Wizards of OS 4
Information Freedom Rules

http://wizards-of-os.org

14-16 September 2006
Columbia Venues Berlin

as well as
at and in cooperation with

Tesla
c-base
Erwin Schrödinger-Zentrum, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin

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Partners

Department of Digital Culture of the Ministry of Culture Brazil ● Brazilian Embassy Berlin ● Center for Technology & Society (CTS) at the Fundação Getulio Vargas (FGV) ● Bundeszentrale für politische Bildung ● Waag Society, Amsterdam ● Wikimedia e.V. ● OLSR Experiment by Freifunk, Berlin ● Creative Commons ● newthinking network, Berlin ● Linux New Media, München ● Linux Bangalore ● Forum InformatikerInnen für Frieden und gesellschaftliche Verantwortung (FIfF) ● Chaos Computer Club ● Netzwerk Neue Medien ● Berliner Unix User Group ● mikro e. V.

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WOS 4 In Brief

Wizards of OS 4. Information Freedom Rules
The 4th WOS conference will take place at Columbia Halle and Columbia Club in Berlin on 14 – 16 September 2006. Different from previous WOS conferences, it will be single-track with only break-out and BoF sessions taking place in parallel. The three conference days will be roughly organised around the themes of **work & business**, **authorship & peer production**, and **technologies of freedom**. The theme demarkated by the subtitle of WOS 4 will be running through the conference as a whole: the question which **freedom** do we mean, and what **rules** does it take to make it sustainable.

The Conference Plus
The three core conference days will be surrounded by events at venues of our partners in Berlin. The free wireless networking community will gather at c-base (http://c-base.org) throughout the whole week of WOS 4. Art-related approaches to WOS issues, including residencies, talk events, an exhibition and a film programme will be organised by Tesla (http://tesla-berlin.de). The Show of Free Knowledge (working title) embedded into the conference on Saturday afternoon, will be directed at a much larger and younger audience than the conference itself. In cooperation with the Informatikjahr and a well-known TV moderator personality, the spirit of free knowledge, its culture and many of the issues discussed at the conference will be presented in an entertaining, yet at the same time enlightening way.

Finally, the Computer Science and Society Working Group of Humboldt University (http://waste.informatik.hu-berlin.de) will be hosting a number of parallel one-day workshops on Sunday 17 September at the Schrödinger Center in Berlin-Adlershof. At this point these include a workshop on social science research concerning Wikipedia and other wiki-based media, a meeting by the At Large Advisory Committee of ICANN, a workshop with copyright activists from the EU member states and the new accession states concerning the transposition of the European copyright acquis, and a workshop by the EU research project towards Open Source Software adoption and dissemination (tOSSad, http://tossad.org)

The Issues of WOS 4

Information Freedom Rules

The subtitle of WOS 4, indicates three aspects: As always, WOS wants to showcase areas where freely produced and distributed information matches and surpasses its proprietary competitiors, as in software and encyclopedias. WOS 4 also wants to take a look back at Shapiro/Varian's seminal 1999 book „Information Rules" on business strategies for the networked economy, which surprisingly is completely oblivious to the new mode of „commons-based peer production" (Yochai Benkler). And thirdly, WOS 4 will look at the rules required to make Information Freedom sustainable.

The Network Economy meets the Networks of Wealth meets the Wealth of Networks.

Speakers
● Hal R. Varian, Department of Economics at the University of California at Berkeley
● Yochai Benkler, Yale Law School, New Haven
● Saskia Sassen, University of Chicago and London School of Economics (tbc)

Netlabels: Niche, long tail, blueprint?

During the last five years a new form of music distribution has emerged online. Netlabels make use of liberal licenses to distribute their music freely and generate exposure for their artists. The phenomenon has especially flourished in the electronic music scene, with literally hundreds of labels releasing electronica, house and IDM tracks and many artists gaining international recognition.

At the same time, the adoption of the netlabel idea has been slow when it comes to other genres or commercial entities. Many big technology companies have started to embrace open source software for their businesses. Such an exchange of ideas is virtually nonexistent in today's music industry.

Does this mean that netlabels will remain a niche phenomenon? Or are they part of a long tail industry that is gaining strength as physical distribution fades? What can netlabels and the traditional industry learn from each other? And which role will each of them play in years to come?

Speakers
● Moderator: Janko Röttgers, Lowpass.cc, Los Angeles
● John Buckman, CEO Magnatune.com, Berkeley
● Moritz Sauer, Phlow.net, Netlabels.org, author of "Websites für Musiker, Djs und Netlabels", O'Reilly 2006, Cologne
● Poto Wegener, head of the legal department of Suisa.ch, Zurich (tbc.)

Specials
● a Netlabel GNU/Linux distribution will be compiled by a working group before the conference and built and distributed during WOS 4

● Netlabel concerts on Friday and Saturday night

Brazil, the Open Source Nation

Brazil has emerged as the prime promoter of free culture, not only in international fora but also domestically. „We are going to tropicalize the digital revolution." Under this motto by Brazil's Minister of Culture Gilberto Gil, the country is developing a broad range of activities for promoting digital culture. WOS 4 together with the Ministry of Culture and other Brasilian partners wants to show a representative spectrum.

Starting point is a vibrant local culture. From the poor neigbourhoods of Rio de Janeiro or Belem new musical genres are touching the ears and hearts of people across the globe, via Internet withouth any intermediary. „Pontos de Cultura" is the master-plan of bringing 600 cultural projects across the country into the digital age. Groups working with music or video, indigenous crafts or copoeira, graffiti and circus will be equipped with multimedia hardware, free software and a budget in order to produce, document and freely share with the world their cultural expressions. WOS 4 will present an overview of the works coming out of these Culture Spots. Recycled hardware and free software play a crucial role as infrastructure far beyond the Pontos. The questions here as with all of WOS is: how are we going to achieve cultural and financial autonomy? How can we achieve cultural diversity?

Speakers
● Moderator: Volker Grassmuck
● Claudio Prado, Department of Digital Culture of the Ministry of Culture Brazil
● Felipe Fonseca, Metareciclagem, Sao Paulo
● Sérgio Amadeu da Silveira, former Chairman Free Software Technical Implementation Committee, Brazil
● Luiz Felipe de Seixas Corrêa, Embassador of Brazil in Germany, Berlin (tbc)

Specials
● Gilberto Gil, Minister of Culture, Brasilia (tbc)
● Workshop on and presentation of mimoSa by Ricardo Ruiz and Tatiana Wells
● Presentation of selected works coming out of Pontos de Cultura (in Tesla)

EU Copyright Directive, Review and Implementation

In 2006 the EU Directive on Copyright in the Information Society of 2001 (EUCD) is subject to a comprehensive review. In parallel to the EUCD review, the Gowers Report will review whether the current IP framework in the UK needs updating. Both reports will be made in Autumn 2006. During the same time, Switzerland will be implementing the WIPO Copyright Treaty of 1996 (WCT).

WOS 4 will participate in this stock-taking of European digital copyright law and pursue questions like: Where has the directive achieved its goals? Has it hampered legitimate uses? Where there are flexibilities in the EUCD, which of the national implementations are better for freedom than others? Does it create unnecessary restrictions compared

to the WCT that it transposes? Are there implementations of the WCT in countries outside the European Union that have found better solutions than the EUCD?

Furthermore, leading up to WOS 4, a network of European copyright experts from civil society, building on preceding research, will collect best practice implementations of flexible EUCD provisions throughout the 25 member states. Copyright experts from the new accession and candidate countries (e.g. Bulgaria, Mazedonia, Ukraine) will asses the current copyright laws in their countries. This information will then be compiled into a report in order to actively promote best practice implementations.

Speakers
● Bernt Hugenholtz, Director of the Institute for Information Law, University of Amsterdam & endowed with reviewing the EUCD
● Tilman Lüder, Head of Unit Copyright and Knowledge-based Economy, DG Internal Market, European Commission, Brussels
● Urs Gasser, Designated Director Research Division for Information Law, University St. Gallen
● Cornelia Kutterer, BEUC, Brussels (tbc)

Best Practice Guide to the EUCD
Project leads:
● Urs Gasser
● Ian Brown
● ... many participants

Workshop on Best Practice Guide to the EUCD
● Bogdan Manolea, Executive Director, Association for Technology and Internet (APTI), Bucharest
● Iryna Kutchma, International Renaissance Foundation, Kiev
● Ian Brown, Senior Research Manager at the Cambridge-MIT Institute and a research fellow at University College London
● Teresa Hackett, lead of the IP project of eIFL, the biggest library consortium in transition/developing countries, Dublin
● ... many participants

Workshop on Lobbying
● Markus Beckedahl, Netzwerk Neue Medien
● Elmar Geese, tarnet GmbH & LIVE Linux Verband

Quality Management in Free Content
The free online encyclopedia Wikipedia has been tackling issues of open quality assessment and improvement from its start out of the failed expert-based Nupedia. Wikipedia Germany is currently developing a system by which a version of an article can be tested and declared ‚stable.' Whether this tagging will take place in an open process or by a group of editors with proven reputation is still under debate. The Digital Universe encyclopedia takes a different approach by bringing in recognized

experts to certify the accuracy of user-submitted articles. In scientific publishing an alternative to the peer-review controlled by major publishing companies is curcial to achieving open access. What projecects exist, what approaches do they take and what can be learned for quality filtering in other areas?

Speakers
● Moderator: Martin Haase, Wikimedia e.V. & University of Bamberg
● Larry Sanger, co-founder of Wikipedia, Anchorage (tbc)
● Andreas Brändle, student of media and communication studies at the University of Zurich
● Ulrich Pöschel, University of Mainz

Licenses

Licenses are crucial sets of rules for articulating and safeguarding freedom. The GNU General Public License (GLP), the most widely used license for free software, is being revised in 2006 in order to address changing technical and legal environments. The most widely used tool for generating standard licenses for free non-software works is provided by the Creative Commons (CC) project. WOS 4 will follow up on the CC Summit at WOS 3, looking into new projects like the Science Commons and iCommons.

The GPL defines four fundamental freedoms and thereby a pool of uniformly, i.e. compatibly licensed works. CC gives licensees a range of options to choose from, leading to a fragmented landscape of pools of works licensed in a way that makes them incompatible in one or more aspects of use, among each other and with other licenses.

What is meant by „free" in these cases? How do the various conceptions of freedom react to challenges like DRM? CC found that offering attribution as an option to choose is unnecessary and in half the world invalid. How much differentiation is necessary? Is a conciliation of freedom of choice and bottom-line of freedom possible?

Speakers
● Lawrence Lessig, Stanford Law School, Stanford, CA & Founder of Creative Commons
● Eben Moglen, Professor of Law & Legal History, Columbia Law School, General Counsel & Board Member, Free Software Foundation, New York (tbc)
● Niva Elkin-Koren, Vice Dean, Faculty of Law, University of Haifa (tbc)
● Benjamin Mako Hill, researcher in the MIT Media Lab's Electronic Publishing research group (tbc)

Workshop
Till Jäger, GPL for lawyers and users

Business and the Commons

Since digitisation of works and channels turns information into a truely public good, business models have to be radically different. Can you market works without any copyright enforcement? Nollywood proves that you can. The Nigerian film industry is the third largest after Hollywood and Bollywood. How can creative people and consumers strike a fair deal without intermediaries? Can you earn your living by playing online games?

- Moderator: Regine Debaty, we-make-money-not-art.com/ (tbc)
- Amaka Igwe, CEO of Amaka Igwe Studios, writer and director, Nigeria (tbc)
- Ronaldo Lemos, Center for Technology & Society (CTS) at the Fundação Getulio Vargas (FGV) & Creative Commons Brazil, Rio de Janeiro & openbusiness.cc
- Cay Wesnigk, OnlineFILM AG, on Digital Rights Fair Trade (DRFT) (tbc)
- Julian Dibbel, on economie in Second Life and other games (tbc)
- Stephan Karpischek, project development and IT, copycan.org, Berlin
- Kilian Kissling, Verlag Directmedia Berlin, selling Wikipedia on DVD (tbc)

Paris Accord: Collective Remuneration for Creative Works

Members of creative communities and the public came together in Paris in June 2006, seeking to identify common interests and new opportunities to collaborate and to draft a joint statement, the Paris Accord. Among the many areas discussed, a consensus emerged in Paris over the need for collective arrangements permitting and remunerating the free circulation of musical works. Against the background of a powerful alliance of public and artists in France and a recent initiative by the Minister of Justice in Sweden, such a levied legal license promises significant progress. WOS 3 has addressed alternative compensation systems already. WOS 4 will take the debate further.

Speakers
- James Love, Consumer Project on Technology, Washington, DC
- Peter Jenner, secretary-general of the International Music Managers' Forum, London
- Christian Paul, socialist MdP, Paris (tbc)
- NN, GEMA / Suisa (tbc)
- NN, European Commission on collecting societies (tbc)

Open Archives

The BBC spectacularily announced the opening of its archives under a license specifically tailored to its needs, and since March 2005 has started offering a few hundred programmes, mostly educational, landscapes and animals, some of them available for remixing to some people. The French Institut National de l'Audiovisuel under the motto „Archives pour tous" is offering 100,000 TV and radio programmes online from its complete history and all genres, all of it with a watermark identifying the downloader, some of it against payment. Rai Click is the „virtual library" of the Italian public broadcaster claiming to make all its old programmes available on the Internet, but only in the DRM-controlled Windows Media format.

What are the problems the public broadcasters are encountering in their attempts to offer access to all? What are the different solutions chosen? How do public broadcaster in other countries react? What do users do with available materials?

The race to digitize the world's print archives has started big time as well. Private initiatives like Google Books and the Open Content Alliance are up against public projects like the European Library and the Bibliotheca Alexandrina. What are the technical and legal issues encountered in these projects? Where does the movement for complete access to the world's paper-based heritage stand today?

Speakers
● Brewster Kahler, founder and director of the Internet Archive (tbc)
● NN, Director Open Content Alliance (tbc)
● Ismail Serageldin, Librarian of Alexandria (tbc)
● NN, Institut National de l'Audiovisuel (tbc)

Open Spectrum
Free wirless networks have raised the issues again of the usability of the ether. Many perceive the electromagnetic spectrum as a public resource that should be, at least in parts, license-free. In 2007, the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) will revise the global regulations of the spectrum. Which alternatives exist? What are the requirements for development, peer-based networking communities and citizen rather than consumer needs?

Speakers
● Onno Purbo, free wireless networking activist, Indonesia
● Robert Horwitz, initiator Open spectrum, Prague (tbc)
● Matthias Kurth, Director of the German regulatory agency of utility networks and candidate for directorship of ITU (tbc)

The Future of Free Software
Ubuntu is the new star among the GNU/Linux distributions. Does this approach lead into the future of free software? This panel looks for bold visions -- on technology, community processes, business models and outreach. It seems the future of free software will be non-western and female.

Speakers
● Moderator: Jonathan Corbet, editor in chief of lwn.net
● Mark Shuttleworth, Founder of Ubuntu Linux and Canonical (tbc)
● Fernanda Weiden, Debian & Google, Zurich
● Atul Chitnis, FOSS.IN, Bangalore
● Danese Cooper, open-source diva, board member of the Open Source Initiative, Intel. (tbc)

Open APIs

Open Standards are the call of the day. But what does openness mean? Open access to specifications and referrence implementations? Freedom to study and implement a standard without payment of royalties? IETF's free standards, free to learn and to use, were the key to the success story of the Internet. Are open document formats and open interfaces to web services today more important than free software? Why would I need the source code of Flickr or Del.icio.us if I can access every function of their services through their API?

Speakers
- Harald Tveit Alvestrand, IETF & Engineer at Google, Trondheim, Norway
- Stewart Butterfield, flickr.com (tbc)
- Frank Witte, Director and Head of Global Open Source Office, SAP AG.
- Susy Struble, Sun Microsystems, on Java API

Art & Copyright

Digital media change practices of artistic creation, collaboration and dissemination. They challenge traditional concepts of authorship and work, and thereby cause clashes with vested economic and moral interests.

Speakers
- Moderation: Cornelia Sollfrank,
- Gisle Frøysland, founder of PIKSEL - festival for free, libre and open source audiovisual software art (tbc)
- Carrie McLaren, Illegal Art: Freedom of Expression in the Corporate Age (tbc)
- Josephine Berry, OpenMute, London (tbc)

Radical Freedom

Freedom might trigger rules for its protection but first of all it is there in its own right, disregarding any rules and regulations, going wherever it wants to go. Many of the most innovative projects just go out and do it, asking questions later, thereby redifining the rules.

Speakers
- Moderation: Felix Stalder
- Rasmus Fleischer, Piratbyran.org (tbc)
- Prof. Ronald J. Deibert, Director of the Citizen Lab, on the psiphon project (tbc)
- Carmen Weisskopf, Bitnik.org, Zurich (tbc)

Free Knowledge, Alienation, and Immaterial Labour

If, as Gorz and others suggest, knowledge resists appropriation -- or at least benefits from not being appropriated, which is the assumption at the heart of all free content/knowledge movements -- then economic rationality is subject to criteria different from that of capitalism as we know it. Then the optimum efficiency will be

achieved through optimum human development. An unconditional basic income would be a necessary step towards that development.

Speakers
- Moderation: Matthias Spielkamp
- Rahel Jaeggi, University of Frankfurt (tbc)
- Alexander Kluge, film maker, tv producer, writer (tbc)
- Claus Offe, prof. emer. Humboldt University, Hertie School of Governance Berlin (tbc)

Camcorder Revolution
The camcorder is the empowerment of the couch potato. Without the private recording policemen nearly beating Rodney King to death in Los Angeles in March 1991 they would not have been brought to justice. Today the Internet provides a level playing field in the struggle for eyeballs for multinational corporation, private citizens and envionmental activists.

Speakers
- Chad Hurley, CEO, youtube (tbc)
- Al Gore, Current TV (tbc)
- tav, green.tv (tbc)
- Cory Doctorow, the Participatory Culture Foundation (tbc)

Free Geodata and Maps
Geodata in public and private hands are considered a valuable asset, especially in light of the expected business with location-based services. In the USA publicly generated information is freely accessible (e.g. http://maps.google.com). An alternative is using GPS technology for cooperatively creating free maps (e.g. http://www.bbbike.de).

Speakers
- Jo Walsh, co-author of Mapping Hacks, London (tbc)
- Steve Coast, OpenStreetmap, Zambia (tbc)
- Cornelius Keller, BBBike, Berlin (tbc)
- NN, Google (tbc)
- NN, Bureau d'Etudes, Paris (tbc)

Specials

Workshops

● Workshop on the GPLv3 Process
Led by Georg Greve (tbc)

● Workshop of Alternative Compensation Systems
Many observers see collective management as an alternative to comprehensive private rights control. At the same time, levies and collecting societies are under attack, not only by the European Commission. The French Alliance Public-Artistes has provided a number of juridical, technical and economic feasibility studies, lending the model of a flatly remunerated permission to share its most concrete shape to date. Starting from this material, WOS 4 in cooperation with the research project „Bild, Schrift, Zahl in der Turing-Galaxis" of the Helmholtz-Zentrum für Kulturtechnik of Humboldt University Berlin and the Waag Society for old and new media, Amsterdam will hold a workshop preceding WOS 4, bringing together mostly European experts from law, Internet technology, collecting societies, content industries and consumer organisations.

● Workshop with copyright activists from the EU member states and the new accession states concerning the transposition of the European copyright acquis, followed by a workshop on advocacy/lobbying tactics by FFII

● Free software for Netlabels, building a Knoppix-based distribution containing a netlabel in a box

● Wiki research, social scientist working on aspects of Wikipedia and other wiki-based media gather to discuss a joint research agenda. Organised by Martin Haase, Wikimedia e.V.

● At Large Advisory Committee of ICANN. Organised by Annette Mühlberg, member of the ALAC.

● Workshop by the EU research project towards Open Source Software adoption and dissemination (tOSSad, http://tossad.org), organised by Roland Alton-Scheidl.

● Art & Copyright, bringing together artists and curators. This workshop will take place either on Wednesday before or on Sunday after the conference. Organised by Cornelia Sollfrank.

Movies

● Coding Culture, a series of three films on Bangalore's Software Industry
● Vladimir Cunha, documentary on Tecno Brega (Belem, 2006)

- Denise Garcia: Sou feia mas tô na moda (Rio de Janeiro, 2005)
- Weizenbaum. Rebel at Work, Documentary with Joseph Weizenbaum (Berlin 2006)
- Gamer Br, Pirex (Brasil, 2005)
- BBC documentary "Software and Development" (2006)
- Nate Harrison, Can I Get An Amen? (2004)
- Go Open Source, a 13 episode television show dedicated to promoting open source software, produced and aired in South Africa

The Wizards of OS so far

The Wizards of Operating Systems (WOS) have established themselves as a prime international gathering for discussions on free software, free content and free infrastructure. It's special strength lies in an interdisciplinary approach, bringing together people from arts and sciences, technology and business, grassroots movements and government. Special about the conference is also its perspective: The WOS is showcasing freedom that works. It is about highlighting solutions and success stories rather than pinpointing problems. WOS wants to inspire and to motivate. It is there to promote the further development of the potentials inherent in the digital revolution for a free information and knowledge environment.

WOS 1 (1999) and WOS 2 (2001) took place in the House of World Cultures, WOS 3 (2004) was in the bcc at Alexanderplatz. They were funded by the "Projekt Zukunft - Der Berliner Weg in die Informationsgesellschaft" of the Berlin Senate for Economic Affairs (WOS 1), the German Federal Agency for Civic Education and the Center for the Public Domain (WOS 2), by the Federal Cultural Foundation, Germany (WOS 3) and by other public and private partners. Each of the conferences was attended by about 700 participants.

Speakers at previous wos conferences include Richard Stallman, Lawrence Lessig, Charlotte Hess, Eben Moglen, Jimmy Wales, Jeanette Hofmann, Tim O'Reilly, Atul Chitnis, Kalle Dalheimer, Tineke M. Egyedi, Michael Tiemann, Cori Hayden, Jean-Claude Guedon, Roger Dingledine, Lars Eilebrecht, Hong Feng, William Fisher, Harald Welte, Hansjürgen Garstka, Rishab Aiyer Ghosh, Georg Greve, Stevan Harnad, Federico Heinz, Dewayne Hendricks, Sebastian Hetze, Meg Hourihan, Tim Hubbard, Till Jaeger, Claus Kalle, Friedrich Kittler, Marit Köhntopp, Joris Komen, Thomas Krag, Martin Kretschmer, Julia Kueng, Peter Weibel, Thomas Krüger, Maurizio Lazzarato, Dawn M. Leach, Marc Lehmann, Ronaldo Lemos, Shu-Kun Lin, James Love, Bernd Lutterbeck, Thomas Macho, Samyeer Metrani, Andy Müller-Maguhn, Janko Röttgers, Donald K. Rosenberg, Tom Schwaller, Wendy Seltzer, Jah Shaka, Alexei Shulgin, Skúli Sigurdsson, Guido Sohne, Cornelia Sollfrank, Hubertus Soquat, Sarah Spiekermann, Felix Stalder, Kaushik Sunder Rajan, Rena Tangens, Andreas Tonnesen, Charles Yates, Ethan Zuckerman and many more.

The documentation of the previous three wos conferences and three smaller events is available at: http://wizards-of-os.org.