

Why postmarketOS?

The postmarketOS project was launched to **fix problems in the mobile device ecosystem**.

Due to **design choices from manufacturers**, devices often receive **no software updates anymore** even though the hardware is still perfectly functional.

Without software updates, users will get **no security fixes** and have to decide between the bad choices of **running insecure devices** or **creating more e-waste than necessary** by replacing their devices with new ones.

Even slightly outdated hardware is **still useful for basic tasks** as long as it receives regular security updates on time.

Besides, the adaptation to **attention economy** spoils several major operating systems. **Built-in targeted advertising** does not improve users' productivity but harms their privacy.

We need a **sustainable and maintainable** solution to these problems, and we believe that **we can fix the problems as a community**.

We regularly **collaborate with other free and open-source projects** and try to get our improvements upstream wherever we can so that **our work benefits other projects** too.

We believe that **operating systems should honestly act in service of their users**, avoiding distraction and respecting privacy.

Nowadays, postmarketOS is for more than just mobile devices. **Various consumer products face similar situations**.

Why mainline matters

In the context of the Linux kernel, **the mainline kernel** refers to the **upstream** versions distributed from the `kernel.org` website.

On Android devices, you will find **downstream kernels** instead, forked from mainline at one point but heavily modified by device vendors with device drivers and other changes to the point that **it is often next to impossible to just upgrade to a newer version**.

We **use the mainline kernel** wherever we can and encourage ourselves to **contribute device-specific changes to upstream** instead of using and extending the downstream kernel.

The **code quality of the downstream kernel is usually insufficient** to be accepted upstream. Large parts of the downstream-specific drivers are often moved into proprietary parts in the userspace, which are **only possible to use when emulating the expected userspace environment**.

As a result, **the maintenance cost of the downstream kernel is higher** than that of the mainline kernel. You will only receive improvements from the Linux kernel development community if you **modify every patch to fit into the downstream kernel**.

Making your device supported by the mainline kernel means **you can benefit from every improvement and security fix the latest kernel offers**.

Read more about mainlining at:
<https://postmarketos.org/mainlining>



English

What is postmarketOS?

postmarketOS is a **free and open-source** operating system extending Alpine Linux to run on **smartphones, tablets, laptops, desktops, set-top boxes, game consoles**, and more.

In contrast to major mobile operating systems, postmarketOS uses **well-established Linux libraries and frameworks** so that many of your favorite Linux applications can run on mobile devices with minimal effort.

postmarketOS supports **user interfaces for mobile devices** with a touchscreen as well as traditional **Linux desktop environments** and other user interfaces for kiosks, TVs, etc.

postmarketOS offers a **bleeding edge** rolling release and twice-per-year **stable releases**.



postmarketOS Community

The postmarketOS community can be found in bridged **IRC** and **Matrix** chats, as well as on **Mastodon**, **Lemmy** and of course at **real-life free and open-source software and hardware events**.

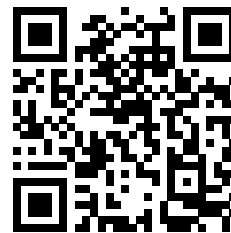
postmarketOS has two **official blogs**: one is for general announcements and reports, and the other one is for development status and breakage notices of the bleeding edge version.

The **postmarketOS Podcast** has long-form discussions about mobile Linux development, interviews with developers, and live recordings from events.

The **postmarketOS Wiki** features installation guides, the status of device support, tutorials, tips and tricks, and more.

postmarketOS uses free and open-source software as the infrastructure, such as a self-hosted GitLab instance for development.

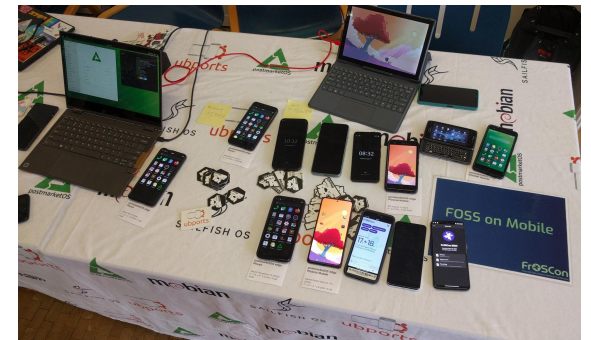
Follow the link below and **join us!**



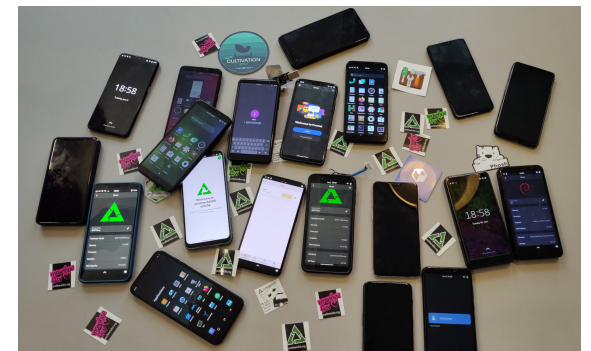
postmarketos.org/explore



postmarketOS developers at FrOSCon 2024



postmarketOS and others running on actual devices at FrOSCon 2024



Smartphones at GNOME Hackfest 2023