Evolution of Free and open-source Software

1970's-   AT&T distributed early versions of UNIX at no cost to government and academic researchers, but these versions did not come with permission to redistribute or to distribute modified versions, and were thus not free software in the modern meaning of the phrase.


0. 1970

1. 1976

1976- Bill Gates signaled the change of the times when he wrote his now-famous Open Letter to Hobbyists, sending out the message that what hackers called "sharing" was, in his words, "stealing".

1983 - Richard Stallman launched the GNU Project to write a complete OS free from constraints on use of its source code. Particular incidents that motivated this include a case where an annoying printer couldn't be fixed because the source code was withheld from users.
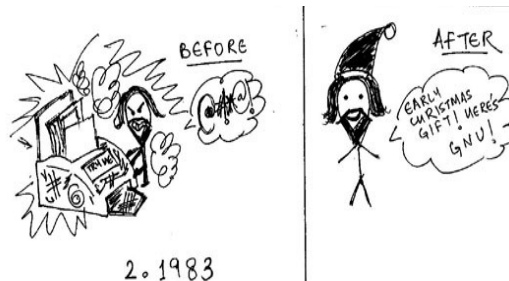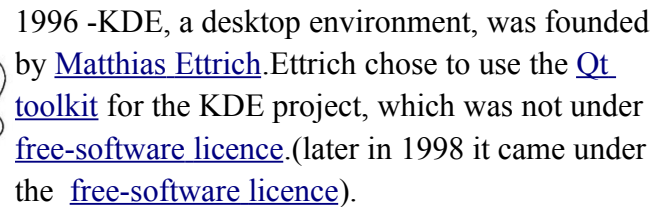

2. 1983
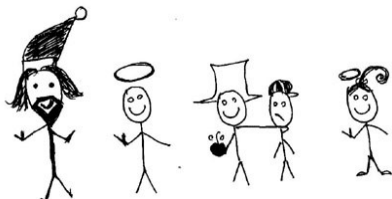
3. 1986.

1986 - the Free Software Foundation was founded by Richard Stallman and a free software definition was published in February 1986.

1991- The Linux kernel, started by Linus Torvalds, was released as freely modifiable source code.Later,with version 0.12 in February 1992, Torvalds relicensed the project under the GNU General Public License.

4.1991

1996 -KDE, a desktop environment, was founded by Matthias Ettrich.Ettrich chose to use the Qt toolkit for the KDE project, which was not under free-software licence.(later in 1998 it came under the free-software licence).

Late 1990's- Apache HTTP Server became the most-used web-server software .Many website-based companies were starting up and free software became a popular choice for web servers.Systems based on a common "stack" of software with the Linux kernel at the base, Apache providing web services, the

MySQL database engine for data storage, and the PHP programming language for providing dynamic pages, came to be known as LAMP systems.

1997 - Eric Raymond published The Cathedral and the Bazaar, a reflective analysis of the hacker community and free-software principles. The paper received significant attention in early 1998 and was one factor in motivating Netscape Communications Corporation to release their popular Netscape Communicator Internet suite as free software. This code is today the basis for Mozilla Firefox and Thunderbird.

Aug, 1997- two projects were started in response to KDE: the Harmony toolkit (a free replacement for the Qt libraries) and GNOME (a different desktop without Qt and built entirely on top of free software)
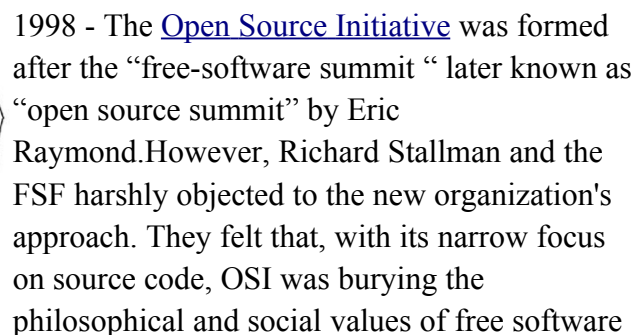
1998 - The Open Source Initiative was formed after the "free-software summit " later known as "open source summit" by Eric Raymond.However, Richard Stallman and the FSF harshly objected to the new organization's approach. They felt that, with its narrow focus on source code, OSI was burying the philosophical and social values of free software and hiding the issue of computer users' freedom. Stallman still maintained, however, that users of each term were allies in the fight against proprietary software.

1998 -   As free software - especially GNU/Linux - became more popular, industry incumbents such as [Microsoft](#) started to see it as a serious threat. This was shown in a document, confirmed by Microsoft as genuine, which came to be known as the first of the [Halloween Documents](#).
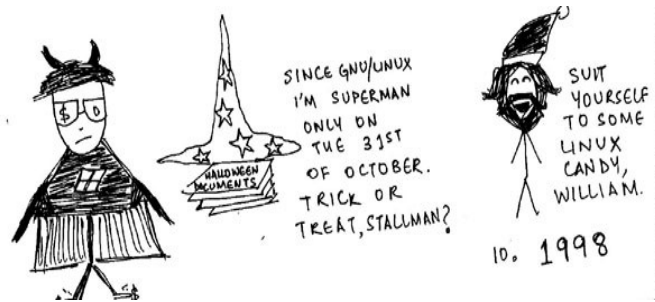
2003 - a proprietary Unix vendor and former GNU/Linux vendor called SCO alleged that Unix intellectual property had been inappropriately copied into the Linux kernel, and sued IBM, claiming that it bore responsibility for this. A number of related lawsuits and countersuits followed, some originating from SCO, some from others suing SCO. However, SCO's allegations lacked specificity, and while some in the media reported them as credible, many critics of SCO believed the allegations to be highly dubious at best.

2006 -   [Jonathan I. Schwartz](#) became CEO of Sun Microsystems, and signalled his commitment to open source. On May 8, 2007, [Sun Microsystems](#) released the Java Development Kit as[OpenJDK](#) under the GNU General Public License.

2008- GitHub was launched in April 2008.GitHub is a [web-based hosting service](#) for software development projects that use the [Git](#) [revision control](#) system. GitHub offers both paid plans for private repositories, and free accounts for open source projects. GitHub is the most popular Git hosting site, and the most popular open source hosting site.

Harshitha P.V.
ECE
6th sem