History and Timeline

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History & Timeline

History of the UNIX License Plate

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Why This is Different

UNIX Past

"...the number of UNIX installations has grown to 10, with more e

- Dennis Ritchie and Ken Thompson, June 1972

"... When BTL withdrew from the project, they needed to rewrite a system (OS) in order to play space war on another smaller machi PDP-7 [Programmed Data Processor] with 4K memory for use programs). The result was a system which a punning colleague UNICS (UNiplexed Information and Computing Service)--an 'emasculated Multics'; no one recalls whose idea the change t was"

Source: *A brief look at the early history*

Resources: Dennis Ritchie's home page | Ken Thompson's home page

Since it began to escape from AT&T's Bell Laboratories in the early 1970's, th the UNIX operating system has led to many different versions: recipients of t time free) UNIX system code all began developing their own different version own, different, ways for use and sale. Universities, research institutes, govern and computer companies all began using the powerful UNIX system to develo the technologies which today are part of a UNIX system.

Computer aided design, manufacturing control systems, laboratory simulatio Internet itself, all began life with and because of UNIX systems. Today, witho systems, the Internet would come to a screeching halt. Most telephone calls c made, electronic commerce would grind to a halt and there would have never "Jurassic Park"!

By the late 1970's, a ripple effect had come into play. By now the under- and post-graduate students whose lab work had pioneered these new applications technology were attaining management and decision-making positions inside computer system suppliers and among its customers. And they wanted to con UNIX systems.

Soon all the large vendors, and many smaller ones, were marketing their own versions of the UNIX system optimized for their own computer architectures a many different strengths and features. Customers found that, although UNIX were available everywhere, they seldom were able to interwork or co-exist wi significant investment of time and effort to make them work effectively. The t UNIX was ubiquitous, but it was applied to a multitude of different, incompati

In the early 1980's, the market for UNIX systems had grown enough to be no industry analysts and researchers. Now the question was no longer "What is a system?" but "Is a UNIX system suitable for business and commerce?"

Throughout the early and mid-1980's, the debate about the strengths and we UNIX systems raged, often fuelled by the utterances of the vendors themselv sought to protect their profitable proprietary system sales by talking UNIX sy And, in an effort to further differentiate their competing UNIX system product developing and adding features of their own.

In 1984, another factor brought added attention to UNIX systems. A group of v concerned about the continuing encroachment into their markets and control of interfaces by the larger companies, developed the concept of "open systems."

Open systems were those that would meet agreed specifications or standards. resulted in the formation of X/Open Company Ltd whose remit was, and today i guise of The Open Group remains, to define a comprehensive open systems en Open systems, they declared, would save on costs, attract a wider portfolio of applications and competition on equal terms. X/Open chose the UNIX system a platform for the basis of open systems.

Although UNIX was still owned by AT&T, the company did little commercially wi the mid-1980's. Then the spotlight of X/Open showed clearly that a single, stan version of the UNIX system would be in the wider interests of the industry and customers. The question now was, "which version?".

In a move intended to unify the market in 1987, AT&T announced a pact with S Microsystems, the leading proponent of the Berkeley derived strain of UNIX. Ho rest of the industry viewed the development with considerable concern. Believi their own markets were under threat they clubbed together to develop their ow open systems operating system. Their new organization was called the Open S Foundation (OSF). In response to this, the AT&T/Sun faction formed UNIX Inter

The ensuing "UNIX wars" divided the system vendors between these two camp around the two dominant UNIX system technologies: AT&T's System V and the system called OSF/1. In the meantime, X/Open Company held the center groun continued the process of standardizing the APIs necessary for an open operatin specification.

In addition, it looked at areas of the system beyond the operating system level standard approach would add value for supplier and customer alike, developing adopting specifications for languages, database connectivity, networking and m interworking. The results of this work were published in successive X/Open Port Guides.

XPG 4 was released in October 1992. During this time, X/Open had put in place program based on vendor guarantees and supported by testing. Since the publi XPG4, X/Open has continued to broaden the scope of open systems specificatio with market requirements. As the benefits of the X/Open brand became known understood, many large organizations began using X/Open as the basis for syst and procurement. By 1993, over $7 billion had been spent on X/Open branded By the start of 1997 that figure has risen to over $23 billion. To date, procurem referencing the Single UNIX Specification amount to over $5.2 billion.

In early 1993, AT&T sold it UNIX System Laboratories to Novell which was looki heavyweight operating system to link to its NetWare product range. At the sam company recognized that vesting control of the definition (specification) and tra with a vendor-neutral organization would further facilitate the value of UNIX as foundation of open systems. So the constituent parts of the UNIX System, prev owned by a single entity are now quite separate

In 1995 SCO bought the UNIX Systems business from Novell, and UNIX system code and technology continues to be developed by SCO.

In 1995 X/Open introduced the UNIX 95 brand for computer systems guarante the Single UNIX Specification. The Single UNIX Specification brand program ha achieved critical mass: vendors whose products have met the demanding criter account for the majority of UNIX systems by value.

For over ten years, since the inception of X/Open, UNIX had been closely linked systems. X/Open, now part of The Open Group, continues to develop and evolv Single UNIX Specification and associated brand program on behalf of the IT co The freeing of the specification of the interfaces from the technology is allowing

systems to support the UNIX philosophy of small, often simple tools , that can combined in many ways to perform often complex tasks. The stability of the co interfaces preserves existing investment, and is allowing development of a rich software tools. The Open Source movement is building on this stable foundatio creating a resurgence of enthusiasm for the UNIX philosophy. In many ways Op can be seen as the true delivery of Open Systems that will ensure it continues t strength to strength.

1969	**The Beginning**	The history of UNIX starts back in 1969, when Ken Thompson, Dennis Ritchie and others started work "little-used PDP-7 in a corner" at Bell Labs and wh become UNIX.
1971	**First Edition**	It had a assembler for a PDP-11/20, file system, fo and ed. It was used for text processing of patent documents.
1973	**Fourth Edition**	It was rewritten in C. This made it portable and ch history of OS's.
1975	**Sixth Edition**	UNIX leaves home. Also widely known as Version 6 the first to be widely available out side of Bell Labs BSD version (1.x) was derived from V6.
1979	**Seventh Edition**	It was a "improvement over all preceding and follo Unices" [Bourne]. It had C, UUCP and the Bourne s was ported to the VAX and the kernel was more th Kilobytes (K).
1980	**Xenix**	Microsoft introduces Xenix. 32V and 4BSD introduc
1982	**System III**	AT&T's UNIX System Group (USG) release System first public release outside Bell Laboratories. SunO ships. HP-UX introduced. Ultrix-11 Introduced.
1983	**System V**	Computer Research Group (CRG), UNIX System Gr (USG) and a third group merge to become UNIX S Development Lab. AT&T announces UNIX System supported release. Installed base 45,000.
1984	**4.2BSD**	University of California at Berkeley releases 4.2BS includes TCP/IP, new signals and much more. X/O formed.
1984	**SVR2**	System V Release 2 introduced. At this time there 100,000 UNIX installations around the world.
1986	**4.3BSD**	4.3BSD released, including internet name server. introduced. NFS shipped. AIX announced. Installed 250,000.
1987	**SVR3**	System V Release 3 including STREAMS, TLI, RFS. time there are 750,000 UNIX installations around t IRIX introduced.
1988		POSIX.1 published. Open Software Foundation (OS UNIX International (UI) formed. Ultrix 4.2 ships.
1989		AT&T UNIX Software Operation formed in preparat spinoff of USL. Motif 1.0 ships.
1989	**SVR4**	UNIX System V Release 4 ships, unifying System V Xenix. Installed base 1.2 million.
1990	**XPG3**	X/Open launches XPG3 Brand. OSF/1 debuts. Plan Bell Labs ships.

1991		UNIX System Laboratories (USL) becomes a comp majority-owned by AT&T. Linus Torvalds commenc development. Solaris 1.0 debuts.
1992	**SVR4.2**	USL releases UNIX System V Release 4.2 (Destiny - XPG4 Brand launched by X/Open. December 22n announces intent to acquire USL. Solaris 2.0 ships.
1993	**4.4BSD**	4.4BSD the final release from Berkeley. June 16 N acquires USL
Late 1993	**SVR4.2MP**	Novell transfers rights to the "UNIX" trademark an Single UNIX Specification to X/Open. COSE initiati "Spec 1170" to X/Open for fasttrack. In December ships SVR4.2MP , the final USL OEM release of Sys
1994	**Single UNIX Specification**	BSD 4.4-Lite eliminated all code claimed to infring USL/Novell. As the new owner of the UNIX tradem X/Open introduces the Single UNIX Specification (f Spec 1170), separating the UNIX trademark from code stream.
1995	**UNIX 95**	X/Open introduces the UNIX 95 branding program implementations of the Single UNIX Specification. sells UnixWare business line to SCO. Digital UNIX introduced. UnixWare 2.0 ships. OpenServer 5.0 d
1996		The Open Group forms as a merger of OSF and X/
1997	**Single UNIX Specification, Version 2**	The Open Group introduces Version 2 of the Single Specification, including support for realtime, threa 64-bit and larger processors. The specification is freely available on the web. IRIX 6.4, AIX 4.3 and ship.
1998	**UNIX 98**	The Open Group introduces the UNIX 98 family of including Base, Workstation and Server. First UNIX registered products shipped by Sun, IBM and NCR. Open Source movement starts to take off with announcements from Netscape and IBM. UnixWare IRIX 6.5 ship.
1999	**UNIX at 30**	The UNIX system reaches its 30th anniversary. Lin kernel released. The Open Group and the IEEE co joint development of a revision to POSIX and the S UNIX Specification. First LinuxWorld conferences. fever on the stock markets. Tru64 UNIX ships.
2001	**Single UNIX Specification, Version 3**	Version 3 of the Single UNIX Specification unites I POSIX, The Open Group and the industry efforts. L kernel released. IT stocks face a hard time at the The value of procurements for the UNIX brand exc billion. AIX 5L ships.
2003	**ISO/IEC 9945:2003**	The core volumes of Version 3 of the Single UNIX Specification are approved as an international stan "Westwood" test suite ship for the UNIX 03 brand. 9.0 E ships. Linux 2.6 kernel released.

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