What is MultiROM?

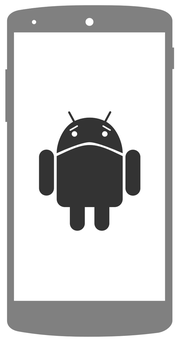
Multiboot?

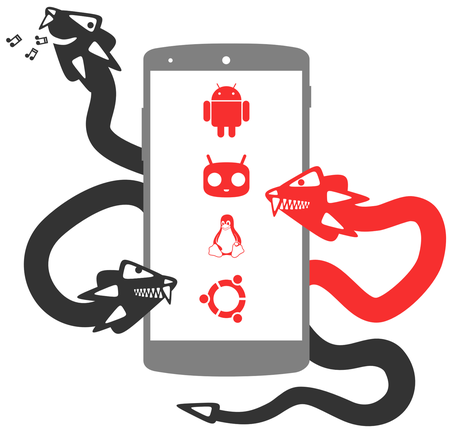
Multiboot, the possibility to install multiple operating systems on one computer, is a perfectly ordinary feature on most desktop computers. However, almost all **portable devices lack this function.**

On PCs, multiboot is used almost exclusively by **advanced users**, so it might seem pointless to bring it to Android devices.

But due to its openness, Android has spawned a similar group of developers and enthusiasts. This **large community of potential users** is growing every day and **benefits very much from a multiboot modification.** And since MultiROM is so easy to use, it can even act as a gateway to the world of Android modifications for an inquisitive person!

Ordinary **devices with Android** support installation of **just one** operating system – the Android.



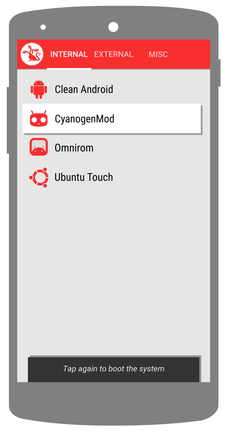


MultiROM is a software modification which enables the installation of **multiple operating systems at once**, just like on PC.

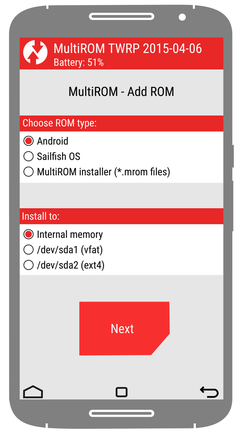
It is useful mainly to advanced users, but compared to similar modifications, **MultiROM is very easy to use.**

Another important feature is the support for literally any type of operating system. **Android or Ubuntu Touch? You can have both!**

User interface



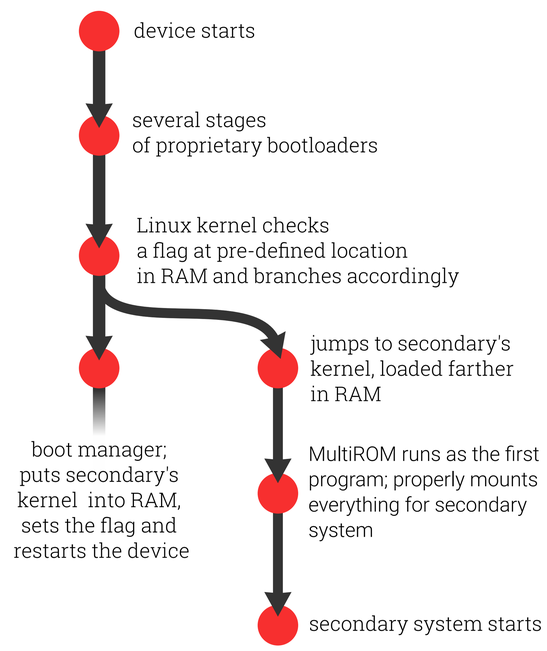
Boot Manager lets the user **choose which system to start** during boot.



Secondaries are installed via the recovery in **easy to use graphical interface**

How is it done?

Due to how proprietary lower-level software on Android devices is, MultiROM does not replace the device's bootloader. Instead, it uses a modification of Linux kernel called "Kexec-hardboot". **This is how booting a secondary system looks like:**



Parts of MultiROM

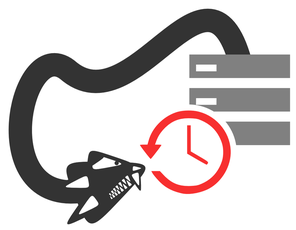
Boot manager:
- shows up during every boot
- the user can select which system to start
- can automatically boot up default system
- contains the code handling the multiboot

Custom recovery:
- small secondary system for device recovery
- handles management of secondary systems
- contains MultiROM settings
- based on the on TeamWin Recovery Project

Kexec-hardboot patch:
- Linux kernel modification
- allows me to start another system
- the most complex and important part

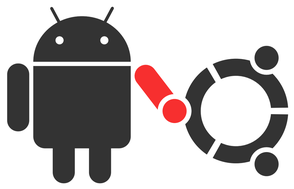
MultiROM Manager:
- Android application
- installs all other parts of MultiROM
- keeps it all updated
- can boot secondary system directly

What is it good for?



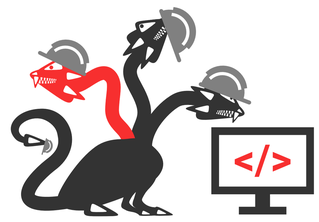
A person interested in the community's creations often has to **backup and restore** their system just to try out that new thing somebody just released.

That **takes a lot of time** and space, but with MultiROM they can just install it as a secondary and delete it when they're done – or keep it around, **always just one reboot away**.



MultiROM supports **not just Android**, but basically anything that runs on given device. That means you can **safely try out new and exciting operating systems.**

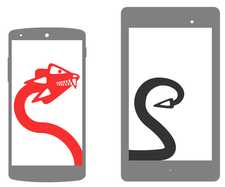
Just install them as secondary systems, and your main Android installation that you need to work properly all the time **remains intact** and you can reboot into it whenever you wish.



Developers can use MultiROM to install **several different versions of Android** to use either for app development or to test multiple builds of the whole OS.

It **saves a lot of time** because they don't have to re-flash to go back to the previous version and still have the main system **fully working** despite the other systems not being functional.

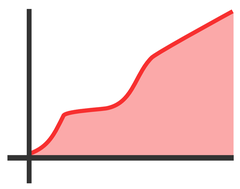
Results



MultiROM now **officially supports** three phones and two tablets and there is over a dozen devices supported **by other developers.**

As an **open-source project,** MultiROM has gathered a growing community of developers who port it to **more and more devices.**

A **successful crowdfunding campaign** on Indiegogo with contributors from all around the world, including the USA, has **unequivocally confirmed the interest in MultiROM** and provided a new testing device.



In May of 2015, MultiROM sports over **35,000 active installations all around the world, including nearly 10,000 in the US,** and achieved a status of universally known multiboot solution the users look for and want.

List of supported devices

- devices need their own versions due to incompatibility
- I personally maintain the five Nexus devices

Google	Nexus 4
	Nexus 5
	Nexus 6
	Nexus 7 (2012)
	Nexus 7 (2013)
Samsung	Galaxy S4
HTC	One M7
	One M8
	One X
Sony	Xperia Z
	Xperia ZL
	Xperia Z1
	Xperia Z Ultra
	Xperia Z2
	Xperia Z3
ZTE	V5 RedBull
Motorola	Moto G
OnePlus	One

More devices under developement: Nexus 9, Galaxy Note II, ...

Reception

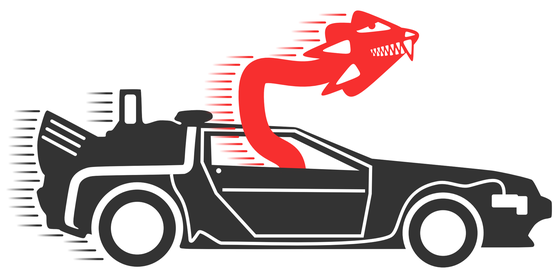
MultiROM has been **widely adopted** in the community of Android enthusiasts and developers.

Dozens of videos, articles and tutorials have been created by third parties, so the users have plenty to go on in case of any problems, questions or uncertainties.

Even if they fail to find the solution for their problem, they can ask in the **official forum threads**, where I or some other member of the community are likely to help.

The future

MultiROM is by no means a one-time effort. **I keep it up-to-date** with the latest changes to Android as well as its custom community-made distributions and add support for any new operating system ported to any device I maintain.



While MultiROM now has pretty much all the features I wanted it to have, there is always more to do in order to **improve the user experience**. Another way I want to expand my project is to **support more devices**