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Linux



The Student Hobby That Runs the World

+ Git · Ubuntu · Red Hat · Rocky

LINUS TORVALDS · 1991



Linus Torvalds

Photo: via Wikimedia Commons

A MYWEBUNIVERSITY STORY

Linux

The Hobby That Runs the World

Linus Torvalds · Git · the open-source community

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$ uname -s → Linux
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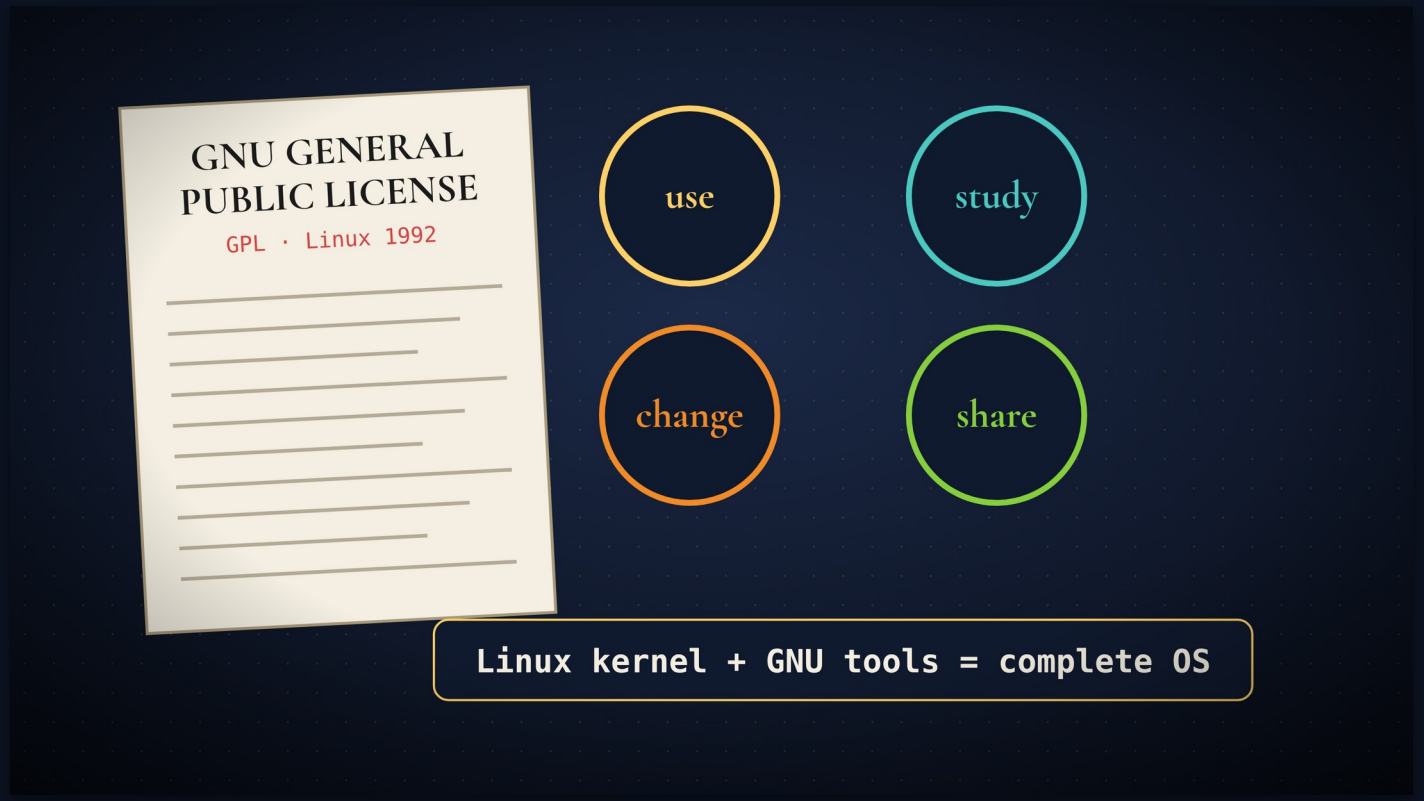
Just a Hobby



- 1991: Linus Torvalds, 21, University of Helsinki
- Inspired by UNIX and MINIX
- August 25, 1991: “just a hobby, won’t be big and professional”

01

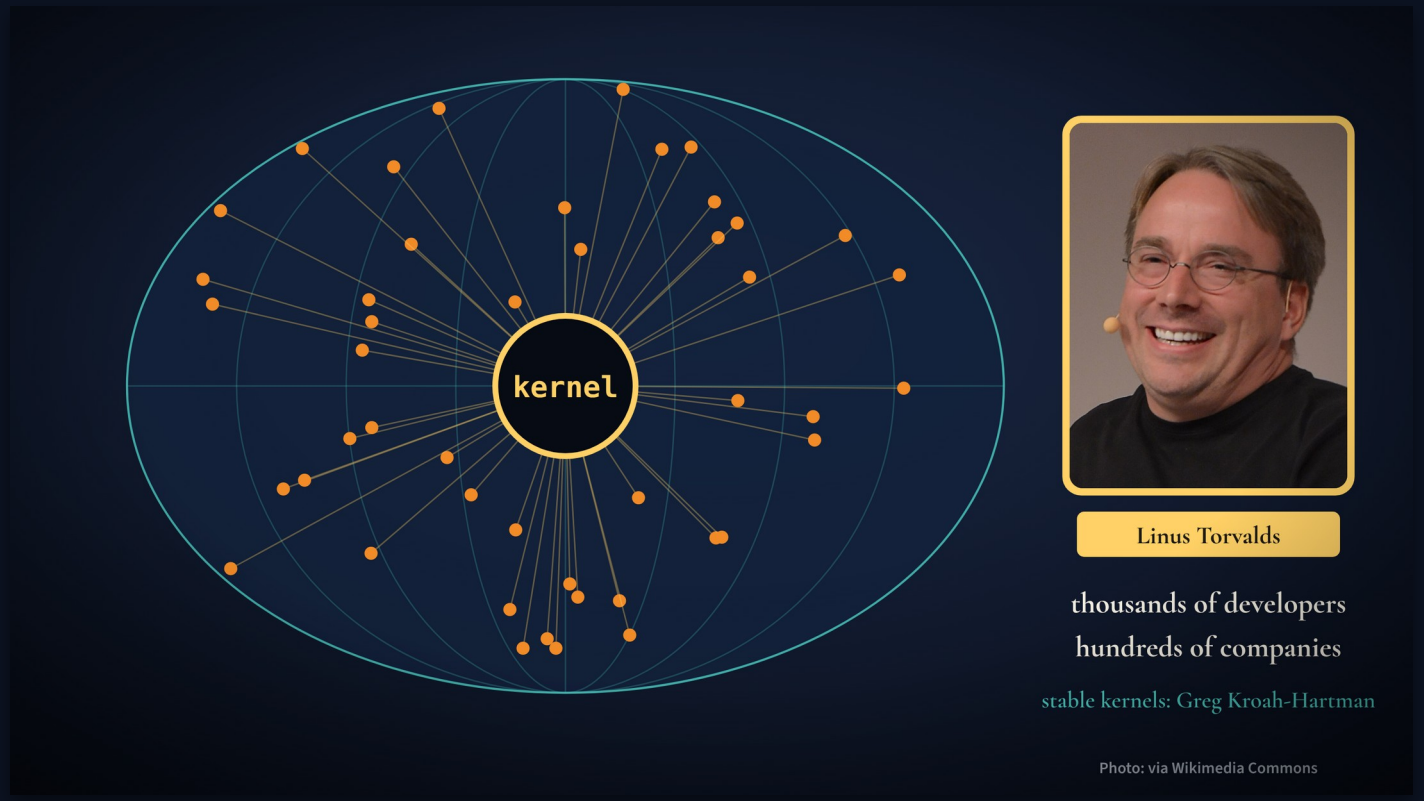
Free for Everyone



- 1992: Linux released under the GNU GPL
- Use, study, change, share — and share improvements
- Linux kernel + GNU tools = a complete OS

02

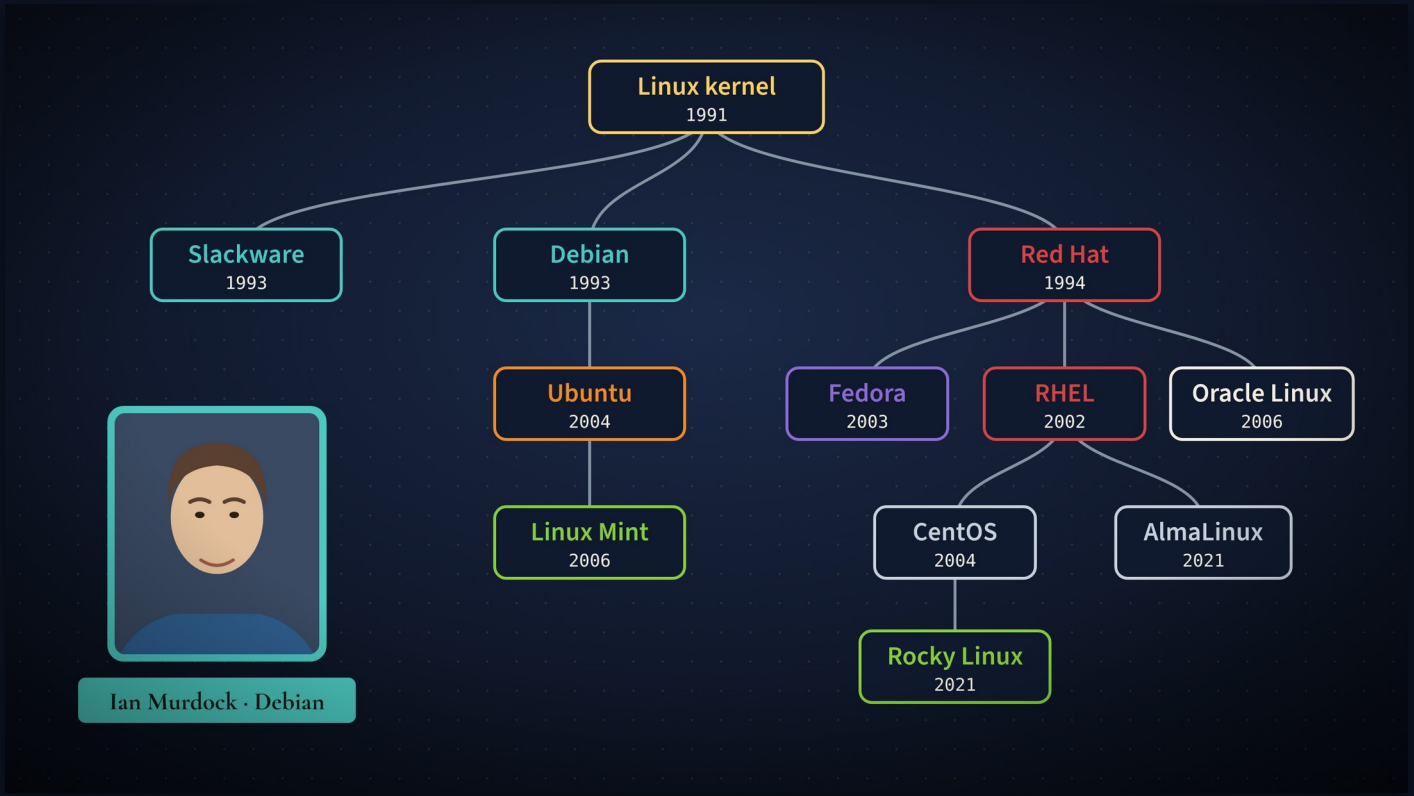
Thousands of Hands



- Volunteers worldwide sent fixes over the internet
- Today: thousands of developers, hundreds of companies per release
- Greg Kroah-Hartman maintains the stable kernels

03

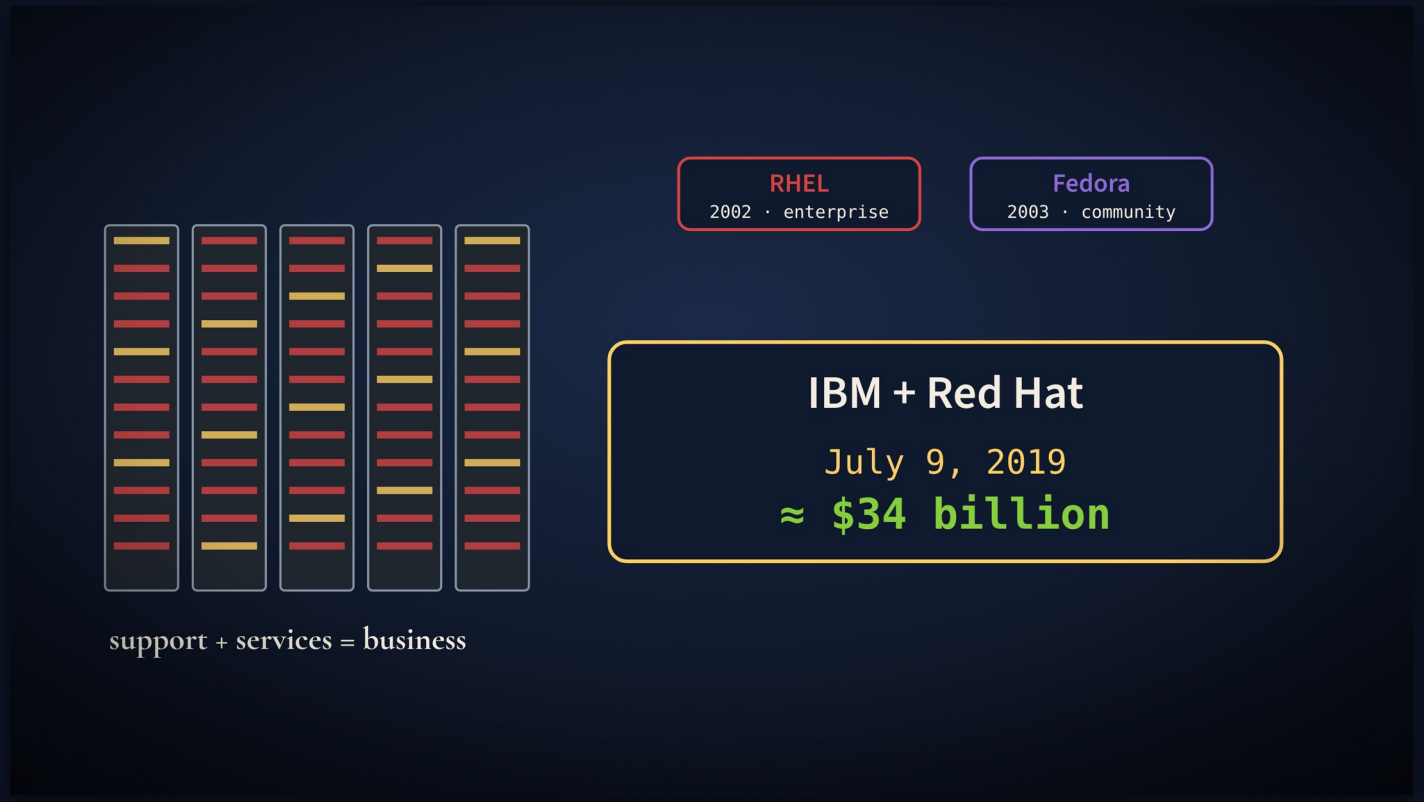
Distributions Are Born



- Distribution = kernel + tools + installer
- 1993: Slackware (Patrick Volkerding), Debian (Ian Murdock)
- 1993: Marc Ewing and Bob Young start what became Red Hat

04

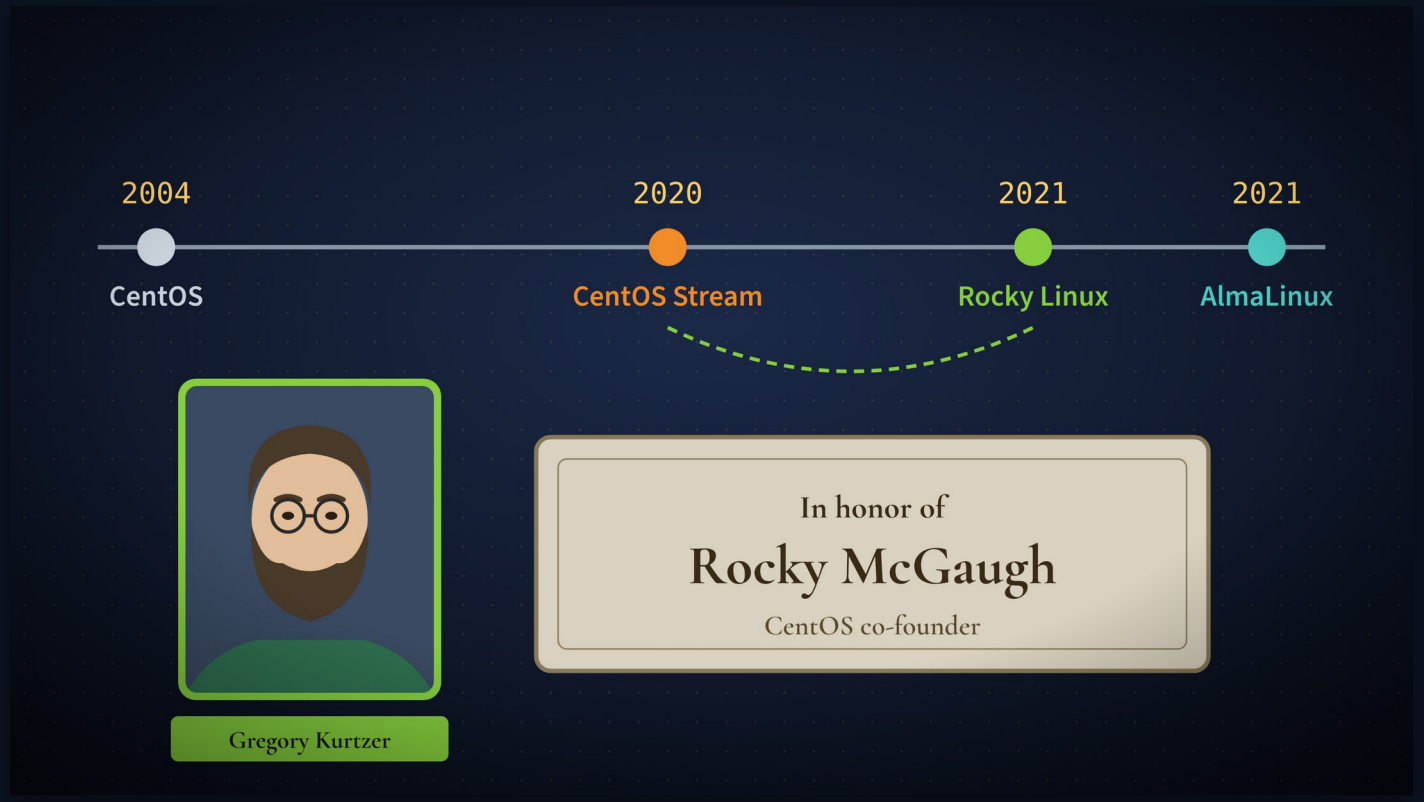
Red Hat Means Business



- Free software + paid support = a real business
- 2002: Red Hat Enterprise Linux · 2003: Fedora
- July 2019: IBM buys Red Hat for about $34 billion

05

CentOS and Rocky Linux



- 2004: CentOS — Gregory Kurtzer and Rocky McGaugh
- Dec 2020: focus shifts to CentOS Stream
- June 2021: Rocky Linux 8.4, named for Rocky McGaugh · also AlmaLinux

06

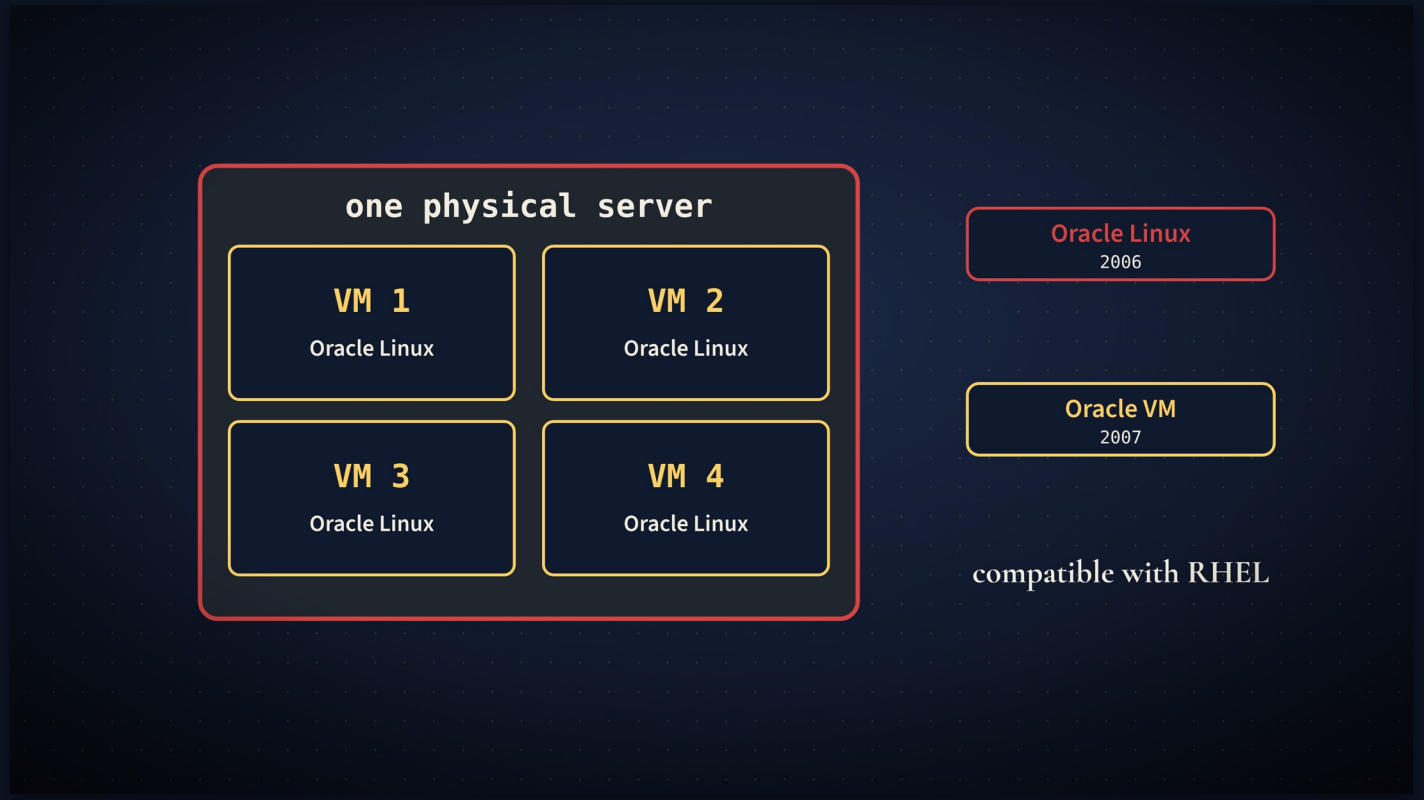
Linux for Human Beings



- 2004: Mark Shuttleworth, Canonical, Ubuntu (built on Debian)
- “Ubuntu”: humanity to others
- 2006: Linux Mint by Clément Lefebvre

07

Oracle Joins In



- 2006: Oracle's enterprise Linux (today Oracle Linux)
- Compatible with Red Hat Enterprise Linux
- 2007: Oracle VM for virtualization

08

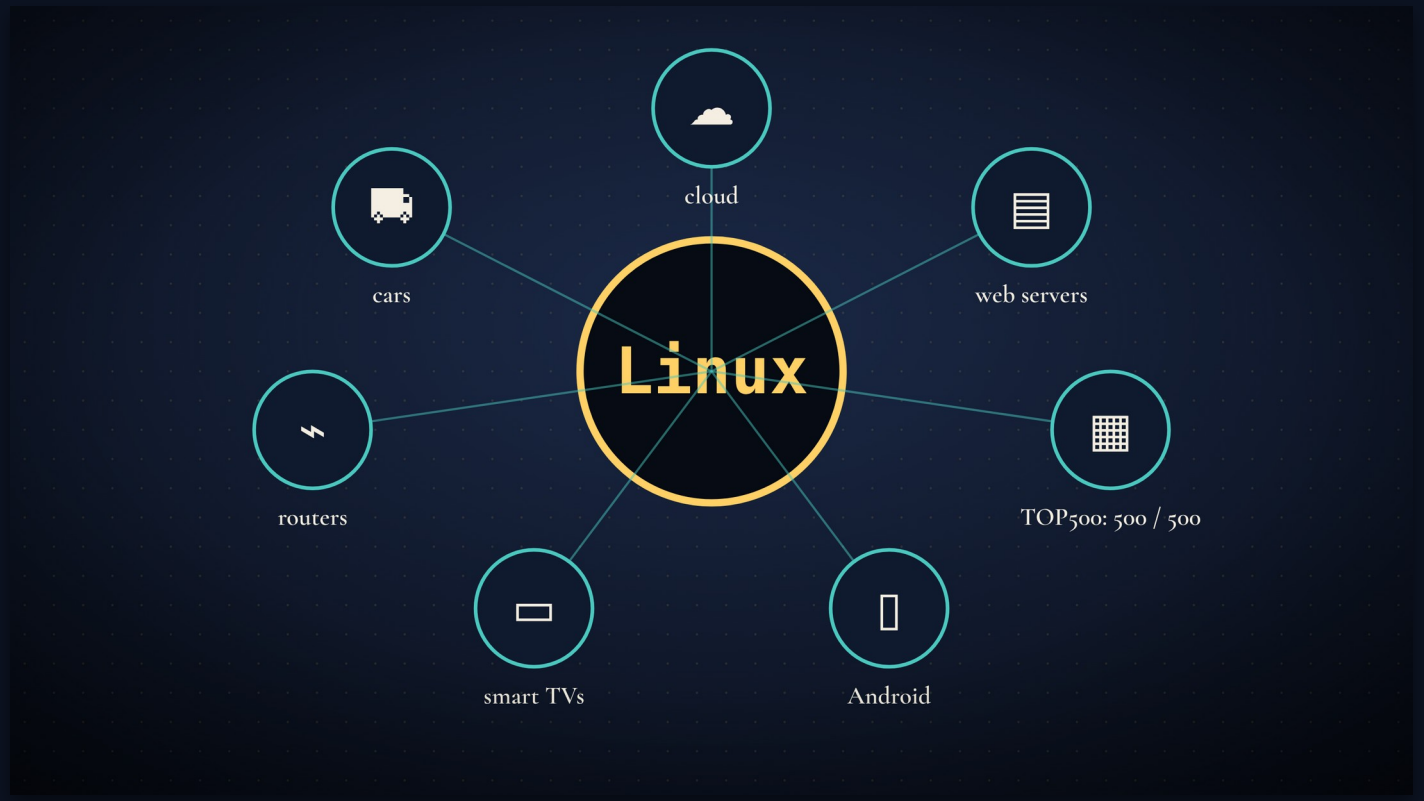
The Birth of Git



- 2005: BitKeeper's free license withdrawn
- April 2005: Linus writes Git; self-hosting within days
- Maintained by Junio Hamano · GitHub, GitLab

09

Linux Everywhere



- Most of the cloud and most web servers
- All of the TOP500 supercomputers
- Android, smart TVs, routers, cars

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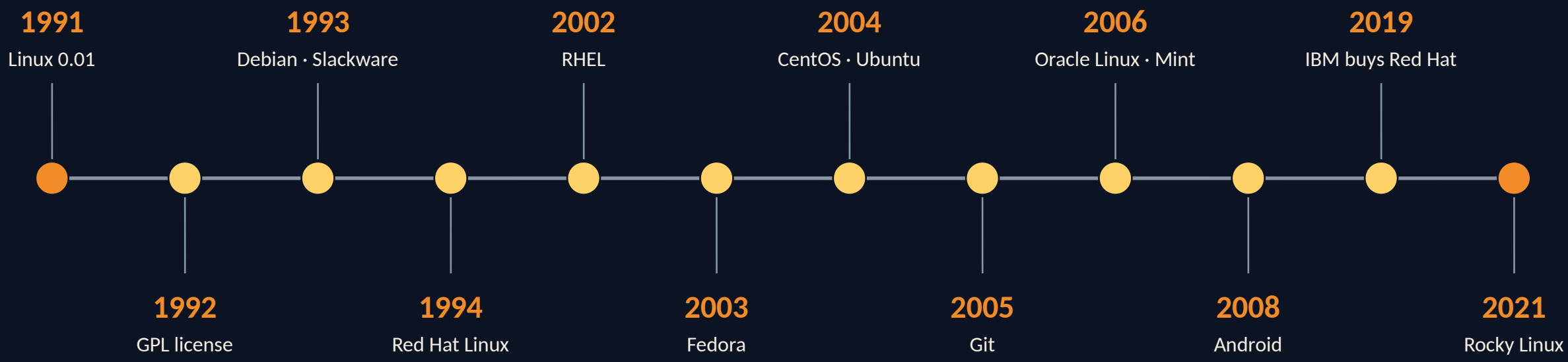
The Power of Sharing



- Shared knowledge lets everyone build
- “Talk is cheap. Show me the code.” — Linus Torvalds
- A student + a free license + millions of hands

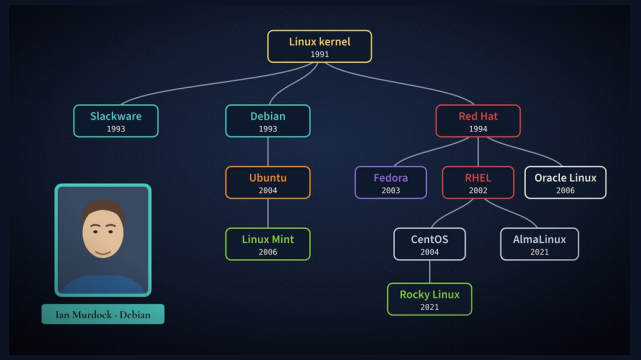
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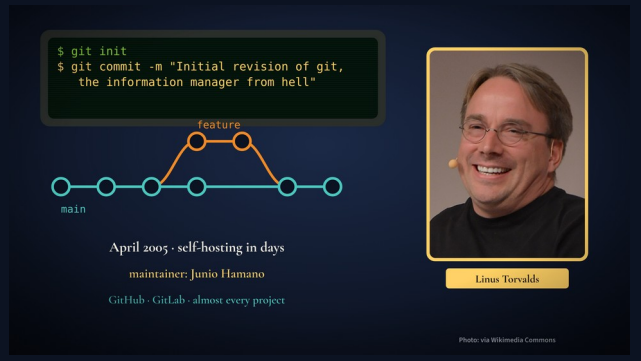
Timeline: 1991 to 2021



Sources and Further Reading

1. Linus Torvalds, message to comp.os.minix, August 25, 1991
2. IBM, “IBM Completes Acquisition of Red Hat,” July 9, 2019 — ibm.com
3. Rocky Linux, “About” — rockylinux.org/about
4. DevClass, “20 years of Git,” April 2025 — interview with Linus Torvalds
5. Debian, Ubuntu, Linux Mint and Oracle Linux project histories
6. Photos of Linus Torvalds: via Wikimedia Commons (2002, Australian Linux conference; LinuxCon Europe)





Thank you for watching

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