

Minix Gets a NetBSD Code Infusion

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Minix, the Unix operating system that inspired Linus Torvalds to create Linux, has been expanded to give users a wider range of commands and features, thanks in large part to a Google Summer of Code project from last year.

Minix 3.2, released Wednesday, has many new Unix commands and libraries ported from NetBSD, another open-source Unix operating system. The update is part of an ongoing effort to modernize the OS, and make it usable beyond its original mission as a teaching aid.

Andrew Tanenbaum, a computer science professor at Vrije Universiteit in Amsterdam, created Minix as a low-cost implementation of Unix that students could use and study. The source code, along with a CD of the OS, accompanied his seminal 1987 textbook "Operating Systems: Design and Implementation."

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