

# History

## by Lenya community

Lenya was originally started by Michael Wechner in early 1999 to manage the content of the journal of pattern formation. Michael previously did basic research in physics by writing computer simulations on dendritic growth.

In early 2000 Michael co-founded [Wyona](http://wyona.com) (http://wyona.com) , which continued to develop Lenya on the basis of the interactive newspaper edition of [Neue Zürcher Zeitung](http://www.nzz.ch) (http://www.nzz.ch) . The name Lenya is a combination of the names of his two sons Levi and Vanya.

In the spring of 2003, Wyona donated Lenya to the Apache Software Foundation, where Lenya was incubated and became a Top Level Project in September 2004.