

Homework #3

Name – Daniel Meyer

Based on the Video

Write an essay on the video, include the following ideas.

- 1) Bill Gates did nothing wrong.
- 2) Would you want to work with a person like Gary Kildall -
- 3) Do you think women play a bigger part of I.T then or now?
- 4) Which part of Gary did you like?
- 5) Would you consider Gary an honest person?

Gary Kildall Essay

Gary Kildall was one of the first to push the idea of microprocessors as fully capable computers rather than controllers. With this idea he was able to make the concept of Personal Computers (PCs) a reality. This was done through his development of a programming language known as CP/M, an operating system he had developed using a programming language he had made called PL/M. What made CP/M special was its ability to work on systems with different hardware which made it special during a time when OSs were developed per system based on each hardware configuration. This OS dominated the market until 1980 when Kildall made the infamous IBM deal where IBM decided to sell Kildall's CP/M and Bill Gates's MS-DOS and let consumer "decide". However, IBM sold CP/M for \$240 and MS-DOS for \$40. This led to the rise of MS-DOS and the fall of CP/M as the dominant OS for PCs. The fault of this should be placed on IBM spiking the price unfairly on CP/M and Kildall for not checking the price before making the deal. Gates was not entirely without fault as he shouldn't have allowed the large difference, however it can simultaneously be seen as competition between the two.

Gary Kildall as a person seemed like a man I would have enjoyed to talk to. His love of innovation and forward thinking I admire and find exciting. If I were in the position I am in now 30 to 40 years ago I would have gladly applied to work with him at his company, DRI (Digital Research, Inc.). Gary was a man who seemed honest to a fault however. His honesty was one of the reasons I believe DRI lost hold of its dominance to Microsoft. He liked to keep everything he did open source which I personally find admirable and follow a similar policy, however it can give opportunities to competitors.

Finally, on the note of whether or not women play a bigger part in I.T. today when compared to women in I.T. during the 70s and 80s, I believe women play a larger role now. Women are more involved in the industry and can be seen making changes and innovating much more than they were decades ago.