



2015 Fellow Awards Nomination Form

Please email completed form to: nominations@computerhistory.org by August 30, 2015

**1. Nominator** (all fields required):

Name:	Alison Chaiken		
Title:	member of technical staff		
Company:	Mentor Graphics		
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Nominators must agree to respond to any requests for clarification from the selection committee.

2. Fellows Candidate (*= required field. Please include all other requested information if known)

* Name:	Richard M. Stallman		
Title:	President		
Company:	Free Software Foundation		
Admin Assistant	Jeanne Rasata Email: rms-assist@gnu.org		
Address:	51 Franklin Street		
City:	Boston	State:	MA
Zip:	02110-1301	Country:	USA
* Phone:	617-542-5942	* Email:	rms@gnu.org

3. Additional documentation being submitted with nomination: (optional)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Brief biography	<input type="checkbox"/> List of publications	<input type="checkbox"/> Reprints of representative papers (up to 5)	<input type="checkbox"/> Other
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4. As nominator, what is your relationship to the candidate? (25 words or less)

Multi-decade user of emacs, GCC, GDB, and glibc in whose creation RMS was directly involved, plus much software distributed under the GNU Public License.

4. Theme of principal contribution for which the candidate is nominated: (Please summarize the candidate's contribution(s) in 25 words or fewer)

For his creation 30 years ago of the widely used GNU tool suite and his authorship of the influential and controversial GNU Public License.

5. Ultimate impact of candidate's principal contribution(s): (Please summarize ultimate impact of the candidate's contribution(s) in 50 words or fewer)

Stallman's creation of the GNU Compiler Collection (GCC) in 1987 had a profound impact on the evolution of C and C++ and the projects that rely on them, notably the Linux kernel. Stallman's GNU Public License has framed the legal debate about software licensing by inspiring the "open source" movement.



6. Reasons for nomination: *(Please explain why the candidate meets the Museum's selection criteria for the Fellow Award. The guideline for this section is 500 to 1500 words)*

The list of CHM Fellows includes the creators of Unix, Linux and Apple Computer. These are among the many projects whose development was greatly facilitated by the free GCC compiler with its broad support for a long list of processor architectures. As the ACM SIGPLAN Committee noted when it awarded the GCC project its [2014 Programming Languages Software Award](#) (<http://www.sigplan.org/Awards/Software/Main>),

GCC provides the foundation for numerous experiments in programming language design, including the early C++ language, numerous evolutions of the C and C++ standards, parallel programming with OpenMP, and the Go programming language. GCC has been used by many research projects, leading to high-impact publications and contributions to the development trunk, including sophisticated instruction selection based on declarative machine descriptions, auto-tuning techniques, transactional memory, and polyhedral loop nest optimizations.

The companion GDB debugger written in part by Stallman is nearly as ubiquitous. The extensible Emacs text editor that Stallman authored starting in 1983 is also still actively developed. Few software engineers have launched as many projects with lasting impact as Stallman did during the 1980's.

Nonetheless, Stallman may well be remembered more for his political leadership than for his engineering accomplishments. Stallman founded the free software movement in 1985 by publishing the GNU Manifesto in which he first publicly expressed the revolutionary idea of copyleft. The concept was formally codified in the GNU Public License in 1989. A slew of diverse open source projects continue to offer GPL and its derivatives as a license ([44% according to Blackduck](#) <http://www.blackducksoftware.com/resources/data/top-20-open-source-licenses>), among them the Linux kernel, the MySQL database, the Blender graphics package, the VLC media player, the Git version control system and the Perl programming language. Various demonized or idolized by different communities, the legal stricture of copyleft has left its mark on the business of software as well as on its technological development.

The GPL has been influential in its own right, inspiring the creation of other licensing schemes such as [those put forth by Creative Commons](#) (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/>) and the [CERN Open Hardware License](#) (<http://www.ohwr.org/projects/cernohl/wiki>). The Open Source Initiative's [Open Source Definition](#) (<http://opensource.org/osd>) was inspired by the [Debian Free Software Guidelines](#) (https://www.debian.org/social_contract#guidelines), which were themselves based on the [Free Software Definition](#) (<http://www.gnu.org/philosophy/free-sw.html>) authored by Stallman.

Stallman created the GNU Project in 1984 and in 1985 established the Free Software Foundation to support it. The GNU project includes important organizations like the GNOME Project and sponsors the development of widely used software like the GLIBC runtime library.

Stallman's contributions were previously recognized by the MacArthur Foundation, which [named him a fellow](#) (<http://www.macfound.org/fellows/412/>) in 1990.



[Richard Stallman's official biography](#)

Richard is a software developer and software freedom activist. In 1983 [he announced the project](#) to develop the GNU operating system, a Unix-like operating system meant to be entirely free software, and has been the project's leader ever since. With that announcement Richard also launched the free software movement. In October 1985 he started the Free Software Foundation.

Since the mid-1990s, Richard has spent most of his time in political advocacy for free software, and spreading the ethical ideas of the movement, as well as campaigning against both software patents and dangerous extension of copyright laws. Before that, Richard developed a number of widely used software components of GNU, including the original Emacs, the GNU Compiler Collection, the GNU symbolic debugger (gdb), GNU Emacs, and various other programs for the GNU operating system.

Richard pioneered the concept of copyleft, and is the main author of the GNU General Public License, the most widely used free software license.

Richard graduated from Harvard in 1974 with a BA in physics. During his college years, he also worked as a staff hacker at the MIT Artificial Intelligence Lab, learning operating system development by doing it. He wrote the first extensible Emacs text editor there in 1975. He also developed the AI technique of dependency-directed backtracking, also known as truth maintenance. In January 1984 he resigned from MIT to start the GNU project.

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