



Software Freedom Day

Puzzles

October 5th, 2025

Rules & Guidelines

- Use of AI tools and Google search is allowed
- Each puzzle will require an open-source software to solve the puzzle, excluding the 5th/last puzzle (it's a bonus).
- The puzzle set has a time constraint of 2 hours.
- Hints can be included in the puzzles' title, description, image or all.

Disclaimer

These puzzles were created by **Techies** for **Software Freedom Day**. They are being released publicly to promote learning, collaboration, and awareness of open-source software.

You are free to solve, share, and discuss these puzzles for educational and non-commercial purposes, as long as proper credit is given to Techies.

Please do not modify, redistribute, or use these puzzles for commercial or promotional purposes without written permission from Techies.



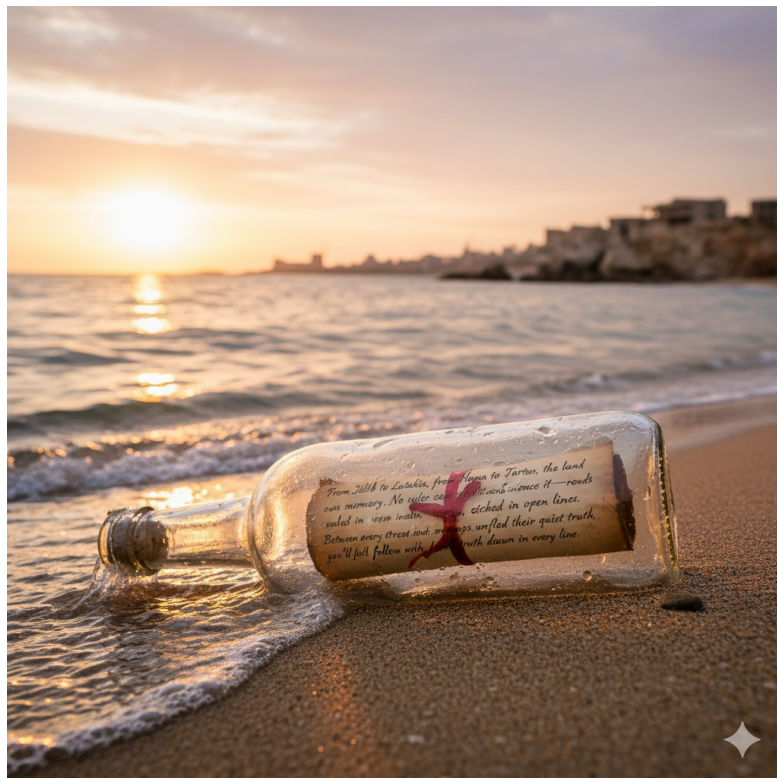
In a world dominated by locked systems and censorship, a network of Syrian programmers scattered a secret phrase — *The Free Protocol*. It's said that only those who truly understand the power of free and open software can recover it. Each fragment of the phrase is hidden behind walls, but with the right free tools, you can break them down.



Puzzle 1: Freedom Written on The Land

Waves tapped gently against the shores of Lattakia, carrying more than the smell of the sea. Half-buried in the wet sand, something caught the sun—a glass bottle. Inside was a rolled message. The message says:

- From **Idlib** to **Latakia**, from **Hama** to **Tartus**, the land writes its own memory.
- No ruler can silence it—roads and rivers remain, etched in **open** lines.
- Between every **street** and every horizon, **maps** unfold their quiet truth,
- If you follow the map with care, you'll find truth drawn in every line.



Answer is 1 letter

Puzzle 2: Get me someone to blame!

You walk through the old city of Aleppo. The narrow, ancient streets are quiet until you hear the sound of rushing water that pulls you toward the **riverside**. The water sparkles, but across it sits **the cursed forest**—it's silent, dark, and people avoid it.

You step inside the trees. Darkness quickly covers the path, and branches twist above you like claws. Then you see a moss-covered stone with a **script** carved into it. You know something important must be hidden inside!

<https://github.com/Techies-sy/software-freedom-day-puzzle-2>



Answer is a word of 6 letters

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Puzzle 3: Voices You Cannot Silence

In a deserted alley of Homs, the wind carries the faint hum of old radio waves. A smuggled recording lies heavy in your hands, its surface scratched and worn from countless transfers.

You groan and mutter, "Oh, the **audacity** of these programmers, hiding their words in plain sound!" The shadows of the alley seem to lean closer as you strain to listen.

When you press play, the sound that emerges is not a message, but a rush of static and a strange, unsettling whisper that feels like words being sucked backward into the air. You realize the puzzle is not just in the sound, but in its very direction.

Audio file:

<https://github.com/Techies-sy/software-freedom-day-puzzle-3/blob/main/audio.wav>



The answer is a word of 3 letters

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Puzzle 4: Whispers Between the Pixels

One day, while walking through the narrow streets of Damascus, you found an old mosaic. Its tiles shimmered oddly in the sunlight. When you wiped away some dust, you saw a faint message written in the corner:

- "Freedom hides in plain sight. If you know how to hide, you must also know how to get it back."
- **The key:** "freedom123"

A section of the mosaic does not look like simple art—it feels like a hidden hint, as if something is telling you how to get info out of it.

Image: <https://github.com/Techies-sy/software-freedom-day-puzzle-4/blob/main/img.jpg>

The answer is a word of 3 letters

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Puzzle 5: The Free Protocol

After hours of tracing whispers, uncovering hidden messages, and following breadcrumbs across Aleppo, Damascus, Latakia, and Homs, you finally sit before the collected fragments. Each puzzle gave you a single, glowing letter—marked in red, like a signal in the dark. That should uncover the FREE PROTOCOL!



The answer is a word of 4 letters

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Thank you for exploring the Techies Software Freedom Day puzzles!
These challenges were designed to inspire curiosity, teamwork, and a deeper appreciation for the power of open-source software.

If you enjoyed solving them, share your experience with us — we'd love to hear your thoughts and see how you approached the puzzles.



Stay curious!

