

Is FOSS a Macho thing?

Women and FOSS

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Free New World

- Apache – 70.98%
- Bind – 75%, 95% reverse
- GNU/Linux – 28.5%
- OpenSSH – 66,8%
- Firefox keeps growing, passed 30% in 7 countries

But...

where are the women????

- FLOSSPOS showed just 2% of women in FLOSS development
- In the begging of LC-BR, 30 people on the mailing list and nevermind% of conferences
- Why that? Women just don't like Linux?

HOWTO Encourage Women in Linux

Written by Val Hanson, added to The
Linux Documentation Project

Opinions, experiences, discussions on grr-only
mailing list

Focus on male community

Dos and Don'ts: jokes, behaviour

But... why should be they to worry
about?

Why are we so few?

- Let's see some :
 - Historical reasons
 - Educational reasons
 - Social reasons
 - FOSS community characteristics
 - What can we do to change it

A woman tech's day...

USER FRIENDLY by Illiad

Columbia Internet tech support, Miranda speaking, how may I help you?

Uhhh...put me through to tech support please.



This is technical support, sir. How can I help you?

But...you're a chick.

TAP
TAP
TAPPY



I'm also a highly trained systems technologist.

Sure you are, and I'm the President. Want to be my intern?



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Fake reasons

- Women have no history in Mathematics or Physics
- No great inventions made by women
- No women ever won a Nobel prize

Some history...

- History - women don't need to go to school
- Women were forbidden in science and maths academies – kudos to Plato, Teano
- Queen Christina of Sweden, Princess Elizabeth of Bohemia made it – kudos to Descartes

Fake reasons

- Women are more willing to take care of family and house keeping
- Women care more about communication and socialization than business

Women as workers in Brazil

- In Brazil, 50 years ago, “Married Woman” law
- We gain 17% less than men – could be worse, 27% in other fields
- Women wouldn't be good doctors either...

Results

- Women are seen as a less worth workforce: we all know we have to work twice hard in the half of time to get half of return
- Women still are in charge of raising children and house keeping: several of us have no extra time to dedicate to profession

Fake reasons

- There is no real models of important women in computers history
- There is no important contribution

Real models

Ada Byron, 1822,
Wrote the first
routine known
nowadays as
programming
for Babbage's machine

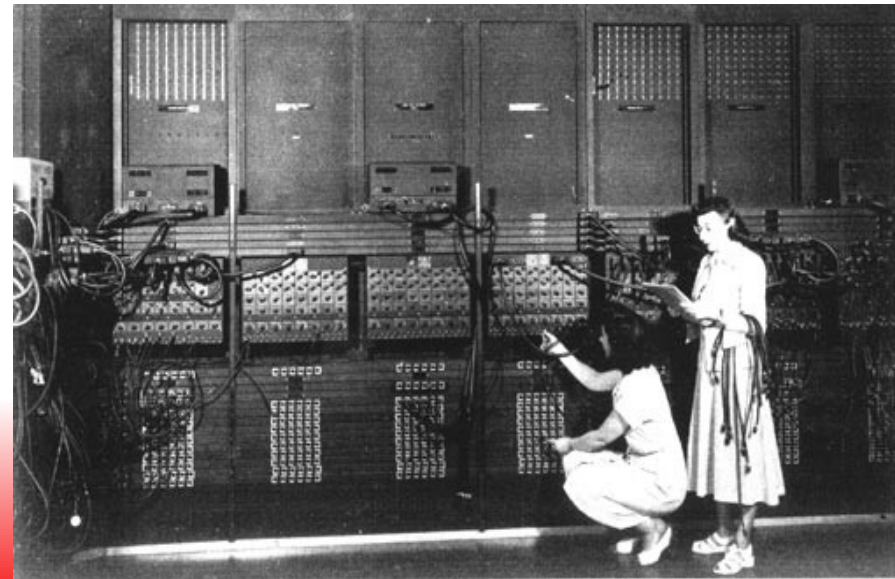


Real models

Eniac programmers

In 1946, just women were hired to develop the system

They had to use a identification of “sub-professionals”



Modelos Reais

Grace Hopper – Cobol,
compiler, math genius,
computers pionner, inventist,
teacher – her acts helped
to transform society



Real Models

Pia Smith -
President of Linux
Australia for two
years in a roll





Real Models

- Deb Richardson – Linuxchix founder
- Jenn – maintainer, writer
- Telsa – Gnome, CVS, LSB, XML
- Val Hanson – kernel hacker



Brazilian Models Real

- LinuxChix-BR: Camila(Misfit - <http://linuxbr.org>),
Vanessa(Bani/JavaGirl - <http://www.java.blogger.com.br>),
Renata(GentooBR), Priscilla
Pimenta(Debian-MG), Luana
Coimbra(Suse-BR)

entro
LIVRE

LINUX
CHIX
.ORG
BR



Fake reason

- FOSS community is free to everyone
- Don't matter your gender, just your code

FOSS community

- “Wow, a geek girlfriend! Weekends playing Tuxrace!”
- “I never saw a women working with Linux before”
- “Must been here with her brother”
- “Do you have any picture?”

How's fault?

- I blame women
- The dominantes are those who let themselves be dominantes
- Men could had created sexism, but women keep it
- Being a weak, servile, dependent woman is not just bad for you, it is bad for every women

Enough of wining!

- Minorities always face problems
- Lots of attacks are based in personal attacks, to make the other fragile
- Show your habilities, specialities, your work! Write howtos, give talks, help the community! Go to our chat!

Do not isolate yourself

- “stranger walks into a bar scene”
- Make friends, talk, men have to get used that we want contribute and participate
- Do not put yourself down – that is not cute

And how FOSS can help?

- 70% of poor are women: effect of lack of education, professionalism
- FOSS promotes improvement: professional, personal, in free modes, promote creativity

How can we change it?

- Men -> read Howto Encourage Women
- Women -> spread the idea. Encourage another ways to see the world, encourage women's technology education

How can you change it

- Support each other
- Several women face the same problems as you: talk to them
- Make a local identity: what worked for us maybe not work for you
- Think in those who we work for: the next generation

Some advices

- “Besides technical capabilities, train the hability to communicate yourself and public exposition. Give yourself the right to make mistakes and learn with them.”
Claudia Zuccas, IBM
- “Sensitiviness is not weakness. Never take as a fault.” Carolina Zani, CIO Boticário.
- “Fight against any kind of prejudice.”
Maria José Sanches, Scorpus

LinuxChix-BR today

- 293 subscribers
- About 50% are women
- 14790 hits -> 5000 visits average per month
- Own server - Linuxchix worldmap
- Wiki - women involved in computers history

3 years of Linuxchix Brazil National Meeting

- 2003 – LinuxChix-BR and Slackware National Meeting
- 2004 – LinuxChix-BR National Meeting
- 2005 – First expedition
- 2006 – 37% female attendees

Links

- <http://www.linuxchix.org.br/>
 - #linuxchix-br na irc.freenode.net
- <http://www.linuxchix.org/>
- <http://www.blender3d.org/>
- <http://www.gimp.org/>
- <http://www.jahshaka.com/>
- <http://rathe.mur.com/~kobi/abha/>

Links

- http://www.dwheeler.com/oss_fs_why.html

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