Develop Community-based Android Distribution and Upstreaming Experience

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translations are welcome!

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$$0x1ab = 16^2 + 16x10 + 11 = 427$$
 (founded on April 27, 2009)

Oxlab is another Hexspeak.



- **About Me** (1) Come from Taiwan
 - (2) Contributor of Android Open Source Project (AOSP)
 - (3) Developer, Linaro
 - (4) Contributed to GNU Classpath / Kaffe, Linux internationalization (i18n), Openmoko



Commercial Partners of Oxlab

ARM / Linaro

Oxlab contributes to Linaro Android since the first line of code

AzureWave

Build wireless networking & image processing solutions

Mediatek

Android based consumer products

Open Embedded Software Foundation

Oxlab contributes to the reference implementation



Eventually, partners can benefit from open source efforts and our experience.

- **Agenda** (1) Reasons to build Android distribution
 - (2) Lesson learned from AOSP
 - (3) The methods to enhace Android software stack
 - (4) Go upstream





Reasons to build Android Distribution

based on non typical open source projects

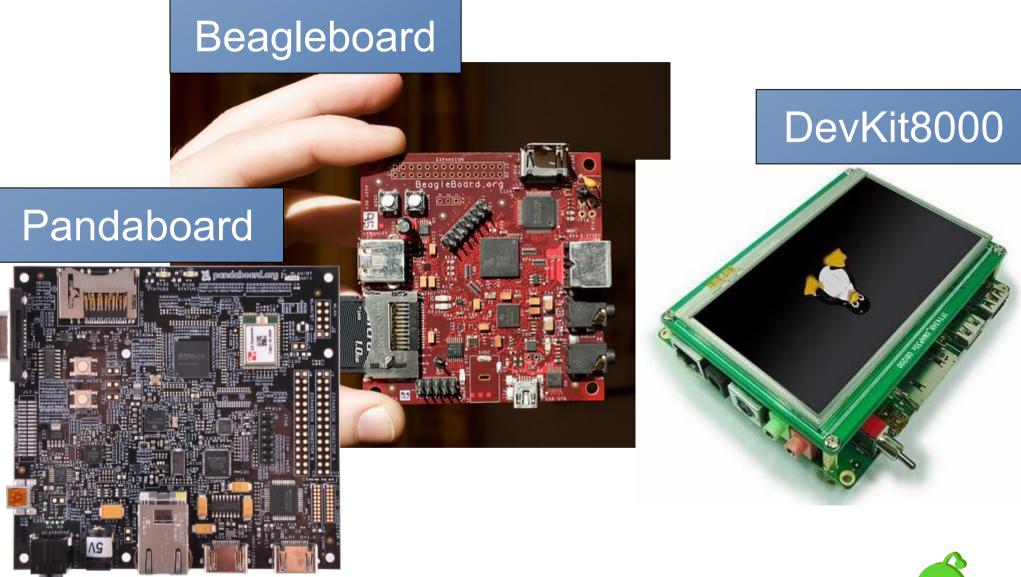


The reason why we built community Android Distribution:

Initially, we just wanted to enable wireless connectivity features on Android per our hardware partnters requested.

But, we never thought that it was difficult to do things efficiently.

Oxdroid: enhanced Android distribution



We suffered from performance and usability issues in AOSP. Oxdroid is basically the environment where we can develop and experiment.



What does Oxdroid deliver?

- Hardware enablement: Beagleboard (TI OMAP3), Pandaboard (TI OMAP4), Snowball (ST-Ericsson Ux500)
- Provide full source code for HAL
- Usability: software cursor, window manager fix, large screen tweaks, network connectivity fix
- Performance: ARM specific optimizations, graphics enhancement
- Features: Bluetooth HID (keyboard/mouse), external modem, 3D effects, customized Launcher



But, Oxlab is not really making yet another Android distribution.

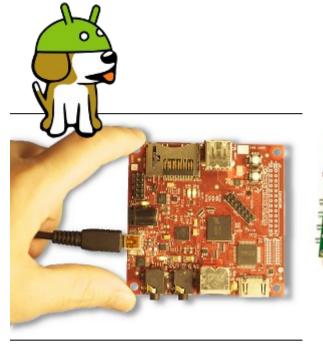
Our idea is to help community.

Oxdroid is just a *testbed* (or reference implementation), and the valuable changes should be merged in upstream or other community projects.

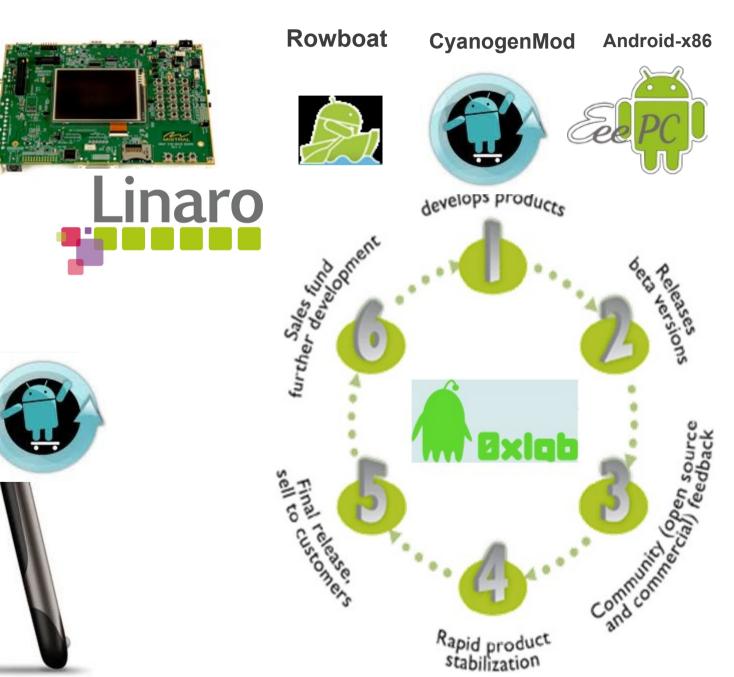
Strategy and Policy

- open source efforts to improve AOSP
- We focus on small-but-important area of Android.
 - toolchain, libc, dynamic linker, skia, software GL, system libraries, HAL, UX
- Develop system utilities for Android
 - benchmark, black-box testing tool, validation infrastructure
- Feature driven development
 - Faster boot/startup time, Bluetooth profile, visual enhancements
- Submit and share changes to...
 - AOSP, CyanogenMod, Android-x86
 - Linaro





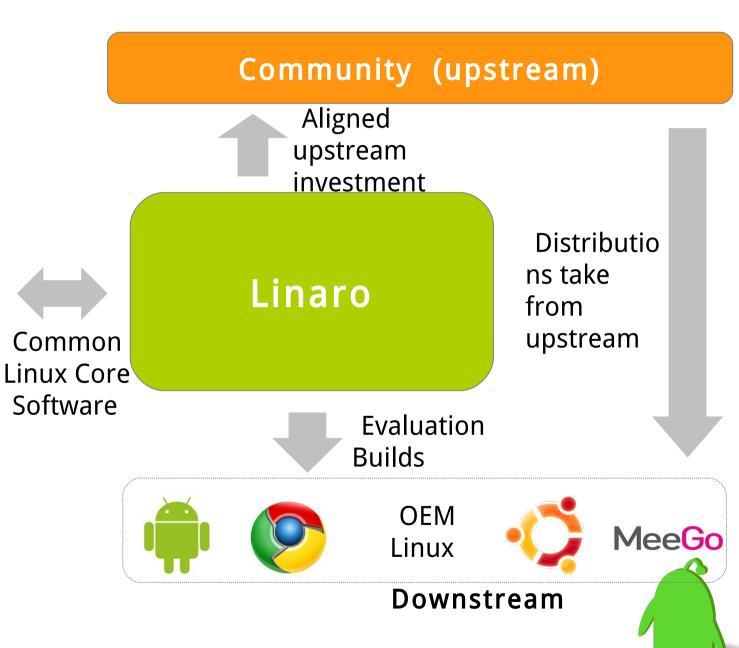
Working Model



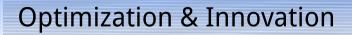


Where does Linaro fit?





Linaro Engineering Unit



Working Groups

Kernel Consolidation

Toolchain

Graphics

Power Management

Multimedia

Platform Engineering

Validation & Benchmarking

Evaluation Builds Android, Ubuntu, Chrome, IVI...

Infrastructure Release management

SoC support and optimization

anding.

Teams Samsung LSI

Texas Instr.

ST-Ericsson

Freescale

Validation, benchmarking, release management



Joint-Development Efforts

(demo video)

- Milestone 0x4
 - http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OGpYk1p1UPI simplified deployment, theme-able Android launcher, Automated Testing Infrastructure (esuit + CTS), external modem support, 3D Eye-candy Effects, Performance Improvements for ARM
- Milestone 0x7
 - http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_3dT68MOzz0

Linaro powered infrastructure, further ARM optimizations, real fast boot-time solution for Android, validation framework





Lession Learned from AOSP



Let's go Upstream! Unfortunately, contributing to AOSP is an __art__.

You never know how Google thinks of your patches exactly, even through Gerrit (code review system).

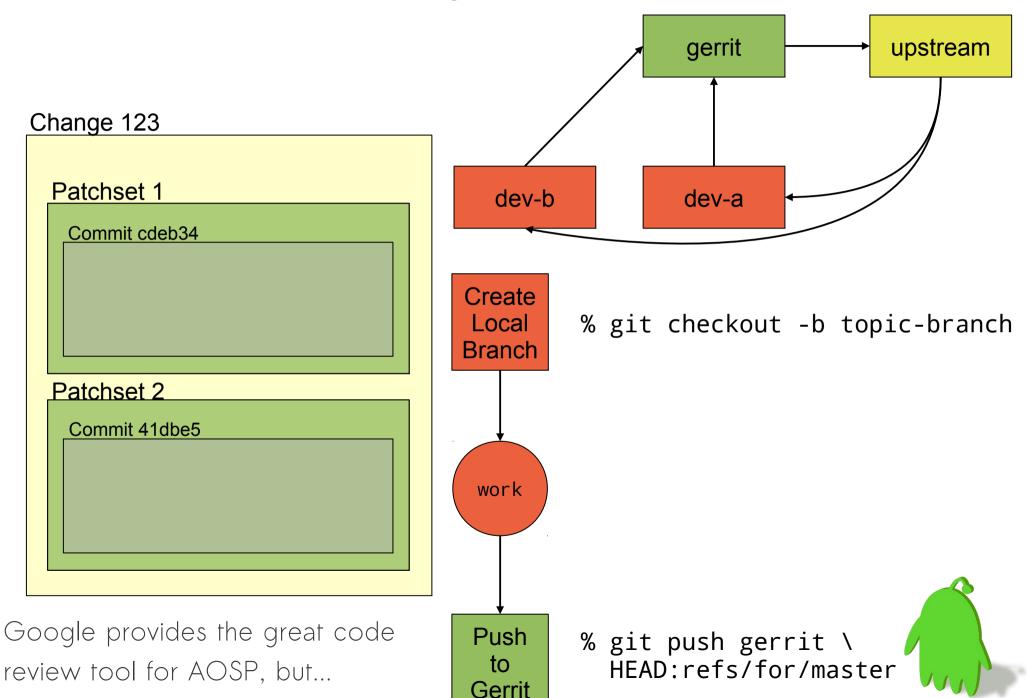


Problems We faced

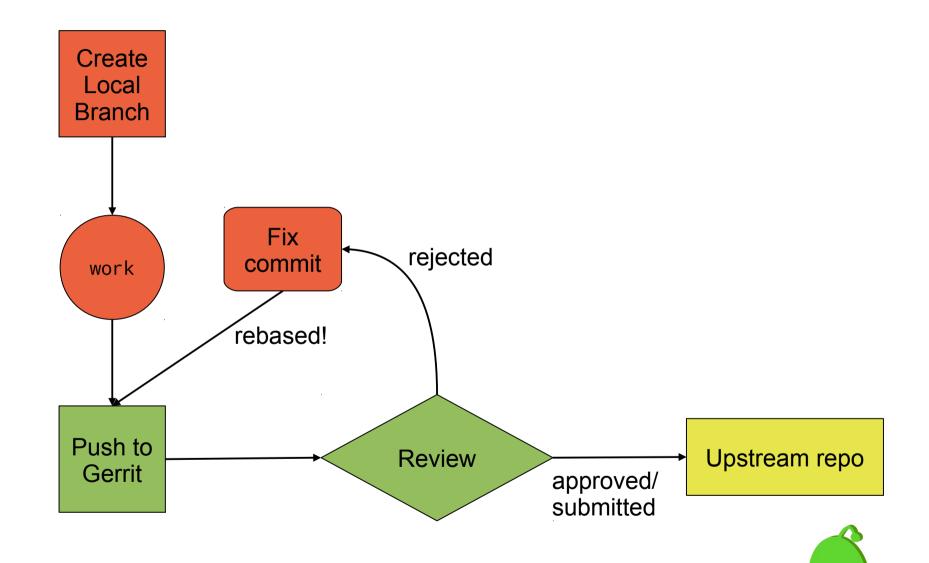
- AOSP looks like "An Open Source Protector"
- No public roadmap
 - Therefore, we ignore the modifications against Android framework in public activities.
- The merged changes usually show up in next 1 or 2 public release.
 - It is really hard to introduce/track the relevant changes.
- Not clear discussions on android-contrib mailinglist. Sometimes, you have to have private communications to Google engineers.
- Version control / Code Review on invisible repositories (internal and far-away GIT tree)

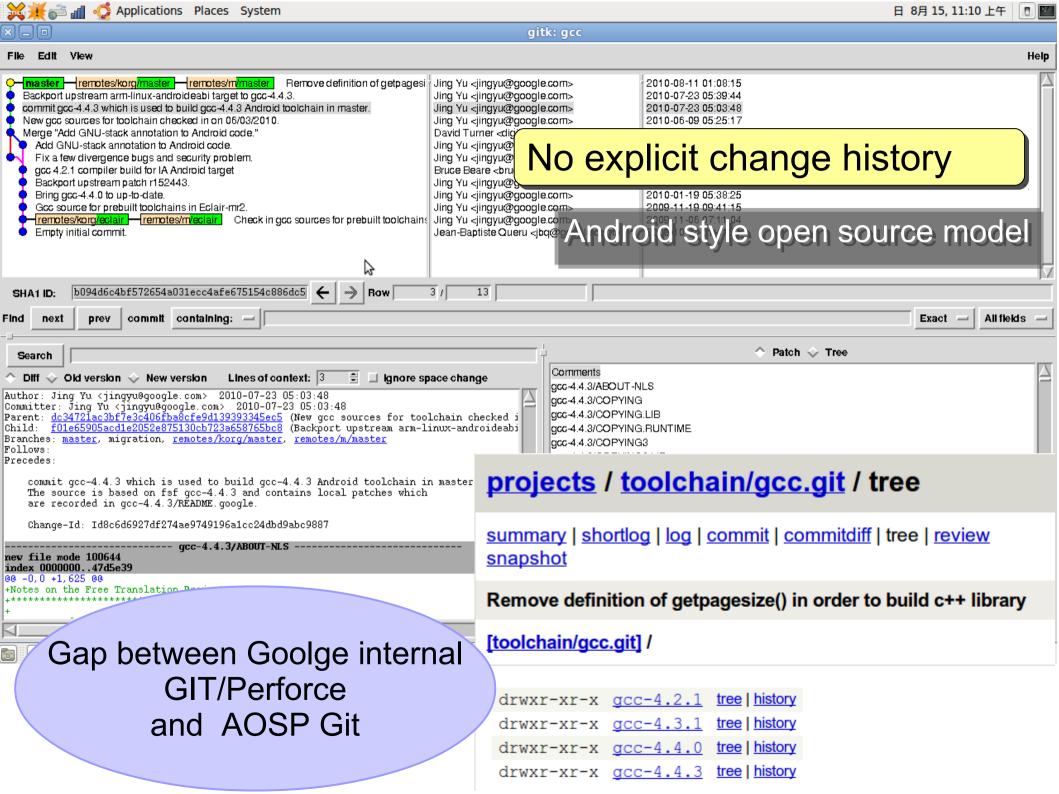


Change represented in Gerrit



Flow of AOSP submitted changes





After Gingerbread, it gets much clear for toolchain part

```
commit 81cce608ab19dcd0aaf7d08d57a4460229e43c45
Author: Jing Yu <jingyu@google.com>
Date: Tue Dec 14 10:55:23 2010 -0800
   Patched toolchain to fix a few gcc and binutils bugs.
    Sources to build this toolchain are listed on arm-eabi-4.4.3/SOURCES
linux-x86/toolchain/arm-eabi-4.4.3/SOURCES
build/ synced to
        commit 4cc02faaa7e8828f9458b1828a6f85e7791ae2aa
        Author: Jim Huang <jserv@0xlab.org>
```

And rollback the following 3 patches. commit de263c26a7680529baca731c003bc58b68d72511 Author: Jing Yu <jingyu@google.com>

Date: Fri Aug 20 23:30:37 2010 +0800

Date:

prebuilt/

Thu Aug 12 15:52 Although we can check git log, we still have no idea why they changed

Observed AOSP Working Model

- "master" branch in Android
 is the bridge between AOSP and Google internal
 tree. There are many contributions merged from
 companies, organizations, and individuals. But no
 efficient code review available for non-existing
 repositories. And, only few Google engineers do
 review changes.
- Master branch = the latest AOSP + Partial changes by Google (bug-fixes from internal tree)
 - –Not fully verified codebase.
- The best hints are the opinions written by Google engineers inside Gerrit.
 - –Send patches if possible

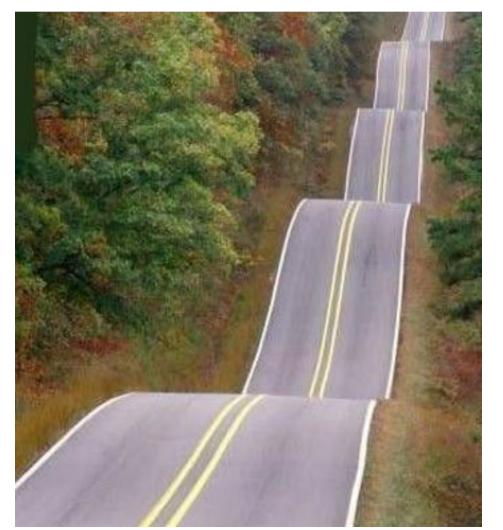
My interpretation of Android:

Hardware is Revolution;

Sotware is basically

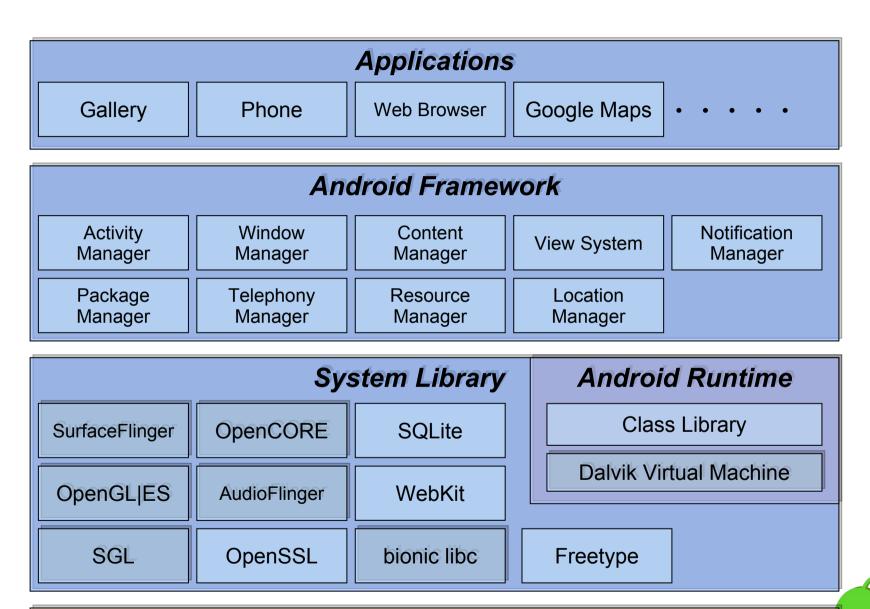
Evolution;

Android is Hardware-driven Software Revolution



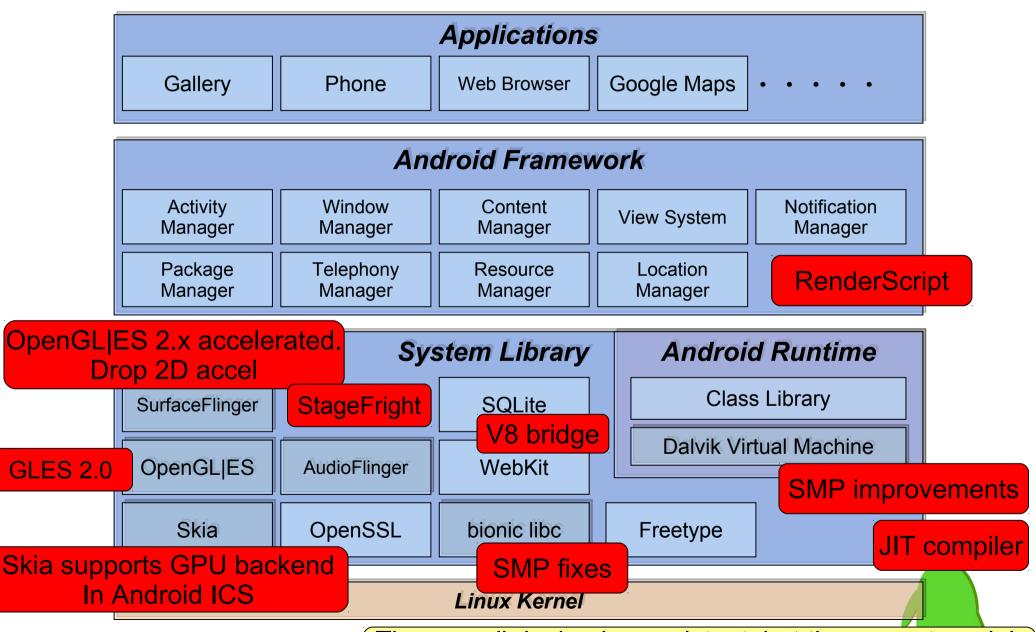


Functional View (Android 1.5)



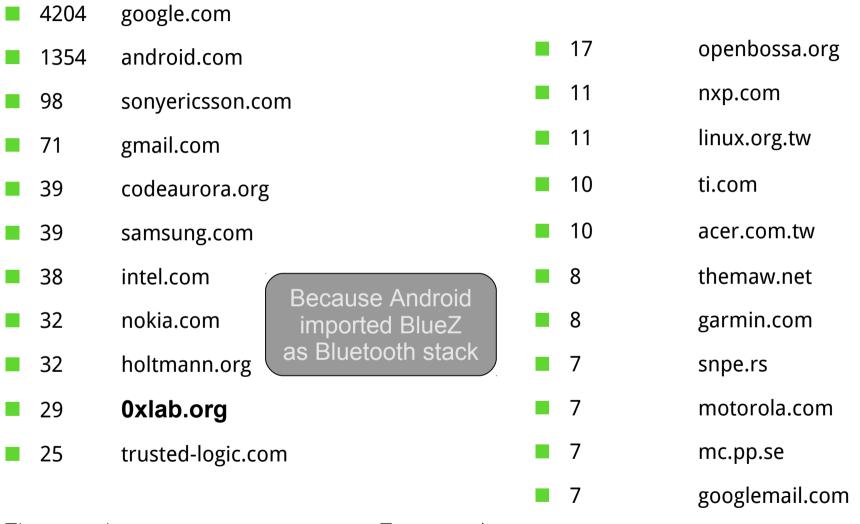
Linux Kernel

Functional View (Android 2.3)



The overall design is consistent, but the current model prevents from diverse community contributions.

AOSP statistics for Gingerbread (Dec 2010)



The number are commits since Froyo release.

However, the valuable changes from community such as

CyanogenMod are usually absent due to long-time review process.





Methods to Enhance Android Software Stack

when building custom Android distribution and merging changes from community



Mission in our development: Improve UX in SoC

UX = User Experience

SoC = Integrated Computing Anywhere



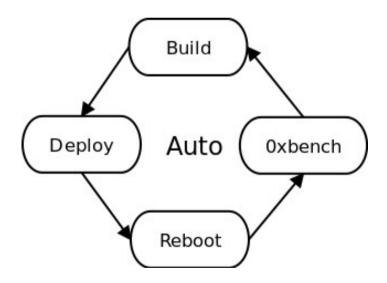
Quality in custom Android Distribution

- Oxlab delivers the advantages of open source software and development.
 - Quality relies on two factors: continuous development + strong user feedback
- Several utilities are developed to ensure the quality and released as open source software.
 - 0xbench (Android benchmarking tool)
 - ASTER (Android System Testing Environment and Runtime)
 - LAVA (Linaro Automated Validation Architecture)
- In the meanwhile, performance is improved by several patches against essential components.



LAVA: Automated Validation Infrastructure for Android

Android benchmark running on **LAVA**. Automated Validation flow includes from deploy, then reboot, testing, benchmark running, and result submit.



Android support on LAVA https://wiki.linaro.org/Platform/Validation/LAVA

Android related commands in LAVA:

- * deploy_linaro_android image
- * boot linaro android image
- * test android basic
- * test android monkey
- * test android Oxbench
- * submit_results_on_host

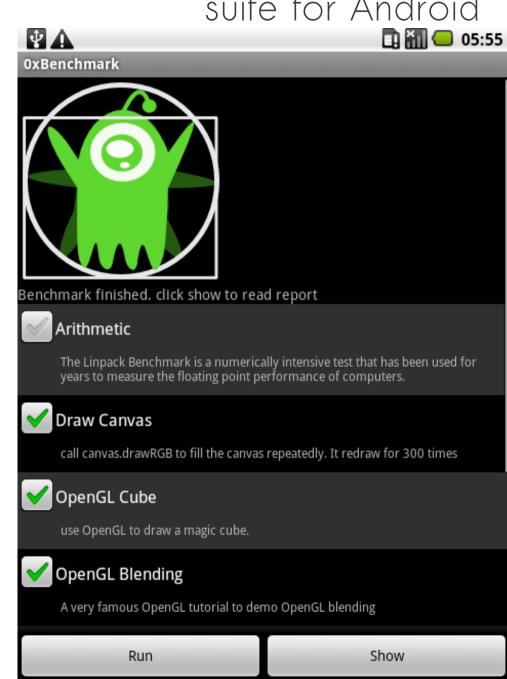


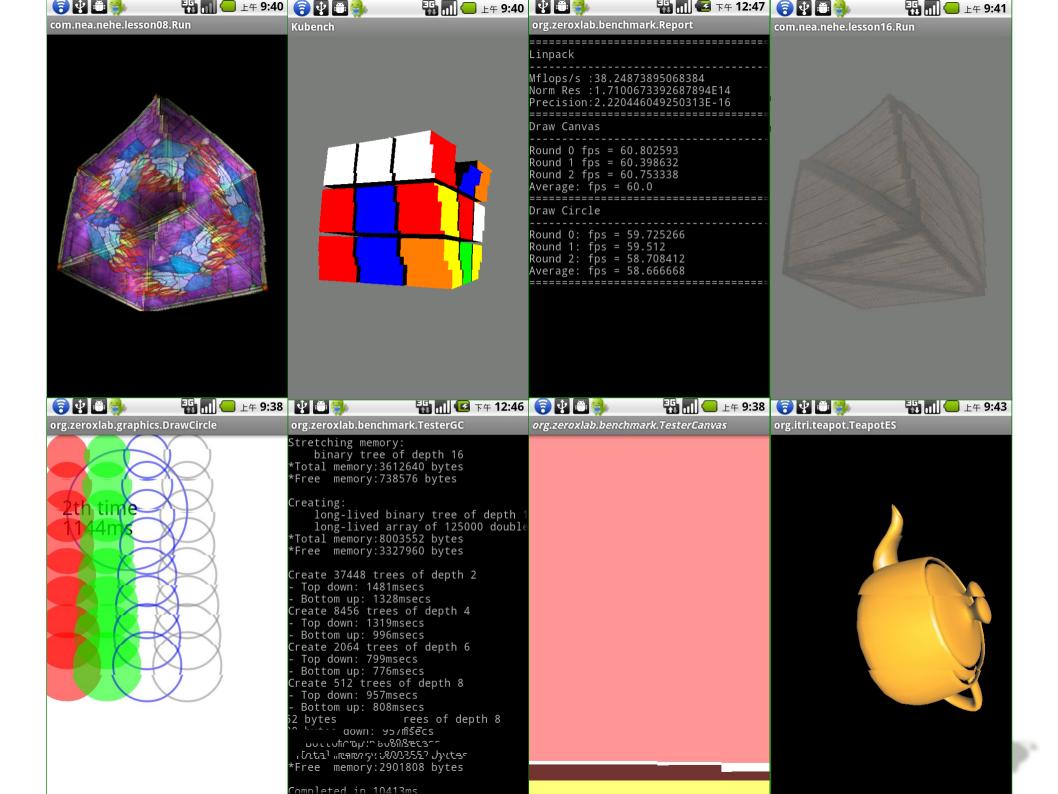


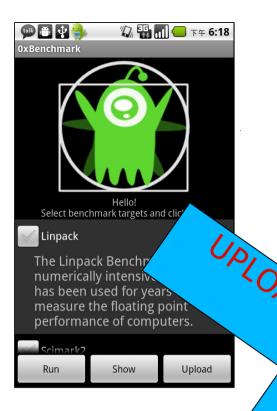
Oxbench: comprehensive open source benchmark

suite for Android

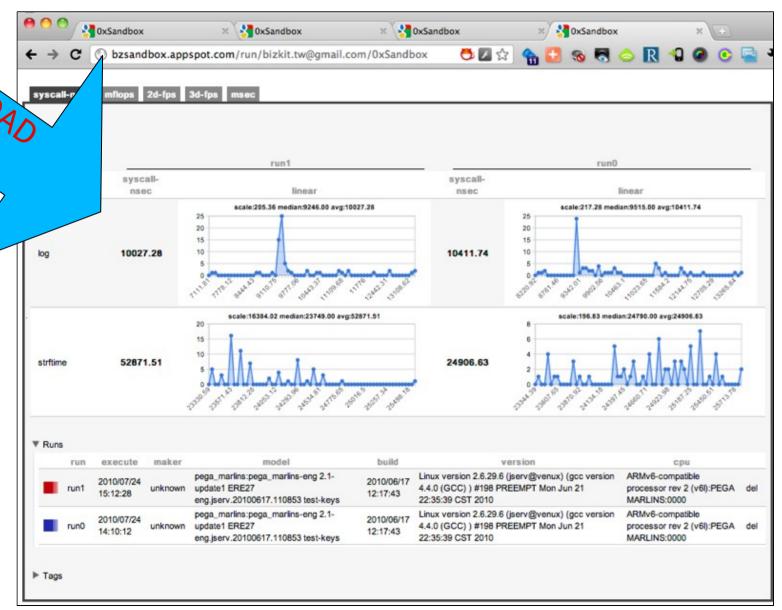
- A set of system utilities for Android to perform comprehensive system benchmarking
 - Dalvik VM performance
 - OpenGL|ES performance
 - Android Graphics framework performance
 - I/O performance
 - JavaScript engine performance
 - Connectivity performance
 - Micro-benchmark: stanard C library, system call, latency, Java invocation, ...







Collect and Analyze results on server-side



Android Functional Testing

- (1) stress test
- (2) Automated test



Stress Test

- According to CDD (Compatilbility Definition Document), Device implementations MUST include the Monkey framework, and make it available for applications to use.
- monkey is a command that can directly talks to
 Android framework and emulate random user input.
 adb shell monkey -p your.package.name -v 500
- Decide the percentage of touch events, keybord events, etc., then run automatically.



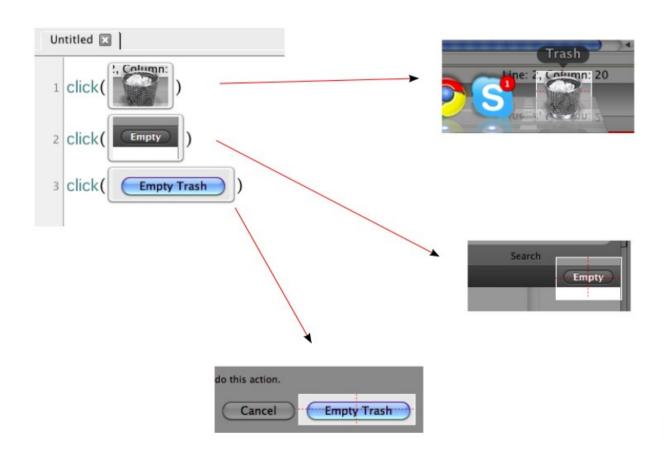
ASTER: Automated Test

- Blackbox-test vs. Whitebox-test
- An easy to use automated testing tool with IDE
 - Built upon MoneyRunner
- Batch execution of visual test scripts
- Multiple chains of recall commands
- Designed for non-programmer or Q&A engineers
- Use OpenCV to recognize icons or UI hints

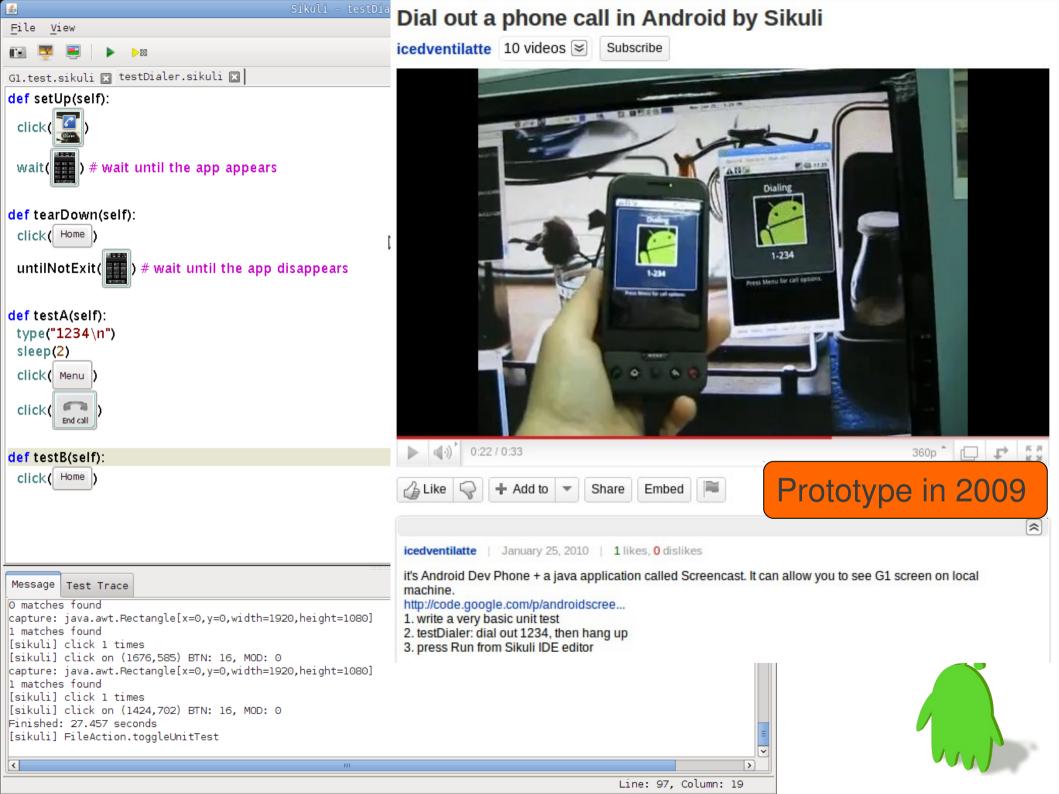


Functional Test

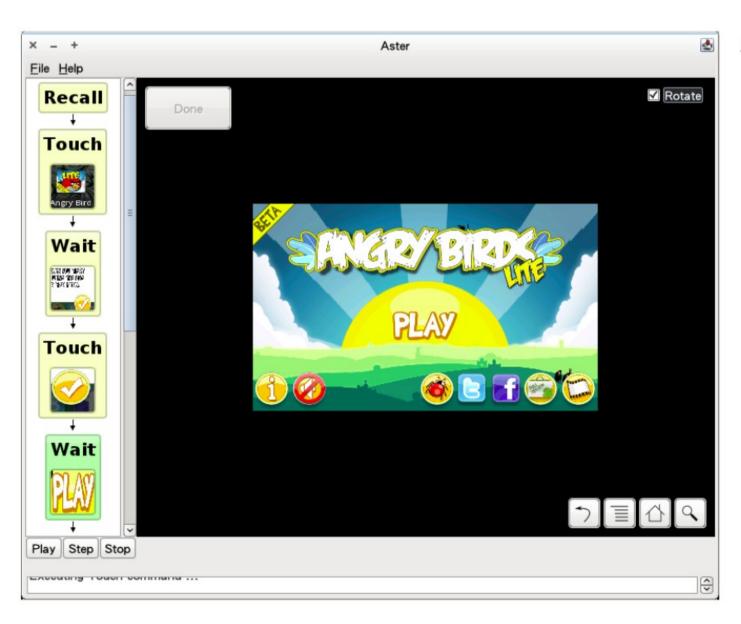
Desktop: Sikuli







ASTER IDE in 2011



Aster





Bring Enhancements back to Community

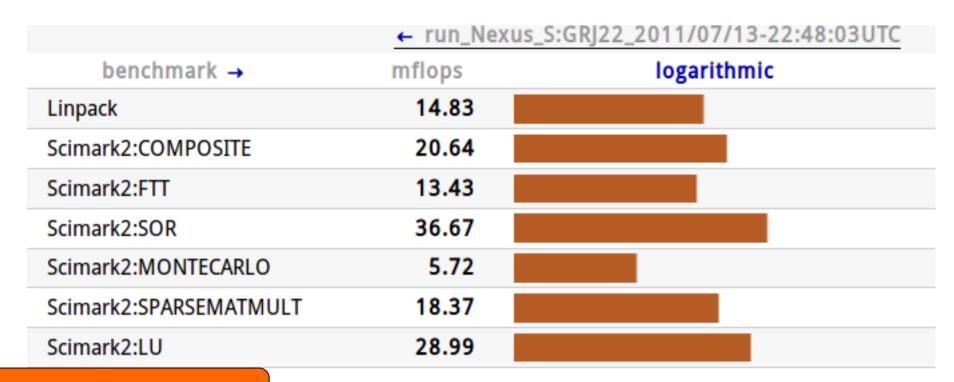


What do we deliver to communty?

- Patches merged in AOSP, CyanogenMod, and Android-x86
- Implement 100% open source OpenGL|ES adaptation based on Mesa/3D into Android

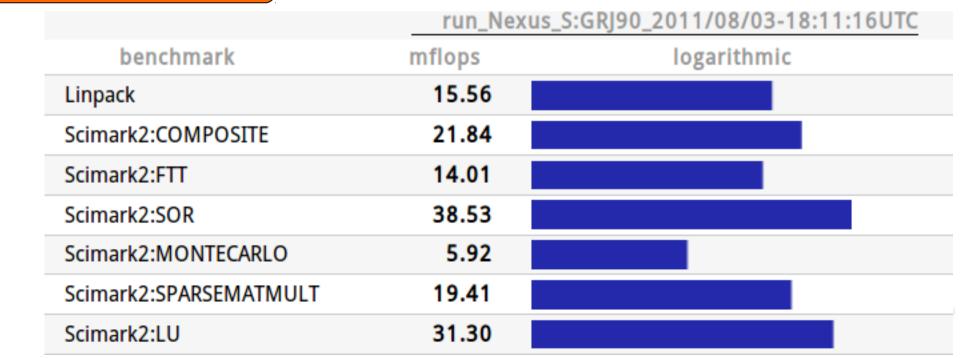
 The world-first, important to Android-x86
- Performance: ARM specific optimizations, graphics enhancement
- Features: Bluetooth HID (keyboard/mouse), external modem, 3D effects, customized Launcher





Arithmetic on Nexus S

Tune Dalvik VM performance (armv7)



	← run_Nexus_S:GRJ22_2011/07/13-22:48:03UTC		
benchmark →	2d-fps	logarithmic	
DrawCanvas	55.56		
DrawCircle	29.15		
DrawCircle2	51.23		
DrawRect	32.81		
DrawArc	47.12		
DrawImage	53.36		
DrawText	55.29		

2D on Nexus S

Apply extra performance tweaks against optimized build (NEON)

,	← run_Nexus_S:GRJ90_2011/08/03-18:11:16UTC		
benchmark →	2d-fps	logarithmic	
DrawCanvas	56.06		
DrawCircle	33.19		
DrawCircle2	49.87		
DrawRect	42.42		
DrawArc	54.64		
DrawImage	55.85		
DrawText	55.44		

Benchmark: 2D (arm11-custom)

mflops 2d-fps 3d-fps msec Options advanced-performance2 advanced-performance startpoint benchmark 2d-fps 2d-fps 2d-fps linear linear linear DrawCanvas 49.93 48.38 14.65 DrawCircle 23.29 22.68 10.32 DrawCircle2 18.84 18.80 9.77 DrawRect 7.64 8.80 5.76 DrawArc 14.92 14.32 8.40 Drawlmage 5.59 5.50 3.10 DrawText 19.56 19.44 9.00 M3 + Linaro Toolchain **M3** 2.6.35 (2.6.32 pmem) benchmark 2d-fps 2d-fps 2d-fps linear linear linear 58.35 DrawCanvas 58.57 38.64 38.91 37.53 22.32 DrawCircle 18.67 17.92 19.64 DrawCircle2 DrawRect 19.71 19.26 16.23 26.84 24.68 24.66 DrawArc 6.73 6.69 6.22 Drawlmage Drawlmage2 19.16 19.06 15.69

29.28

29.22

DrawText



25.66

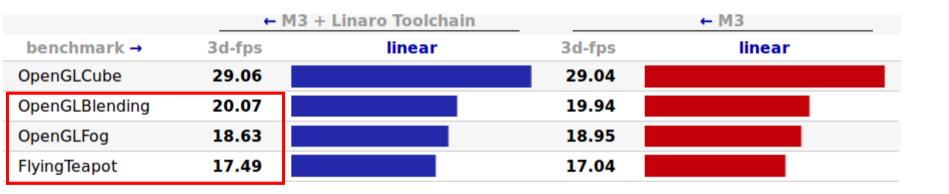
Benchmark: 3D (arm11-custom; no GPU)

mflops

2d-fps 3d-fps msec

Options

	advanced-performance2		advanced-performance		startpoint	
benchmark	3d-fps	linear	3d-fps	linear	3d-fps	linear
OpenGLCube	27.65		26.36		11.77	
OpenGLBlending	15.21		15.06		8.78	
OpenGLFog	14.03		13.86		8.36	
FlyingTeapot	12.30		11.26		7.38	



This explains that we have several system tools and development flow to help customers/community to verify the performance and improve.



bionic libc

- Android C/C++ library
- 0xlab's Optimizations (merged in AOSP)
 - Memory operations: Use ARMv6 unaligned access to optimize usual cases
 - reused by Dalvik to accelerate primitive byte order
 - Endian/Data Type conversion: Use ARMv6 fast endian primitives. Useful for TCP/IP (big endian / little endian converting)
 - Various ARM optimized string operations
 - memcpy, strcmp, strcpy, memset



Dynamic Linker Optimizations

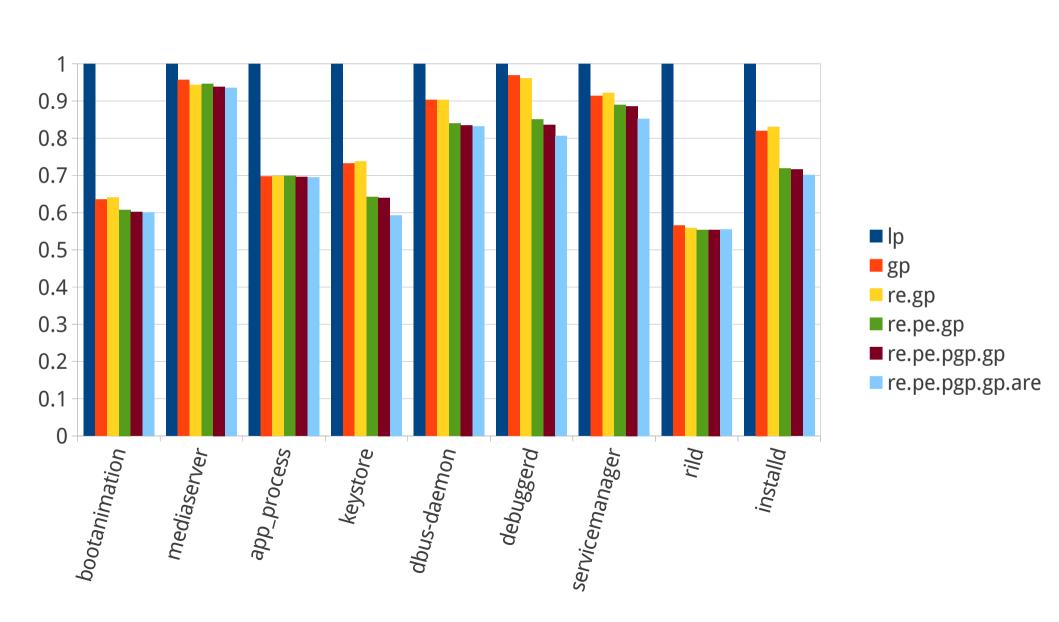


Why and How?

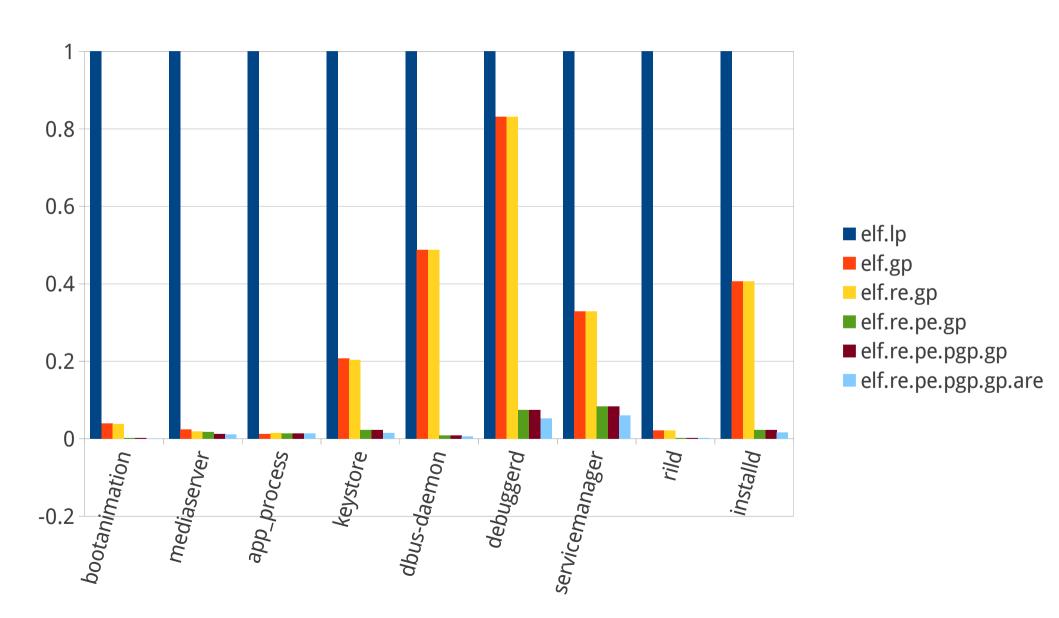
- The major reason to optimize dynamic linker is to speed up application startup time.
- Approaches:
 - Implement GNU style hash support for bionic linker
 - Prelinker improvements: incremental global prelinking
 - reduce the number of ELF symbol lookup aggressively
- Changed parts
 - apriori, soslim, linker, elfcopy, elfutils



(normalized) Dynamic Link time

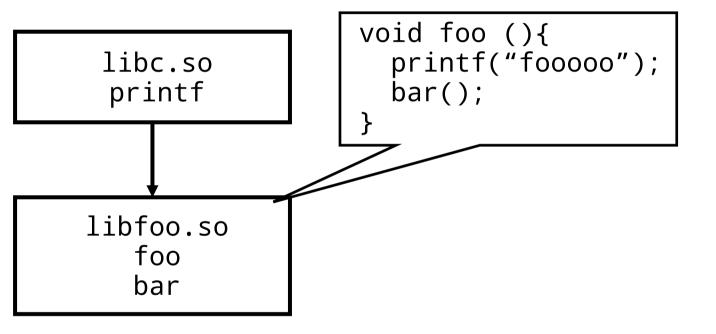


(normalized) Symbol Lookup number



DT_GNU_HASH: visible dynamic linking improvement = Better hash function (few collisions)

- + Drop unnecessary entry from hash
- + Bloom filter

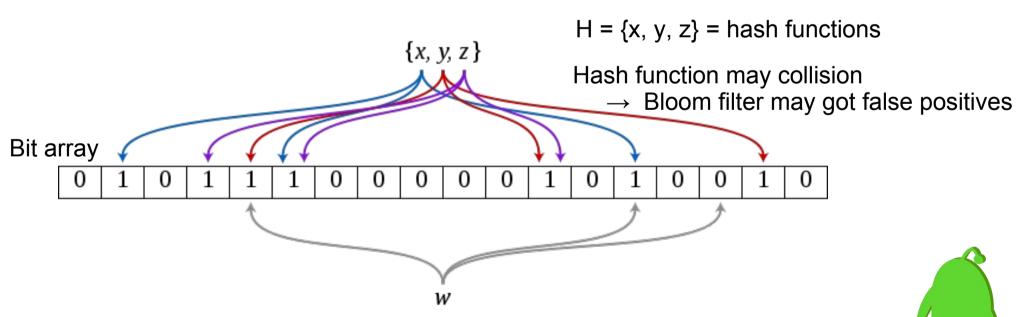


```
libfoo.so
DT_GNU_HASH

foo foo bar printf
```

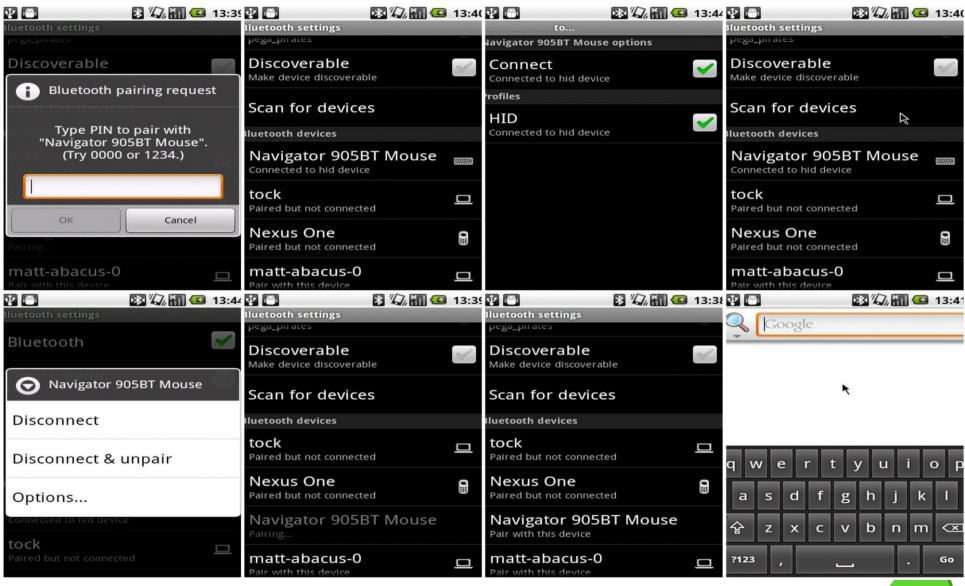


	Symbols in ELF	lookup#	fail#	gnu hash	filtered by bloom
gnu.gp	3758	23702	19950	23310	18234(78%)
gnu.gp.re	3758	20544	16792	19604	14752(75%)
gnu.lp	61750	460996	399252	450074	345032(76%)
gnu.lp.re	61750	481626	419882	448492	342378(76%)



NOTE: Android 4.0 removes the support of prelinker, but gnu style hash is still useful.

Bluetooth HID (keyboard/mouse)

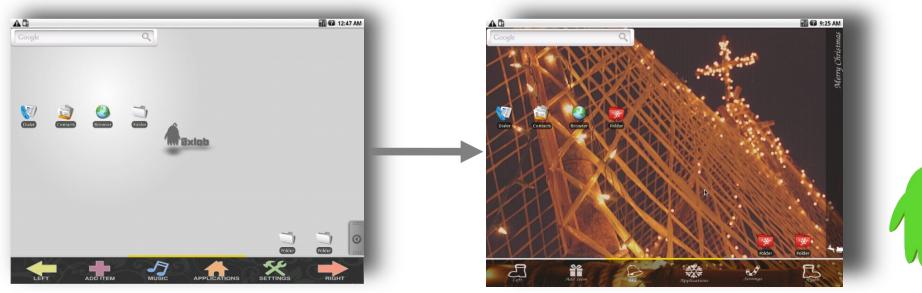


CyanogenMod merged the feature since version 6.x. (2010q2) Android 4.0 finally provides its own implementation though. (2011q4)



UI customizations

- Provide several UI/Launcher combination for small and large screen devices.
 - Sizing from HVGA, VGA, SVGA (Phone), to 720p/1080p (TV)
- Either modified Android Launcher or new replacement
- Licensed under Apache Software License





Products with Advanced 3D UI

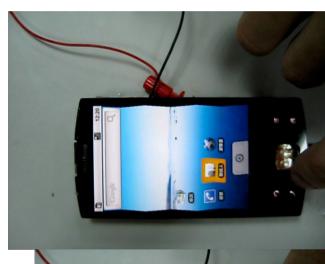
- 3D effects and the ARM optimizations are enabled in Qualcomm platforms w/ and w/o GPU accelerations
- Demo video: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kNyVXIEG3gg













Android Boot Time Optimizations



Write Tiny Boot loader to Speed up

- Qi Boot-loader
 - Only <u>one</u> stage bootloader
 - Small footprint ~30K
 - Currently support
 - iMX31
 - Samsung 24xx
 - Beagleboard
 - KISS concept
 - Boot device and load kernel

	Qi Boot-oader	U-Boot + XLoader
Size	~30K	~270K+20K
Time to Kernel	< 1 s	> 5s
Usage	Product	Engineering
Code	Simple	Complicated



Optimized ARM Hibernation

- Based on existing technologies thus requires little modification to userspace
 - TuxOnIce
- Release clean-pages before suspend
- Swap out dirty-pages before save image
- Image size reduced leads to faster resume time.



Further Boot Time Optimizations

- Based on existing technologies thus requires little
- Save the heap image (like core dump) of Zygote after preloading classes
- Modify Dalvik to make hibernation image after system init and before Launcher startup
- Parallize Android init
- Cache & share JIT'ed code fragment





Go Upstream!

Patches are dead, long live the Android



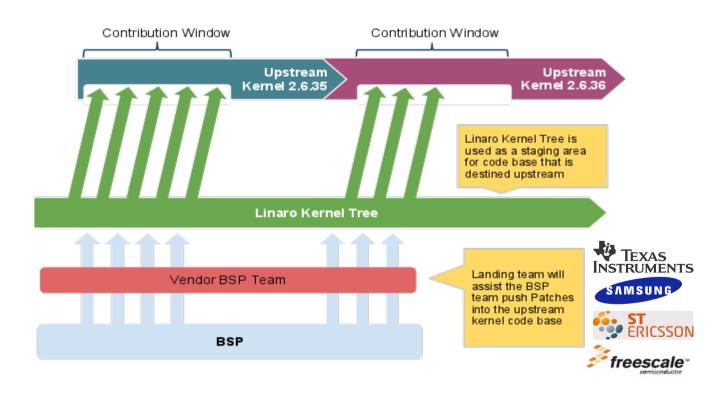
The practice way for upstreaming

- "Buffer" is required.
 - Cyanogen Mod
 - Linaro
- You have to jump over the gap (software revolution by Google).
- CyanogenMod is proven as the great example to work with AOSP in some way.
 - Large and active user base
 - Developers can submit verified patches to AOSP for reviewing
- Acceptable fields
 - System libraries
 - Application / framework bugs



Working with Linaro

- Linaro kernel becomes members most advanced
- Vendor BSP and Linaro landing team engineers work together
- Get latest software on latest SoCs with upstream support





Conclusion

- Android is indeed a platform with source code available instead of a typical open source project.
- Collaboration is important especially to Android variants. You have to solve problems with the help from community members.
- Leverage the power of community to make your software validated well.
- Before tracking large scale of Android source code, it would be better to utilize the tools.
- Be open minded



Resources

- 0xdroid Roadmap: http://code.google.com/p/0xdroid/wiki/Roadmap
- Source repository: http://gitorious.org/+0xlab
- Wiki: http://code.google.com/p/0xdroid/w/list
- Demo videos: http://www.youtube.com/0xlab
- Mailing-list:
 - General discussion: http://groups.google.com/group/0xlab-discuss
 - Technical / Development: http://groups.google.com/group/0xlab-devel
- IRC channel (FreeNode): #0xlab



