

Scientific Committee

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The Colloquium themes

- Freeware and copyrights.
- Freeware at university, issues and blokages
- Freeware in the public administrations.
- Freeware in firms.
- Freeware and innovation.
- Freeware and sustainable development.
- Freeware and edition.

Languages

Arabic, English and French.

Expression of Interest

Any actor involved in social, economic or associative institutions, whether national or international, who use, develop or show an interest in freeware is warmly welcome to suggest a topic, a workshop, a product or support the colloquium. Please get in touch with us at the colloquium address.

Important dates

- 31/09/2015** Date of the second flyer and call for presentations and registration
- 31/01/2016** Deadline of presentations acceptance
- 02/03/2016** Answer to the authors
- 23-24/05/2016** Colloquium

Colloquium address

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International Colloquium

Freeware in Southern Countries

Strategic Tool for Education, Innovation and Sustainable Development

ENSAM, Meknes, Morocco
May, 23-24th, 2016



1st Flyer

Call for expression of interest

Presentation

From Turing's enigma to the "clouds" including the semantic web, the digital environment keeps surprising us and changing our habits. If the issue at the beginning of the digital era was the equipment, all eyes turn today to the software. The latter is a major issue in terms of research, innovation and growth.

Freeware is a software equipped with a copyright that enables any user to use, study, modify and redistribute it. Thanks to a collaborative work, the freeware communities gracefully commit to continually suggest improvements and new applications. The heritage of the "free" or "open source" applications is so rich that it represents the equivalent of 131 000 man-years. With an economy of approximately 36% in research and development, 14% of worldwide firms use freeware. Even if the freeware's market share does only represent 2% of the software market, this proportion grows rapidly with rates reaching 40% annually.

Beyond its innovative potential, freeware acts on the market's structure. By competing with the exclusive monopoly of proprietary software, freeware fights privilege systems and annuity positions.

Indeed, the technological mutations initiated by freeware have deeply moved the hierarchy of economic powers. Freeware offers a new culture based on sharing and transparency. If the paradox of Easterling highlights that the rate of economic growth is not an indicator of well-being, freeware seems to be a serious alternative combining technological innovation, growth, happiness and sustainable development.

Freeware has achieved several successes, the most prestigious among them being Internet, Android, the LAMP plat-form (Linux-Apache-MySQL-PHP), Java, OpenOffice, Prolog and Python can all be added to the non-exhaustive list of freeware applications. Freeware is a world in perpetual progress.

Many states and international institutions have adopted provisions in order to refuse the monopoly of proprietary software. As a matter of fact, encouraging meritocracy and loyal competition is becoming a crucial point for the European Commission, the Unesco, the AUF, the PNUD as well as for the prestigious universities and many public administrations worldwide.

However, this growing interest for freeware remains marginal and non-egalitarian in Southern countries. Morocco understood the importance of the digital issues and multiplied its efforts in this field. Indeed, it placed the digital economy at the heart of its politics. Structuring projects have emerged: Maroc Numeric Cluster, GENIE, INJAZ and eGov programs. Unfortunately, freeware did not receive the attention it deserved in all of these projects.

This colloquium sets the goal of lifting the veil on the freeware world. In an atmosphere of open discussion, we will work on answering the following questions: What makes this kind of software an economic opportunity? How could it help to fill the digital gap, to computerise the public administration and to put an end to piracy? How could it attract young and motivated people to take up projects, to create on a basis of sharing values and to encourage collaborative and associative work?

The target audiences of this colloquium are young students, engineers, professors, entrepreneurs and political actors.