

Reflecting on 14 years of free software

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Created 08/11/2012 - 9:00pm

Submitted by srlinuxx on Thursday 8th of November 2012 09:00:34 PM Filed under [OSS](#) [1]

14 years ago last month, I created my first PGP key to sign up to be a Debian developer. I recall what brought me to that place. I had been trying to improve my skill-set for my resume and wanted to learn to program.

Considering Linux was free compared to development software on Windows (and it ran on my Pentium 90MHz CPU when BSD didn't), it was an easy choice. However, I had no idea what I was getting into.

At the time, I was on a steep learning curve. This command line thing was nothing like the Apple //e BASIC prompt I was used to from my youth, and not even close to Mac/Windows. I was literally reinstalling my Linux OS 2-5 times a week because I would dig around into things that I had no business checking into.

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