

Free Software,
Free Society: Yes
We Can! Yes We
Will!

Stefan Merten
Project Oekonux
www.oekonux.org

Free Software, Free Society: Yes We Can! Yes We Will!

Stefan Merten
Project Oekonux
www.oekonux.org

2008-12-10, Thiruvananthapuram

The Oekonux
Project

Yes, we can: Free
Software as a
mode of
production

Change we can
believe in: Free
Software as a germ
form

Yes, we will: A
peek into the
future

Wrap up

Outline

Free Software,
Free Society: Yes
We Can! Yes We
Will!

Stefan Merten
Project Oekonux
www.oekonux.org

The Oekonux Project

The Oekonux
Project

Yes, we can: Free Software as a mode of production

Yes, we can: Free
Software as a
mode of
production

Change we can believe in: Free Software as a germ form

Change we can
believe in: Free
Software as a germ
form

Yes, we will: A peek into the future

Yes, we will: A
peek into the
future

Wrap up

Wrap up

Outline

Free Software,
Free Society: Yes
We Can! Yes We
Will!

Stefan Merten
Project Oekonux
www.oekonux.org

The Oekonux Project

The Oekonux
Project

Yes, we can: Free Software as a mode of production

Yes, we can: Free
Software as a
mode of
production

Change we can believe in: Free Software as a germ form

Change we can
believe in: Free
Software as a germ
form

Yes, we will: A peek into the future

Yes, we will: A
peek into the
future

Wrap up

Wrap up

A virtual project

- ▶ Oekonux == *Oekonomie* + *linux* (German)
 - ▶ I.e.: Economy + Linux
- ▶ Discussion process about Free Software and society
 - ▶ Founded in 1999
 - ▶ Wide range of opinions and fields
 - ▶ Common interest in emancipation
- ▶ Virtual project
 - ▶ Mailing lists
 - ▶ Web sites
 - ▶ Wiki
- ▶ 4th Oekonux Conference
 - ▶ 2009-03-27..29, Manchester (UK)
 - ▶ Together with P2P Foundation

Feel free to join!

Free Software,
Free Society: Yes
We Can! Yes We
Will!

Stefan Merten
Project Oekonux
www.oekonux.org

The Oekonux
Project

Yes, we can: Free
Software as a
mode of
production

Change we can
believe in: Free
Software as a germ
form

Yes, we will: A
peek into the
future

Wrap up

A virtual project

- ▶ Oekonux == *Oekonomie* + *linux* (German)
 - ▶ I.e.: Economy + Linux
- ▶ Discussion process about Free Software and society
 - ▶ Founded in 1999
 - ▶ Wide range of opinions and fields
 - ▶ Common interest in emancipation
- ▶ Virtual project
 - ▶ Mailing lists
 - ▶ Web sites
 - ▶ Wiki
- ▶ 4th Oekonux Conference
 - ▶ 2009-03-27..29, Manchester (UK)
 - ▶ Together with P2P Foundation

Feel free to join!

Free Software,
Free Society: Yes
We Can! Yes We
Will!

Stefan Merten
Project Oekonux
www.oekonux.org

The Oekonux
Project

Yes, we can: Free
Software as a
mode of
production

Change we can
believe in: Free
Software as a germ
form

Yes, we will: A
peek into the
future

Wrap up

A virtual project

- ▶ Oekonux == *Oekonomie* + *linux* (German)
 - ▶ I.e.: Economy + Linux
- ▶ Discussion process about Free Software and society
 - ▶ Founded in 1999
 - ▶ Wide range of opinions and fields
 - ▶ Common interest in emancipation
- ▶ Virtual project
 - ▶ Mailing lists
 - ▶ Web sites
 - ▶ Wiki
- ▶ 4th Oekonux Conference
 - ▶ 2009-03-27..29, Manchester (UK)
 - ▶ Together with P2P Foundation

Feel free to join!

Free Software,
Free Society: Yes
We Can! Yes We
Will!

Stefan Merten
Project Oekonux
www.oekonux.org

The Oekonux
Project

Yes, we can: Free
Software as a
mode of
production

Change we can
believe in: Free
Software as a germ
form

Yes, we will: A
peek into the
future

Wrap up

A virtual project

- ▶ Oekonux == *Oekonomie* + *linux* (German)
 - ▶ I.e.: Economy + Linux
- ▶ Discussion process about Free Software and society
 - ▶ Founded in 1999
 - ▶ Wide range of opinions and fields
 - ▶ Common interest in emancipation
- ▶ Virtual project
 - ▶ Mailing lists
 - ▶ Web sites
 - ▶ Wiki
- ▶ 4th Oekonux Conference
 - ▶ 2009-03-27..29, Manchester (UK)
 - ▶ Together with P2P Foundation

Feel free to join!

Free Software,
Free Society: Yes
We Can! Yes We
Will!

Stefan Merten
Project Oekonux
www.oekonux.org

The Oekonux
Project

Yes, we can: Free
Software as a
mode of
production

Change we can
believe in: Free
Software as a germ
form

Yes, we will: A
peek into the
future

Wrap up

Outline

Free Software,
Free Society: Yes
We Can! Yes We
Will!

Stefan Merten
Project Oekonux
www.oekonux.org

The Oekonux Project

The Oekonux
Project

Yes, we can: Free Software as a mode of production

Yes, we can: Free
Software as a
mode of
production

Change we can believe in: Free Software as a germ form

Change we can
believe in: Free
Software as a germ
form

Yes, we will: A peek into the future

Yes, we will: A
peek into the
future

Wrap up

Wrap up

What is a mode of production?

- ▶ Common perspective: Free Software as a technology
- ▶ Common feeling: But something *is* different beyond technology
- ▶ In this talk: Free Software as a fundamental societal phenomenon
- ▶ Mode of production describes how a society reproduces itself
- ▶ Important features
 1. Products produced and means of production used
 2. Societal embedding of production
 3. Productivity

Mode of production is the fundament of a society

Free Software,
Free Society: Yes
We Can! Yes We
Will!

Stefan Merten
Project Oekonux
www.oekonux.org

The Oekonux
Project

Yes, we can: Free
Software as a
mode of
production

Change we can
believe in: Free
Software as a germ
form

Yes, we will: A
peek into the
future

Wrap up

What is a mode of production?

- ▶ Common perspective: Free Software as a technology
- ▶ Common feeling: But something *is* different beyond technology
- ▶ In this talk: Free Software as a fundamental societal phenomenon
- ▶ Mode of production describes how a society reproduces itself
- ▶ Important features
 1. Products produced and means of production used
 2. Societal embedding of production
 3. Productivity

Mode of production is the fundament of a society

Free Software,
Free Society: Yes
We Can! Yes We
Will!

Stefan Merten
Project Oekonux
www.oekonux.org

The Oekonux
Project

Yes, we can: Free
Software as a
mode of
production

Change we can
believe in: Free
Software as a germ
form

Yes, we will: A
peek into the
future

Wrap up

What is a mode of production?

- ▶ Common perspective: Free Software as a technology
- ▶ Common feeling: But something *is* different beyond technology
- ▶ In this talk: Free Software as a fundamental societal phenomenon
- ▶ Mode of production describes how a society reproduces itself
- ▶ Important features
 1. Products produced and means of production used
 2. Societal embedding of production
 3. Productivity

Mode of production is the fundament of a society

Free Software,
Free Society: Yes
We Can! Yes We
Will!

Stefan Merten
Project Oekonux
www.oekonux.org

The Oekonux
Project

Yes, we can: Free
Software as a
mode of
production

Change we can
believe in: Free
Software as a germ
form

Yes, we will: A
peek into the
future

Wrap up

Examples for modes of production

Free Software,
Free Society: Yes
We Can! Yes We
Will!

Stefan Merten
Project Oekonux
www.oekonux.org

- ▶ Feudalism
 - ▶ Agricultural production, peasants and artisans
 - ▶ Personal relations in communities
 - ▶ Aristocracy
 - ▶ Low productivity
- ▶ Capitalism
 - ▶ Industrial production, workers
 - ▶ Exchange based relationships (aka money)
 - ▶ Democracy
 - ▶ High productivity

The Oekonux
Project

Yes, we can: Free
Software as a
mode of
production

Change we can
believe in: Free
Software as a germ
form

Yes, we will: A
peek into the
future

Wrap up

Mode of production shapes a society

Examples for modes of production

Free Software,
Free Society: Yes
We Can! Yes We
Will!

Stefan Merten
Project Oekonux
www.oekonux.org

- ▶ Feudalism
 - ▶ Agricultural production, peasants and artisans
 - ▶ Personal relations in communities
 - ▶ Aristocracy
 - ▶ Low productivity
- ▶ Capitalism
 - ▶ Industrial production, workers
 - ▶ Exchange based relationships (aka money)
 - ▶ Democracy
 - ▶ High productivity

The Oekonux
Project

Yes, we can: Free
Software as a
mode of
production

Change we can
believe in: Free
Software as a germ
form

Yes, we will: A
peek into the
future

Wrap up

Mode of production shapes a society

Examples for modes of production

- ▶ Feudalism
 - ▶ Agricultural production, peasants and artisans
 - ▶ Personal relations in communities
 - ▶ Aristocracy
 - ▶ Low productivity
- ▶ Capitalism
 - ▶ Industrial production, workers
 - ▶ Exchange based relationships (aka money)
 - ▶ Democracy
 - ▶ High productivity

Mode of production shapes a society

Free Software,
Free Society: Yes
We Can! Yes We
Will!

Stefan Merten
Project Oekonux
www.oekonux.org

The Oekonux
Project

Yes, we can: Free
Software as a
mode of
production

Change we can
believe in: Free
Software as a germ
form

Yes, we will: A
peek into the
future

Wrap up

Free Software as a new mode of production

Free Software,
Free Society: Yes
We Can! Yes We
Will!

Stefan Merten
Project Oekonux
www.oekonux.org

	Capitalism	Free Software
Flow of goods	Property and abstract exchange	Free flow of goods
Governance	Command and control	Volunteers and maintainers
Reason to contribute	Alienated (earning money)	Enjoying task and project
Societal vs. individual utility	Separated into different spheres	Directly intertwined

The Oekonux
Project

Yes, we can: Free
Software as a
mode of
production

Change we can
believe in: Free
Software as a germ
form

Yes, we will: A
peek into the
future

Wrap up

Yes, we can!

—Barack Obama

Free Software as a new mode of production

Free Software,
Free Society: Yes
We Can! Yes We
Will!

Stefan Merten
Project Oekonux
www.oekonux.org

	Capitalism	Free Software
Flow of goods	Property and abstract exchange	Free flow of goods
Governance	Command and control	Volunteers and maintainers
Reason to contribute	Alienated (earning money)	Enjoying task and project
Societal vs. individual utility	Separated into different spheres	Directly intertwined

The Oekonux
Project

Yes, we can: Free
Software as a
mode of
production

Change we can
believe in: Free
Software as a germ
form

Yes, we will: A
peek into the
future

Wrap up

Yes, we can!

—Barack Obama

What is Selbstentfaltung?

- ▶ Enjoying task and project == Selbstentfaltung
 - ▶ Opposite: alienation
- ▶ Two basic characteristics
 1. Having fun individually
 2. While maintaining a relationship to society
- ▶ Important expression: Volunteering for useful tasks
- ▶ Selbstentfaltung aims at absolute quality
 - ▶ If it is “your baby” you want to be *proud* of it
 - ▶ No boss stops you from doing so
 - ▶ Impossible if you need to make profit

Selbstentfaltung based quality makes Free Software successful

Free Software,
Free Society: Yes
We Can! Yes We
Will!

Stefan Merten
Project Oekonux
www.oekonux.org

The Oekonux
Project

Yes, we can: Free
Software as a
mode of
production

Change we can
believe in: Free
Software as a germ
form

Yes, we will: A
peek into the
future

Wrap up

What is Selbstentfaltung?

- ▶ Enjoying task and project == Selbstentfaltung
 - ▶ Opposite: alienation
- ▶ Two basic characteristics
 1. Having fun individually
 2. While maintaining a relationship to society
- ▶ Important expression: Volunteering for useful tasks
- ▶ Selbstentfaltung aims at absolute quality
 - ▶ If it is “your baby” you want to be *proud* of it
 - ▶ No boss stops you from doing so
 - ▶ Impossible if you need to make profit

Selbstentfaltung based quality makes Free Software successful

Free Software,
Free Society: Yes
We Can! Yes We
Will!

Stefan Merten
Project Oekonux
www.oekonux.org

The Oekonux
Project

Yes, we can: Free
Software as a
mode of
production

Change we can
believe in: Free
Software as a germ
form

Yes, we will: A
peek into the
future

Wrap up

What is Selbstentfaltung?

- ▶ Enjoying task and project == Selbstentfaltung
 - ▶ Opposite: alienation
- ▶ Two basic characteristics
 1. Having fun individually
 2. While maintaining a relationship to society
- ▶ Important expression: Volunteering for useful tasks
- ▶ Selbstentfaltung aims at absolute quality
 - ▶ If it is “your baby” you want to be *proud* of it
 - ▶ No boss stops you from doing so
 - ▶ Impossible if you need to make profit

Selbstentfaltung based quality makes Free Software successful

Free Software,
Free Society: Yes
We Can! Yes We
Will!

Stefan Merten
Project Oekonux
www.oekonux.org

The Oekonux
Project

Yes, we can: Free
Software as a
mode of
production

Change we can
believe in: Free
Software as a germ
form

Yes, we will: A
peek into the
future

Wrap up

Other examples of this mode of production

- ▶ Wikipedia
 - ▶ Similar to Free Software in many respects
 - ▶ Openness, volunteers, transnational, ...
- ▶ OpenAccess
 - ▶ I.e.: Free Science
 - ▶ Grass root movement from the scientists
- ▶ More
 - ▶ Free Car projects
 - ▶ Free Music
 - ▶ ...
- ▶ General term: **peer production**

Peer production is generalizable beyond Free Software

Free Software,
Free Society: Yes
We Can! Yes We
Will!

Stefan Merten
Project Oekonux
www.oekonux.org

The Oekonux
Project

Yes, we can: Free
Software as a
mode of
production

Change we can
believe in: Free
Software as a germ
form

Yes, we will: A
peek into the
future

Wrap up

Other examples of this mode of production

- ▶ Wikipedia
 - ▶ Similar to Free Software in many respects
 - ▶ Openness, volunteers, transnational, ...
- ▶ OpenAccess
 - ▶ I.e.: Free Science
 - ▶ Grass root movement from the scientists
- ▶ More
 - ▶ Free Car projects
 - ▶ Free Music
 - ▶ ...
- ▶ General term: **peer production**

Peer production is generalizable beyond Free Software

Free Software,
Free Society: Yes
We Can! Yes We
Will!

Stefan Merten
Project Oekonux
www.oekonux.org

The Oekonux
Project

Yes, we can: Free
Software as a
mode of
production

Change we can
believe in: Free
Software as a germ
form

Yes, we will: A
peek into the
future

Wrap up

Other examples of this mode of production

- ▶ Wikipedia
 - ▶ Similar to Free Software in many respects
 - ▶ Openness, volunteers, transnational, ...
- ▶ OpenAccess
 - ▶ I.e.: Free Science
 - ▶ Grass root movement from the scientists
- ▶ More
 - ▶ Free Car projects
 - ▶ Free Music
 - ▶ ...
- ▶ General term: **peer production**

Peer production is generalizable beyond Free Software

Free Software,
Free Society: Yes
We Can! Yes We
Will!

Stefan Merten
Project Oekonux
www.oekonux.org

The Oekonux
Project

Yes, we can: Free
Software as a
mode of
production

Change we can
believe in: Free
Software as a germ
form

Yes, we will: A
peek into the
future

Wrap up

Other examples of this mode of production

- ▶ Wikipedia
 - ▶ Similar to Free Software in many respects
 - ▶ Openness, volunteers, transnational, ...
- ▶ OpenAccess
 - ▶ I.e.: Free Science
 - ▶ Grass root movement from the scientists
- ▶ More
 - ▶ Free Car projects
 - ▶ Free Music
 - ▶ ...
- ▶ General term: **peer production**

Peer production is generalizable beyond Free Software

Free Software,
Free Society: Yes
We Can! Yes We
Will!

Stefan Merten
Project Oekonux
www.oekonux.org

The Oekonux
Project

Yes, we can: Free
Software as a
mode of
production

Change we can
believe in: Free
Software as a germ
form

Yes, we will: A
peek into the
future

Wrap up

Outline

Free Software,
Free Society: Yes
We Can! Yes We
Will!

Stefan Merten
Project Oekonux
www.oekonux.org

The Oekonux Project

The Oekonux
Project

Yes, we can: Free Software as a mode of production

Yes, we can: Free
Software as a
mode of
production

Change we can believe in: Free Software as a germ form

Change we can
believe in: Free
Software as a germ
form

Yes, we will: A peek into the future

Yes, we will: A
peek into the
future

Wrap up

Wrap up

What is a germ form?

- ▶ Germ form theory describes how development happens
 - ▶ Originated in critical psychology (Holzkamp)
 - ▶ Explains how the human psyche came into being
 - ▶ Applicable to other fields
- ▶ Key characteristics of a germ form
 1. Structurally new
 2. Emerging from and existing in the old
 3. Potential to take over

Germ form theory explains how fundamental change takes place

Free Software,
Free Society: Yes
We Can! Yes We
Will!

Stefan Merten
Project Oekonux
www.oekonux.org

The Oekonux
Project

Yes, we can: Free
Software as a
mode of
production

Change we can
believe in: Free
Software as a germ
form

Yes, we will: A
peek into the
future

Wrap up

What is a germ form?

Free Software,
Free Society: Yes
We Can! Yes We
Will!

Stefan Merten
Project Oekonux
www.oekonux.org

- ▶ Germ form theory describes how development happens
 - ▶ Originated in critical psychology (Holzkamp)
 - ▶ Explains how the human psyche came into being
 - ▶ Applicable to other fields
- ▶ Key characteristics of a germ form
 1. Structurally new
 2. Emerging from and existing in the old
 3. Potential to take over

Germ form theory explains how fundamental change takes place

The Oekonux
Project

Yes, we can: Free
Software as a
mode of
production

Change we can
believe in: Free
Software as a germ
form

Yes, we will: A
peek into the
future

Wrap up

The five step model

1. Emerging of the new
2. Crisis of the old
3. Disseminating and expanding
 - ▶ Germ form becomes important *in the old process*
 - ▶ Key question: Does the germ form keep its germ form features?
4. Achieving dominance
5. Restructuring of entire system

Change we can believe in!

—Barack Obama

Free Software,
Free Society: Yes
We Can! Yes We
Will!

Stefan Merten
Project Oekonux
www.oekonux.org

The Oekonux
Project

Yes, we can: Free
Software as a
mode of
production

Change we can
believe in: Free
Software as a germ
form

Yes, we will: A
peek into the
future

Wrap up

The five step model

1. Emerging of the new
2. Crisis of the old
3. Disseminating and expanding
 - ▶ Germ form becomes important *in the old process*
 - ▶ Key question: Does the germ form keep its germ form features?
4. Achieving dominance
5. Restructuring of entire system

Change we can believe in!

—Barack Obama

Free Software,
Free Society: Yes
We Can! Yes We
Will!

Stefan Merten
Project Oekonux
www.oekonux.org

The Oekonux
Project

Yes, we can: Free
Software as a
mode of
production

Change we can
believe in: Free
Software as a germ
form

Yes, we will: A
peek into the
future

Wrap up

The five step model

1. Emerging of the new
2. Crisis of the old
3. Disseminating and expanding
 - ▶ Germ form becomes important *in the old process*
 - ▶ Key question: Does the germ form keep its germ form features?
4. Achieving dominance
5. Restructuring of entire system

Change we can believe in!

—Barack Obama

Free Software,
Free Society: Yes
We Can! Yes We
Will!

Stefan Merten
Project Oekonux
www.oekonux.org

The Oekonux
Project

Yes, we can: Free
Software as a
mode of
production

Change we can
believe in: Free
Software as a germ
form

Yes, we will: A
peek into the
future

Wrap up

The five step model

1. Emerging of the new
2. Crisis of the old
3. Disseminating and expanding
 - ▶ Germ form becomes important *in the old process*
 - ▶ Key question: Does the germ form keep its germ form features?
4. Achieving dominance
5. Restructuring of entire system

Change we can believe in!

—Barack Obama

Free Software,
Free Society: Yes
We Can! Yes We
Will!

Stefan Merten
Project Oekonux
www.oekonux.org

The Oekonux
Project

Yes, we can: Free
Software as a
mode of
production

Change we can
believe in: Free
Software as a germ
form

Yes, we will: A
peek into the
future

Wrap up

The five step model

1. Emerging of the new
2. Crisis of the old
3. Disseminating and expanding
 - ▶ Germ form becomes important *in the old process*
 - ▶ Key question: Does the germ form keep its germ form features?
4. Achieving dominance
5. Restructuring of entire system

Change we can believe in!

—Barack Obama

Free Software,
Free Society: Yes
We Can! Yes We
Will!

Stefan Merten
Project Oekonux
www.oekonux.org

The Oekonux
Project

Yes, we can: Free
Software as a
mode of
production

Change we can
believe in: Free
Software as a germ
form

Yes, we will: A
peek into the
future

Wrap up

The five step model

1. Emerging of the new
2. Crisis of the old
3. Disseminating and expanding
 - ▶ Germ form becomes important *in the old process*
 - ▶ Key question: Does the germ form keep its germ form features?
4. Achieving dominance
5. Restructuring of entire system

Change we can believe in!

—Barack Obama

Free Software,
Free Society: Yes
We Can! Yes We
Will!

Stefan Merten
Project Oekonux
www.oekonux.org

The Oekonux
Project

Yes, we can: Free
Software as a
mode of
production

Change we can
believe in: Free
Software as a germ
form

Yes, we will: A
peek into the
future

Wrap up

Where do we stand today?

- ▶ For software
 - ▶ Free Software in phase 3: *disseminating and expanding*
 - ▶ Pretty obvious
 - ▶ Note: earlier phases were hard to recognize
- ▶ For society
 - ▶ Peer production in phase 1: *emerging of the new*
 - ▶ ...or rather in phase 2: *crisis of the old*
 - ▶ As early Free Software it may be hard to believe in its potential

Don't hold your breath - but stay tuned

Free Software,
Free Society: Yes
We Can! Yes We
Will!

Stefan Merten
Project Oekonux
www.oekonux.org

The Oekonux
Project

Yes, we can: Free
Software as a
mode of
production

Change we can
believe in: Free
Software as a germ
form

Yes, we will: A
peek into the
future

Wrap up

Where do we stand today?

- ▶ For software
 - ▶ Free Software in phase 3: *disseminating and expanding*
 - ▶ Pretty obvious
 - ▶ Note: earlier phases were hard to recognize
- ▶ For society
 - ▶ Peer production in phase 1: *emerging of the new*
 - ▶ ...or rather in phase 2: *crisis of the old*
 - ▶ As early Free Software it may be hard to believe in its potential

Don't hold your breath - but stay tuned

Free Software,
Free Society: Yes
We Can! Yes We
Will!

Stefan Merten
Project Oekonux
www.oekonux.org

The Oekonux
Project

Yes, we can: Free
Software as a
mode of
production

Change we can
believe in: Free
Software as a germ
form

Yes, we will: A
peek into the
future

Wrap up

Capitalism as a germ form phenomenon

- ▶ *Emerging of the new* happened long ago
- ▶ *Crisis of the old* when feudal principles exhausted
- ▶ *Disseminating and expanding* started with textile industry
- ▶ Capitalism *achieved dominance* in late 19th century
- ▶ *Restructuring* society is still not complete globally
- ▶ Note: Society changed *after* the productive fundament allowed it
 - ▶ Technical revolution was a precondition for a change of the mode of production

A new mode of production starting as a germ form can take over

Free Software,
Free Society: Yes
We Can! Yes We
Will!

Stefan Merten
Project Oekonux
www.oekonux.org

The Oekonux
Project

Yes, we can: Free
Software as a
mode of
production

Change we can
believe in: Free
Software as a germ
form

Yes, we will: A
peek into the
future

Wrap up

Capitalism as a germ form phenomenon

- ▶ *Emerging of the new* happened long ago
- ▶ *Crisis of the old* when feudal principles exhausted
- ▶ *Disseminating and expanding* started with textile industry
- ▶ Capitalism *achieved dominance* in late 19th century
- ▶ *Restructuring* society is still not complete globally
- ▶ Note: Society changed *after* the productive fundament allowed it
 - ▶ Technical revolution was a precondition for a change of the mode of production

A new mode of production starting as a germ form can take over

Free Software,
Free Society: Yes
We Can! Yes We
Will!

Stefan Merten
Project Oekonux
www.oekonux.org

The Oekonux
Project

Yes, we can: Free
Software as a
mode of
production

Change we can
believe in: Free
Software as a germ
form

Yes, we will: A
peek into the
future

Wrap up

Outline

Free Software,
Free Society: Yes
We Can! Yes We
Will!

Stefan Merten
Project Oekonux
www.oekonux.org

The Oekonux Project

The Oekonux
Project

Yes, we can: Free Software as a mode of production

Yes, we can: Free
Software as a
mode of
production

Change we can believe in: Free Software as a germ form

Change we can
believe in: Free
Software as a germ
form

Yes, we will: A peek into the future

Yes, we will: A
peek into the
future

Wrap up

Wrap up

The Utopia

Free Software,
Free Society: Yes
We Can! Yes We
Will!

Stefan Merten
Project Oekonux
www.oekonux.org

- ▶ **Selbstentfaltung (aka freedom) is...**
 - ▶ ...no longer a contradiction to society
 - ▶ ...it is rather its fundament
- ▶ More automation reduces unwanted activities
- ▶ All goods are freely available
- ▶ Overcoming labor society
 - ▶ No commodities, no labor
 - ▶ No exchange, no money
 - ▶ No alienation

The dawn of a free society

The Oekonux
Project

Yes, we can: Free
Software as a
mode of
production

Change we can
believe in: Free
Software as a germ
form

Yes, we will: A
peek into the
future

Wrap up

The Utopia

- ▶ Selbstentfaltung (aka freedom) is...
 - ▶ ...no longer a contradiction to society
 - ▶ ...it is rather its fundament
- ▶ More automation reduces unwanted activities
- ▶ All goods are freely available
- ▶ Overcoming labor society
 - ▶ No commodities, no labor
 - ▶ No exchange, no money
 - ▶ No alienation

The dawn of a free society

Free Software,
Free Society: Yes
We Can! Yes We
Will!

Stefan Merten
Project Oekonux
www.oekonux.org

The Oekonux
Project

Yes, we can: Free
Software as a
mode of
production

Change we can
believe in: Free
Software as a germ
form

Yes, we will: A
peek into the
future

Wrap up

The Utopia

- ▶ Selbstentfaltung (aka freedom) is...
 - ▶ ...no longer a contradiction to society
 - ▶ ...it is rather its fundament
- ▶ More automation reduces unwanted activities
- ▶ All goods are freely available
- ▶ Overcoming labor society
 - ▶ No commodities, no labor
 - ▶ No exchange, no money
 - ▶ No alienation

The dawn of a free society

Free Software,
Free Society: Yes
We Can! Yes We
Will!

Stefan Merten
Project Oekonux
www.oekonux.org

The Oekonux
Project

Yes, we can: Free
Software as a
mode of
production

Change we can
believe in: Free
Software as a germ
form

Yes, we will: A
peek into the
future

Wrap up

Free information goods

- ▶ The idea of Free Software spreads out already
 - ▶ As seen already
- ▶ Creative Commons licenses are an important step
- ▶ But remember: digital technology is the foundation
 - ▶ I.e.: New technology may be necessary for further dissemination

The basis is there already

Free Software,
Free Society: Yes
We Can! Yes We
Will!

Stefan Merten
Project Oekonux
www.oekonux.org

The Oekonux
Project

Yes, we can: Free
Software as a
mode of
production

Change we can
believe in: Free
Software as a germ
form

Yes, we will: A
peek into the
future

Wrap up

Free information goods

- ▶ The idea of Free Software spreads out already
 - ▶ As seen already
- ▶ Creative Commons licenses are an important step
- ▶ But remember: digital technology is the foundation
 - ▶ I.e.: New technology may be necessary for further dissemination

The basis is there already

Free Software,
Free Society: Yes
We Can! Yes We
Will!

Stefan Merten
Project Oekonux
www.oekonux.org

The Oekonux
Project

Yes, we can: Free
Software as a
mode of
production

Change we can
believe in: Free
Software as a germ
form

Yes, we will: A
peek into the
future

Wrap up

Free material goods - the practical approach

- ▶ Free design communities
 - ▶ Free car design
 - ▶ Appropedia
 - ▶ ...
 - ▶ Make production cheaper
- ▶ User contribution become more important
 - ▶ Some corporations start to include user contributions
 - ▶ Gives them an advantage in competition
 - ▶ See: Eric v. Hippel
- ▶ One of the key questions: Access to expensive means of production
 - ▶ <http://en.wiki.oekonux.org/Oekonux/DrawingBoard>

First steps starting from solid ground

Free Software,
Free Society: Yes
We Can! Yes We
Will!

Stefan Merten
Project Oekonux
www.oekonux.org

The Oekonux
Project

Yes, we can: Free
Software as a
mode of
production

Change we can
believe in: Free
Software as a germ
form

Yes, we will: A
peek into the
future

Wrap up

Free material goods - the practical approach

- ▶ Free design communities
 - ▶ Free car design
 - ▶ Appropedia
 - ▶ ...
 - ▶ Make production cheaper
- ▶ User contribution become more important
 - ▶ Some corporations start to include user contributions
 - ▶ Gives them an advantage in competition
 - ▶ See: Eric v. Hippel
- ▶ One of the key questions: Access to expensive means of production
 - ▶ <http://en.wiki.oekonux.org/Oekonux/DrawingBoard>

First steps starting from solid ground

Free Software,
Free Society: Yes
We Can! Yes We
Will!

Stefan Merten
Project Oekonux
www.oekonux.org

The Oekonux
Project

Yes, we can: Free
Software as a
mode of
production

Change we can
believe in: Free
Software as a germ
form

Yes, we will: A
peek into the
future

Wrap up

Free material goods - the practical approach

- ▶ Free design communities
 - ▶ Free car design
 - ▶ Appropedia
 - ▶ ...
 - ▶ Make production cheaper
- ▶ User contribution become more important
 - ▶ Some corporations start to include user contributions
 - ▶ Gives them an advantage in competition
 - ▶ See: Eric v. Hippel
- ▶ One of the key questions: Access to expensive means of production
 - ▶ <http://en.wiki.oekonux.org/Oekonux/DrawingBoard>

First steps starting from solid ground

Free Software,
Free Society: Yes
We Can! Yes We
Will!

Stefan Merten
Project Oekonux
www.oekonux.org

The Oekonux
Project

Yes, we can: Free
Software as a
mode of
production

Change we can
believe in: Free
Software as a germ
form

Yes, we will: A
peek into the
future

Wrap up

Free material goods - the theoretical approach

- ▶ Historical example: Capitalism and agricultural production
 - ▶ Agricultural production...
 - ▶ ...was key in feudalism
 - ▶ ...still exists
 - ▶ ...became an appendage of industrial production
 - ▶ Proves: The focus of society moved
- ▶ Next: Material production becomes an appendage of information production
 - ▶ Information already *is* an important precondition for material production

Restructuring will remove material production from focus

Free Software,
Free Society: Yes
We Can! Yes We
Will!

Stefan Merten
Project Oekonux
www.oekonux.org

The Oekonux
Project

Yes, we can: Free
Software as a
mode of
production

Change we can
believe in: Free
Software as a germ
form

Yes, we will: A
peek into the
future

Wrap up

Free material goods - the theoretical approach

- ▶ Historical example: Capitalism and agricultural production
 - ▶ Agricultural production...
 - ▶ ...was key in feudalism
 - ▶ ...still exists
 - ▶ ...became an appendage of industrial production
 - ▶ Proves: The focus of society moved
- ▶ Next: Material production becomes an appendage of information production
 - ▶ Information already *is* an important precondition for material production

Restructuring will remove material production from focus

Free Software,
Free Society: Yes
We Can! Yes We
Will!

Stefan Merten
Project Oekonux
www.oekonux.org

The Oekonux
Project

Yes, we can: Free
Software as a
mode of
production

Change we can
believe in: Free
Software as a germ
form

Yes, we will: A
peek into the
future

Wrap up

Outline

Free Software,
Free Society: Yes
We Can! Yes We
Will!

Stefan Merten
Project Oekonux
www.oekonux.org

The Oekonux Project

The Oekonux
Project

Yes, we can: Free Software as a mode of production

Yes, we can: Free
Software as a
mode of
production

Change we can believe in: Free Software as a germ form

Change we can
believe in: Free
Software as a germ
form

Yes, we will: A peek into the future

Yes, we will: A
peek into the
future

Wrap up

Wrap up

Summary

- ▶ Peer economy establishes a new mode of production
- ▶ Germ form theory shows how this can develop
- ▶ We are witnessing the dawn of a new era

Free Software,
Free Society: Yes
We Can! Yes We
Will!

Stefan Merten
Project Oekonux
www.oekonux.org

The Oekonux
Project

Yes, we can: Free
Software as a
mode of
production

Change we can
believe in: Free
Software as a germ
form

Yes, we will: A
peek into the
future

Wrap up

Summary

- ▶ Peer economy establishes a new mode of production
- ▶ Germ form theory shows how this can develop
- ▶ We are witnessing the dawn of a new era

Free Software,
Free Society: Yes
We Can! Yes We
Will!

Stefan Merten
Project Oekonux
www.oekonux.org

The Oekonux
Project

Yes, we can: Free
Software as a
mode of
production

Change we can
believe in: Free
Software as a germ
form

Yes, we will: A
peek into the
future

Wrap up

Summary

- ▶ Peer economy establishes a new mode of production
- ▶ Germ form theory shows how this can develop
- ▶ We are witnessing the dawn of a new era

Free Software,
Free Society: Yes
We Can! Yes We
Will!

Stefan Merten
Project Oekonux
www.oekonux.org

The Oekonux
Project

Yes, we can: Free
Software as a
mode of
production

Change we can
believe in: Free
Software as a germ
form

Yes, we will: A
peek into the
future

Wrap up

Thank you

- ▶ Thank you for your attention
- ▶ More on this: <http://www.oekonux.org/>
- ▶ Contact: smerten@oekonux.de
- ▶ 4th Oekonux Conference
 - ▶ *Free Software and Beyond - The World of Peer Production*
 - ▶ 2009-03-27..29, Manchester (UK)
 - ▶ <http://www.oekonux-conference.org/>
- ▶ Questions? Comments?

Free Software,
Free Society: Yes
We Can! Yes We
Will!

Stefan Merten
Project Oekonux
www.oekonux.org

The Oekonux
Project

Yes, we can: Free
Software as a
mode of
production

Change we can
believe in: Free
Software as a germ
form

Yes, we will: A
peek into the
future

Wrap up