deserve better than that.

~Richard Stallman

If you want to accomplish something in the world, idealism is not enough - you need to choose a method that works to achieve the goal.

~Richard Stallman

No person, no idea, and no religion deserves to be illegal to insult, not even the Church of Emacs.

~Richard Stallman

People sometimes ask me if it is a sin in the Church of Emacs to use vi. Using a free version of vi is not a sin; it is a penance. So happy hacking.

~Richard Stallman

Giving the Linus Torvalds Award to the Free Software Foundation is a bit like giving the Han Solo Award to the Rebel Alliance.

~Richard Stallman

People said I should accept the world. Bullshit! I don't accept the world.

~Richard Stallman

Geeks like to think that they can ignore politics, you can leave politics alone, but politics won't leave you alone.

~Richard Stallman

Idiots can be defeated but they never admit it.

~Richard Stallman

Open source is a development methodology; free software is a social movement.

~Richard Stallman

If programmers deserve to be rewarded for creating innovative programs, by the same token they deserve to be punished if they restrict the use of these programs.

~Richard Stallman

GNU, which stands for Gnu's Not Unix, is the name for the complete Unix-compatible software system which I am writing so that I can give it away free to everyone who can use it.

~Richard Stallman

The interesting thing about cloud computing is that we've redefined cloud computing to include everything that we already do.

~Richard Stallman

All governments should be pressured to correct their abuses of human rights.

~Richard Stallman

Now that corporations dominate society and write the laws, each advance or change in technology is an opening for them to further restrict or mistreat its users.

~Richard Stallman

I'm the last survivor of a dead culture. And I don't really belong in the world anymore. And in some ways I feel I ought to be dead.

~Richard Stallman

We need to teach people to refuse to install non-free plug-ins; we need to teach people to care more about their long-term interest of freedom than their immediate desire to view a particular site.

~Richard Stallman

Steve Jobs, the pioneer of the computer as a jail made cool, designed to sever fools from their freedom, has died.

~Richard Stallman

There is no system but GNU and Linux is one of it's kernels

~Richard Stallman

Snow is so beautiful, it doesn't have to be useful.

~Richard Stallman

Android is a major step towards an ethical, user-controlled, free-software portable phone, but there is a long way to go.

~Richard Stallman

I'm always happy when I'm protesting.

~Richard Stallman

Value your freedom or you will lose it, teaches history. "Don't bother us with politics," respond those who don't want to learn.

~Richard Stallman

Globalizing a bad thing makes it worse. But globalizing a good thing is usually good.

~Richard Stallman

Anything that prevents you from being friendly, a good neighbour, is a terror tactic.

~Richard Stallman

Creativity can be a social contribution, but only in so far as society is free to use the results.

~Richard Stallman

Laws that oppress people have no moral authority.

~Richard Stallman

Prior art is as effective as US soldiers in Iraq: They control the ground they stand on, and nothing more. I used to say Vietnam, but, well, you know.

~Richard Stallman

In the free/libre software movement, we develop software that respects users' freedom, so we and you can escape from software that doesn't.

~Richard Stallman

In terms of effect on the world, it's very good that I've lived. And so I guess, if I could go back in time and prevent my birth, I wouldn't do it. But I sure wish I hadn't had so much pain.

~Richard Stallman

A commune is where people join together to share their lack of wealth.

~Richard Stallman

So, make a real effort to avoid getting sucked into all the expensive lifestyle habits of typical Americans. Because if you do that, then people with the money will dictate what you do with your life.

~Richard Stallman

Programming is not a science. Programming is a craft.

~Richard Stallman

'Free software' is a matter of liberty, not price. To understand the concept, you should think of 'free' as in 'free speech,' not as in 'free

beer'.

~Richard Stallman

Paying isn't wrong, and being paid isn't wrong. Trampling other people's freedom and community is wrong, so the free software movement aims to put an end to it, at least in the area of software.

~Richard Stallman

I have not seen anyone assume that all the citizens of New York are guilty of murder, violence, robbery, perjury, or writing proprietary software.

~Richard Stallman

Because I don't believe that it's really desirable to have security on a computer, I shouldn't be willing to help uphold the security regime.

~Richard Stallman

Our mailing lists (and their repeater newsgroups) are only for the purpose of promoting proprietary software.

~Richard Stallman

I suppose many people will continue moving towards careless computing, because there's a sucker born every minute.

~Richard Stallman

The desire to be rewarded for one's creativity does not justify depriving the world in general of all or part of that creativity.

~Richard Stallman

The GNU GPL was not designed to be "open source".

~Richard Stallman

The Adobe flash plug-in is non-free software, and people should not install it, or suggest installing it, or even tell people it exists.

~Richard Stallman

If ebooks mean that readers' freedom must either increase or decrease, we must demand the increase.

~Richard Stallman

Somebody is saying this is inevitable - and whenever you hear somebody saying that, it's very likely to be a set of businesses campaigning to make it true.

~Richard Stallman

To be able to choose between proprietary software packages is to be able to choose your master. Freedom means not having a master.

~Richard Stallman

Would a dating service for people on the net be "frowned upon" by DCA? I hope not. But even if it is, don't let that stop you from notifying me via net mail if you start one.

~Richard Stallman

One reason you should not use web applications to do your computing is that you lose control.

~Richard Stallman

You know, if you were *\*really\** going to starve, you'd be justified in writing proprietary software.

~Richard Stallman

I figure that since proprietary software developers use copyright to stop us from sharing, we cooperators can use copyright to give other cooperators an advantage of their own: they can use our code.

~Richard Stallman

Control over the use of one's ideas really constitutes control over other

people's lives; and it is usually used to make their lives more difficult.

~Richard Stallman

Copying all or parts of a program is as natural to a programmer as breathing, and as productive. It ought to be as free.

~Richard Stallman

Once GNU is written, everyone will be able to obtain good system software free, just like air.

~Richard Stallman

Odious ideas are not entitled to hide from criticism behind the human shield of their believers feelings.

~Richard Stallman

Think 'free speech,' not 'free beer.'

~Richard Stallman

It's clear that other problems such as [...] the domination of business over government, science, thought, and society, are much bigger than non-free software.

~Richard Stallman

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