

REPORT

SEMINAR ON FREE AND OPEN SOURCE SOFTWARE – FREE SOFTWARE MOVEMENT IN KARNATAKA

SESSION: FREE SOFTWARE MOVEMENT IN KARNATAKA

VENUE: 4CSE2

DURATION: 01 HOUR & HALF

DATE: 19/02/2020

The seminar on Free software was conducted by the CSE department (AIT) for 4CSE2 on 19-02-2020 which began around 11:00 AM and was planned as a one and a half hour session.

The speaker Mr. Naveen introduced himself and explained what the Free software movement Karnataka (FSMK) was all about. He then instructed the gathering to install an app called Exodus privacy and demonstrated how a lot of apps have permissions which we the users have granted without even realizing. He then went on to make an important point that knowledge and science grow only when they are freely accessible to anyone who wants it. To justify his point he gave historical examples of IssacNweton and Dimitri Mendaleev.

Since software engineering and information technology is also a science, it also must be freely available and must be non proprietary. He then began to explain about the double standards of the big tech companies such as Microsoft and Facebook which do not provide a full ownership of the software even after the user has purchased it for a hefty amount and technically are renting out the software to the user and the company controls what the user can do or cannot do with the software.

He then explained how the Free software movement began and how the GNU movement began. He also pointed out that there is an alternative free software application for every mainstream proprietary application. He then elaborated about the 4freedoms that free softwares provide. He then went on to highlight an important ethical difference between open source software and free software and also explained what actually the Free software movement Karnataka stands for and why exactly it is a movement and not an organization or Ngo.

He also explained how students in different colleges have formed GLUGS and how we in Atria can form a Student GLUG and also explained the benefits of forming a GLUG and being associated with FSMK. He concluded by informing us to be alert and raise voice against the unethical acts committed by big tech companies.



