

Is gnu.org safe? TrustSniffer's moderate-trust assessment: 74/100

gnu.org

Verdict

74

OUT OF 100

MODERATE TRUST

gnu.org is moderately trusted.

Most signals looked ordinary, and some evidence was missing. Read the checks below before you pay or hand over personal details.

Safe for Read-Only

Governance Risk

Assessed 2026-09-28 by automated analysis. Classification confidence 55%.

This site blocks TrustSniffer's automated capture, so the page itself was read through a visitor's browser (with private details removed there). Every other check ran on TrustSniffer's servers, and the score is limited to what those checks support.

What this site appears to be	Informational article from the Free Software Foundation describing the GNU operating system, the free software movement, project history, freedoms, and ways to support or contribute (donate, join, shop, maintain packages).
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Evidence status and limitations

Evidence completeness: UNKNOWN

- The real-world operator identity was not independently verified.
- Module-level completeness metadata is unavailable for this legacy report.

At a glance

The checks that decide most of this verdict.

Malware engines	None flagged it VirusTotal	CLEAR
Google Safe Browsing	Not listed Google	CLEAR
Abuse reports on the host	0 reports AbuseIPDB; shared hosting inflates this count	NOTED
Domain age	31 years old Registered history	CLEAR
Web archive	Archived since 1998 Public history exists	CLEAR

The page as captured

No screenshot is retained for this report.

Key findings

- Automated classification: Safe for Read-Only.
- Domain age: more than 10 years (registration continuity).
- Public web-archive history exists since 1998.
- No flags from the reputation services TrustSniffer consulted at assessment time.

Full analysis

Overview

GNU.org is an informational website presenting the GNU operating system, the free software movement, related software resources, and ways to support or contribute to the project through the Free Software Foundation.

Scam/Impersonation Risk

No scam, phishing, blacklist, or impersonation contradictions were observed. The homepage content is coherent with GNU and free-software subject matter, presents educational and advocacy material rather than an investment or high-pressure commercial offer, and contains no login form, sensitive form, or suspicious browser behavior. The available external reputation checks also returned no malicious or suspicious detections. The content is therefore evidence-consistent with a legitimate informational website, although the real-world operator identity remains independently unverified.

EVIDENCE

- The homepage is titled “The GNU Operating System and the Free Software Movement” and explains GNU, free-software principles, project history, and related distributions.
- The homepage analysis found no sensitive forms, login form, hidden forms, untrusted destinations, or phishing indicators.
- External checks recorded zero malicious and zero suspicious detections, with no external blacklist match.

Regulatory Verification Notes

The reviewed content describes an informational and advocacy operation associated with the Free Software Foundation, supported through donations, memberships, and an associated shop rather than a regulated financial product. No license or registration number is presented in the reviewed material; this is a transparency item for independent confirmation, not evidence of deception. The site's public-facing identity is consistent with the GNU subject matter, but the available evidence does not independently verify the legal operator. Its long registration history, established traffic footprint, and clean technical reputation provide meaningful legitimacy support, while ownership transparency remains limited.

EVIDENCE

- The domain was registered on 1995-11-24, is approximately 30.87 years old, expires on 2027-11-23, and uses Gandi SAS as registrar.
- The site is served from AS22989, operated by FREEASINFREEDOM - Free Software Foundation, Inc., US.
- The domain has a top-tier global traffic footprint, with recorded rank 423 and inclusion within the top one million sites.
- The homepage identifies GNU and the Free Software Foundation as the subject and supporting organization, while no license or registration number is shown.

What to Verify Next

Before a high-value donation, purchase, or other sensitive transaction, the prospective user should independently confirm the site's relationship with the Free Software Foundation through an official organizational channel, review the applicable payment, delivery, refund, and membership terms, and use payment protections appropriate to the transaction. If any future offering involves regulated financial activity, the relevant regulator's register should be checked separately.

EVIDENCE

- The homepage presents donation, membership, shop, and contribution pathways rather than a regulated financial service.
- The reviewed page contains no sensitive submission form, so transaction-specific terms and payment controls should be assessed at the point of action.
- Independent operator confirmation remains the appropriate check because identity verification is incomplete.

Summary Verdict

GNU.org presents a moderate-trust posture supported by coherent informational content, a long-established web presence, strong public visibility, and clean reputation indicators. No active scam or impersonation contradiction was identified, but the available evidence does not independently prove the real-world operator identity or remove the need for care around sensitive transactions.

Infrastructure Integrity

The site resolves directly to likely origin infrastructure, with no CDN or WAF detected. This is a neutral infrastructure characteristic rather than an indication of malicious activity; it provides less edge-layer shielding than a CDN-fronted deployment but is consistent with the site's established hosting context.

Closing Assessment

Ordinary informational browsing is appropriate, while independent identity and transaction checks should precede high-value or sensitive actions.

Written analysis generated 2026-09-28 by the TrustSniffer Analysis Engine from the evidence in this report.

What the analysis found

1 finding contributed to this verdict, raised by registration and ownership.

01 Governance Risk

- The public registration record for this domain is incomplete.
Registration and ownership rule:KF_WHOIS_INCOMPLETE

Identity verification

Status	UNVERIFIED
Identity score	30/100
Identity verification confidence	50%

- No on-site identity signals detected

Identity verification measures whether the site can be independently connected to a real-world brand or person. It is separate from the classification confidence.

What TrustSniffer observed

First-party facts recorded during the assessment of gnu.org.

- The request stayed on gnu.org. It was not redirected to another domain. CLEAR
- Registration is published under Gandi SAS. CLEAR
- DNS for this domain is served by gnu.org, across 3 name servers. NOTED
- The registration is paid up to 2027-11-23. CLEAR
- The earliest public archive of this site is from 1998-01-26. CLEAR
- It is hosted on FREEASINFREEDOM, from a server in US. NOTED

Domain intelligence

Registrar	Gandi SAS
Hosting	FREEASINFREEDOM - Free Software Foundation, Inc., US
Country	US
Server IP	2001:470:142:5::116
Name servers	ns4.gnu.org, ns1.gnu.org, ns2.gnu.org
SSL issuer	Not available
SSL expiry	Not available
Domain age	30.87 years (continuous registration)
Domain expiry	2027-11-23
Archive first seen	1998-01-26

Archive snapshots	Not counted (archive lookup incomplete)
Reputation	VirusTotal: 0 flagged AbuseIPDB: 0 reports Google Safe Browsing: 0 matches

About this assessment

A trust score summarises the evidence TrustSniffer could collect about gnu.org at assessment time. It is a starting point for your own judgement, not a guarantee: a high score means the signals were consistent with a legitimately operated site, a low or critical score means several risk patterns were present.

TrustSniffer assesses a website from the evidence it can collect at a point in time: domain registration and age, hosting and certificate, the content the site served, and third-party reputation feeds. A score is a summary of that evidence, not a guarantee and not a legal finding. There is no human rating and no user review in it. A site can change after it is assessed.

This report online: <https://trustsniffer.com/report/gnu.org> · assessed 2026-09-28