BUILDING AN ETHICAL E-BOOK

A Presentation by Nicholas Bernhard

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BUILDING AN ETHICAL E-BOOK

- Why I made Nantucket E-Books
- Why are ethical e-books important
- What's involved in making one?

This talk will focus on the e-books themselves.
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FREE AS IN FREEDOM
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FEATURES I WANTED

1) A browser-based e-book

No special apps or devices needed.
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What about Project Gutenberg or PDFs?

Well...
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- Viewport tags: meta name="viewport" content="width=device-width, initial-scale=1"

- CSS media queries: @media screen and (orientation: landscape)

- Also: low-contrast, screen-friendly typefaces, dark mode, text resizing.
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FEATURES I WANTED

1) A browser-based e-book

2) Mobile-responsiveness
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BUILT-IN AUDIOBOOKS
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FEATURES I WANTED

1) A browser-based e-book
2) Mobile-responsiveness
3) Built-in audiobooks
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A MARKUP LANGUAGE

The first idea of this Romance was suggested by the story of the \textit{Santon Barsis}, related in The Guardian. The \textit{Bleeding Nun} is a tradition still credited in many parts of Germany; and I have been told that the ruins of the Castle of \textit{Launstein}, which She is supposed to haunt, may yet be seen upon the borders of \textit{Thuringia}. The first two stanzas, from the third to the twelfth stanza, is the fragment of an original Danish Ballad \textit{Belberga and Durandarte} which is translated from some stanza to be found in a collection of old Spanish poetry, which contains also the popular song of \textit{Gayeros and Melesindraw}, mentioned in Don Quixote. I have now made a most curious discovery of all the plagiarisms of which I am aware myself; but I doubt not, many more may be found, of which I am at present totally unconscious.
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FEATURES I WANTED

1) A browser-based e-book
2) Mobile-responsiveness
3) Built-in audiobooks
4) A markup language with documentation
5) A parsing script with a GUI
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5) Respect the reader's freedom.
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Requirements:

- Can be read and shared anonymously
- Can be read offline
- Uses free software
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THE FOUR FREEDOMS:

- The freedom to use the software for any purpose.
- The freedom to study the software and make changes to it.
- The freedom to share the software with others.
- The freedom to share changes to the software with others.
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WHY?
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The Danger of Ebooks

In an age where business dominates our governments and writes our laws, every technological advance offers business an opportunity to impose new restrictions on the public. Technologies that could have empowered us are used to chain us instead.

With printed books,
- You can buy one with cash, anonymously.
- Then you own it.
- You are not required to sign a license that restricts your use of it.
- The format is known, and no proprietary technology is needed to read the book.
- You can give, lend or sell the book to another.
- You can, physically, scan and copy the book, and it's sometimes lawful under copyright.
- Nobody has the power to destroy your book.

Contrast that with Amazon ebooks (fairly typical):
- Amazon requires users to identify themselves to get an ebook.
- In some countries, including the US, Amazon says the user cannot own the ebook.
- Amazon requires the user to accept a restrictive license on use of the ebook.
- The format is secret, and only proprietary user-restricting software can read it at all.
- An upper “reading” is allowed for some books, for a limited time, but only by

...
Books in Microsoft Store: FAQ

Microsoft Store, Windows 10

The books category is closing

Starting April 2, 2019, the books category in Microsoft Store will be closing. Unfortunately, this means that starting July 2019 your ebooks will no longer be available to read, but you’ll get a full refund for all book purchases. See below for details.

While you can no longer purchase or acquire additional books from the Microsoft Store, you can continue to read your books until July 2019 when refunds will be processed.

Will I be able to buy, rent or pre-order books after April 2, 2019?

No. On April 2, 2019, you can no longer buy, rent or pre-order books. You can continue to use Microsoft Edge to read books you’ve acquired until early July 2019.
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Let's leave libraries out of it for a moment. When a consumer pays money in order to access an eBook, that consumer is *not* buying that eBook. That transaction is more accurately described as paying for a license to access the book. The consumer never owns the eBook and the seller ultimately retains control of it, even when the consumer downloads it to their device.
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The freedom to read requires ethical e-books.
GOP candidate wants libraries to out kids who check out LGBTQ books

He also wants the person who ordered the book to stand trial in front of the board.

By Bill Browning  Tuesday, November 2, 2021
Idaho bill would hold schools, libraries liable for giving minors ‘harmful materials’
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How to make an ethical e-book
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WRITING & CREATING NANTUCKET E-BOOKS:

- Shanty markup language (Licensed under GFDL)

- "Gam" parsing script & Arrowhead GUI (Licensed under GPL v3)
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PARTS OF A NANTUCKET E-BOOK:

- HTML document.
- Stylesheet
- Ahab.js (script for interactive elements, uses GPL v3)
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OFFLINE READING, OLD VERSION

- root_folder
  - AUTHOR_ACCOUNTS
    - ebook.html
  - MARCUS
    - ebook.html
  - TRINA
    - ebook.html
  - MASTER_ASSETS
    - stylesheet.css
    - script.js
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All self-contained
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GNU LibreJS

A browser extension for checking if client-side JS is free software.
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NANTUCKET E-BOOKS™

SOFTWARE LICENSE INFORMATION

BACK TO E-BOOK

The table below lists the software used in this e-book. The first item in the row includes a link to the minified code run by site visitors ('minified' means it has been shortened, sacrificing human readability for faster loading time and reduced bandwidth). The middle item in the row shows the license used for that script, and the last item includes a link to the full source code for that script.

| ahab_2.js | GNU-GPL-3.0-or-later | ahab_2.js |

1) Make a page on your site called 'softwarelicenses'

2) Create a table element with ID 'jslicense-labels1'

3) Three cells in each row: link to source code, link to license, and a link to the minified script.
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ONE MORE THING...

JS not even required!

- Use 'noscript' elements for readers who have turned off JS in their browser.
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