

Service: The Promise of Free and Open Source Software



Jon “maddog” Hall
Linux International
maddog@li.org

Trademarks



- Linux is a trademark of Linus Torvalds
- Unix is a trademark of X/Open
- Non-service is a trademark of proprietary software

Remember



- Free Software is more than Linux
- Free Software is not necessarily gratis
 - Freedom to see source
 - Freedom to change source
 - Freedom to redistribute source changes

Not “communism”, but “cooperativism”

Open Source Is Not New

- 1943 – 1980 - At one time, ALL software was “Open Source”
 - Hardware large and expensive
 - Communication was hard or non-existent
 - “Shrink wrap” software did not exist
 - Software written on contract basis
 - Does not work?
 - Late?
 - Buggy?
 - Poor Documentation?



1969

I was a university student=No Money

- DECUS
- Unix
- A birth

Why Do People Write Free Software?



- Why do amateur painters paint?
- Why do amateur athletes compete?
- An amplifier

I give so little and I get back so much

"Shrink Wrap" Has Not Been Around "Forever"

- 1977-1980 Hardware prices dropped
- 1980 – 2000 - Economies of scale made “shrink wrap” software practical
 - 100 engineers
 - 1000 customers
 - 1000 USD per customer = 1MUSD
 - 2 x 1000 problems/requests back



1984

The Year of George Orwell

- 1984 – GNU and GPL
 - Emacs
 - GCC
 - Libraries
 - Command interpreters
- 1980s and 1990s
 - Sendmail, BIND, Postgres (nee Ingres)
- 1991 – Linux Kernel was started

Definitions



- Unix is a Linux-like operating system
- Open Source are licenses that allow source code distribution of software
 - Artistic license
 - BSD license
- Free Software – GNU, FSF
 - GPL license
 - LGPL license

Now It Is the Twenty-First Century

Same proprietary company

- 200 programmers
- 45 million customers
- 2 x 45 million pieces of paper

Do you see the problem?

More Global Economics



If we lose 5 USD/day/system in productivity.....

.....we lose 2.5 Billion USD/day

What if we could reduce it to just 3 USD/day/system lost?

What happens when there are 6 billion computers?

1000 Business People In A Room...



- How many have had a bug in proprietary software? How much did that cost?
 - Lost time
 - Lost effort
- How many have had to change the way they did business? How much did that cost?
 - Retraining
 - Loss of sales
 - Customer dissatisfaction

Software Freedom allows Business Decisions

Why Is This Apparent Now?



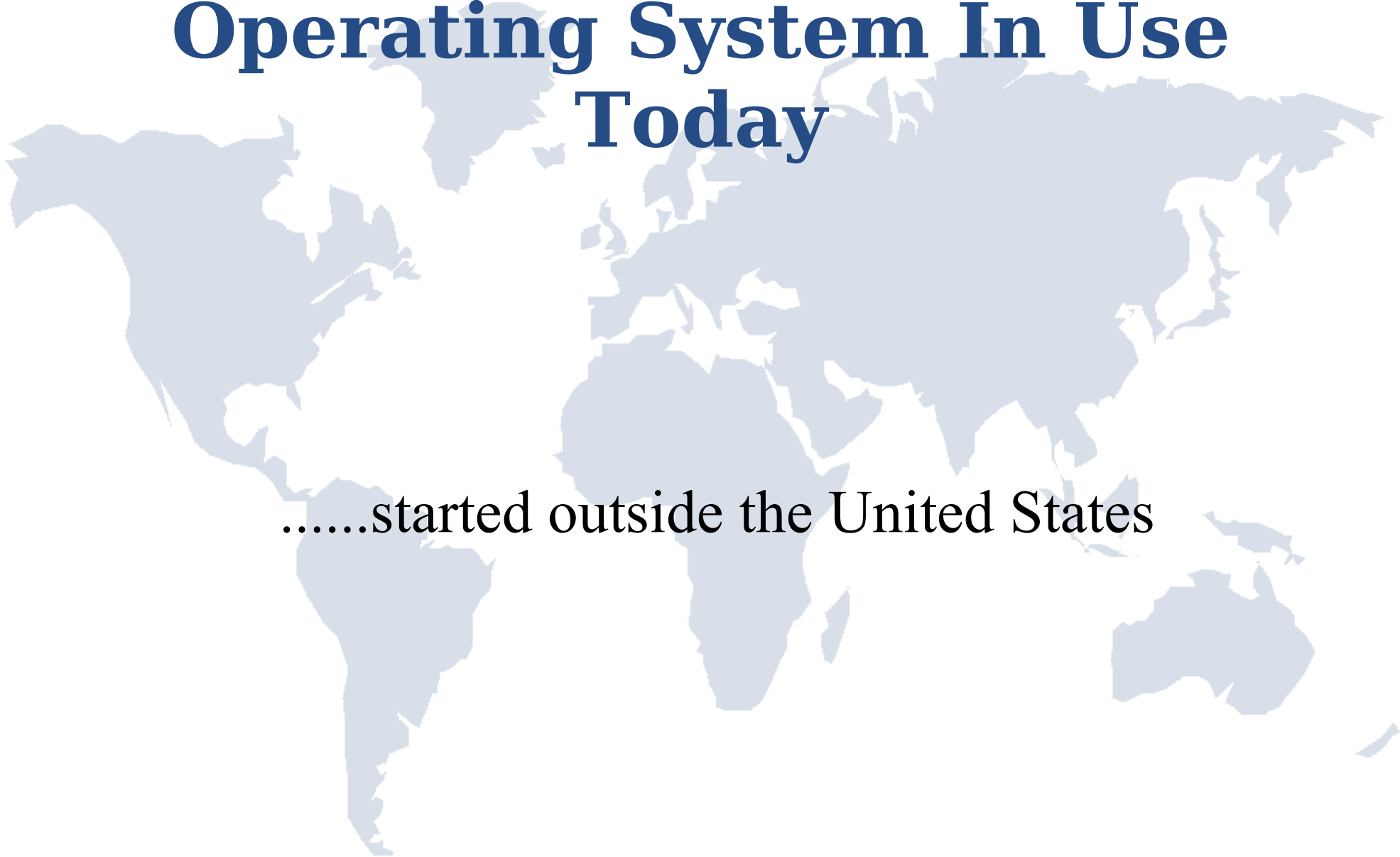
- Drop in prices of hardware
 - Brings computers to use of many more diverse cultures than before
 - Amplifies losses for a given company as computers are used for different purposes
- Software prices
 - Have not fallen unilaterally
 - Are still out of range in the third world

Linux In Government



- Military
 - Would you trust your weapons.....
- Government
 - Would you trust your email system....
- Not just war
 - Companies bankrupt
 - Companies drop support
 - Balance of trade

Linux Is The Only Major Operating System In Use Today



.....started outside the United States

A Balance of Trade

Software Freedom means...

- Less money leaves your country for packaged software
- More money can be spent **locally** on tailoring Open Source, which..
 - Creates **local** jobs
 - Who eat **local** food, buy **local** housing, pay **local** taxes
 - Which creates more **local** businesses
 - Who need more tailoring of software
 - Which creates more **local** jobs...

Remember



- Free Software is more than Linux
- Free Software is inevitable.

I Would Like to Thank



- Linux International
- Linux International member companies
- IBM (for this really cool laptop)

Questions?

