

Linus Torvalds Quotes

*People, Thinking, Linux, Technology, Economy, Want, Trying, Use, Mean, Way,
Real, Microsoft, Worry, Issues, Different, Development, Writing, Men, Program,
Would Be*

A computer is like air conditioning - it becomes useless when you open Windows

~Linus Torvalds

Most of the good programmers do programming not because they expect to get paid or get adulation by the public, but because it is fun to program.

~Linus Torvalds

Talk is cheap. Show me the code.

~Linus Torvalds

Microsoft isn't evil, they just make really crappy operating systems.

~Linus Torvalds

Finnish companies tend to be very traditional, not taking many risks. Silicon Valley is completely different: people here really live on the edge.

~Linus Torvalds

Bad programmers worry about the code. Good programmers worry about data structures and their relationships.

~Linus Torvalds

Backups are for wimps. Real men upload their data to an FTP site and have everyone else mirror it.

~Linus Torvalds

Intelligence is the ability to avoid doing work, yet getting the work done.

~Linus Torvalds

What commercialism has brought to Linux has been the incentive to make a good distribution that is easy to use and that has all the packaging issues worked out.

~Linus Torvalds

Only wimps use tape backup. Real men just upload their important stuff on ftp and let the rest of the world mirror it.

~Linus Torvalds

All operating systems sucks, but Linux just sucks less

~Linus Torvalds

C++ is a horrible language. It's made more horrible by the fact that a lot of substandard programmers use it, to the point where it's much much easier to generate total and utter crap with it.

~Linus Torvalds

That's what makes Linux so good: you put in something, and that effort multiplies. It's a positive feedback cycle.

~Linus Torvalds

In many cases the user interface to a program is the most important part for a commercial company: whether the programs works correctly or not seems to be secondary.

~Linus Torvalds

I like offending people, because I think people who get offended should be offended.

~Linus Torvalds

In real open source, you have the right to control your own destiny.

~Linus Torvalds

In short: just say NO TO DRUGS, and maybe you won't end up like the Hurd people.

~Linus Torvalds

If Microsoft ever does applications for Linux it means I've won.

~Linus Torvalds

Those that can, do. Those that can't, complain.

~Linus Torvalds

Software is like sex: It's better when it's free.

~Linus Torvalds

People who are doing things for fun do things the right way by themselves.

~Linus Torvalds

Avoiding complexity reduces bugs.

~Linus Torvalds

Nobody actually creates perfect code the first time around, except me. But there's only one of me.

~Linus Torvalds

I may make jokes about Microsoft at times, but at the same time, I think the Microsoft hatred is a disease.

~Linus Torvalds

I used to be interested in Windows NT, but the more I see it, the more it looks like traditional Windows with a stabler kernel. I don't find anything technically interesting there.

~Linus Torvalds

I want my office to be quiet. The loudest thing in the room - by far - should be the occasional purring of the cat.

~Linus Torvalds

Don't hurry your code. Make sure it works well and is well designed.

Don't worry about timing.

~Linus Torvalds

Theory and practice sometimes clash. And when that happens, theory loses. Every single time.

~Linus Torvalds

In my opinion MS is a lot better at making money than it is at making good operating systems.

~Linus Torvalds

In open source, we feel strongly that to really do something well, you have to get a lot of people involved.

~Linus Torvalds

I started Linux as a desktop operating system. And it's the only area where Linux hasn't completely taken over. That just annoys the hell out of me.

~Linus Torvalds

I'm basically a very lazy person who likes to get credit for things other people actually do.

~Linus Torvalds

The fact that ACPI was designed by a group of monkeys high on LSD, and is some of the worst designs in the industry obviously makes running it at any point pretty damn ugly.

~Linus Torvalds

When you say 'I wrote a program that crashed Windows,' people just stare at you blankly and say 'Hey, I got those with the system, for free.'

~Linus Torvalds

To be a nemesis, you have to actively try to destroy something, don't

you? Really, I'm not out to destroy Microsoft. That will just be a completely unintentional side effect.

~Linus Torvalds

Hey, I'm a good software engineer, but I'm not exactly known for my fashion sense. White socks and sandals don't translate to 'good design sense'.

~Linus Torvalds

I think Leopard is a much better system [than Windows Vista] but OS X in some ways is actually worse than Windows to program for. Their file system is complete and utter crap, which is scary.

~Linus Torvalds

We all know Linux is great...it does infinite loops in 5 seconds.

~Linus Torvalds

I am pragmatic. That which works, works, and theory can go screw itself. However, my pragmatism also extends to maintainability, which is why I also want it done well.

~Linus Torvalds

I get the biggest enjoyment from the random and unexpected places. Linux on cellphones or refrigerators, just because it's so not what I envisioned it. Or on supercomputers.

~Linus Torvalds

And what's the Internet without the rick-roll?

~Linus Torvalds

An infinite number of monkeys typing into GNU emacs would never make a good program.

~Linus Torvalds

Helsinki isn't all that bad. It's a very nice city, and it's cold really only in wintertime.

~Linus Torvalds

I am not out to destroy Microsoft, that would be a completely unintended side effect.

~Linus Torvalds

Every time I see some piece of medical research saying that caffeine is good for you, I high-five myself. Because I'm going to live forever.

~Linus Torvalds

Helsinki may not be as cold as you make it out to be, but California is still a lot nicer. I don't remember the last time I couldn't walk around in shorts all day.

~Linus Torvalds

If you think your users are idiots, only idiots will use it.

~Linus Torvalds

No problem is too big it can't be run away from

~Linus Torvalds

The Linux philosophy is "laugh in the face of danger". Oops. Wrong one. "Do it yourself". That's it.

~Linus Torvalds

I do get my pizzas paid for by Linux indirectly.

~Linus Torvalds

If you start doing things because you hate others and want to screw them over, the end result is bad.

~Linus Torvalds

Excusing bad programming is a shooting offence, no matter what the circumstances.

~Linus Torvalds

Part of doing Linux was that I had to communicate a lot more instead of just being a geek in front of a computer.

~Linus Torvalds

Before the commercial ventures, Linux tended to be rather hard to set up, because most of the developers were motivated mainly by their own interests.

~Linus Torvalds

I don't think commercialization is the answer to anything. It's just one more facet of Linux, and not the deciding one by any means.

~Linus Torvalds

If you think penguins are fat and waddle, you have never been attacked by one running at you in excess of 100 miles per hour.

~Linus Torvalds

Artists usually don't make all that much money, and they often keep their artistic hobby despite the money rather than due to it.

~Linus Torvalds

Bill Gates really seems to be much more of a business man than a technologist, while I prefer to think of Linux in technical terms rather than as a means to money.

~Linus Torvalds

I've been employed by the University of Helsinki, and they've been perfectly happy to keep me employed and doing Linux.

~Linus Torvalds

I've never regretted not making Linux shareware: I really don't like the "pay for use" binary shareware programs.

~Linus Torvalds

I don't try to be a threat to MicroSoft, mainly because I don't really see MS as competition. Especially not Windows-the goals of Linux and Windows are simply so different.

~Linus Torvalds

People enjoy the interaction on the Internet, and the feeling of belonging to a group that does something interesting: that's how some software projects are born.

~Linus Torvalds

A consumer doesn't take anything away: he doesn't actually consume anything. Giving the same thing to a thousand consumers is not really any more expensive than giving it to just one.

~Linus Torvalds

I've been very happy with the commercial Linux CD-ROM vendors linux Red Hat.

~Linus Torvalds

It just makes it even harder for people to even approach the (open source) side, when they then end up having to worry about public humiliation.

~Linus Torvalds

I'm generally a very pragmatic person: that which works, works.

~Linus Torvalds

Today, I will offer free web hosting and developpement helps for projects under Sourceforge

~Linus Torvalds

Developers have the attention spans of slightly moronic woodland creatures.

~Linus Torvalds

See, you not only have to be a good coder to create a system like Linux, you have to be a sneaky bastard too.

~Linus Torvalds

It's what I call "mental masturbation", when you engage in some pointless intellectual exercise that has no possible meaning.

~Linus Torvalds

Portability is for people who cannot write new programs.

~Linus Torvalds

I very seldom worry about other systems. I concentrate pretty fully on just making Linux the best I can.

~Linus Torvalds

The memory management on the PowerPC can be used to frighten small children.

~Linus Torvalds

Any program is only as good as it is useful.

~Linus Torvalds

Given enough eyeballs, all bugs are shallow.

~Linus Torvalds

People will realize that software is not a product; you use it to build a product.

~Linus Torvalds

I never felt that the naming issue was all that important, but I was

obviously wrong, judging by how many people felt. I tell people to call it just plain Linux and nothing more.

~Linus Torvalds

The idea of abstracting away the one thing that must be blindingly fast, the kernel, is inherently counter productive.

~Linus Torvalds

I like to think that I've been a good manager. That fact has been very instrumental in making Linux a successful product.

~Linus Torvalds

The fame and reputation part came later, and never was much of a motivator, although it did enable me to work without feeling guilty about neglecting my studies.

~Linus Torvalds

You won't get sued for anticompetitive behavior.

~Linus Torvalds

Linux has definitely made a lot of sense even in a purely materialistic sense.

~Linus Torvalds

Shareware tends to combine the worst of commercial software with the worst of free software.

~Linus Torvalds

I don't expect to go hungry if I decide to leave the University. Resume: Linux looks pretty good in many places.

~Linus Torvalds

The thing with Linux is that the developers themselves are actually customers too: that has always been an important part of Linux.

~Linus Torvalds

The cyberspace 'earnings' I get from Linux come in the format of having a Network of people that know me and trust me, and that I can depend on in return.

~Linus Torvalds

If you want to travel around the world and be invited to speak at a lot of different places, just write a Unix operating system.

~Linus Torvalds

Software patents, in particular, are very ripe for abuse. The whole system encourages big corporations getting thousands and thousands of patents. Individuals almost never get them.

~Linus Torvalds

Making Linux GPL'd was definitely the best thing I ever did.

~Linus Torvalds

I think, fundamentally, open source does tend to be more stable software. It's the right way to do things.

~Linus Torvalds

Hmmm, completely a-religious - atheist. I find that people seem to think religion brings morals and appreciation of nature. I actually think it detracts from both.

~Linus Torvalds

I don't actually follow other operating systems much. I don't compete - I just worry about making Linux better than itself, not others.

~Linus Torvalds

Whoever came up with "hold the shift key for eight seconds to turn on 'your keyboard is bugged' mode" should be shot.

~Linus Torvalds

Only religious fanatics and totalitarian states equate morality with legality.

~Linus Torvalds

My name is Linus, and I am your God.

~Linus Torvalds

Let's put it this way: if you need to ask a lawyer whether what you do is "right" or not, you are morally corrupt. Let's not go there. We don't base our morality on law.

~Linus Torvalds

The fact is, there aren't just two sides to any issue, there's almost always a range of responses, and "it depends" is almost always the right answer in any big question.

~Linus Torvalds

Quite frankly, even if the choice of C were to do *nothing* but keep the C++ programmers out, that in itself would be a huge reason to use C.

~Linus Torvalds

The bulk of all patents are crap. Spending time reading them is stupid. It's up to the patent owner to do so, and to enforce them.

~Linus Torvalds

Software is like sex. It's only good when it's for free.

~Linus Torvalds

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