manifesto

Author: Gaël Duval, and contributors - March 27th, 2018 - July 8th, 2018 - v0.5

Preamble

The /e/ manifesto describes /e/’s mission, sets general practices, boundaries and ethics. It's a moral and social contract.

It applies to the /e/ project, /e/ assets and to the "e Foundation" as a whole.

Why /e/ was created

/e/ considers that the situation where users of digital devices and services have a very limited choice between a few giant corporates’ offerings goes against people's interest. This in particular when those corporates are all using personal and corporate data to fuel their businesses and possibly organize people's spying as a common practice.

/e/ considers that infrastructure systems such as communication networks, operating systems and basic online services such as email that are widely used all over the world, shouldn't be designed, owned and operated only by a few private actors, in their own interest, since they are core public assets and infrastructure.

/e/ considers that this unprecedented situation in humanity’s history goes against freedom and can lead to forms of slavery and totalitarianism, at a global scale.

That stated /e/ intends to offer an alternative that can be used by people who are not comfortable with this situation and not IT specialists. Therefore, /e/ has to be as easy to use as market standards.
/e/ mission

/e/ is intended to provide alternative technological products and services, globally and to the widest possible audience:

- operating systems for devices:
  - mobile phones
  - tablets for personal use
  - personal computers
  - personal wearable devices (watches...)
  - personal IoT devices
- internet services:
  - application repository
  - id provider
  - email
  - online storage
  - search
  - AI assistant
  - and any known or unknown internet service that impacts users significantly

All this, with:

- a greater emphasis on data privacy respect according to /e/ accepted practices
- better security
- an excellent, attractive user experience

/e/ ethics

/e/ is committed to provide:

- better data privacy and data security for individuals and corporations
- attractive, state of the art user experience
- products and services in the public interest
- freedom of choice
- education

/e/ believes in free software/open source software¹ and will encourage usage and spread of open source software.

In their interaction with people and the world, /e/ will never favor or unfavor any human specificity, including ethnicity, nationality, gender, sexual orientation, religious beliefs or political views.

/e/ will always be as much as possible politically-neutral, though it is admitted that /e/ is about humanism, freedom, and progress, not about obscurantism or totalitarianism.

¹ As defined on https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Free_Software_Definition
/e/’s strategy is designed to best meet their goals in the long term and become a large, recognizable and sustainable project.

Therefore, /e/ is keen on entering business partnerships with corporations that can sell /e/-related product & services, while offering professional SLAs to customers.

/e/ governance

/e/ assets and organization will live through /e/’s non-profit organization: "e Foundation".

The organization's mission will be:

- to make /e/’s assets as sustainable as possible
- to ensure regular releases and support of core /e/ products, directly or indirectly
- to communicate about the /e/ project
- to organize the community of /e/ backers and contributors
- to ensure as much independence as possible against governments and corporations

The /e/ organization will be open to members from everywhere in the world. An annual fee may be required to be part of the /e/ organization. Members cannot be internally anonymous. Members can be individual or corporations.

~ ~ ~