

FOSS IN KERALA -

a Case of Inmates are running the assylum ?

By

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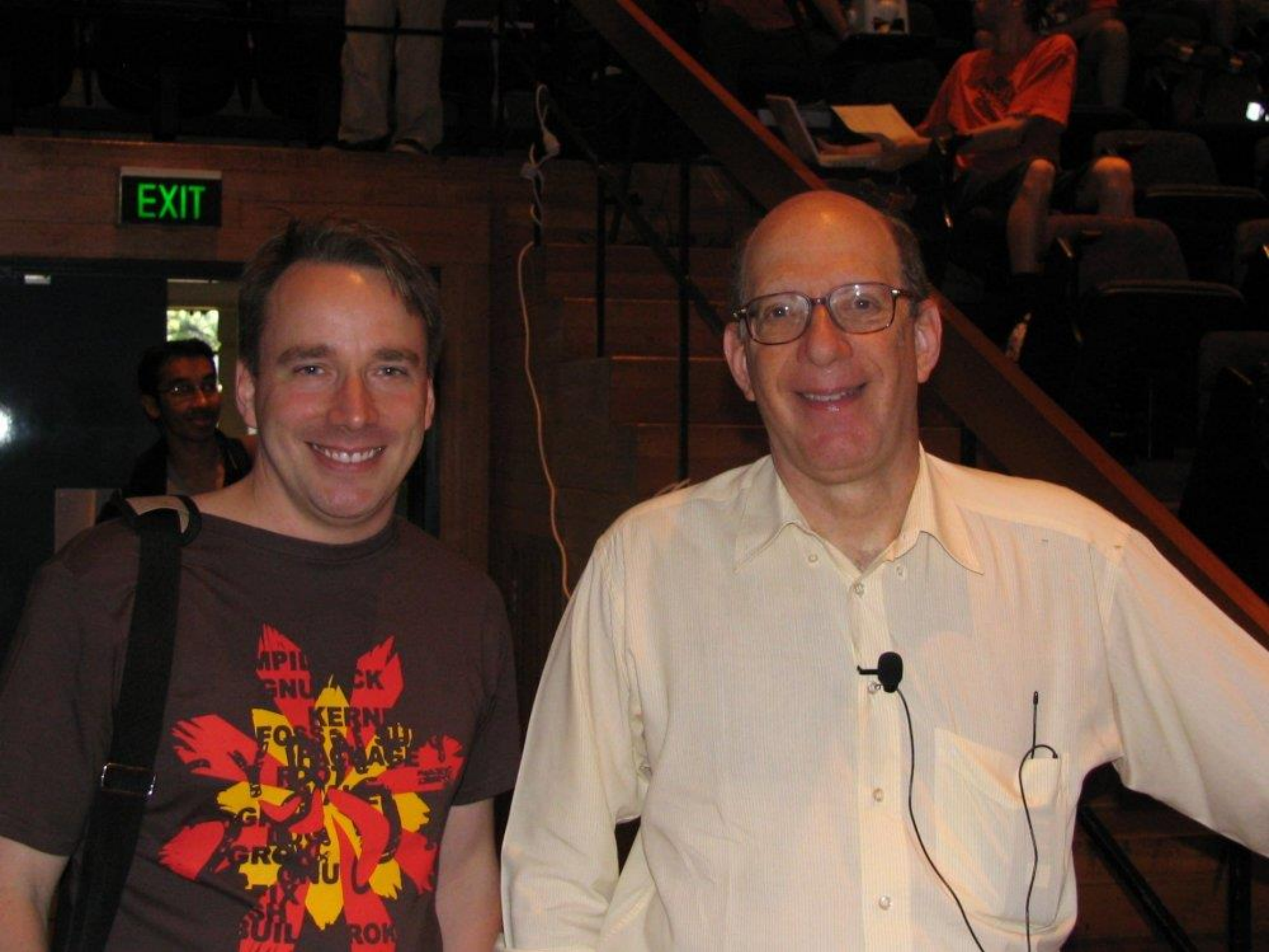
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Some History

Those who cannot learn from history are doomed
to repeat it.

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George Santyana









Some background !

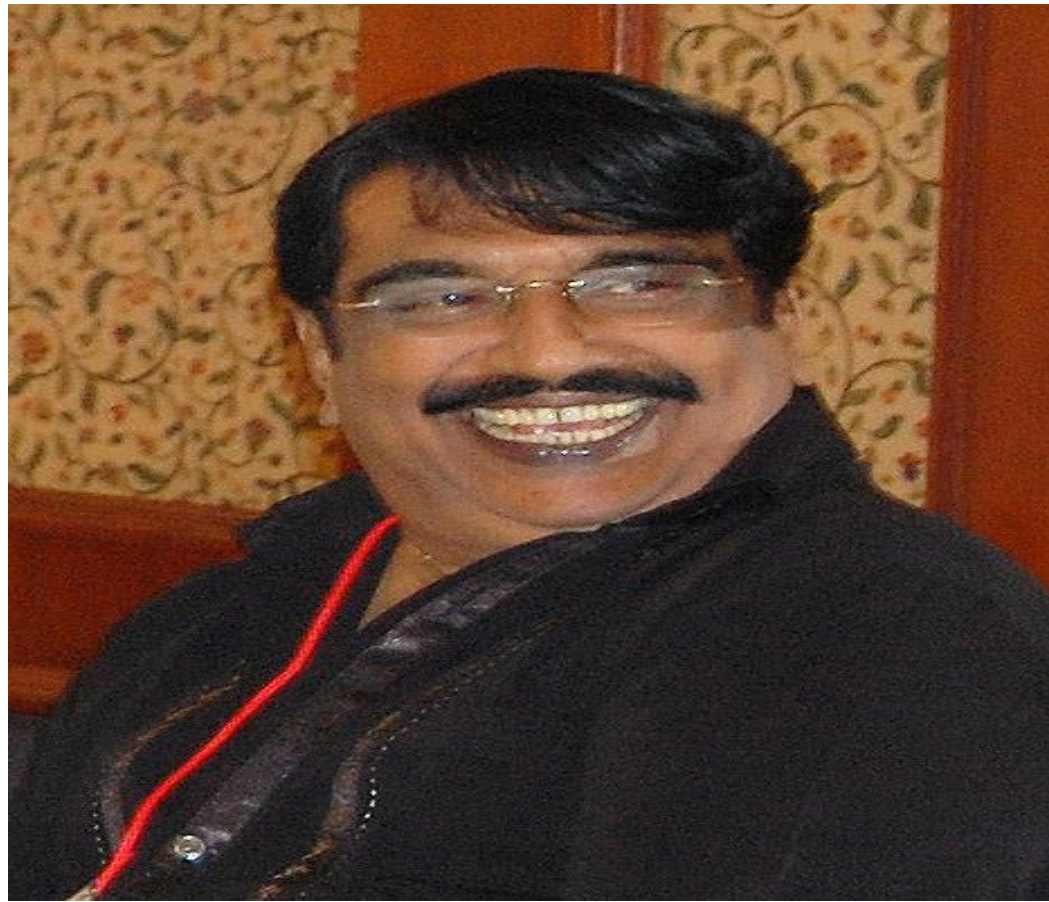
- History of Free Software
- Linux and it's Origins
- Linugistic “chaos” and Open Source movement
- GPL , LGPL and OSI
- Private , Published , Proprietary software
- Free/Libre vs Open Source
- It is Licensing talk all the way , thus brought it with all the chaos

Why FOSS matters ?

- Helped reduce the infrastructure and setting up cost of small software companies
- Emergence of PHP , Python , Perl as a platform/language for writing and distributing applications
- Linux is an excellent Programming Platform
- Apache + Linux is a good hosting option
- A “virus” free operating systems for the masses
- A Learning tool for aspiring computer programmers

Why proprietary software matters?

- Better Developer friendly tools
- APIs are coarse grained which helps developer productivity
- There is no need for “Demand Side Learning” as in FOSS
- Better support for “average” companies
- A Risk mitigation mechanism
- Underlying Layers are kept in Sync



**“ IN INDIA , IT IS LIKE THIS , NOT MUCH IDEA
ABOUT HOW IT IS IN PUNJAB “**

**PUNJABI HOUSE , 1998
(Malayalam Movie)**

Flirting with FOSS ! - a personal perspective

- (re)-learned Posix Programming with Fedora 10 and Debian Lenny
- Learned Objective C/C++ under Linux to transition myself into a MAC OS X/iPhone developer
- Used Wine as a software development platform to port 50,000+ lines of Windows code to Linux
- Used harbour project to “rescue” a Clipper accounting package to run on Linux (using GCC)

Flirting with FOSS (contd...)

- Used Mono to port a C# based accounting package to Linux and MAC OS X
- Consulted on couple of Linux programming projects
- Used to DOS BOX to run some MSDOS apps under Linux
- Now a days working with Windows , Linux and MAC OS X to earn a daily living

Good and Bad are two sides of
same coin



Free/Libre movement in Kerala

- Started out as Linux user group
- Initial group , found productive use of the then nascent operating system
- Then settlers , “arrived on the scene”.
- They stressed “Freedom” and Libre
- It is license talk all the way
- Lawyers , Professors , Social reformers and Politicians are now in Control

Corrupted Minds of Kerala

- The FOSS movement is irritatingly assertive about “Freedom “ and Libre
- They will only use Debian etc
- They inject the frame into youngsters
- In most companies , employment opportunities are on the proprietary platforms
- The Stakeholders , Project leaders and team members do suffer because of this advocacy.