

Re: Open Letter/Challenge to Darth Gates

Source: <http://linux.derkeiler.com/Newsgroups/alt.os.linux/2003-10/1486.html>

From: shephed (*smokey_at_twist1up.com*)

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A collective reply from America:

"SUCK IT BITCH!"

"---= Öşâmâ Bîñ Këñ0Bí =---" <abuse@anarchy.gov> wrote in message news:OBK941FD9DA7F4D20001138@r2-dv8.anarchy.gov...

> *There is no escape, the Empire and all its servants are doomed...*

>

>

> *Messrs William Gates Jnr & Steven Ballmer*

> *Microsoft Corporation*

> *One Microsoft Way*

> *Redmond*

> *Washington, USA*

>

>

> *Dear Sirs*

>

> *I see you have been active again in making interesting and to some degree*

> *highly amusing statements about Free/Libre Open Source Software and the*

> *many and varied people who make up its community.*

>

> *I in particular would like to thank Mr. Steven Ballmer for your*

> *entertaining exposee of Linux's deepest, darkest secret – that it can*

> *seriously worry the senior executive of a convicted predatory monopoly,*

> *without that ever having been the intention of its principal software*

> *designer and initial developer.*

>

> *I would also like to thank you for humming and hawing around the question*

> *of the release of source code to people who can use it, in the light of*

> *the new MVP source code entitlement program. Well, are they deserving*

> *members of the Windows development team or not?*

>

> *In relation to your comments, Steve Ballmer, on Linux's "road map", I*

> *will refrain from expounding on Linus Torvalds' comment on the cover of*

> *one of Bill Gates' books, showing him standing in the middle of an empty*

> *road. It's not nice to make jokes like that, is it, Your Billness? Road*

> *kill is no joke, even if some enterprising chef has written a book about*

> *it.*

>
> *No, I have something else on my mind, something much more worthy.*
>
> *I would like to challenge you to a software coding bake-out, a bet to see
> which methodology works, and which doesn't. You have made some progress
> with your NT source tree, anyone can see that – Windows 2k3 is a more
> serious product than Windows XP, and definitely a more realistic – and
> much more massive – product than Windows 95. Congratulations.*
>
> *You have also declared that Windows 95, Windows NT 3.x and NT 4.x are
> discontinued, end-of-line, unsupported products. And Windows 98 is
> shortly going to be in the same category, having already been
> discontinued. And Microsoft is attempting to roll the Win9x features into
> the NT line. XP is the nearest you have come to success. In the process,
> Windows users have enjoyed an interesting remote use of RPC and other
> features that might otherwise bug you. And in the process you have put
> back Longhorn's release date.*
>
> *My challenge is this – release the entire range of discontinued, end-of-
> line and unsupported Operating Systems mentioned above (Win9x, NT 3.x and
> Win4.x) and their related utilities and Productivity Applications, as
> Open Source under the BSD/MIT license, since you have stated at sundry
> times and in diverse manners that that license is one you can live with.
> You are of course expected to sanitise the source trees – we don't want
> trouble with absurd IP cases.*
>
> *Release the sanitised source trees, minus any bits and pieces of third-
> party encumbered code Microsoft may have in the Win9x and NT 3.x and 4.x
> source trees, to the ftp servers at the MIT, ibiblio, the U of Calif. at
> Berkeley, and the U of Cambridge, UK, with prominent notices stating that
> they are released under the terms of the BSD/MIT licenses placed in
> slashdot.org, newsforge.com, computerworld.com, news.com.com,
> www.theinquirer.net and www.theregister.co.uk and other industry news
> outlets.*
>
> *My bet is that in the time it takes Microsoft to come up with a half-way
> decent Windows product, the Open Source development process starting from
> an earlier, identical initial source tree without constraints will
> produce one better. The length of time is going to be the same.*
>
> *On one side you have the multi-billion dollar transnational corporation,
> on the other you have an amorphous world-wide community. One has a head
> start, but the code bases for this challenge are the same.*
>
> *The only catch – Microsoft is not allowed to use the source code produced
> by the open source effort until after it has rolled out Longhorn – thus
> preserving the independence of the challengers, who will not have access
> to the Longhorn source tree. After the challenge has finished and the
> bets have been tallied up, then it is a totally different story, because
> the BSD/MIT license doesn't prohibit incorporation within a closed-source
> code base, only the denial of attribution. But should Microsoft use the*

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- > *independent effort's code during such a challenge, it would be an*
- > *admission that the Free/Libre Open Source community is right, and must be*
- > *met with an appropriate forfeit – the sanitising and opening of the*
- > *Longhorn source tree.*
- >
- > *I propose in the interim that the challenge in the interim be named*
- > *something other than Windows or Office – precisely what will have to be*
- > *decided upon later.*
- >
- > *So, there you have it. Are either of you betting men, able to face a*
- > *challenge?*
- >
- > *Yours Sincerely*
- > *Wesley Parish*
- >
- >
- > --
- > --=(Öşâmâ ßíñ Kěñ0ßí)=-----
- > *Rebel Alliance Galactic Usenet News Service*
- > -----
- > *Bin Laden, before turning to the Dark Side:*
- > <http://www.sid-ss.net/911/obl-at14.jpg>