Toastmasters Speech CC#10 Outline – "Free to Create"
(8 – 10 minutes)

Introduction
- Who here uses a computer?
- What software do you use on it? [Excel, Word, Facebook]
- Ernest Hemingway was famous for using a typewriter. NEXT He would bang out his creative works, his award-winning novels, on his typewriter at home. And the end product was a sheaf of papers. Those days.. are gone.
- These days, we use software to produce our creative works. NEXT
- Software lets me keep an office job. With it, I can compose email. I can write presentations and spreadsheets. I can write a CV for a job that doesn't involve so much emailing, presentations and spreadsheets.
- Many of you are much the same.
- We all realise that software is important. But, perhaps we don't all realise how important the right software is.
- Tonight I'm going to try to explain source code, copyright, and how they mix together in something called open source software. That is a type of software that guarantees we are free to create important works and use them forever after.

Source Code
- Source code defn: textual instructions that are both human and machine readable.
- Examples – NEXT Architect, NEXT Musician, NEXT Programmer NEXT
- I've been writing software since I was eight, although I don't get to do it much anymore these days. It is fun to work with source code, as you can let your creativity go wild, and get the computer to do whatever you want it to do.
- All the software you've ever used has some source code behind it. If I have the source code, I can reproduce the software. I can also change the software: add features, remove features, get the software to work on a different computer. Source code is rather valuable.
- Both software and source code are protected by copyright. Copyright greatly affects what you're free to do with software. NEXT

Copyright
- Copyright is the right to copy something. It applies automatically, and only the creator has this right.
- Applies to all kinds of intellectual works: music, books, TV shows, recipes, and software
- Copyright has been with us for a long time now – form of it first appeared in Britain in 1709, following the invention of the printing press.
- Although only the creator has the right to copy, they can give others permission to copy, via a contractual licence.
- This brings us to open source software.

Open Source
- Open source software comes with its source code, *and* a licence that allows you to freely modify and redistribute it. To tinker with the software, make it work better for you, and give it to others.

- Back in 1994 – that's 15 years ago now – I wrote some software to convert between music files, and released it as open source. This allowed a games company in the US to use my software in making their software. They were free to use it as they saw fit.
- These days open source software is some of the most popular software available. NEXT Some of it is even giving Microsoft a run for its money.
- But it is in South America where the open source story has gotten really interesting. Six years ago, the government of Brazil decided that the only software they would use would be open source software. NEXT

Brazil
- Brazil is one of the four "BRIC" countries – Brazil, Russia, India and China. Term used in economic circles – fast-growing, developing nations – may be the dominant economies within fifty years. Ones to watch.
- There are many benefits to Brazil in choosing open source software, aside from the fact that it is typically zero cost. Rather it: fosters a local software development community, and ensures that the intellectual works of the government are not locked to particular software companies. What Brazil creates will forever be available to all Brazilians
- Last month, President Lula of Brazil was awarded the World Telecommunication and Information Society award. NEXT Lula goes gaga for open source: In accepting the award, he noted the importance of the promotion of open source in establishing an inclusive society.

Conclusion
- Sometime in the next couple of years you will be forced to upgrade a piece of non-open source software. Someone will have sent you a document that is incompatible with what you currently have. The commercial software company makes your life hard so that software upgrades occur, and they get software sales.
- When you're feeling the pain of incompatible documents, or the pain from upgrading all of your software, think of Brazil, where their software is under their own control. Perhaps they see our non-open source software a bit like we see Hemingway's typewriter.
- Tonight I've talked about source code, copyright and open source software. I've talked about the far-sighted approach by the government of Brazil. I trust you've found the approach of a potential future economic super-power instructive. Australia could be promoting similar approaches.
- Who knows – in the future, we, too, could be receiving an international award for our software policies. We, too, could be free to create.