Janaye Jackson

Mr. Lehr

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01/14/22

Dennis Ritchie –

Along with Ken Thompson, Dennis Ritchie is a creator of Unix. Unix was created in 1969 because Ken Thompson was inspired to write it. Unix was created in order to allow people personal computers. Minicomputers were becoming popular but were still expensive. May were much cheaper than mainframes, so it was more likely that individual departments could afford them. In today’s day and age many smartphones run off software based off of Unix. Ritchie believes that as time progresses, computers will get smaller.

Bjarne Stroustrup –

When first starting out, code had to be written directly for the hardware. Languages like FORTRAN and COBALT were soon created when people learned coding languages could be made for humans in specific areas. Then in the 60s came SIMULA based on the idea that coding languages could be made for people in all domains, leading to object-oriented programming. Stroustrup took those ideals along with the C coding language to create C++. C++ has become such a popular language because in general it is good for infrastructure. It provides stability, meaning it can be used for a long time. Saving time for coders because they do not have to continue to keep rewriting code. On the downside, C++ is a complex language that has not been cleaned up yet.

Bells Lab Unix –

In order for there to be good programming projects there need to be a good programming environment. Bells Lab follows these principles giving everybody something to do, mainly focusing on software. Software has the demand to do stuff for software to perform and evolve constantly. In keeping up with this, simpler ways to produce code are being made. That is the Unix system. Unix is composed of three different layers each making coding much simpler. In Unix you can keep multiple programs in one place, making it easier to tell a computer what is wanted. A way this is done is through files, which are handled a lot easier on Unix. Files do not have to be specified in all aspects. They can all be kept in one place and found by the shell of the Unix system. Unix also makes input/output much easier. Most operating software makes directing inputs or outputs to other places basically impossible. With Unix inputs can be taken from other files and changed into outputs and outputs can be placed into a file instead of printed to the screen. Unix is an amazing operating system, and any good operating system needs a language to match. That is where the creation C comes in. C makes it possible to control everything in an operating system, but it does not make it necessary. This makes it easier to use Unix on other devices and get started on what it wanted right away. Unix has also been used to create other programming languages. It leaves out complex primitives with simpler ones, which can accomplish complex tasks. Like making programs from other programs. A concept used by Steve Jobs.

Linus Torvalds –

Linux was created and now it is used in millions of devices. Despite this Linus Torvalds does not work in a big office. He does not like the sound of the fans in a computer so while a big computer may be nice, he does not necessarily need one. Torvalds also likes to work alone whereas many other companies do not. He started Linus as a solo project because he liked programming. He did not initially think about open sourcing. As his project grew, however, he wanted to share it with more people wanting people to make comments about, but not necessarily use it. Torvalds was worried commercial people would take advantage of his idea leading to his negative views of open sourcing. People started to contribute ideas and Torvalds loved it, saying this was the big point of his project. Torvald had never been a fan of people and so this was unexpected. On top of this he believed he would hate commercial people, but they turned out to be a lot better than he thought. They did things he had not intended to be done, but nonetheless they were helpful. He strongly believes in the idea that genius is more about the work rather than the inspiration. Linux would not be what it is today if it were not for open source. Open source on one hand works well with coding, but not so much in other areas. There are more avenues in other areas where coding is mainly just black and white.