

How to maintain our freedom and our privacy by using technology and Internet

Our society is called information society due to the pervasive use of technology and Internet: these services are used in order to spread information and content for different purpose (informative, recreational, commercial, etc.). The most important thing is to be aware about the fact that **our freedom as persons is under attack in underhand ways**: the government agencies continually spy ourselves in the name of national security by using mass surveillance programs ([PRISM](#), [Echelon](#), [Muscolar](#), [NetNeutrality](#), [TED talks](#), [TED taks](#)), the advertising companies and the services providers are exchanging their services, which are more or less useful, with ourselves considered as products for their interests through the profiling and the tracking of users behaviour and habits ([Profiling](#), [Privacy Under Attack](#), [TED](#), [Fetishism of Digital Commodities and Hidden Exploitation](#)), the purchase of a software, a movie or a music often does not mean the ownership of the good ([DRM](#)).

A viable and free solution in order to protect our freedom and our privacy is to use free software which is designed to maintain the users' freedom. The [free software](#) respect the users' freedom and the community: users have the freedom to execute, copy, distribute, study, modify and improve the software. Hence, this is a matter of freedom, not of price. An example to understand the [concept](#), is to think about the [“freedom of speech” instead of “free beer”](#). The [Free Software Foundation](#) promotes the development and the spreading of free software by means of [GPL](#) license. The source code is subject to a revision by many persons and so it is more difficult that it can contain errors ([bug](#)) o security flaws and the corrections are very fast. Moreover, since the source code is available, it is very difficult to intentionally add spy capabilities as [backdoor](#), [trojan](#) and [spyware](#) to the software without that they will be detected and removed (differently from what happened to several commercial softwares).

Finally, the messages considered as private by social networks and applications are actually public: indeed, they are trasmitted via Internet without protections and the social networks are able to read them. In order to communicate in a truly private way by using a digital device, they are necessary different solutions strongly based on cryptography (a plain message is equivalent to a postcard while an encrypted message is equivalent to a letter). The [Electronic Frontier Foundation](#) has created a [Secure Messaging Scorecard](#) about the security and privacy of the major VoIP and chat applications.

In the following, are listed several free softwares and useful systems that allow to improve our freedom and privacy. For a comprehensive list visit this website [Privacy Tools](#).

Software, programs, services		Freedom and privacy respect		
		High	Medium	Low
Operating System	PC	Linux, Canonical Ubuntu, Debian		Microsoft Windows, Apple Mac OS X
		Windows cleaner Detekt		
	Smartphone and Tablet	Linux, Cyanogenmod, Canonical Ubuntu Phone, Mozilla Firefox OS	Google Android, Tizen, Jolla Sailfish OS	Microsoft Windows Phone, Apple iOS

Browser	PC, Smartphone and Tablet	Mozilla Firefox , TOR , Orbot , Chromium	Opera	Microsoft Internet Explorer , Apple Safari , Google Chrome
E-mail Client	PC	Mozilla Thunderbird		Microsoft Outlook
	Smartphone and Tablet	K-9 Mail		Default mail client
Chat	PC	Tox , Telegram , Jitsi.org , Signal , Wire	Viber	Microsoft Skype , Google Hangout
	Smartphone and Tablet	Telegram , Signal , Wire	Viber	Facebook Whatsapp
VoIP	PC	Tox , Jitsi.org , Wire	Viber	Microsoft Skype , Google Hangout
	Smartphone and Tablet	Signal , Wire	Viber	Microsoft Skype , Google Hangout
Cryptography	PC, Android	GNU Privacy , Gpg4win , GPGTools , The Guardian Project , cryptomator		
Office	PC	LibreOffice	Apache OpenOffice	Microsoft Office
PDF Reader	PC	Evince	Foxit Reader	Adobe Acrobat
	Smartphone and Tablet		Foxit Reader	Native reader
Media Player	PC	VLC		Microsoft Windows Media Player , Apple iTunes
	Smartphone and Tablet	VLC		Native media player
Image Processing	PC	GIMP		Adobe Photoshop
Vector Graphics	PC	Inkscape		Adobe Illustrator
3D Graphics	PC	Blender		Autodesk Maya
CAD	PC	LibreCAD	DraftSight	Autodesk AutoCAD
Compressor	PC	7-zip		Winrar , Winzip
Password manager	PC	KeePass , Passopolis		1Password

Search Engines	PC, Smartphone and Tablet	DuckDuckGo , Disconnect Search	Ecosia	Google Search , Microsoft Bing , Yahoo! Search
Webmail/e-mail client	PC	ProtonMail , Mailvelope , Mailpile		Google Gmail , Microsoft Hotmail and Outlook , Yahoo! Mail
	Smartphone and Tablet	ProtonMail		Google Gmail , Microsoft Hotmail and Outlook , Yahoo! Mail
Cloud Storage	PC, Smartphone e Tablet	MegaCloud , nextCloud , ownCloud	Dropbox	Google Drive , Microsoft OneDrive , Apple iCloud , Evernote
Social Network	PC, Smartphone e Tablet			Facebook , Google Google+ , Twitter
Audio and Video Sharing	PC, Smartphone and Tablet		Vimeo	Google YouTube
Browser/e-mail client plug-in	PC, Smartphone and Tablet	HTTPSEverywhere PrivacyBadger uBlock origin Lightbeam Self-Destructing cookies Privacy Coach Enigmail		

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