



Linus Torvalds

**Talk is cheap
Show me the code**

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Overview

Linus Torvalds, a Finnish American software engineer, is not only one of the most influential software engineers in the computer area, but also one of the most influential people in the world which named by time magazine. Torvalds's contributions to the field of computer engineering are indisputable. His is credited with having coined the Linux operating system, the distributed version control system -- Git and many other genius achievements.

As a super fan of the Linux system and git, in order to gain an insight into the man behind those brilliant creations, I have no doubt to choose Torvalds to research.

Early Life

Torvalds was born in 1969 and grew up in Helsinki, Finland. He was very interested in computers, and at the age of 11 he tried computer programming on the Commodore VIC-20 machine of his grandfather. Between 1988 to 1996, he studied computer science at the University of Helsinki. At the University, Torvalds was introduced to UNIX and his master's thesis was "Linux A portable operating system," which earned him a master's degree in computer science.

Linux Operating System

In my view, the world is changed by the Linux operating system. From smartphones to cars, home desktops to enterprise servers, the Linux operating system is everywhere. Linux operating system also is the first work that let Torvalds to be known by the world.

➤ About Linux

In 1991, Torvalds conceived the first version of Linux when he was only 22 years old. He released Linux system and its source code under a General Public License on the internet for all to download and use by free.

Compared with other closed source and expensive operating systems, not surprising, Linux attracted a sizeable audience among hard-core developers in a short time. More important, with quick-growing number of software engineers who join the Linux community and monumentally help to refine and develop the system, Linux operating system becomes more and more

powerful and popular. Because of these features, Linux can be modified to use in every field in the world.

➤ The impact of Linux

I deem the most significant work created by Torvalds is Linux. The truth is that most of us use Linux today without even realizing it — when using Google, Facebook on the phones, when using GPS in our vehicles, when using personal or business cloud storage, and so on. Although consumers may largely ignore the existence of Linux on all of these systems, the role that Linux plays in this market is a sign that it has become significant. Most IoT devices and embedded devices run a variation of Linux, which is unlikely to change. Instead, we're only going to see more devices and a continuing dependency on open source to drive Linux.

Git

When mentioned git, all software engineers should feel familiar with it. Git is widely used in software engineering. From my experience, Git helps me easier to manage and review the projects, especially when I need to work in a group.

➤ About Git

Git is one of the most widely used modern version control systems in the world. In order to manage Linux, Torvalds used the two weeks in 2005 to develop the first version of Git. It is intended to organize work between developers, but it can be used in any collection of files to track changes. Its objectives include speed, data integrity, and support for non-linear distributed workflows.

➤ The impact of Git

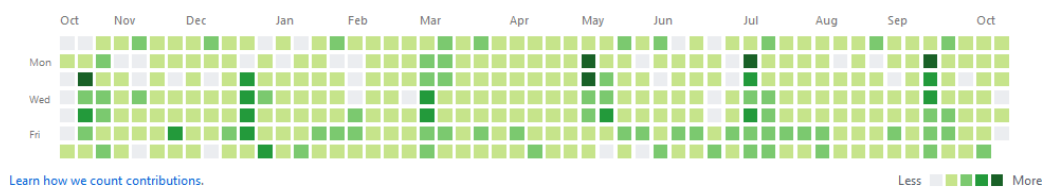
As a frequent Git user, I have gained plenty of convenience from it and rely heavily on it when working in groups. Nowadays, a staggering number of software projects, including commercial projects and open source, depend on Git for version control. Git has the functionality, efficiency, security and versatility that most teams and developers need. From my perspective, our life will be much easier if Git is baked into our workflow.

Closing

Without question, Linux Torvalds is a remarkable software engineer who has changed the world irrevocably. There are tons of articles on the internet to show how brilliant work that Torvalds achieved and his enormous influence. Therefore, in the end, I would like to talk about his influence on me.

➤ Impact on me

In addition to what I mentioned in previous — his invention of Linux and Git which has brought tremendous impact and convenience to me, Torvalds's spirit is also influent me a lot. As he said — *Talk is cheap, show me the code*, Torvalds is using his actions to tell me that the priority duty of being a software engineer is to write high-quality code. Moreover, there is no doubt, Torvalds is a hard-working software engineer. In his GitHub page, you can see he almost has commits every day. He is showing that diligence is also essential for software engineers. Last, what most impacted me is his spirit of open source. This open-source spirit has contributed to the booming Internet and I would like to be one of the contributors one day as well.



From Linus Torvalds's GitHub: his contributions in the last year

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