

Cloud Computing: A Greater Threat to Freedom than Proprietary Software?

Speaker: Brian S. Reale, CEO





"It's [Cloud Computing] stupidity. It's worse than stupidity: it's a marketing hype campaign. Somebody is saying this is inevitable--and whenever you hear somebody saying that, it's very likely to be a set of businesses campaigning to make it true."

**-Richard Stallman,
Father of the Free Software Movement**



“The interesting thing about cloud computing is that we’ve redefined cloud computing to include everything that we already do... The computer industry is the only industry that is more fashion-driven than women’s fashion. .. It’s complete gibberish. It’s insane. When is this idiocy going to stop?

- Larry Ellison, CEO Oracle



What's Wrong with Cloud Computing?

- **No control of your data**
- **It's just as bad as using a proprietary program**
- **Vendor can hold both your data and program functionality Hostage**
- **What do the terms of service say?**

[XYZ Company] makes no representation, warranty, or guaranty as to the reliability, timeliness, quality, suitability, truth, availability, accuracy or completeness of [its cloud computing service].

- 1) Auditable Standards**
- 2) Open Source + the Affero Clause**

Copyleft is a play on the word copyright and describes the practice of using copyright law to remove restrictions on distributing copies and modified versions of a work for others and requiring that the same freedoms be preserved in modified versions.



Why it is this not Enough?

Distribution \neq Network Available

It requires the operator of a network server to provide the source code of the modified version running there to the users of that server. Therefore, public use of a modified version, on a publicly accessible server, gives the public access to the source code of the modified version.



A Perfect Compromise

- **You can run your Software in the Cloud**
- **You can access the source code**
- **You are no longer a Hostage: In the Case of a Bankruptcy, a Pricing Change, Poor Performance, or a Regime Change, you can reinstall on different servers**



A Perfect Compromise

- **You can run your Software in the Cloud**
- **You can access the source code**
- **You are no longer a Hostage: In the Case of a Bankruptcy, a Pricing Change, Poor Performance, or a Regime Change, you can reinstall on different servers**

