

An evening with Richard Stallman

Founder of the GNU project and President of the Free Software Foundation

The speaker

Richard Stallman launched the development of the GNU operating system (see www.gnu.org) in 1984. GNU is free software: everyone has the freedom to copy it and redistribute it, as well as to make changes either large or small. The GNU/Linux system, basically the GNU operating system with Linux added, is used on tens of millions of computers today. Stallman has received the ACM Grace Hopper Award, a MacArthur Foundation fellowship, the Electronic Frontier Foundation's Pioneer Award, and the Takeda Award for Social/Economic Betterment, as well as several honorary doctorates.

Richard is an engaging speaker, and is in Ballarat for one night as part of an Australian speaking tour. His talks are pitched to a general audience - they are not highly technical and will appeal to a wide range of people.

The presentation

Copyright vs Community in the Age of Computer Networks

Copyright developed in the age of the printing press, and was designed to fit with the system of centralised copying imposed by the printing press. But the copyright system does not fit well with computer networks, and only draconian punishments can enforce it.

The global corporations that profit from copyright are lobbying for draconian punishments, and to increase their copyright powers, while suppressing public access to technology. But if we seriously hope to serve the only legitimate purpose of copyright - to promote progress, for the benefit of the public - then we must make changes in the other direction.

:: When

Thursday 16 September 2010

6.00pm - Free BBQ and opportunity to network with Richard and other participants

7.00pm - Presentation

:: Where

Brewery Theatre
SMB Campus
University of Ballarat
Lydiard Street South
Ballarat
www.ballarat.edu.au/maps

:: RSVP

Please RSVP for catering purposes by:
Tuesday 14 September 2010
via
www.cecc.com.au/stallman

:: Payment

There is no cost associated with this event.