

Re: How does capitalism work with OSS?

Source: <http://linux.derkeiler.com/Newsgroups/alt.os.linux/2004-01/1739.html>

From: P.T. Breuer (*ptb_at_oboe.it.uc3m.es*)

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John Hasler <john@dhh.gt.org> wrote:

> *P.T. Breuer writes:*

> > *Some of them even make money by keeping the air and streams fresh! But I*

> > *suspect they're paid by the gubbermint. I think so should we be.*

>

> *Paid by government means controlled by government.*

It's not that clear. I am paid by the goverment, through grants. But I am paid by the part of the government that wants to give out grants to bring people here, to frustrate the aims of the part of the government that wants to safeguard their own jobs by maintaining administrative procedures that effectively keep everyone out (if you have an american degree it won't be "recognized" here, and has to be "equated" course by course and topic by topic with a local one – too bad if there isn't an equal, because the US course is better!).

So I would day it does not mean that. The goverment is not a single voice.

> *If government takes*

> *control of Free Software I will find something else to do with my time.*

But paying the developers who contribute to it is not controlling it, no more than paying people to clean environmental waste is controlling the environment, or paying lifeguards is controlling the sea. It's investing in infrastructure and encouraging open standards and competition – which is the job of government.

Peter