@MyWebUniversity

# GNU



## Free as in Freedom

and the bot flood that knocked gnu.org offline

STALLMAN · GPL · OPEN SOURCE



Richard Stallman

Photo: via Wikimedia Commons

A MYWEBUNIVERSITY STORY

# GNU

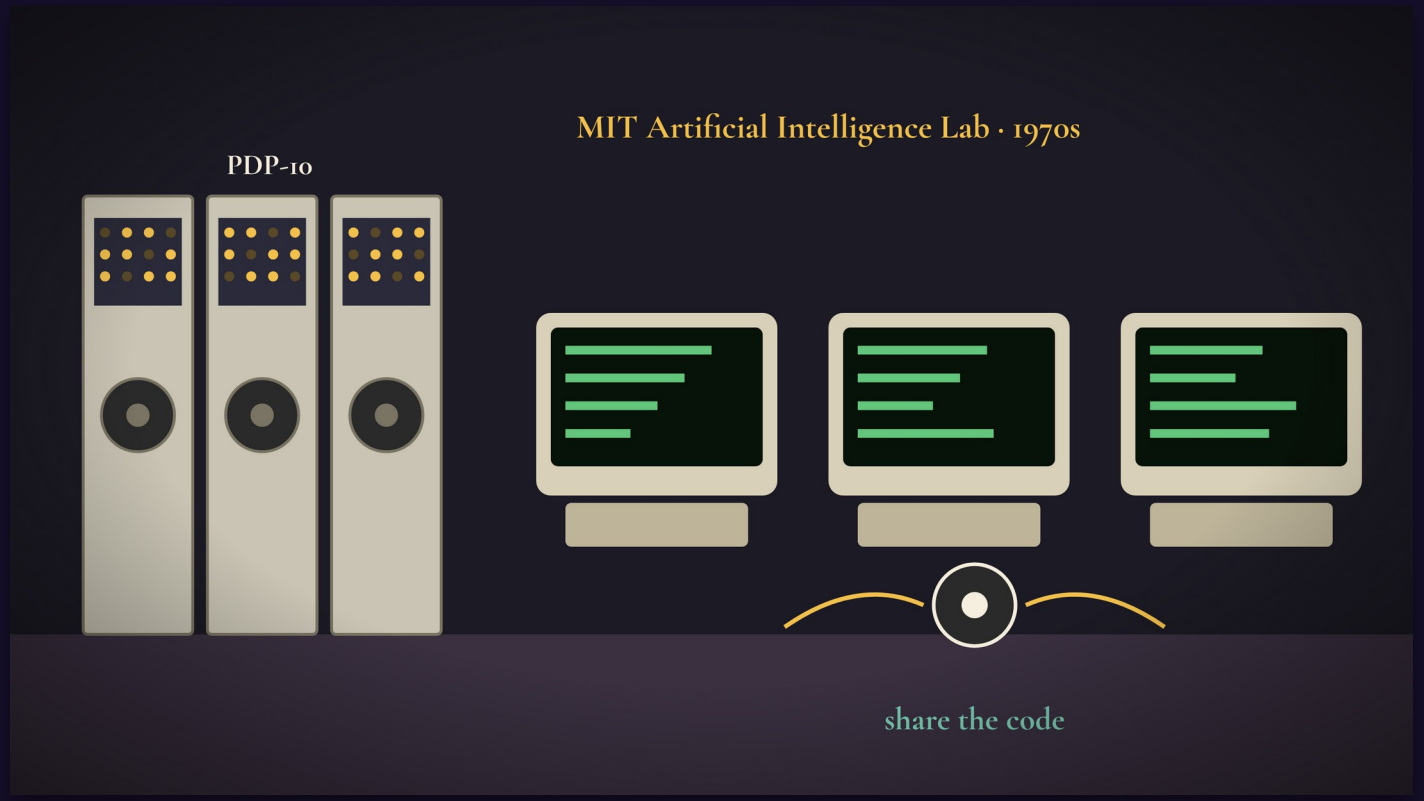
## and Free Software

## The Freedom Behind the Code

*Richard Stallman · the FSF · the GPL · open source*

```
$ gcc hello.c && ./a.out
```

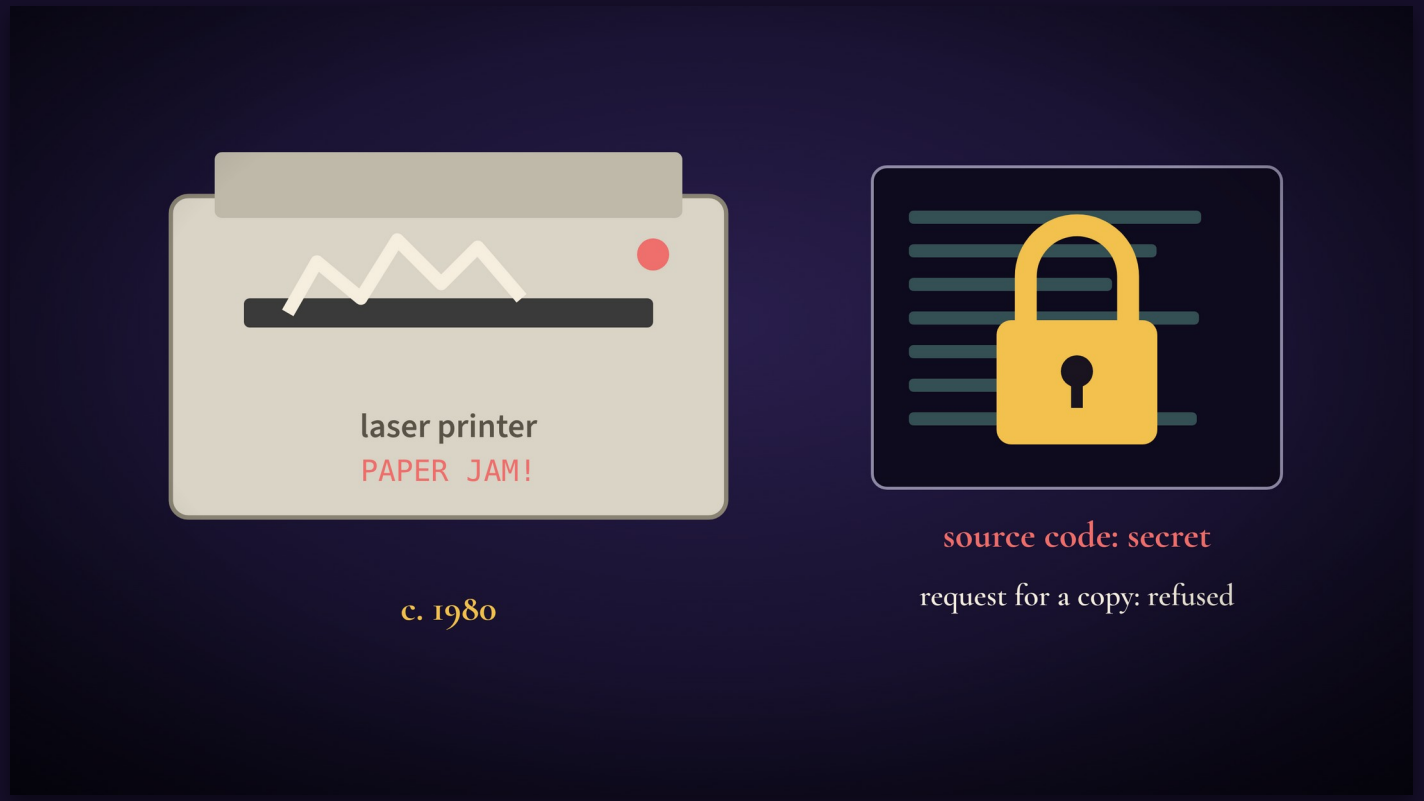
# The Hacker Lab at MIT




- 1970s: Richard Stallman at the MIT AI Lab
- A culture of freely sharing code
- Anyone could read and fix the source

01

# The Printer That Changed Everything




- c. 1980: a new Xerox laser printer that often jammed
- Its source code was secret; a copy was refused
- Software was becoming closed

02

# GNU's Not UNIX




- Sept 27, 1983: GNU project announced
- A complete, UNIX-compatible, free operating system
- “GNU’s Not UNIX” · Jan 1984: full-time work begins

03

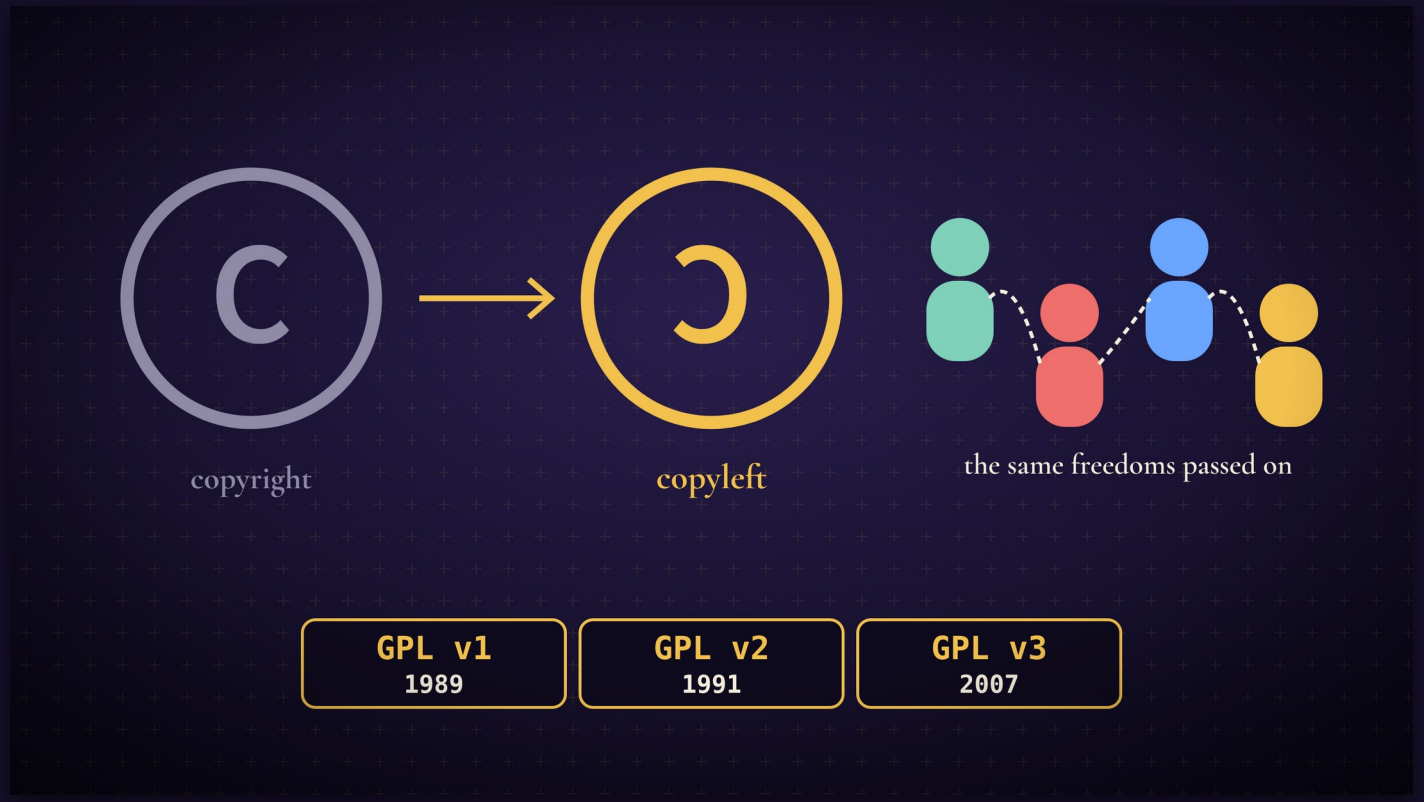
# The Four Freedoms




- 1985: Free Software Foundation · GNU Manifesto
- Freedoms: run, study, change, share
- “Free as in free speech, not free beer”

04

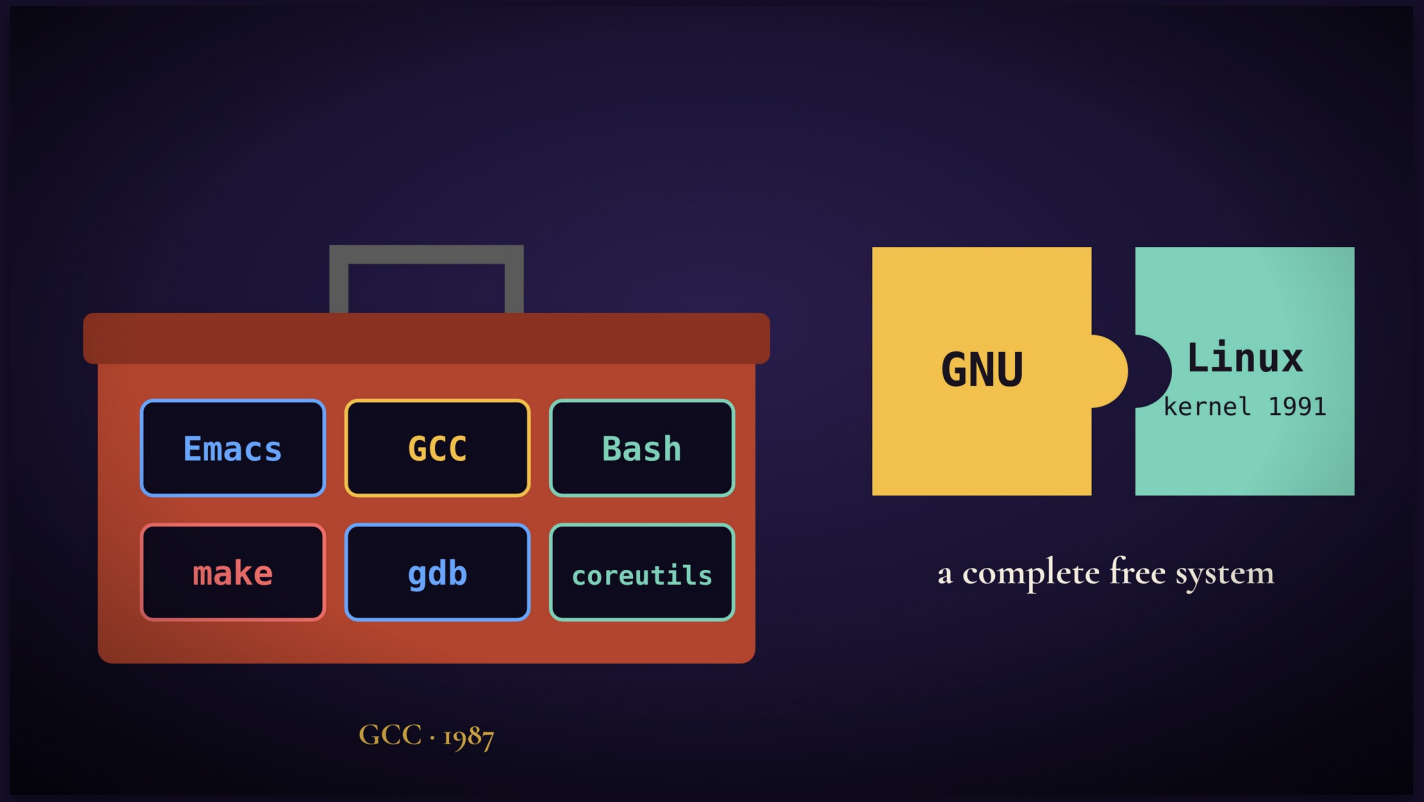
# Copyleft and the GPL




- 1989: GNU General Public License (GPL)
- Copyleft: copyright used to keep software free
- GPLv2 1991 · GPLv3 2007

05

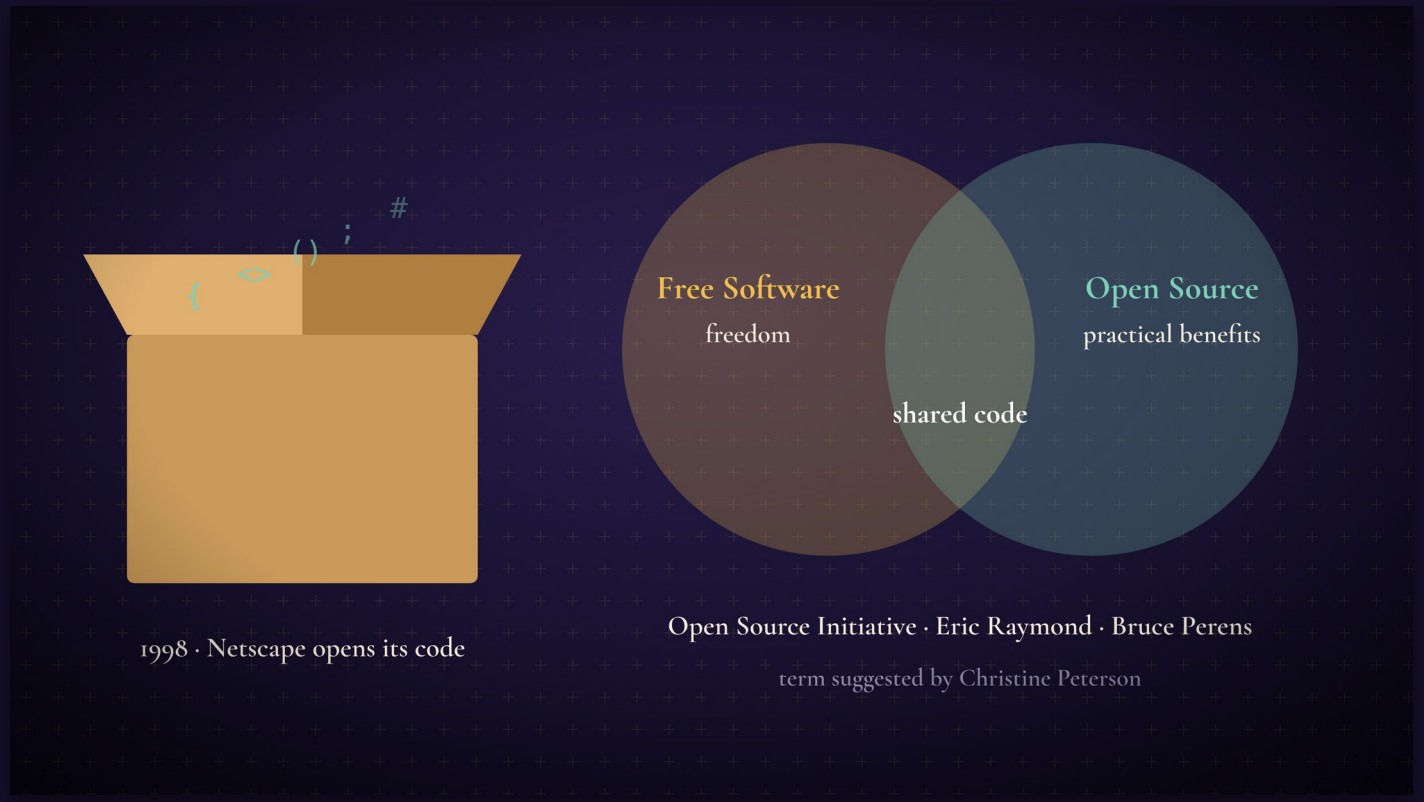
# Building the Tools




- Emacs · GCC (1987) · Bash · hundreds of utilities
- 1991: Linux kernel released under the GPL
- GNU + Linux = a complete free system

06

# Open Source Arrives




- 1998: Netscape releases its browser source code
- Open Source Initiative: Eric Raymond, Bruce Perens
- “Open source” term suggested by Christine Peterson

07

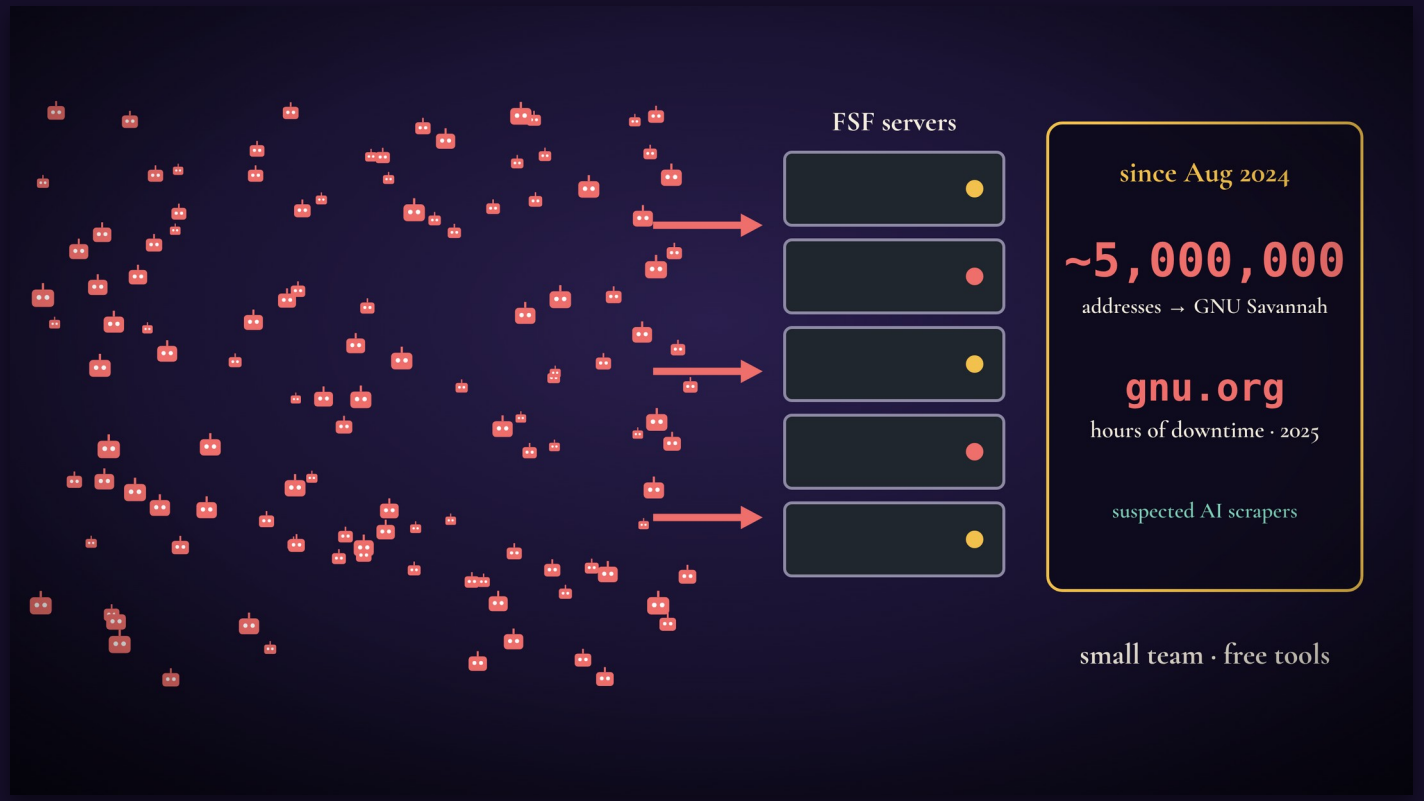
# Free Software Everywhere




- Web servers, phones, cars, science, the cloud
- GCC builds much of the world's software
- Millions of developers share code daily

08

# A New Challenge: AI Crawlers




- Since Aug 2024: ongoing attacks on FSF servers
- 2025: ~5 million-address botnet on GNU Savannah; hours of gnu.org downtime
- FSF staff suspect many bots scrape data for AI models

09

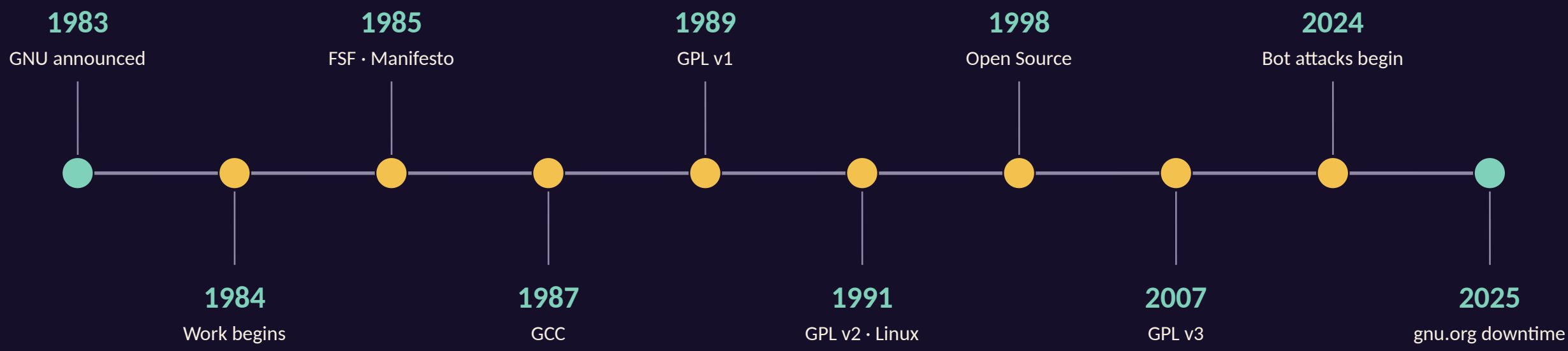
# Freedom to Learn




- The right to read real code and learn from it
- The same tools that run the world, free for students
- From Kabul to Kansas

10

# Timeline: 1983 to 2025

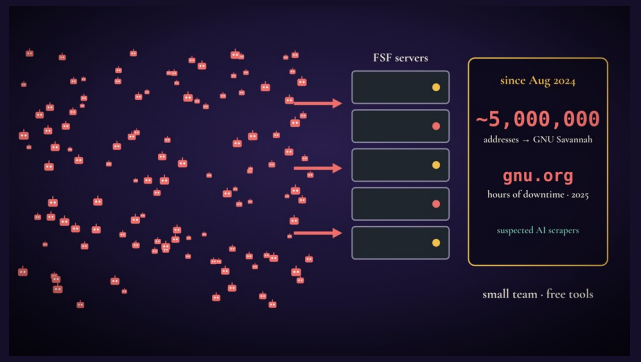


# Sources and Further Reading


1. Richard Stallman, GNU project announcement, September 27, 1983 — gnu.org
2. Free Software Foundation, “What is Free Software?” — gnu.org/philosophy
3. FSF, sysadmin blog post on ongoing DDoS and crawler attacks, July 2, 2025 — fsf.org
4. The New Stack, “How the Free Software Foundation Battles the LLM Bots,” July 20, 2025
5. Open Source Initiative, history — opensource.org
6. Photo of Richard Stallman: via Wikimedia Commons







Thank you for watching

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*Free technical education since 2000 — English and Dari*

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