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Amazon Kindle is a product line of e-readers made by Amazon.

Controversies [edit | edit source]

While EPUB has been the widely adopted format for digital books, ^[1] the Kindle e-readers do not support this format natively. That means that it is not possible to load these files directly to the e-reader (which is called sideloading), but have to be converted first to one of the proprietary formats the Kindle uses. Books directly purchased through Amazon come with DRM restrictions.

Around 2022 it was announced that there would be an option to read these files, [2] which was not through native support but via their e-mail service or dedicated app for the Kindle. Both send the file to the Kindle Cloud Library, and process the file on Amazon servers to the proprietary format.

Amazon Kindle

amazonkindle

Basic Information
Release Year 2007
Product Type E-reader
In Production Yes
Official Website

https://amazon.com/kindle

As for the sideloading itself, newer firmware versions of

Kindle e-readers only work with MTP,^[3] which led to controversy among power users as it disrupted existing workflow, which is to be expected. Book management software like Calibre^[4] addresses this issue, and can do the conversion of file formats locally. The recent firmware updates have caused other issues, like faster battery drain than before and a slower user experience.^[5]

Anti-repair and anti-ownership practices [edit | edit source]

Kindle devices regularly receive bad scores in repair reviews.^{[6][7]} The baseline model has a replaceable battery, but provides no official replacement parts or repair instructions, and solders the power button and usb-c port to the motherboard.^{[6][8]} The paper-white model uses excessive amounts of adhesive for the battery and motherboard, which make it harder to replace the battery.^{[7][8]} Most of the components of the device, most importantly the e-ink screen, are not available to the general market. Any stock for e-ink displays for these devices can rarely be found, and they usually approach the cost of the device itself, making repair uneconomical.

Kindle devices run a Linux distribution, however the bootloader is locked down and users have had trouble accessing debug ports on newer hardware. Adding to this, Amazon relies on proprietary software and drivers which make it difficult to port a standard mainline Linux kernel onto their devices.

· Amazon Kindle removes download feature of purchased books

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