

The Microsoft/IBM joint development was built on mutual respect, wait, is respect the right word?

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I've noted in the past that Microsoft and IBM collaborated on a project known as OS/2. The Microsofties viewed the IBM engineers as mired in corporate policy, whereas the IBM engineers viewed their Microsoft counterparts as a bunch of undisciplined hackers.

At a team meeting in Redmond, Steve Ballmer (then head of the Platform division) recognized one of my colleagues in the back of the room¹ who had previously worked as an intern at IBM. He asked, "You used to work at IBM, right? What do they think of us?"

My colleague replied, "They hate us just as much as we hate them."

¹ Steve Ballmer is well-known for his ability to remember the names and personal details of people he has met, even if only briefly.