Universal Packages

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Introduction

What are packages?

A **package** is an archive containing a collection of executable files or source code, along with metadata, which represent a computer program.

A **package format** is an organizational structure for delivering packages to users.

Why do we need package formats?

- They provide a common way to bundle executables, libraries, assets, etc. for deployment on user machines.

- They provide metadata about programs for use in package managers.

- It would suck if we had to go find the source code for every single program we want to use and compile from source.[1]

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[1] Actually, some package formats do require compilation from source (for example some AUR packages) but at least it helps automate this process.

Appimage

snapd

flatpak

nix

Love to Hate Them

Proprietary enterprise applications are coming to Linux

Currently, when enterprises want to make a cross-platform application, they see this:

$$
\begin{aligned}
\text{macOS} \quad &\texttt{.dmg} \\
\text{Windows} \quad &\texttt{.exe} \\
\text{Android} \quad &\texttt{.apk} \\
\text{Linux} \quad &\texttt{.deb} \text{ and } \texttt{.rpm} \text{ and } \texttt{PKGBUILD} \text{ and } \dots
\end{aligned}
$$

However, when companies like Canonical come in and say "just target snaps", all of a sudden, it may tip the scale at enterprises for them to start targeting Linux. If they create a snap, then they capture all of the Linux market, not just the subset that uses a particular format.

Pros

- More application availability.

Cons

- The applications are going to be sh*t. Electron enterprise sh*t.
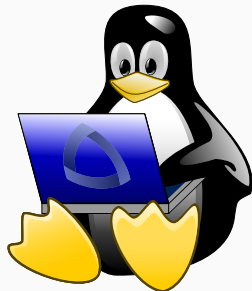
Live Demo

Questions?

Resources

- https://

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