# FOSS Tales

COMP8440: FOSSD
Lecture 14

# Tivoisation

- Tivo Series 1
    - ok to have proprietary kernel modules?
    - ok to reverse engineer those modules?
- Tivo Series 2
    - ok to lock down the kernel?
    - Does the GPL guarantee the ability to use the source on the box it was written for?
- GPLv3 and Tivoisation
    - Different rules for consumer products?

# gcc and egcs

- **gcc early days**
  - key component of GNU system
  - amazingly high quality compiler developed quickly
- **gcc2 problems**
  - development bogged down
  - frustration among many gcc developers
- **egcs fork (August 1997)**
  - used a more open development style
  - broadened the scope of the project
- **egcs adopted as new gcc (April 1999)**
  - fork was resolved
  - established steering commitee

# Qt/KDE and Gnome

- ## Qt 1.x
  - Used by KDE desktop
  - Concerns fueled Gnome work
  - FreeQT license - what if Trolltech withdrew it?
- ## Qt 2.0
  - QPL license
  - Not GPL compatible
  - Is KDE legal?
- ## Qt 2.2 (September 2000)
  - GPL license
  - All ok now?
- ## Qt 4.5 (March 2009)
  - LGPL option added

# Ubuntu

- Debian fork
    - started in 2004
    - aimed for greater usability
    - widespread adoption
    - strong financial backing
- Criticisms
    - support for proprietary drivers – is this good for Linux?
    - giving back – does Ubuntu do enough?

# Novell and Microsoft

- ## SuSE Linux
    - popular distro – especially in Europe
    - bought by Novell in 2003
- ## Novell/MS deal
    - announced suddenly in November 2006
    - no consultation with community (suppliers)
    - contained patent covenent. Is it a GPLv2 violation?
    - Led to defensive clauses in GPLv3

# Other Controversies

- Some key controversies that shaped FOSS
    - GNU/Linux vs Linux
    - The SCO lawsuit
    - The bitkeeper debate
    - Nvidia drivers
    - Sistina and GFS
    - ssh and OpenSSH
    - Mozilla trademark and IceWeasel
    - Cloud computing and FOSS