

How the Fedora Project works



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History

A long, long time ago...

...between 1994 and 2003...

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

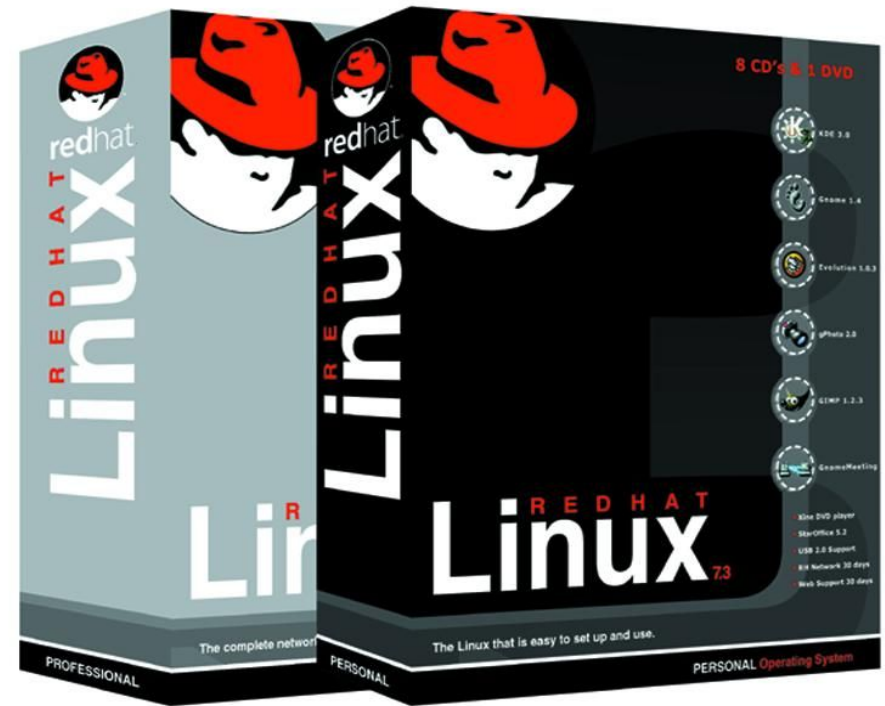
...Raleigh, North Carolina, US...

...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
- ▶ 10-13 years support and product life time
- ▶ Support contract with Red Hat®
- ▶ Business customers

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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

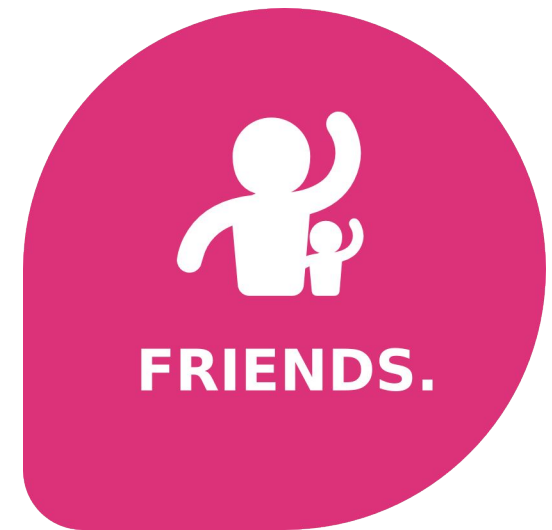


- ▶ Only free software
- ▶ Free to use
- ▶ Free to share and copy
- ▶ Free to modify

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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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Fedora-driven Developments

- ▶ SELinux: Access control security policies
- ▶ NetworkManager: Network simplifying
- ▶ D-BUS: Simple inter-process communication
- ▶ PolicyKit: Controlling system-wide privileges
- ▶ PackageKit: Package management frontend
- ▶ PulseAudio: Networked sound server
- ▶ systemd: System V init daemon replacement



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
- ▶ Phone and 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 19 begins 2013-01-15
- ▶ Feature and Spin Submission Deadline 2013-01-29
- ▶ Feature and Spin Freeze / Branching Fedora 19 2013-03-12
- ▶ Alpha and Software String Freeze 2013-04-02
- ▶ Alpha Release 2013-04-16
- ▶ Software Translation Deadline 2013-05-06
- ▶ Beta Change and Features Complete Deadline 2013-05-07
- ▶ Beta Release 2013-05-21
- ▶ Final Change Deadline 2013-06-10
- ▶ Compose „Final“ Release Candidate (RC) 2013-06-11
- ▶ Release / General Availability (GA) of Fedora 19 2013-06-25
- ▶ End Of Life (EOL) of Fedora 17 2013-07-25



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, localization, 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



Fedora Hosted

- ▶ Sponsored by the Fedora Project
- ▶ Alternative to SourceForge/LaunchPad
- ▶ Allows upstream developers to host their code and collaborate online
- ▶ Not necessarily Fedora-own projects
- ▶ Different VCS: GIT/BZR/HG/SVN
- ▶ Optional: Trac instance and mailman lists



Questions?



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Thank you!

