



Just for Fun: The Story of an Accidental Revolutionary

Linus Torvalds, David Diamond

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Once upon a time Linus Torvalds was a skinny unknown, just another nerdy Helsinki techie who had been fooling around with computers since childhood. Then he wrote a groundbreaking operating system and distributed it via the Internet -- for free. Today Torvalds is an international folk hero. And his creation LINUX is used by over 12 million people as well as by companies such as IBM.

Now, in a narrative that zips along with the speed of e-mail, Torvalds gives a history of his renegade software while candidly revealing the quirky mind of a genius. The result is an engrossing portrayal of a man with a revolutionary vision, who challenges our values and may change our world.

Just for Fun: The Story of an Accidental Revolutionary Details

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From Reader Review Just for Fun: The Story of an Accidental Revolutionary for online ebook

Oleg Makagonov says

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Vajihe Nikkhah says

Sameer says

Surprisingly mature book, with a mixture of biographical narration and commentary about technology. The last few chapters are especially worth a read. Given this book was written in 2001, it's amazing how many of Linus's predictions about the direction of Linux and processors are true - he predicted both the emergence of low-power processors and the ubiquity of Linux in the book.

Hadi Motale says

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linuxstory.ir

Saman Nourkhajal says

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Igor Tsinman says

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Ed Erwin says

Gives a bit of a feeling of what Torvalds is like as a person, and the process by which he created Linux.

For a geek like me, it is nice to re-live the history of how computers have changed so much over the last 50 years, and how those changes have affected so many other things.

Back when I was originally learning programming, it was impossible for me to imagine that one could make a career out of it. I did it just for fun. Torvalds was doing the same. Many of the programmers of my age have a similar experience. These days, programming is seen as a lucrative career, so many people go into it with that in mind rather than the joy of the experience.

In this book, Linus Torvalds comes across as a pretty nice guy. But this book stops before he created "git". And since "git" is evil, I have to wonder what happened to him! (Just kidding. But "git" is horrible.)

Megan says

I thought I might get excited about open source (as a concept) but it's a pretty straightforwardly awesome concept, so I didn't find anything surprising. What IS interesting, philosophically, is that he comes right out and says "This is my life philosophy." It's really only touched upon at the beginning and end, but sort of exemplified through the whole quirky, detailed, fun story of this guy's life. He's a weird dude; both in what he says about his past, his attitude toward it, and how he acts while being interviewed about it.

It's strangely relaxing to read. He just has this very mellow attitude. So, I recommend it if you're interested in him at all, or feel like a weird/quirky programmer dude, or even if you just like memoirs.

I don't know much about Linux, nor did I have any expectations of Linus and yet I found it to be this

pleasant reflection on actually DOING something with your life, just because--just for fun.

Nima ?Shoa says

????? says

Mojtaba Darvishi says

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Amir Daly says

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Ahmad says

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Jeff Williams says

David Diamond does not follow a formulaic path when laying down the story of Linus and the development of Linux. It's far from a comprehensive history of Linux's early days, JfF reads more like a weekend conversation with a friend over beers, geeking out over the technological nostalgia, and telling a good story or two on the trials and tribulations that came from developing one's own OS.

Walter says

kinda split about this one. i went into it expecting a certain character to linus and finding a totally different one.

i guess i shouldn't be surprised. i had the notion of the "rockstar" shattered many moons ago. in the end, linus is just another guy with flaws just like anyone else. heck, linux wouldn't exist if he hadn't accidentally tried to dial the university of helsinki through /dev/hda1 instead of /dev/tty1.

there's a resiliency and an honesty to him i really like, even if he seems to try to avoid every argument. despite this, he still has less-than-favorable things to say about gates, jobs, stallman, and tanenbaum, to name a few, which is good for a few laughs.

in the end, i enjoyed the fact that the book made the legendary linus unremarkably human. the pithy technical bits at the beginning were great. i wouldn't have liked it as much without them. i'm also not entirely disturbed that the book wasn't entirely composed of them.

the switching back and forth between linus and david was interesting and added a little extra perspective. it also wasn't overused to the point of being annoying, which it certainly could have been.

linus does reveal a few philosophical thoughts-- not just on open source, mind you. he offers his law of life, so to speak. interesting as it is, it is not a life changing insight, nor is really anything else in the book.

let's face it: linus did what he did because he enjoyed hacking. and he liked people getting excited about it and providing him new challenges to flex his hacking muscles. so he kept doing it. he didn't set out to change the world or become rich, but he doesn't mind having done either. i think if there's anything that i learned from this book is that linux is great because it is a global community project.

if lance armstrong can be remembered by "it's not about the bike" then linux should be remembered by "it's not about the [initial] creator."

that being said, though it was entertaining to know about linus, i'd probably not be recommending this book

as much as i might recommend reading the gpl. ;)
