ETHICAL TECH GIVING GUIDE

Are you giving your loved ones tech gifts they can use freely, or gifts which put someone else in control?

From remote deletion of files to harsh rules about copying and sharing, manufacturers slip nasty software restrictions under the wrapping paper. But there are ethical alternatives! Free software (think freedom, not price) increases security, protects from surveillance, and puts control where it belongs — with the user.

Minifree X200 with GNU/Linux

- Runs entirely free-as-in-freedom software you can study and learn to modify.
- Created by a small business that replaces all restrictive components from a stock laptop.

Buy

Lenovo U31 with Windows

- Runs on proprietary software that profits from treating the user as a product, selling data about them.
- Mandatory Windows updates force users to test potentially unstable new versions.

Avoid

GIMP and Inkscape

- Developed and used by a welcoming community of artists and programmers.
- Designed for free formats, but can also open files created in nonfree programs.
- Wide variety of plugins grants limitless features.

Try it

Photoshop and Illustrator

- Nonfree software controlled by Adobe.
- Prefers locked-down proprietary formats.
- Requires costly subscription to stay up to date.

Avoid

→ Discounts and more gifts at fsf.org/givingguide

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