How Free Software makes Wikipedia possible

Brianna Laugher,

Wikimedia Australia

http://www.wikimedia.org.au/

Wikipedia:

1: encyclopedia

2: website

3:

not for profit

4: multilingual

5:
free (no cost)

6:
wiki

7:

open content

MediaWiki:

GPL

GNU
General
Public
License

LAMP

Linux,

Apache,

MySQL,

PHP

Bugzilla

IRC

Mailman

JavaScript

Python

Perl

File formats:

Free knowledge *requires* free software.

If we offer information in a proprietary or patent-encumbered format, then we are not just violating our own commitment to freedom, we are forcing others who want to use our allegedly free knowledge to themselves use proprietary software.

Jimmy Wales

1:
OpenOffice.org

2:
SVG

3:
Ogg

Copyright:

GFDL

GNU

Free

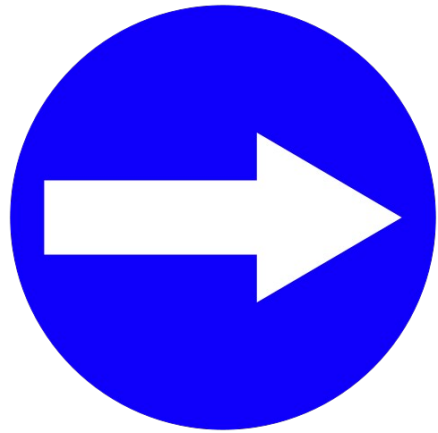Documentation

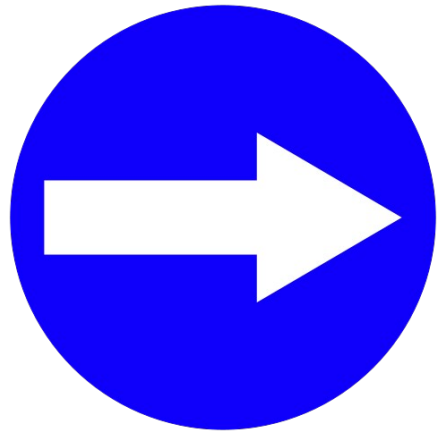License

✓ Read it

✓ Copy it

✓ Sell it

✓ Change it

But!
You must also

Attribute the authors

Pass on the freedoms

We owe an enormous debt to the GNU project and to the Free Software Foundation, as pioneers and leaders of a movement for sharing code freely, so that it cannot be used to coerce and restrict users, and so that it can be improved upon by others. That idea is one of the key inspirations for Wikipedia itself.

Erik Moeller, Deputy Director, Wikimedia Foundation

Wikimedia Australia is an independent, not-for-profit organisation, whose primary aim is to promote equality of opportunity to access and participate in the collaborative creation of Free Cultural Works, especially educational works, and works about Australia, its culture, natural environment, and Australian news and media.

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