

# Three men on Operating Systems

by

Tony Whitmore after Feldman and Law

<http://tonywhitmore.co.uk>  
tony@tonywhitmore.co.uk

INT. BLANK BACKGROUND. DAY

Three men are standing in a line in order of height. Tallest left, shortest to the right. The tallest man (preferably very tall) is wearing a pin-stripe business suit and speaks in received pronunciation. The medium height man is wearing jeans and a "cool" t-shirt and speaks in a neo-yuppie manner. The shortest man has long hair and is wearing shorts and wearing a geek or heavy metal T-shirt and speaks in a working-class accent.

TALL MAN

I look down on him (LOOKS AT MIDDLE MAN) because I am Microsoft Windows.

MIDDLE MAN

I look up to him (LOOKS AT TALL MAN) because he is Microsoft Windows; but I look down on him (LOOKS AT SMALL MAN) because he is Linux. I am Mac OS X.

SMALL MAN

I know my place. I look up to them both. But I don't look up to him (LOOKS AT MIDDLE MAN) as much as I look up to him (LOOKS AT TALL MAN), because he has greater enterprise adoption.

TALL MAN

I have greater enterprise adoption, but I am the unreliable and vulnerable product of a morally bankrupt company that is disliked for stifling consumer choice and using our monopoly to enforce upgrades. So sometimes I look up...

TALL MAN bends knees, looks at MIDDLE MAN.

TALL MAN

...to him.

MIDDLE MAN

I look up to him (LOOKS AT TALL MAN) because although I am not the product of a convicted monopolist I am only used by orange-sunglass wearing posers who value form over functionality. However, he (LOOKS AT SMALL MAN) has not got the public mindshare I have, so I still look down on him.

SMALL MAN starts to look unsatisfied.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SMALL MAN

I know my place. I look up to them both; but while I don't have public mindshare, I am stable, fast and free. And I have the inclination to look down on them.

MIDDLE MAN

We all know our place, but what do we get out of it?

TALL MAN

I get a feeling of superiority over them but worry that I can't maintain it.

MIDDLE MAN

I get a feeling of inferiority from him but a feeling of superiority over him, although deep down I know that I have more in common with him (LOOKS AT SMALL MAN) than I do him.

MIDDLE MAN looks at TALL MAN

SMALL MAN

I get a feeling of self-righteous indignation.