# Samba and GPLv3

## What we gained, what we lost.

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# Why move to GPLv3 at all ?

- Samba Team members (Jeremy, Tridge, Simo) were contributors to the GPLv3 drafting process.

    - Fear of software patents.

    - Intense dislike of DRM.

    - Protections against "Covenants not to sue".

    - Creating Free Software is <u>still</u> a political act.

*"Freedom isn't free*

*No, there's a hefty in' fee.*

*And if you don't throw in your*

*buck 'o five*

*Who will?"*

# What did we lose ?

In public, one major vendor.



Keep your lawyers off my computer

rotten-apple.org

In private, probably others.

# The rise and fall of Samba replacements

- Closed-source, proprietary replacements for Samba servers saw an opportunity.

    - Likewise

    - HvNAS

    - Solaris (Nexenta) and others..

- How did they do ?

    - ~~Likewise~~ : Bought out by EMC. All other purchasers left with abandon-ware.

    - ~~HvNAS~~ : Bought out by NetApp. All other purchasers left with abandon-ware.

- Samsung are thinking of trying with a GPLv2 server...

# Compatibility with GPLv2-only code

- Some developers, as a protest act against GPLv3, license under GPLv2-only.

  - Some Linux kernel developers worst offenders here.

- GPLv2-only is an anti-social act in the Free Software community.

- If you must link with existing GPLv2-only code (Linux), please use GPLv2-or-later.

  - Allows integration with existing GPLv2-only software whilst still allowing GPLv3 projects to use the code.

- If no requirements to link with GPLv2, use GPLv3-or-later.

# Use in places we didn't want to be :-)

No DRM infested devices can use Samba code.
Some embedded systems don't use Samba because of this.



WARNING DRM

Product restricts usage or invades privacy.
DefectiveByDesign.org

# What did we gain ?

A better license:

ftp.samba.org/pub/samba/slides/linuxcollab-why-samba-went-gplv3.pdf

- No more 'death penalty'.

- Patents less of a threat.

- Freedom for users.

- Easier to comply.

- Benefits for Samba Team engineers.

# No more GPL death penalty.

# Let me tell you a horror story..

# Better software patent protection

# Freedom for users !

Some embedded systems still use DRM with Samba, but must disable all DRM when Samba is changed by a user. Locked down 'App Store' prohibited.



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# Easier to work with vendors

- Protection from the most common mistake: No source or offer.

    – Web distribution is a no-brainer.

- Clarification of "System Libraries" in GPLv3 makes it much easier for vendors to structure code to interface with Samba.

- 'Forgiveness' built into the license makes using it much less risky.

    – Still a lot of anti-GPLv3 F.U.D. propagated (mainly on lwn.net discussions it seems :-).

# Easier to expand engineering pool

- Now we don't have a GPL penalty, Samba has relaxed our rules on insisting on personal copyright on contributions.

- We now have a 'standard' process by which engineers working for Corporations can assert rights to contribute under GPLv3.

    - One email and they're done !

- Makes it easier for Samba Team committers to change jobs. No up-front negotiation required.

# Would we do it again ?
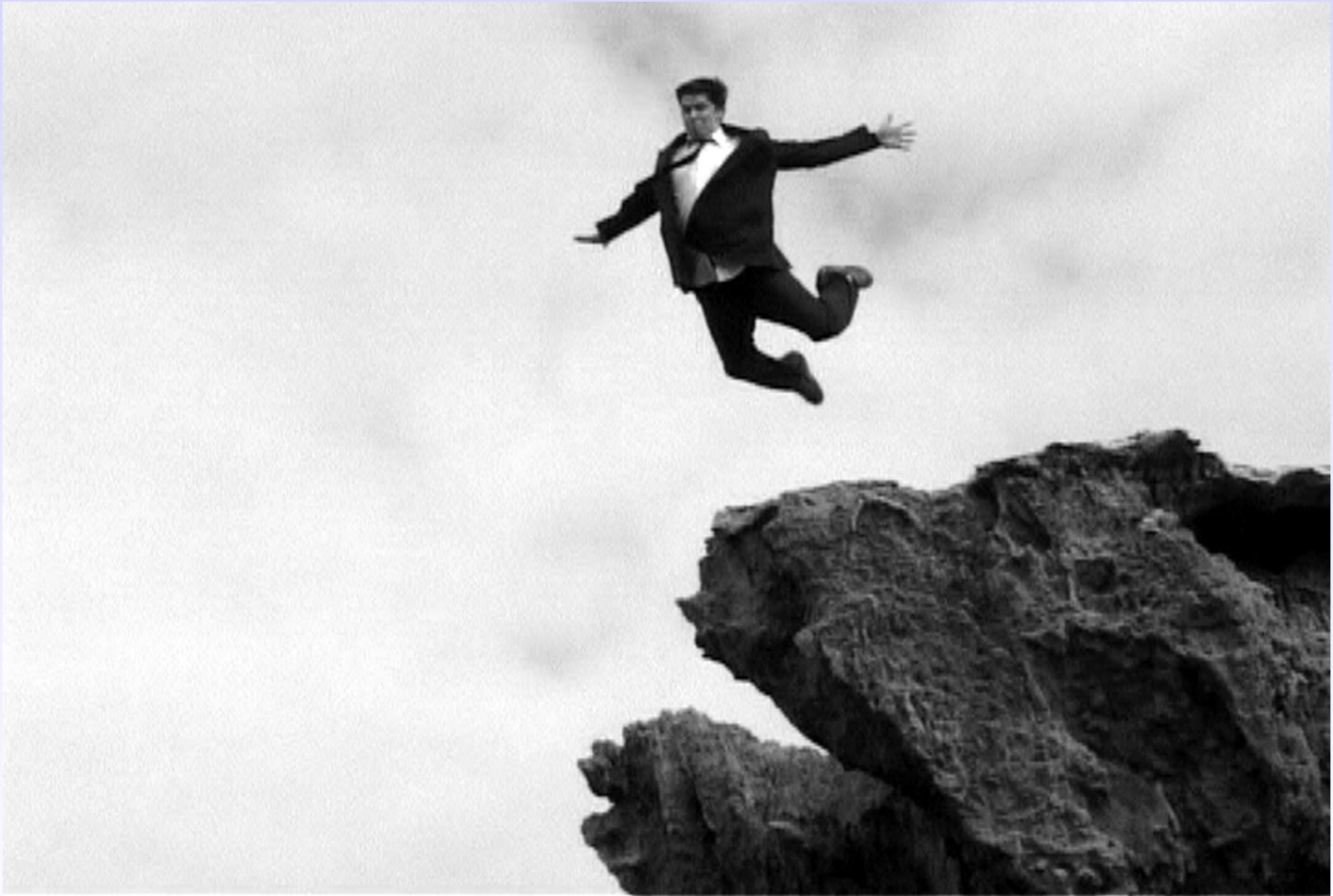
# Yes – with some reservations

- As most of the loudest complainers about GPLv3 were actually involved in the drafting, we didn't expect the amount of F.U.D propagated over it.

    – To quite Simon Phipps - "Never trust a corporation".

- Could have done better to coordinate with other projects in the move to GPLv3.

    – **FSF – I'M LOOKING AT YOU HERE !**

        - ALL FSF projects should be [L]GPLv3 by now.

- Massive screw up in being unable to persuade Linux kernel to move.

    – Acts as kernel for anti-GPLv3 movement.

# However, for Samba it was a relatively smooth transition

- Most Samba OEM vendors and distributors just smoothly rolled over to the new versions of Samba (3.2.0 and later) that were under GPLv3.

  - No changes needed to any vendors source code distribution mechanisms or GPL compliance efforts.

- Several who left either fearing the GPLv3 or tried out proprietary solutions have now come back.

  - Being left with abandon-ware helped a lot here :-).

- Samba plans for the long term view.

  - Another 20 years of supported software solutions.

# GPLv3 is *NOT* toxic for vendors

- Amazon just announced major Samba4 deployments as their directory service for the Amazon cloud:

    – http://aws.amazon.com/blogs/aws/new-aws-directory-service/

    – Don't have to ship source as we're no AGPLv3.

- Is this the future for GPLv3 code deployment ?

    – AGPLv3 currently considered toxic for proprietary cloud vendors.

    – GPLv3 becomes the safer choice ?

SAMBA — Opening Windows to a Wider World