

FreedomBox Annual Summit 2020

Date: Friday, December 4, 2020

Attendance: Eben Moglen, Joseph Nuthalapati, Sunil M. Adapa, Daniel Gnoutcheff, James Valleroy, Madiha Z. Choksi

Summary of Proceedings

Part I: 15:00 - 17:45 GMT

1.1 Brief discussion on 2019-2020 Milestones

- Pioneer Product was very successful, large uptick in users. The core team recognizes that a pre-assembled FreedomBox is the path forward.
- Hardware support for ARM64 SBCs

1.2 Discussion on Software

- **Debian:** Discussion on plans of being part of the Debian installer. The team will not add any additional work commitments on the Debian installer.
- **Videoconferencing:** Many requests for video conferencing from the community. Core team discusses options and inevitable bandwidth constraints. Team commits to conducting a software analysis for video conferencing: comparing Janus and Jitsi for small (4-5 participants) video conferencing contexts.
- **NextCloud:** Discussion on snap packages, as snaps are good for confinement ability and security, especially considering the PHP makeup of NextCloud. Suggestions to adopt a unique packaging structure for NextCloud using Docker (or snaps).
- **Epicyon:** Discussion on Fediverse, Epicyon and Pleroma. Epicyon is maintained by one person, but is simple to package for Debian.
- **WordPress:** Discussion on use cases for Wordpress as it's another item the community would like to prioritize. Team discussed PHP and security concerns.
- **Email Server:** Discussion on feasibility of self-hosting email servers. Decided to take the first step towards email server this year, by hosting an MTA to send emails from FreedomBox to users, e.g. for password resets.

Break: 17:45 - 18:00 GMT

Part II: 18:00 - 19:00 GMT

Q&A with the FreedomBox Community

Break: 19:00 - 19:05 GMT

Part III: 19:05 - 20:00 GMT

3.1: Discussion on Technology Strategy

- Future of generic arm packaging/bootloader
- Reachability: Find more plug and play use cases. Develop simple, clear language on website and forum, and clear documentation for the tools. Core team recognizes that the usability problem is technical and agree to advance technically so that users does not have to touch anything - prioritizing a plug and play model

3.2: *Communications*

- Hardware Partnerships: developing relationships with Pine64 and Raspberry Pi are critical, as are relationships with other SBC manufacturers. This will require an analysis of potential SBC partners.
- Send out clear and consistent Contributor and App maintainer invites for FreedomBox and Debian
- Continual community feedback collection: create question prompts and surveys to regularly collect feedback from the community.
- Website and marketing: Developing a website with access to the forum, clear and accessible documentation

Key Roadmap Items for 2021:

1. Video Conferencing
2. NextCloud via container
3. Pine64 and Raspberry Pi Partnerships (and potentially more partners)
4. Hardware marketing, targeting academia and other educational institutions.
5. Refresh freedombox.org website and consolidating freedomboxfoundation.org website.