



Panel 1

Unix History

brief, incomplete



DEC PDP-7 ≈ 1970



Ken Thompson Dennis Ritchie

Panel 2


Back to the 60's

- There were NO personal computers
- Different mainframe computers, each with its own operating system
- Computers were NOT networked; data transfer was via magnetic tape. Often computers from the *same manufacturer* could not talk to each other, not to mention computers from different makers.
- It was difficult to get one program created on one system to work on another system, and it was even difficult to transfer data output by one system into another system.
- No C programming language, or No standardized programming language at all
- Programming was frequently done by submitting a program via punch cards and the computer delivered a printed answer
- More and more “dumb terminals” were hooked up to a mainframe (text-based only) which required a multi-user, multi-tasking operating system - many were not.


2

Panel 3

Punch Cards



Punch card reader ~ 1952



IBM 701 Development System
~ 1953

Card from a Fortran program: $Z(1) = 6^2$
 $X + W(1)$

3

Panel 4

Along came Unix

The "Unix" operating system was introduced with the following features:

- Multi-tasking capability
- Multi-user capability
- Portability
- Integral set of tools (including tools for pattern recognition and text processing/formatting)
- Library of application software

All Unix configuration files are plain text files (in contrast to Windows Registry).

Unix systems are organized at three levels:

- The **kernel**, which schedules tasks and manages storage
- The **shell**, which executes user commands and programs and connects them via "pipes"
- The **tools** and applications that offer additional functionality

4

Panel 5

Major players:

- **Bell Laboratories** (formerly Bell Telephone Labs, then AT&T Bell Labs, now part of Alcatel-Lucent Technologies) at Murray Hill, NJ, and Holmdel, NJ. This is where “Unix” was originally developed; AT&T guards Unix carefully and with law suits.
- **UC Berkeley** is where BSD (Berkeley Software Distribution) Unix started. No longer a player in developing Unix, but played integral role. BSDi is a company that markets products derived from BSD. It is not a registered Unix system (but dates back to the original Unix).
- **Ken Thompson** and **Dennis Ritchie** are considered the founders of the Unix operating system. Ritchie was also instrumental in developing and standardizing the C programming language.
- **Richard Stallman**, who was working for MIT, is the founder of the GNU Project to develop a complete Unix-like, free operating system (GNU is Not Unix). He started with GNU Emacs and, with many others, developed everything but a kernel.
- **Linus Torvalds** is a programmer who develops a product that mimics the form and function of a Unix system but is not derived from licensed source code. Note that “Linux” is not a registered Unix system. Linus actually develops and controls (as a *benevolent dictator*) the “Kernel”, while much of the rest of the Linux system is contributed by many other programmers, often under the GNU license.
- **The Open Group** (includes X/Open) defines - on paper - a comprehensive open systems environment and chooses Unix as the basis of open systems. It sets and maintains the standards for a “registered Unix” system.

5

Panel 6



Richard Stallman



Ken Thompson and Dennis Ritchie



Linus Torvalds

6

Panel 7

Unix History (abbreviated)

- 1969 Ken Thompson, Dennis Ritchie, and others at AT&T Bell Labs used a PDP-7 (by DEC) to create what was to become Unix.
- 1970 First Unix edition created with an “assembler”, a file system, fork(), roff, and ed. Used for text processing of patent documents.
- 1973 Fourth Edition, rewritten in C. This change made the OS portable
- mid-70's: Ken Thompson sabbatical at UC Berkeley and introduces Unix to students
- 1975 “Version 6” is the first Unix version widely known outside Bell Labs
- 1978 “The C Programming Language” by Kernighan and Ritchie de-facto standard
- 1979 Seventh Edition had a C compiler and UUCP networking capabilities
- 1980 Xenix, 4BSD was introduced
- 1983 AT&T announces Unix System V, the first supported release
- 1984 UC Berkeley released 4.2BSD, which includes TCP/IP support. Berkeley held contract with DOD to produce a “standard operating system for the DOD”. AT&T releases System V Release 2. About 100,000 Unix installations around the world

7

Panel 8

Unix History (2)

- 1984 GNU Project was launched
- 1986 4.3BSD released and is “almost free” of AT&T code
- 1987 System V Release 3. About 750,000 Unix installations around the world
- 1988 POSIX.1 published, Open Software Foundation, and Unix International formed
- 1989 Unix System V Release 4. ANSI C Standard appeared (revised by ISO in 1990)
- 1990 Open Group launches XPG3 Brand (an early attempt to standardize Unix)
- 1991 Unix System Laboratories (USL) becomes a company (owned by AT&T) Linus
Torvalds starts Linux kernel development
- 1992 Unix System V Release 4.2, XPG4 Brand by Open Group
- 1993 4.4BSD final release from Berkeley. Novell buys USL and transfers rights to “Unix” trademark and the “Single Unix Specification” to the Open Group.

8

Panel 9

Unix History (3)

- Early 90's 386BSD (a port of BSD to 386 processors); generates variants FreeBSD (free, very stable, very reliable), NetBSD (highly portable and multi-platform, research oriented), and OpenBSD (focus on security and portability)
- 1994 4.4BSD Lite eliminates all code claimed to infringe on USL/Novell
- 1995 Open Group introduces "Unix 95" branding program.
- 1997 The "Open Group" introduces Single Unix Specification, version 2, made available on the web
- 1998 The Open Group introduces Unix 98 brands, including Base, Workstation, and Server. Unix 98 registered products shipped by SUN, IBM, and NCR.
- 1999 Linux kernel 2.2 released, the "Open Group" and IEEE work on revision of POSIX. First LinuxWorld conference
- end 90's: Apple OS X is based on BSD Unix and is released as "Open Source". Runs - so they say - also on Intel processors
- 2001 Version 3 of the Single Unix Specifications includes IEEE POSIX. Linux kernel 2.4 released.

9

Panel 10

Unix/Linux Today

Today, GNU/Linux systems are widely used as servers and workstations. A **Linux OS** consists of the **Linux Kernel** (see Linus Thorvals), **GNU Utilities** (see R. Stallman), and **other tools** such as Windowing System and GUI.

A GNU/Linux distribution must be made available for free download, including source code. Distributors can package the system differently and charge for "release medium" (the CD containing the distribution). Distributors make money by "supporting" GNU/Linux distributions.

Different GNU/Linux distributions vary in the specific tools and applications they include, the installation procedures, the drivers included to support new hardware, and the level of support they offer.

In addition there are many commercial (some registered) variations of Unix available, usually in binary form for a particular set of hardware (Solaris, AIX, Irix, OS/390). Other strains of Unix are used and modified for research purposes.

And of course there is Windows NT, a widely available, proprietary, non-Unix, multiuser, multitasking operating system.

10

Panel 11

Major Linux Distributions

- **Fedora** which is a community distribution sponsored by Red Hat
- **Red Hat Linux**, a commercial version of Fedora sold by Red Hat
- **CentOS**, derived from the same sources used by Red Hat
- **Debian**, a non-commercial distribution maintained by a volunteer developer community with a strong commitment to free software principles
- **Ubuntu**, a popular desktop distribution maintained by Canonical derived from Debian.
- **Mandriva**, a Red Hat derivative popular in France and Brazil, today maintained by the French company of the same name
- **openSUSE**, originally derived from Slackware, sponsored by the company Novell
- **Gentoo**, a distribution targeted at power users, known for its FreeBSD Ports-like automated system for compiling applications from source code
- **Knoppix**, a LiveCD distribution that runs completely from removable media and without installation to a hard disk
- **Slackware**, one of the first Linux distributions, founded in 1993, and since then actively maintained by Patrick J. Volkerding
- **Linspire**, a commercial desktop distribution based on Ubuntu (and thus Debian), and once the defendant in the Microsoft vs. Lindows lawsuit over its former name.

11

Panel 12



<http://distrowatch.com/>

12

Panel 13



<http://www.livecdlist.com/>