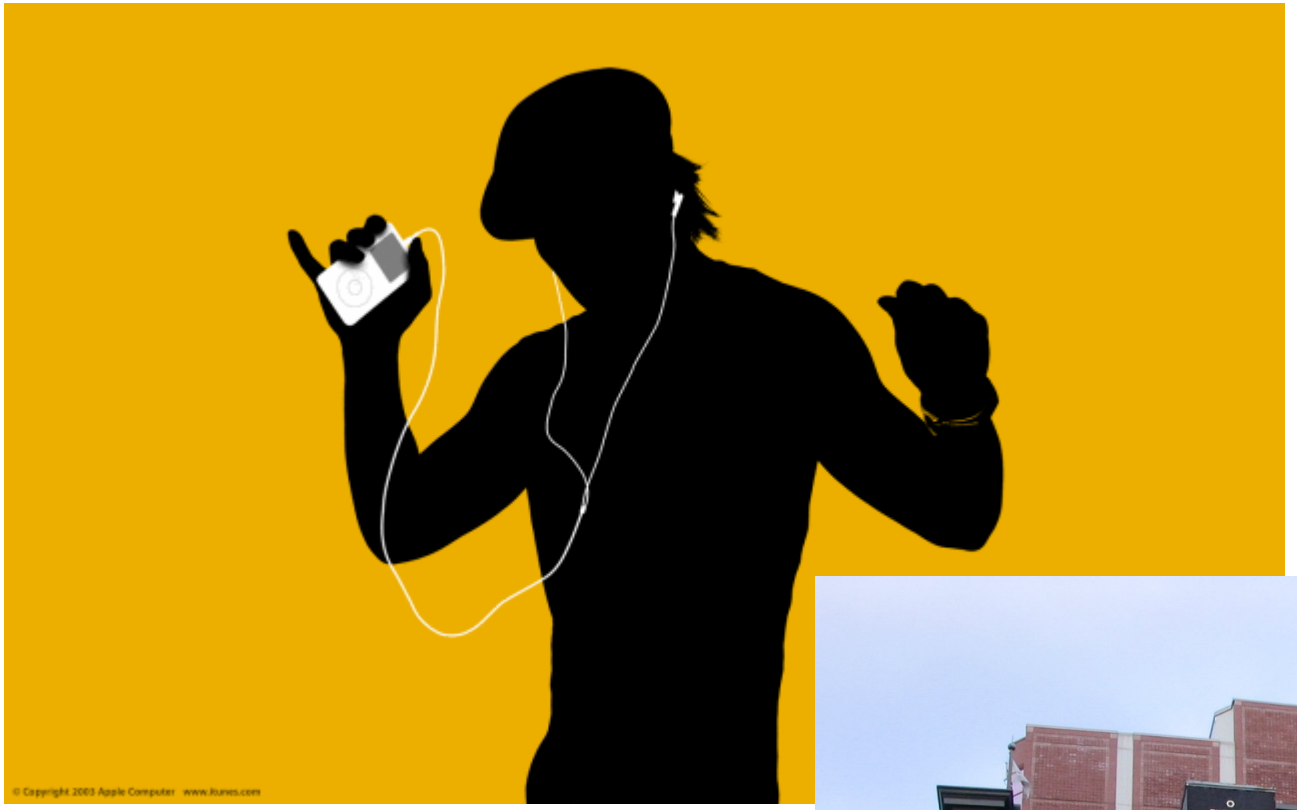
Improving Women's Participation in the Free/Libre Open Source Software Development - Theories and Cases

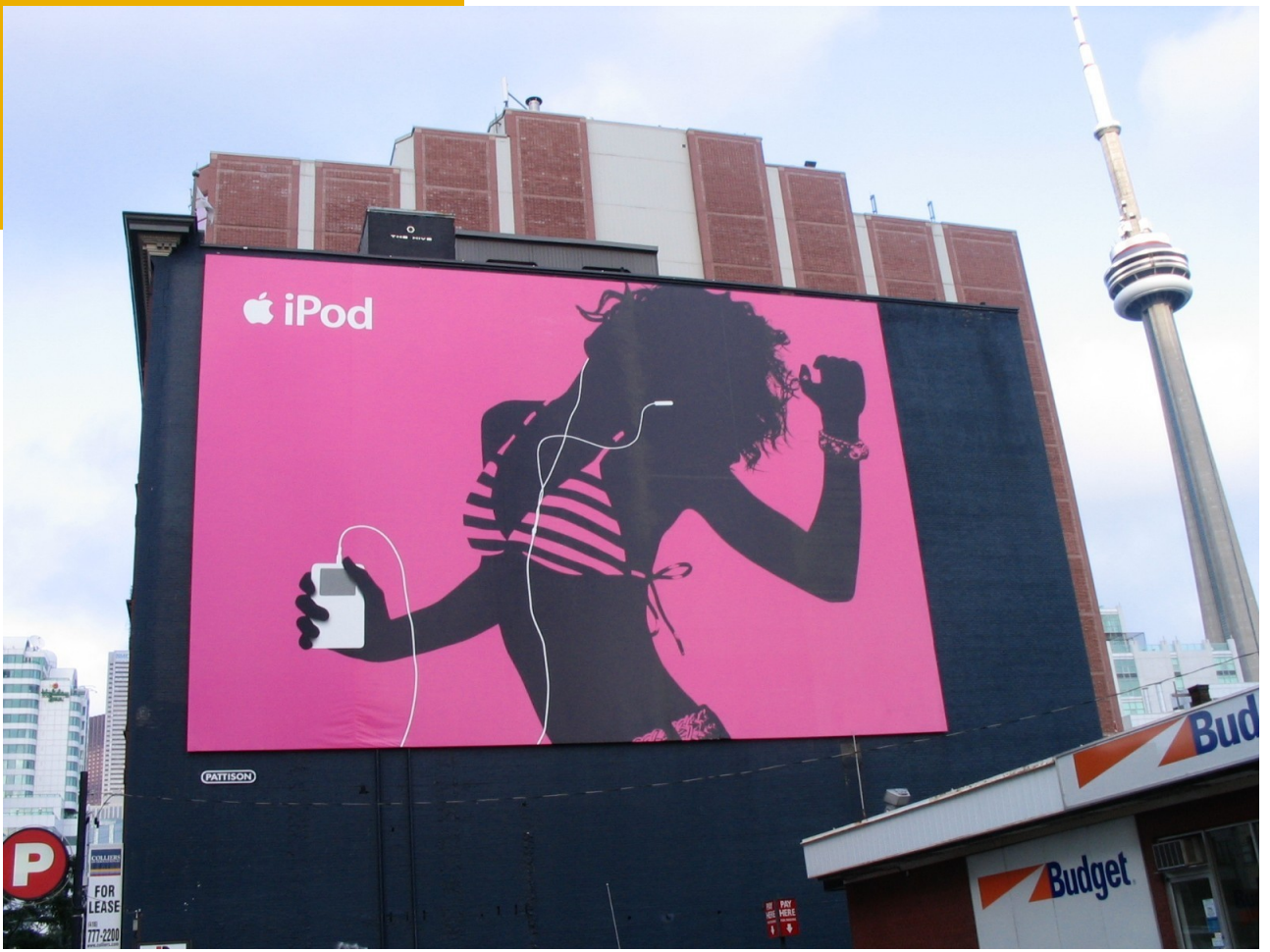
Yuwei Lin

National Centre for e-Social Science
University of Manchester

Some Tidbit to Ponder...

Holland open





Holland open

Quiz

- Why including women in the FLOSS development is important?

Quiz

- Why including women in the FLOSS development is important?

- Why is there so few women in the FLOSS development?

Quiz

- Why including women in the FLOSS development is important?

- Why is there so few women in the FLOSS development?

- What can be done to include more women?

Potentiality of FLOSS

- Freedom
- Openness
- Networking
- Collaboration

Potentiality of FLOSS

- Freedom
- Openness
- Networking
- Collaboration
- Diversity
- Democracy
- Equity
- Mutuality

Barriers of Including Women

- Cyberbulling & trolling

Barriers of Including Women

- Cyberbulling & trolling
- Sexist and discriminative languages

Barriers of Including Women

- Cyberbulling & trolling
- Sexist and discriminative languages
- Housework (child-rearing)

Barriers of Including Women

- Cyberbulling & trolling
- Sexist and discriminative languages
- Housework (child-rearing)
- Lack of role models, mentors and support

Barriers of Including Women

- Cyberbulling & trolling
- Sexist and discriminative languages
- Housework (child-rearing)
- Lack of role models, mentors and support
- Education

Barriers of Including Women

- Cyberbulling & trolling
- Sexist and discriminative languages
- Housework (child-rearing)
- Lack of role models, mentors and support
- Education
- A male-dominated competitive worldview

Barriers of Including Women

- Cyberbulling & trolling
- Sexist and discriminative languages
- Housework (child-rearing)
- Lack of role models, mentors and support
- Education
- A male-dominated competitive worldview
- Any other reasons that differ from culture to culture, nation to nation, region to region?

Debian-Women

- training and providing support for women interested in Debian and FLOSS sector
- organising tutorials, bug-squashing parties,
- 6 female Debian Developers
- http://women.debian.org/

Holland open

GenderChanger Academy

- since Nov. 1999
- ladies only
- /etc - eclectic tech carnival
- exchanging computer related skills
- grass root and local

- networking with ASCII @ Amsterdam (http://scii.nl/) & Indymedia Women
-

Holland open

LinuxChix

- a community for women who like Linux, and for women and men who want to support women in computing.
- FAQ page includes issues ranging from feminism to managing geek life
- http://www.linuxchix.org

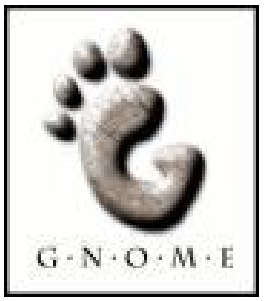
A Techno-Feminist View on the FLOSS Development

- It's not about number; it's about an attitude, a culture, a mindset.
- Technological determinism: too much focus on the coding skill (the value of documentation and localisation work)
- Male-dominated languages and cultures (Whose Hacker Culture?)

GNOME Women's Summer Outreach Program

http://www.gnome.org/projects/wsop/

Apply by 1 July 2006



Holland open