

A Tale of Four Kernels

The FreeBSD, GNU/Linux, Solaris, and Windows operating systems have kernels. Interestingly, their code bases share almost no common parts, while their developers analyze the source code of the four systems by collecting metrics in the areas of coding style, the use of the C preprocessor, and data organization. The aggregate results, using many different metrics, four systems developed using wildly different processes, posit that the structure and internal quality attributes of a working, non-trivial kernel are determined foremost the engineering requirements of its construction, with the influence of