

Fedora – Community-based Development

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fedora 

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History

A long, long time ago...

...between 1994 and 2003...

...in a country far, far away...

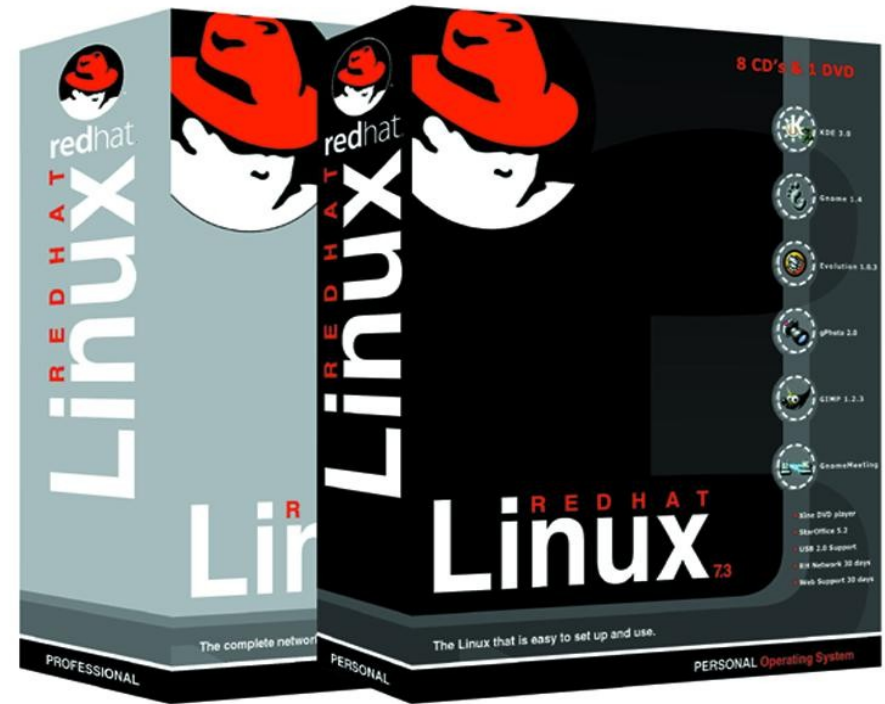
...Raleigh, North Carolina, US...

...there was a Linux distribution named...



Red Hat Linux

- ▶ Commercially available as box with CDs and printed manual
- ▶ Concurrently available as free download on the Internet
- ▶ New versions released about every 6 months



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Problems

- ▶ Less profit with commercially sold boxes
- ▶ Main profit due to large business customers
- ▶ Different product and support life times
 - Between 18 months and 5 years
- ▶ No stable and reliable base for partners
- ▶ Extreme between innovation vs. stabilization



Answer

Split-up into two different Linux distributions:



Fedora Core



Red Hat Enterprise Linux



Fedora vs. RHEL

- ▶ Free available
- ▶ Short release cycle: 6 months
- ▶ Latest software
- ▶ 13 month support and product life time
- ▶ Free support by the community
- ▶ Early adopters
- ▶ Subscription
- ▶ Long release cycle: 2-3 years
- ▶ Stable software
- ▶ 7-10 years support and product life time
- ▶ Support contract with Red Hat
- ▶ Business customers



Fedora

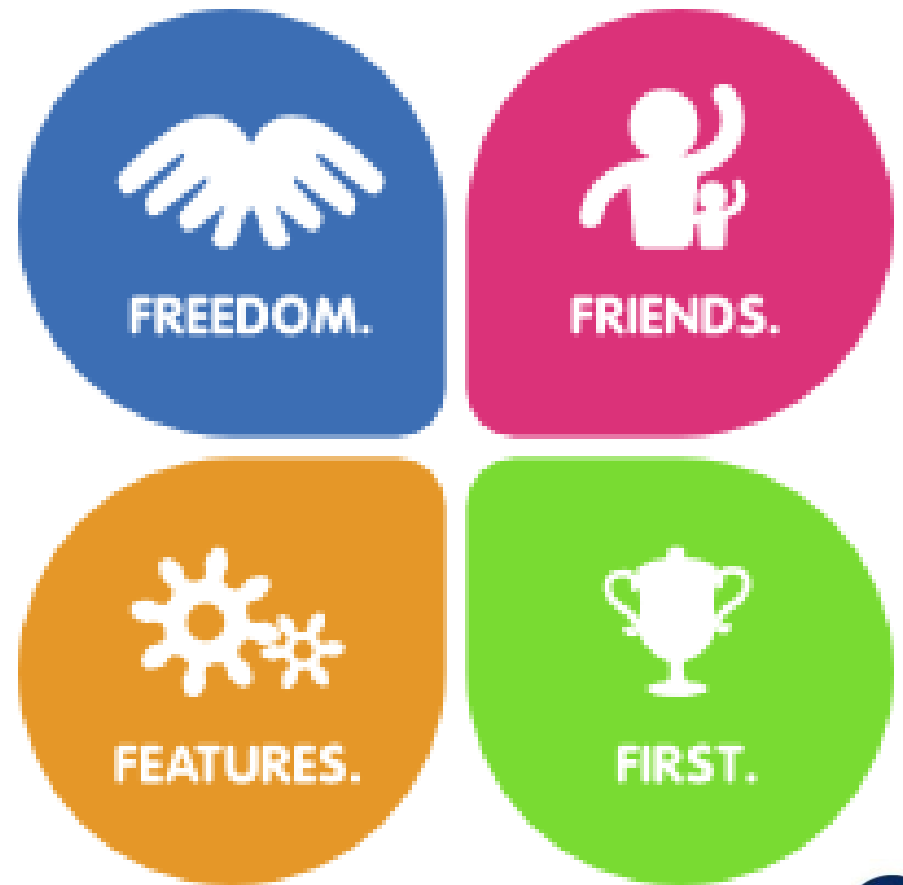
- ▶ Fedora is the red hat in the Red Hat logo
- ▶ But: Fedora is **not** Red Hat
- ▶ fedora.us project was an add-on RPM repository for Red Hat Linux
- ▶ Red Hat Linux became Fedora Core, fedora.us became Fedora Extras
- ▶ Fedora 7 merges Core and Extras



4 Foundations

Our 4 core values:

- ▶ Freedom
- ▶ Friends
- ▶ Features
- ▶ First



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Foundation: Freedom



- ▶ Only free software
- ▶ Free to use
- ▶ Free to share and copy
- ▶ Free to modify

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Foundation: Friends

- ▶ Fedora is driven by the community
- ▶ Very active community
- ▶ Respectful coexistence
- ▶ Cooperation with developers and distributions



Foundation: Features



- ▶ Fedora offers new features
- ▶ Uses and creates standards
- ▶ Works closely with upstream developers and projects
- ▶ Very open and transparent development process



Foundation: First

- ▶ Fast integration of new software
- ▶ Developing new technologies
- ▶ Rapid release cycle
- ▶ Sometimes the first to fail



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Follow upstream

- ▶ Get and keep in touch with the developers
- ▶ Participate and involve at development
- ▶ Support upstream with debugging and fixing
- ▶ Send all patches to upstream developers
- ▶ Keep using existing standards
- ▶ Do nothing that the upstream developer of a program would not do



Easy downstream

- ▶ Allow others to use Fedora as base
- ▶ Easy rebranding
 - ▶ `fedora-release`
 - ▶ `fedora-release-notes`
 - ▶ `fedora-logos`
- ▶ More than 40 Linux distributions are based on Fedora, starting with RHEL, over OLPC Linux, to exotics like Niigata or Kororaa



Structure

- ▶ Sub-projects: Ambassadors, Design, Websites, Packaging, Documentation, Quality Assurance, Translation, Infrastructure, ...
- ▶ Lead of sub-projects by Steering Committees: FESCo, FamSCo, FDSCo, FLSCo, ...
- ▶ Special Interest Groups: KDE SIG, Fonts SIG, EPEL SIG, Cloud SIG, Games SIG, ...
- ▶ Fedora Board is the political head
- ▶ Democratic votings



Communication

- ▶ Mail and mailing lists
- ▶ IRC
- ▶ IRC meetings
- ▶ Fedora Talk (VoIP)
- ▶ Face to Face
- ▶ Bug tracker
- ▶ Trac and Wiki



Features

What is a feature? A feature is...

- ▶ a change clearly identifiable as such for users
- ▶ a change that requires coordination between different groups or teams
- ▶ a new function that only Fedora has
- ▶ important enough to delay a Fedora release
- ▶ remarkable enough to be mentioned in the Release Notes



Feature process

- ▶ Each feature needs a wiki page
- ▶ Wiki page is reviewed by the Feature Wrangler
- ▶ Wrangler releases the page for FESCo
- ▶ FESCo decides and votes on the feature
- ▶ Feature will be realized and implemented
- ▶ Check at each milestone if the feature is complete



Milestones & Schedule

- ▶ Planning and Development for Fedora 15 begins 2010-11-02
- ▶ Feature and Spin Submission Deadline 2011-01-25
- ▶ Feature and Spin Freeze 2011-02-08
- ▶ Alpha and Software String Freeze 2011-02-15
- ▶ Alpha Release 2011-03-08
- ▶ Software Translation Deadline 2011-03-15
- ▶ Beta Freeze 2011-03-22
- ▶ Beta Release 2011-04-05
- ▶ Final Freeze 2011-04-25
- ▶ Compose „Final“ Release Candidate (RC) 2011-04-26
- ▶ Release / General Availability (GA) of Fedora 15 2011-05-10
- ▶ End Of Live (EOL) of Fedora 15 2012-06-10



Release engineering

- ▶ Manages the build system and repositories
- ▶ Creates the CD and DVD images
- ▶ Ensures keeping of the schedule
- ▶ Approves updates during freezes for releases
- ▶ Decides about the disclosure of the release



Spins

- ▶ Spins are installable Live CDs of Fedora: KDE, Xfce, LXDE, Sugar, Design, Games, Security Lab, Electronic Lab, BrOffice, ...
- ▶ Adjustments for needs: Package selection, localisation, small tweaks, etc.
- ▶ But: No fundamentally different distribution!
- ▶ Spins are official Fedora sub-projects
- ▶ Fedora Remixes are alternatives to spins



Ambassadors

- ▶ Official representatives of the Fedora Project
- ▶ Attend conferences, trade fairs and events
- ▶ Promote Fedora to users, hand out swag
- ▶ Looking for new contributors for Fedora
- ▶ Help by pointing people into correct direction
- ▶ Handle and try to answer and satisfy all kind of requests by visitors and users at events



Questions?



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Thank you!

