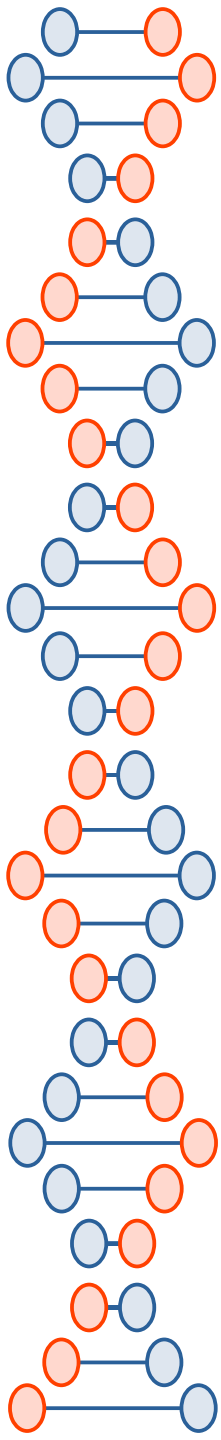


Freedom in the Age of Digital Slavery

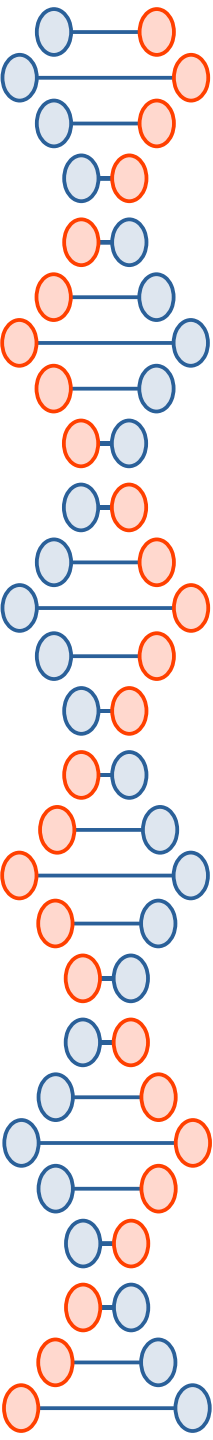
Ajith Kumar B P

<https://scischool.in>

bpajith@gmail.com



- Are you using a Computer ?
- Do you like to be exploited ?
- To be under surveillance ?

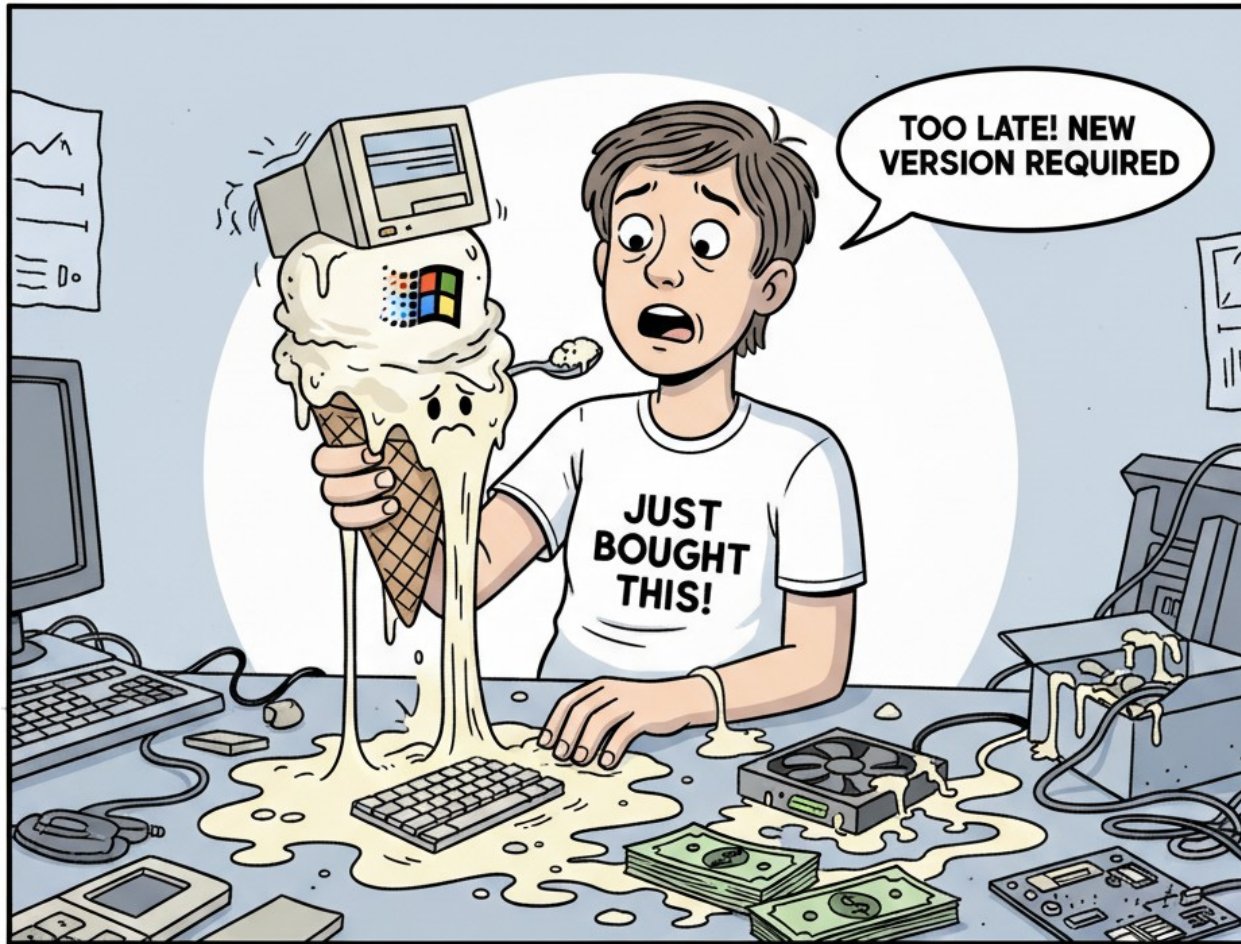


My Experience with Windows

- In 1995, I was running Windows-3 on an 80386 PC, using a word processor included in it for drafting letters.
- Once I received a **.doc** file from someone, and opening it required the latest version of MSWord.
- Bought MSWord and it demanded Windows 95.
- Installing Windows 95 required an 80486 computer.

Total expense to the institute was around 1.2 lakhs.
I was not the only one faced such exploitation.
It continues even today.

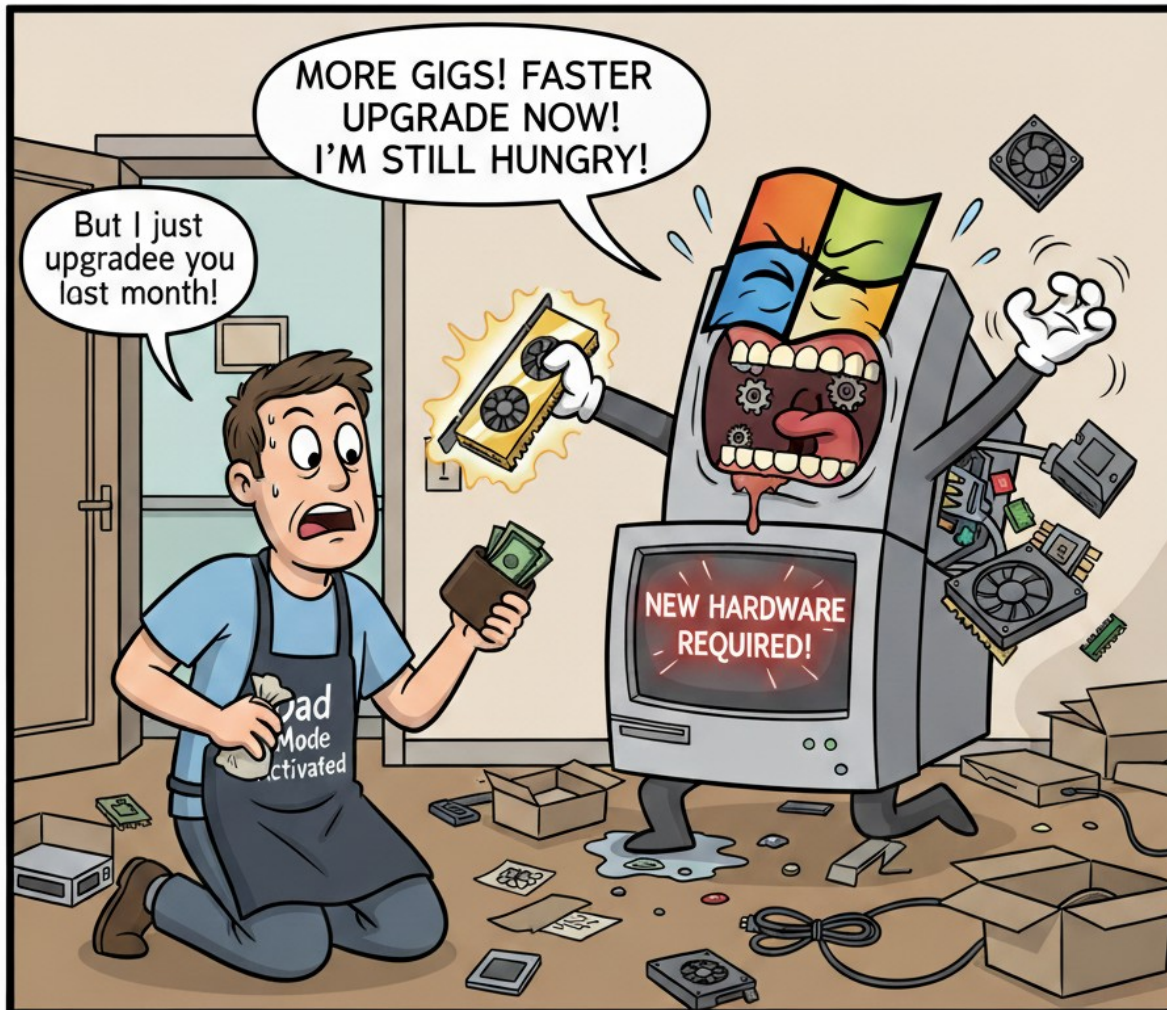
THE WINDOWS OBSOLESCENCE MELTDOWN!



Windows 3.1 - 1993
Windows 95 - 1995
Windows 98 - 1998
Windows ME - 2000
Windows XP - 2001
Windows Vista - 2007
Windows 7 - 2009
Windows 8 - 2012
Windows 8.1 - 2013
Windows 10 - 2015
Windows 11 - 2021

**WINDOWS: THE UPGRADE TAX -
COLD HARD CASH, HOT FAST MELT!**

WINDOWS HARDWARE REQUIREMENTS



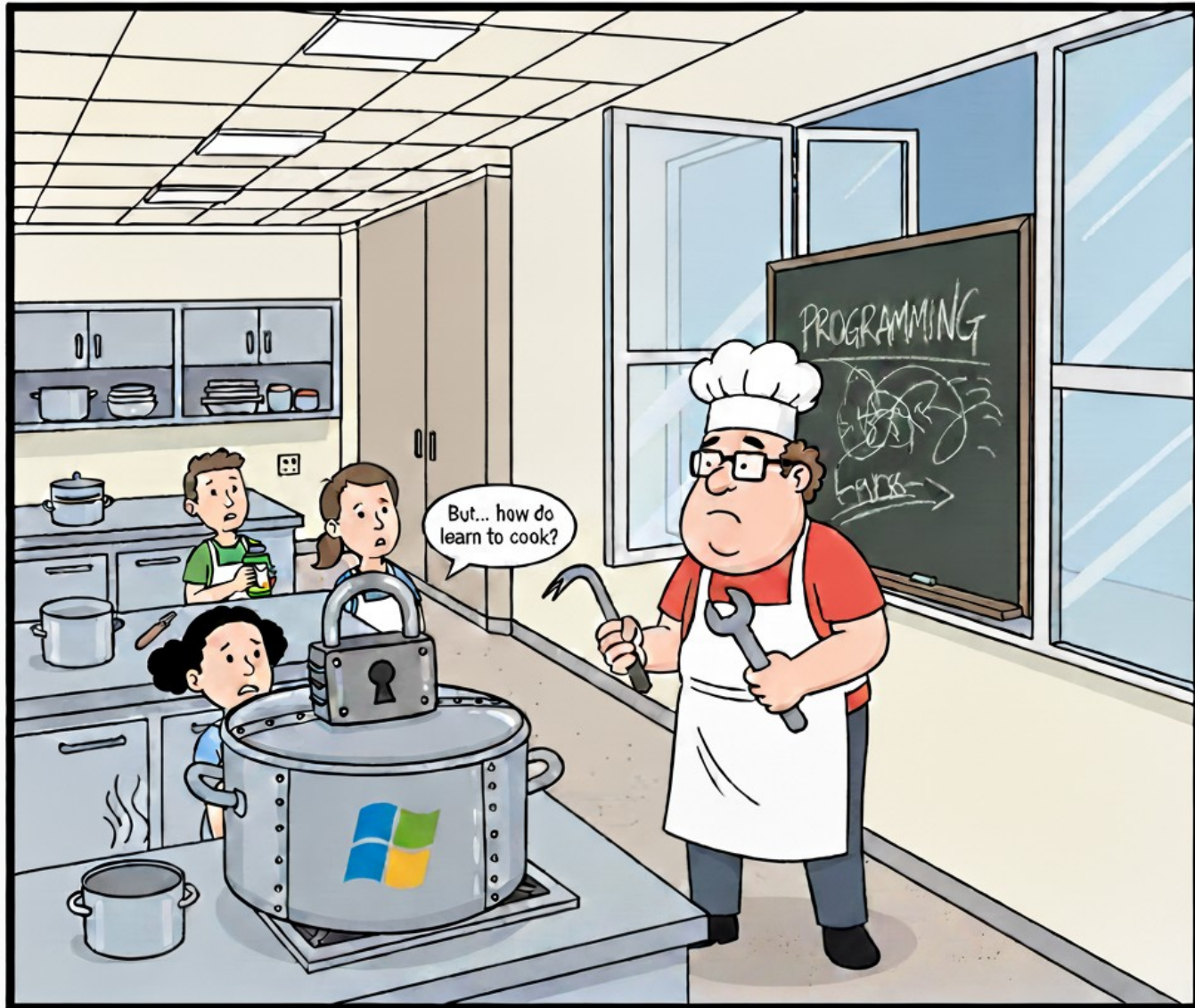
THE UPGRADE TANT-RUMBLE!

PROPRIOTARY FILE FORMATS!



YOUR DATA? NOT REALLY YOURS!

CLOSED SOURCE COMPUTER SCIENCE CLASS



WINDOWS: THE UN-OPEN-SOURCE POT. YOU CAN LOOK, BUT YOU I CAN'T COOK!

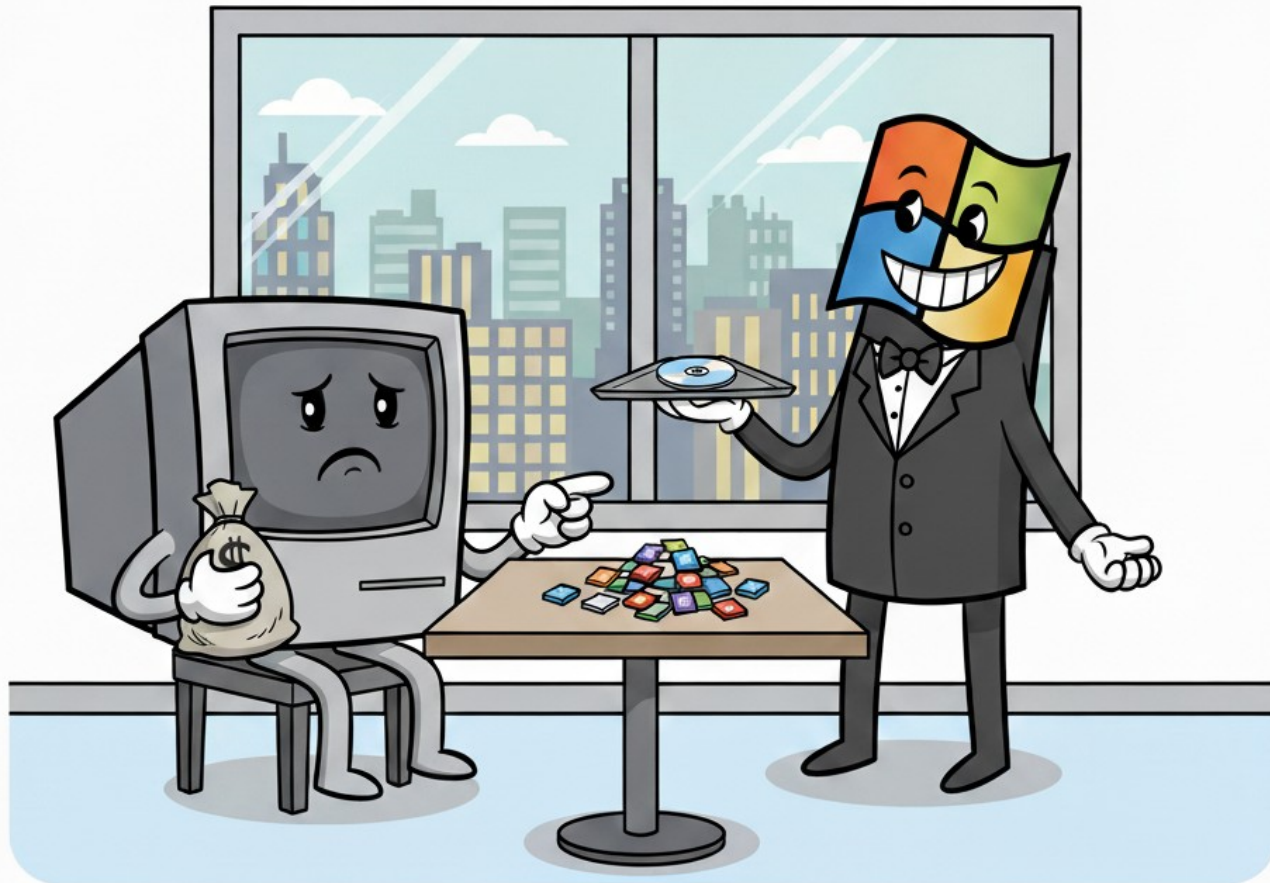
THE WINDOWS TAX: NO MEDIA INCLUDED!

PAYING FOR SOFTWARE YOU CAN'T HOLD!



Computer Restaurant

with a Windows View



OUR DISHES ARE NOW OR NEVER SIR!

THE PRE-INSTALLED OS DILEMMA:
SOFTWARE TIED TO HARDWARE!

COST-CUTTING CUISINE:
NO INSTALL DISC!



WE SERVE
DIRECTLY INTO
YOUR SYSTEM!
NO PARCEL NO
PARCEL SERVICE!

WANT TO
INSTALL ON
DIFFERENT
PLATE?
BUY A NEW
PLATE!

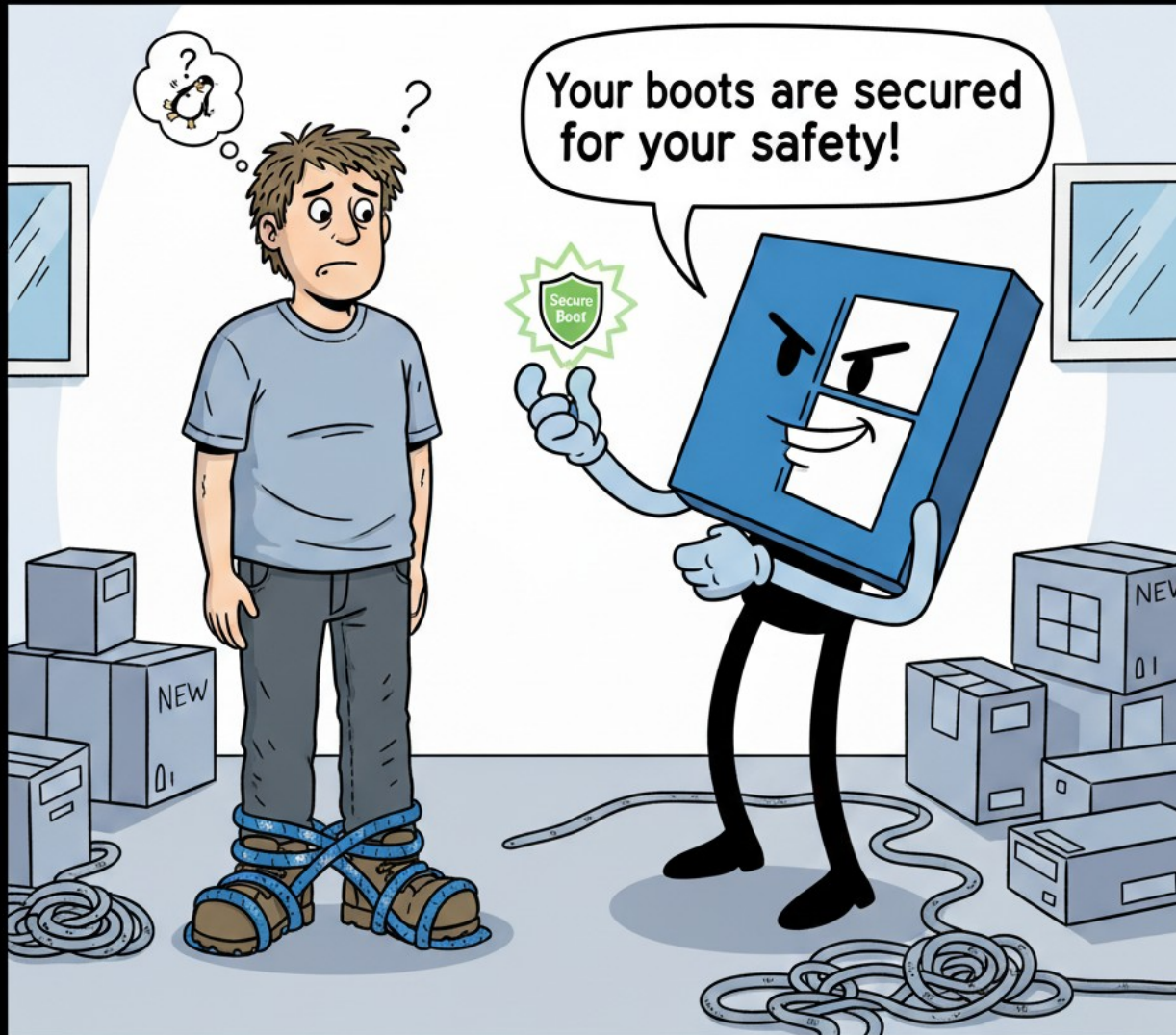
WINDOWS FOR
PRE-INSTALLATION



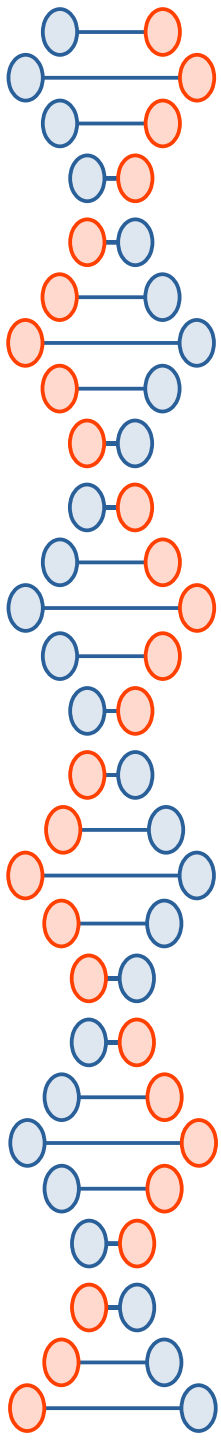


RECOVERY IS NEEDED OFTEN ✦

MICROSOFT & SECURE BOOT: "HELPFUL" RESTRICTIONS



BOOTS SECURED FOR YOUR SAFETY! ✨



- Windows-11 insists on a Microsoft Account ?
- Your computer becomes Microsoft's surveillance device.
- Bundling features that create new data flows (AI + tracking).
- Designing defaults that allow data collection (**enabled by default**, buried settings).

Whom you are trusting with your
Data ?

Windows 11 Installation



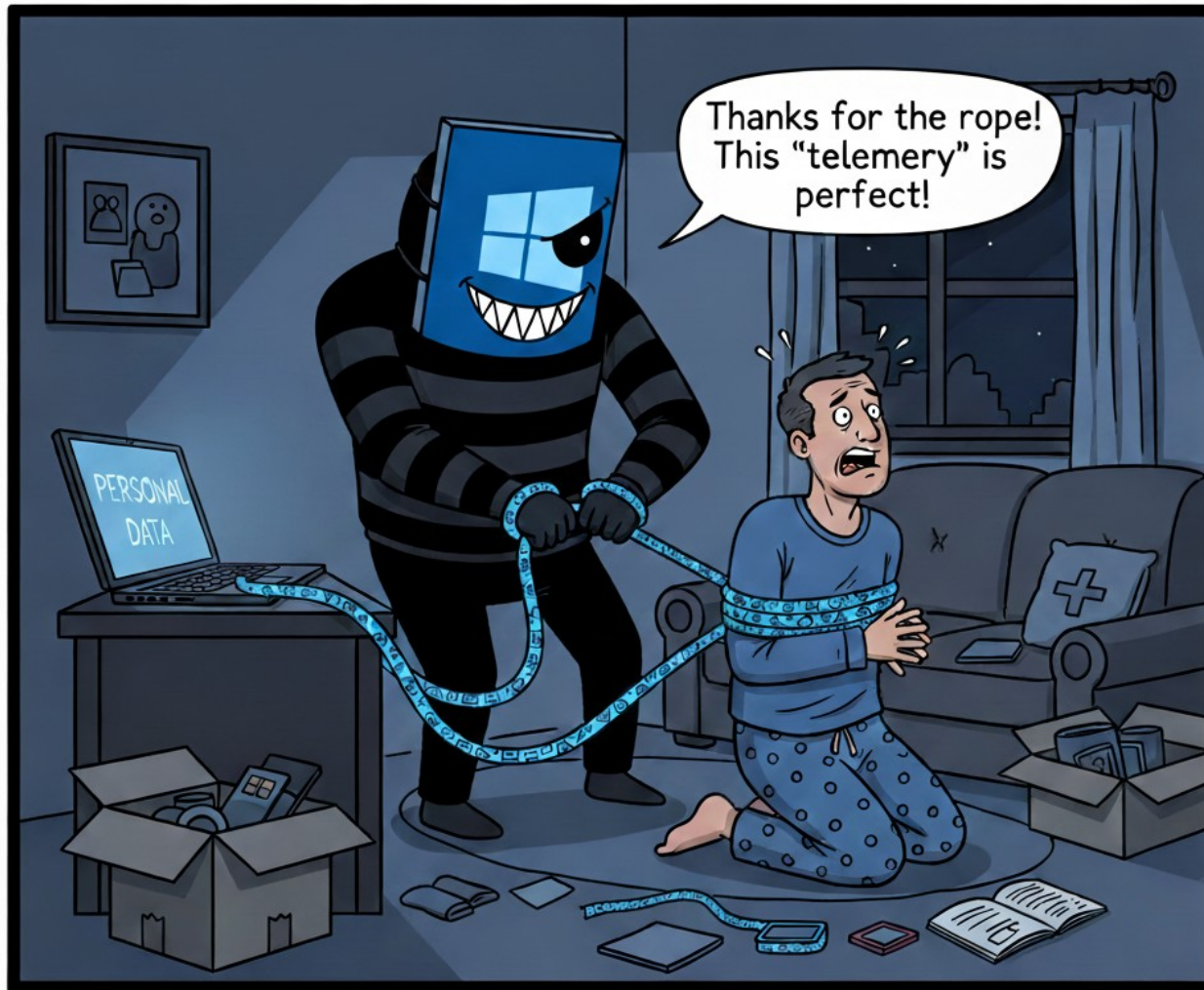
You MUST Join to Tie the Knot!

WINDOWS 11 SURVEILLANCE!



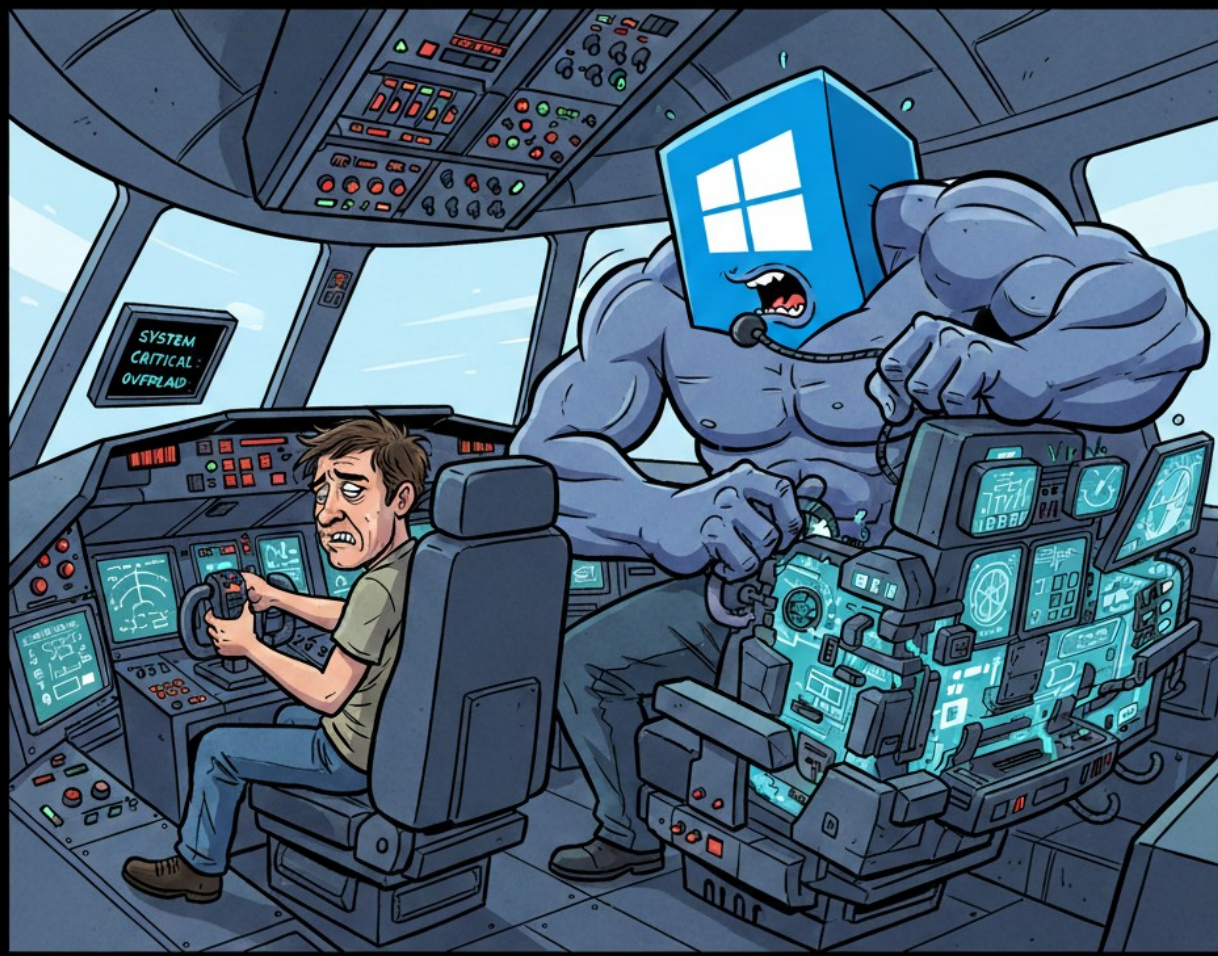
PRIVACY? WE'LL INSTALL IT LATER...

WINDOWS 11: THE DATA HEIST!



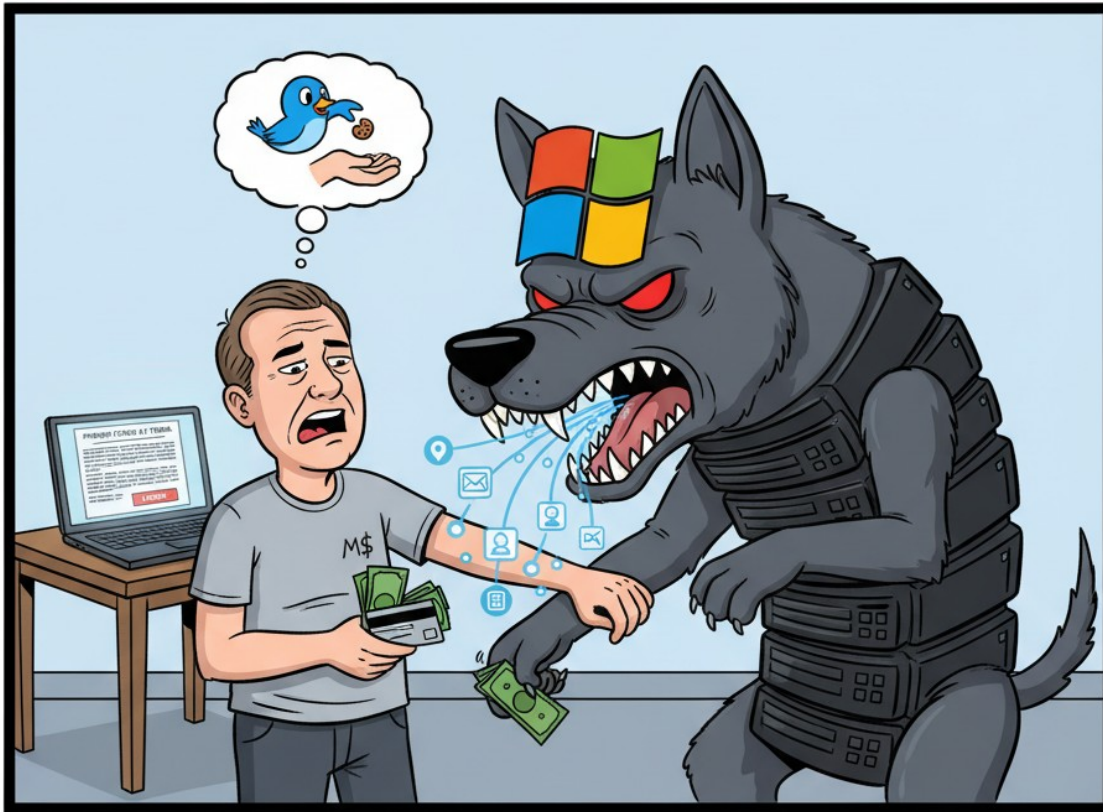
YOUR DATA? IT'S JUST A ROPE FOR TO THEM!

MICROSOFT COPILOT: THE RESOURCE HOG!



USER, GIVE MY AI A BIGGER CPU!

THE MICROSOFT BARAGIN



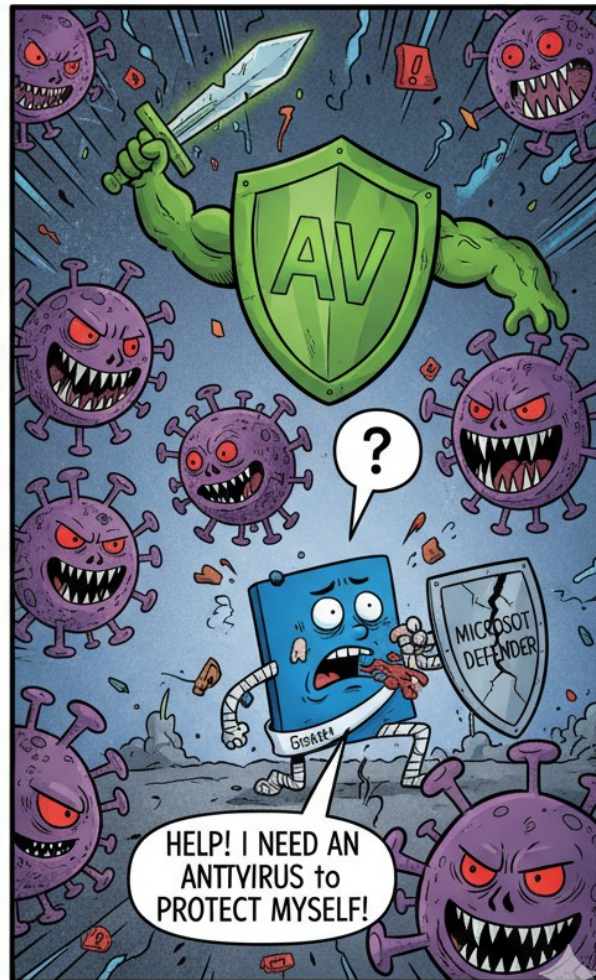
YOU PAY TO BE THE PREY!

The Paradox of Windows Security

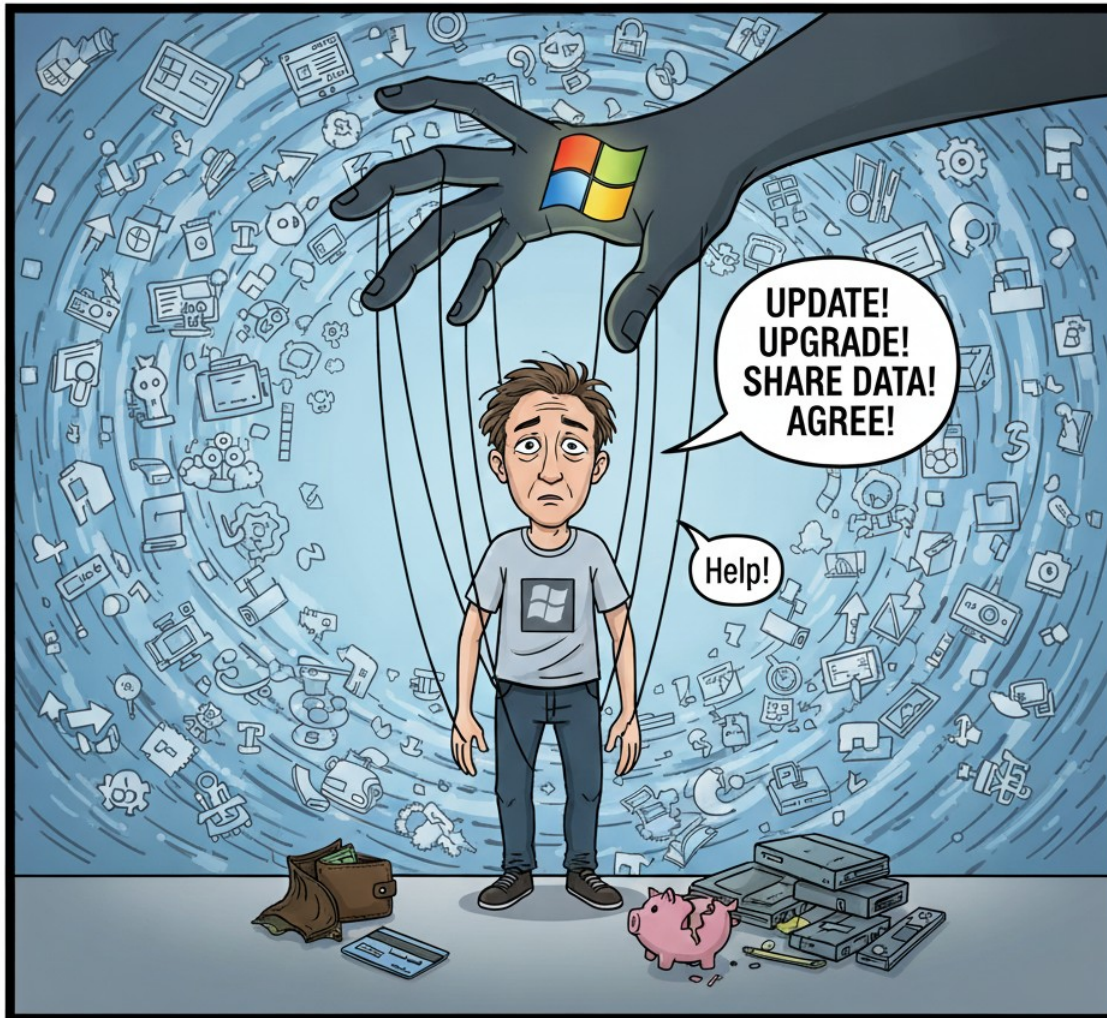
- Windows says it needs your data to keep you safe.
- It needs an antivirus program to keep itself safe.
- Who's protecting whom?

WINDOWS' PARADOXS!

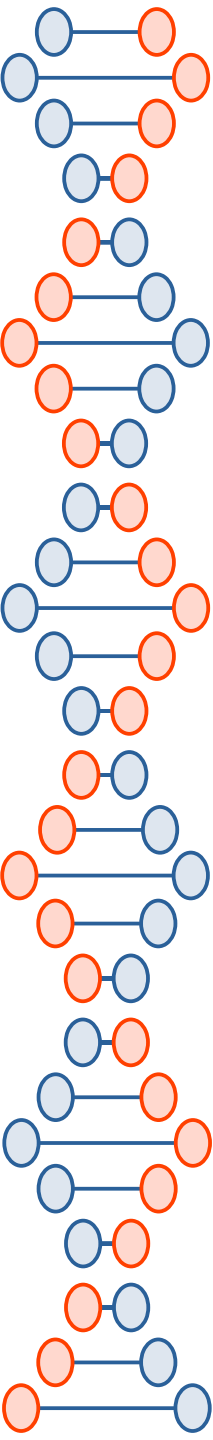
SECURITY VS. SELF-PRESERVATION?



WINDOWS USER: THE HELPLESS PUPPET



WHO'S REALLY IN CONTROL?



Standards, and it's Enemy

- IBM: PC architecture (ISA, BIOS), SQL,
- AT&T Bell Labs: UNIX, C language, foundation of open OS design
- Sun Microsystems : Java, NFS, ODF (OpenDocument), open networking
- Intel: x86 architecture, USB, PCI/PCIe hardware standards
- Netscape: JavaScript (ECMAScript), SSL/HTTPS, open web
- Google : Android (Linux-based), Chromium, TensorFlow
- **Microsoft: Twisted HTML, tried to sabotage Open Document Format**

MICROSOFT'S "OPEN" STANDARDS EMPORIUM



**MANIPULATING THE OPEN STANDARD:
THE CROOKED SHOPKEEPER!**

The solution

GNU/Linux ecosystem created by
Richard Stallman, Linus Torvalds and many others.



Richard Stallman: The Programmer - Idealist

- Harvard University (1970–74) BA Physics
- MIT AI Lab as a Programmer (1971–1980s)
- 27-Sep-1983, Announces the GNU project (a free OS).
- Established the Free Software Foundation (FSF) in 1985
- Wrote GCC, GNU Emacs and many other tools
- GPL (GNU General Public License)

Inspired a movement, not just tools

Open Book: Free as in Freedom



Linus Torvalds

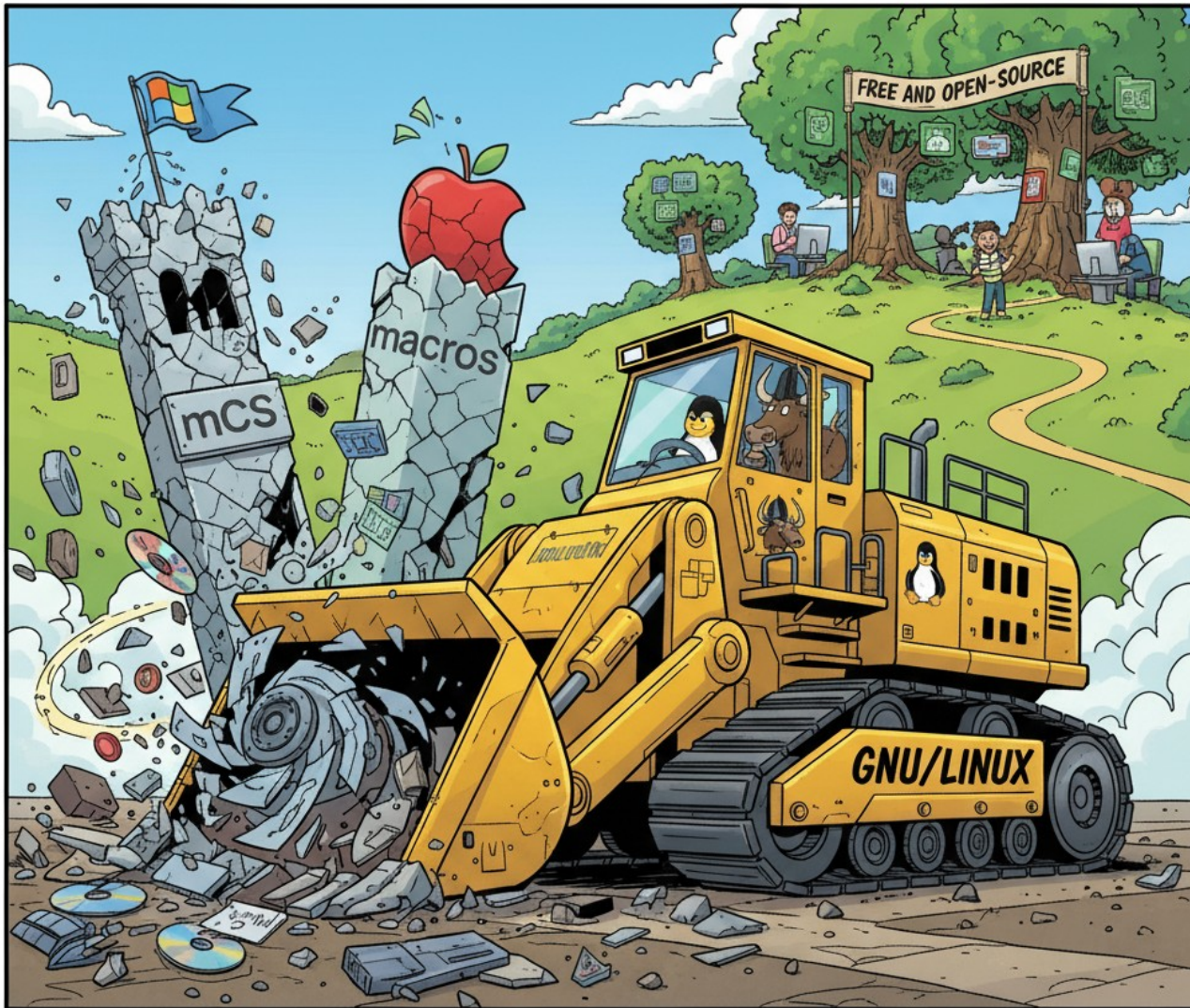
Linux kernel for the GNU/Linux OS

Biography: [Just for Fun](#)



- Started coding in BASIC on a VIC-20 , at the age of 10
- Joins MS computer science at Helsinki University, Finland
- 1991, Bought a 386 computer, **partly on credit**.
- Started writing an OS Kernel (Used GNU tools like GCC)
- Named it Linux (Unix from Linus), suggested by a co-worker.
- Shared according to the ideals of Science
- Switched to GNU GPL, after listening to a talk by Stallman
- Version 1.0 of Linux released in **March 1994**
- Together with GNU, a complete free OS became available.

THE OPEN-SOURCE RECLAMATION!



GNU/LINUX: BUILDING A FREE DIGITAL WORLD, ONE PROPRIETARY SYSTEM AT A TIME!

How GNU/Linux reaches you

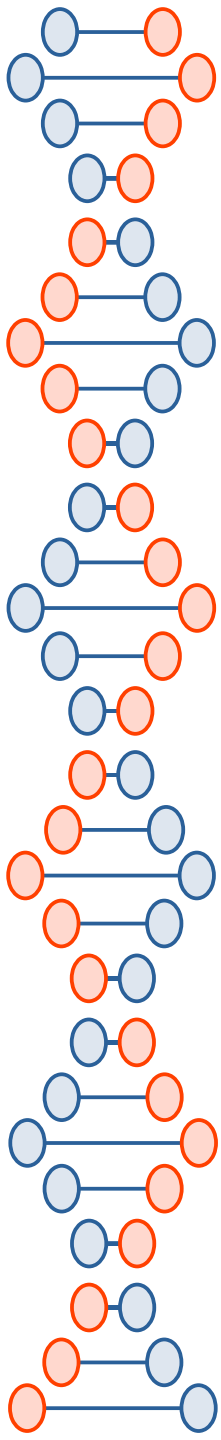
Different parts like the Kernel, Compilers, Web Servers, etc. are developed by different groups. An ordinary user need to get them ready for installing on a computer.

This need is taken care by the GNU/Linux Distributions, like

- Slackware - Started by an individual
- Redhat - First corporate distro (Fedora)
- Debian - An organization of Free Software developers
- Ubuntu - A Debian based distro, from Canonical Inc.
- Mint - A Debian based distro, community supported.

Same System, Many Flavours

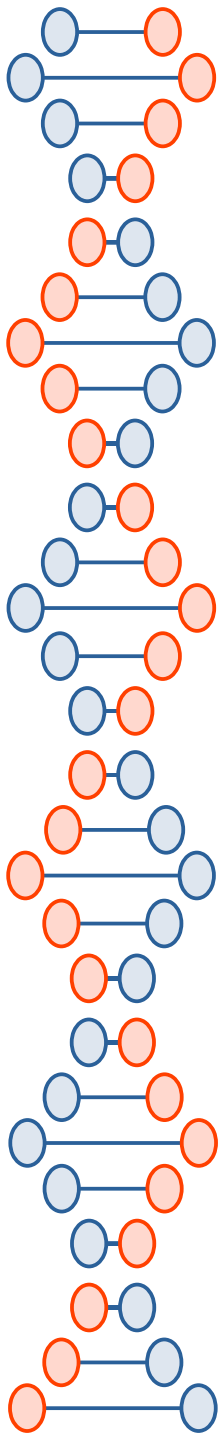




Current Status of GNU/Linux

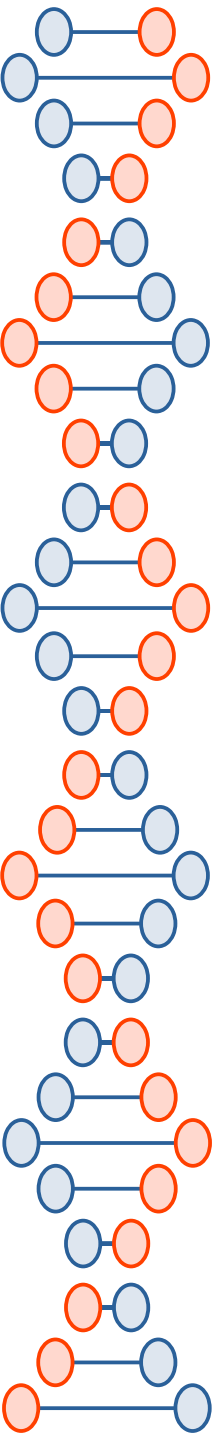
- Supercomputers: All of the top 500
- Web Servers: Approximately 70% of all websites
- Cloud Infrastructure: Around 90%.
- Software Development: About 53% of software
- Machine Learning: 87%

Desktop: Around 4% only, mainly because of the OEM vendors (Like Dell, HP etc.) influenced by Microsoft.



Implications of Free Software

- Prevents wasteful expenditure
 - Save the ~Rs 3000 crores annually on Windows OS
 - No Forced Hardware upgrades
- Avoids dependence on foreign or proprietary software vendors (e.g., Microsoft, Oracle)
- Freedom from proprietary file formats.
- Ideal for teaching and learning, since students can study how the software works.
- Freedom isn't just technical — it's social and political.

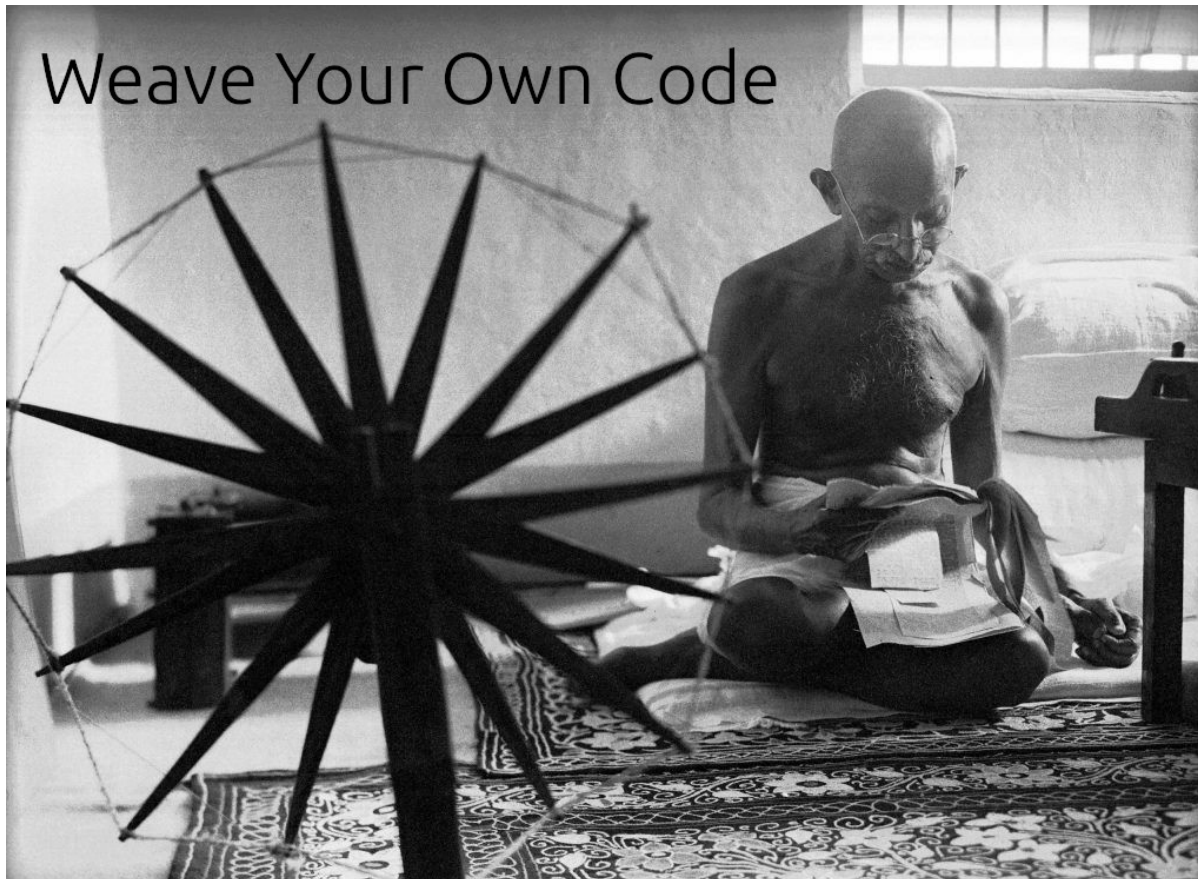


Relevance in the area of AI

- In 1980s the entire software industry was controlled by few corporations and software was very expensive.
- Arrival of GNU/Linux enabled a lot of new firms to come up (Google for example)
- Software became cheaper, open and more democratic due to the Free Software movement.
- Current AI scenario resembles the Operating Systems of 1980s, closed and owned by few.
- Free Software is the only option to make AI more democratic, essential due to many reasons.
- Available AI tools: TensorFlow , PyTorch , Scikit-learn, OpenCV, Hugging Face Transformers

How can you help ?

- Start using a Free OS and software tools.
- Learn how to install GNU/Linux.
- Help others to convert to Free Software



Don't dance to strings unseen,

Stand tall, think clean,

Be your own being

A free human being.

Thank You