Mobian: to stable… and beyond!

What is Mobian?

- A Debian derivative (or "Blend") targeting mobile devices such as smartphones and tablets

- Separate package repository and ready-to-use disk images for several devices

- Very small overlay:

  - 44 source packages (35,000+ in Debian)

    - 7 packages to be dropped shortly

    - 3 packages awaiting Debian upload

    - 6 transitional packages to be dropped for the next development cycle

    - 9 packages (+ 4 kernel packages) carrying non-upstreamable patches

- Not a long-term project, but meant to dissolve into Debian over time

Where can I find the latest Mobian stable image?

- There is no such thing!

- Based on Debian testing: moving target

- Current Debian stable: Bullseye

    - Release date: August 2021 (frozen February/March)

        - Phoc v0.6.0 / Phosh v0.8.0

        - Chatty / Calls v0.2.0

        - No eg25-manager, mmsd-tng, libadwaita, portfolio…

    - We decided against releasing Mobian Bullseye

        - Ecosystem only starting to ramp up

        - Very few mobile-friendly applications in Debian

Going "stable"

The Bookworm development cycle

- Great progress over the past 2 years:

  - Richer (yet still growing) ecosystem

  - Many more mobile-friendly applications available

  - Graphical environments now more usable and stable

  - Lots of mobile-{friendly,specific} packages uploaded to Debian

    - Even Mobian packages are making their way to Debian!

- Early mistakes and sub-optimal choices mostly fixed

- Now seems a good time to (finally) go stable!

What will "Mobian stable" look like?

- Supported devices:

  - Linux-first: PinePhone (Pro), PineTab, Librem 5

  - Android-first: OnePlus 6/6T, Pocophone F1, SHIFT 6mq

  - x86: desktop PCs, Microsoft Surface Pro/Go

- Various flavours:

  - Phosh (GNOME 43 applications)

  - SXMO 1.13

- LTS kernel

  - Commitment to keep up with security updates

Semi-universal images

- SDM845-based devices

  - Device-specific firmware, no clear distribution rights: not for Debian!

  - Enters `droid-juicer`

    - Extracts firmware from Android vendor partitions at runtime

    - No more device-specific files in the root filesystem

      ⇒ We can switch to a single image for those devices!

- PINE64 devices

  - Very few device-specific tweaks

  - Kernel patches can easily be merged

    - *Note: might be pushed back after the Bookworm release in case of regressions*

Mobian during the freeze period

- Bookworm freeze period started
  - No new package in Debian starting February 12th (Soft Freeze)
  - No new version in Debian starting March 12th (Hard Freeze)

- Still able to work on downstream Mobian packages
  - Improve stability
  - Fix long-standing bugs

- Work upstream (no promises!)
  - Upstream kernel patches
  - Improve the bootloader "situation"

Designing the future

Our plans for Trixie

- Hardware support

  - Make it easier to support new devices in Mobian

  - Support 64-bit RISC-V architecture

- Keep packaging mobile-friendly software and graphical environments

  - Plasma Mobile

  - Lomiri

- Universal images

  - Merge all kernels into a single tree, building a single binary package

  - Make all device-specific tweaks configurable at runtime (`tweakster`)

Links

- Mobian:

  - Website: https://mobian.org

  - Community wiki: https://wiki.mobian.org

  - Developers' wiki: https://wiki.debian.org/Teams/Mobian

  - Matrix (bridged to IRC on OFTC)

    - General: #mobian:matrix.org

    - Development: #mobian-dev:matrix.org

- droid-juicer: https://gitlab.com/mobian1/droid-juicer

- tweakster: https://gitlab.com/mobian1/tweakster

Q&A

Thank you!

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