What is free software?

The Free Software Definition

"FREE SOFTWARE" MEANS SOFTWARE THAT **RESPECTS USERS' FREEDOM AND COMMUNITY. THE USERS HAVE THE FREEDOM TO RUN, COPY, DISTRIBUTE, STUDY, CHANGE AND IMPROVE THE SOFTWARE**.
With these freedoms, the **users** (both individually and collectively) **control the program and what it does for them.**
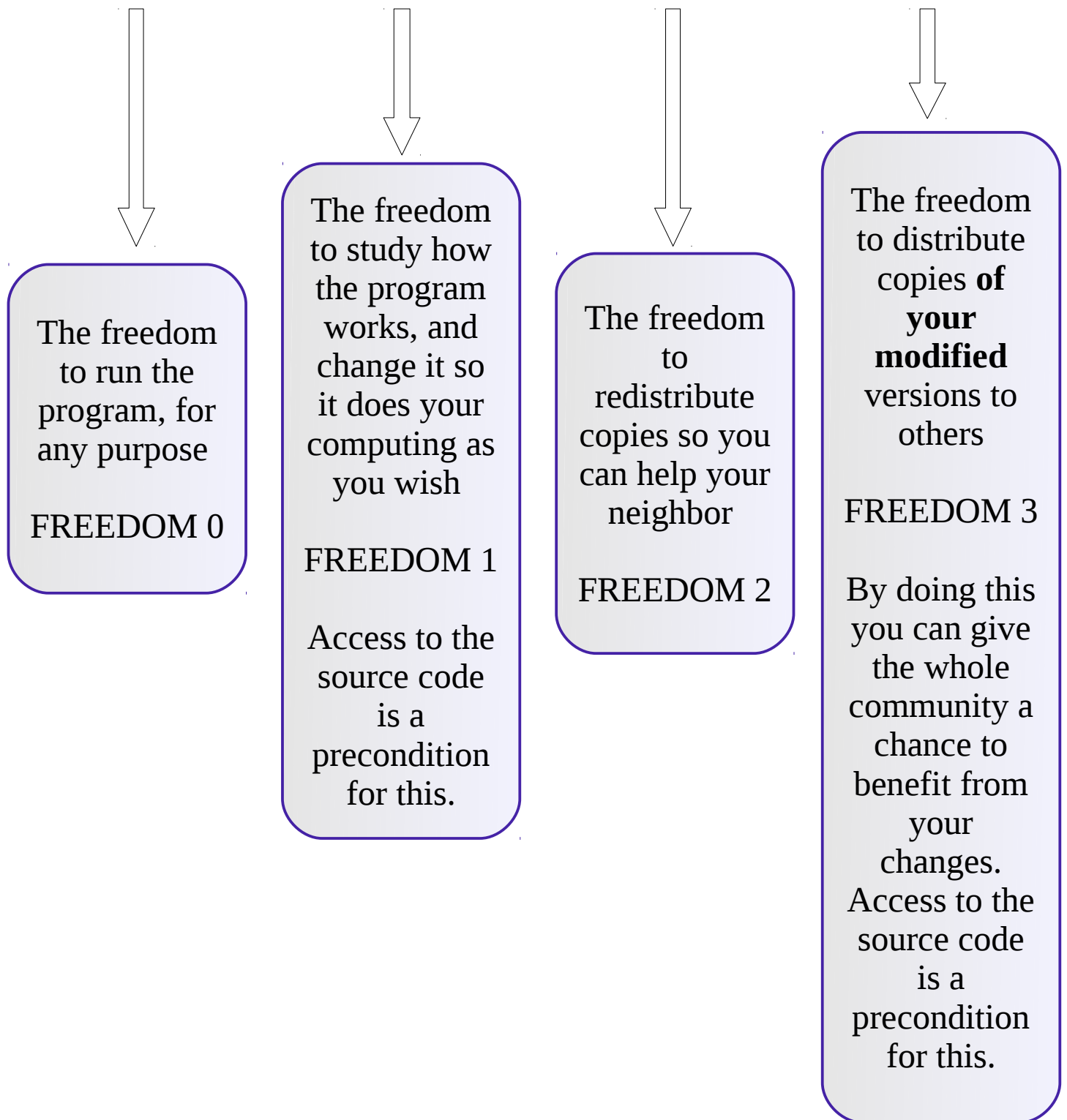
WHEN USERS DON'T CONTROL THE PROGRAM, THE PROGRAM CONTROLS THE USERS.
The developer controls the program, and through it control the users. This non-free or "proprietary" program is therefore an instrument of injust power.

Thus, **"FREE SOFTWARE" IS A MATTER OF LIBERTY, NOT PRICE**.
To understand the concept, you should think of "free" as in "free speech," not as in "free beer".

A PROGRAM IS FREE SOFTWARE IF THE PROGRAM'S USERS HAVE THE FOUR ESSENTIAL FREEDOMS

The freedom to run the program, for any purpose

FREEDOM 0

The freedom to study how the program works, and change it so it does your computing as you wish

FREEDOM 1

Access to the source code is a precondition for this.

The freedom to redistribute copies so you can help your neighbor

FREEDOM 2

The freedom to distribute copies **of your modified** versions to others

FREEDOM 3

By doing this you can give the whole community a chance to benefit from your changes. Access to the source code is a precondition for this.

Lettura:

http://www.gnu.org/education/misc/rms-education-es-translation-to-en.txt