

Gnu and Tux



A story of how these creatures have become permanent residents at Warrington School New Zealand.

Once upon a time there was a

Gnu called Gnu



and a



Penguin called Tux

and they lived somewhere over the sea.

GNU and Tux are mascots for two very important organisations.

GNU for GNU



and

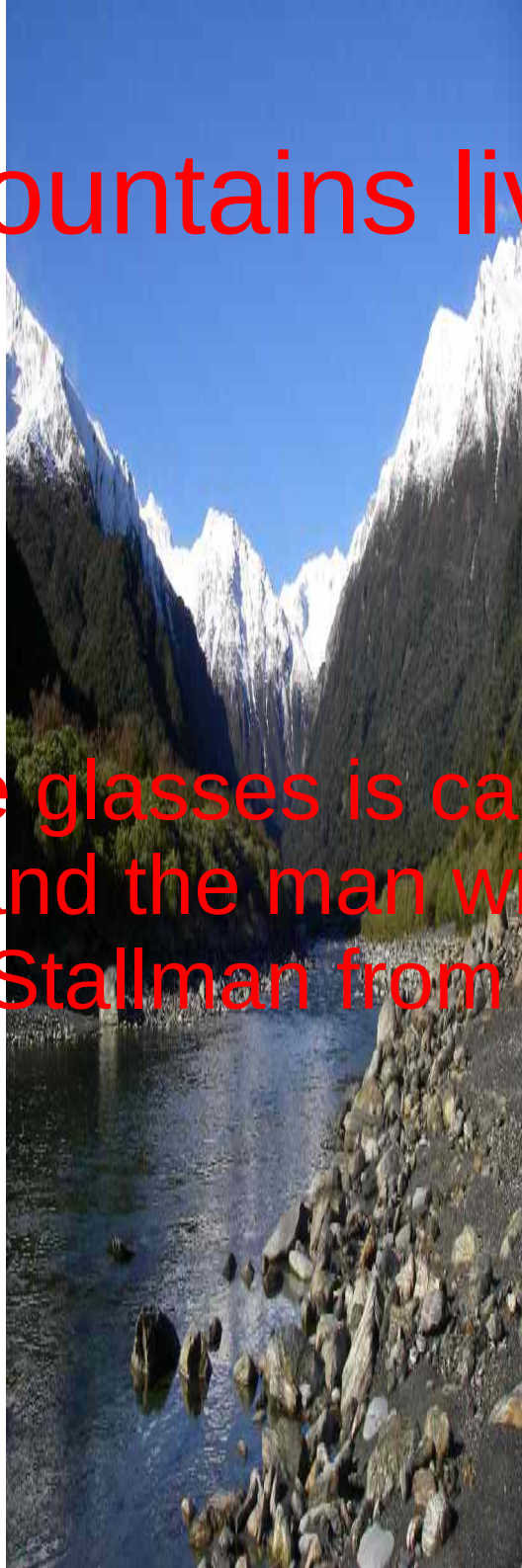
Tux for Linux



Over the mountains live two men.



The man with the glasses is called Linus Torvald from Finland and the man with the beard is Richard Stallman from the USA.



Richard Stallman chose the name GNU for his organisation.

He chose it because it is a recursive acronym for “GNU's Not Unix”.

Second, because it was a real word, and third, it was fun to say (or sing).

GNU, GNU tra la la la la!



Linus Torvald chose Tux the penguin to represent his organisation because he had been attacked by a ferocious penguin that bit him and infected him with a little known disease called penguinitis.



Richard and Linus enjoyed playing with computers - they were known as hackers. Hackers are people who write computer code (computer programs).

Their work as hackers meant they wrote code using numbers 0 and 1 – it sounds easy with such few numbers.

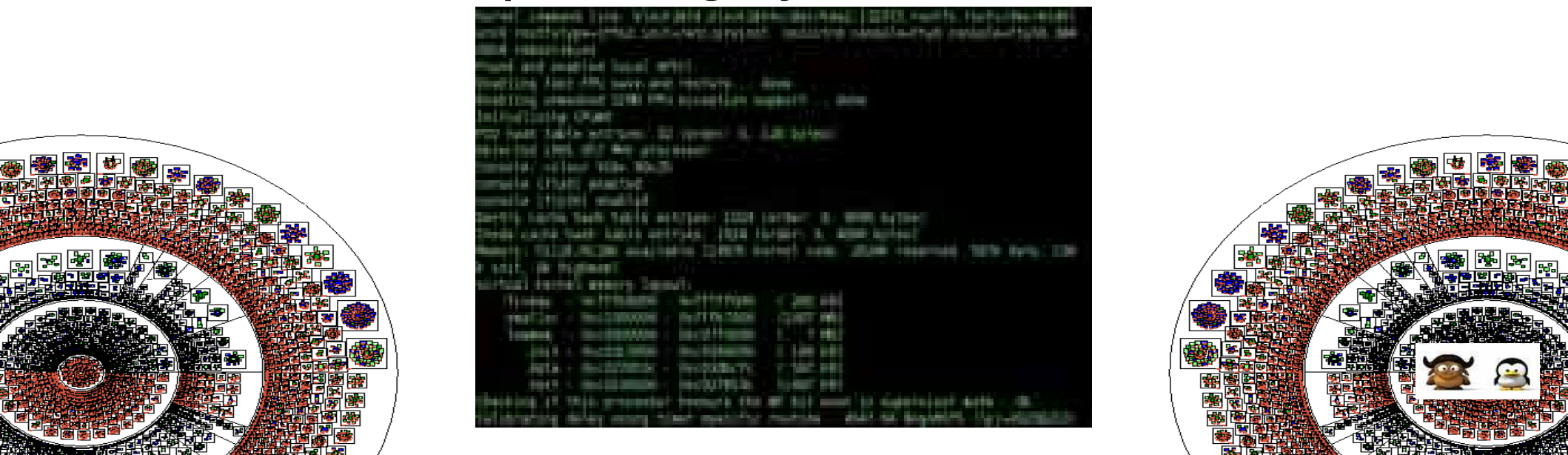
Its actually quite tricky and takes lots of time.



Richard and many others wrote a computer program called GNU that was to run a computer and needed a small piece of code called the kernel.

Linus wrote another piece of program called the kernel which he named Linux.

When Richard put Linus' kernel into his system they had a whole operating system called GNU/Linux.



Did the GNU/Linux operating system become important straight away because:

A. It was easy to use

B. It had a great name

C. It was given by Richard and Linus freely to the world to use and adapt



The answer is C.

Richard and Linus have chosen to allow all users the freedom to run, copy, distribute, study, change and improve the GNU/Linux operating system.

Their computer operating system does not earn them lots of money.

GNU/Linux is so good that it runs on 90% of the top 500 supercomputers in the whole world.

GNU/Linux
The Soft Revolution



GNU/Linux is written and distributed under the GNU General Public Licence.

This licence makes sure the source code (the zeros and ones) is freely available for everyone to use.

No-one can own it.



The GNU General Public Licence has other similar brother and sister licenses that also allow people to use, alter and share their ideas without the idea being owned by a big business.

They are free as in free speech, rather than free chocolate.





General Public
Licence



These licences are all different but allow sharing and collaboration.

They can be used for books, music, software, ideas and anything else that needs to be shared.

Copyleft



Using licences can give software freedom.

Freedom 0 - The freedom to run the program, for any purpose.

Freedom 1 - Help yourself - the freedom to study how the program works and adapt it to your needs.

Freedom 2 - Help your neighbor - the freedom to redistribute copies.

Freedom 3 - Help your community - the freedom to improve the program, and release it to the public.

Richard Stallman has used licenses to give his software freedom.

Software for all humanity.



The man in the space suit is Mark Shuttleworth from South Africa.

He made \$quillions from Internet security and paid for a trip into space.

He now uses his money to help others and established the Shuttleworth Foundation.

It's aim is to inspire youth to believe, *“anything is possible”*.

In 2004 he formed Canonical Ltd to promote and support free software.



"If we are to lift Africa from her current circumstances, we will need a generation of learners that are gifted with curiosity about the world in which they live, and the tools to understand and shape the world."

— Mark Shuttleworth



Mark's UK based company Canonical sponsors the development of the Ubuntu computer operating system. Ubuntu uses GNU/Linux as its base.

Ubuntu was based on a GNU/Linux operating system called Debian.

Ubuntu is an African word meaning
'Humanity to others',
or

'I am what I am because of who we all are'.

Software with a humanitarian philosophy.





Canonical also sponsors other computer operating systems.

All have the same philosophy and “buntu” in the name.

It's a little bit like choosing an ice-cream - each one appeals to different people.



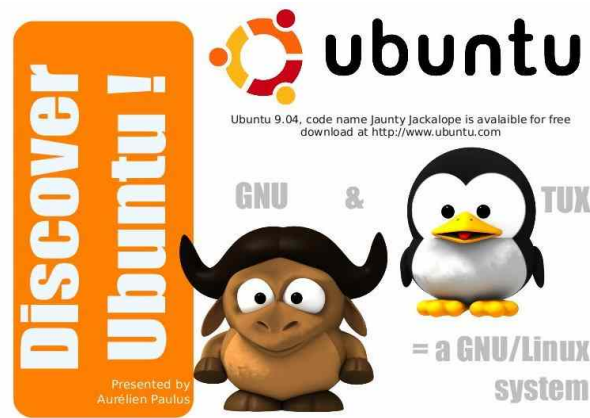
Ubuntu has various licenses to keep it
free of charge.

You can download, use and share Ubuntu with your
friends, family, school or business for free.

Ubuntu can be run on older computers, ones that are
usually thrown out for being too old.

Ubuntu also runs on new computers and laptops.

It also comes from toasters.



Yes you can get Ubuntu from a freedom toaster. Like vending machines for snacks these are preloaded to dispense free digital goodies, including software, photography, music and literature.

Set up in South Africa so poor people can access large pieces of software and other digital media but not toast.





There are lots of other free computer operating systems based on GNU/Linux and some come from freedom toasters.

They all have free and freedom at their core.
(Remember the ice-cream idea)



Another man with a beard is Wayne Mackintosh.

He thought how wonderful it is to share ideas.

He saw how much of the world had little or no access to free education so he set up the site WikiEducator.

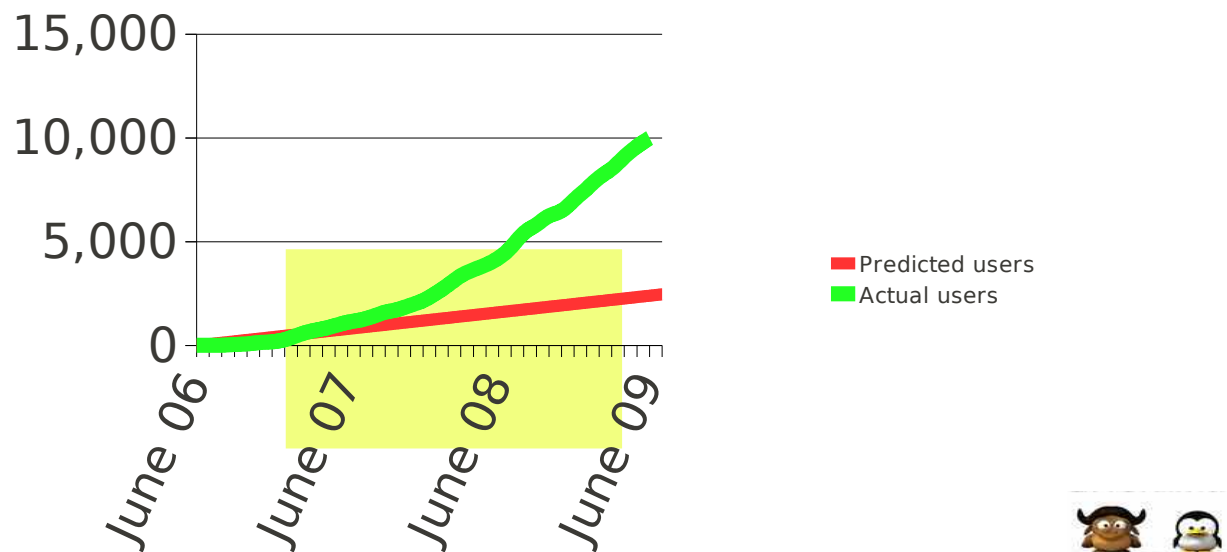
WikiEducator is working with teachers and other educators who like to share their work with others.

It aims to create a free education curriculum by 2015.



WikiEducator has thousands of users and looks like Wikipedia

The screenshot shows the WikiEducator main page. The browser title is 'Main Page - WikiEducator - Mozilla Firefox'. The page includes a navigation menu on the left with options like 'Main Page', 'Recent changes', 'Content', 'Projects', 'Categories', 'Practice editing', and 'Help'. The main content area has a 'Welcome to WikiEducator' message with the tagline 'Just Try It! Our community will support you'. Below this, there are links for 'About', 'Using WikiEducator', and 'FAQs'. A central message states: 'We're turning the digital divide into digital dividends using free content and open networks. We hope you will join us.' There are two main news sections: 'The purpose of WikiEducator' which lists activities like planning, development, building OERs, and networking; and 'In the news' which reports on a council election and a featured institution (Otago Polytechnic).



There is now a special place called the New Zealand Schools OER (Open Education Resource) portal on WikiEducator.

This is a place for New Zealand teachers to create, share and play with resources and ideas in support of the national curriculum.

WikiEducator even has sandboxes – like a sandpit to play in except you play on a computer.



OERs are a "sustainable and renewable" resource 🧙‍♂️ 🐧

WikiEducator allows teachers and learning communities to share their ideas in an open way. 🧑🏻‍🎓 🐧

Warrington School uses WikiEducator to share its' envirethical ideas with the rest of the world.

Ubuntu is a practical example of an envirethical idea - beneficial to people and the environment.



Actions:

Invite GNU and Tux to come and live at your school, house or business by installing a free operating system on old or new computers - it's easy - anyone can do it.

Free software keeps New Zealand dollars in New Zealand rather than going to profit overseas corporations and helps keep computers out of the landfill.

Keep your educational ideas or resources open and evolving, place them onto WikiEducator and share them with the world.





Think free – think freedom.



**At Warrington
School and lots of
other places
around the world,
GNU and Tux live
happily ever after.**

