The History of the BSD Daemon

Brought to you by

Dr. Marshall Kirk McKusick

BSD Canada Conference 2025
June 13, 2025
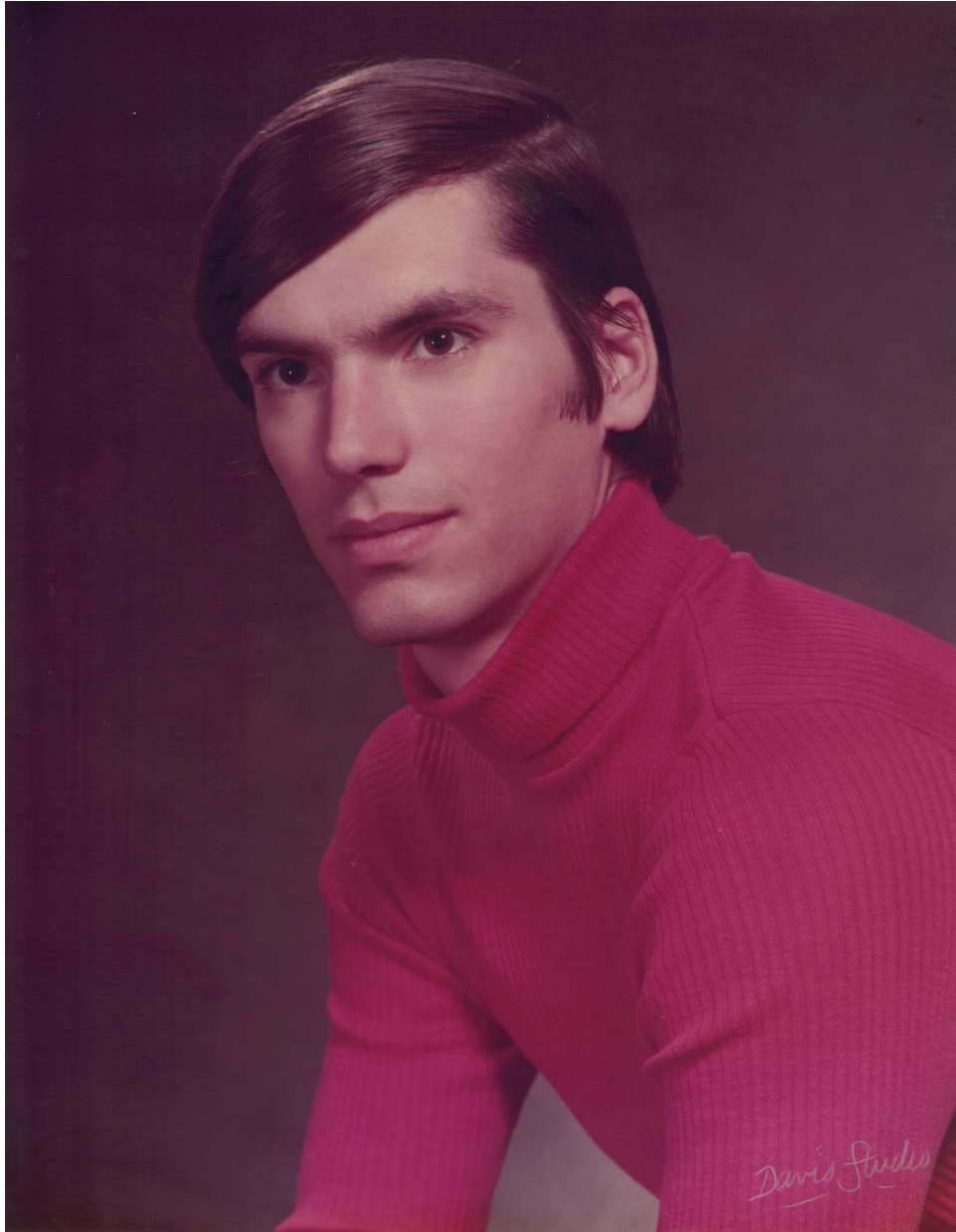
University of Ottawa
Ottawa, Canada

Kirk Starts His Career

Formal portrait taken to publicize my first tutorial offering in 1979

Name That Daemon

Unnamed, just the BSD Daemon.

- People kept coming up with names

- Finally settled on Beastie

- Not a demon (an evil spirit) but rather a daemon (a deified being)

Phil Foglio Daemon

First attempt at drawing a daemon.

- Commissioned by Mike O´Brien

- Remuneration was cracking Phil's safe

- First appeared on a shirt printed by a family shop in Chicago

Phil Foglio Daemon T-shirt

Used in June 1985 on a Usenix 10th Anniversary T-shirt

First John Lasseter Daemon

Drawn in B&W and used on BSD Manual covers

First John Lasseter Daemon on Manual

First appeared on 4.2BSD Manuals published by Usenix

First John Lasseter Daemon T-shirt

A colorized version was printed on a shirt

First John Lasseter Daemon Logo

Used by the CS Department of St Olaf College in Minnesota

First John Lasseter Daemon Mascot

Used by the Bay Area Large Installed System Administrators (Bay LISA)

First John Lasseter Daemon Program Promotion

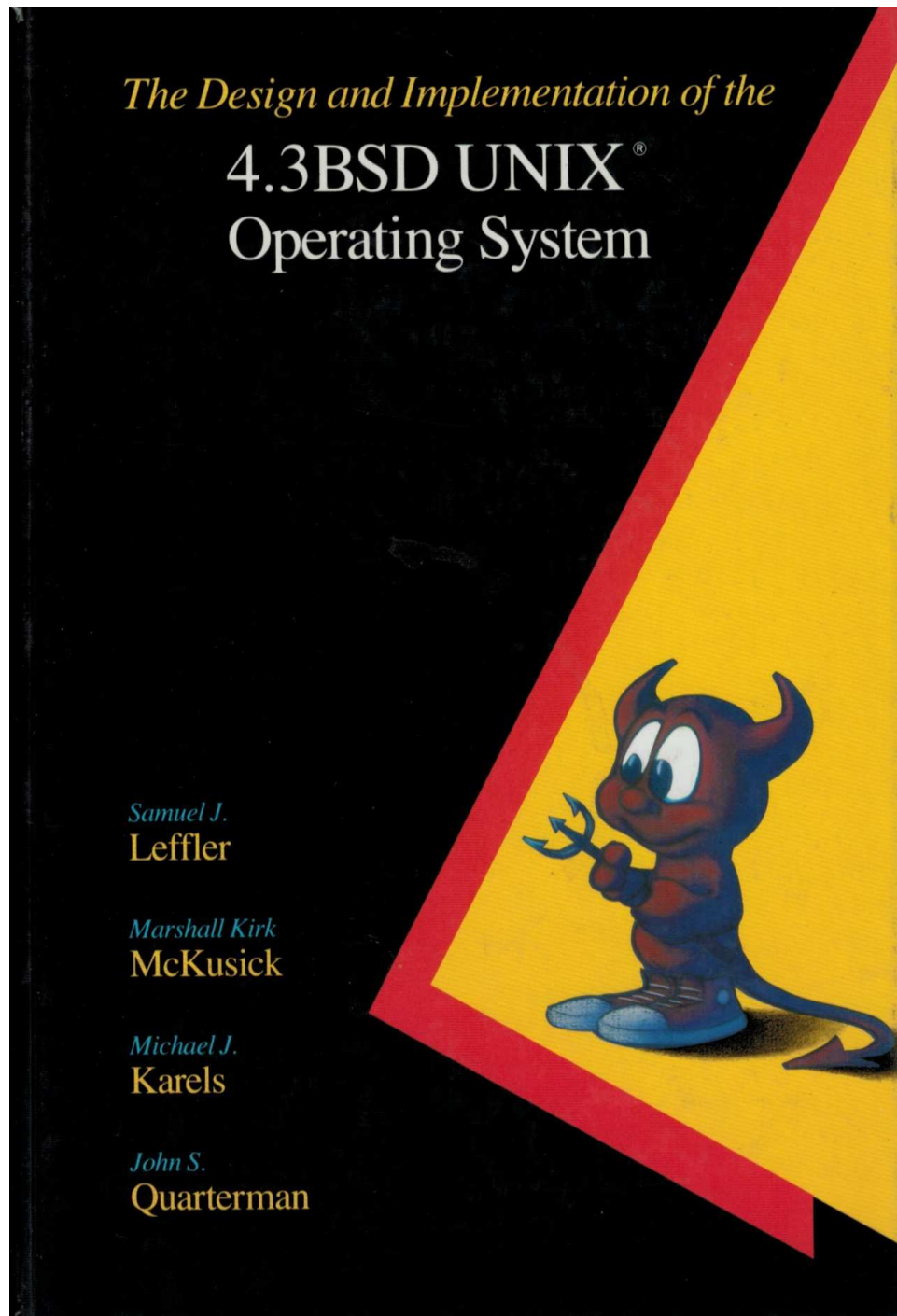Promoting the then popular Rdist program (predecessor of rsync)

Second John Lasseter Daemon

First true-colored Daemon commissioned for the 4.3BSD textbook

Second John Lasseter Daemon on Book

First publshed Fall 1988

The Design and Implementation of the
4.3BSD UNIX®
Operating System

Samuel J.
Leffler

Marshall Kirk
McKusick

Michael J.
Karels

John S.
Quarterman

Second John Lasseter Daemon Stitched

Stitched version for polo shirts

Second John Lasseter Daemon Tour Promotion

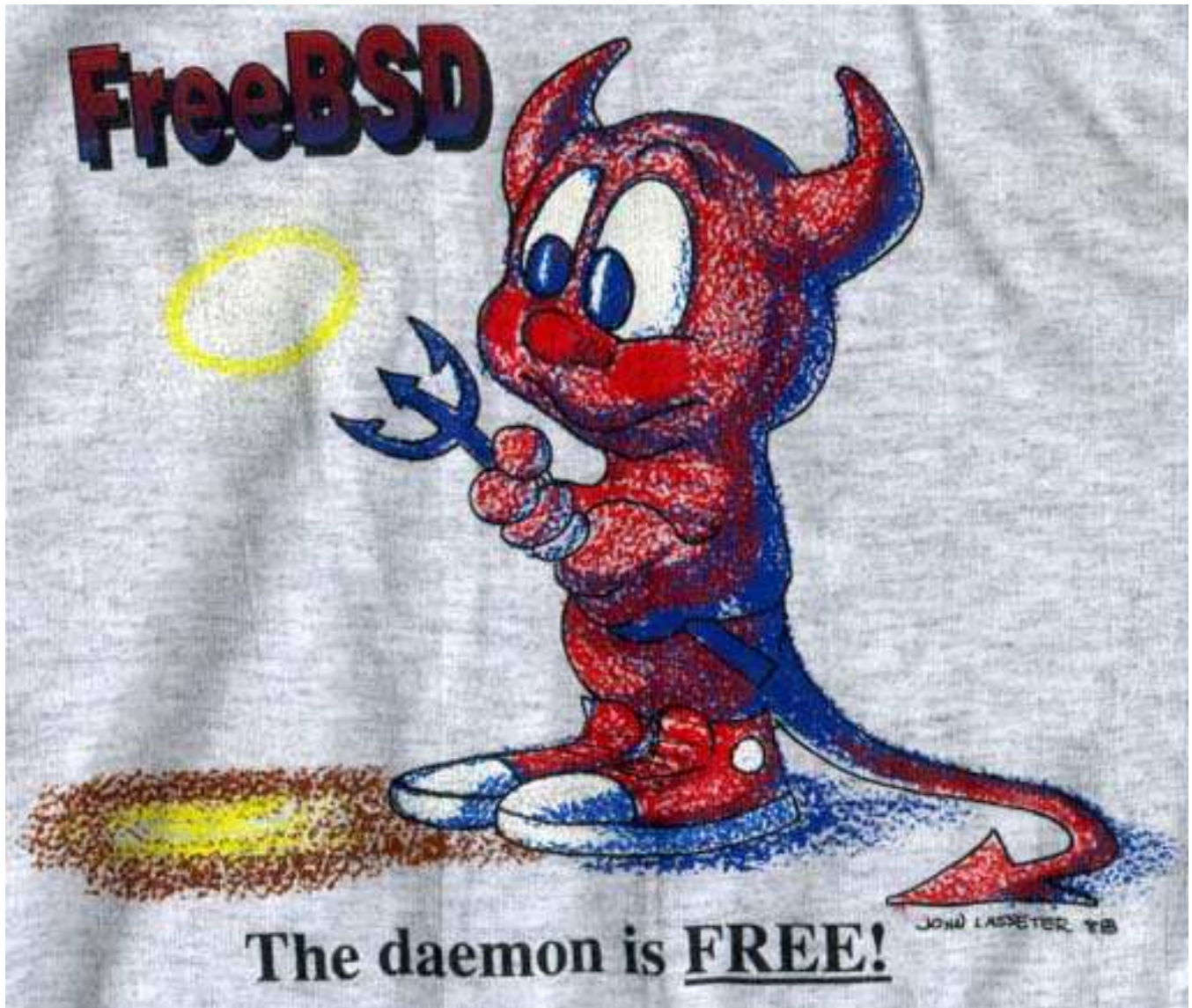A shirt from my two-month tour of Australia

McKusick does Oz

Second John Lasseter Daemon Commentary

BSD skewers MS/DOS

FreeBSD Distribution Daemon Logo

Walnut Creek FreeBSD Distribution Daemon Logo

Third John Lasseter Daemon

Preliminary sketch of the daemon
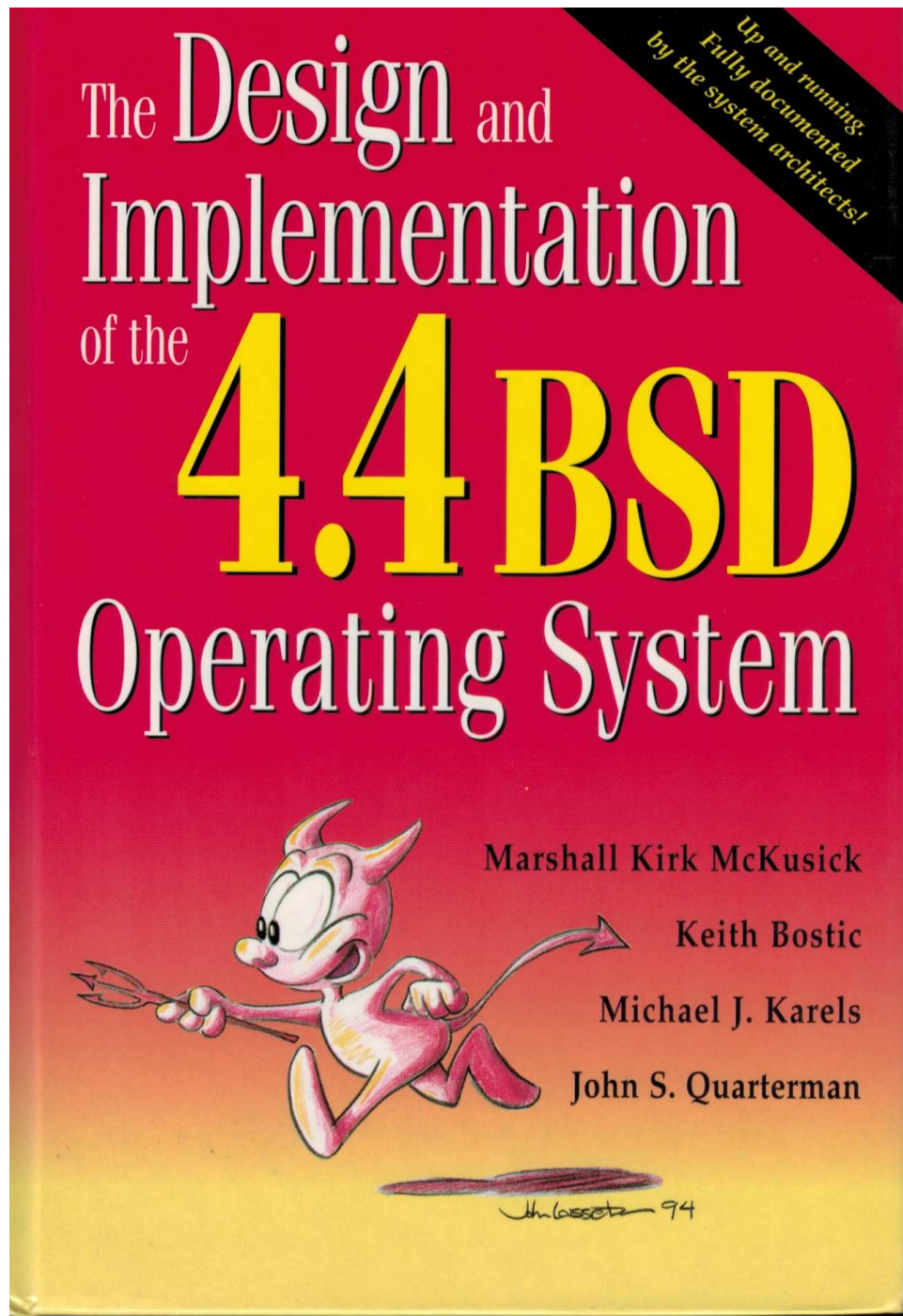commissioned for the 4.4BSD textbook

Third John Lasseter Daemon Picture

Picture of the daemon commissioned for the 4.4BSD textbook

Third John Lasseter Daemon on Book

First publshed Fall 1995

Third John Lasseter Daemon Stitched

Stitched version for polo shirts

Third John Lasseter Daemon T-shirt

Widely distributed T-shirt

MAY THE SOURCE BE WITH YOU

Carol Peel Lawsuit Daemons Take 1

Slam-dunking the Death Star

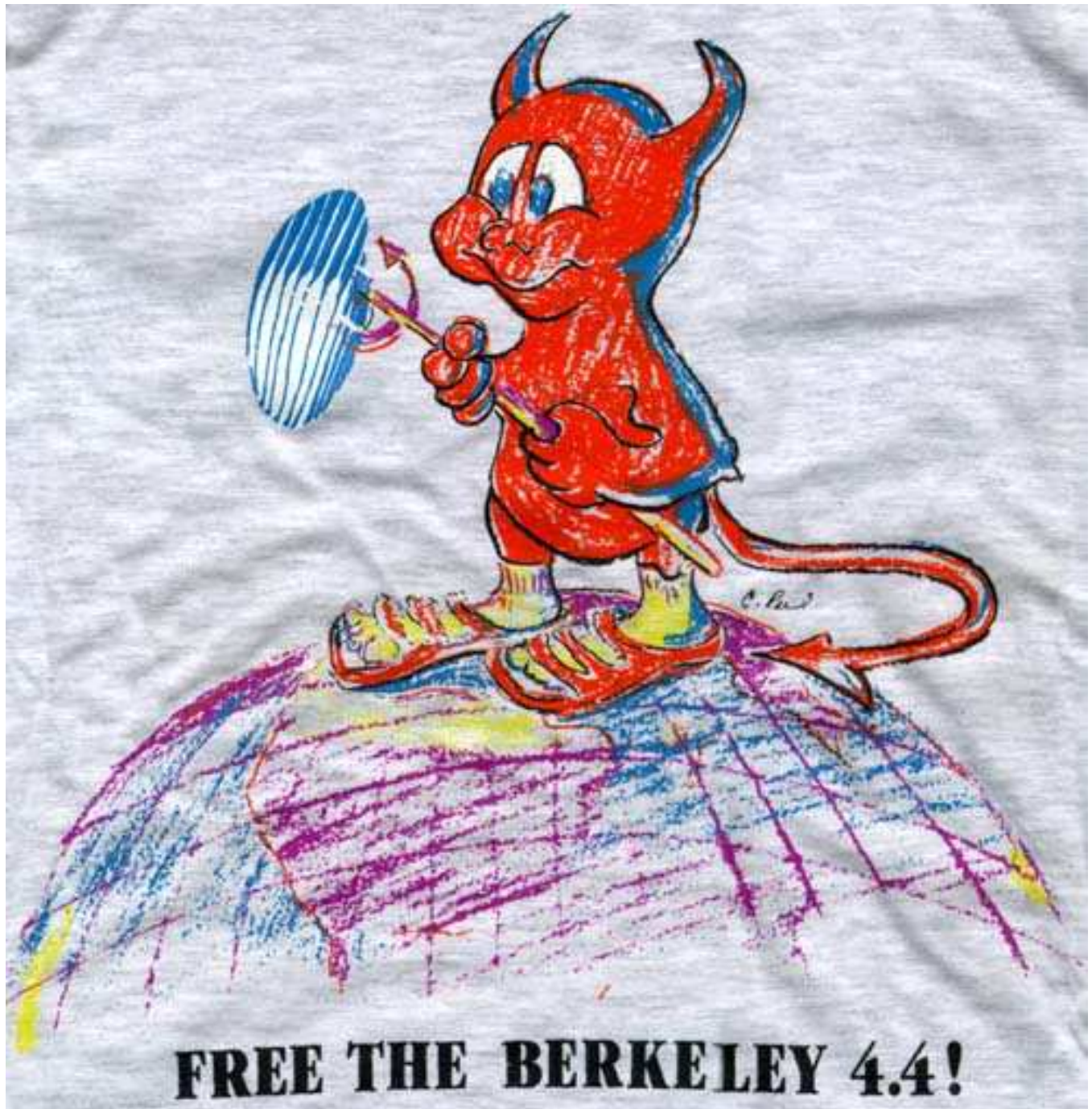# Carol Peel Lawsuit Daemons Take 2

Skewering the Death Star

Carol Peel Lawsuit Daemons T-shirt

Free the Berkeley 4.4 T-shirt

FREE THE BERKELEY 4.4!

NetBSD Distribution Daemon Logo

OpenBSD Distribution Daemon Logo

FreeBSD Foundation Daemon Logo

BSD Marketing Daemon

BSD Power to Serve Daemon

BSD Documentation Daemon

FreeBSD News Daemon

FreeBSD Releases Daemon

Copyright Assignment Page 1

January 4, 2001

IMMEDIATE ATTENTION REQUESTED

John Lasseter
Pixar Animation Studios
1200 Park Avenue
Emeryville, CA 94608

Dear John,

     I am writing because I need your cooperation to ensure the proper use of the BSD Daemon character.

     As you know, you drew images of the BSD Daemon periodically between 1984 and 1994. For example, you created the following three drawings:

- 1984 (black and white standing daemon used on the cover of the 4.2BSD and 4.3BSD manuals),

- 1988 (the colored chalk daemon used on the cover of the 4.3BSD textbook), and

- 1994 (the pen and ink running daemon used on the cover of the 4.4BSD textbook).

     My understanding of our dealings in the past is that you have agreed that I am the owner of all intellectual property rights regarding the BSD Daemon and that you accepted payment for the drawings on that basis. Accordingly, for the past eleven years, I have held and asserted ownership of all BSD Daemon intellectual property rights. I have worked hard during this time to ensure that the BSD Daemon is used only to brand BSD-based hardware and software products and that they are used only by companies and individuals that truly sell or use BSD-based software. For example, I have insisted that companies using the BSD Daemon enter into license agreements with me.

     In recent years, the use of the BSD Daemon has grown considerably, fueled by the ascent of Linux and a growing awareness of open source software in the business world. This increased popularity of BSD-based software (most notably FreeBSD, which now claims over two million users), requires that I take additional steps to ensure proper use of the BSD Daemon. I am also working with BSDi to market BSD software commercially. For these reasons, I would like to apply for a United States copyright registration of the BSD Daemon. I may also seek to trademark one or all of the three variants of the BSD Daemon that I mention above.

Copyright Assignment Page 2

My lawyers inform me that in order to file an application for copyright regarding the BSD Daemon, I should obtain a signed acknowledgment from you, as the original artist of the BSD Daemon, acknowledging that your works regarding the BSD Daemon were ''works for hire'' on my behalf, and that you have assigned any and all rights you might have once had in the BSD Daemon to me.

Accordingly, please sign the statement below and return this letter to me in the self-addressed stamped envelope that I have enclosed. I would very much appreciate your doing so at your earliest convenience, as I would like to further protect the appropriate use of the BSD Daemon as soon as possible.
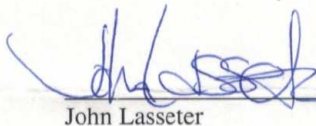
Please feel free to contact me at mckusick@mckusick.com or 510-843-9542 if you have any questions. Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Marshall Kirk McKusick

I, John Lasseter, am the original artist of the BSD Daemon. I have reviewed the contents of this letter and acknowledge that they are accurate. I hereby acknowledge and agree that any drawings I created regarding the BSD Daemon were works-for-hire for Marshall Kirk McKusick, and that I have assigned any and all rights I might have regarding the BSD Daemon to him

4-2-01

John Lasseter   Date

Copyright Page 1

CERTIFICATE OF REGISTRATION

This Certificate issued under the seal of the Copyright Office in accordance with title 17, United States Code, attests that registration has been made for the work identified below. The information on this certificate has been made a part of the Copyright Office records.

Marybeth Peters

REGISTER OF COPYRIGHTS
United States of America

UNITED STATES COPYRIGHT OFFICE
THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS
OFFICIAL SEAL

FORM VA
For a Work of the Visual Arts
UN'
RE' VAu 529-058

EFFECTIVE DATE OF REGISTRATION
5 - 14 - 01
Month / Day / Year

DO NOT WRITE ABOVE THIS LINE. IF YOU NEED MORE SPACE, USE A SEPARATE CONTINUATION SHEET.

1 TITLE OF THIS WORK ▼

BSD Daemon

NATURE OF THIS WORK ▼ See instructions

Cartoon character

PREVIOUS OR ALTERNATIVE TITLES ▼

Publication as a Contribution If this work was published as a contribution to a periodical, serial, or collection, give information about the collective work in which the contribution appeared.   **Title of Collective Work ▼**

If published in a periodical or serial give: Volume ▼   Number ▼   Issue Date ▼   On Pages ▼

2 NAME OF AUTHOR ▼

a Marshall K. McKusick

DATES OF BIRTH AND DEATH
Year Born ▼   Year Died ▼

Was this contribution to the work a "work made for hire"?
☒ Yes
☐ No

Author's Nationality or Domicile
Name of Country
OR { Citizen of ▶ United States
Domiciled in ▶

Was This Author's Contribution to the Work
Anonymous?   ☐ Yes ☒ No
Pseudonymous? ☐ Yes ☒ No
If the answer to either of these questions is "Yes," see detailed instructions.

NATURE OF AUTHORSHIP Check appropriate box(es). **See instructions**
☐ 3-Dimensional sculpture ☐ Map ☐ Technical drawing
☒ 2-Dimensional artwork ☐ Photograph ☐ Text
☐ Reproduction of work of art ☐ Jewelry design ☐ Architectural work

NOTE

Under the law, the "author" of a "work made for hire" is generally the employer, not the employee (see instructions). For any part of this work that was "made for hire" check "Yes" in the space provided, give the employer (or other person for whom the work was prepared) as "Author" of that part, and leave the space for dates of birth and death blank.

b NAME OF AUTHOR ▼

DATES OF BIRTH AND DEATH
Year Born ▼   Year Died ▼

Was this contribution to the work a "work made for hire"?
☐ Yes
☐ No

Author's Nationality or Domicile
Name of Country
OR { Citizen of ▶
Domiciled in ▶

Was This Author's Contribution to the Work
Anonymous?   ☐ Yes ☐ No
Pseudonymous? ☐ Yes ☐ No
If the answer to either of these questions is "Yes," see detailed instructions.

NATURE OF AUTHORSHIP Check appropriate box(es). **See instructions**
☐ 3-Dimensional sculpture ☐ Map ☐ Technical drawing
☐ 2-Dimensional artwork ☐ Photograph ☐ Text
☐ Reproduction of work of art ☐ Jewelry design ☐ Architectural work

3 Year in Which Creation of This Work Was
Completed 1994
◀ Year   This information must be given in all cases.

Date and Nation of First Publication of This Particular Work
Complete this information ONLY if this work has been published.
Month ▶   Day ▶   Year ▶   ◀ Nation

4 COPYRIGHT CLAIMANT(S) Name and address must be given even if the claimant is the same as the author given in space 2. ▼

Marshall K. McKusick
1616 Oxford Street
Berkeley, CA 94709

See instructions before completing this space.

Transfer If the claimant(s) named here in space 4 is (are) different from the author(s) named in space 2, give a brief statement of how the claimant(s) obtained ownership of the copyright. ▼

APPLICATION RECEIVED
MAY 14, 2001
ONE DEPOSIT RECEIVED
MAY 14, 2001
TWO DEPOSITS RECEIVED

FUNDS RECEIVED

DO NOT WRITE HERE
OFFICE USE ONLY

MORE ON BACK ▶ • Complete all applicable spaces (numbers 5-9) on the reverse side of this page.
• See detailed instructions.   • Sign the form at line 8.

DO NOT WRITE HERE
Page 1 of ____ pages

Copyright Page 2

DO NOT WRITE ABOVE THIS LINE. IF YOU NEED MORE SPACE, USE A SEPARATE CONTINUATION SHEET.

PREVIOUS REGISTRATION Has registration for this work, or for an earlier version of this work, already been made in the Copyright Office?

☐ Yes ☒ No If your answer is "Yes," why is another registration being sought? (Check appropriate box.) ▼

a. ☐ This is the first published edition of a work previously registered in unpublished form.

b. ☐ This is the first application submitted by this author as copyright claimant.

c. ☐ This is a changed version of the work, as shown by space 6 on this application.

If your answer is "Yes," give: **Previous Registration Number** ▼   **Year of Registration** ▼

6

DERIVATIVE WORK OR COMPILATION Complete both space 6a and 6b for a derivative work; complete only 6b for a compilation.

a. **Preexisting Material** Identify any preexisting work or works that this work is based on or incorporates. ▼

See instructions
before completing
this space.

b. **Material Added to This Work** Give a brief, general statement of the material that has been added to this work and in which copyright is claimed. ▼

DEPOSIT ACCOUNT If the registration fee is to be charged to a Deposit Account established in the Copyright Office, give name and number of Account.

Name ▼   **Account Number** ▼

7

CORRESPONDENCE Give name and address to which correspondence about this application should be sent.   Name/Address/Apt/City/State/ZIP ▼

Owen T. Prell
Stein & Lubin LLP
600 Montgomery Street, 14th floor
San Francisco, CA 94111

Area code and daytime telephone number ▶ (415) 981-0550   Fax number ▶ (415) 981-4343

Email ▶ oprell@steinlubin.com

8

CERTIFICATION* I, the undersigned, hereby certify that I am the

check only one ▶ {
  ☒ author
  ☐ other copyright claimant
  ☐ owner of exclusive right(s)
  ☐ authorized agent of _____
     Name of author or other copyright claimant, or owner of exclusive right(s) ▲
}

of the work identified in this application and that the statements made by me in this application are correct to the best of my knowledge.

Typed or printed name and date ▼ If this application gives a date of publication in space 3, do not sign and submit it before that date.

Marshall K. McKusick   Date ▶ 4/19/01

Handwritten signature (X) ▼

X _Marshall K. McKusick_

9

Certificate
will be
mailed in
window
envelope
to this
address:

Name ▼ Owen T. Prell
        Stein & Lubin LLP

Number/Street/Apt ▼
        600 Montgomery Street, 14th Floor

City/State/ZIP ▼
        San Francisco, CA 94111

YOU MUST
• Complete all necessary spaces
• Sign your application in space 8

**SEND ALL 3 ELEMENTS
IN THE SAME PACKAGE**
1. Application form
2. Nonrefundable filing fee in check or money order payable to *Register of Copyrights*
3. Deposit material

As of July 1, 1999,
the filing fee for
Form VA is $30.

MAIL TO
Library of Congress
Copyright Office
101 Independence Avenue, S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20559-6000

*17 U.S.C. § 506(e): Any person who knowingly makes a false representation of a material fact in the application for copyright registration provided for by section 409, or in any written statement filed in connection with the application, shall be fined not more than $2,500.

June 1999—100,000
WEB REV: June 1999   ⊕ PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER   ☆U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE: 1999-454-879/71

Textbook Project

A Third Edition of ''*The Design and Implementation of the FreeBSD Operating System*'' is getting underway.

Pearson Education will not be publishing the third edition.

Pearson has returned the copyright to us.

We have contracted with No Starch Press to do our Third Edition.

Textbook Authors

We are expanding the set of authors

- Kirk McKusick: Preface, History, FFS Filesystem, Cat Herding

- George Neville-Neil: Networking

- Robert Watson: Security

- John Baldwin: Kernel Services, Process Management, Virtualization

- Warner Losh: I/O System, Devices, System Startup

- Mark Johnson: Memory Management

- Allan Jude: ZFS Filesystem

- Rick Macklem: Network Filesystem

Questions

Marshall Kirk McKusick

email: <mckusick@mckusick.com>

web site: www.mckusick.com

YouTube:
youtube.com/@marshallkirkmckusick1756

''History of the BSD Daemon'' is available as a 478-piece lazer-cut Liberty Puzzle from https://www.mckusick.com/puzzle