

# Richard Stallman: "I Wished I Had Killed Myself"

By *srlinuxx*

Created 21/04/2010 - 2:02am

Submitted by srlinuxx on Wednesday 21st of April 2010 02:02:37 AM Filed under [OSS](#) [1]

I received a review copy of Steven Levy's seminal book Hackers. It's worth reading (a) for the photos of hackers as they were then, and (b) for the following revelatory confession of RMS:

*In our original interview, Stallman said, "I'm the last survivor of a dead culture. And I don't really belong in the world anymore. And in some ways I feel I ought to be dead." Now, meeting over Chinese food, he reaffirms this. "I have certainly wished I had killed myself when I was born," he says. "In terms of effect on the world, it's very good that I've lived. And so I guess, if I could go back in time and prevent my birth, I wouldn't do it. But I sure wish I hadn't had so much pain."*

[rest here](#) [2]

---

---

[OSS](#)

---

**Source URL:** <http://www.tuxmachines.org/node/44662>

**Links:**

[1] <http://www.tuxmachines.org/taxonomy/term/72>

[2] <http://opendotdotdot.blogspot.com/2010/04/richard-stallman-i-wished-i-had-killed.html>