

Is Freespire Really Free?

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A while back the good folks behind Freespire, the free version of Linspire, sent me a CD with version 2.0 for me to review. I was very happy to look at it as Linspire has been a leader in getting preloaded Linux systems into retail and online outlets, something I believe is critical for mainstream Linux adoption.

I knew going in that Freespire was ?free as in free beer?, not an OS that would be considered free by The Free Software Foundation or most free software advocates. For those of us who are not free software purists Freespire does have one compelling feature: Linspire?s settlement with Microsoft allows them to offer Win32 codecs for playing DVDs, MP3s, etc? at no cost to the end user.

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