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What's next for Bluetooth in PulseAudio?

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What is PulseAudio?



- Initial release on 17 July 2004
- First appeared for users in Fedora Linux with version 8
- Mediates access to audio resources on your system
- Features?
 - Audio mixing
 - Per application volume controls
 - Multiple sources and sinks
 - Combine multiple sound cards and synchronize multiple playback streams
 - Bluetooth support
 - Command line interface with scripting capabilities
 - Sound daemon with reconfiguration capabilities

Bluetooth Profiles

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- ► What is a profile?
- Some of the widely used bluetooth profiles
 - Advanced Audio Distribution Profile (A2DP)
 - Audio/Video Remote Control Profile (AVRCP)
 - Headset Profile (HSP)
 - Hands-Free Profile (HFP)

Bluetooth Codecs

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- Available codecs?
 - ► Low-complexity subband codec (SBC)
 - Audio Processing Technology (aptX, aptX-HD)
 - Advanced Audio Coding (AAC)
 - LDAC

So which is better?

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HOW STANDARDS PROLIFERATE: (SEE: A/C CHARGERS, CHARACTER ENCODINGS, INSTANT MESSAGING, ETC.)

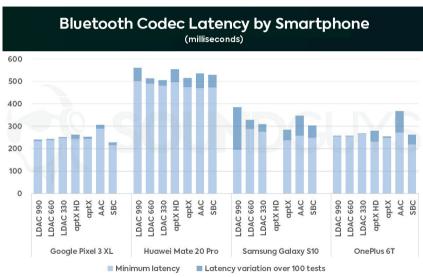
YEAH!

14?! RIDICULOUS! WE NEED TO DEVELOP ONE UNIVERSAL STANDARD SITUATION: THAT COVERS EVERYONE'S THERE ARE USE CASES. 14 COMPETING STANDARDS.



Codec Latencies!





Current State



- Upstream only supports SBC :(
- ► HSP/HFP support
- Out of tree community effort with pulseaudio-modules-bt
- Messaging API

Challenges

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- Codec switching
- Patent encumbered licenses?
- ► How to support multiple encoders or decoders?
- ► Contributors? Maintainers?

GStreamer

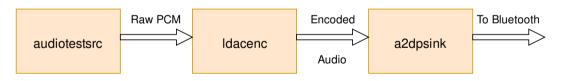
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- ▶ What is GStreamer?
- ► Why?

Example Pipeline



```
gst-launch-1.0 -v audiotestsrc !
audio/x-raw,rate=44100,channels=2,format=S32LE !
ldacenc eqmid=2 ! a2dpsink
transport=/org/bluez/hci0/dev_4C_BC_98_80_01_9B/sep10/fd0
```



Progress so far



- LDAC support upstreamed in GStreamer
- Support for Low-Overhead MPEG-4 Audio Transport Multiplex (LATM) AAC in GStreamer
- ► GStreamer wrapper around *libopenaptx*. Work done by Igor Kovalenko.
- Implementing codec switching
- Proof of concept with GStreamer tested
- ► Merge request opened in PulseAudio

Questions?



- So what's next?
 - Support Adaptive Bit Rate (ABR) in LDAC
 - mSBC support for HFP profile
 - LC3 codec
 - Allowing users to specify the preference order for codecs
 - Support Opus as a vendor codec for PulseAudio <-> PulseAudio