

Router Freedom in Italy

Latest Development

7 November 2025 · SFSCON

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What is Free Software

Use

The software can be used for any purpose without restrictions.

Study

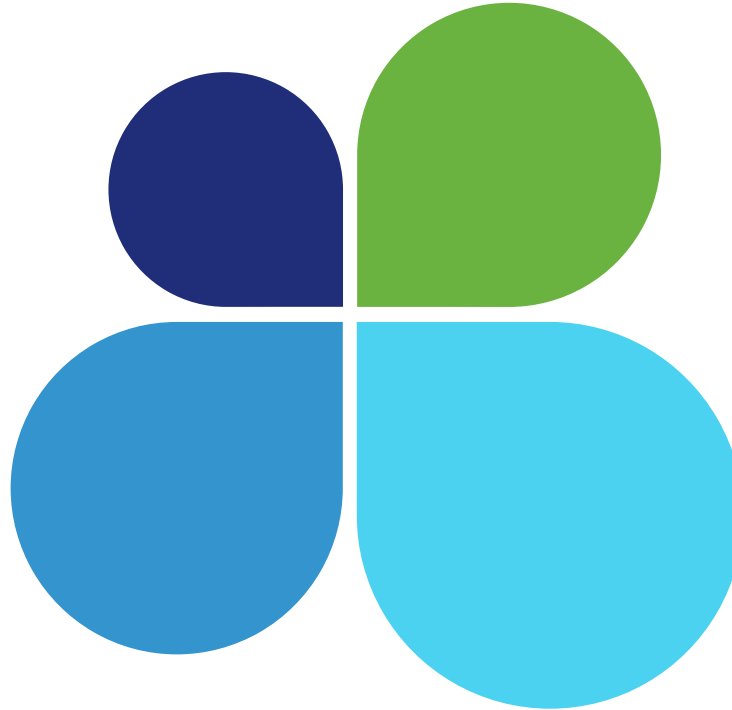
The software and its code can be analysed by anyone.

Share

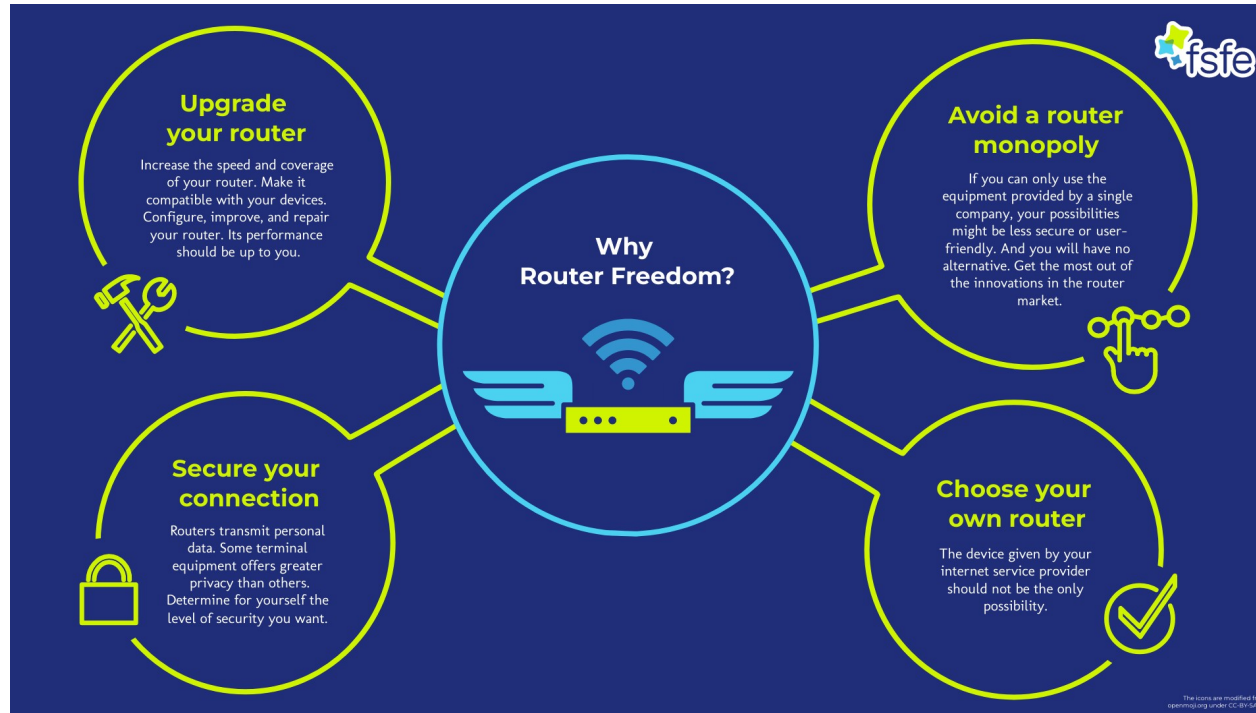
The software can be shared without limitations.
The price doesn't matter.

Improve

The software can be modified by you or others to give back to the community.



Why Router Freedom?



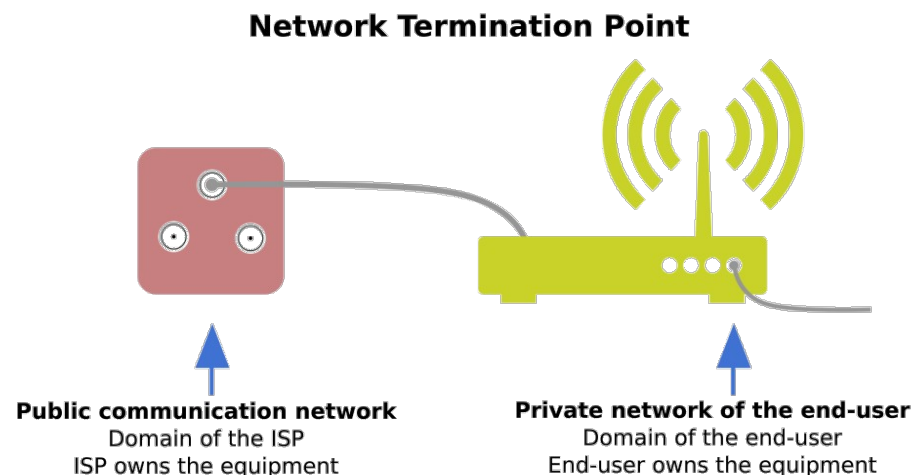
Short history: Italy's regulatory path

- 2018: Italy introduced rules supporting Router Freedom.
- 2019 & 2023: exceptions introduced for fiber networks; ONT / ISP constraints followed.
- 2024–2025: FSFE pushed for reversal and asked AGCOM to restore full freedom.



What's at stake technically: NTP

- **Network Termination Point (NTP):** where public network ends and private begins.
- Fiber (FTTx) raises question: passive or active NTP?
- European regulators found no technological need to restrict Router Freedom.



The certification problem (market entry barriers)

- TIM's certification schemes for routers created high costs.
- Barriers exclude small manufacturers and reduce consumer choice.

< News

Exceptions against Router Freedom undermine users' rights in Italy

on: 2024-10-16

In 2018 Italy implemented Router Freedom. However regulatory decisions in 2019 and 2023 introduced exceptions for fiber networks. The Free Software Foundation Europe has now urged Italy's telecom regulator, AGCOM, to remove these restrictions and fully restore users' rights to choose their own equipment to connect to fiber networks.

What did the FSFE do?

- Before the consultation, the FSFE already submitted position papers to AGCOM, when it introduced the exceptions.
- Provided evidence: surveys and technical/legal analysis.
- Mobilised community stakeholders across Italy.

FSFE's request for AGCOM
for evaluation of freedom of terminal equipment
accordingly to the BEREC Guidelines on Common
Approaches to the Identification of the Network
Termination Point in different Network Topologies

October, 2024

What did other EU regulators did?

- Finland, Netherlands, Belgium, Germany: no technical reason to limit Router Freedom.
- Dutch ACM opposed mandatory certification; promoted interoperability.



Our contribution to the AGCOM consultation

- Designate NTP at the passive physical point (user premises).
- Oppose mandatory, discriminatory certification.
- Ensure consistency with BEREC guidelines and other EU regulators.

Contributo della Free Software Foundation Europe (FSFE)
alla consultazione AGCOM relativa alla Delibera
31/25/CONS, finalizzata alla definizione del punto terminale
di rete (NTP) per i servizi di accesso alla rete Internet da
postazione fissa

Marzo 2025

Objections and counter arguments

- ISPs cite security and compatibility concerns.
- **There is no technical necessity to impede Router Freedom;** interoperability standards exist.



Closing: the bigger picture

- Router Freedom = digital autonomy, privacy and software freedom.
- AGCOM's decision will influence Europe's device neutrality.



TODO: How to support

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Thank you! Questions?

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