

Xenix: The Microsoft Unix That Once Was

By *srlinuxx*

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One would not normally associate Microsoft with Unix. While Microsoft's interest(s) in Unix may remain minimal in recent times, history tells a very different story.

Let us take a quick journey down memory lane, back to the late 1970's and into the early-mid 80's. In 1979, Microsoft formed an agreement with AT&T Corporation to license Unix from AT&T. And then Microsoft licensed out its renamed Unix to OEM vendors, including Intel, Tandy and SCO. Those companies then ported it to their own hardware architectures and requirements.

Microsoft was hit by a legal problem of the 'UNIX' name not being able to be used.

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