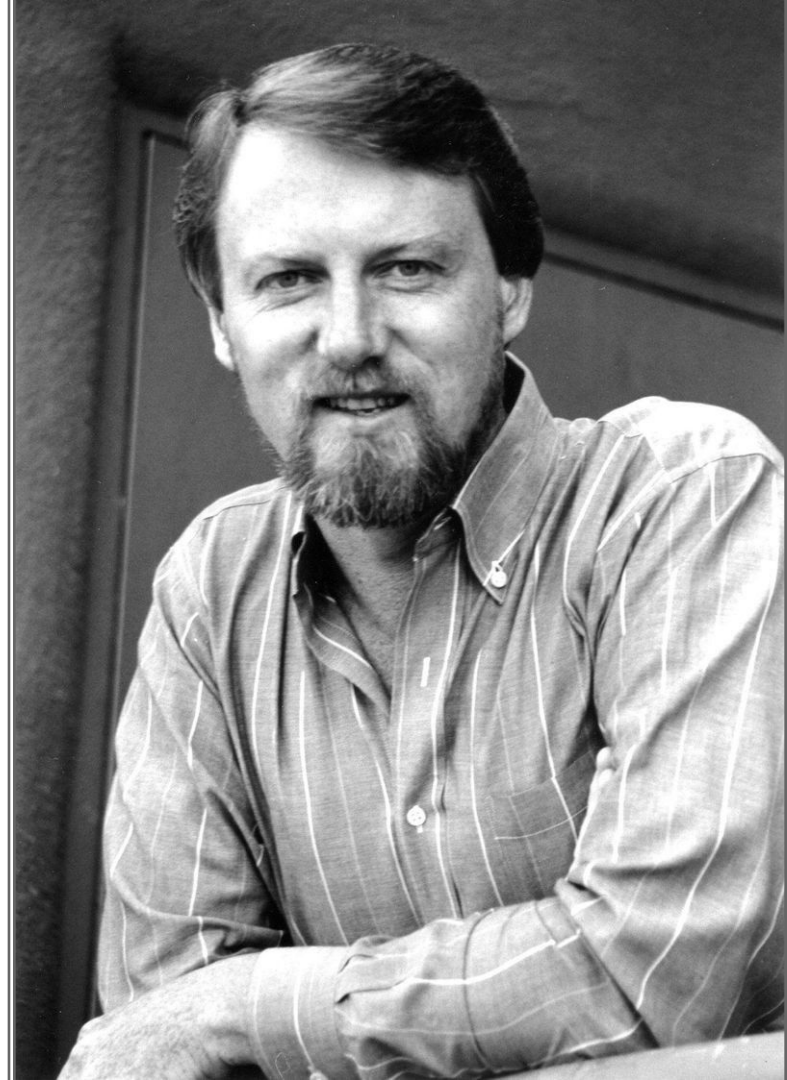


**Who is Gary
Kildall?**



Brief Overview

- University of Washington → Hoping to become a mathematics teachers
- Grew increasingly interested in computing.
- Taught at the Naval Postgrad School in California (hours drive from Silicon Valley).
- **Bought an Intel 4004 processor and began to experiment**
- Returned to UW for PhD in Computer Science. Consulting for Intel. [~1972]
- Introduced data-flow analysis theory which is still used today in compiler optimization.

1970's

All computers had to have specifically designed, tailor-made software.

No such thing as a 'personal computer'.

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Where things get interesting...

- PL/M - Programming Language for Microcomputers
- CP/M - Control Programming for Microcomputers

It didn't impress Intel.

The result is

[Intergalactic] **Digital Research Inc.**

1979

Gary had fundamentally changed the industry.

CP/M - most popular 8-bit OS in the world

Out with the old

Microcomputers → Personal Computers





Gary and Goliath

IBM had to catch up

Created a crack team
to 'crack' the PC
market

The IBM logo, consisting of the letters "IBM" in a blue, horizontally-striped font.

The IBM PC

- Biggest tech company in the world
- Huge influence
- Missing one thing...



The Operating System

- High stakes decision
- 1980's → Bill Gates and Microsoft on the rise
- But, they hadn't built an OS



The Plot Thickens (1)

Bill pointed IBM to Digital Research Inc.

IBM made him sign an NDA

The Plot Thickens (2)

Bill called Gary

***“... treat them right, they’re important
guys!”***

- Gates on the phone to Gary Kildall

The Royal Fuck Up

Gary didn't quite get the message.

He wasn't home when IBM arrived.



The Falling Out

IBM team spoke with Dorothy and DRI
Lawyers.

Disagreement over proposal.

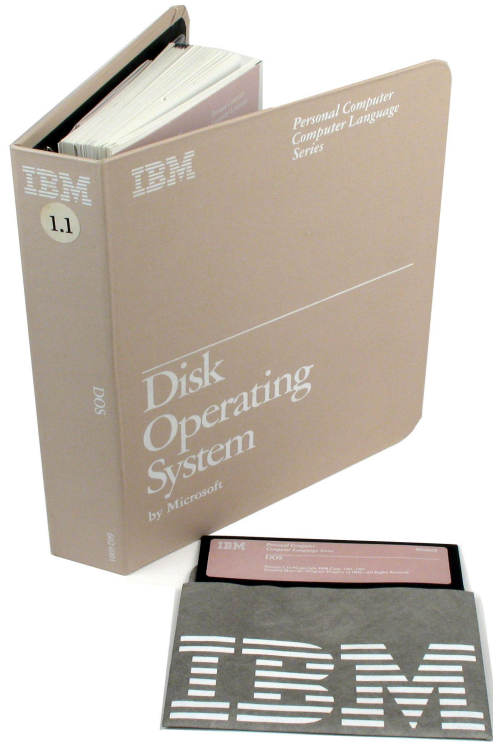
Relationship damaged.

Gates and IBM

IBM returned to Gates who now saw his opportunity.

Told IBM Microsoft could provide the OS
(even though they didn't have one)

Gates and IBM (2)



Microsoft instead took Q-DOS
and rebranded it as PC-DOS.

They had a deal (almost).

The Dodgy Deal

IBM offered to sell CP/M alongside PC-DOS with every machine.

PC-DOS = \$40

CP/M = \$240

Game Over for Gary

Things got tough after the IBM contract.

Sold DRI (unsuccessfully).

Constant reminders of IBM / Microsoft failure, and plane flying fiasco.

The sad end of the man who invented the PC operating system.

Gary had lost to a clone of his own creation.

Died in 1994, from head injuries sustained in a
fistfight at a biker bar.



Lost in History

**The Tragic Story of
the man who could've
been Bill Gates**

Thanks for listening!

