

Who are we?

- Howard County Library
 - six library branches
 - customers borrowed our materials 6 million times
 - 316 customer computers (all Ubuntu)
 - 400 staff computers (65% Ubuntu)

Fundamental issues

- Libraries delivery equal opportunity in education to all
- Educational information is increasingly found on the Web, sometimes exclusively
- Expectation is that Libraries will have many, readily available, computers, providing access to a wide range of content

Why open source?

Howard County Library uses a wide range of open source computer software in order to:

- provide customers with internet and computer access
- expand access to library collections and services
- save money
- unleash our creativity
- create new partnerships
- educate

What has Howard County Library accomplished?

- Fiscal responsibility
 - 316 customer computers
 - All software on all of them is license FREE
 - No reservations, no time limits
 - Money we don't spend on software licenses = money to spend on custom programming and MORE computers
 - We buy and deploy re-furbished computers; we use these computers until they *die!*

What has Howard County Library accomplished?

- Extended services - *all* customer computers offer
 - full Internet access
 - word processing
 - spreadsheets, presentations, databases
 - audio/visual (music, YouTube, etc.)
 - instant messaging
 - screen enlargement

What has Howard County Library accomplished?

- Two help desk tickets, on average, per month.
- No viruses; no worms; no trojan horses; no spyware
- Some web sites don't work out of the box with Linux
 - tutor.com (<http://tutor.com>)
- Moving between software applications (MS Works at home, Corel WP at work, OpenOffice.org at Library) is not seamless

Why We Are Here Today

Open

Why We Are Here Today

Free

Define Open

affording unobstructed entrance and exit

not shut or closed

"an open door"

"they left the door open"

Define Open

affording free passage or access

"open drains"

"the road is open to traffic"

"open ranks"

Define Open

open to or in view of all

"an open protest"

"an open letter to the editor"

Define Open

accessible to all

"open season"

"an open economy"

Define Open

not sealed or having been unsealed

"the letter was already open"

"the opened package lay on the table"

Define Open

without undue constriction as from

e.g. tenseness or inhibition

"the clarity and resonance of an open tone"

"her natural and open response"

Define Open

unfold: spread out from a closed or folded state

"open the map"

"spread your arms"

Define Open

receptive: ready or willing to receive favorably

"receptive to the proposals"

Define Open

make available

"This opens up new possibilities"

Define Open

open and observable

not secret or hidden

"overt intelligence gathering"

"open ballots"

Define Open

become available

"an opportunity opened up"

Define Open

afford: afford access to

"the door opens to the patio"

"The French doors give onto a terrace"

Define Open

candid: openly straightforward and direct without reserve or secretiveness

"his candid eyes"

"an open and trusting nature"

"a heart-to-heart talk"

Define Open

information that has become public

"all the reports were out in the open"

"the facts had been brought to the surface"

Define Free

grant freedom to
free from confinement

Define Free

able to act at will

not hampered

not under compulsion or restraint

"free enterprise"

"a free port"

"a free country"

"a free choice"

Define Free

unconstrained or not chemically bound in a molecule
capable of relatively unrestricted motion

"free expansion"

"free oxygen"

"a free electron"

Define Free

complimentary: costing nothing

"complimentary tickets"

"free admission"

Define Free

release: part with a possession or right

"I am relinquishing my bedroom to the long-term
house guest"

"resign a claim to the throne"

Define Free

unblock: make (assets) available

"release the holdings in the dictator's bank account"

Define Free

free from obligations or duties

Define Free

free or remove obstruction from
"free a path across the cluttered floor"

Define Free

not held in servitude

"after the American Civil War he was a free man"