

# Development Technologies: Using Linux

COMS 3102  
Fall 2016  
Dan Mechanic

Lecture 1: What is Linux?

# Welcome!

- Instructor

- Dan Mechanic ([mechanic@columbia.edu](mailto:mechanic@columbia.edu))
- Office Hours:
  - Mon 5:30pm - 6:30pm - Uris 328
  - Fri 5pm-6pm - Uris 329

Please put  
[COMS3102](#) in  
the subject line!

- TAs

- Sneha Nagaraj Bangalore ([sb3889@columbia.edu](mailto:sb3889@columbia.edu))
  - Fri Noon - 1PM; TA Room; Mudd 122
- Tushar Agarwal ([ta2482@columbia.edu](mailto:ta2482@columbia.edu))
  - Tues 1:30 - 2:30 PM; TA Room; Mudd 122

# What is this course?

- NOT internals
- NOT system administration (although we might do a little of that)
- 'practical' 'applied'

GOAL: Be comfortable with Linux; Anything you need to do, from now on, Linux is not the obstacle. Hopefully you also like Linux and become a regular user.

# This course.

- Attendance
- Academic Honesty (I **strongly** dislike cheating)  
<http://www.cs.columbia.edu/education/honesty>

# Who am I?

```
*** COMMODORE 64 BASIC V2 ***  
64K RAM SYSTEM 38811 BASIC BYTES FREE  
READY.
```



```
Fast Tracker  
BY  
MIKE J. HENRY  
(C)1985 BASEMENT BOYS SOFTWARE  
THE MENU  
S) SINGLE - TWO MINUTE BACKUP (1 1541)  
D) DOUBLE - NO VERIFY (2 1541)  
U) ULL - VERIFY (3 1541)  
SD2 U) SD2 - PROTECTED (MSD - SD2)  
SD2 U) SD2 - PROTECTED (MSD - SD2)  
NIBBLER - COPIES PROTECTED (1 1541)  
ART'S BACKUP W) PARAMETER COPIER  
AUTO BACKUP VERSIONS  
M) DOUBLE SD2 V2.0 M) DOUBLE V  
BOOT WHICH ROUTINE?
```

THE WORLD FAMOUS  
**DYNAMIC  
DUO**  
PRESENTS  
ALLEYCAT  
CRACKED ON: 12/09/88  
PRESS SPACE  
REVIEWED COPY SO THE I



# Who am I?



# Who am I?



**slackware**  
linux



# What is an Operating System?

An *operating system* (**OS**) is **software that manages computer hardware and software resources** and provides common services for computer programs. The operating system is an essential component of the system software in a computer system. Application programs usually require an operating system to function.

- Wikipedia



# What is an Operating System?

OS is a **resource allocator**

- Manages all resources

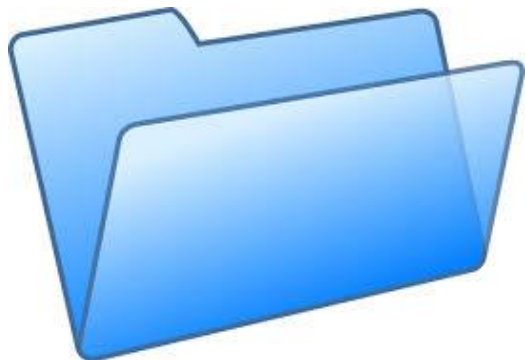
- Decides between conflicting requests for efficient and fair resource use

OS is a **control program**

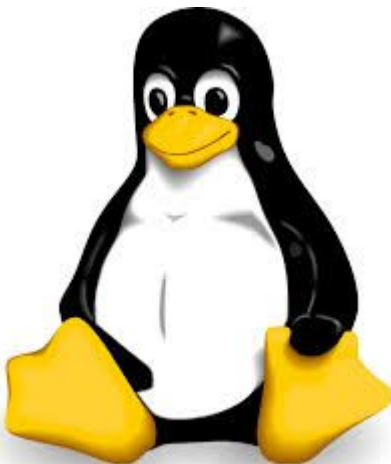
- Controls execution of programs to prevent errors and improper use of the computer

-Jae Woo Lee's OS1 class

# What is an Operating System?



filesystem

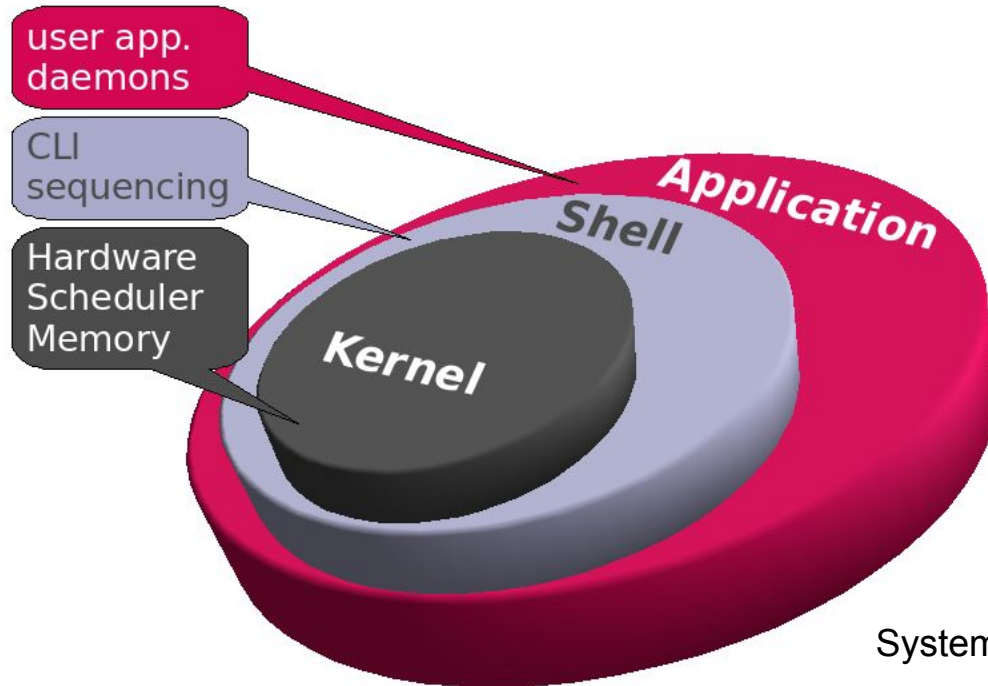


kernel



toolset

# What is a kernel?



System calls from 'userspace'

# What is an Operating System?

- US vs Microsoft 2001



Is a browser part  
of an OS?

# The Unix Operating System

- AT&T Bell Labs 1969 on a pdp11 by Dennis M. Ritchie and Ken Thompson
- Announced 'officially' in ACM July 1974



# The Unix Operating System

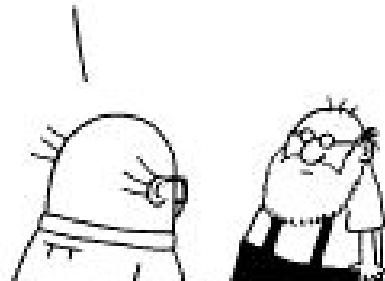
COMPUTER HOLY WARS

HOLD IT RIGHT  
THERE, BUDDY.



© 1995 United Feature Syndicate, Inc. (NRC)  
6/24  
5 Adams E-mail: SCOTTADAMS@AOL.COM

THAT SCRUFFY  
BEARD... THOSE  
SUSPENDERS...  
THAT SMUG  
EXPRESSION...



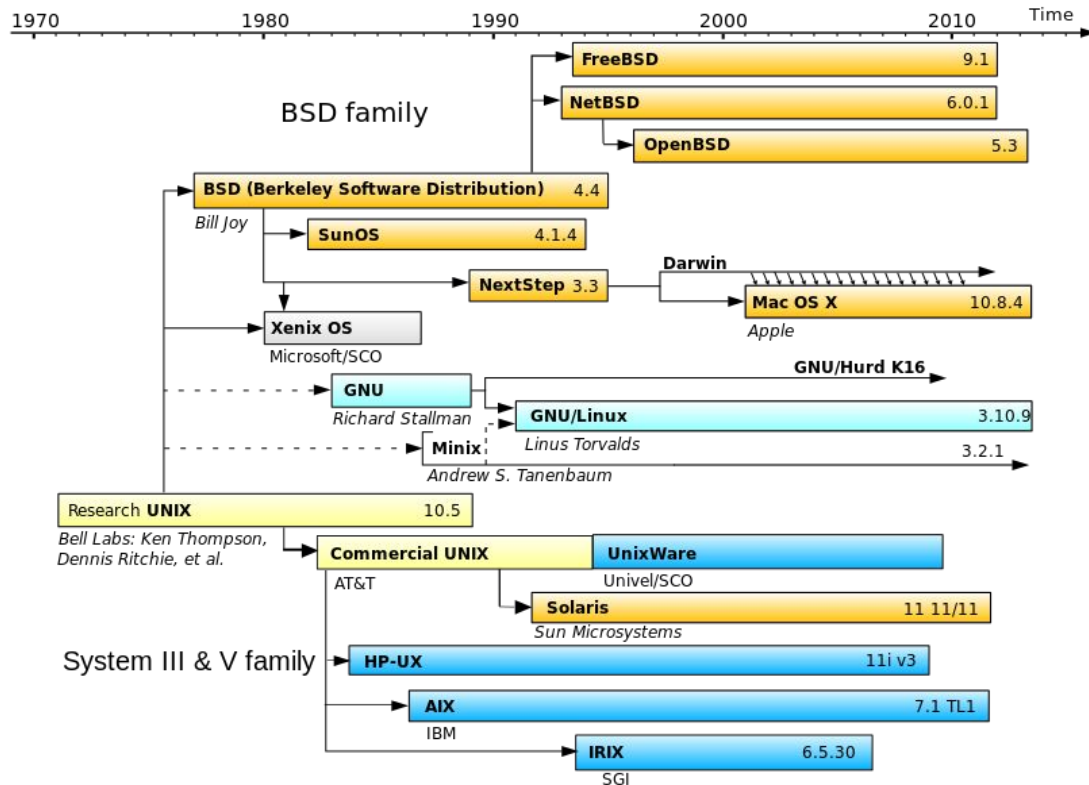
YOU'RE ONE OF THOSE  
CONDESCENDING UNIX  
COMPUTER USERS!

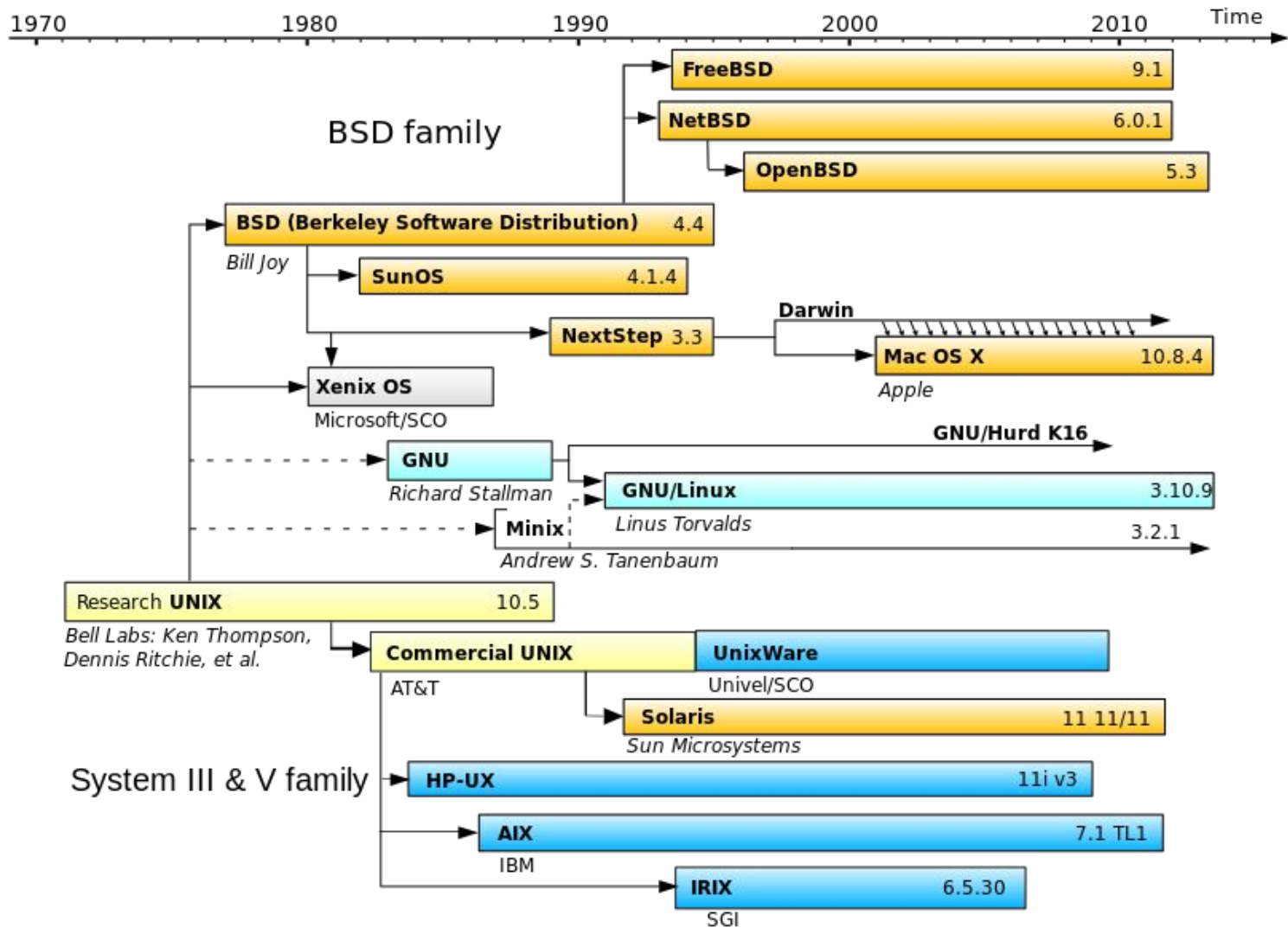
HERE'S A NICKEL,  
KID. GET YOUR-  
SELF A BETTER  
COMPUTER.



Dilbert cartoon by Scott Adams - June 1995

# Unix Family Tree



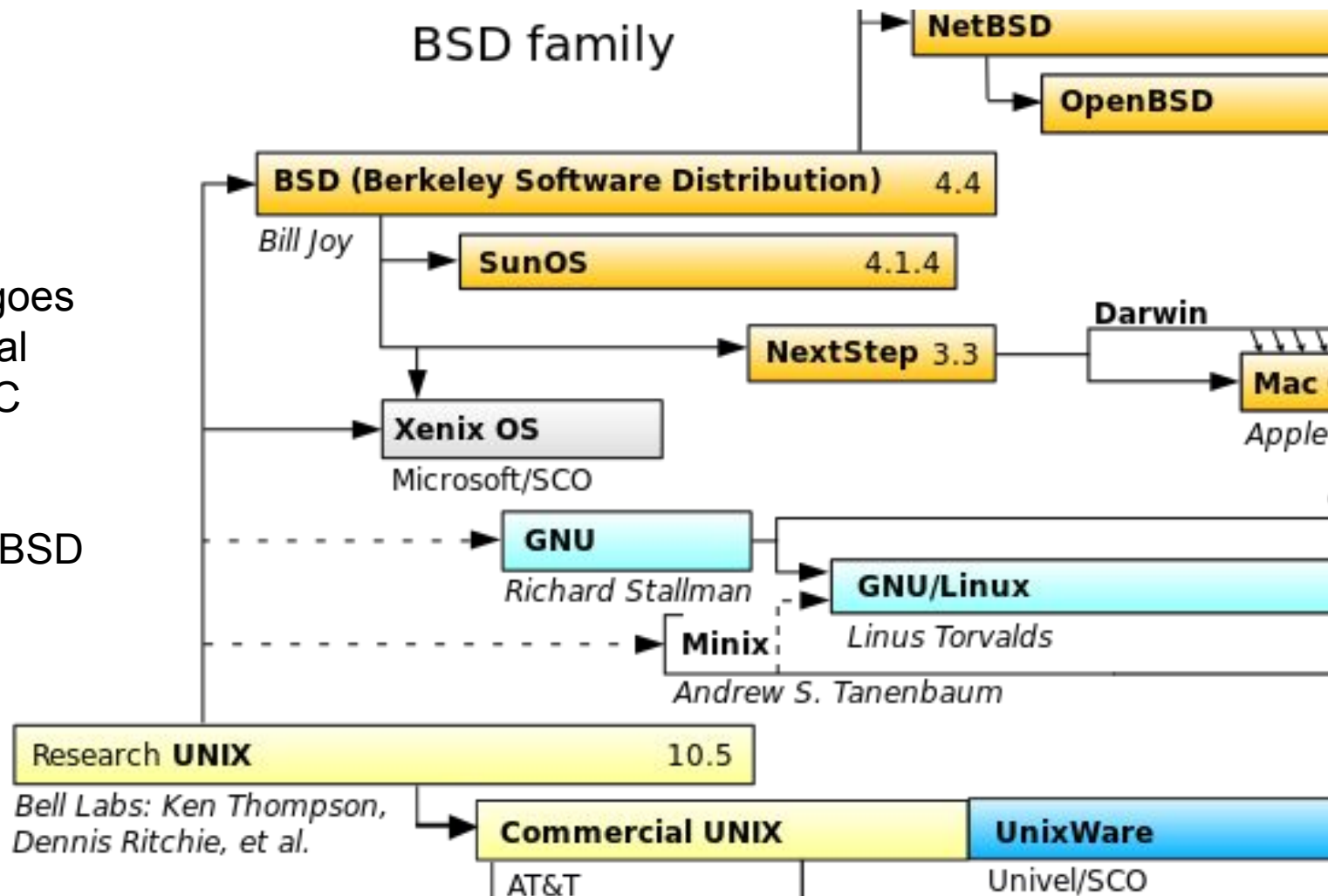




## BSD family

1975 - Ken Thompson goes on Sabbatical and visits UC Berkeley

1978 - First BSD Release



**BSD (Berkeley Software Distribution) 4.4**

*Bill Joy*

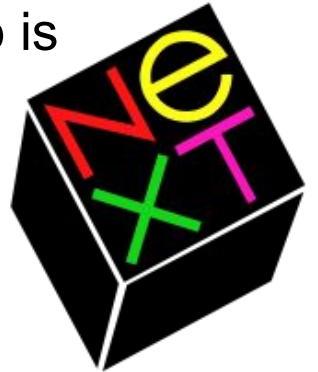
**SunOS 4.1.4**

**NextStep 3.3**

1982- Bill Joy becomes a co-founder of Sun Microsystems.

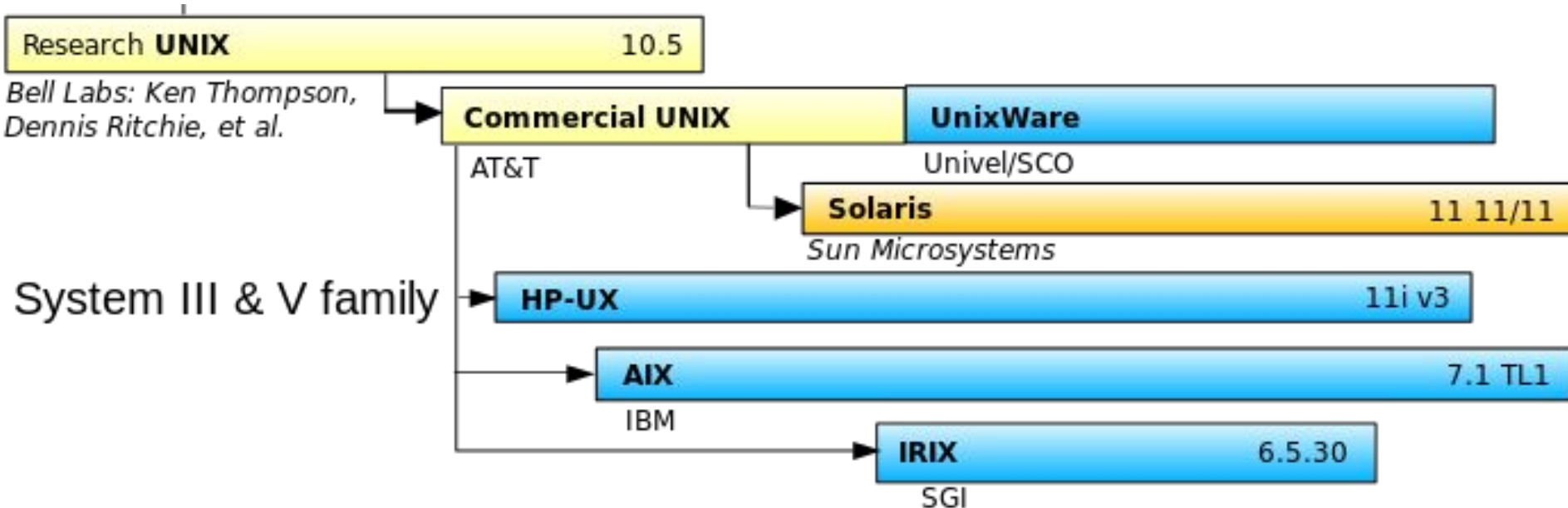


1985- Steve Jobs kicked out of Apple, forms NeXT. NextStep is an Object-Oriented OS based on Objective-C





1992 - Sun  
Microsystems switches  
to System5 - Solaris



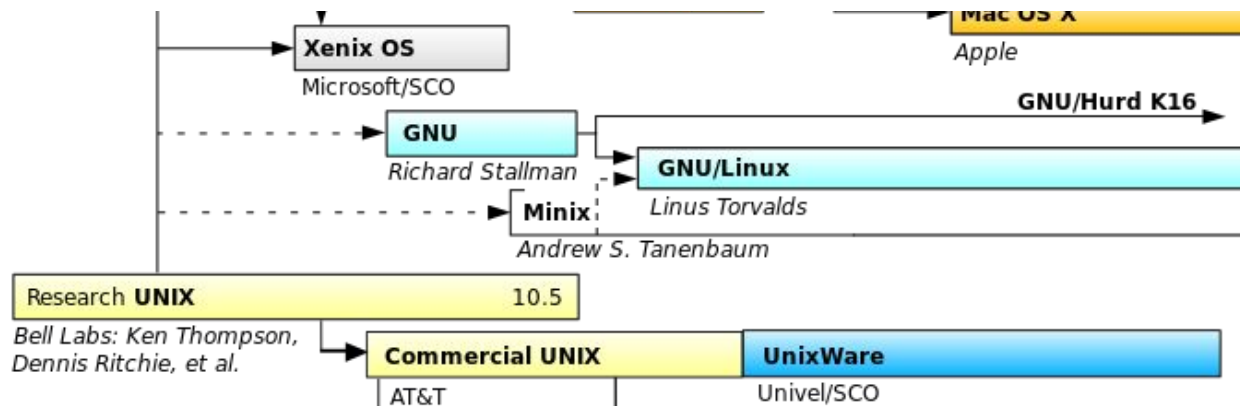


1997 -  
Steve Jobs  
rejoins  
Apple.

2000 - OSX Public  
Beta released



**OS X**



# The Unix Philosophy

from Doug McIlroy, Inventor of Unix pipes

- Make each program **do one thing well**. To do a new job, build afresh rather than complicate old programs by adding new features.
- **Expect the output of every program to become the input to another**, as yet unknown, program. Don't clutter output with extraneous information. Avoid stringently columnar or binary input formats. Don't insist on interactive input.

# The Unix Philosophy

from Doug McIlroy, Inventor of Unix pipes

- **Use tools in preference to unskilled help** to lighten a programming task, even if you have to detour to build the tools and expect to throw some of them out after you've finished using them.

# The Unix Philosophy

from *The Unix Philosophy* by Mike Gancarz 1994

Small is beautiful.



# The Unix Philosophy

from *The Unix Philosophy* by Mike Gancarz 1994

Build a prototype as soon as possible.

# The Unix Philosophy

from *The Unix Philosophy* by Mike Gancarz 1994

Choose **portability over efficiency**.

(Good programs never die--they are ported to new hardware platforms.)

# The Unix Philosophy

from *The Unix Philosophy* by Mike Gancarz 1994

Store data in flat ASCII files.

# The Unix Philosophy

from *The Unix Philosophy* by Mike Gancarz 1994

Use software leverage to your  
advantage

(Good programmers write good code;  
great programmers "borrow" good  
code.)

# The Unix Philosophy

from *The Unix Philosophy* by Mike Gancarz 1994

Avoid captive user interfaces.

CUIs assume that the user is human. Programs having CUIs are hard to combine with other programs.

# Unix Conventions

- Three button mouse
- 'Meta' key
- The root user and sudo.



# Command Conventions

Commands usually take the form:

`command argument argument ...`

- arguments also known as 'options'
- arguments typically preceded by a '-' or '--'
  - - short option
  - -- long option

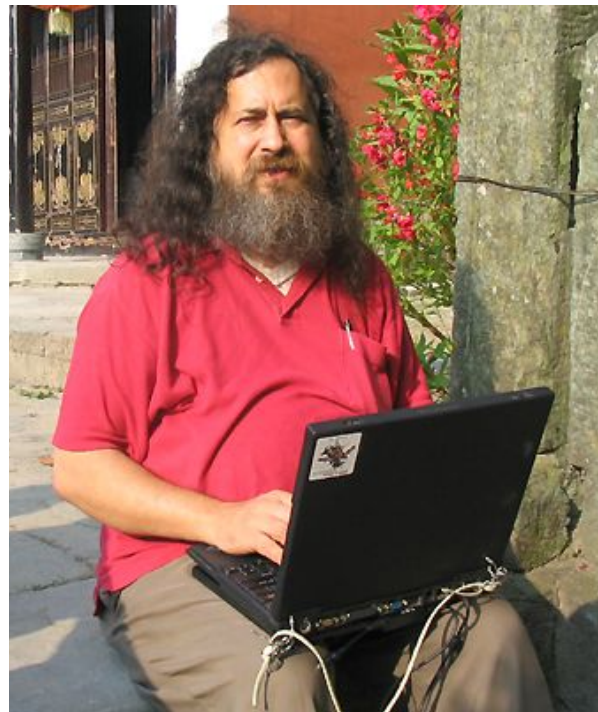
EX:

```
cat -n
```

```
cat --number
```

# Richard Stallman - GNU & FSF

- Contributed to Emacs,gcc
- Experience with James Gosling and Emacs led to GPL (other events included a timebomb in Scribe markup, and closed source Xerox 9700 printer - 1980 MIT AI lab)
- Insists on 'GNU Linux'



Richard Stallman with his x60 running libreboot



# Richard Stallman - GNU & FSF

- Wrote the GNU Manifesto in March 1985  
<https://www.gnu.org/gnu/manifesto.html>
- GNU Emacs Version 13, the first public release, was made on March 20, 1985
- Founded Free Software Foundation in October 1985
- "GNU's NOT Unix!"



# Richard Stallman - GNU Manifesto

## "Why I Must Write GNU

I consider that the Golden Rule requires that if I like a program I must share it with other people who like it.

**Software sellers want to divide the users** and conquer them, making each user agree not to share with others. I refuse to break solidarity with other users in this way. "

<https://www.gnu.org/gnu/manifesto.html>



# Richard Stallman - GNU & FSF

- "Free as in speech, not as in beer"
- "Free software is a political movement; open source is a development model."
- GPL (copyleft)



Richard Stallman with his Leemote Yeelong; a machine built with the intention of being used with free software.

# Richard Stallman - What is free software?

"A program is free software if the program's users have the **four essential freedoms**:

- The **freedom to run the program** as you wish, for any purpose (freedom 0).
- The **freedom to study how the program works**, and change it so it does your computing as you wish (freedom 1). Access to the source code is a precondition for this.
- The **freedom to redistribute copies** so you can help your neighbor (freedom 2).
- The **freedom to distribute copies of your modified versions** to others (freedom 3). Access to the source code is a precondition for this.



Richard Stallman with his Leemote Yeelong; a machine built with the intention of being used with free software.

# Richard Stallman - GPL

"Everyone is permitted to copy and distribute verbatim copies of this license document, but changing it is not allowed.

The GNU General Public License is a free, copyleft license for software and other kinds of works.

The **licenses for most software and other practical works are designed to take away your freedom to share and change the works**. By contrast, the GNU **General Public License is intended to guarantee your freedom to share and change all versions of a program**--to make sure it remains free software for all its users."

<http://www.gnu.org/licenses/gpl-3.0.en.html>

# GPL - Free Software Licenses Today

GPLv1,v2 - Linux Kernel GPLv2

LGPL ("Lesser" - allows linking to proprietary modules)

GPLv3 - "tivoization" / DRM

BSD - 'Permissive' No Warranty; Do what you like; Original writer keeps copyright.

ISC - Simplified BSD

# Linus Torvalds - The Linux Kernel

August 1991; Usenet news post to  
comp.os.minix

"Hello everybody out there using minix -

I'm doing a (free) operating system (just a  
hobby, **won't be big and professional like  
gnu**)..."



# Linus Torvalds - The Linux Kernel

Version 1.0 was released on March 14, 1994

**"Sadly, a kernel by itself gets you nowhere.** To get a working system you need a shell, compilers, a library etc. These are separate parts and may be under a stricter (or even looser) copyright. Most of the tools used with linux are GNU software and are under the GNU copyleft. These tools aren't in the distribution - ask me (or GNU) for more info."





# Unix Flavors Today

## Unix SYSV

- Solaris
- AIX

## BSD

- FreeBSD
- OpenBSD
- OSX
- NetBSD

## Linux: .rpm

- Fedora
- RedHat
- CentOS
- Suse

## Linux: .deb

- Debian
- Ubuntu
- Mint
- Raspian
- Knoppix

...arch (pacman)

...android

# Does GPL Work?

- Redhat Enterprise Linux & CentOS
- Linux (GPLv2) and ZFS (Common Development and Distribution License)

# Standards

- **POSIX**
  - Portable Operating Systems Interface - defines APIs for UNIX-like systems
- **LSB**
  - Linux Standard Base
  - Defines ABI, making binaries compatible for Linux OSs

# Let's Login! - ssh client

- SSH - Secure Shell - Port 22
- PuTTY on Windows (or mobaXterm)
- ssh on Mac

```
# ssh userid@linuxmachine.columbia.edu
```

...later we'll see other utilities that use the ssh protocol

# Let's Login!

- Your password will NOT be echo'd to the screen! You won't see `*****` either...
- Unix is case-sensitive!
- You have a prompt!
  - Typically a 'superuser' (root) has a `#` prompt.
- Logout with 'exit', 'logout' or Cntrl-D.

# Let's follow tradition: "Hello World"

```
# echo hello world
```

# Let's follow tradition: "Hello World"

```
# echo hello  
hello world
```

```
world
```

```
# echo "hello  
hello
```

```
world" world
```

# echo

- echo can print variables
  - `dan=cool;`
  - `echo $dan`



# Man Pages

```
# man echo
```

```
...
```

```
-e      enable interpretation of backslash escapes
```

```
\n - newline
```

```
\a - alert
```

```
...
```

Use SPACE to page through man page; 'Enter' for line-by-line.  
Use 'q' to exit the man page

# man pages

- page down - space
- page up - b
- quit - q
- beginning/end - g/G
- search forward - / (can repeat to search next)
- search backward - ?

(the same as many commands such as 'vim' & 'less')

# man pages have sections

```
# man man
```

```
...
```

- 1 Executable programs or shell commands
- 2 System calls (functions provided by the kernel)
- 3 Library calls (functions within program libraries)
- 4 Special files (usually found in /dev)
- 5 File formats and conventions eg /etc/passwd
- 6 Games
- 7 Miscellaneous (including macro packages and conventions), e.g. man(7), groff(7)
- 8 System administration commands (usually only for root)
- 9 Kernel routines [Non standard]

```
...
```

# man pages

```
# man signal
```

```
# man -f signal (what is)
```

```
# man -s 2 signal
```

```
# man -a signal
```

```
# man -k signal
```

# Who are you anyways?

- Who are you?
  - `id`
  - `whoami`

`uid` - numeric userid... this is what the OS uses

`gid` - numeric primary groupid

# Change your password

```
# passwd
```

# What Host are we on?

**hostname** - print system hostname

```
# hostname
```

```
servicestation.gsb.columbia.edu
```

# What is this machine? ...uptime

```
$ hostname
```

```
research
```

```
$ uptime
```

```
14:41:28 up 105 days, 13:49, 119 users, load average: 0.53, 0.50,  
0.50
```



# What OS are we on?

uname - print system information

```
# uname  
SunOS
```

```
# uname  
Linux
```

```
$ uname -a  
Linux research 2.6.18-402.el5 #1 SMP Thu Jan 8 06:22:34 EST 2015 x86_64  
x86_64 x86_64 GNU/Linux
```

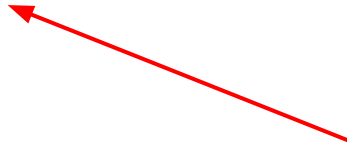
```
# cat /etc/redhat-release  
Red Hat Enterprise Linux Server release 5.7 (Tikanga)
```

# cat - concatenate files

```
# cat filename
```

```
Here is the contents of filename
```

```
# cat binaryfile
```



bad news

Use reset to reset your  
terminal

# What Linux are we on?

```
# cat /etc/lsb-release
DISTRIB_ID=LinuxMint
DISTRIB_RELEASE=17
DISTRIB_CODENAME=qiana
DISTRIB_DESCRIPTION="Linux Mint 17 Qiana"
```

```
$ lsb_release -a
LSB Version:
:core-4.1-amd64:core-4.1-noarch:cxx-4.1-amd64:cxx-4.1-noarch:desktop-4.1-amd64:de
sktop-4.1-noarch:languages-4.1-amd64:languages-4.1-noarch:printing-4.1-amd64:prin
ting-4.1-noarch
Distributor ID:   Fedora
Description:      Fedora release 20 (Heisenbug)
Release: 20
Codename:         Heisenbug
```

# What kernel are we running?

```
# uname -a
```

```
Linux research 2.6.18-274.7.1.el5 #1 SMP Mon Oct 17 11:57:14 EDT 2011 x86_64 x86_64  
x86_64 GNU/Linux
```

```
# uname -a
```

```
SunOS banana 5.9 Generic_122300-61 sun4u sparc SUNW,Sun-Fire-V240 Solaris
```

Want to see the source?

<http://rhkernel.org/RHEL5-2.6.18>

<https://lxr.missinglinkelectronics.com/linux+v2.6.32>

lxr - linux cross reference

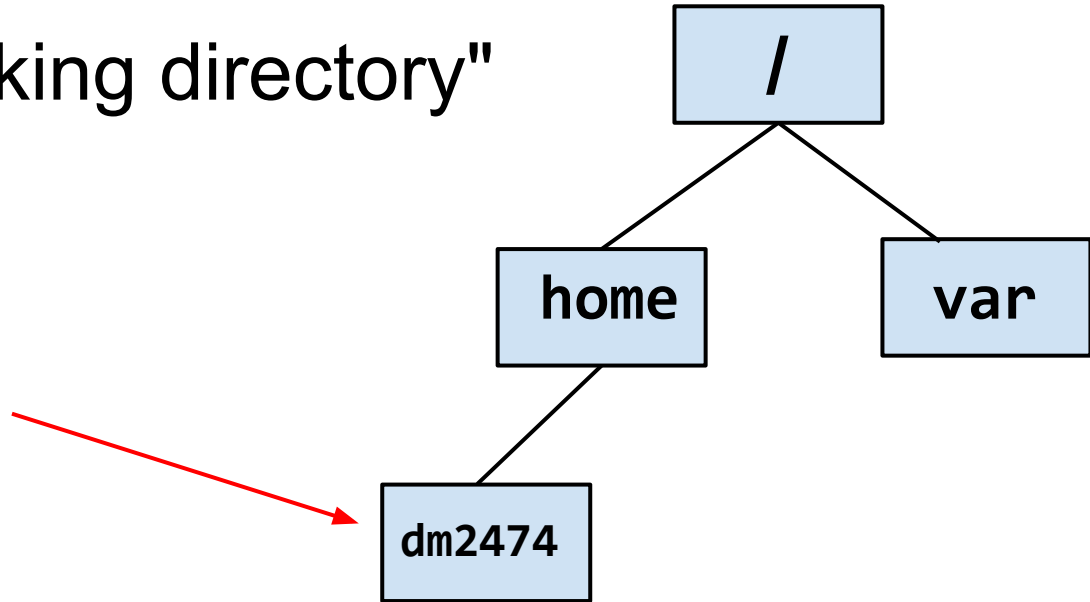
# Navigating The Filesystem

Where am I?

pwd - "print working directory"

```
$ pwd
```

```
/home/dm2474
```



# Your HOME directory

- The directory you land in when you first login
- Stored in an environment variable '\$HOME'
- `cd` with no arguments always takes you HOME
- Can use the shorthand `~user` ie: `~dm2474`

# cd - change directory

cd - change directory

```
$ pwd
```

```
/home/dm2474
```

```
$ cd /var
```

```
$ pwd
```

```
/var
```

```
$ cd /home/dm2474
```

```
$ pwd
```

```
/home/dm2474
```

# SIMPLE editor - nano

- Free version of 'pico'
- VERY Simple to use
- ^ means Ctrl

A screenshot of the nano editor's help menu, displayed in a terminal window with a black background and green text. The menu is organized into three columns. The first column contains '^G Get Help' and '^X Exit'. The second column contains '^O WriteOut' and '^J Justify'. The third column contains '^R Read File' and '^W Where Is'. Each command is preceded by a green square highlighting the caret (^) symbol.

<code>^G</code> Get Help	<code>^O</code> WriteOut	<code>^R</code> Read File
<code>^X</code> Exit	<code>^J</code> Justify	<code>^W</code> Where Is

Use `ls` to see your file...



# 'Sourcing' a file

'Sourcing' a file means to read a file and treat each line as if it were commands entered at the shell. Two ways:

```
# . filename
```

```
# source filename
```

# 'Sourcing' a file

```
# cat filetosource
hostname
date
uptime
# . filetosource
servicestation.gsb.columbia.edu
Sat Sep 12 18:19:47 EDT 2015
  18:19:47 up 227 days,  4:37, 18 users,  load average: 0.12,
0.14, 0.13
```

# back to your prompt

- echo can print variables
  - `dan=cool; echo $dan`
- Your prompt can be configured via the built-in PS1 variable
  - `PS1='yes Dan > '`
  - `[dm2474@research ~]`
    - uid
    - hostname
    - ~ - home directory of
    - `man bash -> PROMPTING` section

# END LECTURE 1

Thank You!