

THE GNU PROJECT. HISTORY AND PERSPECTIVES.

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The GNU Project is a free software development project announced on 27 September 1983 by famous hacker Richard Matthew Stallman at Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Its aim is to give users freedom and full control in their use of computers and digital devices. Word "free" is a matter of liberty, not price. A program can be called "free" when its users have four main freedoms:

-freedom 0: The freedom to run the program for any possible purpose;

-freedom 1: The freedom to learn how the program works, change and improve it. For this developers should open the source code of program. It can be free of charge or cost something;

-freedom 2: The freedom to redistribute copies. F.e. for those people who can not find or buy a copy.

-freedom 3: The freedom to distribute copies of your modified versions of program. It allows community to improve quality of software and gives a chance everybody to take a part in development. It's impossible without source code available.

Take a note! GNU philosophy allows developers to sell their free program or only its source code for example.

Now GNU/Linux is one of the most popular operating system and definitely the most secure and safe for users and computer engineers. It's used on a very large range of devices: mobile phones, personal computers, servers, routers, gateways, nuclear reactors, medical equipment and even in military equipment. On GNU/Linux you can browse websites, listen to music, play popular games (with Windows Compatibility Layer) and do anything you can do with a usual OS. You can choose a user interface convenient for you. It can be an amazing 3D cubic desktop with transparency and wobbly windows or just a virtual text terminal for remote access via SSH. You can choose how it works. Ability to customize everything is an advantage, I think. Another great advantage is that GNU/Linux is not a single operating system.

I think that GNU has a large future because even today it's very popular. It's #1 OS on servers and built-in equipment. More and more people join GNU community, contribute and develop free programs and games. I think it's the GNU Project that will provide a guarantee of freedom of using computer devices and information security in near future.