Discover Alternative Operating Systems for Phones

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~$ whoami

Antoine DUPARAY

- Free software & online privacy enthusiast since 2012

- Was staff in EN-IM-PLM until last week

- Never used a manufacturer's Android

  - CyanogenMod

  - Firefox OS

  - Ubuntu Touch

  - /e/ OS

  - And a lot more on secondary phones
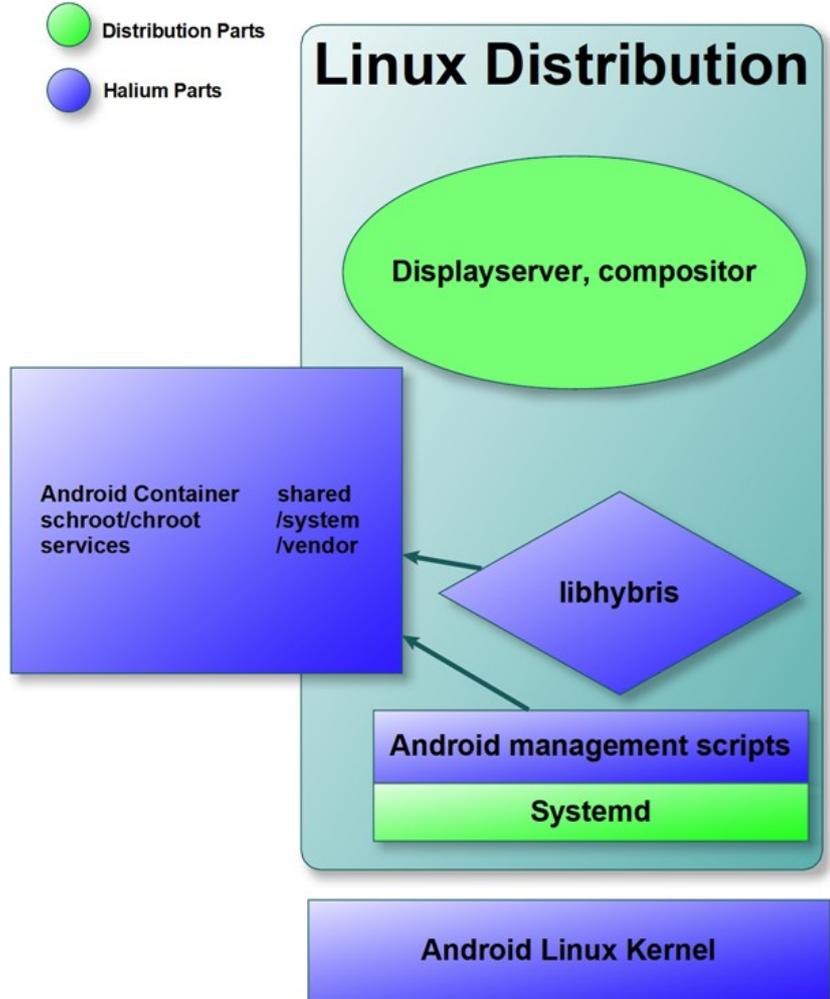
Why running an alt OS?

To be in control:

- Up-to-date software → more secure

- No bloatware → more space, more battery, more secure

- More features (depending of the OS you pick)

- You decide what your phone does
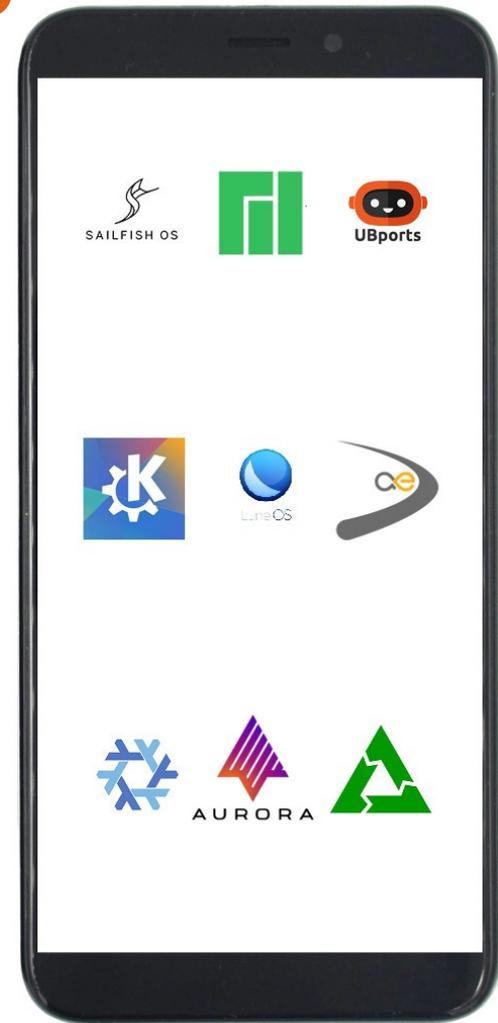
- Let's admit it, it's fun

On which phones?

- Some phones natively supported by Linux (Librem5, Pinephone…)

- Some partially supported (Fairphone, …)

- Others supported with Halium

- In any case, need an unlocked bootloader (but not necessarily rooted)

Which OSes exist?

- Many!

- Vanilla Linux based or Android based

- Many shells (UI) (KDE Plasma, Lomiri, Phosh, Gnome...)

- Many distributions (Manjaro, Debian, Fedora...)

The user-friendly GNU/Linux: Ubuntu Touch

- Originally developed by Canonical, now UBPorts

- Use the Lomiri convergent shell (QT)

- Very stable (used on my primary phone for 3 years)

- Can access hardware with Halium

- Can run Android apps with Waydroid

The true libre GNU/Linux: Postmarket OS

- Based on Alpine Linux

- Many shells (UI) available (Gnome, KDE Plasma, Phosh…)

- No Libhybris / Halium = "real" Linux (but also very few phones supported)

- The closest to what is a Linux distribution on desktop (with Mobian)

- Never used it myself for real

The very secure:
Graphene OS

- Based on AOSP

- Stability and compatibility of Android

- Many security features

- Sandbox approach for apps
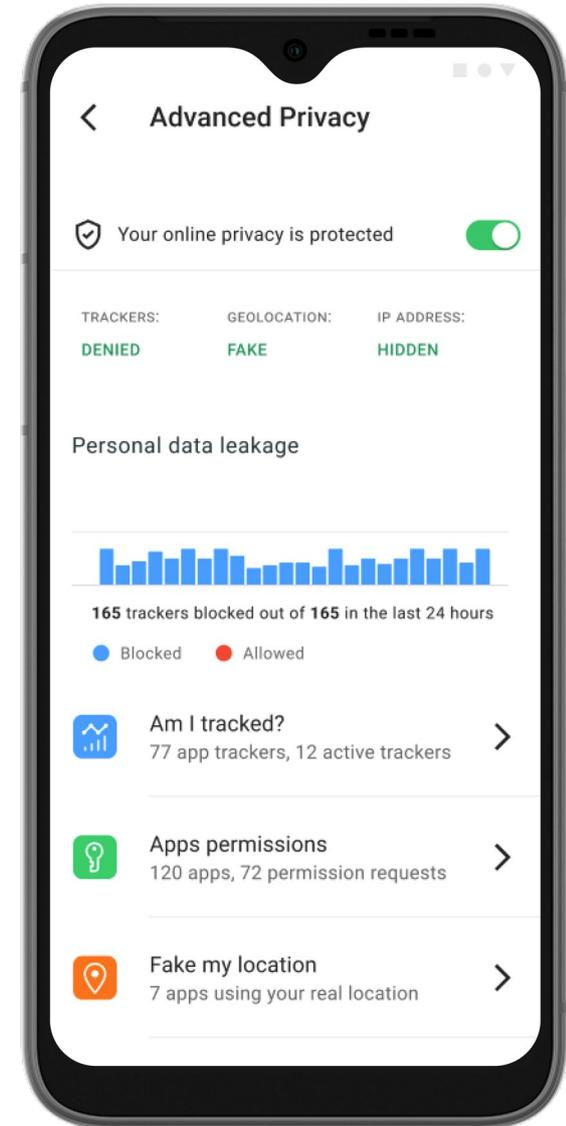
- If Google Play, not very good for privacy

GrapheneOS

The usable privacy leader: /e/ OS by Murena

- Based on LineageOS

- Stability and compatibility of Android

- Many privacy features (trackers blocker, fake location, Tor built in)

- Use MicroG to not run Google code for Play Services

- Murena cloud available (ecosystem)

- Built-in parental control

« Changer le monde, un octet à la fois »

Thank you!

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