

# The Big O Community

Green paper

by Atulya

## What is The Big O Community?

The character in the name 'O' means open. The Big O Community is a group of individuals who:

1. Care about Freedom
2. Individuality
3. Privacy
4. Community

here we use, promote, study and share "Free Software" and "Open Source Software". Freedom in technology whether it is software or hardware is very important to make sure that the rights of people are not violated. This includes freedom of speech, privacy and freedom to just be.

The Big O Community is an effort to promote the use of "Free Software" in our daily lives and help spread the knowledge and love towards technology and humanity.

## Why The Big O Community?

Technology has evolved so much so fast that it is nearly impossible to think our lives without it. Technology is most powerful tool human have ever created, as it is said, "With great power comes great responsibility." Throughout the last decade there have been countless incidents where this power was and is being misused, from NSA's mass surveillance disclosed by the famous whistle-blower Edward Snowden to Cambridge Analytica. There is a need to educate ourselves about these technologies that are so invasive, sell our data and earn profit, constantly keep it's users on surveillance. There have been many revolutions to give power to people. One such revolution is The GNU Project termed as "Free Software" and is used almost everywhere like Android, the GNU/Linux operating system, compilers and many more.

To give power to people means to educate them. This community curates such resources and shares them with people, so that they and their loved ones are not exploited.

## How The Big O Community?

### Online:

The Community has it's own **website**. Where we post blog articles, tutorials and resources related to Free Software.

A video channel over **Peertube**, where we post videos about Free and open source projects and tutorials, both in English and Hindi. (Peertube is an Free and Open Source alternative of proprietary services like Youtube. Vimeo).

A micro blogging page over **Mastodon**, where we share updates, our recommended movies and shows to educate others about Free software, Privacy and Security. We also connect with more Free software enthusiasts there. (Mastodon is an Free and Open Source alternative of proprietary services like Twitter, Facebook).

**Official Support Channel** over Instant Messaging Ecosystem, **XMPP**, where we share ideas about the project, articles and help each other with troubleshooting problems.(XMPP is a protocol for instant messaging, also used by Whatsapp). Here we use Free and Open Source alternatives of Whatsapp.

### Offline:

Community members help each other by sharing knowledge about Free software in-person, installing software on devices. Community owns a USB drive which contains many GNU/Linux based operating systems, anyone can borrow it and install the operating system ask for help to install. Talks and sessions about Free and Open Source Software and encourage others to understand this lifestyle and benefits of it.

# Programs under The Big O Community.

## Free Your Phone:

Mobile phones are the most important assets of our lives, we do and share plethora of things on them, we use them so much that we tend to share intimate details about us using them to our loved ones. When we are performing such activities, the device and the application must be secure and respect user's privacy. Most of the time, this is not the case the applications we rely on or devices are constantly reporting our activities to their homeservers, that data is used to analyze our behaviour and curate content based on the data extracted from us. Most of the data is extracted without our knowledge and consent, this is invasion of privacy. There is a need to remove such applications and devices which does not respect user's privacy and abuse them. People around are not technical, they just use such applications without considering how awful it is for their privacy. By the program, "Free Your Phone" we help others to use Free software alternatives to the privacy invading software. We provide tutorials and in-person session to secure their phones.

## Liberate Your Laptop:

Proprietary Operating Systems like Windows and Mac OS comes under software which does not respects user's privacy. Due to this Richard Stallman created the GNU Project, later released GNU/Linux Operating System on which multiple of operating system are build, the famous mentions are Debian, Ubuntu, Manjaro, Linux Mint, Kali Linux, Android, PureOS, PopOS, Fedora and thousands more! These Operating Systems respects user's privacy and are secure. By the program, "Liberate Your Laptop" we help other to install these operating systems and help them to use it. There is a saying, "If it is old, then install Linux on it" because of it's low resource usage GNU/Linux based Operating systems helps to keep laptops usable and increase their life.



## Connecting With Computers:

In our locality or even in our family and relatives there are people who would like to know about computers and by any means cannot have computer classes or access to computer. By the program, "Connecting With Computers" we help such people by providing easy to understand in-person interactive lessons about Computers. So that they don't fear using computer and be more friendly with it.

## About:

Started a curated repository of Free software to college final project and now a complete separate entity The Big O Community has taught to share and care for each other.

Atul was always keen to learn about things of daily life, the curiosity increased when computer was introduced to him. By default the world present us with, Windows, Google Chrome, Gmail, Youtube, Facebook, Amazon as they are biggest names in the industry. As Atul's questions about how the software is created arises and need to take control of software and hardware he was using, so does the challenges with it. There were not enough resources about how the previously mentioned products are created. As this question hit Atul again and again he finally got the answer that he was looking at the wrong place and found this whole new world of Free software. At starting Free software looks simple not so much attractive but they work well and gave control to him. Later on he knew what is important in this life. It's Freedom, love, care, share, important things are only felt, not bought or sold they are only transformed through human feelings.

As Atul is a post – graduate in computer science now, he started this journey towards liberation of technology since mid 2019. The information must be shared with normal, innocent individuals who's data is being harvested just for convenience and profits.

The Big O Community is a joined efforts of Atul, his friends, close friends, colleagues, family.

"Thank you everyone for tolerating my never changing request to use this app that app, your patience and support it means a lot."- Atul

## Resources:

1. Free Software Foundation: <https://www.fsf.org/>
2. Edward Snowden: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Edward\\_Snowden](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Edward_Snowden)
3. Why Privacy Matters:  
[https://www.ted.com/talks/glenn\\_greenwald\\_why\\_privacy\\_matters](https://www.ted.com/talks/glenn_greenwald_why_privacy_matters)

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