

SoapBox: Janet Hawtin on Open Source and Software Freedom Day

Hello Knowledge Tree,

Thank you for the opportunity to speak on your SoapBox.

My name is Janet Hawtin. I am a member of the Linux Community of Australia. I am talking to you today about the potential value of Open Source software to the education sector.

Free and open source software is licensed so that we can all share the software legally, adapt the code to our needs, develop skills which are portable and not tied to a specific company or subscription.

Participation is central to effective education. It is also a core value of the Open Source community. We share our ideas and skills and contribute our efforts back to the community so that others can learn and participate too. We feel that it would be great for the education sector to choose technologies Australians can *really* participate in, as makers and not just subscribers.

We would love to see more people and educational organisations, especially, participating in Software Freedom Day which is on 15 September. You can find out more about Software Freedom Day on www.softwarefreedomday.org and hello to Peter [Ruwoldt](#) at [Grant High School](#) who is hosting an event for the South Australian South-East Region.

<http://www.linux.org.au> is a good place to start to find out more about the Australian Linux community and there are also local user groups in each state.

Thanks very much.