

History of Open Source

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Licensing

- Our Lecture Slides have greatly benefited from the previous classes taught by Dr. William Shroeder and Dr. Luis Ibanez at RPI
- Also thanks to Dr.TV Raman for helping me understand the critical issues.
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Reading Material

- Appeared in a paper Free Software/Open Source: Information Society Opportunities for Europe? <http://eu.conecta.it/paper/paper.html>
- One of the sections is a Brief history of open source software
http://eu.conecta.it/paper/brief_history_open_source.html

Main Players

- East Coast (MIT) Richard Stallman launched the GNU project – under GNU General Public License (GPL) - Stallman's manifesto:
stating that availability of source code and freedom to redistribute and modify software are fundamental rights.
- West Coast (UC Berkeley) was improving the UNIX system BSD Unix – supported by DARPA

More from West Coast

- BSD Unix released under BSD License. Kernel requires AT & T Unix license – hence remained proprietary.
- Another important Open Source Project is TeX (a typesetting system by Donald Knuth - Stanford)
- Communities for all of them exist even today

Communities

- USENET newsgroups and communities formed.
- They were able to patch programs and development was possible,
- X windows (Open Source) funded by consortium of companies.

Unix Kernel

- Bill Jolitz (UCB) was developing kernel for i386 under Net/2 (free of the copyright form AT&T) – 386 BSD
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/William_Jolitz
- Linus Torvalds (Finland) – unhappy with Prof. Tannenbaum's minix kernel was implementing linux kernel with GNU software.
- 386 bSD evolved into NetBSD, FreeBSD, OpenBSD

Unix Kernel (contd)

- Linux Kernel evolved into many GNU/Linux distributions (Slakware, Debian, Red Hat and many more)

More High Quality Open Source Development

- Apache (Widely used WWW server)
- Perl, (an interpreted language with lots of libraries – bio-informatics)
- R (origin in AT&T Used by Statisticians and Data Analysts)
- Mozilla/Firefox – WWW Browser (origin Netscape)
- GNOME/KDE – Desktop Environment – Used for nonspecialists

More Open Source

- Python, Java, GO – Programming Languages
- Open Data
- Open Research – Making the data and computations Public

Questions and Discussions