

Terry Davis Biography

Terrence Andrew Davis, also known as Terry Davis, was a computer programmer from America. He is known for creating and designing the operating system TempleOS, built with a language he dubbed as "HolyC". Its development was an absurd undertaking for one person as it would both be complex and time-consuming, yet he did it, claiming God had instructed him to. For the average layman, this feat can be likened to one person building a skyscraper by themselves, his fans would say. You see, Davis also posted video blogs to social media, and by the time of his untimely death, had earned himself an online following akin to a cult.

The Start

Compared to his later life, his early life can nearly be described as boring. He was born on December 15th, 1969, in West Allis, Wisconsin. He was the seventh of eight children, and his father was an industrial engineer. In 1970, Terry was baptized at St. Leonard's Catholic Church but later claimed to be atheist later in his life. As a teenager, he worked odd jobs like bagging groceries and taping drywall and also worked at a deli at some point.

His Education

As a child, Davis used an Apple II at his elementary school and also started to teach himself assembly language on a Commodore 64 while he was a teenager. This was the beginning of his love of programming. He graduated high school with an SAT score of 1440, which would put him above 96% of people who have taken the SAT exam. 20+ years later, in a blog of his, he claims that he cheated on two problems on the SAT by "talking in the hall during the break". Regardless of this, Terry has proven in his later life that he could easily be recognised as the smartest person in any room.

Terry went on to start college at Arizona State University and was in the initial honours cohort at ASU. While at college, Terry started working at TicketMaster as a programmer for VAX machines. In 1991, Terry received one of his worst grades in college. He got a grade of C in partial differential equations. He says "C in partial differential equations was the semester I did 20 days hotel time in jail." "That was the semester I went to jail at nights." It is not clear as to what he went to jail for in the semester as his posts on social media were removed, but it is safe to assume it was due to his mental health issues beginning. The following year he graduated with a 3.63 GPA and received his Bachelor of Science in Engineering (Computer Systems Engineering major).

Terry Went back to ASU to work on a masters degree while still working at Ticketmaster. Terry Created a program called SysSim, a physics simulator while working on his master's degree. SysSim would later be expanded and renamed to SimStructure. In 1994, Terry earned his master's in electrical engineering from Arizona State University. After this graduation, he bought a new microprocessor and began working on a project he dubbed "Terry's Protected Mode Operating System" or (TPMOS) for short.

Deteriorating Mental Health

In March 1996, Davis began experiencing regular manic episodes and developed delusions centering around space aliens and government agents. These manic episodes continued every 6 or so months until 2003. For example, he was convinced he had CIA agents hiding in his house He said in one of his more recent vlogs that he "started seeing people following me around in suits and stuff. It just seemed something was strange." During this particular episode, Davis left town and began driving hundreds of miles south with no destination and ended up in Texas. On his way there he became suspicious of his radio and was then convinced that his car radio was communicating with him, he dismantled his vehicle looking for tracking devices and threw his keys into the desert. He was found by police and while he was being escorted into Texas he escaped out of the car and ended up breaking his collarbone. At the hospital, he believed there were alien artifacts in his X-Ray. He escaped the hospital and was caught carjacking a truck. After he was arrested and sent to jail he was sent to a mental hospital for two weeks. The reason for this was he tried to break out of jail by stripping naked and attempted to short circuit the jail by jamming his glasses into a socket.

After his manic episodes, he would be sent to a psychiatric ward. He was originally diagnosed with a bipolar disorder until he was eventually diagnosed with schizophrenia. Soon he was living with his parents, collecting Social Security disability payments. Terry Davis knew he was crazy which was a good sign. In 2014, he said that he "was genuinely pretty crazy in a way. Now I'm not. I'm crazy in a different way maybe."

Influence and Contribution To Software Engineering

To amend for his actions, Davis donated most of his possessions to follow a more nomadic lifestyle like Jesus. He continued working on his operating system known as "J Operating System" from 2004 to 2005, "LoseThos" from 2006 to early 2012, and "SparrowOS" in late 2012, and then "TempleOs"). He worked on the operating system as he felt better working on it as it reminded him of his younger years playing with the commodore 64. It was while he was working on this project that he believed God was talking to him via a random number generator he implemented. He believed God had asked him to create a temple for him and to do it via building an operating system. For the next decade or so he worked on the project which ended up being over 100,000 lines of code. As it was built as a temple for god, there are many references to Biblical tropes in the OS. One of the demos, "After Egypt", is a game in which the player travels to a burning bush to use a "high-speed stopwatch". The stopwatch is meant to act as an oracle that generates pseudo-random text, something Davis believed to be coded messages from God. TempleOs possessed a surprising amount of features considering Terry Davis worked on it alone and spent a lot of time in a mental hospital during development. Some of these features include 640x480 resolution and 16-colour display, a flight simulator, a compiler, kernel, editor, a sprite editor, a 3D mesh creator, audio support and a few others. All of these features were implemented because that's how God wanted it to be done according to Davis.

Terry Spent a lot of time on forums and social media platforms promoting TempleOs. He was a member of HackerNews, Reddit Youtube and Facebook. He would often boast on these sites claiming to be the smartest member and would get controversial quickly. At first, he would get banned for spamming links to his Os but then a darker side of Terry came out. He would often use homophobic and racial slurs, and would go as far as calling anyone who critiqued him "CIA n****rs." His youtube channels rose and fell over and over but they gained traction each time.

The End

On his most recent youtube channel, his main one which mainly contained vlogs, he had not uploaded for 3 weeks. It was revealed that he had got into a fight with his father and got sent to jail, then a mental hospital. On his release he found himself evicted from his parents home. During the next few months, Davis struggled with periods of homelessness and incarceration. He then stopped taking his medication, the reasoning being that it limited his creativity. Due to his youtube channel being somewhat popular he would often find himself being given supplies by his fans and being offered somewhere to sleep. He never accepted any offers to stop being homeless though apart for a brief period where he lived with his sister before travelling to portland. Local authorities were warned as Davis had claimed that he would kill someone if God asked him too. In the last video posted by Davis, it was surrounded by a sad aura but Davis does end up saying "It feels good to be king." On the evening of August 11, 2018, while walking alongside railroad tracks in The Dalles, Oregon, Davis was struck and killed by a train. It is unknown if it was a suicide or an accident. When news spread, he was memorialized by fans in a number of tributes posted to social media. His family took this opportunity to promote charities that help people with mental health issues. A fitting end to the story of Terrence Andrew Davis.

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